

# CHURCH Life

A monthly publication of First Christian Church, Princeton WV



*And from Miletus he (Paul) sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. Acts 20:17 Headed back to Jerusalem, hoping to be there by Pentecost, Paul met with the elders from the church at Ephesus. He admonished them to stand strong in the faith as well as giving them warning and instruction. Paul had spent a three year stint, how I did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 20:20-21*

Paul concludes with his challenge quoting the teaching of Jesus, *"It is more blessed to give than to receive."* Acts 20:35 Interestingly none of the four Gospel writers recorded Jesus saying these words. More than likely, he was told this directly from some of the disciples who had walked with Jesus. What a profound foundational principle upon which the expression of Christian living is based, with Jesus being a perfect example to follow. January 20, 1961 John F. Kennedy's inaugural address built upon this teaching when he stated, "My fellow Americans, ask not what you're country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

We hear these words intellectually affirming the truth behind such a teaching while at the same time we either refuse to, or neglect to apply this principle to our daily living. We prefer to point our finger at this younger generation and declare they have an "entitleist mentality", that they are fulfilling 2Tim 3:1-5, while we fail to see the selfish, self-serving sickness of the human heart within ourselves. The further our American culture walks away from God, who established this nation, the more clear this unprofitable unchristian lifestyle is revealed.

Quite some time ago, a division of peoples have been growing in my understanding. It is becoming clearer to me that there are two types of people; those who serve and those who live to be served, the givers and the takers, the producers and the consumers. This is not a generational condition but a human condition. I have witnessed this egocentric behavior from the youngest to the oldest. It is not restricted to obvious expressions

like the way we drive; interact in public places, or work and school but in our churches and homes as well. Our self-centered worldview came from none other than our arch-enemy Satan himself. He tirelessly labors to live his ambitions through people and he is especially fulfilled when he can deceive believers to follow in his footsteps.

*If I then, the Lord and the Teacher, washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I gave you an example that you also should do as I did to you. John 13:14-15* Not only in these profound moments, but throughout His entire life and death He lived out this principle and He expects us to follow in His footsteps. *Truly, truly, I say to you, a slave is not greater than his master; neither is one who is sent greater than the one who sent him. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. John 13:16-17*

We all seek blessings from God, so while we are promised these if we follow in Jesus' footsteps, than why do we struggle to do so? Good question? Here are a few thoughts concerning possible answers. Because we are selfish by nature, many of us have never set aside our old self and continue to pursue a satisfaction of the flesh. *For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. 1John 2:16* Secondly, perhaps we have not been taught or good examples have not been set for us to follow by those in leadership over us. *Give no offense either to Jews or to Greeks or to the church of God; just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of the many that they may be saved. Be imitator of me, just as I also am of Christ. 1Cor 10:32-11:1* Thirdly one might find a lack of motivation stemming from the weakness itself, when the promised blessing does not come in a time or manner expected. Ha? We expect things immediately! We are a microwave society, cook your faith for a few seconds and our reward is instantaneous already loaded with butter and salt. *For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised. Heb 10:36* Our walk of faith is exactly that, a walk of faith. The venue

and timing of such things belong solely in the hands of God. It is not our place to dictate but our place to serve and trust that God sees. Many have spent their entire lives without ever realizing their rewards until they were carried over to the other side. The prophets of old are good examples; *As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven – things into which angels long to look. 1Peter 1:10-12*

So the question, struggle, boils simply down to our faith. Do we truly believe that Jesus of Nazareth is the Son of God, the Savior of the world? If we do than we can with complete abandonment serve Him with all our heart, soul, and strength. If we do than we can serve unconcerned whether or not the blessings flow to us here or are reserved for our time in heaven with Him. If we do than we can unreservedly follow the admonition of Peter; *Therefore, gird your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1Peter 1:13*

Church, continue to serve, to love, to give, to pray, to seek, to purify, to obey our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and trust the results to His hands.

Pastor Steve



Prayer Concerns

Week Ending Oct. 26, 2024

Kay Arrington, Family of Sarah Bailey, Cleo Halsey, Loved ones in Israel & Palestine, Family of Mary, Rev. Bill Pollack, and Wisdom for our government

Week Ending Oct. 19, 2024,

Louise, Mary, Margaret Conner, Stephen Shrewsberry

Week Ending Oct. 12, 2024

Wendy Johnson, Scooter Smith, Believers of Ukraine

In the Military:

Mike Kennedy, Devin Lusk, T. J. Morris, Robert Worrell

Our Friends Who are Homebound:

Betty Doyle, Mike Elmore, Lola Fanning, Evelyn Jenkins

Our Friends in Nursing/Retirement Facilities:

Glenwood: Cleo Halsey  
Stonerise Princeton: Glenwood  
Gary Reed

Mark Your Calendars!

Tuesday, November 5, 2024

Election Day

Tuesday, November 12, 2024

Elders Meeting — 6:00 p.m.  
Ministry Teams — 6:30 p.m.  
Board Meeting — 7:00 p.m.

Social Media Broadcast

Follow us on Facebook at First Christian Princeton WV.

Website: [firstchristianprincetonwv.org](http://firstchristianprincetonwv.org)

Youtube: First Christian Princeton WV

E-mail: [fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com](mailto:fccprincetonoffice@gmail.com)



Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes



Thank you church for your wonderful response to OCC. All the prepared boxes were taken so if you did not get one there will be more boxes prepared. The goal was 65 but if all the boxes come back we will have donated more than 80 boxes.

Each box not only represents a child but a whole family coming to Christ. Praise the Lord!

The cost for shipping and handling has been covered by a donation but if you want to support the ministry by including a check for \$10 to Samaritan's Purse, place the check in the box.

Thank you again for your generous response. Boxes need to be back at the church by **Sunday, November 17th.**

NOVEMBER 2024

Elders: Kenneth Reeves, Larry Wimmer  
Deacons: Dan Crutchfield, Randy Winfrey  
Deaconess: Tia Kaluk, Christie Reed  
Lay Reader:: Randolph Evans

Christian Women Fellowship

Christian Women Fellowship will meet at 11:00 am on **Thursday, November 7** upstairs lounge.

Senior Breakfast

Senior Breakfast is on **Tuesday, November 12 at 9:00 a.m.** at the Cracker Barrel Restaurant. Come join in the fellowship and

All Saints And Veterans Sunday

All Saints' Day will be celebrated on **Sunday, November 3, 2024** during the morning worship. We will recognize and honor our veterans on **Veterans Sunday, November 10th, 2024.** Thank

From the Archives



Our congregation has had the honor of hosting the Disciples of Christ state convention twice.

The first convention hosted was the 83rd convention, which was held October 9-12, 1952, during the pastorate of John M. Dunn. Its theme was *Pioneering Christians*. Major sessions of the conference were held in our newly constructed sanctuary. The guest speaker was Dr. J. Warren Hastings, pastor of the National City Christian Church in Washington, DC.

The second convention hosted was the 94th convention, which was held October 24-27, 1963, during the pastorate of Norman G. Crawford. Its theme was *Christ at the Center—During a Century of Christian Witness*; the theme anticipating the 1969 centennial of Christian Churches in West Virginia. The guest speaker was Dr. Perry E. Gresham, President of Bethany College. Program speakers from our congregation were: J. Fred Cooke, Norman G. Crawford and Walter L. White.

For longtime members, the programs and reports of state denominational activities for both conventions recall fond memories of a time when the denomination had a vigor, had a commitment to the Lord's work, and provided dynamic leadership for the coordinated activities of member congregations.

Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Morning Worship: 11 a.m.

# November 2024

First Christian Church



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																		
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3  Sam Conner; Tim Reed, Jr.  Daylight Savings All Saints Sunday  10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	4  6:00 PM Prayer Fasting/Sanctuary /FCC	5  Election Day: Be sure to VOTE  7:00 PM Church Council	6  7:00 PM Adult Bible Study  7:00 PM Children Program	7  11:00 AM Christian Women Fellowship  6:00 PM Handbell Choir/Handbell Room  7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	8	9  John Dye; Linda Peck Goodall																																																																																																		
10  Veterans Sunday Skipper & Carmen Ball  MacKenzie Coburn; Mike Mooney; Barbara Terry; Sylvia Spooner  10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	11  George Harman	12  Debra Ball; Billy Harman  9:00 AM Senior Breakfast/Cracker Barrel  6:00 PM Elders Meeting  6:30 PM Ministry Teams 7:00 PM Board Meeting	13  7:00 PM Adult Bible Study  7:00 PM Children Program	14  6:00 PM Handbell Choir/Handbell Room  7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	15  Announcements & Articles for Newsletter 11/15-22	16  Gary Cooper; Brian Kaluk																																																																																																		
17  Operation Christmas Child Box Return  10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service	18  Ethan Lilly	19	20  7:00 PM Adult Bible Study  7:00 PM Children Program	21  Eric Bowling; Cleo Halsey  6:00 PM Handbell Choir/Handbell Room  7:00 PM Music Rehearsal	22	23																																																																																																		
24  Jerry Wimmer 10:00 AM Sunday School 11:00 AM Morning Service  6:00 PM GPMA Community Thanksgiving Service/Mahood Church of God	25  Uriah Testa	26  Randolph Evans; Diana Okes	27  No Evening Events	28  THANKSGIVING DAY	29  Office Closed	30																																																																																																		



HOMEcoming Sunday, October 27th

Hurricane Relief Supplies

FCC reached out early in the month of **October** and showed the heart of God by sending relief supplies and workers to minister in the devastation and aftermath of hurricane Helene’s attack on Western North Carolina. The supplies we took met so many needs...Yes, we fed the hungry, brought clothes to those who had lost everything, gave out cash to those that had nothing. But most of all we brought Hope, prayers and encouragement to those with shell-shocked eyes, hurting, as they looked at the devastation all around them! Thank you, Church for showing Jesus cares... The world won’t care what we know as Christians, until they know that we care. *Pastor Rick*



Night of Prayer and Fasting

**Monday night, November 4th**, on the eve of the election, we will host a night of prayer and fasting for our nation. Let’s come together and lift our Country to our Gracious Heavenly Father, for His divine intervention in this Pivotal election. GOD BLESS AMERICA!

Worship

We wish to thank the Lay Reader, *Braxton Testa*, for the month of **October 2024**. We are looking forward to having *Randolph Evans* as the Lay Reader for the month of **November 2024**.



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Rev. Stephen M. Janning, Minister  
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