

Our Vision

To be a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. (Micah 6:8)



I send you greetings on December 11th as I write my Pastor's Note to you.

So, as I write this, I'm filing through my mind thinking of all the things I need to accomplish today.

Coffee
Devotions
Trash Day
Breakfast
Office
Christmas Cards
Pastor's Note
Phone Calls
Lunch

And that's all before 11:45 am this morning. Sort of a normal day for me, I guess.

Do you keep a TO DO or CHECK LIST handy? Maybe you're like me and at times it's a NEVER DONE list. That seems so defeating at times doesn't it?

I don't normally operate without a TO DO list and the main reason is that I need that in front of me to keep me going. We all have lots to do, right? At least if we write out our daily activities it adds up pretty quickly and shows we've accomplished a goodly amount. Or does it?

How's your stress level these days? Is your worry meter at its max level? How's your physical and psychological wellbeing? How's your spiritual heartbeat these days?

I hate to remind you, but Santa Claus is coming to town! As a kid those were the most wonderful words and as an adult there is fear and terror that engulfs me when I hear those six words!

How's your Christmas list? Is your shopping done? Are you planning a get together? Are you traveling? How's the old budget holding out? Do you pay cash, or do you charge everything? Don't forget the stocking stuffers! Oh, I almost forgot! It will be a COVID Christmas! Are you about to pull your hair out yet?

What if with all that we have going on we pump the brakes, put it in park, and STOP? What if? Would we be any less productive or more stressed if we stopped for 60 seconds?

Set a timer for one minute if you are able. Lights off, no TV, no phone, no radio, pull the blinds if you can. Sit down, empty your mind (that's the easy part for me), close your eyes, and listen to yourself breath. Listen as to hear your heartbeat. You didn't forget your timer, did you?

~Pastor's Note~

CHECKING OUR LIST

Somewhere on our To Do and Check Lists we really need to begin scheduling a STOP! Yes, you can do two minutes if you want. I know a man who lives in a sunny state who stops for a whole 15 minutes at a time and has done it for years!

You see beloved we are so conditioned to GO, GO, GO we forget that we need to take time to STOP.

*I could suggest that we ought to stop doing a number of things, but really, we need to figure that out for ourselves. As recently as this week I happened upon one of my least favorite verses. **Romans 12:1** Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship.*

For me this is a verse that makes me stop and take notice. It's not that the passage speaks to me so profoundly that I struggle with. It's the challenge before me that I can't seem to get my mind (my heart) around. It's a real ringing of the bell, take notice of your life kind of verse.

For me to allow Jesus to be Lord of every area of my life seems like a pretty tall order. But honestly, I know it begins with me being willing to STOP. Stop the this and the that, to make room for the expanse that Jesus wants to create in me.

I pray, "Create in me a new heart O God and renew a right spirit within me", all the time. But I'm going to have to STOP getting in the way for God to accomplish this in me. Is it possible that I'm really this thick headed? I'll answer that for you, yes!

*I know the Apostle Paul spoke of the would-a, could-a, should-a's in **Romans 7:13-25** ¹³ Did that which is good, then, become death to me? By no means! Nevertheless, in order that sin might be recognized as sin, it used what is good to bring about my death, so that through the commandment sin might become utterly sinful. ¹⁴ We know that the law is spiritual; but I am unspiritual, sold as a slave to sin. ¹⁵ I do not understand what I do. For what I want to do I do not do, but what I hate I do. ¹⁶ And if I do what I do not want to do, I agree that the law is good. ¹⁷ As it is, it is no longer I myself who do it, but it is sin living in me. ¹⁸ For I know that good itself does not dwell in me, that is, in my sinful nature. For I have the desire to do what is good, but I cannot carry it out. ¹⁹ For I do not do the good I want to do, but the evil I do not want to do—this I keep on doing. ²⁰ Now if I do what I do not want to do, it is no longer I who do it, but it is sin living in me that does it. ²¹ So I find this law at work: Although I want to do good, evil is right there with me. ²² For in my inner being I delight in God's law; ²³ but I see another law at work in me, waging war against the law of my mind and making me a prisoner of the law of sin at work within me. ²⁴ What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? ²⁵ Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, I myself in my mind am a slave to God's law, but in my sinful nature a slave to the law of sin.*

I so identify with this passage in my own life and because I do I credit the work of the holy Spirit for working in me and building in me a desire to STOP.

Our Mission

To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps “to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)



Today's TO DO List for me! STOP getting in the way of the good work that the Lord is doing in you. Receive in full the work of the Holy Spirit. STOP, so you can restart and be refreshed and allow Jesus to be the Lord of every area of your life.

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak,
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret, with Jesus alone.
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, let Him be thy Guide;
And run not before Him, whatever betide.
In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord,
And, looking to Jesus, still trust in His Word.

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul,
Each thought and each motive beneath His control.
Thus led by His Spirit to fountains of love,
Thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

I know this doesn't seem like the normal Christmas letter that you would receive from your Pastor. Well guess what? This is no ordinary Christmas. Actually, I'm praying it's the most meaningful Christmas to date.

Don't be afraid to STOP! The Lord richly bless you and make His face to shine upon you.

Merry Christmas!

PDoug





Prayer Requests



SHUT INS

June Turner
Margaret Goodwin
Pat Hartley

HEALTH CONCERNS

Nick Whited
Mary Mash
Bill Fuzia
Paul Lester
Wanda Collier
Charlotte Dunahoe
Burger Boerboom
Nina Adams
Judy Tabor
Randy Stevens
Glenn Woolwine
Matt Selbee
Mark Johnson
Jeep Grim
Shirley Hines
Eddie Williams
Amber Ross
Tanya Boerboom
Sue Luterick

Zack Carter
Wayne Collins
The mother of George Smith
Paris Swisher
Sarah Wall
Rev. Paul Lantis
Betsy Canterbury
Chuck & Susan Allen
Maggie Hancock
Cooper Muncy
Debbie & Her Husband
Erina & Josh Cline & Family
Danny
Mike Keefer
Jackson
Arthur Stafford
The Thomason Family
Todd Brinkley
Charlie Coe
Charles and Wendy Paynter
Dawn Lawless
Roger Coe
Sheri Rasnick
Angela Belcher
Karen Wasilewski
Catherine Gillespie
Jenny Harmon
Eli Waters
Gerald Reed
Mary Shoemaker
Leah Hypes & Family
Doris Holmes

Cookie Martin
Eddie & Regina Hall
Barbara Martin
Sharon Farley
Rick Cato
Patty Neilson Viar
Gene Davis
Margaret French Farmer
Betty Rorrer
Ricky Longworth
Steve Fadero
Alex Herd

BEREAVEMENT

The Family of Tami Dodder

PRAYER REQUEST

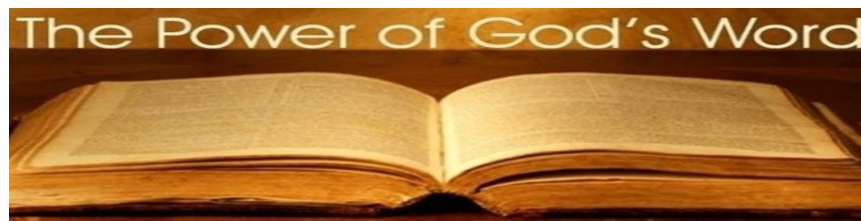
Randy & Jan Bailey
Retha Smith & Family
Our Pastor
Our Country
Our Church Family
Robert Searle
Jon Gendron
Our First Responders
General Church
Regional Church
Regional Minister & Staff
Candice Humphrey
Celebrate Recovery
Amber Ross & Family
Gretchen Honaker & Family
Todd Brinkley
Al & Sonia Hancock
Ann Gilbert
Jerry Fritz
Amber Bragg
Drew Maddox (unspecified)
Samantha Richardson
The Hayes Family
Ray & Vickie Maddox and Darrel Maddox
Veronica Garcia
Cody Lovenn
Susan Johnson
The Morris Family

PRAYER
changes things

December Lectionary

December 26: Psalm 148; Jeremiah 26:1-9, 12-15; Acts 6:8-15; 7:51-60
December 27: Isaiah 61:10-62:3, Psalm 148, Galatians 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40
December 28: Psalm 148; Jeremiah 31:15-17; Matthew 2:13-18
December 29: Psalm 148; Isaiah 49:5-15; Matthew 12:46-50
December 30: Psalm 148; Proverbs 9:1-12; 2 Peter 3:8-13
December 31: Psalm 148; 1 Kings 3:5-14; John 8:12-19

January 1: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13, Psalm 8, Revelation 21:1-6a, Matthew 25:31-46
January 2: Psalm 148; Proverbs 1:1-7; James 3:13-18
January 3: Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20, Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:(1-9), 10-18
January 4: Psalm 110; Proverbs 3:1-12; James 4:11-17
January 5: Psalm 110; Proverbs 22:1-9; Luke 6:27-31
January 6: Isaiah 60:1-6, Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14, Ephesians 3:1-12, Matthew 2:1-12
January 7: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 3:1-21; Acts 9:10-19a
January 8: Psalm 29; 1 Samuel 16:1-13; 1 Timothy 4:11-16
January 9: Psalm 29; 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12; Luke 5:1-11
January 10: Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11
January 11: Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Genesis 17:1-13; Romans 4:1-12
January 12: Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Exodus 30:22-38; Acts 22:2-16
January 13: Psalm 69:1-5, 30-36; Isaiah 41:14-20; John 1:29-34
January 14: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:6-15; 2 Corinthians 10:1-11
January 15: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; Judges 2:16-23; Acts 13:16-25
January 16: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Samuel 2:21-25; Matthew 25:1-13
January 17: 1 Samuel 3:1-10, (11-20), Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18, 1 Corinthians 6:12-20, John 1:43-51
January 18: Psalm 86; 1 Samuel 9:27-10:8; 2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1
January 19: Psalm 86; 1 Samuel 15:10-31; Acts 5:1-11
January 20: Psalm 86; Genesis 16:1-14; Luke 18:15-17
January 21: Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 19:1-15; Revelation 18:11-20
January 22: Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 20:7-13; 2 Peter 3:1-7
January 23: Psalm 62:5-12; Jeremiah 20:14-18; Luke 10:13-16
January 24: Jonah 3:1-5, 10, Psalm 62:5-12, 1 Corinthians 7:29-31, Mark 1:14-20
January 25: Psalm 46; Genesis 12:1-9; 1 Corinthians 7:17-24
January 26: Psalm 46; Genesis 45:25-46:7; Acts 5:33-42
January 27: Psalm 46; Proverbs 8:1-21; Mark 3:13-19a
January 28: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 3:23-29; Romans 9:6-18
January 29: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 12:28-32; Revelation 2:12-17
January 30: Psalm 111; Deuteronomy 13:1-5; Matthew 8:28-9:1
January 31: Deuteronomy 18:15-20, Psalm 111, 1 Corinthians 8:1-13, Mark 1:21-28



Join us each Sunday morning at 10:00AM for our Worship on Facebook live.

Just a note you do not have to have a Facebook account to be able to view the live video!

If you are unable to watch it live, no worries you can always go back and watch the service from the beginning. Just go on the link to the church's Facebook which is:
<https://www.facebook.com/bluefieldfcc>





Greeting all,
The youth just had their annual Youth Christmas Program. Although it was done differently due to the pandemic, I think over all it was a success. A big part of that is due to technology that we have today.

The youth are currently meeting on Sunday evenings at 7:00PM via Zoom. If your youth would like to be included in the Zoom simply have them contact Darrin or myself (Sarah) so we can get them the weekly log in information.

This past Sunday (December 6) Pastor Doug talked about finding peace. True peace is something that many of us do not have. He talked about to have peace in your life one must have peace with God. As this year comes to an end, and the new year 2021 begins my personal goal is to have true peace with God, so I can have peace with not just myself, but my surroundings as well. I guess you can call it a New Year’s resolution of sorts. But I am not going to refer to it as that because I STINK at New Year’s resolutions. Let’s call it a plan to better my life and to draw closer to God.

Thank you for the chance to serve,
Sarah Neal



In Memory

On November 16, 2020, our church lost an amazing member, Mr. Glen Edward Kersey. Glen graduated Bluefield High School in 1959, and went on to attend Virginia Polytechnic Institute, now Virginia Tech. Glen then went into a life of service, first in a 28 year commitment with the United States Air Force, where he received numerous medals and achievements for his work in radio communications. While in the Air Force, Glen traveled the world and loved talking about the places he was able to visit and the many interesting lives he met. After retiring from the military, Glen continued his life of service in the Post Offices of Texas, where again he enjoyed talking about the friends he met before his retirement. Glen was a people person and loved to talk about his boyhood life and his travels His favorite travel to talk about was how the Lord blessed him with health and a loving sister, Alice Kersey which enabled him to come back home to Bluefield and First Christian Church. Glen knew God was working in his life and never wanted to take that for granted. Glen talked about his health blessings many times and prayed for all of those who made the prayer warrior's list. Glen loved the Lord and often would become emotional by the goodness God had shown him and others. Glen proudly would show everyone who visited him, a declaration in honor of his Grandmother Kersey's service in our church. She made the communion bread every week for many years. He was so proud of her dedication. Glen loved attending our church and was a little embarrassed by having to drag his oxygen down the aisle. He had trouble standing, however made sure he did whenever needed during the service. We often discussed how our attendance made our week a little easier to travel. Glen loved to talk about the interesting people he met wherever he was in his journey through life and I loved to listen. I once told him how I loved talking to him because of his interesting life. He humbly told me he wasn't the least bit interesting compared to those he had met. We may have lost a prayer warrior and faithful member of our church; however, it was heaven's gain of a blessed angel. "I have fought the good fight. I have finished the course; I have kept the faith. In the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing."

2 Timothy 4:7and 8
Sue Luterick



2020 Poinsettia List

In Memory of:

Dick & Martha Royall. By Bill & Connie Akers

Dick & Martha Royall. By The Louthan’s Marie Boerboom. The Boerboom Family

Rocky Dunahoe, my Parents & other family members. By Charlotte Dunahoe

Our Parents– J.P. & Hazel Hines and Olen & Helen Shupe. By David & Shirley Hines

Family & Friends who have passed to glory. By Russ & Ann Taylor

Clax & Ann Houseman. By Robert Croye

Dick & Martha Royall. By Robert Croye

LeRoy & Pansy Croye. By Robert Croye.

In Honor of:

Faye Louthan. By Bill & Connie Akers

Pat Hartley. By David & Shirley Hines

Family & Friends. By Russ & Ann Taylor

Sarah Neal. By Robert Croye.



November 2020



Treasurer's Report



Below is the financial report for November 2020. God is good, all the time!! God continues to bless us as we are faithful to His call and guidance. You are being so faithful to keep up your gifts to God and His church (praise God for Give+ and the USPS!). Praise God for His faithfulness to His church! Praise God for each of you and your faithfulness to the ministries at FCC. I am grateful for your faithfulness to financially support God's work in this place.

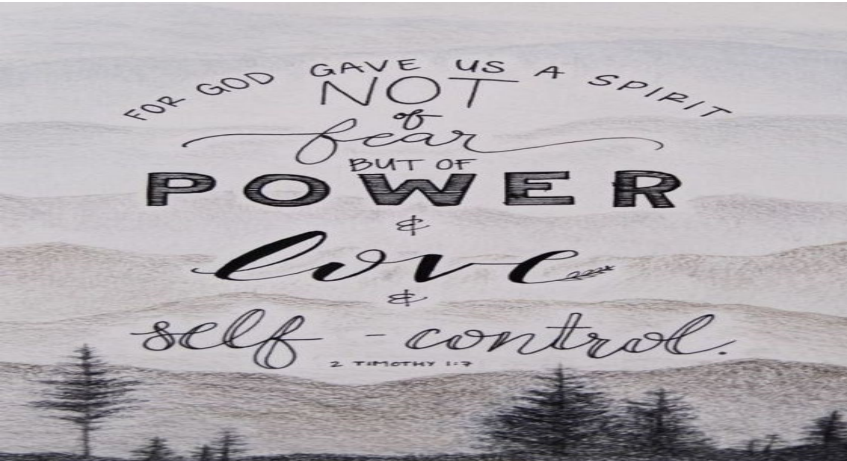
IT'S HERE: E-giving!! You can now make gifts to FCC online at the church website, www.bluefieldfcc.com, just click on the GIVE button and follow the directions. You can also download the Give+ mobile app to your smart phone. Sarah has more detailed instructions for the more technologically challenged among us. Just contact her if you need help. There is a charge for gifts made by debit or credit card, but you can also adjust your gift to help cover that cost as well.

As a reminder, please continue to check for LIGHTS, RUNNING TOILETS, A/C OR HEAT, etc. following all meetings at the church. Don't assume someone else will lock up or turn off. This really helps to hold down utility costs. Also, if you become aware of maintenance issues with the property, please bring it to the attention of the Property Ministry Team (Co-chairmen, George Birkelbach and Scott Collier) or the church office. Delayed repairs can be more expensive than when they are caught early.

Our Church is truly blessed!

Ronnie Hypes, Treasurer

First Christian Church		
Financial Information for November 2020		
	Month-to-date	Year-to-date
Total offerings and other sources	\$ 12,806.95	\$ 162,088.44
Total expenses	11,912.12	147,448.83
Excess (deficit) of offerings to expenses	894.83	14,639.61
Transfers from (to) savings	0.00	(10,000.00)
Increase (decrease)	\$ 894.83	\$ 4,639.61
Balances on hand		
November 30, 2020:		
General Fund		\$ 13,055.82
Memorial and Special Gifts		13,712.11
Property Repairs and Replacement		4,737.97
Scholarship		1,786.14
Bequested Funds and other savings		109,631.24
Total		\$ 142,923.28



My name is Darrin and I am a faithful believer in Jesus Christ.

I suffer from depression and am a suicide survivor and this is my story about CR at FCC Bluefield.

As I struggled for years with my depression I became a pack mule of sorts.. Carrying my burden alone. During my struggle I confided in friends here at FCC who were also Pack mules of sorts, carrying their own burdens. I have learned over the past 5 years that I am NOT ALONE and don't have to carry my burdens by myself. I have learned that I AM WORTHY of God's love and that I do indeed have a much needed purpose in this world that at one time I was looking for a way out of.

I work with a team of Pack Mules now so to speak. And me and my team of Mules (my FCC & FC family) help each other carry each others daily burdens of life.

If you have a burden and I can tell you for certain that you do, maybe you should come down to FCC on 2200 Bland Road and see what Love, Understanding and Helping your neighbor carry a load is all about.

God Bless,
Darrin Coe
PS I am a suicide SURVIOR because of FCC, CR and all of my Church Family



Dear Congregation,

To the congregation as a whole and to each individual, I extend heartfelt thanks and appreciation for all of the prayers, cards, calls, texts, etc. directed to me during my recent bout with cancer. That support meant a great deal to me at the time. And, continues to this day. Recent 'scans' indicate no presence of cancer "anywhere" and my next 'check' is one year from now. Once again, my thanks to all. God is good!

In Christ,
Mark Johnson



January 2021



WINTER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 *10:00AM Worship Service *Teen Believers 7PM	4 *6:00PM Men's Bible Study	5 *6:00PM Prayer Meeting *7:00PM Bible Study	6 *Praise Band Practice 6:00PM	7 *7:30AM Men's Prayer *6:00PM CR	8	9
10 *10:00AM Worship Service *Teen Believers 7PM	11 *6:00PM Men's Bible Study	12 *6:00PM Prayer Meeting *7:00PM Bible Study	13 *Praise Band Practice 6:00PM	14 *7:30AM Men's Prayer *6:00PM CR	15 *Newsletter Submissions Due 11:00AM	16
17 *10:00AM Worship Service *Teen Believers 7PM	18 *6:00PM Men's Bible Study	19 *6:00PM Prayer Meeting *7:00PM Bible Study	20 *Newsletter Assembly 10AM *Praise Band Practice 6:00PM	21 *7:30AM Men's Prayer *6:00PM CR	22	23
24 *10:00AM Worship Service *Teen Believers 7PM	25 *6:00PM Men's Bible Study	26 *6:00PM Prayer Meeting *7:00PM Bible Study	27 *Praise Band Practice 6:00PM	28 *7:30AM Men's Prayer *6:00PM CR	29	30
31 *10:00AM Worship Service *Teen Believers 7PM	1	January Birthdays Noah Casey - January 2, Bradley Tabor - January 3, Kyle Croye - January 10, Trentin Swauger - January 11, Maria Whited - January 16, Kevin Tabor - January 17, Chris Boerboom - January 19, Christian Bailey - January 21, June Turner - January 26, Randy Bailey - January 27, Robert Croye - 28, Tanaya Smith - January 28 - Ann Taylor - January 28				

We heartily welcome all
May you be blessed today.

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 am -1:00 pm
304-327-5633
www.bluefieldfcc.com

Welcome To Our Church

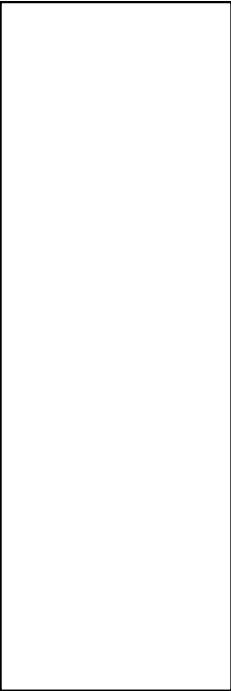


9:00 am Bible Study
10:00 am Combined Worship Service
Douglas W. McDaniel Jr., Pastor

First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
2200 Bland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701



US Postage Paid
Permit # 51
Bluefield, WV 24701
Non-Profit Organization



Youth Events

Sunday Teen Believers
6:00PM

WOWZZA Wednesday
1st & 3rd Wednesday of the month

*Youth Outreach Ministry

If you have any questions concerning youth
events please contact Darrin Coe, Youth Minister at
276-245-8374 or Sarah Neal, Administrative
Minister at 304-910-9933