#### **Our Vision**

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

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As a child I barely remember an Easter without Easter baskets and chocolate bunnies and jelly beans. We would boil the eggs and ready ourselves to color and decorate and right before our very eyes a regular Grade A egg purchased from the grocer the day before would be transformed magically into an Easter Egg. (OK, even I knew it was an egg but to keep my mom happy I played along) Baskets and fake grass and chocolate eggs and candied eggs and the little marshmallow peeps. (Apparently when I was a kid, sugar was good for you) Did I happen to mention jelly beans? Yes, I have an affinity for jelly beans!

Great thanks should go to Gene Autry for writing "Peter Cottontail". "Here comes Peter Cottontail, Hoppin' down the bunny trail, Hippity hoppin', Easter's on its way. Bringin' every girl and boy, Baskets full of Easter joy, Things to make your Easter bright and gay." (Oh, and there are four other verses and you can thank me later for not sharing) I guess Mr. Autry thought that kids should have a song to go along with the Easter Egg hunt and so now you'll be humming this thing the rest of the day. Remember, I'm just the messenger and I'm weaving my way to an important point so give me a little leash and a chance to have a little fun in my writing. Easter as far back as I can remember had little to do with the resurrection of Jesus Christ and everything to do with "PC" - that's short for Peter Cottontail.

# -Pastor's Notes

So, it seems as if we've traded JC for PC. Well at least we kept Christmas Christian! OK, let me just stick to Easter. Sunday, I mentioned a dad who was lamenting over the fact that he had raised his children in church and failed to raise them in Christ. That's a challenging and sobering statement for me as I type this. Was I a dad that traded JC for PC? When I look back on it I have to admit that there was more focus on the rabbit and less attention to the resurrection it seems. How could I possibly have gotten that turned around? How is it that a born-again believer could have missed the significance of Easter morning? I mean I bought a new suit and shirt and tie. Yes, I'm exaggerating a little to make my point, so you can breathe a little easier.

During the Lenten Season I choose to journey toward Easter. What do I mean when I suggest journey? Well to journey is an act of traveling from one place to another. The important word there is "act". To act is to take action or do something and so for me I want to "journey toward", be engaged in and alert as I approach Easter. I don't want Easter to just happen, I want Easter to happen to me every day. I want to be looking for Easter and I refuse to trade JC – that's short for Jesus Christ, for PC.

So how can you journey toward Easter? Recommit yourself to Jesus Christ and begin again to see the significance of Easter. Remember your baptism as if you've just come out of the water and take all the time

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)					
	Y				

you need to dry off. See again for yourself the story that was foretold, and drink in the message of the cross. Watch and listen to how Jesus journeyed toward Easter as He made His way back to Jerusalem and listen for the victory chant of Hosanna in the highest! Take notice of the last supper and the significance of the table and the offering of the bread and the wine. Take notice again or for the first time the passionate love that Jesus has for the Father and for mankind displayed at the cross. Don't miss it any longer church! Resurrection Day is upon us and for me I choose to journey toward Easter.

Join me in the journey of a life time! We are Easter people!

The peace of Christ be with you....

PDoug

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## **Prayer Requests**

8

SHUT INS June Turner **Ruth Shields** Margaret Goodwin Marilyn Hypes **Donnie** Hypes Evelyn Wickham

HEALTH

**CONCERNS** 

Lois Gibson

Pat Hartlev

Justin Falconi

Jim Brewster

**Eddie Williams** 

Betty Williams

**Buck Sowers** 

Louisa Sowers

Jim Russell

Nancy Tabor

Zack Carter

Wayne Walker

Harry Hancock

Darrel Bailey

Charles Kailev

Allen Neal

Glenn Shoemaker

Bill Neal

Ian Lambert Peyton Cline Josh Cline Carolvn Bassett **Bill Bassett** Jerry Cumby Betty Lou Gibberson Gery Piluso Sue Luterick Daniel Shrewsbury Patty Baker Shirley Stevenson Carol Stafford

#### BEREAVEMENT

The Family of George Smalls The Family of Eunice Cooper (loss of her Sister) The Family of Marie Boerboom

#### **PRAYER REQUEST**

Randy & Jan Bailey Retha Smith & Family Our Pastor Our Country Tim & April Scott **BCC** Congregation FCC Congregation. Tara McCarty



Need a Ride To Church?

Contact Melissa Woolwine at 304-320-4292 or

Glenn Woolwine at 540-353-3421.

They will arrange for you to be picked up.



If you are interested in being on the Pastor's prayer warrior list, please email or text him so he can include you as a prayer warrior.



Did you know that you can link up your email to the church's calendar. If you would like to and need assistance just call the office and Sarah will walk you through the process.



## WOWZZA Wednesday



March 14 & 28 5:30PM In the Christianaires Room



For **Celebrate Recovery** 

## Monday March 5, 2018 5:30-7:30PM

Cost is \$10



## Thursday March 29, 2018 6:00PM Dinner 7:00PM Service



What a lovely warm spring –like day this Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup> is. I've been out and seen reflections of our Lord in the garden this morning. Our first crocus is blooming.- a golden yellow. This reminds that Easter is in the offing! Our choir has just started to rehearse music for Holy Week and we NEED every voice! - Your voice! Please consider joining us.

We have a very special concert on March 18 – Music at First Christian will present our annual Youth Concert.. Please plan to come out in support of our talented musical youngsters and bring a friend

May the eternal love of our Father surround you.

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Harold



#### Greetings All,

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A lot is happening in our youth department. We just had a group of nine youth and three adults come back from Mid-Winter Retreat. I am sure fun was had by all as well as some spiritual growth as well.

Our Youth Sunday School classes are in full swing. We currently have four youth Sunday school classes ranging from nursery age to the eighth grade.

One thing that we have coming up is the Pastor's Class. This is going to start Sunday February 25, 2018 at 10:00AM if you would like more information please contact Pastor Doug. Another thing we are working on is VBS. Yes, I said VBS. If you feel God is calling you to help with VBS in any way shape or form, please contact Sarah or Melissa & Glenn Woolwine. Planning early will ensure that we have the best VBS possible. One last thing SUMMER CAMP! The dates for Junior and Chi Rio Camp are June 10–15, 2018. So mark that date on your calendar. More information and camp forms are to come soon, so be on the look out for them.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve y'all Sarah Neal CODT A HUR-T, HABIT OR HANG-UP?

## **Celebrate Recovery**

Every Thursday at 6:00PM Contact Gery Piluso at 304-320-8566 for more information.



To order sanctuary flowers please call Martha Royall at 304-327-8444 Flowers are \$25.00



The Celebrate Recovery Children's Program is expanding. We are now offering The Landing. This program is for youth in grades Fifth through Eighth. For more information contact Faye Louthan at 304-320-7099



ary 2018



#### Treasurer's Report

Below is the financial report for January 2018. Praise the Lord we did not have to make any transfers this month! God is good all the time and all of the time God is good! Let us always be mindful to return to God's storehouse a portion of the many gifts he has so richly bestowed upon us all. Praise God for His faithfulness to His church! Praise God for each of you and your faithfulness to the ministries at FCC. We serve a mighty God! I am so appreciative for your faithfulness to God's work in this place and our community.

TREASURER'S

REPORT

### 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!

Mary Anne Musser, Treasurer

First Christian Church								
Financial Information for January 2018								
	Month-to-date	Year-to-date						
Total offerings and other sources	\$ 15,044.00	\$ 15,044.00						
Total expenses	15,370.16	15,370.16						
Excess (deficit) of offerings to expenses	(326.16)	(326.16)						
Transfers from (to) savings	0.00	0.00						
Increase (decrease)	\$ (326.16)	\$ (326.16)						
Balances on hand January 31, 2018:								
General Fund		\$ 3,598.36						
Memorial and Special Gifts		14,061.34						
Property Repairs and Replacement		342.67						
Scholarship		4,395.45						
Bequested Funds and other savings		72,817.19						
Total		\$ 95,215.01						





## Sunday April 1, 2018 8:00AM



Sunday April 1, 2018 9:00AM



Sunday April 1, 2018 10:00AM





March	2018
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For birthday/anniversary additions/changes please notify Sarah

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
				*Men's Prayer Meeting 7:30AM	*Kairos Cookies Due by Noon	*Cathy Evans
				*Celebrate Recovery 6:00PM		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
*BCC Service 9:00AM	*Meyling Reyes	*BCC Praise Team 4:30PM	*FCC Praise Band Practice 6:00PM	*Men's Prayer Meeting 7:30AM		
*Sunday School 10:00AM	*CR fundraiser dinner 5:30PM—7:30PM	*Prayer Meeting 6:15PM	*FCC Choir Practice 7:00PM	*Celebrate Recovery 6:00PM		
*FCC Service 11:00AM	*Violin Practice 2:45PM	*Bible Study 7:00PM				
*Youth 7:00PM—8:00PM	*Boy Scouts 7:00PM	bible Study 7.001 M				
	Boy Scouts 7.001 M					
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
*Daylight Savings Time Begins	*Violin Practice 2:45PM	Union Mission Dinner	*WOWZZA Wednesday 5:30PM	*Men's Prayer Meeting 7:30AM	*Ronnie Hypes	*Men's Breakfast
*BCC Service 9:00AM		*BCC Praise Team 4:30PM	*Ash Wednesday Service 7:00PM	*Celebrate Recovery 6:00PM		*Men's Breakfast
*Sunday School 10:00AM	*Boy Scouts 7:00PM	*Prayer Meeting 6:15PM	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		*Newsletter Submissions Due	
*FCC Service 11:00AM		*Bible Study 7:00PM				
*Youth 7:00PM—8:00PM		bible Study 7.001 M				
10		20				
	19	20 ܐ>>> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td>	21	22	23	24
*BCC Service 9:00AM	*Violin Practice 2:45PM		*Newsletter Assembly & Mailing 10:00AM	*Men's Prayer Meeting 7:30AM	*Russ Taylor	
*Sunday School 10:00AM	*Boy Scouts 7:00PM	*BCC Praise Team 4:30PM	*FCC Praise Band Practice 6:00PM	*Celebrate Recovery 6:00PM		
*FCC Service 11:00AM		*Prayer Meeting 6:15PM	*FCC Choir Practice 7:00PM			
*Youth 7:00PM—8:00PM		*Bible Study 7:00PM				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
☆ *Grace Matthews	*Violin Practice 2:45PM	*BCC Praise Team 4:30PM	*WOWZZA Wednesday 5:30PM	∱	*Good Friday	
*BCC Service 9:00AM	*Boy Scouts 7:00PM	*Prayer Meeting 6:15PM	*FCC Praise Band Practice 6:00PM	*Men's Prayer Meeting 7:30AM		
*Sunday School 10:00AM		*Bible Study 7:00PM	*FCC Choir Practice 7:00PM	*Maundy Thursday Service 7:00PM		
*FCC Service 11:00AM						
*Youth 7:00PM-8:00PM						

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





<u>9:00 am Worship Service</u> Bluefield Community Church Service Sunday School: 10:00 am <u>11:00 am Worship Service</u> First Christian Church Douglas W. McDaniel Jr., Pastor

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



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