

### **Our Vision**

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



*You remember the song, don't you? I know you don't want to admit that you ever actually watched Hee Haw, but you did! You remember the moonshine drink'n, banjo picking, straw chewing, comedy-variety show with a down home country twang to it? It began in 1969 and they're still showing reruns today. I bet you not only remember the song, but when you read the lyrics, you'll begin singing it in your mind.*

*(WARNING! – DO NOT READ THIS RIGHT BEFORE YOU GO TO BED. YOU'VE BEEN WARNED!)*

*“Gloom, despair, and agony on me - Deep, dark depression, excessive misery.*

*If it weren't for bad luck, I'd have no luck at all - Gloom, despair, and agony on me”*

*- Buck Owens & Roy Clark*

*If you noticed, I titled this Pastor's Note with a question mark. Do you see it? Gloom, despair, and agony on me? Our monthly newsletter is snail mailed and or emailed to a couple hundred plus people. It is my estimation that most if not all the recipients of the newsletter are Christians, and more importantly, faithful-followers of Jesus Christ. Praise the Lord!*

*I have the high honor of working with many people, from various backgrounds and the beauty of it all, is their stories. I love to hear and watch people light up as they share part of their life experience. Being a bit of a story teller myself I find it to be good medicine for us to share our lives in story form and I'm thankful for each one.*

*But as you know, not all stories are created equal and for every hair-raising adventurous story I'm told, there almost always is a gutter story. Actually, I'd rather refer to them as valley experiences and we all have them, don't we? I'd guess for many of us it seems that our valley experiences seem to be more prominent than our mountain top experiences, and I'm here to tell you that's ok. Please don't ever think that because the chips are down that you aren't a beautiful and vibrant child of God. BECAUSE YOU ARE!*

*Too many times though I think we live in less than a well-lit atmosphere. God created light in Genesis 1 and He called it good. I shared last Sunday that when Father had completed His creation (and I imagine God was raring back with his thumbs pushing out his suspenders with an endless smile and an eternal gaze) saying this was very good! Well that's what the Bible proclaims in Genesis 1:31, less the suspenders of course.*

# ~Pastor's Note~

## Gloom, despair, and agony on me?

*You and I are very much a part of Father's creation and He said that we were VERY GOOD!*

*I don't want to speak for you, but wow! God said; “I was very good”! Thank you Father, I needed that!*

*So, why the “gloom, despair, and agony on me”?*

*Millions of people are diagnosed with clinical depression and praise God, they not only find good help for the disease, but they are able to flourish in the midst of such a potentially disabling illness. I heard a person tell me one time, to not get in the way of them and their Prozac. It's the one thing that helps them to function and leave the depression in the dark so they can operate in the light. Praise God for good medications!*

*Are you struggling with gloom, despair and agony on you? It's ok beloved. There are so many reasons to feel like you are depressed. The loss of a loved one, job issues, money problems, health concerns and relationship issues can leave us feeling depressed.*

*Maybe for you, a good workout or a 30-minute walk clears your head to allow you to pull out of the heaviness of life. I've been told that a good diet and plenty of sleep can help. Maybe completing a few menial tasks every day is good medicine for you. But that's not true for everyone. Sometimes it's just good to talk with someone who you can trust to listen to you and not try and fix you. Thank God for Celebrate Recovery!*

*But maybe you need professional advice. If you think that you are struggling with depression, you probably are and I'm encouraging you to reach out to your doctor today. Chances are it could be seasonal depression and your doctor can give you some good direction to help you to begin pulling out of the gloom, despair, and agony. Please, don't spend another day wondering if you are depressed.*

*Let's talk. Tell me your story and I'll tell you mine. We will find good medicine when we open up to one another, and maybe just maybe, that's all the therapy we really need. But if not, today would be a good day to make that appointment to go and see your doctor.*

*Shifting gears, I'd like to ask you about your spiritual health. How are you? Where are you? Are you spiritually oppressed? There is an oppressor and he has come to choke us out and leave us for dead, and Jesus says, I have come that you may have life and life to the full. Praise God and hallelujah to the Lamb!*

### **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)**



*Remember, Jesus is the light of the world and that's where the Christian is supposed to be operating. But sometimes, it gets heavy and we find ourselves burnt out. Is that where you are? Let's talk beloved. I want to hear from you. I want to listen to hear your spiritual heartbeat, and together we can seek the Lord for His perfect help.*

The LORD is my Shepherd, I shall not be in want. He makes me lie down in green pastures, He leads me beside quiet waters, He restores my soul. He guides me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever. **Psalms 23:1-6 (NIV)**

*You see beloved, we are valley people, lead always by the Good Shepherd. Never forgotten or forsaken. Never abandoned or kicked to the curb. We are our Father's craftsmanship and we ARE very good and the Lord has put us together to be light to one another.*

*So, no more gloom, despair, and agony on us! For we are people of the Most-High King. We are a royal priesthood and a holy nation!*

*Yes, there will be tuff times, but our God will be in the thick of it with us. Yes, we will be exhausted at times and He will refresh us. Yes, we will occasionally fall down and He will always pick us up.*

The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge. He is my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold. **Psalms 18:2 (NIV)**

He alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I will never be shaken. **Psalms 62:2 (NIV)**

*No more gloom, despair, and agony on us beloved!*

*Let's go to the ROCK!*

*I'm in, are you?*

*Let's talk.*

*Shalom dear one.*

*PDoug*



## Prayer Requests



### SHUT INS

June Turner  
Ruth Shields  
Margaret Goodwin  
Donnie Hypes

### HEALTH CONCERNS

Pat Hartley  
Eddie Williams  
Betty Williams  
Nancy Tabor  
Zack Carter  
Patty Baker  
Wayne Collins  
Carol Stafford  
Patty Camacho  
Leigh Anne Hines Owen  
Shirley Hines  
Toni Russell  
Glen Kersey  
Jo Hartley  
Breanna Nicodemus  
Terry Barton Sr.  
Roger Stacy  
Tom Farmer  
Beth Hayes  
Chris Tinder  
Cleo Halsey  
Clancy Griffin  
Ellen Elliot  
Gracie Figeruroa  
Melissa Smith  
Vicki  
Carl Walker  
Mary Baker  
Kenny Adams  
JR Shrewsbury  
Catherine Gillespie  
Gavin  
Lynn McCure Burney  
Daken Bishop  
Donnie Hypes  
Kenny Ramos  
John Gibson  
Matt Anderson & Family  
The mother of George Smith  
Betty Lou Gibberson  
Steve Aichel  
Joann Shrader

Nick Whited  
The Father of Jessica McDaniel  
Paula Elliott  
Lindsey Varney  
Sharon Harmon  
Sarah Haller  
Florence Neal  
Charlotte Woolwine  
Pam Wolford  
Paul Anderson  
Ruth Stevenson  
Dennis Huber  
Joyce Farmer  
Grat Shawver  
Alan Neal  
Dr. Randy Stevens

### BEREAVEMENT

The family of Marilyn Hypes  
The Family of Jerry Parker  
The Family of Sue Godwin  
The Family of Tonia Russell in  
the loss of her niece Melissa  
The Family of Dean Linkous

### PRAYER REQUEST

Randy & Jan Bailey  
Retha Smith & Family  
Our Pastor  
Our Country  
Our Church Family  
Dewayne  
Joseph  
Garry  
David Epperly  
Robert Searle  
Jon Gendron  
Trey McDaniel  
Our First Responders  
General Church  
Regional Church  
Regional Minister & Staff  
Fred Haller

### UNSPECIFIED REQUEST

The Goldsworthies



### Need a Ride To Church?

Contact the church office at 304-327-5633 or  
Darrin Coe at 276-245-8374



## Wednesday

Every Wednesday  
at 5:30PM



Kairos Cookies for the March Monthly Walk

Due March 1, 2019

By 12 Noon



March 3, 2019 &  
March 31, 2019



March 6, 2019  
At 7:00PM







Make a Joyful noise Unto The Lord!

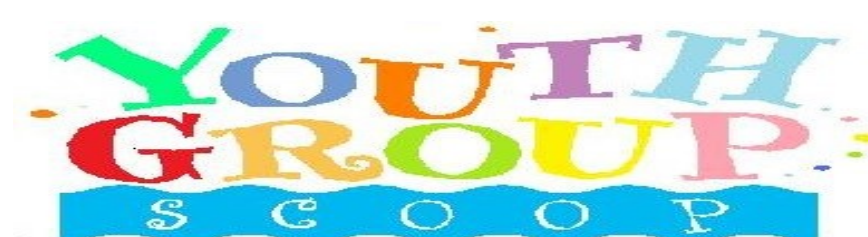
If anyone is interested in joining the First Christian Chancel Choir, just show up to practice. Practices are every Wednesday at 7:00PM unless otherwise noted. We would like to have you!



March 12, 2019



For more information or to help contact Carolyn Bassett



Greetings all,

There is a lot going on in our church. We just recently got back from mid-winter retreat. Mid-Winter was held February 8-10, 2019. We took a total of eight (8) youth and three (3) adults, up to Parkersburg, WV. I believe a good time was had by all. (see photo below)

Be on the look out for a middle school & high school youth group meeting. This will be on Sunday evenings, but further details have yet to be worked out at this time. So be on the look out for additional information.

The next thing on the calendar is a Youth Sunday. That Sunday will be a combined service lead by the youth of the church, that will be March 31, 2019 at 10AM. Following the service the youth will have a spaghetti dinner fundraiser. More details are to come in the near future.

Also we are in the works of planning our Annual Easter Egg Hunt for the youth. The tentative date for that is April 13, 2019. More information is to come on that as well.

As always thank you for the chance to be of service to you all,

Sarah Neal



March 16, 2019 at 9AM  
In Bethany Hall



March 16, 2019 at 9AM  
Location to be determined



Dear Family,

Words will never be able to properly thank you for your love and kindness that you demonstrated during the recent time of mother's passing. We are so fortunate to be a part of this family that really lives out its commitment to "being Jesus" wherever we are. Your love through gifts of prayer, flowers, food, hugs, tears and laughs made us truly appreciate how connected we are as family and how we hold each other up whenever we are in need. God indeed blessed us during this time, and most of all, He blessed us with this loving family at 2200 Bland Road. Thank you all, and may God's Shalom be with each and every one.

Love,  
Ronnie and Gale



January 2019



### Treasurer's Report



Below is the financial report for January 2019. 2019 has started out with a couple of weather events (a nice way to say SNOW!). Just a reminder that the bills continue, even when we have a bad weather Sunday. If you are unable to attend for whatever reason, please remember to keep up your gifts to God and His church. God is good! 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 God's work in this place.

**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 January 2019		
	Month-to-date	Year-to-date
Total offerings and other sources	\$ 11,423.60	\$ 11,423.60
Total expenses	15,756.68	15,756.68
Excess (deficit) of offerings to expenses	(4,332.98)	(4,332.98)
Transfers from (to) savings	0.00	0.00
Increase (decrease)	\$ (4,332.98)	\$ (4,332.98)
Balances on hand January 31, 2019:		
General Fund		\$ 1,061.97
Memorial and Special Gifts		10,709.58
Property Repairs and Replacement		2,235.51
Scholarship		7,191.32
Bequested Funds and other savings		93,057.68
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$ 114,256.06</b>

*Praise*  
and give thanks to *the*  
*Lord*

## Celebrate Recovery

Every Thursday at 6:00PM  
Contact Chuck Louthan at 276-322-4071  
for more information.

**To order sanctuary flowers please call  
The Church Office at 304-327-5633  
Flowers are \$25.00**

## Celebrate Recovery Update!

God continues work through Celebrate Recovery. In the month of January we served 282 meals (over 50 every Thursday). \$212.00 was donated to our Celebrate Recovery program.

Men and women also started doing step studies on Monday nights.

We have plenty of opportunities for you to become involved in C.R. You could participate in the program or volunteer.

We can certainly use desserts every Thursday. If you would volunteer a dessert on any Thursday it would be deeply appreciated.





# March 2019

## ☆ Birthdays

## ♥ Anniversaries



<i>SUN</i>	<i>MON</i>	<i>TUE</i>	<i>WED</i>	<i>THU</i>	<i>FRI</i>	<i>SAT</i>
					1 *Kairos Cookies Due 12 Noon	2
3 ☆ *Kathy Evans *Combined Worship Service 10:00AM	4 *Violin Practice 2:45PM *Boy Scouts 7:00PM	5 ☆ *Maria Reyes *Praise Team 4:30PM *Prayer Meeting 6:15PM *Bible Study 7:00PM	6 *Wowzza Wednesday *Praise Band Practice 6:00PM *Choir Practice 7:00PM	7 *Men’s Prayer Meeting 7:30AM *Celebrate Recovery 6:00PM	8	9
10 *Contemporary Service 9:00AM *Sunday School 10:00AM *Traditional Service 11:00AM	11 ☆ *Betty Lou Gibberson *Violin Practice 2:45PM *Boy Scouts 7:00PM	12 *Union Mission Dinner *BCC Praise Team 4:30PM *Prayer Meeting 6:15PM *Bible Study 7:00PM	13 *Wowzza Wednesday 5:30PM *FCC Praise Band Practice 6:00PM *FCC Choir Practice 7:00PM	14 *Men’s Prayer Meeting 7:30AM *Celebrate Recovery 6:00PM	15 *Newsletter Submissions Due 11:00AM	16 ☆ *Ronnie Hypes *Men’s Breakfast *Women’s Breakfast
17 ♥ *Mr. & Mrs. Hawkins *Contemporary Service 9:00AM *Sunday School 10:00AM *Traditional Service 11:00AM	18 *Violin Practice 2:45PM *Boy Scouts 7:00PM	19 *BCC Praise Team 4:30PM *Prayer Meeting 6:15PM *Bible Study 7:00PM	20 ☆ *Rj Wilson *Newsletter Assembly 10:00AM *Wowzza Wednesday 5:30PM *FCC Praise Band Practice 6:00PM *FCC Choir Practice 7:00PM	21 *Men’s Prayer Meeting 7:30AM *Celebrate Recovery 6:00PM	22	23 ☆ *Russ Taylor *Youth Committee Meeting 9AM
24 *Contemporary Service 9:00AM *Sunday School 10:00AM *Traditional Service 11:00AM	25 ☆ *Gracie Matthews *Violin Practice 2:45PM *Boy Scouts 7:00PM	26 *BCC Praise Team 4:30PM *Prayer Meeting 6:15PM *Bible Study 7:00PM	27 *Wowzza Wednesday 5:30PM *FCC Praise Band Practice 6:00PM *FCC Choir Practice 7:00PM	28 *BCC Praise Team 4:30PM *Prayer Meeting 6:15PM *Bible Study 7:00PM	29 ☆ *Natasha McDaniel	30
31 *YOUTH SUNDAY *Combined Worship Service 10:00AM *Youth Fundraiser after Worship						

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](http://www.bluefieldfcc.com)

## Welcome To Our Church

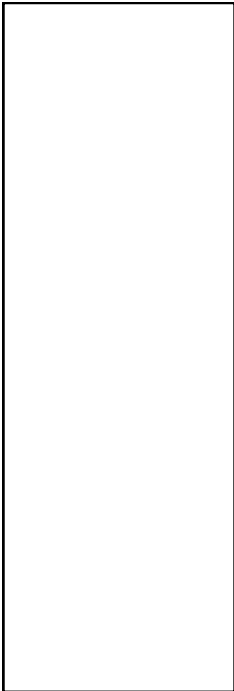


9:00 am Worship Service  
Contemporary Church Service  
Sunday School: 10:00 am  
11:00 am Worship Service  
Traditional Church Service  
Douglas W. McDaniel Jr., Pastor

*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 Youth Night  
Details to come soon

Wednesday  
WOWZZA Every Wednesday at 5:30PM

\*Youth Outreach Ministry

If you have any questions concerning youth  
events please contact  
Sarah Neal, Youth Mentor [dorkygirl9886@gmail.com](mailto:dorkygirl9886@gmail.com)  
or 304.910.9933