

### **Our Vision**

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



Howdy and his dad Wisdom had spent the better half of a morning exploring their human's 100-acre farm. With half of the property wooded, that also included a plentiful water source, you can imagine that there was plenty of wildlife. It also didn't hurt that their human's property was surrounded by a National Forest on three sides. So, exploring was a daily activity for Howdy and Wisdom.

One of Howdy and Wisdom's favorite hangouts was at the old spring house where they would lounge around on a hot afternoon or go for a cool dip in the pond that the spring was supplying. Remember now, Howdy and Wisdom are Golden Retrievers and everybody knows that Golden Retrievers love the water. So, whether it was hot outside or not really didn't have much to do with these two getting wet. It was almost certain that if they went down to the spring house, they were not only going to get wet, they were coming home wet. What a wonderful gift for the humans as these two Golden "MUDDY" Retrievers lumbered back up on the porch to again leave wet muddy paw prints all over everything.

"Hey Wisdom? Don't you think it would be neat to make our way into the house and jump on our humans and show them how much we love and appreciate them?" Wisdom replied, "I don't think that would be such a good idea". Howdy, being Howdy failed to listen. For some reason he thought that because the humans would come and clean us up outside that he would do them a favor by just going straight into their bedroom and hop up on the bed for them to dry him off. Wrong again Howdy!

Not being in good graces with the humans again, would be an understatement! Howdy and I have been relegated to the barn for another night and as I've gotten older, I've become accustomed to sleeping inside, on my nice plush pillow bed. But it just doesn't seem to matter to Howdy, because he's the happiest boy I've ever seen and the circumstance that he finds himself in has no bearing on diminishing his happiness, I guess as a father I have to smile and be thankful for Howdy, with all his half-crazed ways, he has a beautiful heart.

# ~Pastor's Note~

## **Howdy and Wisdom / Finding Grace**

It's gotten late outside and the moon is ever so bright and big as it lights up the otherwise dark forest. I can hear in the distance that one of our humans is yelling frantically for Grace. Grace is their seven-year-old daughter and though I don't understand human words I can most certainly sense distress when I hear it. Seems that Grace can't be found and is maybe lost in the woods near the house. Howdy is out and neutron bomb explosion wouldn't wake him, so I'll leave him be.

I go to where the humans are yelling for Grace. It seems that they are certain she's in the woods lost. One of her best little friends Angel was with her parents and they were also yelling and looking, trying to find Grace in the woods. I couldn't help but think back when Howdy was a puppy and he's always been such a sound sleeper. We were looking for him barking and yelling and this went on for what seemed to be hours, when all of a sudden one of us noticed him yawning and stretching as he walked out of the barn. He wasn't lost at all. He was asleep in the very place he was supposed to be.

I ran over to Angel and tugged on her hand ever so gently, and I could hear one of the parents say something to her, and it must have meant she could go with me, because we ran back together to the house to try and find Grace. I guess we had been in the house for about five minutes and to our wonderful surprise, Grace opened the basement door yawning and stretching out her arms. She had fallen asleep playing with her barbies and didn't hear her parents yelling for her.

Well, don't you know I was crowned the hero for taking Angel back to the house to look for Grace? Oh, my goodness you should have seen the relief and the joy on the faces of those humans as they all took turns embracing Grace. She didn't know what the big deal was and it was then that Angel told her that they feared she was lost. Grace simply replied, "I've been right here the whole 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)**



Did I mention I was crowned the hero? Apparently, heroes don't sleep in the barn! Howdy, is still out! Missed another adventure and I'll try and explain it to him later. Just to think we all thought that Grace was lost and all the while, Grace was secure.

*So, how you doing in the grace department? If you've received the grace of God you are never going to be the same again! Just to think, the grace of God has been given and is present for all people to receive.*

For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. John 1:17

*So, don't be like Howdy. Wake up and embrace GRACE.*

*The peace of Christ be with you and unmistakably present in your life.*

*I've heard it said, that "blessed people, bless people" I think it's also true, that "graced people, grace people".*

*Shalom y'all! -Howdy*

## The Adventures



of  
Howdy & Wisdom



## Prayer Requests



### SHUT INS

June Turner  
Ruth Shields  
Margaret Goodwin  
Marilyn Hypes  
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  
Sue Godwin  
Breanna Nicodemus  
Terry Barton Sr.  
Roger Stacy  
Tom Farmer  
Beth Hayes  
Chris Tinder  
Cleo Halsey  
Clancy Griffin  
Marilyn Hypes  
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  
Marilyn Hypes  
Paul Anderson

### BEREAVEMENT

The Williams family in the loss of  
Betty's Brother Lee  
The Family Of Tony Webster  
The Family of Kevin Caldwell

### 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



## Kairos Cookies for February Walk due:



February 1, 2019

By 12 Noon



Every Wednesday in February

5:30PM

In the Christianaires room



HUMILITY THROUGH FAITH, MERCY AND GRACE Micah 6

We struggle daily to know for certain what God expects us to do in various situations and circumstances. The prophets spoke for God to His people who were descendants of Isaac, the son of the promise! These descendants were vacillating between obedience to the law and abandonment of it. By the time that Micah wrote his message warning that God was dissatisfied with His people, especially the northern kingdom and was promising to allow a foreign nation capture it and take spoils back to their home. Of course the Israelites were trying to obey the Law written by Moses and amplified by the various prophets who wrote the books in the Old Testament. They continued to believe that obedience to the "Law" was the only way for salvation. They, very much like we are today, struggled to know the meaning of God's Word and to apply it to daily living. Micah brought a reality to them that, unfortunately failed to sink in then and today. Read what Micah says about what God expects of us:

### The LORD's Case Against Israel

1 Listen to what the LORD says: "Stand up, plead my case before the mountains; let the hills hear what you have to say. 2 "Hear, you mountains, the LORD's accusation; listen, you everlasting foundations of the earth. For the LORD has a case against his people; he is lodging a charge against Israel. 3 "My people, what have I done to you? How have I burdened you? Answer me. 4 I brought you up out of Egypt and redeemed you from the land of slavery. I sent Moses to lead you, also Aaron and Miriam. 5 My people, remember what Balak king of Moab plotted and what Balaam son of Beor answered. Remember your journey from Shittim to Gilgal, that you may know the righteous acts of the LORD." 6 **With what** shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him **with burnt offerings, with calves** a year old? 7 Will the LORD be pleased with **thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of olive oil**? Shall I offer **my firstborn** for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? 8 He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And **what does the LORD require of you? TO ACT JUSTLY AND TO LOVE MERCY AND TO WALK HUMBLY WITH YOUR GOD.**

Paul was a student of the Hebraic Law and was a scholar at the time Jesus was teaching in Israel and surrounding areas. After his conversion to become a believer and servant, he also struggled with what God expected of him. He struggled with whether or not the strict law of the Old Testament continued to require obedience to the customs that developed under the teachings of the Patriarchs. He spoke of his struggle in several letters he wrote and in particular inn Romans and 2Corinthians. We, as did Paul, often pray for healing ourselves or others and are perplexed by silence or negative outcomes. A recent commentator stated that during those times " Jesus does not meet our expectations". My belief is that if we reach a point that we actually believe that, we have inappropriate expectations of our Savior. Read how Paul struggled with faith and personal illness:



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!



February 16, 2019

9:00AM in Bethany Hall at the Church



February 16, 2019

Meet at the Church at 9:00AM, location TBD



Greetings all,

Well we are into 2019 and it seems like time is just flying by this year as well! We have a lot going on with our youth.

During Wowzza on January 16, 2019 we had the youth decorate cupcakes for Celebrate Recovery as a way to give back (of course the cupcakes were baked prior to their arrival). In all the youth frosted over 50 cupcakes to be used for Celebrate Recovery on the following Thursday. I honestly feel that this was a good activity for the youth to do. It allowed the youth to give back to church organizations within our own walls.

The next thing that is on the agenda is Mid-Winter Retreat. We have 11 youth and 4 adults going. This year's retreat is in Vienna, WV at the Wingate Inn. The theme for this year is Love Your Selfie! If you would still like to sponsor a youth please contact Sarah at 304-910-9933.

After that on February 13, 2019 during Wowzza we are going to have a Valentine's Day themed Wowzza to celebrate Valentine's Day with the youth and just let them know that they are loved by many.

Unfortunately our Youth Spaghetti Fundraiser that was set for January 14, 2019 from 5:30-7:00PM was postponed due to bad weather. Please be on the look out for a make up date for this fundraiser.

Thank you as always for the opportunity to serve this church as well as our youth,

Sarah Neal

Continuation of HUMILITY THROUGH FAITH, MERCY AND GRACE

How Do We [The New Israel] Respond to Negative Events

Ro.7: 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.

2 Cor: 7b Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "**MY GRACE IS SUFFICIENT FOR YOU, FOR MY POWER IS MADE PERFECT IN WEAKNESS.**" Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.

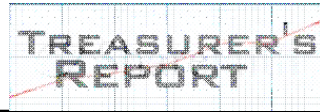
When, not if, we struggle with what is expected of us, we must strive to find the humility that comes with submission, self-sacrifice, love, mercy and grace. Submission to God, sacrifice of self for others, love of all people, even those who harm us, through mercy and grace.

In Christ,  
Roger Mullins '19  
©

1. Little is known about the prophet Micah beyond what can be learned from the book itself and from Jer 26:18. Micah was from the town of Moresheth (1:1), probably Moresheth Gath (1:14) in southern Judah. The prophecy attests to Micah's deep sensitivity to the social ills of his day, especially as they affected the small towns and villages of his homeland. Micah prophesied sometime between 750 and 686 b.c. during the reigns of Jotham, Ahaz and Hezekiah, kings of Judah (1:1; Jer. 26:18). He was therefore a contemporary of Isaiah, and Hosea. Micah predicted the fall of Samaria, the northern portion of the upper kingdom of Israel located from the Sea of Galilee south toward Jerusalem.



December 2018



### Treasurer's Report



Below is the financial report for December 2018. 2018 was been a blessed year for our congregation and God promises us good as we follow Him. 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 December 2018		
	Month-to-date	Year-to-date
Total offerings and other sources	\$16,449.42	\$195,133.72
Total expenses	16,028.38	193,492.43
Excess (deficit) of offerings to expenses	421.04	1,641.29
Transfers from (to) savings	0.00	0.00
Increase (decrease)	\$421.04	\$1,641.29
Balances on hand		
December 31, 2018:		
General Fund		\$5,351.23
Memorial and Special Gifts		11,147.63
Property Repairs and Replacement		2,235.51
Scholarship		4,395.45
Bequested Funds and other savings		92,892.77
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$116,022.59</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!

Celebrate Recovery is being blessed in this new year! Our attendance has been great! The meals have been fantastic! Our worship music has been magnificent!

A huge thanks to all our volunteers. We could not do it without you.

If you have not attended Celebrate Recovery, please give it a try. I guarantee the Lord will bless you!



# February 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 *Connie Taylor
3 *Kim Tineder *Contemporary Service 9:00AM *Sunday School 10:00AM *Traditional Service 11:00AM	4 *Samuel Shoemaker *Violin Practice 2:45PM *Boy Scouts 7:00PM	5 *Praise Team 4:30PM *Prayer Meeting 6:15PM *Bible Study 7:00PM	6 *Roger Mullins *Wowzza Wednesday *Praise Band Practice 6:00PM *Choir Practice 7:00PM	7 *Men’s Prayer Meeting 7:30AM *Celebrate Recovery 6:00PM	8 *Mid-Winter Retreat	9 *Mid-Winter Retreat *David Hines
10 *Mid-Winter Retreat *Contemporary Service 9:00AM *Sunday School 10:00AM *Traditional Service 11:00AM	11 *Youth Fundraiser Dinner *Violin Practice 2:45PM *Boy Scouts 7:00PM	12 *Christ Shoemaker *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 *Joe & Angel James *Raymond & Nancy Mulkey *Newsletter Submissions Due 11:00AM	16 *Alice Matthews *Men’s Breakfast *Women’s Breakfast
17 *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 *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 *Allen Neal *Aaliyah Carroll
24 *Contemporary Service 9:00AM *Sunday School 10:00AM *Traditional Service 11:00AM	25 *Violin Practice 2:45PM *Boy Scouts 7:00PM	26 *Jim Evans *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 *Nathan Evans (29) *BCC Praise Team 4:30PM *Prayer Meeting 6:15PM *Bible Study 7:00PM		

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

## Welcome To Our Church

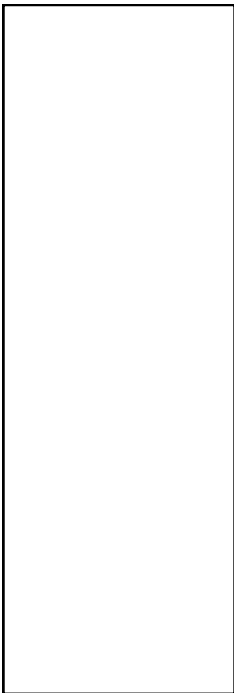


9:00 am Worship Service  
Contemporary Church Service  
Sunday School: 10:00 am  
11:00 am Worship Service  
Traditional Church Service  
Douglas W. McDaniel Jr., Pastor

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



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



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

**\*Youth Outreach Ministry**

Wednesday  
WOWZZA Every Wednesday at 5:30PM

Sunday Youth Night  
7:00PM—8:00PM

## Youth Events

## Can you imagine?

We sometimes think that "imagination" means something escapist or illusory. Yet, imagination is not something unreal or fake. No, it is **essential** to God's hope for creation. Hear how the Apostle Paul put it: **"Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine..."** (Ephesians 3:20-21) And God imagines a world where all are safe, all are loved, all are fed.

You see, when we use our imaginations in the way that God does, we can begin to envision – and work for! – a world

- ...where no child goes unfed, un-housed, or unloved;
- ...where no one ever fears abuse or violence;
- ...where clean water is not a dream but a reality for all;
- ...where small farmers do their work with dignity and are paid a fair wage for their labors;
- ...where agricultural practices enrich and renew the land rather than deplete it;
- ...where survivors of natural disasters have the resources they need;
- ...where vulnerable immigrants are welcomed in Christ's name.

Can **YOU** imagine these things? Through your gifts to Week of Compassion what we can imagine becomes ever more a reality for more and more people.

Please give generously!



[www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org)

Photo: Craig Thompson

## More than we can imagine



## More than we can imagine.

Everyone in the area knows Maria Trinidad (or Fela, to those who really know her). For years they have come to her home at the top of a hill in Ciales, Puerto Rico, for school uniforms and party dresses, for trouser hems and alterations. Mrs. Trinidad could look out the window above her sewing machine and see the whole neighborhood. For over four decades, she has looked out over the place she calls home as she has created clothes for her neighbors.

But in September of 2017 Mrs. Trinidad's home was destroyed. When Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, Mrs. Trinidad took shelter with her sister in the back room of the house – the only part of the structure made of concrete – as the wind and rain howled through the hills. After the storm, the two women found the rest of the house in ruins. Debris was strewn everywhere. Yet, in the middle of the fractured rafters and twisted roofing stood a table and on it, Mrs. Trinidad's sewing machine.

In partnership with Week of Compassion, the Iglesia Cristiana (Discípulos de Cristo) en Puerto Rico is helping her piece things back together. Though she received financial assistance from federal programs, the funds would not cover the cost of the extensive repairs. Mrs. Trinidad did not know what else to do when a neighbor referred her to the local Disciples congregation. Disciples leaders soon met with Mrs. Trinidad and began coordinating resources and volunteers to rebuild her home so she can get back to the sewing she loves.

Through the Programa Edifiquemos, your gifts to Week of Compassion are strengthening congregations for disaster response, rebuilding homes damaged by the hurricanes, and helping restore communities. Your gifts do more than we can imagine!



Photo: Craig Thompson



**"Disciples leaders soon met with Mrs. Trinidad and began coordinating resources and volunteers to rebuild her home so she can get back to the sewing she loves."**

