

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 beloved in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord! Amen and AMEN! I'm writing you early this Thursday morning in part because I have my Pastor's Note due tomorrow and mostly because I woke up thinking about the disciples along with Peter hemmed up in a boat in an attempt to cross the lake to get to Gennesaret. So, before we get to the scripture let me set the scene.

Jesus feeds 5,000 plus women and children. You can find this in your bibles in Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17; John 6:1-13. I give you those references because it's important to read all gospel accounts. It's like coloring with four different crayons. It brings into view a brighter and more vivid picture for us to see. So, Jesus has just taken five loaves of bread and two fish and fed the multitude. Why would He do that, you ask? Jesus has compassion for the people and because He understands their immediate need. They're hungry for goodness sake and if Jesus doesn't supply the remedy for their hunger pains; who will?

The funny thing is, people can get really off track and do so in wholesale fashion. Jesus knows that after healing their sick and filling their bellies, that they are looking to make him into a political King. Well of course Jesus saw the writing on the wall and sends his disciples on ahead as he heads up the mountainside to pray. Did Jesus go up the mountainside to be with His father or to get away from His new found fans? YES!

²² Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. ²³ After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, ²⁴ and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it. ²⁵ Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake. ²⁶ When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and cried out in fear. ²⁷ But Jesus immediately said to them: **"Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid."** ²⁸ "Lord, if it's you," Peter replied, "tell me to come to you on the water." ²⁹ **"Come,"** he said. Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. ³⁰ But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!" ³¹ Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. **"You of little faith,"** he said, **"why did you doubt?"**

~Pastor's Note~

Turn your Eyes Upon Jesus

³² And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. ³³ Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God." ³⁴ When they had crossed over, they landed at Gennesaret. ³⁵ And when the men of that place recognized Jesus, they sent word to all the surrounding country. People brought all their sick to him ³⁶ and begged him to let the sick just touch the edge of his cloak, and all who touched it were healed. **Matthew 14:22-36**

Are you getting a sense of what it must be like to be held hostage by the wind and the waves? Could it be for us in this moment that the Coronavirus has the upper hand? Are you watching and listening and reading every media outlet to learn of how many new cases there are and what the total death tally is? Well it finally happened! Mercer County WV has confirmed that there is a person who had traveled out of the country, and has in fact contracted the Coronavirus and based on statistical data there will be more.

I think the Lord gave me this passage this morning for different reasons than you might think. I'm not going to encourage you to get out of the boat. In fact, I'm going to do the very opposite. I'm imploring you to stay in the boat! But understand this about the boat; the boat was tossed about in the middle of the storm! The boat should have likely capsized, but it didn't. God had His hand on the boat and no one even knew it and I think in part because when Jesus got in the boat, the wind ceased. They were overjoyed and rightfully so that the wind had ceased. The KJV says "ceased", meaning it came to an end. Church, this "STORM" will come to an end, and we all know there will be another one right behind it. Take courage! Don't be afraid! For "I AM" is with us! And so, let's not lose sight of the fact that God was with us yesterday, today and rest assured will be with us always!

So be careful to how much outside information you allow in. Yes, check your sources and be informed. But church, if we are not checking our God source, we are missing the boat. Did you notice verse 32? Go back and read it beloved. "THEY" climbed into the boat and the wind ceased. That's a powerful word church! That's the kind of stuff that will keep you getting up at 4am. Thank you Jesus!

Stay in the boat, but make absolute sure that you know, that you know, that Jesus is in the boat with you. Can I get an amen?

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)



Church, let me add this: If you have a need, you have to let me know. Call me! 304-920-9992. We have a group of people at the ready to deliver groceries and help with the simplest of things right down to changing a light bulb. But you have to call! We want to care for your needs as best we can. Many of you don't need to be out and you know who you are. Please call me!

And don't forget to Turn your Eyes Upon Jesus.

O soul are you weary and troubled? No light in the darkness you see?
There's light for a look at the Savior / And life more abundant and free

Turn your eyes upon Jesus / Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim / In the light of His glory and grace

Through death into life everlasting / He passed, and we follow Him there
Over us sin no more hath dominion / For more than conquerors we are

His word shall not fail you, He promised / Believe Him and all will be well
Then go to a world that is dying / His perfect salvation to tell

And turn your eyes upon Jesus / Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of earth will grow strangely dim / In the light of His glory and grace
-Helen Howarth Lemmel

Shalom my friends.

PDoug





Prayer Requests



SHUT INS
June Turner
Margaret Goodwin
Glen Kersey
Pat Hartley
HEALTH CONCERNS
Nick Whited
Sue Luterick
Betsy Cardwell
Mary Anne Collins
Nancy Neal
Mary Mash
Bill Fuzia
Dick Royall
Paul Lester
Wanda Collier
Martha Royall
Helen Selbee
Angela Belcher
Charlotte Dunahoe
Nancy Mulkey
Raymond Mulkey
Burger Boerboom
Zack Carter
Wayne Collins
The mother of George Smith
Rev. George Aichel
Sarah Haller
Paris Swisher
Sarah Wall
Will Calfee
Rev. Paul Lantis
The Father of Maria Whited
Debbie Saffel
Betsy Canterbury
Mike O'Neal
Helen Warner
Chuck & Susan Allen
Scott Cardwell
Chip Bradley
Randy
Bobby McCall
Lynette Artrip
Kenny Sawyers
Chris Johnson
Kim Cordel
Janet Holman
Jerry Bright
Maggie Hancock
Betty Maddox

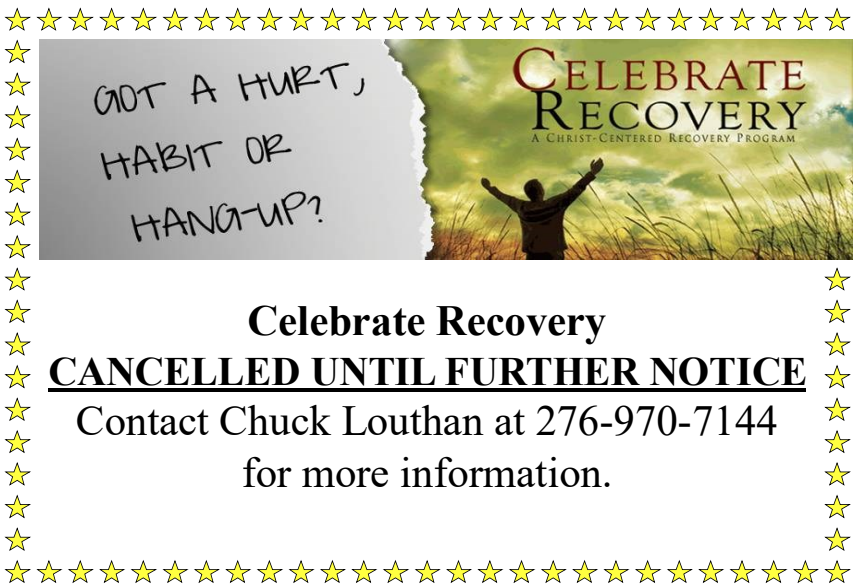
BEREAVEMENT
The Family of Steve Aichel
The Family of Bill Cox
PRAYER REQUEST
Randy & Jan Bailey
Retha Smith & Family
Our Pastor
Our Country
Our Church Family
Robert Searle
Jon Gendron
Our First Responders
General Church
Regional Church
Regional Minister & Staff
Fred Haller
Candice Humphrey
Celebrate Recovery
Amber Ross & Family
Gretchen Honaker & Family
Josh Lavender & Family
Bobby Cutlip & Family
Bailie Mustard
Todd Brinkley
Al & Sonia Hancock
Ann Gilbert
Jerry Fritz
Adam White & Family
Amber Bragg
Drew Maddox (unspecified)

If you would like to add
someone to the prayer
list, just fill out a blue
card and place it in the
offering plate.

Prayer changes
things.



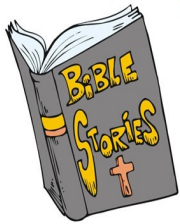
Need a Ride To Church? Contact the church office at
304-327-5633 or
Darrin Coe at 276-245-8374



Thursday April 9, 2020
Dinner at 6:00PM
Service at 7:00PM



Sunrise Easter Service
Sunday April 12
7:30AM



April 15, 2020
6:00PM



This is an event that is for youth 12 & under



Make a Joyful noise Unto The Lord!

If anyone is interested in joining the First Christian Praise Band, just show up to practice. Practices are every Wednesday at 6:00PM unless otherwise noted. We would like to have you!

An encouraging scripture for times of fear

I Command You
be strong and courageous.
Do not be afraid or discouraged.
For the Lord your God is with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9



Hello all,

There is a lot going on in our country at this time, but let us remember to **always put our faith over our fear**. If we do this life will go on a whole lot smoother, as least that is what I have found.

Mid-winter was unfortunately cancelled. Although, the youth and some of the adults were disappointed, it was what was best for everyone. We did not need anyone coming home sick.

With that said, for the time being Wowza Wednesday & Teen Believers are cancelled until the coronavirus passes over us. Of course the youth team (Darrin & Sarah) will continue to stay in contact with both the youth and parents & guardians. If there is anything that any of the youth need, please do not hesitate to contact us.

The fundraiser that we had March 2, 2020 was a very successful one. We had an amazing turn out from our church family in support of the youth. The monies raised are going towards the cost of an upcoming mission trip in July to Wilmington, NC. I personally want to thank everyone that made the fundraiser possible, whether you donated food or worked in the kitchen. Thank you, from the bottom of my heart! The next fundraiser was planned for April 6, 2020 but unfortunately that has been cancelled. Please be on the look out for our next fundraiser to raise funds for the mission trip. If you would like to make a monetary donation towards the mission trip you can do that as well, just be sure to put in the memo that it is for the mission trip.

As always thank you for giving me the opportunity to service such a wonderful congregation.

God Bless,

Sarah Neal

LET YOUR *faith*
BE BIGGER THAN YOUR FEAR

Spring

BUDS	G F S Q O I I S L S U R	RAINBOW
DAFFODILS	E D U R Y G N D M B K V	SEEDS
FLOWERS	B T A P T I Q E K D I F	SPRING
GRASS	S K N F A G H E H P B C	TULIPS
RAIN	P T D R F B W S Q P R J	UMBRELLA
	I S R E W O L F D T L S	
	L F H Z F G D S A N U M	
	U X U U F R R I D J T Z	
	T H C U Z A J A L U T V	
	U M B R E L L A S S B M	
	B N S M G N I R P S M K	
	R A I N B O W D J A C P	

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February 2020



Treasurer's Report



Below is the financial report for February 2020. God is good, all the time!! We are off to a good year financially (and so many other ways) at FCC. We were just a little behind on offerings compared to our normal, but, God continues to bless us as we are faithful to His call and guidance. With the concerns over the coronavirus, if you choose to stay at home for a while, and no one blames you if you do, please remember to keep up your gifts to God and His church (praise God for 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.

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

Just a little note...

If your birthday is not currently in the directory and you would like your name on the monthly birthday cake on the month of your birthday, please submit your birthday to Carolyn Bassett or Sarah Neal

First Christian Church		
Financial Information for February 2020		
	Month-to-date	Year-to-date
Total offerings and other sources	\$ 13,030.00	\$ 27,706.00
Total expenses	13,670.79	29,514.36
Excess (deficit) of offerings to expenses	(640.79)	(1,808.36)
Transfers from (to) savings	0.00	0.00
Increase (decrease)	\$ (640.79)	\$ (1,808.36)
Balances on hand		
February 29, 2020:		
General Fund		\$ 6,606.87
Memorial and Special Gifts		12,717.81
Property Repairs and Replacement		3,736.10
Scholarship		3,486.14
Bequested Funds and other savings		94,823.14
Total		\$ 121,370.06



COVID-19

Protect yourself and loved ones



Help prevent the spread of respiratory diseases like COVID-19

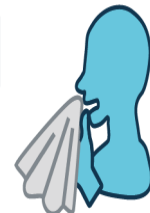
+ WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands with soap and warm water regularly.



+ COVER A COUGH OR SNEEZE

Cover your cough or sneeze with your sleeve, or tissue. Dispose of tissue and wash your hands afterward.



+ DON'T TOUCH

Avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, especially with unwashed hands.



+ KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Avoid close contact with people who are sick.



+ STAY HOME

If you experience respiratory symptoms like a cough or fever, stay home.



+ GET HELP

If you experience symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, shortness of breath), call your health care provider or local health department before seeking care.





March 2020

☆ Birthdays

♡ Anniversaries



For birthday/anniversary additions/changes please notify Sarah

<i>SUN</i>	<i>MON</i>	<i>TUE</i>	<i>WED</i>	<i>THU</i>	<i>FRI</i>	<i>SAT</i>
			1 *Bible Study 9:00AM *Praise Band Practice 6:00PM *Wowza Wednesday 6:00PM *Easter Cantata Practice 7:00PM	2 *Men's Prayer 7:30AM *Celebrate Recovery 6:00PM	3 ☆*Tony Esters *Kairos Cookies Due 12 Noon	4 ☆*Julie Francisco
5 PALM SUNDAY *9:00AM Sunday School *10:00AM Worship Service *5:00PM Holy Yoga *Teen Believers 6:00PM	6 Violin Practice 2:45PM *Men's Bible Study 6:00PM *Boy Scouts 7:00PM	7 *Prayer Meeting 6:15PM *Bible Study 7:00PM	8 *Bible Study 9:00AM *Praise Band Practice 6:00PM *Easter Cantata Practice 7:00PM	9 ☆*Kathy Peters *Men's Prayer 7:30AM *Maundy Thursday Service 7PM	10	11 *Baby Shower for Martha Morris 1:00PM
12 EASTER SUNDAY *7:30AM Sunrise Service *10:00AM Easter Worship Service	13 *Violin Practice 2:45PM *Men's Bible Study 6:00PM *Boy Scouts 7:00PM	14 ☆*Betsy Cardwell *Union Mission Dinner *Prayer Meeting 6:15PM *Bible Study 7:00PM	15 *Bible Study 9:00AM *Kairos Cookies Due 12 Noon *Praise Band Practice 6:00PM *Wowza Wednesday 6:00PM	16 ☆*Phil Mahood *Men's Prayer 7:30AM *Celebrate Recovery 6:00PM	17 *Newsletter Submissions Due 11AM	18 ☆*Franklin Hartley ☆*Matthew James *Church Breakfast 9AM
19 *9:00AM Sunday School *10:00AM Worship Service *5:00PM Holy Yoga *Teen Believers 6:00PM	20 *Violin Practice 2:45PM *Men's Bible Study 6:00PM *Boy Scouts 7:00PM	21 *Prayer Meeting 6:15PM *Bible Study 7:00PM	22 *Bible Study 9:00AM *Newsletter Assembly 10AM *Praise Band Practice 6:00PM *Wowza Wednesday 6:00PM	23 ☆*Kylie Croye ☆*Helen Selbee *Men's Prayer 7:30AM *Celebrate Recovery 6:00PM	24 ☆*Tonya Boerboom ☆*Barbara Rose	25 ☆*Toni Russell
26 *9:00AM Sunday School *10:00AM Worship Service *5:00PM Holy Yoga *Teen Believers 6:00PM	27 *Violin Practice 2:45PM *Men's Bible Study 6:00PM *Boy Scouts 7:00PM	28 *Prayer Meeting 6:15PM *Bible Study 7:00PM	29 *Bible Study 9:00AM *Praise Band Practice 6:00PM	30 ☆*Carolyn Bradley *Men's Prayer 7:30AM *Celebrate Recovery 6:00PM		

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

Welcome To Our Church

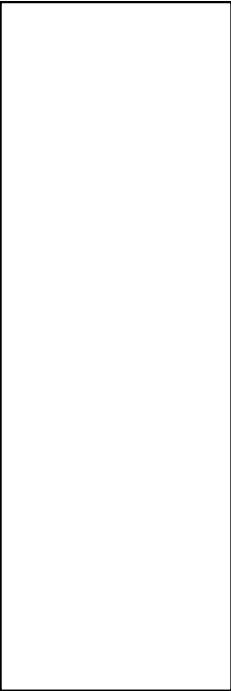


9:00 am Bible Study
10:00 am Combined Worship Service
Douglas W. McDaniel Jr., Pastor

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