

FOOTPRINTS

First Christian Church
Greenwood SC



...where strangers become family

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 4, Issue 4
April, 2018

JUST GIVE ME THE CLIFF NOTES

2018 THEME:
**GET OUT OF
THE BOAT!**

Back in the days of yore, I remember having school assignments that involved reading large books which took up more time than I was willing to give. I did not want to read it, but I had to create a book report to show the teacher I understood what I read. That was when I got introduced to cliff notes.

Cliff notes are study guides to assist the student as he/she reads a book. It gives the main points and major details that need to be understood so the book can be read. Unfortunately, cliff notes were used and abused by many students who did not want to read the assigned book, and it created many hardships for students whose teacher happened to own a copy of the cliff notes for that particular book.

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Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

FirstChristianGWD
Early Morning Snuggles

Address:

First Christian Church
474 Deadfall Road West
Greenwood SC 29649

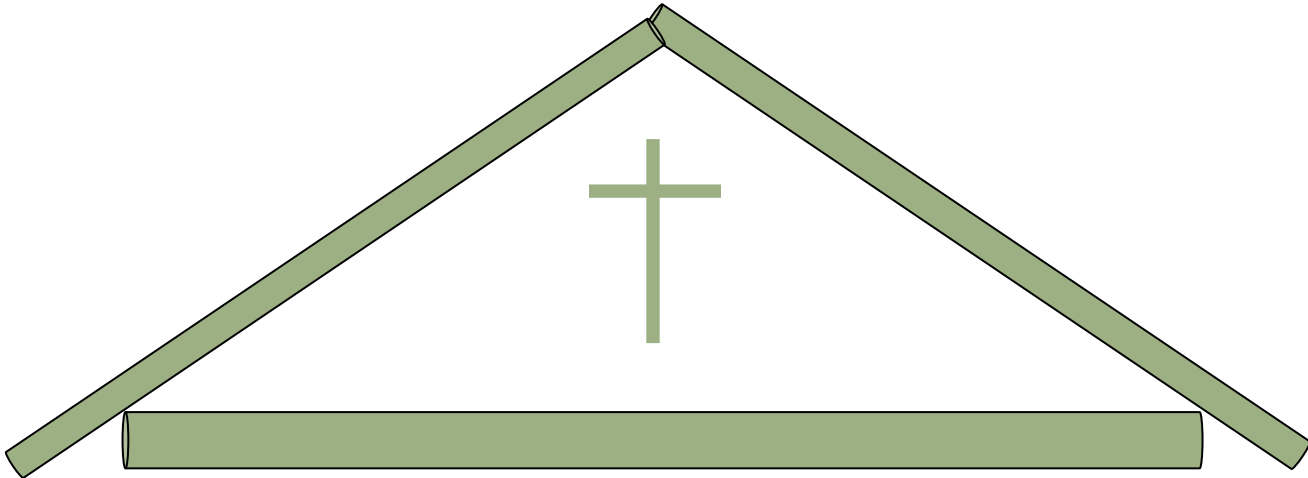
Church Office:

864-223-2940
Earl@fccgwd.org

Please keep us informed of any
address changes so we can
keep our records up to date.

What Kind of Church is First Christian Church?

First Christian Church is a non-denominational Elders-led Church located in Greenwood, SC. We are part of the movement to restore the simplicity of New Testament Christianity. We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God, that He lived a sinless life, offered His life for ours on the Cross, and rose on the third day to live forever. We believe that salvation comes through simple obedience to the plan of salvation that is laid out in the pages of the New Testament.



Core Beliefs

A common misconception is that all churches believe and preach the same thing. Unfortunately that isn't the case. In a world that is greatly divided spiritually it is very important to know just exactly what a church believes and practices. We welcome the opportunity to sit with you and discuss these core beliefs in depth.

We believe...

1. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God who died for our sins and arose from the dead. **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**
2. That the Bible is the inspired Word of God - "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path".
2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105
3. That every person has worth as a creation of God but "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" **Romans 3:23**
4. That forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life are available to those who trust and obey Christ as Savior and Lord. **John 3:16**
5. That we are saved by grace through faith in Christ. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
6. That the Church is the body of Christ on earth and exists to save the lost and edify the saved.
Ephesians 4:1-16
7. That Jesus Christ will one day return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. **1 Thes 4:13-18**
8. That those accepting Christ must repent of sin, confess their faith and be baptized into Him.
Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38

For more information about baptism, see our Baptism FAQ located on our website

Biblical Foundation

Words That Wound

"Father, forgive them." Luke 23:34

The dialogue that Friday morning was bitter. From the onlookers, "Come down from the cross if you are the Son of God!" From the religious leaders, "He saved others but he can't save himself!" From the soldiers, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!"

Bitter words. Acidic with sarcasm. Hateful. Irreverent. Wasn't it enough that he was being crucified? Wasn't it enough that he was being shamed as a criminal? Were the nails insufficient? Was the crown of thorns too soft? Had the flogging been too short?

For some, apparently so.

Peter, a writer not normally given to using many descriptive verbs, says that the passers-by "hurled" insults at the crucified Christ. They didn't just yell or speak or scream. They "hurled" verbal stones. They had every intention of hurting and bruising. "We've broken the body, now let's break the spirit!" So they strung their bows with self-righteousness and launched stinging arrows of pure poison.

Of all the scenes around the cross, this one angers me the most. What kind of people, I ask myself, would mock a dying man? Who would be so base as to pour salt of scorn upon the open wounds? How low and perverted to sneer at one who is laced with pain. Who would make fun of a person who is seated in an electric chair? Or who would point and laugh at a criminal who has a hangman's noose around his neck?

You can be sure that Satan and his demons were the cause of such filth.

And then the criminal on the cross number two throws his punch. "Aren't you the Christ? Save yourself and us!!

The words thrown that day were meant to wound. And there is nothing more painful than words meant to hurt. That's why James called the tongue a fire. Its burns are every bit as destructive and disastrous as those of a blowtorch.

But I'm not telling you anything new. No doubt you've had your share of words that wound. You've felt the sting of a well-aimed gibe. Maybe you're still feeling it. Someone you love or respect slams you to the floor with a slur or slip of the tongue. And there you lie, wounded and bleeding. Perhaps the words were intended to hurt you, perhaps not; but that doesn't matter. The wound is deep. The injuries are internal. Broken heart, wounded pride, bruised feelings.

Or maybe your wound is old. Though the arrow was extracted long ago, the arrowhead is still lodged...hidden under your skin. The old pain flares unpredictably and decisively, reminding you of harsh words yet unforgiven.

If you have suffered or are suffering because of someone else's words, you'll be glad to know that there is a balm for this laceration. Meditate on these words from 1 Peter 2:23. *"When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly."*

Did you see what Jesus did not do? He did not retaliate. He did not bite back. He did not say, "I'll get you!" "Come on up here and say that to my face!" "Just wait until after the resurrection, buddy!" No, these statements were not found on Christ's lips.

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"Just give me the cliff notes so I can write my report" was the common request among students who had an assignment due. This created a lazy attitude towards reading and low grades for those dumb enough to try creating a report based on a report that was condensed into an outline. No matter how good they are, the notes are not even close to the information you receive when you read the book from cover to cover. No shortcut can help when your job is to read the entire book and then explain it through writing.

Throughout the years, I have noticed a similar attitude developing among church people. Instead of wanting to learn the whole story, many of them just want the cliff notes because they have either studied it recently or they are just not that into Bible Study. This lack of interest in the whole story has created an apathetic attitude towards the events that help tell the whole story, and Holy Week appears to be one of the victims of this scenario.

Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday that tells the story of Jesus riding into Jerusalem on a donkey. As the week moves on, there is a service called Maundy Thursday which tells the story of the time Jesus took His Disciples into the upper room and created communion which remains with us today. The Garden of Gethsemane where Jesus got arrested is usually tied into Maundy Thursday so the focus can move from the upper room to the cross the next day. The Good Friday service tells the story of the crucifixion and usually covers the last words spoken by Jesus before He died on the cross.

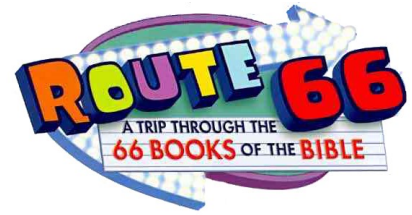
By the time Sunday arrives, the story of Jesus' last week before the crucifixion has already been told so we can move to the Resurrection of Jesus and what that means for us. Attending the special services can help us understand the events recorded in the Bible, but some people prefer to just have the cliff notes of the Gospel. This creates a lazy Christian who is still drinking spiritual milk when it is time to grow up and move on to the spiritual meat. Something needs to be done about the whole story not being told, but many churches are not interested in learning more than the surface level story provides.

"Just give me the cliff notes of the Gospel" is the common cry from those who wish to get to heaven using the express lane instead of taking the time to travel through life with Christ. The cliff notes of the Gospel are created when churches remove special services and shrink the story into nothing more than a donkey, a cross, and an empty tomb. Can a person survive with those 3 main points of the story? Sure. The average Christian knows enough about the story of Easter to be able to share it with others, but what happens if that person is hearing the story for the first time? More often than not, the holes in the story that develop from the details being removed can confuse a person who has never heard of Jesus.

For this reason, we should always look for ways to hear the whole story, read it, learn it, apply it, and share it with others. We should leave the cliff notes alone and study for ourselves.

I love our church!
Earl Winfrey

Wilderness Period: Introduction to Leviticus



From Halley's Bible Handbook

- The word "Leviticus" means "Pertaining to the Levites" that is, the book contains the System of Laws, administered by the Levitical Priesthood, under which the Hebrew nation lived. These laws were given mostly at Mt. Sinai, with additions, repetitions and explanations, throughout the Wilderness wanderings.

- Levites, one tribe out of the Twelve, were set apart for the work of God. God took them, in lieu of First-Born sons. God claimed the First-Born, both of men and flocks. They were supported by Tithes; and had 48 cities (Numbers 35:7; Joshua 21:19).

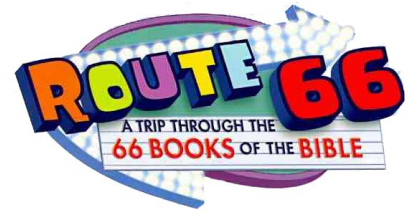
- One family of Levites, Aaron and Sons, were set apart to be Priests. The Rest of the Levites were to be Assistants to the Priests. Their duties were the care of the Tabernacle and later, the care of the Temple; and to be Teachers, Scribes, Musicians, Officers and Judges (1 Chronicles 23).

Getting Acquainted with Leviticus

- Theme: Holiness is essential
- 3 Reasons why Leviticus is not studied
 - + Too many rituals and symbols to be of any spiritual benefit
 - + No living application to today's context
 - + Laws seem so severe and trivial that they go against God's nature
- Leviticus is used more than 40 times in the New Testament writings
- Underlying principles found in Leviticus are timeless
- The Nature of Leviticus
 - + It is a divine book
 - + It is a legal book
 - = Only 2 historical events recorded in this book
 - * (chs. 8-10) Consecration of priests/Nadab & Abihu die
 - * (24:10-14) Punishment of the blasphemer
 - = Contains 5 types of law
 - * Civil
 - * Ceremonial
 - * Moral
 - * Religious
 - * Sanitary
 - + It is a priestly book (Aaron the high priest is main figure)
 - + It is a picture book (Typology of redemption)

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- The Setting of Leviticus
 - + Tabernacle built at the end of Exodus
 - + Census taken at beginning of Numbers
 - + They spent 1 month at Mount Sinai (Covered in Leviticus)
- The Structure of Leviticus
 - + The Way to God (Ch. 1-7)
 - + The Work of God (Ch. 8-15)
 - + The Walk with God (Ch. 16-22)
 - + The Worship of God (Ch. 23-27)
- The Teaching of Leviticus
 - + The Great Problem: Sin
 - + The Great Provision: Sacrifice
 - + The Great Power: Priesthood
 - + The Great Plan: The Day of Atonement
 - + The Great Possibility: Access to God
 - + The Great Principle: Holiness
 - + The Great Privilege: The Presence of God

*** Special Study ***

Do the food laws apply to those under the New Covenant?

Romans 14:13-23

- It is better to not eat meat if it causes others to stumble
- Word used for meat is generic so it does not specify clean meat only
- Food sacrificed to idols could have been unclean animals too

Colossians 2:16-23 (v.16 is the key verse to this passage)

1 Timothy 4:1-5

- (3) Liars teach abstinence from goods created by God
- (4-5) Everything created by God is good and should not be rejected

Hebrews 9

- (1-5) Description of the earthly place of holiness
- (6-10) Preparations for entering place of holiness
 - + Conscience of worshipper not perfect as long as earthly place stands
 - + Earthly place of holiness must be removed for complete purification
 - + (10) Time of reformation is the end of regulations for purification
- (11-14) Jesus ushered in the time of reformation when entering heaven
- (15-28) Jesus is the mediator of a new covenant

Mikey Says:

Spring is in the air!!! I love it!!! The snow is behind us (hopefully) and it is time to look forward to warmer weather and outside activities. I personally am especially excited to see the gardens get started. I know that there are a lot of our guys looking forward to growing, harvesting, and giving away. They love being able to watch things grow over time and to eventually enjoy the fruits (or vegetables) of their labor. As Christians in our trust and faith in God, we should always strive to G.R.O.W.

Here are some areas where we could all do better:

"G" is for Giving - Not just financially although that is important too, but of our time and of ourselves. Let's strive to grow in our giving.

"R" is for Rejoicing - Smile and give thanks for God's goodness. Be joyful and keep God in every aspect every single day of our lives. Let's strive to grow in rejoicing.

"O" is for Obedience - Let's be more obedient to Him and strive to grow in obedience.

"W" is for Worship - This goes beyond singing together on Sundays. We should worship God in our thoughts, words, and actions too. Let's continue to strive to grow in worship.

So what about you? Are you striving to grow? If so, keep it up and never forget that growing in God is a lifelong process. If not... then why not? Hey, it's Spring, now's as good a time to start as any!

- Until next time True Believer's -
Rejoice!"

Mikey Sweeney is Earl's friend who is the Senior Minister at Hartford Christian Church in KY.

Have Bible, Will Travel (Earl Winfrey)

The best way to find out what the Bible says about anything is to study the Bible so you can find out what it says. That sounds simple, doesn't it? All we have to do is study the Bible and learn what it says, but the problem is that many Christians run in the opposite direction when the teacher shows up. That is bad enough, but what makes it worse is that those same Christians tend to look for answers about the Bible in the most unreliable places instead of going straight to the source for the truth.

It breaks my heart when I see a friend struggling to understand something when it is clearly written in God's Word. It hurts even worse when that person gets the wrong answer and runs with it because he/she failed to dig deep enough for accurate information. The most painful moment would be if that person belongs to the same church where I preach! I am here to help. If you have a question, ask me and I can help you find the answer.

"Pray for FCC"

For 2018, we want to cover our church in prayer on a weekly basis. Along with the many prayers that go up on our behalf, I am declaring every Tuesday to be a day for us to offer up special prayers specifically for our church. Please join us by praying at some point every Tuesday!

"Who said it?" ~ Easter Sunday edition

Match the verse to the person who said it.

- Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?
- Do not be afraid.
- Do not be amazed.
- I have seen the Lord.
- If this should come to the governor's ears, we will win him over and keep you out of trouble.
- O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!
- Peace be with you.
- They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him.
- Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance of the tomb?
- Why do you seek the living one among the dead?
- Woman, why are you weeping?
- Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?

- An angel of the Lord
- 2 angels
- A young man wearing a white robe
- 2 men in dazzling clothing
- Mary Magdalene
- Mary Magdalene, Mary mother of James, & Salome
- Chief priests
- Cleopas
- A supposed gardener
- Jesus

Hint: one person quotes two verses, and two people quote one verse!

Matthew 28 ~ 2&5, 10, 11&14; Mark 16 ~ 1&3, 6; Luke 24 ~ 4&5, 18, 25; John 20 ~ 2, 12, 15, 18, 19 (NASB)

Sara Lantzer is a friend of the Winfreys who currently lives and works and writes in a small town in Michigan. She enjoys storytelling, creativity, uniqueness and spontaneity.

If you never try, you will never experience victory

Wisdom of Larry the Cable Guy:

Light travels faster than sound.
That's why some people appear bright until you hear them speak.

WHO CAN I REACH? (Earl Winfrey)

A common problem among those who have been Christians for a while is that more often than not, their circle of friends become mainly Christian. From an accountability perspective, this is not a bad thing but evangelistically speaking, we are working against ourselves when we don't take the time to get to know our non-Christian neighbors. For this reason, I would like to offer some questions to help us think.



Do we know if the people in the waiting room at our doctor's office are Christians? Do we know if our kids' friends' parents are Christians? What about the people you sit next to when you go to a concert, a play, or your neighbor that you see at the parade? How about fellow Cub Scout volunteers or people you meet when you are walking at the Lander track? Is there a specific gas station you go to? When was the last time you went inside to pay for gas instead of swiping, pumping and going? Chances are that we have more non-Christians hanging around us than we think. Not only that, but there are also non-churched Christians who claim to know Jesus but never spend any time around His people. Never assume anything and never miss an opportunity to make a new friend. Who knows? You might be that friend who makes a difference in that person's life!

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Did you see what Jesus did do? He "entrusted himself to him who judges justly." Or said more simply, he left the judging to God. He did not take on the task of seeking revenge. He demanded no apology. He hired no bounty hunters and sent out no posse. He, to the astounding contrary, spoke on their defense. *"Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."*

Yes, the dialogue that Friday morning was bitter. The verbal stones were meant to sting. How Jesus, with a body wracked with pain, eyes blinded by his own blood, and lungs yearning for air, could speak on behalf of some heartless thugs is beyond my comprehension. Never, never have I seen such love. If ever a person deserved a shot at revenge, Jesus did. But he didn't take it. Instead he died for them. How could he do it? I don't know. But I do know that all of a sudden my wounds seem very painless. My grudges and hard feeling are suddenly childish.

Sometimes I wonder if we don't see Christ's love as much in the people he tolerated as in the pain he endured.

Amazing Grace.

Devotion taken from "No Wonder They Call Him The Savior" by Max Lucado

Jesus did not follow conventional wisdom that says to do what you can to keep the people plugged in. (Luke 14:12-35)



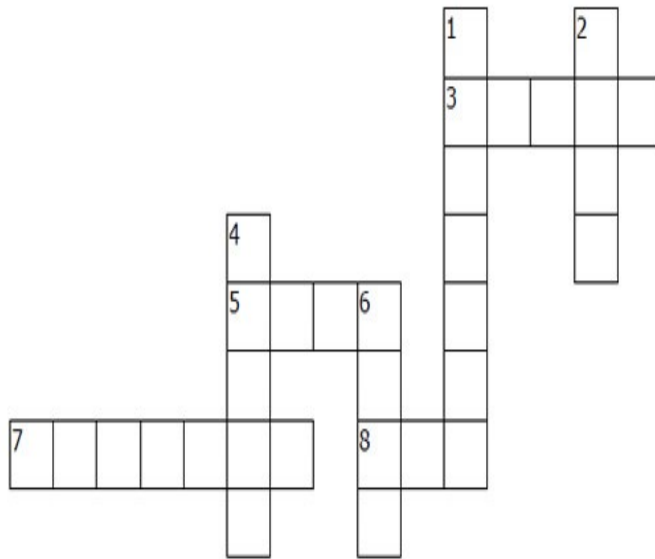
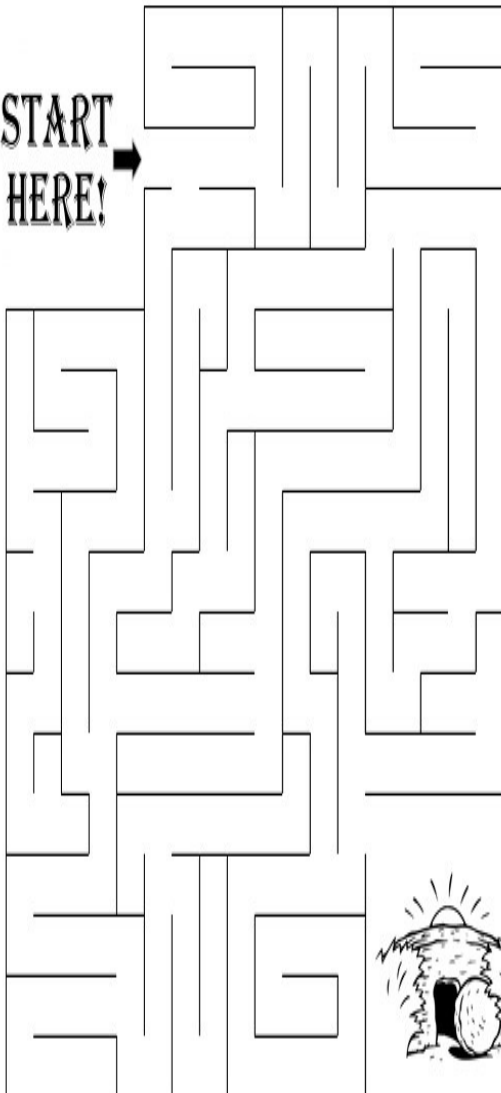
Surprise! It's Empty!

They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. Luke 24:2-3 (NIV)

Based on Luke 24:1-12



START
HERE! →



ACROSS

3. "He is not here, he has ____." Luke 24:6
5. A place where someone, especially an important person, is buried
7. The first or early part of a day
8. A period of twenty-four hours

DOWN

1. To kill someone by tying or nailing them to a cross
2. A period of seven days
4. A hard solid substance found in the ground which is often used for building
6. The whole physical structure that forms a person

MORNING	BODY	RISEN	STONE
DAY	CRUCIFY	TOMB	WEEK



Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)Answer to last month's question:**The first plague the Lord sent upon Egypt was turning water into blood (Exodus 7:21)****Winners:** Freda Austin/Hobie Chandler/Wil Winfrey

Be one of the first 3 people
to answer correctly and
you will be a winner!

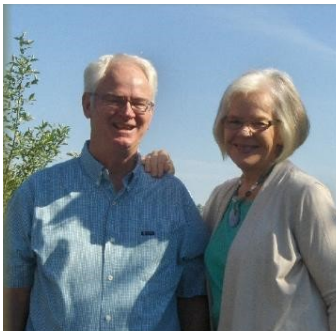
Be one of #4-10 to answer
and you will receive an
honorable mention!

Honorable Mention:

Bob Glick, Michaela Winfrey

This month's question:**What book of the Bible follows Philemon?****Soup Kitchen Donations are Appreciated**

We support our local soup kitchen once per month by supplying some of the food they need. If you would like to participate, be sure to check out the list of items needed on the communication station in the Fellowship Hall. Every can counts!

**GRACE HARMONY RETURNS ON APRIL 22!**

We are excited to have Grace Harmony with us for a concert on Sunday night, April 22 @ 7:00pm.

Be sure to check out our calendar so you can stay up to date with all of the events that are happening.

We want you to be here with us!

"Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." - Romans 12:12 (NIV)

Don't forget to pray for those churches near our hearts!

Bethany Christian Church (Bumpass, VA)

Christian Church at Deleon Springs, FL

East Win Christian Church (Memphis, TN)

First Christian Church of Fairburn, GA

First Christian Church of Hampton, SC

First Christian Church of Kissimmee, FL

First Christian Church of Mountain City GA

First Presbyterian Church, Greenwood SC

Glouster Church of Christ (Glouster, OH)

Hartford Christian Church (Hartford, KY)

Lilburn Christian Church, GA

Port Orange Christian Church, FL

Southlake Christian Church (Groveland, FL)

Surfside Christian Church (Surfside Beach, SC)

Toccoa Christian Church (Toccoa, GA)

Tomoka Christian Church (Ormond Beach, FL)

Tucker Christian Church, GA

If anyone knows of any churches that need to be added to this list, be sure to let Earl know.

First Christian Church of Greenwood SC (864) 223-2940 www.fccgwd.org

Calendar of Events - April 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Sunday: Prayer - 9:30am S.S. - 9:45am Worship - 11am	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon	"Pray for FCC" reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	Wed Bible Study for all ages (4:00pm)	Let's stir the waters of the Baptistery in 2018!		Mission of the Month: United Gwd Ministry
1 Easter Sunday!!!	2 Isaiah 61	3 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Isaiah 66	4 Luke 6:20-26	5 Luke 12:22-34	6 Revelation 21	7 Matthew 5:3-4
8 (Circle of Joy) 1:30pm	9 Psalms 37:1-19	10 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Psalms 37:20-40	11 Psalms 42	12 Isaiah 55	13 (2 Timothy 2) Craft Night at Church 6:30pm	14 Matthew 5:5-6
15	16 Prov 19:1-17	17 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Prov 19:18-29	18 Matt 18:21-35	19 (Matt 25:31-46) Worship with Winfreys 3pm	20 Luke 6:27-36	21 Matthew 5:7
22 Fellowship Meal after Worship Grace Harmony Concert (7pm)	23 Psalms 24	24 <u>Pray for FCC</u> James 3	25 Hebrews 12:1-17	26 (1 Peter 1:13-25) Newsletter Submissions Due	27 1 John 3:1-10	28 Matthew 5:8-9
29 Prayer Service 5:00pm	30 Rom 5:10-12	Please pray about what you can do for the Lord in 2018		Worship with Winfreys at the Magnolia Manor nursing home	Elders meet as needed. For questions, see Frank or Marvin	2018 Theme: Get Out of the Boat!