

# FOOTPRINTS



Volume 6, Issue 2  
February, 2020

## WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

### WHAT'S LOVE GOT TO DO WITH IT?

This popular Tina Turner song asks an interesting question. Who needs a heart when a heart can be broken? The song describes a relationship that is based on the pleasures of the flesh without any emotional connection. If a heart is going to be broken, why bother feeling anything for the relationship?

Some people feel this way about the church. If the church is just going to disappoint me, why bother being part of the church? Is it really necessary to commit to a church when the people in the church are just going to let me down?

The church is where we connect with fellow believers on a spiritual level, and when we connect with each other in the church, Jesus is right there with us. After all, the church is the bride of Christ. And as the bride of Christ, love has everything to do with our relationships.

I  
JESUS  
LORD



I LOVE our Church!  
Earl Winfrey  
Earl@fccgwd.org

Check us out online:

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

Facebook:

FirstChristianGWD  
Early Morning Snuggles

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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



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

## Weekly Prayer Emphasis and Core 52 Scripture Readings

In a society where the church is no longer enjoying the benefits of being the home team, it is critical that we make sure our spiritual health is good. The best way to ensure a spiritually healthy life is to talk to God everyday through prayer and let Him speak to us through the Bible. To help us with our spiritual health, I am providing a weekly prayer emphasis along with scripture readings based on Mark Moore's book "Core 52." In his book, he provides 52 passages that make up a core of Bible knowledge for Christians. By reading these passages, we can raise our Biblical IQ and strengthen our foundation that will help us withstand the storms of life that come our way.

### Week of February 2:

- Prayer Emphasis: Immediate Family Relationships
- Core 52:
  - + Read 2 Samuel 11; Psalm 51
  - + Memorize Leviticus 11:45
  - + Meditate on Exodus 19:6; 2 Corinthians 7:1; 1 Peter 2:9

The word "Meditate" basically means to reflect on the passage and dig deep to find the application for your life.

### Week of February 9:

- Prayer Emphasis: Spouse Relationships
- Core 52:
  - + Read Exodus 2-3
  - + Memorize Deuteronomy 18:18
  - + Meditate on John 5:45-47; Acts 13:39; 1 Corinthians 10:1-4

### Week of February 16:

- Prayer Emphasis: Extended Family Relationships
- Core 52:
  - + Read 1 Samuel 15-16
  - + Memorize 1 Samuel 16:7
  - + Meditate on Judges 21:25; 1 Samuel 8:1-18, 13:14

Mark Moore's book "Core 52" provides other material to help with the weekly scripture readings. For those who are interested, contact Earl for more information.

### Week of February 23:

- Prayer Emphasis: Church Family Relationships
- Core 52:
  - + Read Matthew 21-22
  - + Memorize 2 Samuel 7:12
  - + Meditate on Matthew 1:1; Philippians 2:9-11; Revelation 5:5

### "Pray for FCC"

For 2020, 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!

## BE A FRUIT INSPECTOR

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")  
During more than thirty years in business, I have been richly rewarded by people I have hired. Unfortunately I also have many failures sprinkled through my hiring record. Even after using sophisticated evaluation tools and the experts' advice, our company has lost a great deal by hiring employees who have not been successful. Jesus has some help for those of us who are charged with hiring employees, or in the church, recruiting volunteers.

In the seventh chapter of Matthew, He tells us that "Every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit" (Matthew 7:17). This seems obvious but its truth can be lost in the hiring/recruiting process. An applicant can be physically attractive, come from a good school, have an excellent academic record, score well on aptitude tests, and still be a disastrous hire. Two examples come to mind. I know two men who are handsome, well-groomed, well-spoken, and attended prestigious schools. Yet they consistently continue to perform less than spectacularly in business. The amazing thing is that people continue to hire them for prestigious and demanding positions. They are hired because they are handsome and have impressive credentials, not because of their record. When you are hiring/recruiting, look long and hard at the results the person has produced.

## STOP WORRYING

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

Jesus had a lot to say about worry. He saw it as both counter-productive and evidence of a lack of faith. He said firmly not to worry at all. Now there is a world of difference between planning and worrying. We are admonished to plan carefully and even to "sweat the small stuff." Planning and paying attention to details are positive activities because we can make positive things happen as a result.

Worry, on the other hand, is by definition useless fretting about things which we have no control, and it produces no positive results. Many successful businesspeople recount how they concentrate intently on their business during working hours but never worry about them during the evening. This is consistent with Jesus' teaching. In Matthew 6:34 He says, "Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things."

## AVOID GRANDSTAND PLAYS

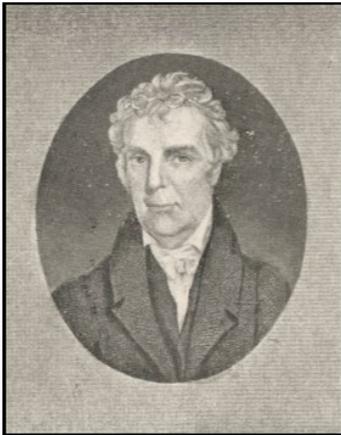
(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

Throughout His earthly ministry, Jesus was constantly asked to perform spectacular feats. Satan was a persistent tempter in this regard. And the Pharisees kept after Him to produce a "sign in the sky" to demonstrate His power and divinity. Jesus never fell for it. Obviously He did many wonderful and powerful things, but always with a purpose, always to help others, never just to draw attention to Himself. Instead of making grandstand plays, Jesus focused on the message and that created faithful followers who produced the church.

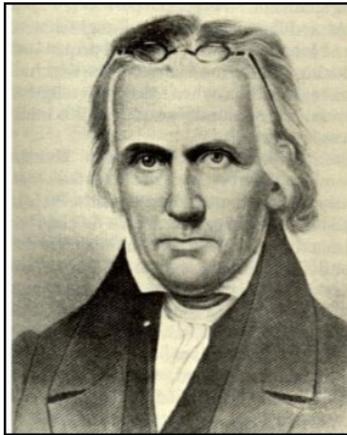
## Who will be our Next Man Up?



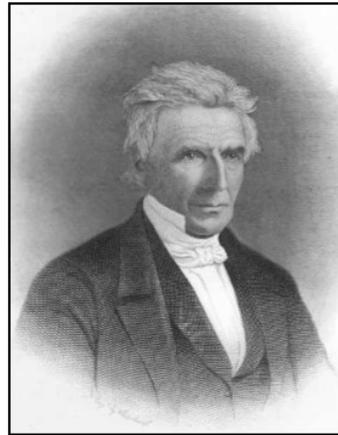
## Mentoring today for a better tomorrow



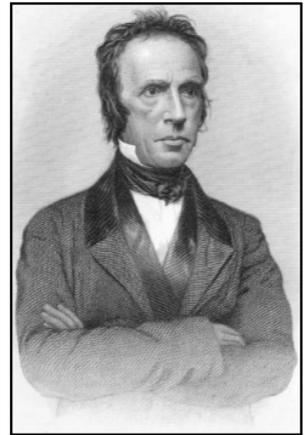
Barton Stone



Thomas Campbell



Alexander Campbell



Walter Scott

## REFLECTIONS ON THE RESTORATION

“Thomas Campbell (1763-1854)” (Taken from Earl’s Restoration History class for the local church)

### Background:

1. Born Feb 1, 1763 in County Down, Ireland.
2. His father was a Roman Catholic until after the wars between England and France, when he joined the Church of Ireland, which is part of the Anglican Church.
3. Thomas was deeply religious, and he found the Anglican tradition too cold and formal, so he joined the Presbyterian Church. His habit was to memorize a portion of Scripture daily.
4. In 1783, he entered the University of Glasgow, where he came under the influence of John Locke’s empiricism, and the “common sense” philosophy of Thomas Reid.
5. Thomas married Jane Corneigle (1764-1835) probably sometime in June 1787. In a very brief memoir, Alexander gave some of her following characteristics:
  - Extreme generosity toward the poor
  - Great support of her husband in his ministry (Willing to suffer for the Gospel)
  - Worked with Thomas to hold family meetings, get-togethers, and devotionals, and the children had to memorize Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and many of the Psalms of Solomon’s father, David.
  - She fulfilled all the essential qualities described in Solomon’s picture of a good wife and mother

6. After Glasgow, Thomas returned to Northern Ireland and in 1798, was ordained as a pastor of a Presbyterian Church. He tried to unite the churches, but was not successful.

### Coming to America:

1. On May 13, 1807, Thomas arrived in America leaving his wife and kids back home with his oldest son, 19 y/o Alexander in charge of helping take care of the family.
2. He went to the annual meeting of the Associate Synod of North America to request assignment to the Chartiers Presbytery so he could live near his friends in Washington, PA.
3. He was reunited with his family in October, 1809.
4. Brush Run Church was created after being rejected by the Presbyterian Church

## DOES OUR ACTIONS CAUSE OTHERS TO STUMBLE?

“Now concerning food offered to idols: we know that all of us possess knowledge. This knowledge puffs up, but love builds up.” (1 Corinthians 8:1)

In this verse, Paul is dealing with a debate involving food that was sacrificed to idols. There was nothing wrong with the food and since an idol is worthless, no harm will come to those who eat the food. However, there were some Christians who believed that if they ate food that was sacrificed to idols, they would be committing a sin. Paul’s advice was for those who ate the meat to be considerate of the others and refrain from eating it in their presence. He said that he would rather not eat meat at all if it caused a brother to stumble. When we work with our neighbors, we need to be careful about our actions. We don’t want to cause them to stumble.



## BACK PORCH CONVERSATIONS

(This month’s article was originally written in 2016 as a blog post)



I love plants. Ever since my Granny had me in her garden many moons ago, I have loved being able to work the ground and watch the plants grow into whatever they were designed to be. Whether they are green beans to eat, gardenia bushes to smell, or flowers to see, I love the fact that God made it possible for us to participate in the “Circle of life” here on earth! We can plant seeds, water them and care for them as they grow up.

When I was living in Florida, I decided to try an experiment with a big bag of sunflower seeds that was sold as feed for birds. I bought a 10 pound bag, a couple of bags of top soil since the flowerbed was mostly sand, and went home to begin the process. I poured the seeds all over the bed and then put the top soil on “top” of the seeds. After giving them a good soaking with the water hose, I walked away and went on with my normal routine. After a couple of weeks, the sunflowers began to grow and over the next month the flowers were so plentiful, it was like I was dancing in a field of flowers! Ok, maybe I wasn’t like the “Sound of Music” but you get the point.

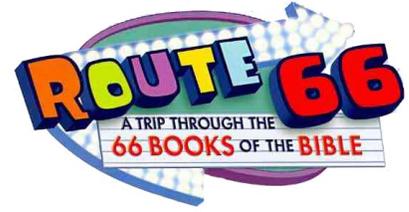
As life moves on, we moved to another home so Wil could have a place to sleep since he was now part of the family. The new place had a flower bed so I decided to try my sunflower trick again. I bought the seeds and the soil, spread them out and watered them down. A couple of weeks go by and I didn’t see anything. Panic started to set in but I had to trust my past experience and just leave it alone. It was not easy, but there was nothing else I could do but wait.

Almost a month had passed since I planted the seeds and still nothing happened. It was time for us to take a road trip so I decided to plant something else after we got back home. We had a great trip spending a few days with family in Atlanta, returned home, and when I pulled into the driveway, I saw the little sprouts from the seeds all over the flower bed! I was so excited because my little trick worked and I didn’t have to start over with more seeds! About a month after that, we had sunflowers all over the bed so all was good!

When trying to grow a church, we have to remember that even though we plant the seeds and care for the bed, we cannot make the plants grow. That is God’s responsibility. Remember what the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 3:6? “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth.” Our job is to plant the seeds and care for the church. God will take care of the rest.

## The Major Prophets: Lamentations

(Several sources used each month)



### **Who wrote the book?**

While the author of Lamentations remains nameless within the book, strong evidence from both inside and outside the text points to the prophet Jeremiah as the author. Both Jewish and Christian tradition ascribe authorship to Jeremiah, and the Septuagint—the Greek translation of the Old Testament—even adds a note asserting Jeremiah as the writer of the book. In addition, when the early Christian church father Jerome translated the Bible into Latin, he added a note claiming Jeremiah as the author of Lamentations.

The original name of the book in Hebrew, *ekah*, can be translated “Alas!” or “How,” giving the sense of weeping or lamenting over some sad event.<sup>1</sup> Later readers and translators substituted in the title “Lamentations” because of its clearer and more evocative meaning. It’s this idea of lamenting that, for many, links Jeremiah to the book. Not only does the author of the book witness the results of the recent destruction of Jerusalem, he seems to have witnessed the invasion itself (Lamentations 1:13–15). Jeremiah was present for both events.

### **Where are we?**

“How lonely sits the city / That was full of people!” (Lamentations 1:1), so goes the beginning of Lamentations. The city in question was none other than Jerusalem. Jeremiah walked through the streets and alleys of the Holy City and saw nothing but pain, suffering, and destruction in the wake of the Babylonian invasion of 586 BC. It also makes sense to date the book as close to the invasion as possible, meaning late 586 BC or early 585 BC, due to the raw emotion Jeremiah expresses throughout its pages.

### **Why is Lamentations so important?**

Like the book of Job, Lamentations pictures a man of God puzzling over the results of evil and suffering in the world. However, while Job dealt with unexplained evil, Jeremiah lamented a tragedy entirely of Jerusalem’s making. The people of this once great city experienced the judgment of the holy God, and the results were devastating. But at the heart of this book, at the center of this lament over the effects of sin in the world, sit a few verses devoted to hope in the Lord (Lamentations 3:22–25). This statement of faith standing strong in the midst of the surrounding darkness shines as a beacon to all those suffering under the consequences of their own sin and disobedience.

### **What’s the big idea?**

As the verses of Lamentations accumulate, readers cannot help but wonder how many different ways Jeremiah could describe the desolation of the once proud city of Jerusalem. Children begged food from their mothers (Lamentations 2:12), young men and women were cut down by swords (2:21), and formerly compassionate mothers used their children for food (4:10). Even the city’s roads mourned over its condition (1:4)! Jeremiah could not help but acknowledge the abject state of this city, piled with rubble.

The pain so evident in Jeremiah’s reaction to this devastation clearly communicates the significance of the terrible condition in Jerusalem. Speaking in the first person, Jeremiah pictured himself captured in a besieged city, without anyone to hear his prayers, and as a target for the arrows of the enemy (3:7–8, 12). Yet even in this seemingly hopeless situation, he somehow found hope in the Lord (3:21–24).



**This month's Church myth:** "If you miss Sunday School, you are an immature Christian."

Continuing the theme from last month's myth, I would like to talk about Sunday School and the assumption that missing class is a sign of spiritual immaturity. Like the perfect attendance myth, it should be understood that this myth can be busted early and easily. Well, like many other issues in the church, this myth is not automatically rejected because there are some people who believe that going to Sunday School is a sign of a mature Christian.

For some church people, if you don't show up for Sunday School, you obviously don't care enough about learning the Bible and that means you are an immature Christian because Sunday School is the best place for learning so you can grow up in the Lord. While Sunday School is a good place to grow in your knowledge of the Bible, it is not the only place where you can learn.

We also have Wednesday Bible Study, personal Bible Study, Women's and Men's Bible Studies, and if needed, one on one Bible Study. All of those groups are places where you can dig in and eat the good, spiritual meat of God's Word that can help you grow up to be a healthy Christian. For this reason, we should not assume that if a person does not show up for Sunday School, that person is immature and not growing in the Lord.

I have known many Christians who have attended Sunday School for all of their lives and yet they still act like immature Christians. I also know several Christians who have never attended Sunday School and yet their knowledge of the Bible and actions of a mature Christian are far above those who are part of a Sunday School class.

Whatever the reason is for skipping Sunday School, as long as the person is engaged in some kind of Bible Study on a regular basis, that person can be considered a growing Christian who is healthy. Of course, the level of involvement in Bible Study can vary from person to person even if perfect attendance is happening.

Passing judgement on the maturity level of a Christian is counter productive because it is hard to tell if you are not able to examine the condition of the heart. And as far as I can tell, only God is able to judge the condition of our hearts.

Missing Sunday School is not a sign of immaturity but it can be cause for concern. However, that cause for concern should not be an excuse to act like a jerk when approaching those who have been absent. Remember that we are all immature Christians when compared to Jesus!

### TRUE LOVE (Karen Mason)

Many of us desire a love like in movies and TV shows. The fairytale type of love that is constantly filled with ooey gooey romance, long walks on the beach, and surprise trips to Disney World's Galaxy's Edge (or maybe the last one's just me). There's absolutely nothing wrong with desiring romance in a relationship, however this shouldn't be our sole focus and desire in life. Our focus should be on the One who created love in the first place. When we put the person we love up on a pedestal and we begin to worship them instead of God, we're quickly let down by their human nature. However, God will never let us down. God's love for us is 100% unconditional and everlasting. No matter where we go, He will always be there to welcome us into His arms. In addition, God showers us with gifts every day, even though we may not realize it. He woke you up today, placed air in your lungs, gave you clothes to wear, and a heart to love with. And ultimately, He gave us the greatest gift of all: the gift of salvation.

By studying God's word and spending more time in worship and prayer, we can see who God truly is: a perfect God who wants to win us over with His love and blessings. Seeing God clearly is so important because in this world full of hatred and war, we need to be reminded of His true love for us every day. The world wants us to be distracted by our human desires for romance, rather than focusing on the One who loves us more than anyone else ever will. So let's make it a priority to focus on seeking God and seeing Him clearly, rather than chasing the desires of this imperfect world. As Christians, God should be our one true love.

*"For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." – Romans 8:38*

A friend of the Winfreys, Karen Mason is a 22 year old who was born and raised in Franklin, NC. She attends Woodland Church of Christ with her family. She has a passion for mission work, and loves helping people in need. She is currently a junior at Western Carolina University, and is majoring in Communication.

### 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!

#### Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

**John was on the Island of Patmos when he was given the vision of Revelation. (Rev 1:9)**

**Winners:** Steve Skinner/Wil Winfrey/Michael 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:** Michaela Winfrey

This month's question:

**What was Peter doing when he denied Jesus for the second time?**

## CHILDREN OF GOD

*"To all who did receive Him, who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" John 1:12*

Picture this: It's time for supper. A warm summer evening. You're preparing the evening meal for your family. The doorbell rings. It's the 10-year-old and his little sister from down the block. "We're here!" he announces.

"Here for what?" you ask.

"Here to eat!" he says, "And boy, are we hungry!"

Will you invite them in? Will you offer them a place at the family table? Maybe so, if you know the children. Maybe so, if you're aware of a serious issue in their family. Maybe so, if this is the first time they've come.

But after three or seven or fourteen meals, you will probably decide the children's behavior warrants a conversation with their parents. If it keeps happening, you may even find yourself obligated to call Family Services.

Under normal circumstances only our own children share family time and family meals. Only our daughters and sons have a claim on the family's care, protection, resources, and love.

When the Lord whispers your name and calls you "my child," the title conveys much more than warm affection. It does convey that, of course. But it also indicates specific rights, special privileges:

- ◇ A claim on the family name: "Christian"-one who "belong[s] to Christ" (1 Corinthians 3:21-23 NLT)
- ◇ The privilege of calling God your Father and of being led by the Holy Spirit. (Romans 8:14-15)
- ◇ The right to request and receive peace, help, guidance, assurance-everything the Bible promises to the children of God (2 Corinthians 1:20-22)
- ◇ The privilege of claiming Jesus as your Brother and relying on him to pardon, protect, and pray for you. (Romans 8:34)

No matter how many birthdays we celebrate, as believers we remain children of God throughout our lifetime. Knowing this creates confidence and courage. It kindles bright hope, not only for this present life, but also for the life to come.

Devotion taken from "Whispers of God's Love: Devotions for Women"

DON'T FORGET ABOUT WOMENS BIBLE STUDY ON MONDAY NIGHTS from 5pm-6:30pm AND THURSDAY NIGHTS FROM 6:30-8PM.

### Life Lessons (Written by Andy Rooney)

I've learned....

That simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

## Growth of Conservative Churches in America (Frank Jackson)

We have all seen the gleefully reported news that in today's progressive society being religious and attending church has become obsolete. The evidence is attendance is steadily declining and the number of people identifying themselves as Christians is also declining (Pew Research Center, 2019, US Religion Census, 2010). Further proof is offered by the fact that only 65% of Americans who are from Protestant or Roman Catholic heritage actually identify themselves as Christians (Pew Research). This is a 12% decrease from 2009 while the number of individuals who identify themselves as atheists, agnostics and unaffiliated has increased 17% from 2009 to 26% of the population. Furthermore, of all those who identified themselves as "Christians" only 54% report they attend at least one church service monthly.

The above information appears to support the liberal thesis that Americans are abandoning their churches because they recognize faith and the need to come together and worship is irrelevant in today's progressive, socially conscious society. Is this true? No. There is a decline in church attendance and membership, but it is in the mainline denominations (Stanton). The following is summary of the most prevalent causes people give for leaving their churches:

- Sex abuse scandals
- Conflict over homosexual marriage and homosexual ministers
- Acceptance of the liberal, anti-religion agenda promoted in the news media
- Scandalous behavior of church leaders
- Focus on social relevance
- Liberalization of doctrine
- "They have not adequately understood or performed their essential business: the dispensing of religion". (Kelley, p. 35)*

Please think on the last two causes. The news media's reporting on declining church attendance has failed to notice or report the story that many Americans have not abandoned their faith but have moved to conservative congregations where the focus is on their faith. According to Stanton, 47 percent of those surveyed with religious affiliations attended congregations that held strong beliefs and practices. Pew Research and other sources also report increasing membership in conservative, fundamental, nondenominational congregations as well as in conservative branches of mainline denominations. (Some of these denominations have splintered into liberal and conservative branches.)

Liberal "social justice" advocates and their accomplices in mainstream news organizations misuse declining church attendance as proof "right thinking Americans" acknowledge belief in God and communal worship has no relevance in today's progressive society. The reader may be skeptical about this assertion, but 85% of journalists report themselves to be from liberal to very liberal (Pew, "State of the Media"). The fact is "Liberals" are committed to a campaign to trivialize religious values in order to promote what they think are the larger, more important social issues—their own. An important goal of these "social justice crusaders" is to convince Americans that Christians should actually apologize for their stand against what God's Word teaches is sin.

Continued on the next page...

## **DON'T YOU JUST LOVE LOVE?** (Michaela Winfrey)

Don't you just love love? I do! Love is a great feeling and we should never take it for granted. When I think about love I think about me and my family just laughing and having a great time. Are you wondering why I'm talking about love? Probably not BECAUSE IT'S ALMOST VALENTINE'S DAY!!!! And since Valentine's Day is almost here, we need to remember the REAL reason for love, and that is Jesus! He died on the cross for OUR sins that we have committed. If He didn't die for us, we would not have the example of the greatest love, which is to lay down your life for others.

Since we are talking about love, let's think about some of the loves in our lives. My loves are music, drawing, and singing, basically anything to do with the arts. What are your loves? Do you love sports? Do you love singing? Whatever you love, those are the things that should be done more often. As we do the things we love, we can have a smile on our faces that makes life much better. Speaking of life, the source for our lives is Jesus, Who first loved us.

One of my favorite hymns is "Jesus loves the little children". The text is written by C.H. Woolston and Joseph Barlowe. The music was created by George F. Root. (Now, I did not look this up in the hymnal. Or maybe I did. Who knows?) I love this hymn because it tells a good story about Jesus loving the little children. He does not care if you are yellow, red, black, or white. We are all precious in His sight! It does not matter what race, religion, or what type of church you go to. He loves you with all of His heart!!

## **BABY YODA** (Wil Winfrey)

The Mandalorian is the latest series in the Star Wars franchise, and it has met Disney's expectations for popularity. For those who have seen The Mandalorian, which could be all of you, baby Yoda is most likely your favorite part of the show. If you haven't seen the show, you have probably heard about how baby Yoda is so cute and not threatening. Come to think about it baby Jesus wasn't so different. Just like baby Yoda, baby Jesus is loved by everyone because they think of Him being cute and non-threatening.

In the show, the Mandalorian rescues baby Yoda and transports him onto his ship and even though he thinks He's saving baby Yoda, baby Yoda is really saving him. In one of the episodes, Mando was searching for somebody to repair his ship. Suddenly, a Mud horn appeared and almost killed Mando. Baby Yoda saved Mando from that Mud horn. Like the Mandalorian who thought baby Yoda needed him, we often think that baby Jesus needs us. However, the reality is that we are the ones who need Jesus.

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Yes, there is a decline in church attendance. Declining attendance is occurring in those denominations who have elevated "social justice" and diluted doctrine over teaching the Word. Christian Faith is strong in America and the evidence is in the growing number of congregations whose members are committed to their faith. They do not apologize for their beliefs, they attend church services more than once a week, they pray daily, they study the Bible and they "accept the Bible as wholly reliable and deeply instructive to their lives" (Stanton).

### **SOURCES**

Association of Statistics of American Religious Bodies, 2010 (most extensive research since 1952)

Kelly, Dean M. Why Conservative Churches are Growing. Harper and Row, 1972

Pew Research Center, "State of the Media", 2018.

Pew Research Center, 2019, US Religion Census, 2010.

Stanton, Glenn T. The Myth of the Dying Church: How Christianity is Actually Thriving in America and the World. Worthy, 2019.

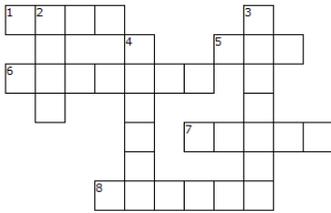
# Love One Another

My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. John 15:12 (NIV)  
Based on John 15:9-17 (NIV)



# What Is Love?

If you love me, you will obey what I command. John 14:15



### ACROSS

- To hold dear, to like or desire greatly
- A state of happiness or delight
- Someone that performs duties for a master
- To gain knowledge, skill, or understanding
- A person that you like very much

### DOWN

- To do what you are told; follow the rules
- An order which a person is expected to obey
- One who has authority over another person

SERVANT	OBEY	LEARN	COMMAND
FRIEND	LOVE	MASTER	JOY

A N G R Y D H I T Z F H U I W  
M E A N U O A Q R U D E G H B  
F H D O R L T S B V K N S Q B  
P H R U Q X E A I C I I O X L  
F P E G U E F Z E T F M V U G  
F A C L X O U L C L M Y F Z Z  
O B I D P S L E E W J H P L K  
R H W T Z F T S V Y T F A T L  
G I Z R H O U M J U C B T R H  
I J W O R F U L R D E D I U P  
V X G P B T U T E K P N E S E  
I B Q L S J C L F H I O N T V  
N C I M F M N I B G U N T I I  
G H C Q H T T S D M J V D N L  
F I V O U J E A L O U S J G P

### LOVE IS:

protecting, patient, truthful, faithful, helpful, forgiving, kind, trusting

### LOVE IS NOT:

mean, angry, evil, proud, rude, selfish, hateful, jealous

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Prayer - 9:30am Coffee - 9:45am S.S. - 10am Worship - 11am	Daily Scriptures are given for us in anticipation of the sermon		Elders meet as needed. For questions, see Frank or Marvin		<b>Weekly bulletin will have the most current information</b>	Mission of the Month: <b>Greenwood Soup Kitchen</b>
	Women's Bible Study Mondays 5:00pm	<b>Pray for FCC</b> reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	Midweek Bible Study for all ages 4:00pm and 6:30pm	Women's Bible Study Thursdays 6:30pm		1  Psalm 147
2	3  Genesis 6	4 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Gen 18:22-33	5  Matt 25:1-13	6  Matt 25:14-30	7  Matt 25:31-46	8 (1 Peter 1:13-25) Game Night 6:00pm Bring Snacks
9  Scout Sunday	10  Psalm 145	11 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Matt 5:43-48	12  1 John 3:1-10	13  1 John 3:11-24	14  1 John 4	15 (Rom 5:1-11) Men's Breakfast and Bible Study (8:00am)
16	17  Neh 9:1-15	18 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Neh 9:16-31	19  Neh 9:32-38	20 (Isaiah 45:1-13) Newsletter Submissions Due	21  John 1:1-18	22  Genesis 1:1-25
23  Fellowship Meal after Worship	24  Genesis 5:1-5	25  Gen 9:1-17	26  Eph 4:17-32	27  Col 3:1-17	28  James 3:1-12	29  Gen 1:26-31

