

FOOTPRINTS



Volume 7, Issue 1
January, 2021

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

Well, here we are saying goodbye to a very weird 2020 and hello to 2021 with the hope that the worst is behind us. I know that our church experienced several highs and lows throughout the year and the roller coaster continues to make us wonder if we will ever reach the end of the ride. Of course, we have to be careful about what we ask for because we just might get it! Do we really want the ride to end?

Although 2020 had its challenges, we can still look back on the good parts and be thankful for the improvements made to our church all the way around and the new friends we created as the visitors showed up. We have a fresh start and a new attitude to go with it. Even though we continue to be the best kept secret in Greenwood, we are building momentum and we are seeing the Lord work through our efforts. Let's have a great year!

I
JESUS
L
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I LOVE our Church!
Earl Winfrey
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Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

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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)

THE BIBLE BUFFET

Next month, I plan to introduce a new concept called the Bible Buffet. This is going to be a work in progress and will be something that could help anybody who is looking to get the most out of church and Bible Study. No matter what church you belong to, this will be a great resource for you! I can't wait to share it!

- Earl



Passing the Baton before Leadership Collapse

(BY BILLY STROTHER - <https://e2elders.org/pass-baton-before-collapse/>)

Too often, the baton of eldership is foisted on younger, inexperienced elders through a church leadership collapse; beloved and wise serving elders have health crises, retire and move away, go on to be with the Lord. With them disappears their experience and wisdom. Sometimes a leadership collapse comes by way of tragic church conflict; seasoned elders throw up their hands in surrender and leave leadership, or even the church. In many churches, long-serving elders, faithfully giving of themselves year after year (or for decades), grow weary, and resign in fatigue. I have seen groups of senior elders resign, collectively saying, "It is simply time for the younger men to start doing their leadership part; I'm tired and just want to go to Sunday school." An unhealthy leadership collapse occurs.

In a leadership collapse, often, younger men who love their church step up to serve as elders for the first time – but with no training, coaching, or mentoring. "OJT" in eldering forestalls church health. From the frying pan into the fire, or a baptism by fire, seldom produces exponential kingdom fruit. Overwhelmed, burn out often happens fast in these situations. Mission progress stops, or at least digresses. The church declines. The learning curve is steep.

For over four years, our long-serving senior-age eldership at the church I previously served was consciously, actively, and responsibly passing the spiritual leadership baton to the next generation of leaders. Identifying, training, and mentoring younger leaders into eldership was a consistent priority. And it bore great Kingdom fruit.

The faces around the eldership table began to demographically shift – on purpose and with a purpose. The team grew healthier, love and pouring into one another, the honoring of one another, was all a great joy to experience. The passing of the baton of leadership was well under way. The younger elders and older elders were beloved, honored, and respected by the congregation. The last of the older, faithfully serving, long-term elders were about to receive their first sabbatical in many years from eldership; the rest and refreshment had been well-earned. And they are the biggest supporters and fans of the younger elders.

So, how do we avoid, or at least mitigate, an elder leadership collapse? We begin passing the baton to the next generation of leaders well ahead of a leadership collapse, whether that collapse occurs by crisis or attrition.

Who will be our Next Man Up?

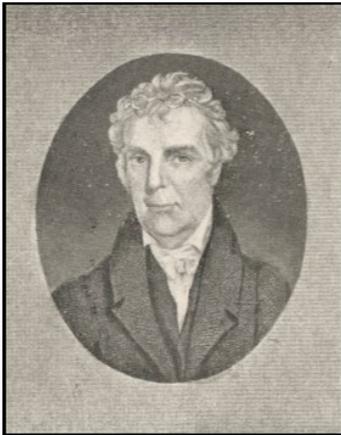


Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

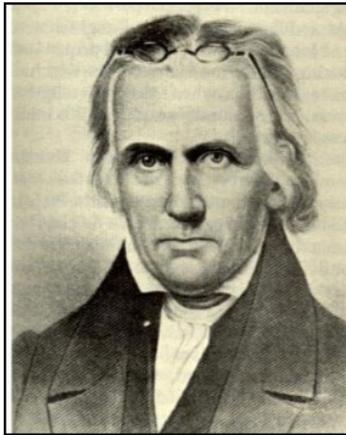
FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Every 2nd Friday, we have a game night at the church. We start at 6:00pm and end when we are finished playing. Feel free to bring snacks to share and... **Invite your friends to come with you!**

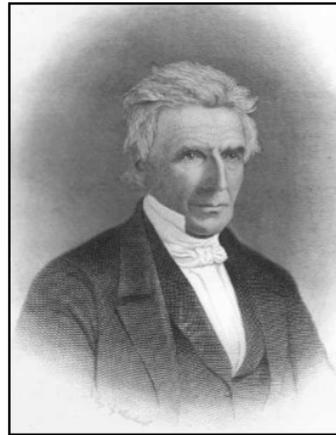




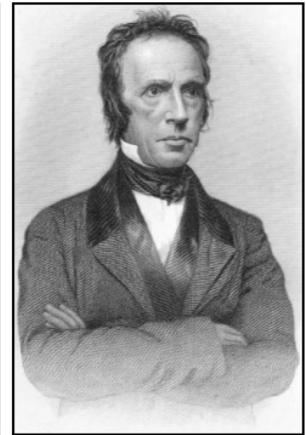
Barton Stone



Thomas Campbell



Alexander Campbell



Walter Scott

REFLECTIONS ON THE RESTORATION

"Joint Efforts in Christian Education"

(Taken from Earl's Restoration History class for the local church)

Buffalo Seminary:

1. Created by Alexander Campbell in 1818 to benefit the community and prepare ministers. The school was in his house, and the students lived there too.
2. Lasted for 4 years. Very few wanted to become preachers and the close confinement was bad for Alexander Campbell's health. He also became busy with preaching engagements.

Bacon College:

1. Began on November 14, 1836. Walter Scott was the first president in name only.
2. Moved from Georgetown to Harrodsburg KY in 1839.
3. Became part of the University of Kentucky in 1859 and resurfaced as the College of the Bible in 1865 with Robert Milligan as the president.
4. J.W. McGarvey became president in 1895 and the college produced many preachers.
5. After McGarvey died in 1911, liberalism took control of the college.

Bethany College:

1. Created in 1840 by Alexander Campbell as a liberal arts college
2. Disciples of Christ college today with a liberal bent

Hiram College (Ohio):

1. Began in 1849 as a liberal arts school (Western Reserve Eclectic Institute)
2. Former US President James A. Garfield served as a president from 1856-1859
3. Name changed to Hiram College in 1867 and still exists today

Butler University:

1. Charter granted in 1850 as Northwestern Christian University
2. Name changed to Butler University in 1877 and became a municipal university
3. School of Religion began in 1925 and became a separate institution in 1958.
4. Exists as a Disciples of Christ college known as Christian Theological Seminary

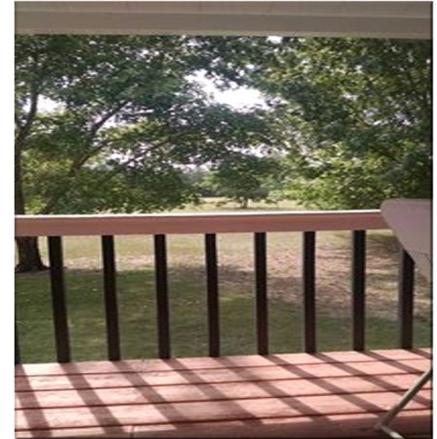


CAN YOU THINK OF 5 PEOPLE YOU CAN REACH?

When I served as a youth sponsor several years ago, we had something called a “High Five” card which had blanks for us to write 5 names of people we could invite to church. This is a good idea for us today. Who are the five people in your life? Can you pray for them now?

MAKE DISCIPLES

Most everybody is familiar with the purpose of the church known as the Great Commission. However, there seems to be confusion among many Christians about who is responsible for making a Disciple. Some view the responsibility of making a Disciple as a job for the paid staff or clergy if you are part of certain denominations. Others view the job of making a Disciple as the responsibility of everyone at the expense of the paid staff. People who subscribe to that extreme tend to question the value of having a paid staff at the local church available to equip the saints.



Just like many other issues in the church, the answer lies somewhere in between the two extremes. The paid staff can bring the resources that are not readily available to those who have not spent time in a Bible College or Seminary to train for full-time work in God’s church. They can help the people of the church grow in knowledge which in turn can give them more confidence when trying to reach their neighbors. The paid staff can also serve as a support for the people as they continue to live out the Great Commission in their lives.

Although the paid staff can bring many benefits to the congregation, the people of the church have the advantage when it comes to reaching the lost in the community. The people have grown up in the area, so there is already a familiarity and trust that would take a paid Minister years to develop. Along with that, the Minister is limited by the constraints of time because he has the responsibility of equipping the whole church and even with a small church; this is a “God-sized” task! This being the case, the paid staff and the people of the church need to form a partnership so that the community can be reached.

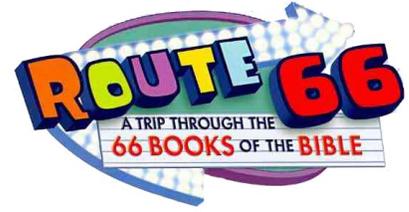
I attended a workshop where I heard this quote: “You can count the number of apples on the tree but you can’t count the trees in an apple.” Every apple has seeds that can produce trees that can produce more apples and the cycle continues. That is a good example of Discipleship. Our goal as a church should be to make Disciples so they can make more Disciples. Once we can get to the point where this goal is part of our core, the fruit that God produces will exceed anything we could ever imagine! So as we continue to be the church, let us remember our main purpose: Make Disciples!

“Pray for FCC”

For 2021, 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!

The Minor Prophets: Zephaniah

(Several sources used each month, see Earl for details)



Who wrote the book?

In Zephaniah 1:1, the author introduces himself as “Zephaniah son of Cushi, son of Gedaliah, son of Amariah, son of Hezekiah.”

Among the prophets, this is a unique introduction with its long list of fathers back to Zephaniah’s great-great grandfather, Hezekiah. So why stop with Hezekiah? Most likely, the prophet wanted to highlight his royal lineage as a descendant of one of Judah’s good kings. The reference to “this place” in Zephaniah 1:4 indicates that he prophesied in Jerusalem, while his many references to temple worship display a strong familiarity with Israel’s religious culture. All these factors paint the picture of a man who was at the center of Judah’s political and religious world, a man whose close proximity to those in power would have given his shocking message an even greater impact.

The book tells us that Zephaniah prophesied during the reign of Josiah, the king of Judah from 640 to 609 BC (Zephaniah 1:1). We can begin to pinpoint exactly when Zephaniah prophesied by accounting for a few details in the text. First, in 2:13 the prophet predicted the fall of Nineveh, an event which occurred in 612 BC. Further, Zephaniah made frequent quotations from the Law (for example, compare 1:13 to Deuteronomy 28:30, 39), a document that remained lost in Judah for much of Josiah’s reign. Therefore, Zephaniah more than likely prophesied in the latter part of Josiah’s rule, after the king discovered the scrolls of the Law in 622 BC (2 Chronicles 34:3–7).

Why is Zephaniah so important?

This book mentions the day of the Lord more than does any other book in the Old Testament, clarifying the picture of Judah’s fall to Babylon and the eventual judgment and restoration of all humanity in the future. In this case, it refers primarily to God’s impending time of judgment on the nation of Judah. Zephaniah saw in the day of the Lord the destruction of his country, his neighbors, and eventually the whole earth (Zephaniah 1:2, 4; 2:10). Zephaniah wrote that the day of the Lord was near (1:14), that it would be a time of wrath (1:15), that it would come as judgment on sin (1:17), and that ultimately it would result in the blessing of God’s presence among His people (3:17). Zephaniah’s primary target for God’s message of judgment, the nation of Judah, had fallen into grievous sin under the reign of their king, Manasseh. Zephaniah’s prophecy shouted out for godliness and purity in a nation sinful to its core. The people of Judah had long since turned their backs on God, not only in their personal lives but also in their worship. This reflected the depth of their sin and the deep need for God’s people to be purged on their path to restoration.

How do I apply this?

Those living in Judah had turned the worship of God into a fiasco. Not only had they built their own places of worship to revere other gods (called “high places” in the Old Testament), but they had begun to desecrate the temple, which at that time was the dwelling place of God (Zephaniah 1:9).

As modern-day believers in Christ, we, too, make a mockery of worship when we live in open sin. Do you come before the Lord with a false face, week in and week out, looking the part without acting it? Allow Zephaniah to remind you how seriously God takes your life and your relationship with Him. And if you have failed, remember the message of Zephaniah 3—God is always a God of restoration and hope.



This month's Church myth: "Everybody has to show up or the event will be cancelled"

It is a familiar story with many struggling churches. When trying to plan events, the people run into a roadblock because they can't seem to get their schedules to match. The problem is that if they can't plan the event when everyone can show up, there would not be enough people there to make it look like a church event. For bigger churches, this is not an issue because they could be missing half of their people and still have a good crowd, so this church myth is usually present in the small churches.

Here is the issue. When planning church events, it is a good idea to try to make it as easy as possible for people to show up, but the reality is that not every event will agree with everyone's schedule all the time. How does the church respond? Those who believe this myth will be quick to cancel the event and wait for a better time to make it happen. However, when that happens once, it becomes way too easy for it to happen again, and that is when the habit starts. As soon as somebody presents a problem with scheduling, the planning process gets shut down and the event never happens. Too much of this can lead to a stale church that does nothing more than meet on Sunday morning.

A stale church that only meets Sunday morning leads to an empty parking lot the rest of the week. An empty parking lot leads people to believe that the church has closed its doors and no longer exists. Why do people believe this? They never see cars in the parking lot because they are usually at their own churches for Sunday morning worship. This is why we must make sure we move forward with events as long as somebody is able to show up. Waiting for everyone to have the same day available is a task that will end with frustration and an empty calendar. We should work hard at planning events when they can be attended by the majority of the church but we need to commit to having it even if schedules don't match.

Where does this myth come from? I believe that it comes from the idea that a healthy church means everyone doing everything together, and that is not realistic. There are a few reasons why this will never work starting with 3 big ones: (1) People are busy at different times with different activities, (2) some events are not appealing to everyone so there will always be somebody missing, and (3) life happens. Sometimes, the best laid plans can be interrupted by an unforeseen event that will change a person's schedule at the last minute. When that happens, we should not have to cancel the event unless the person who cannot show up is the leader of that event. This myth is busted because there is no way we can have all of the people at all of the events all of the times the events happen.

NEW FORMAT FOR OUR SCRIPTURE SCAVENGER HUNT

Super
Spectacular
Scripture



With the new year comes a new approach to our Super Spectacular Scripture Scavenger Hunt! Instead of giving a long list to be completed by the end of the month, I will be breaking this up into bite size pieces to make it easier to consume. I will have 1-2 items each month with points assigned and will keep track of the progress as we go. We will keep this going for the year so there will be plenty of time to catch if you fall behind.

(Helpful Hint) Although I will be giving out 1-2 questions each month, there is no expiration date on the questions so feel free to look through past issues of the newsletter to get the questions you have missed. This game will be from January 2021 until November 2021 so the winner will be announced in the December newsletter. I hope you are able to join in the fun! Here are the first 2 questions:

1. A meal that Jesus attended (5 points) (10 points for 2 meals)
2. An example of God answering the prayer of somebody from the Bible (8 points)

(Please provide the scripture reference when you give Earl the answers.)

Leaderboard:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Life Lessons (Written by Andy Rooney)

I've learned....

That life is tough, but I'm tougher.

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

Dan, Asher, and Naphtali camped on the northern side of the tabernacle (Numbers 2:25-29)

Winners: Wil Winfrey/Phillis Jackson/Michaela 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: ???

This month's question:

What happened to Jesus forty days after his resurrection?

Be Content in Everything

"But godliness with contentment is great gain." 1 Timothy 6:6

One of the Barnes' famous sayings is, "If you're not happy with what you have, you'll never be satisfied with what you want." I meet so many people who are always looking to the future—the next paycheck, the next home, the next church, the next month, the next school, and, in some cases, the next marriage partner. We are a country characterized by discontent. Do you find yourself being drawn into this mindset?

Recently I was visiting our newest grandchild, Bradley Joe Barnes II. As I was holding him, rubbing my hands through his hair, tracing the shape of his toes and fingers, my mind went to thinking about what he was going to be as he grew to manhood. Was he going to have good grades and go to college? Would he be a fireman, a pastor, a teacher, a coach, a salesman? Suddenly I realized that I was thinking about what he could be rather than focusing my thoughts and prayers on who he would be.

In today's culture we are all drawn away from spiritual pursuits to putting our hopes in wealth (1 Timothy 6:17) and to building our lives around ways to accomplish this ambition. As I sat there in Bradley Joe's room, I began praying that all of his extended family might teach him higher values than money, career, and fame. Not that these are evil, but the value we place on them can lead to our downfall (1 Timothy 6:9).

In today's passage Paul states, "Godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6). When we find ourselves looking to the future because we aren't content with today, may God give us a peace of mind that lets us rest where He has placed us. Be content in today!

THOUGHTS FOR ACTION

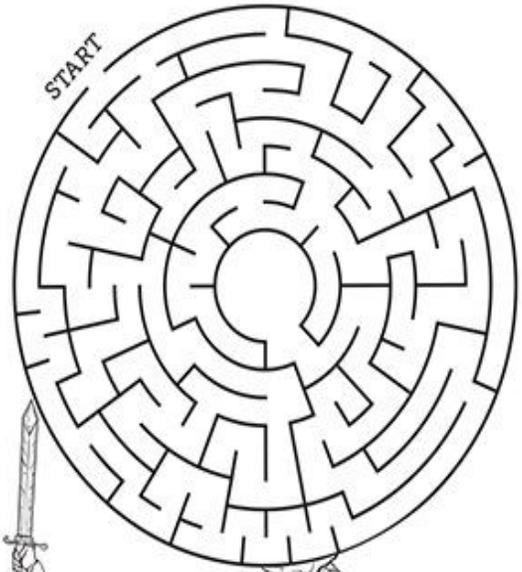
- Instead of being preoccupied with your station in life, start praising God for where you are.
- Pray to God asking Him to reveal to you what you are to learn in your present situation.
- Write a letter to God thanking Him for all your blessings. Name them individually.

Additional Scripture Reading

- 1 Timothy 6:11-21
- Proverbs 22:1-2
- Mark 10:17-25

GIDEON THE JUDGE

Lead Gideon and his army to the Midianite camp.



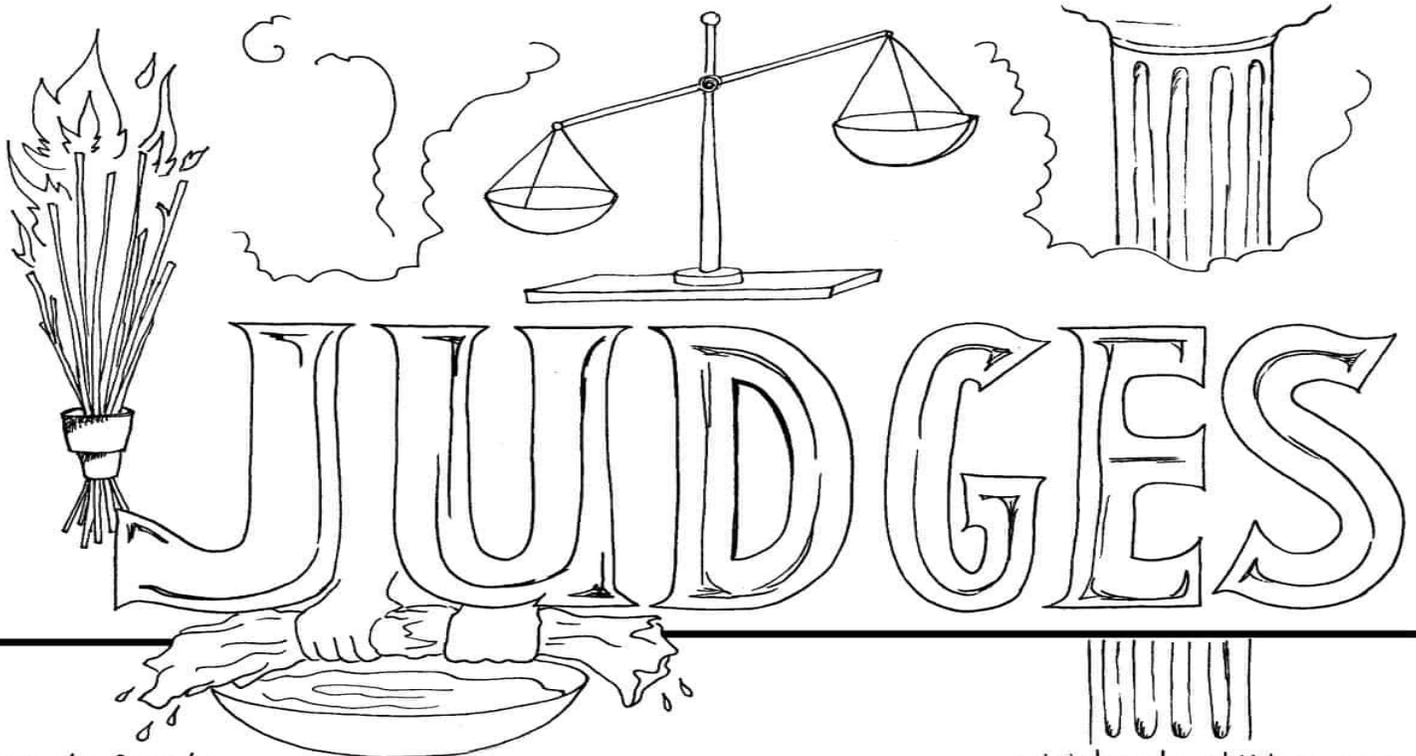
Deborah Was a Judge in Israel Word Scramble

Unscramble each of the clue words. Take the letters that appear in the circle boxes and unscramble them to find the answer to the last phrase.

- MORTS
- SIPERA
- AANANC
- KABAR
- WORDS
- BORHAED

What did Sisera have that scared the Israelites?

He had 900



First Christian Church of Greenwood SC

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JANUARY 2021



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	Pray for FCC reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	Midweek Bible Study for all ages (5:30pm)	Mission of the Month: Crossroads Pregnancy Ctr	1 Happy New Year! Judges 1:27-36	2 Judges 2
3	4 Deut 34	5 <u>Pray for FCC</u> 1 Samuel 12	6 1 Ch 12:1-18	7 Psalm 83	8 (Judges 3:1-11) Game Night 6:00pm Bring Snacks	9 Judges 3:12-30
10	11 Joshua 11	12 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Josh 19:32-39	13 Psalm 68	14 Heb 11:32-40	15 Judges 4	16 Judges 5
17	18 Judges 6:1-27	19 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Jdg 6:28-40	20 Judges 7:1-18	21 Jdg 7:19-25	22 Judges 8:1-21	23 Jdg 8:22-35
24 Fellowship Meal after Worship	25 Prov 29:18-27	26 <u>Pray for FCC</u> John 1:43-51	27 1 Cor 6:12-20	28 (1 Samuel 1) Newsletter Submissions Due	29 1 Samuel 2	30 1 Samuel 3
31 Youth Sunday Singspiration (6:00pm)	All events subject to change if needed		Weekly bulletin will have the most current information		Elders meet as needed. For questions, see Frank or Marvin	

