

FOOTPRINTS



Volume 7, Issue 2
February, 2021

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

I LOVE YOU!!!

Those 3 little words are often heard on the 14th of this month every year, but I wonder how many people truly understand what those 3 words mean?

“By this we know love, that he laid down his life for us, and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers.” (1 John 3:16)

The Apostle John was referring to Jesus dying on the cross for our sins so we can live for Him. That kind of love is frowned upon in today’s “me first” society. So this month, why don’t we take some time to put others first so we can show them what true love is all about?

I
JESUS
L
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R
D

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



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

THE BIBLE BUFFET

Like most people I know, I love a buffet! Just walking into the room where there is food from wall to wall is what I consider to be a little slice of heaven. Taking my plate and filling it with different types of food is fun because I get to create a party in my mouth. Physical food is good to eat and the buffet is the best way to offer as much food for a variety of people as they can handle. I decided to take this concept and use it for the spiritual food that keeps us healthy and active for the Lord. Here are several options for you to choose so you can pick one and stick with it for the year or change it up and use different ones as you go. You could go hardcore and try all of them at once but be careful and don't get a tummy ache if you do! Have fun and let me know if you would like to see anything else offered here.

Chronological

(Traditional reading plan for the year)

1. Genesis 1-3	15. Job 40-42
2. Genesis 4-7	16. Genesis 12-15
3. Genesis 8-11	17. Genesis 16-18
4. Job 1-5	18. Genesis 19-21
5. Job 6-9	19. Genesis 22-24
6. Job 10-13	20. Genesis 25-26
7. Job 14-16	21. Genesis 27-29
8. Job 17-20	22. Genesis 30-31
9. Job 21-23	23. Genesis 32-34
10. Job 24-28	24. Genesis 35-37
11. Job 29-31	25. Genesis 38-40
12. Job 32-34	26. Genesis 41-42
13. Job 35-37	27. Genesis 43-45
14. Job 38-39	28. Genesis 46-47

Gospel Harmony

(From R.C. Foster's Life of Christ class)

1. Luke 1:1-4	15. Matthew 2:19-23
2. John 1:1-18	16. Luke 2:39-52
3. Matthew 1:1-17	17. Matthew 3:1-6
4. Luke 3:23-38	18. Mark 1:1-6
5. Luke 1:5-25	19. Luke 3:1-6
6. Luke 1:26-38	20. Matthew 3:7-12
7. Luke 1:39-56	21. Mark 1:7, 8
8. Luke 1:57-80	22. Luke 3:7-18
9. Matthew 1:18-25	23. Matthew 3:13-17
10. Luke 2:1-7	24. Mark 1:9-11
11. Luke 2:8-20	25. Luke 3:21, 22
12. Luke 2:21-38	26. Matthew 4:1-11
13. Matthew 2:1-12	27. Mark 1:12, 13
14. Matthew 2:13-18	28. Luke 4:1-13

Genres reading plan listed by the week

Wk	Gospels	Law	History	Psalms	Poetry	Prophecy	Epistles
1	Matt 1-2	Gen 1-3	Josh 1-5	Psalms 1-2	Job 1-2	Isaiah 1-6	Romans 1-2
2	Matt 3-4	Gen 4-7	Josh 6-10	Psalms 3-5	Job 3-4	Isaiah 7-11	Romans 3-4
3	Matt 5-7	Gen 8-11	Josh 11-15	Psalms 6-8	Job 5-6	Isaiah 12-17	Romans 5-6
4	Matt 8-10	Gen 12-15	Josh 16-20	Psalms 9-11	Job 7-8	Isaiah 18-22	Romans 7-8

The Bible in 180 days reading plan

(For those who are up to the challenge. 6 days each week, taking Sunday off)

Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	Genesis 1-7	Genesis 8-14	Genesis 15-21	Genesis 22-25	Genesis 26-30	Genesis 31-36
2	Genesis 37-41	Genesis 42-46	Gen 47 - Ex 2	Exodus 3-8	Exodus 9-14	Exodus 15-20
3	Exodus 21-25	Exodus 26-29	Exodus 30-35	Exodus 36-40	Leviticus 1-6	Leviticus 7-11
4	Lev 12-15	Lev 16-20	Lev 21-25	Lev 26 - Num 1	Numbers 2-5	Numbers 6-9

Earning the right to lead

(Originally written for Earl's blog in 2014)

Well, it's the Monday after Wild Card weekend, and just like many other Green Bay fans across the nation, I'm licking my wounds after losing to the 49ers. It's been a long season with many twists and turns, but being able to play at least 1 game in the playoffs gives us hope for next year. So how shall we sum up this season? Injuries, disappointment, failure? Yes. Improvement, new identity with the rushing game, success with players off the bench performing? Yes. The glass is either half full or half empty, but the point is that there is something in the glass, and there is a lot to be thankful for when drinking the ice cold beverage!

Among the many injuries the Packers suffered this season, by far the most devastating injury happened to Aaron Rodgers. For several weeks after that game against the Bears, the team struggled with backup quarterbacks who did their best, but their best just wasn't good enough. The bad luck with injuries continued, and eventually, they had to re-sign Matt Flynn since he was available after the Oakland Raiders let him go. When it came time for Flynn to start as the Packers' Quarterback, the team was starting to gain momentum with their running game, and they manage to win enough games to stay in the running for the division title. However, it wasn't until Aaron Rodgers came back on the field against the Bears that the team stepped it up and won the division title.

So why didn't the team play that hard with Matt Flynn as the starter? The team didn't believe in his leadership. They played hard with Matt Flynn, but they stepped it up a notch and dominated the field when Rodgers took over. The difference is that the team believes in Rodgers, and they play that way. Playing the position of Quarterback is not enough to lead the team. You have to earn the right to lead, and Rodgers paid his dues and gained the respect of the players. This is the same way with ministry.

When starting at a church, you have a certain amount of respect handed to you just because of the position you have. The preacher gets respect because he is the preacher. The same goes for elders. However, in order to be a true leader, you have to pay your dues and earn the people's respect. And the only way to do this is to spend the time getting to know the people and staying connected to them. Of course, every church is different so every person in the church will have different ways of connecting to the leaders. But a connection has to be gained and maintained in order for effective leadership to exist.

Who will be our Next Man Up?

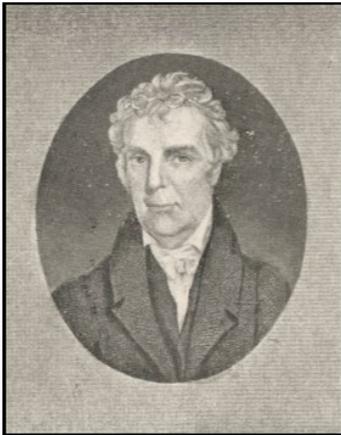


Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

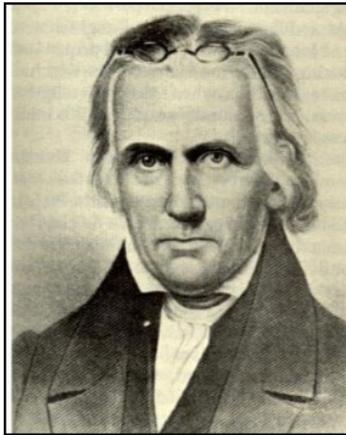
FAMILY GAME NIGHT

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!**

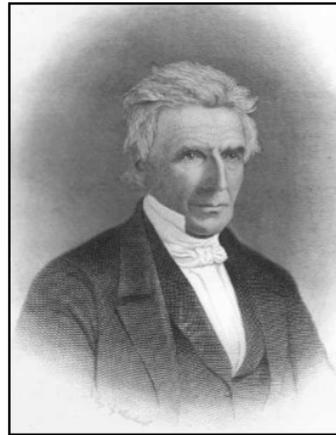




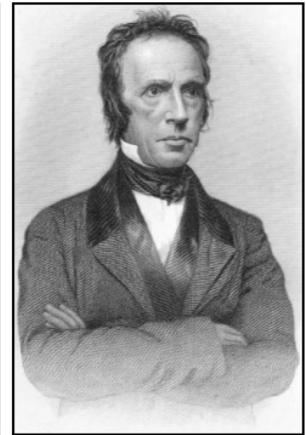
Barton Stone



Thomas Campbell



Alexander Campbell



Walter Scott

REFLECTIONS ON THE RESTORATION

"Joint Efforts in Christian Education Part 2"

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

Types of colleges:

1. Liberal Arts: Schools that offered secular studies in addition to the Bible for the purpose of preparing students to work secular jobs while serving in the ministry (Tentmakers).

2. Bible College: Schools with the primary purpose of training full-time ministers and missionaries. Music and Christian Education focuses on the local church setting although many graduates do find work in the public school system.

3. Seminaries: Graduate school for full-time Kingdom workers and those who already have a 4-year degree in another field and wish to enter the ministry. Some seminaries offer counseling degrees from a Christian perspective. (American Association of Christian Counselors began at Cincinnati Christian University)

4. Preaching Schools: Schools designed to produce Elders and Ministers for local churches. They are usually not accredited and are not recognized by the majority of Seminaries should the graduate seek the next level of education. Correspondence schools like the one created by the Christian Restoration Association fall into this category.

Mergers:

Several mergers have taken place as a result of financial hardships, combining of missions, and goals for the future. Unfortunately, this has become a hot topic within our movement with accusations flying back and forth. The best approach is for us to wait it out and allow enough time to pass before deciding if these mergers are good or bad.

A PENNY FOR YOUR THOUGHTS

What are my thoughts?

1. Where do my thoughts originate?
2. Would I want others to know my thoughts?
3. Are my thoughts scripturally acceptable?
4. Will my thought lead me to words or actions?
 - A) Are those words or actions worthy of me?
 - 1) As the person I want to be?
 - 2) As a Christian?
 - B) Will my words or actions build others up or tear them down?
5. Are my thoughts worthy of the forgiving grace of Jesus?



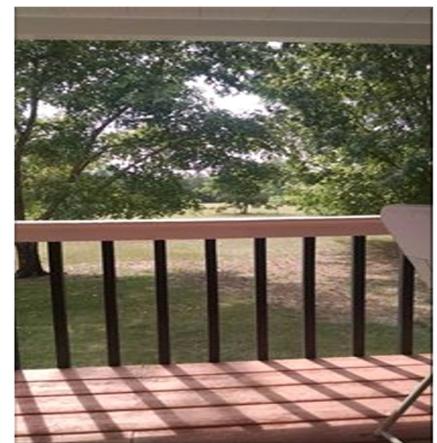
BACK PORCH CONVERSATIONS

Feb 17 is the day observed by most mainstream denominations as Ash Wednesday. That day is the beginning of the season called Lent. The season of Lent lasts for 40 days not counting Sundays leading up to the Thursday that Jesus got arrested which is referred to as Maundy Thursday on which a special communion service is held in remembrance of the upper room scene where Jesus broke the bread with His Disciples.

During the season of Lent, the people are encouraged to reflect on their sinful condition and a fast is declared from some luxury in life. That fast is personal as it is different for every person, but the end result is the same. Each person should give up something for a season in order to focus on the Lord.

On Ash Wednesday when the season of Lent begins, towards the end of the special service, the people would line up at the front of the sanctuary, and the preacher would stand there with a bowl of ashes. He would dip his index finger into the bowl and put the ashes on the forehead of the person in the shape of a cross. The ashes were a symbol of grief as the people in the Old Testament would often cover their head with ashes when grieving a loss. The shape of the cross should be obvious to us as Jesus bore our sins on the cross.

I'm not going to suggest that we observe the season of Lent the way the denominations do, but I do think there is value in having a season in which we take the time to reflect on our sinful condition and grieve our lives as we prepare for the Easter season. In order to truly appreciate how great a gift of salvation we have, we must first recognize how bad we need a savior. And recognizing how sinful we really are will help us see that need.

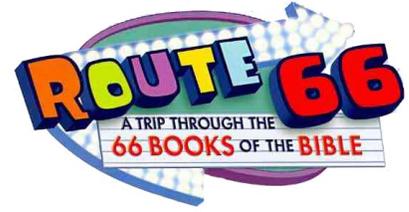


"Pray for FCC"

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: Haggai

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



Who wrote the book?

The prophet Haggai recorded his four messages to the Jewish people of Jerusalem in 520 BC, eighteen years after their return from exile in Babylon (538 BC). Haggai 2:3 seems to indicate that the prophet had seen Jerusalem before the destruction of the temple and the exile in 586 BC, meaning he was more than seventy years old by the time he delivered his prophecies. From these facts, the picture of Haggai begins to come into focus. He was an older man looking back on the glories of his nation, a prophet imbued with a passionate desire to see his people rise up from the ashes of exile and reclaim their rightful place as God's light to the nations.

Haggai's prophecy came at a time when the people of Judah were extremely vulnerable. They had been humbled by their exile to Babylon, hopeful in their return to their Promised Land, and then so discouraged by opposition in their rebuilding of the temple that they had quit (Ezra 4:24). Now, sixteen years later, with Haggai blaming their lack of food, clothing, and shelter on their failure to rebuild the temple, the Jews were receptive to his message of rebuilding the Lord's house.

Unlike most of the other prophets, Haggai explicitly dated his prophecies, down to the day. He gave four separate messages, the first on August 29, 520 BC (Haggai 1:1); the second on October 17, 520 BC (2:1); and the final two on December 18, 520 BC (2:10, 20). These messages encouraged the people of Judah to finish building the temple and to have hope in God for the promise of blessings in the future.

Why is Haggai so important?

After thousands of years, the book of Haggai remains largely unique among the books of Old Testament prophets for one key reason: the people of Judah listened! Haggai's message to rebuild the temple was passionate, simple, and straightforward (Haggai 1:8). No one could mistake whether or not his direction had been followed—the results would be evident for all the people to see. Through the physical act of rebuilding the temple, the people began to indicate a shift in their spiritual lives: from devotion to self toward devotion to God.

Haggai had an important message for the Jews who had recently returned from exile. They had forgotten their God, choosing instead to focus on their own interests, so it was time for them to "consider [their] ways" (Haggai 1:5, 7). Nothing was more important for the Jews than to show that the Lord was at the center of their thoughts and actions, so Haggai directed them to finish rebuilding God's temple.

However, rather than leaving them alone with the task of rebuilding, Haggai continued to preach to the Jews, encouraging them with the hope of future glory in the temple and a victory to come over the enemies of God's people (2:7–9, 21–22). According to Haggai's message, if the people would place God at the center of their lives, they would realize the future blessings that God had in store for His people.



This month's Church myth: "Evangelism means showing how Christian we are"

This month's myth is interesting because there is a school of thought that says we need to make sure people know how much we love Jesus if we want them to become Christians. While this is a good thing, there is a point where we can make it about ourselves instead of pointing people to Jesus. Sometimes, we can turn people away because we are almost to the point of bragging about how Christian we are instead of showing people the love of Jesus through the way we live. We need to make sure that our actions are not calling attention to ourselves. To help us with this, I am sharing a blog post I wrote back in 2013:

I love to eat steak. (Captain Obvious strikes again!) For my birthday, I received a bag full of steaks from my father in law, and among the steaks were some filet mignons. Since it has been several years since I have eaten filet mignons, I decided to call my brother Mike to find out how to cook them. He told me to cover them with salt and let the steaks sit for about 30 minutes so the natural flavor can be brought out. I did as he said, and it was delicious. Out of all of the spices in the cabinet, the most overlooked spice at times can be salt. This is probably due to the simplicity of salt, but for some meals, salt is all you need.

Salt has the ability to bring out natural flavor without demanding that its own flavor become the dominant choice. Salt is also used to preserve meats because of its flavor. Salt is the most basic spice and probably the cheapest to buy, but it never assumes the dominant flavor if it is used right. When cooking with salt, the main course supplies the natural flavor.

When Jesus told us to be the salt of the earth, He did not mean for us to overwhelm the world with our saltiness. Just like the salt bringing out the natural flavor of the meat, we should bring out the natural flavor of God for the world. Way too often, I see examples of Christians taking the spotlight and using it to elevate how "Christian" they are. But there are times when I wonder how effective those people are when it comes to bringing the lost to Jesus. Are we admiring the Christian for being such a great person, or do we see the natural flavor of God coming out by the way that person lives?

Humility is a key ingredient for being the salt of the earth, and we can see that in the spice itself. So as we live out our faith for God, we should be careful not to ruin the meat by taking too much of the flavor for ourselves.

SUPER SPECTACULAR SCRIPTURE SCAVENGER HUNT

Super
Spectacular
Scripture



Every month, there are 1-2 items with points assigned and will keep track of the progress as we go. This will be going for the whole year so there is plenty of time to catch up 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 is 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!

Leaderboard:

1. Wil (15 points)
2. Michaela (15 points)
3. ??? (Will it be you?)

Here are this month's items:

1. A sacrifice (1 point each up to 10 total points)
2. Messianic prophecy from the Old Testament (3 points)

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

This month in Old Testament history

(Purim Festival - Esther)

Purim is a Jewish holiday which commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from Haman, an Achaemenid Persian Empire official who was planning to kill all the Jews, as recounted in the Book of Esther. Haman was the royal vizier to King Ahasuerus, and he planned to kill all the Jews in the empire.

Life Lessons (Written by Andy Rooney)

I've learned....

That opportunities are never lost; someone will take the ones you miss.

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

Jesus ascended into heaven forty days after His resurrection (Acts 1:3-11)

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

This month's question:

Who did Jesus say was the "father of lies"?

Becoming as Gold

"But he knows the way that I take when he has tested me, I will come forth as gold." Job 23:10

When pain comes into our lives it's so easy to ask "Why, Lord?" Why, Lord, do the righteous suffer?

If there ever was a man who loved and obeyed God, it was Job. Yet his testing was very dramatic and ever so painful. Today all we have to do is pick up a newspaper in any part of the world and we can read of tragedy touching the just and the unjust.

Our friends Glen and Marilyn Heavilin have lost three sons prematurely: one to crib death, one twin, Ethan, to pneumonia as an infant, then the second twin, Nathan, was killed as a teenager by a drunk driver. Were Glen and Marilyn tested? You bet. Yet did they come forth as gold? You bet! Today they use their experiences to glorify the name of the Lord.

Marilyn has written five books. Her first, *Roses in December*. Tells the story of their great loss. Marilyn has had the opportunity to speak all over the country in high school auditoriums filled with teenagers. There she shares her story and has a platform to talk about life and death, chemical dependency, and God Himself.

Did God know what He was doing when He chose the Heavilins? You bet. They have come forth as gold fired in the heat of life and polished to shine for Him. Is their pain gone? Never. Can they go forth to minister? Absolutely. They have been very active in a group called "Compassionate Friends" which supports families who have experienced the death of a child. I thank God for Christians like the Heavilins. God knew the way they would take when tragedy came into their lives.

Everyone has experienced some kind of tragedy. How we handle these events when they happen is the key. Today there are so many wonderful support groups available in churches and the local communities.

I grew up with a violent, alcoholic father. I had no place to go and no one to talk to, so I stuffed my pain. Now there are several groups to help people who find themselves in situations like mine.

A church in Southern California has a large group that meets weekly and has become like a church within a church for those who are chemically dependent and their families. Lives have changed as they pray for each other, support each other, and cry together. Many are coming forth as gold.

Bob and I visited a church in Memphis, Tennessee, which had a support group for homosexuals. Because of this church's outreach, many were coming out of the gay lifestyle and coming forth as gold.

Whatever your test is today, please know that others have experienced and are experiencing your pain. Don't go through the testing alone. Contact the local church and find another with whom you can share and cry. You, too, can and will come forth as gold.

Jesus knows and has also experienced our pain. He is always with us to help us get through the tough times in life. Trust Him now. It's all part of the coming forth as gold that Jesus talks about.

GODS
 LOVE
 has NO
 LIMITS

Doodle Art Alley ©

Love Word Search

1 Corinthians 13:4-8

Find the hidden words.



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

Is **PATIENT**

Does Not Take Into Account A Wrong **SUFFERED**

Is **KIND**

Does Not Rejoice In **UNRIGHTEOUSNESS**

Is Not **JEALOUS**

REJOICES With The Truth

Does Not **BRAG**

BEARS All Things

Is Not **ARROGANT**

BELIEVES All Things

Does Not Act **UNBECOMINGLY**

HOPES All Things

Does Not Seek Its **OWN**

Is Not **PROVOKED**

ENDURES All Things

© Crafting The Word Of God

Write a Valentine or love themed word that starts with each letter below:

V _____

A _____

L _____

E _____

N _____

T _____

I _____

N _____

E _____

Trust _____

in _____

the _____

Lord _____

with _____

all _____

your _____

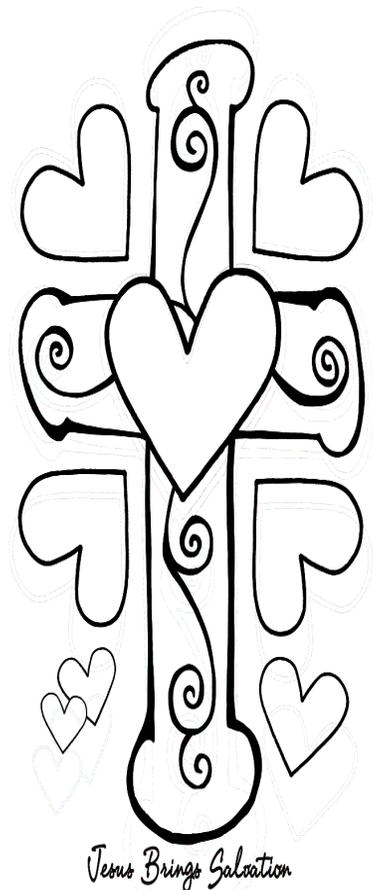
heart _____

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

Which two hearts have the same pattern?

We love because He first loved us

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First Christian Church of Greenwood SC

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS - FEBRUARY 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: Greenwood Soup Kitchen	Elders meet as needed. For questions, see Frank or Marvin	All events subject to change if needed
	1 John 8:31-38	2 <u>Pray for FCC</u> 1 Cor 7:17-24	3 Eph 6:5-9	4 Col 3:22-25	5 Col 4:7-9	6 Philemon
7	8 Jer 7:1-29	9 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Jeremiah 9	10 Jer 13:15-27	11 Jer 15:1-9	12 (Jeremiah 52) Game Night 6:00pm Bring Snacks	13 Lamentations 1
14	15 Jeremiah 12	16 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Psalm 74	17 Ash Wed Bible Study Psalm 35	18 Psalm 56	19 Jeremiah 6	20 Lamentations 2
21	22 Jeremiah 18	23 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Jeremiah 20	24 Jeremiah 38	25 (Jer 48:21-47) Newsletter Submissions Due	26 Lament 3:1-33	27 Lam 3:34-66
28 Fellowship Meal after Worship			Weekly bulletin will have the most current information			

