

FOOTPRINTS



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
GREENWOOD, SC

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 10, Issue 1
January, 2024

LIVE

First Christian Church

"(4) But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, (5) even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—" (Ephesians 2:4-5 ESV)

2024 Theme www.fccgwd.org

It's time to fill the gym again for 2 weeks!

Happy New Year! Time for everybody to make unrealistic resolutions so they can break them before the 2nd month happens. Sounds really pessimistic, but I only writing what many people think. I remember a few years ago seeing memes of gyms being full in January and then empty in February because so many people begin the year with good intentions but rarely follow through with their commitments to improve their lives. That's why I have never been a fan of making resolutions at New Year's. I would rather make a lifestyle change instead.

If we could commit to changing one area of our lives this year, and make the change gradually so we don't become overwhelmed, there is a good chance that the change would stick around the next year. For example, instead of making a goal to lose 20 pounds by the end of January, commit to eating smaller portions of food while increasing physical activity by 30 minutes every day. After a few weeks, your body will be used to the new routine and the weight will probably be gone! The same situation happens in church. When making commitments to improve your spiritual life, don't shoot for the moon and then give up because it was too much to handle. Instead, work on one area of your spiritual life that you can change today and make it part of a new routine. The result will be great!

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JESUS
L
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I love our church!
Earl Winfrey
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Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

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Address:

First Christian Church
474 Deadfall Road West
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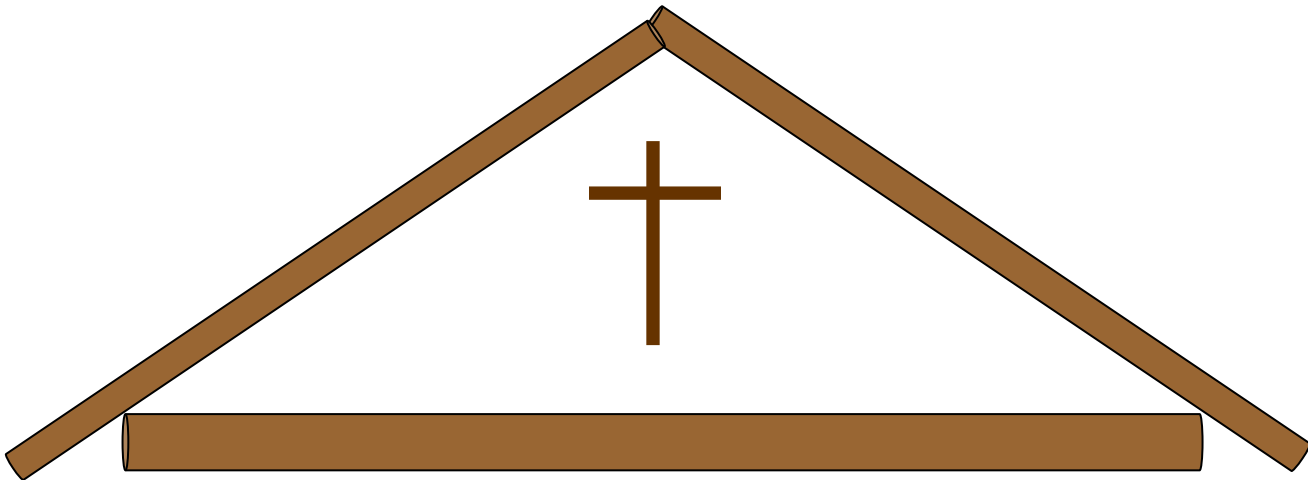
Church Office:

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

FOCUS



In Matthew 14:22-33, Jesus was walking on the water to the boat where the Disciples were, and they thought He was a ghost. After realizing it was Jesus, Peter called out for Jesus to let him get out of the boat. Jesus said come and Peter began to walk on water! Unfortunately, this was short lived because he began to look at the waves around him and lost his focus on Jesus. When he took his eyes off of Jesus, he began to sink. In the same way, if we lose our focus, we will sink.

To help us focus as a church, we need to maintain our focus as Christians. For this reason, I am providing a set of focal points every month to be used at a pace of one per week every Monday. Each focal point is designed to be used with prayer as you reset your focus on the topic being addressed. For best results, find a place where you can remove as many distractions as possible before you begin. There is no time limit so take as much time as you feel you need for each point.

FP#1 - The new year brings new opportunities for improvements in your life. For many people, this is a time to make resolutions that they plan to keep. Unfortunately, those resolutions can be short lived if they are not part of everyday life. When reading daily scriptures that are provided in the church calendar, it can be easy to skip days if they are not part of your daily routine. Now is a good time to find a time during the day for reading those daily scriptures. Write that time down and make it part of your daily routine. This will help you keep a steady diet of God's Word and you will see a huge difference in your life because you are eating healthy in a spiritual way.

FP#2 - It takes 7 times for something to become a habit. What habit would you like to start this year? Is it reading more scripture, praying more, or even giving more to the offering? Whatever habit you would like to start, make up your mind to commit to 7 times in a row beginning now.

FP#3 - The church is only successful if the people make up their minds to help. What area of the church can you help with? Even if you have already been serving faithfully, there is always room for improvement so now is a good time to evaluate how you are serving and make a commitment to step up your service for the Lord.

FP#4 - Studies have shown that the church grows best when people are inviting people. Instead of trying to provide programs and events to attract people, the best approach is to reach out to your friends and bring them with you. The church will continue to create attractational elements but it is up to each of us to bring the people. Who can you invite to church this year?

HAVE A PLAN

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

It is amazing how few companies have a master plan by which they chart their course and measure their progress. Even fewer individuals have constructed a plan for their lives with short-term, intermediate, and long-range goals. This is a fundamental mistake.

Jesus had a plan and adhered to it unfailingly. This is a major reason for His success. He knew where He was going, and He went there. Nothing deterred Him. Knowing that the culmination of His plan had to be accomplished in Jerusalem, and even knowing that the ultimate sacrifice would be required of Him, He set His face like a flint for Jerusalem, says the scriptures (Is 50:7). Jesus was resolute. Whatever the consequences, He would go to Jerusalem and carry out His plan.

A fundamental management principle then, both for individuals and for organizations, is to have a plan to which you are deeply committed, and then to set out with determination to accomplish it. Without a plan, you have nowhere to go, nothing toward which to direct your energies. Without a plan, you can only react to circumstances. A plan puts you in charge of your energies and activities. You become proactive, not reactive.

*** Our Plan for this series ***

"The Management Methods of Jesus" is an excellent book written by Bob Briner. He is looking at Jesus the leader from a business management point of view, but the lessons he learned from the life of Jesus can be applied to the church too. For this reason, I am going to be using his lessons each month until I run out of good ideas, or the Lord leads me in a different direction. Although this section is focused on Elders and other church leaders, I hope "Next Man Up" gives all readers some good food for thought as we all need to improve as role models for the next generation. - Earl

"Is there anything in this world that would want to make me give up what I'm doing? Yes there is. When my children can take the football that I call wildlife conservation and run it up. When they are ready to run up our mission, I will gladly step aside. I guarantee you it will be the proudest moment of my life and my job will be done. Then and only then will I know that I have achieved my ultimate goal to be able to stand aside and let them run up my mission."

- Steve Irwin (Crocodile Hunter)

Who will be our Next Man Up?



Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

Wisdom of Larry the Cable Guy:

If you think nobody cares, try missing a couple of payments.

“Are We Playing Jenga with Our Doctrine?” - Earl Winfrey

I love playing board games. Ever since I was a wee little lad, I have been able to enjoy the time well spent sliding down chutes and climbing ladders. I have jumped checkers, checked kings, hopped marbles, and sent opponent's pieces home without saying "Sorry." I have gone fishing, slapped jacks, grabbed spoons and even collected spades while trying to avoid hearts. I have purchased property, paid the high rent of hotels, luxury tax, collected \$200 and gone to jail. Lately, I have rolled 5 dice and went through 10 phases with my family. Games have been part of life, but there is one game I have no desire to play, and that game is Jenga.

Jenga does not interest me, but many people like the tension that develops while they remove each piece from the tower. For those who are not familiar with the game, you build a tower of blocks and then remove the pieces until the tower collapses. I'm sure there is some kind of strategy involved, but that is basically the game.

Along with playing board games, I have also been a fan of Jigsaw puzzles. I love the challenge of taking each piece and finding out where it fits to form the big picture that is on the box. My Granny used to have a big sheet of plywood she would place on a couple of card tables so we would be able to work on a 1,500 piece puzzle as a family. Every time I would visit, I would spend a few minutes at the puzzle to see if I can help the project move forward. When the puzzle is complete, we all sit back and enjoy the reward of being able to see the picture on the table. There have been some puzzles placed in frames because we liked the pictures, and they looked good on the wall.

A Jigsaw puzzle is a good example of how the different doctrines found in the Bible fit together to form the big picture of redemption. We can see the whole story when we take each piece and fit them together according to how God laid them out in the Bible. These doctrines make up our foundation as a church so it would be time well spent to learn more about them.

Unfortunately, there is a disturbing trend among preachers and church peeps concerning the Bible. Way too many times over the years, I have seen discussions about various topics with the conclusion drawn that it is not necessary to believe everything the Bible teaches. The latest doctrine on the chopping block is the virgin birth. The popular way of thinking is that the virgin birth is not as important as the resurrection so there is no need to believe in it. I can agree that the resurrection is the victory declaration over death, but the virgin birth drives home the point that no man can lay claim to Jesus, only God could be His Father.

Not believing in certain doctrines because they are not as "important" as the "major" doctrines is a dangerous game to play. Just like the game of Jenga, if you start removing doctrines piece by piece, you will soon end up with a belief system that has collapsed. Instead, we should be treating the doctrines like pieces of a Jigsaw puzzle that connect in order to give us the big picture that God wants us to see.

Continued on the next page...

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How can we treat the doctrines like Jigsaw puzzle pieces? I'm glad you asked!

Our first step is to recognize the value of each doctrine no matter how minor it may appear. Even the smallest detail can be combined with other pieces to form the picture of the Messiah. This is why we should always be looking for opportunities to connect passages of Scripture to each other.

While it is true that we need to study each book of the Bible on its own, we also need to surf the waves of thought that flow back and forth throughout the Old and New Testaments. We need to be able to take Matthew and work backwards through the prophecies that were spoken several hundreds years earlier. We can also take the book of Acts and jump into the letters written by the Apostles to see how they taught the different churches. Genesis leads to Exodus, but there is also a passage that can send you into the book of Job. And the Kings and Chronicles passages can be used for creating a timeline of Minor Prophets.

The Bible is a complex web of various styles of writing, teachings, historical accounts, and stories that can inspire us to live for God. When you take the time to study the various passages in the Bible, you will find a great reward which is the whole counsel of God.

I LOVE the Bible! Of course, you expect me to say that since I have devoted my life to knowing every inch of it from cover to cover. However, you can develop a love for the Bible too if you take the time to study, and that is where I can help you.

I can provide Bible studies for anyone who is interested. Whether it is a small group study using a book like "13 Lessons in Christian Doctrine" or an individual discipleship study to improve your Biblical knowledge, I am available for you if you are willing to commit to our time together.

I do not claim to know everything there is to know about the Bible, but I do know enough to lead you to a higher level of Bible knowledge so you can become a better role model for those who are following you. All it takes is for you to get motivated enough to ask.

4 Pillars of the Restoration Movement:

1. Lordship of Christ
2. Authority of the Bible
3. Unity of believers
4. Evangelism of the world

(John 17:20, 21)

On my desk in the oval office, there sits a plaque that says, 'It can be done.' It's a belief that I deeply hold true. – Ronald Reagan

BACK PORCH CONVERSATIONS



NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED

One of the blessings I had growing up in a poor family was the need to work on our own cars instead of paying for a mechanic. The result was a well rounded education for car maintenance, and with the variety of cars we had, there were very few cars we did not know anything about and even then, we had resources to help us learn how to work on them long before YouTube was created!

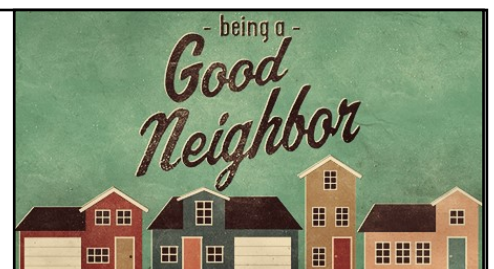
We joked about creating a shop and calling it Winfrey's Garage, but if we did, the problem would be that our cars would be the most frequented since we did not own cars that were created during the present decade. With our own family being our best customers, our profits would disappear quickly. However, there were plenty of times when our front yard looked like a used car lot with some cars on jack stands, others on ramps, and a few were actually running. And when I moved out, I would return to the house because dad had all the tools and the knowledge just in case I needed help. And those days were full of great conversations too as part of the process. While working on the cars, we would talk about anything and nothing at all.

I remember one night I brought my car to the house for a routine brake pad change. It was a car that I just purchased so we did not have the Haynes manual yet, but since we have replaced brake pads often, how hard could it be? We spent about 2 hours on the pads trying to get the old ones off, but the caliper would not budge. It was getting late so I had to decide how critical it was to get them replaced that day. Since I had to work the next day, I had to put everything back on the car and continue driving on the pads that still had a few trips left before they became too worn. I felt like a failure and the thought of having to ask somebody else how to work on it frustrated me. I made a comment about how we wasted 2 hours and got nothing done, and that was when Dad said "Nothing ventured, nothing gained." We had to try to work on the car even if it meant we would not succeed. I returned the next day and Dad found out that there was a special way to turn the rotor in order to get the caliper to release. Woo-hoo!!!

When trying to improve the church, there may be moments when we feel like we are wasting time, and there may be changes that won't work, but we have to try something. Even if we end up falling down and having to regroup, we won't know what works until we try anything that could help. Trial and error is the best way sometimes because we aren't always going to know how to fix what appears to be broken. Sometimes God wants us to get moving first and then He will supply the answer. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

Offer to watch your neighbor's child(ren) or pet(s).

Nothing says "I care for you" quite like watching someone's offspring...or pets who think they are offspring. Whether it's for a quick trip to the grocery store or a date night, offering to babysit or pet sit will provide your neighbor a break from reality... and peanut butter and jelly stains.





This month's Church myth: "Perfect attendance will get you into heaven"

I would hope that this month's myth could be easily busted because everybody knows that the only way to enter heaven is through the blood of Jesus. We are saved by grace not by works so having perfect attendance should not matter. However, I know that there are many people who will not admit that they think this way, but they act like missing church is the unpardonable sin. Now before you call an emergency meeting to have me removed, let me explain what I mean.

I wish everybody could show up every time the church doors are open, but that is just not realistic. People have responsibilities outside of church. People go on trips. People get sick. Sometimes, people get bored or they have something against the ones in charge. People are human so they will miss church. This includes the minister who did not go to church one Sunday while being on vacation! Oops!

So... What is the problem here? The problem is that some people will not tolerate a person missing something at church because they feel like the church should be more important than anything. While I may agree with that thought, I am not naive enough to think that today's society allows the church to have the same authority it once had. The church does not have the authority to demand people to show up, and that is a good thing. God does not want a church full of people who are treated more like employees and less like brothers and sisters.

For this reason, it is important for us to be careful about how hard we press people for reasons why they were absent. We can and should tell them that they were missed and we were curious about why they were out, but if they do not want to tell us why they missed, it really is none of our business. This is hard to hear especially since I grew up in a different age for the church, but the reality is that we need to be more respectful of people's privacy because the days of the pins for perfect attendance in Sunday School are gone.

We also need to be careful not to pass judgment when a person is absent. Not everybody misses because they don't love Jesus. They might have something going on that is keeping them away, and if they don't want to share it, we can still pray for that person instead of assuming the worst.

Perfect attendance will not get you into heaven, but we sure do hope you can make going to church a priority in 2024. We love all of our people and we hope they can take advantage of all the activities we have here, but we understand if life gets in the way sometimes. Just remember that we are praying for you even when you are not able to show up!

Places to go, People to see, Things to do





Wednesday Bible Study
 10:00am - Revelation
 6:00pm - Eden to Exile
 All Ages are Welcome!

**What events should we plan?
 Let us know what you want to do!**




So, Ferb, what do you wanna do today?

Need a place to pray?
 Our sanctuary is available every
 3rd Friday of the month at 9am.
 No pressure. No preaching. Just prayer!

474 Deadfall Road W
 Greenwood SC 29646
 www.fccgwd.org



First Christian Church

“Pray for FCC”

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!

One Liners to Make You Laugh

I will never repeat gossip, so please listen carefully the first time!

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month’s question:

Hiram, King of Tyre helped Solomon with his building projects (1 Ki 7:13)

Winners: Wil Winfrey/Michaela Winfrey/Phillis Jackson



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: Bruce Brower

This month’s question:

What was Samson’s offer of reward if the Philistines could solve his riddle?



Meaning Behind the Song: "Live Out Loud" by Steven Curtis Chapman

"Live Out Loud" is a powerful and inspiring song written and performed by Christian artist Steven Curtis Chapman. Released in 1998, this song has touched the hearts of many individuals and has become an anthem for believers around the world. With its uplifting and encouraging message, "Live Out Loud" encourages listeners to embrace and live out their faith boldly and unashamedly.

The song opens with the catchy chorus, "I want to live out loud, I want to live out loud, I believe in You, You're the only way." These lines immediately set the tone for the song, emphasizing the desire to live a life that boldly represents one's beliefs and values. Chapman's lyrics eloquently express the importance of not hiding one's faith and instead using it as a light to guide and inspire others.

The verses of "Live Out Loud" delve deeper into Chapman's message, highlighting the joy and freedom that comes from living a life devoted to following Christ. He encourages listeners to let go of their fears and doubts, understanding that God's love and grace are more than enough. The song reminds believers that they are called to be a reflection of Christ's love in everything they do and to make an impact on the world around them.

Throughout the song, Chapman's words weave together a beautiful tapestry of faith, hope, and courage. He challenges listeners to step out of their comfort zone and to boldly proclaim the truth of the Gospel. "Live Out Loud" serves as a reminder to live with purpose, to love unconditionally, and to make a difference in the lives of others.

<https://oldtimemusic.com/the-meaning-behind-the-song-live-out-loud-by-steven-curtis-chapman>

Imagine this I get a phone call from Regis
He says, "Do you want to be a millionaire?"
They put me on the show and
I win with two lifelines to spare
Now picture this I act like nothing ever
happened And bury all the money in a coffee
can Well, I've been given more than Regis ever
gave away I was a dead man who was called
to come out of my grave And I think it's time
for makin' some noise

Wake the neighbors, get the word out
Come on crank up the music, climb a mountain
and shout This is life we've been given,
made to be lived out
So la la la live out loud
Got to live out loud, now now now now

Think about this, try to keep a bird from singing
After it's soared up in the sky Give the sun a
cloudless day and tell it not to shine
Think about this if we really have been given
The gift of life that will never end
And if we have been filled with living hope,
we're gonna overflow
And if God's love is burning in our hearts well
you know we're gonna blow
There's just no way to keep it in

Wake the neighbors, get the word out
So come on crank up the music,
climb a mountain and shout This is life
we've been given, made to be lived out
So la la la live out loud yeah yeah
Got to live to live it out loud loud loud

A PLEASURE OR A PAIN

"But Noah found favor with the LORD." - Genesis 6:8

Noah was a pleasure to the Lord. We are either a pleasure to the Lord, or a pain! What are the conditions of being a pleasure, of having such favored friendship with God?

First, we need to find out how we can bring pleasure to the Lord. Sometimes we really want to please the Lord, but we don't bother to find out how to do that. We're a lot more interested in how he can please us. The first thing that pleases God is our right behavior—our holy living when no one around us is behaving properly.

Noah was the only truly righteous man living on the earth at that time (Genesis 6:9), for Noah knew and understood God. It wasn't easy. It's hard to be the only one pleasing God when no one else is bothering. What was the state of Noah's society? The crime rate was rising—there was "violence and depravity everywhere" (Genesis 6:12). God saw that the world was rotten to the core. Noah was God's friend when others chose the friendship of the devil. But Noah tried always to conduct his affairs according to God's will and commands. (Genesis 6:9, 22).

Do we care more about pleasing God than pleasing others or ourselves? Do we see our world as "rotten to the core: as God sees it, and do we side with him? Then we can call ourselves God's friends! When God looks at us, are we a pleasure to him, or a pain?

Excerpted from *The One Year Devotions for Women*, Copyright ©2000 by Jill Briscoe

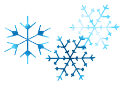


RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Michael's Easy Peezy Cobbler

Ingredients:

- 1 cup of Bisquick
- 1 cup of milk
- 1 cup of sugar
- 1 stick of butter
- 2 cans of pie filling

Put stick of butter into baking dish and put dish in oven. Preheat oven to 375° to let butter melt. While oven is preheating, mix together the milk, sugar, and Bisquick. Mix until all lumps are gone. Once butter is melted, take the dish out of the oven and pour the mixture into the baking dish. Do not mix the mixture and melted butter together. Open up the cans of pie filling and spoon the filling in the dish. Do not mix the filling, the mixture and the butter together. Bake until the crust is golden brown and the sides are bubbling (about 30 minutes depending on your oven). Enjoy with a nice scoop of vanilla ice cream!



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JANUARY 2024



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	Mid-Week Bible Study 10am and 6pm (All ages)	Mission of the Month: Crossroads Pregnancy ctr	Weekly bulletin will have the most current information	All events subject to change if needed
	1 Proverbs 9	2 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Isaiah 40	3 Psalm 40	4 John 10:1-21	5 2 Timothy 4	6 Psalm 90
7	8 Matthew 23	9 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Luke 21	10 2 Cor 8	11 Philippians 4	12 Mark 14:3-9	13 Mk 12:38-44
14	15 Hebrews 2	16 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Leviticus 16	17 2 Peter 3	18 1 Cor 3	19 (1 Peter 2) 3rd hr. (9am) prayer time in the Sanctuary	20 Hebrews 5
21	22 Right to Life Acts 23	23 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Acts 24	24 Acts 25	25 (Acts 26) Newsletter Submissions Due	26 Acts 28	27 2 Timothy 4
28	29 Proverbs 4:1-9	30 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Prov 4:10-19	31 Prov 4:20-27	Leadership meets as needed	<u>Communion Meditation:</u> 1/07 - Frank Jackson 1/14 - Bruce Brower 1/21 - Michael Winfrey 1/28 - Frank Jackson	

1/07 - No Regrets
1/14 - Live Passionately
1/21 - Learn Humbly
1/28 - Leave Boldly



**Live
The Life**



“The LORD looks down from heaven on the children of man, to see if there are any who understand, who seek after God.” (Psalm 14:2 ESV)



First Christian Church

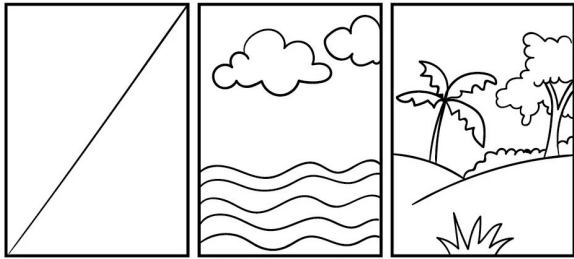
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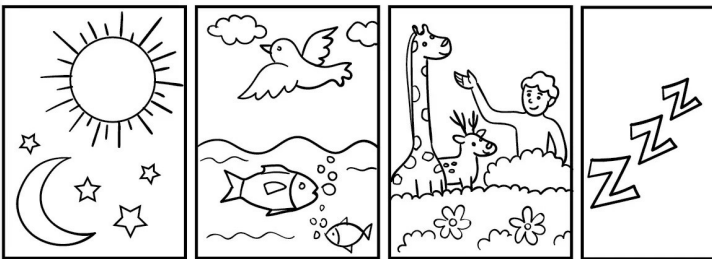
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"In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Genesis 1:1

7 Days of Creation



Day 1 Day 2 Day 3

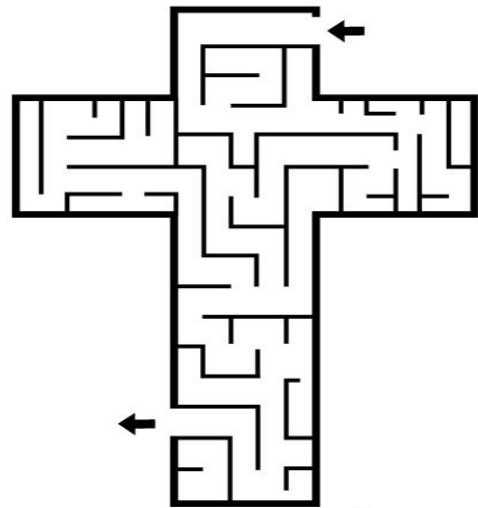


Day 4 Day 5 Day 6 Day 7

I don't know about you, but I love the Creation story. I love how God could just speak, and POOF! Everything was made. Isn't that amazing? Well, as the new year begins, we need to be reminded that if God is powerful enough to breath something to life, He can help us through the new year!

Michaela Winfrey

Cross Maze



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"In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God. He was
in the beginning with God. All
things were made through him,
and without him was not any
thing made that was made."

1John 1:1-3

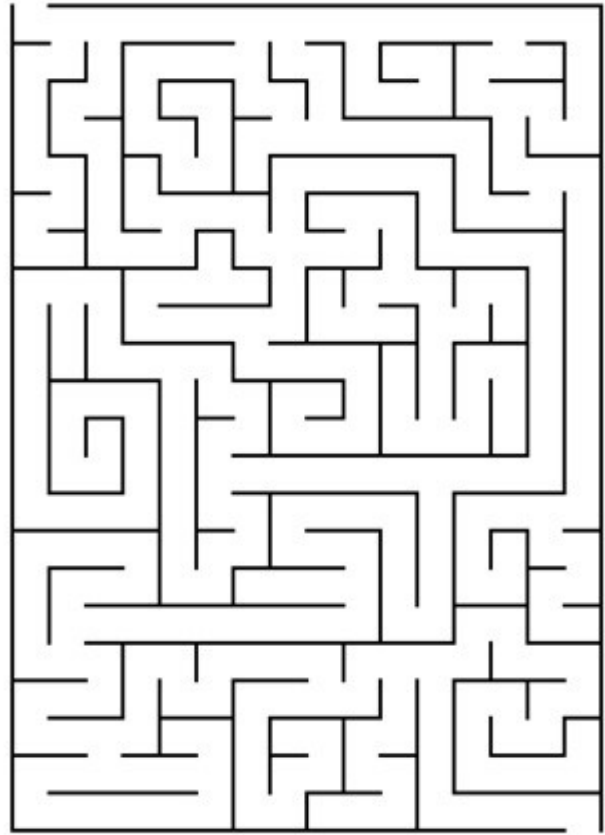


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Start!

Maze 3



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Finish!



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