

FOOTPRINTS



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
GREENWOOD, SC

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 10, Issue 3
March, 2024



BECAUSE HE LIVES...

This is one of my favorite hymns, and it is also our traditional final hymn that we sing for Easter. The reason why I love closing the Easter worship service with this hymn is because it reminds us that life does not end at the cross. It was Friday, but Sunday was coming! When Jesus walked out of that grave, He declared victory over death and now we can face tomorrow because He lives!

This month is very busy as we begin with Youth Sunday on March 3 since Easter is on the 5th Sunday. We will also have our Fellowship Meal on Youth Sunday. During the final week of March, we will have a Maundy Thursday service with prayer walk and the next day for Good Friday, we will have a special prayer time in the sanctuary at 9am for anybody who would like to reflect on the crucifixion and pray for the Lord to help us live the life Jesus gave us.

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

Address:

First Christian Church
474 Deadfall Road West
Greenwood SC 29649

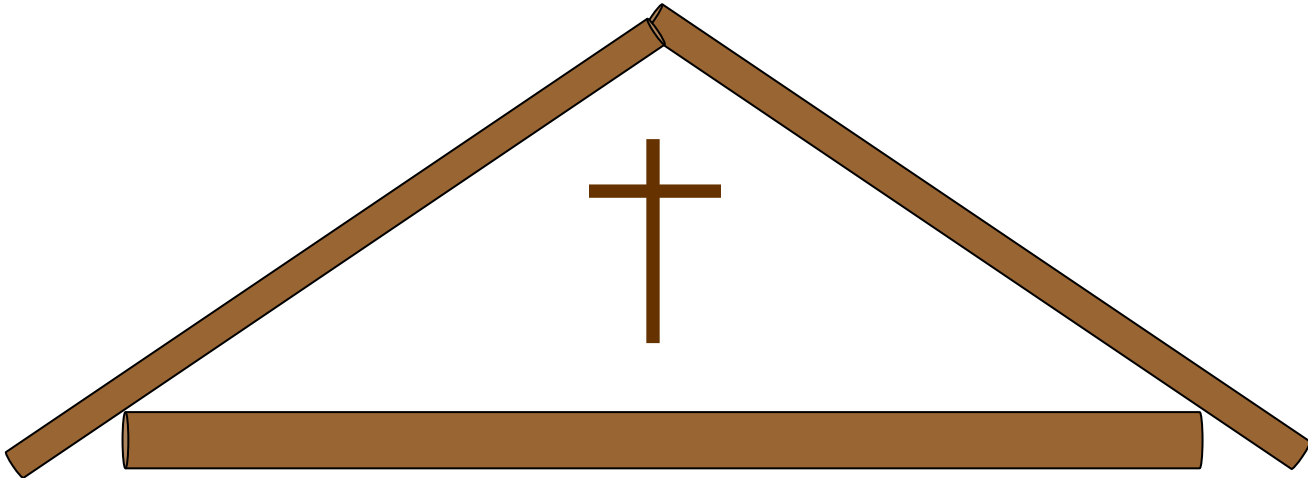
Church Office:

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



FP#9 (3/4) - Ash Wednesday last month was the beginning of the season of Lent which lasts for 40 days excluding Sundays. These 40 days lead to Easter and it is a time for reflection, renewal, and rebirth. The purpose for this season is to walk with Christ through His journey to the cross in an effort to connect with the moment and more fully appreciate the joy of the Resurrection on Easter Morning. For many Christians, this is a time to give up something that is pleasurable and replace it with something spiritual such as prayer and meditation. Perhaps there is something you can cut back on such as TV, radio, or even a meal in order to focus on Jesus.

FP#10 (3/11) - This week can be a little sluggish since we lost an hour to daylight savings time beginning. Now that the sun will be out longer after supper, this would be a good time to think about starting something special before the sun sets. Perhaps a time of worship at some point during the week would be good. You could end the day with some slow, thought-provoking songs that sooth the soul. It could be a new tradition to help you regain your spiritual energy.

FP#11 (3/18) - Spring begins this week! The plants can start growing again and life will be a little brighter than normal. This is also the time of year when many people go through "Spring cleaning" in order to get their house in order after a long winter. In the same way, it could be a good opportunity for you to do a spiritual spring cleaning. Ask the Lord to help you see an area of your life that could use some cleaning up.

FP#12 (3/25) - Now that Easter is upon us, we can turn our eyes to the cross and the Easter events that are happening. This is considered the most important time of year for the church and for good reason. Jesus was crucified for our sins and he showed His dominance over death when He was raised from the dead on Sunday morning, the day we call Easter which is when we remember the resurrection. For this week, let's take a moment to reflect on what the Easter holiday means for us. Is it a time for family gatherings and Easter candy or is there something much deeper?

Wisdom of Larry the Cable Guy:

On the other hand, you have different fingers.

TEACH, TEACH, TEACH

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

A public service announcement says, "Be a teacher, be a hero." We might well say to corporate managers, "Be a teacher, be a success." Most of the legendary corporate giants, from Henry Ford to Tom Watson to Ross Perot, have been persistent and motivational teachers. They may well have received their inspiration from Jesus Christ, the greatest of all teachers.

Jesus was often called rabbi, which means teacher, and he taught constantly. His teaching brilliance is revealed in the New Testament books of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John, which are full of remarkable insights.

His ability as a teacher is also demonstrated by the success of His pupils, His disciples, as they carried out His plans and programs. Great corporate leaders (And elders too) don't hide in executive suites, plotting strategy. They find ways to teach, to inculcate those around them with their business ideas and ideals. Be like Jesus. Be a teacher. Be a success.

PRACTICE PRIVATE COMMUNICATION

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

Jesus taught in all kinds of situations. He spoke to large audiences, to dinner party attendees, and to church (synagogue) groups. However, His most important and meaningful teaching was reserved for small groups, particularly with His most intimate confidants, Peter, James, and John. When He wanted to be absolutely sure His point was made, He went one on one.

Jesus' earthly brother James (Not the disciple) had understandable difficulty believing in his sibling's divinity until the two of them spent time alone together (1 Corinthians 15:7). After that, James became a leader and directed the activities of Jesus' organization in Jerusalem. James was eventually sentenced to death for his belief in Jesus. Now that is effective teaching. It is important that leaders give both quality time and quality instruction to their most trusted sides. It will pay great dividends.

Who will be our Next Man Up?



Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

WHO IS JESUS?

In chemistry, He turned water to wine. In biology, He was born without the normal conception. In physics, He disapproved the law of gravity when He ascended into heaven. In economics, He disproved the law of diminishing return by feeding 5000 men with two fishes & 5 loaves of bread. In medicine, He cured the sick and the blind without administering a single dose of drugs.

In history, He is the beginning and the end. In government, He said that he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Prince of Peace. In religion, He said no one comes to the Father except through him. So? Who is He?

HE IS JESUS!

"Sometimes, it's good to put food on someone else's table."

BACK PORCH CONVERSATIONS



In a previous article, I wrote about "Winfrey's Garage" which was the name we used as we joked about our front yard looking like a used car lot. We began with 2 cars and a truck but as we got older and required cars to drive, that number grew with us.

My earliest memory of our cars was a blue Monte Carlo that had an engine that seized. My dad rebuilt the engine while it remained in the car which is something that will never happen today. Back then, there was enough room in the engine compartment for him to sit down and pull the pistons without having to lift the engine block. That car was eventually replaced by a station wagon so my mom could haul the 4 of us kids around. The second car I remember was an 1966 Oldsmobile 442. After it was involved in a wreck, the door on the passenger side was removed and we just had the open space

with nothing but the seat belt keeping us in the car on that side! Unfortunately, the car ended up breaking down and there was too much work to be done so dad got rid of it. That was a sad day for our family, especially for my dad who loved that car!

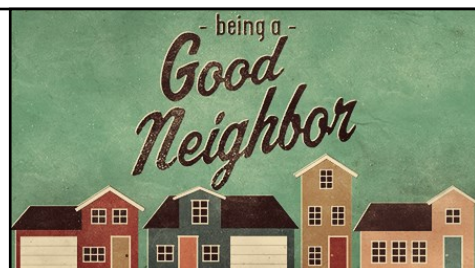
The 3rd vehicle was the 1970 full size Chevy truck that my dad received from my Uncle Tommy when he took over the remaining payments. I remember dad putting a cover on the back and fixed the bed to be like a camper for us. It was a great truck that hauled our boat to the lake so we could have fun on the weekends!

When the transmission on the truck quit working, dad pulled it and ordered a rebuilding kit. He had his Chilton's manual and all of the parts spread out on the table in the carport. There were gears as far as they eye could see! I was probably approaching 10 years old at the time or maybe younger. I remember that it was around the time I was allowed to help him work on cars, but the transmission was something that nobody wanted to touch because we were afraid of messing it up. After a couple of weeks of working on the transmission while working full days at his job, dad put the truck back together, and we took a test drive. He cranks the engine, puts it in drive, and the truck went backwards! Somehow, the gears got reversed and he decided at that moment to take the transmission to a shop so the professional can work on it.

Years later, when facing another transmission issue, dad didn't hesitate to use the shop because he decided that it was just not worth the trouble trying to do it himself. He said that sometimes it's good to put food on somebody else's table so he was happy to give the mechanic the job.

Deliver baked goods to your neighbor's door.

We've all seen the cheesy "welcome to the neighborhood" scene in movies that typically involves doorsteps, chocolate chip cookies and Saran wrap. But we think Hollywood is doing something right! You don't have to follow their model solely for new residents; neighborhood veterans appreciate spontaneous cookie deliveries just as much as newcomers. Baked goods truly are the way to the heart!





This month's Church myth: "As long as Christ is being preached..."

This myth is open-ended because of the widespread use/abuse of the phrase. Anytime something controversial surfaces that includes a reference to Jesus, people tend to justify it by saying that as long as Jesus is being preached, there is nothing wrong. The excuse originates in scripture, but I wonder if we may not understand the point of the scripture. For example, there was a Super Bowl commercial that mentioned Jesus' name and it presented Him in such a way that it is hard to tell if the creators are wanting to spread the name of Jesus or if they are simply pushing an agenda. Many Christians love it while others are concerned about the mixed signals and vague message it sends. But does it really matter as long as Jesus is preached?

Here is the problem. Is Jesus being preached? When the Apostle Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians, he began by talking about the people preaching while he was sitting in prison. Some were preaching Christ because they loved Paul and they wanted to keep the message going while he was not able to be there with them. Others were preaching Christ because they did not like Paul and they thought that if they continued preaching, it would make the Roman soldiers mad at Paul and they could increase the pain and discomfort of his being bound by chains. In both cases, there was only one message, Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God. The Old Testament scriptures prophesied that the Messiah was coming and Jesus was that Messiah. That message has been dividing God's people ever since the day of Pentecost when Peter preached the first Gospel sermon. Those who believed were convicted and were saved. Those who did not believe rejected Jesus and are still looking for the Messiah.

When people use that passage in Philippians as a way to accept whatever popular questionable message being presented, they are assuming that Paul would have agreed with them. However, I have a hard time believing that Paul was saying that it doesn't matter what message is being preached as long as there is some vague reference to Jesus. What Paul said is that it doesn't matter what their motivation is as long as Christ is being preached, and preaching Christ means that they are proving that the prophecies are true. They are preaching that sin is bad and we are all destined to end up in hell. They are preaching that there is only one way to heaven, and Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. They are preaching that unless we repent and are baptized, we will not be saved. They are preaching that salvation is available for those who accept Jesus as their Savior and Lord.

Before we are able to use the excuse that as long as Jesus is being preached, it's all good, we need to make sure that Jesus is actually being preached. My guess is that most of the stuff we excuse is nowhere close to the preaching the Apostle Paul had in mind.

Places to go, People to see, Things to do



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



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



"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

The average woman can talk faster than any husband can listen.

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

Job said that the Ostrich is "lacking in wisdom" by leaving her eggs on the ground (Job 39:13-17)

Winners: Michaela Winfrey/Phillis Jackson/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: Bruce Brower, Michael Winfrey

This month's question:

When the Israelites came to Elim, how many palm trees were there?



The Story of the Hymn "In the Garden"

"Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: 'I have seen the Lord! And she told them that he had said these things to her.'"

- John 20:18

One of the most dramatic scenes of Scripture is recorded in the twentieth chapter of John's gospel. Early on that first Sunday morning after Christ's crucifixion, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene quietly made her way to the tomb. She was startled to find that the stone had been removed from the entrance. While standing by the empty tomb, she was amazed to hear the risen Lord gently call her name. One can well imagine the excitement in her voice when she responded, "Rabboni-my Master." This thrilling biblical account became the basis for one of the most popular gospel songs ever written. The author and composer, C. Austin Miles, left the following account:

"One day in March, 1912, I was seated in the dark room where I kept my photographic equipment and organ. I drew my Bible toward me; it opened at my favorite chapter, John 20-whether by chance or inspiration let each reader decide. That meeting of Jesus and Mary had lost none of its power to charm. As I read it that day, I seemed to be part of the scene. I became a silent witness to that dramatic moment in Mary's life when she knelt before her Lord and cried, 'Rabboni!'"

"My hands were resting on the Bible while I stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded, I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches. A woman in white, with head bowed, hand clasping her throat as if to choke as if to choke back her sobs, walked slowly into the shadows. It was Mary. As she came to the tomb upon which she placed her hand, she bent over to look in and hurried away.

"John in flowing robe appeared, looking at the tomb; then came Peter, who entered the tomb, followed slowly by John.

"As they departed, Mary reappeared; leaning her head upon her arm at the tomb, she wept. Turning herself, she saw Jesus standing; so did I. I knew it was He. She knelt before Him with arms outstretched and looking into His face cried, 'Rabboni!'"

"I awakened to full fight, gripping the Bible with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision I wrote as quickly as the words could be formed and finished the poem as it has since appeared. That same evening I wrote the music."

So oft in the midst of sorrows, when hope seems cold and dead, with lifted eyes, we too may see an empty tomb instead. -Author Unknown

Youth Sunday, Fellowship Meal, and Easter in March

Our recent tradition of making 5th Sundays our Youth Sunday with Fellowship Meal needs to be changed for the month of March. Since Easter is on a 5th Sunday, we will be having our Youth Sunday on the first Sunday, March 3 instead. Fellowship Meal will also be March 3. Looking forward to hearing another great sermon from Wil!

An Easter Devotion: The Joy That Invades Our Hearts

"He is not here; for he has risen..." - Matthew 28:6

Only a week had passed since that triumphant Palm Sunday entrance into Jerusalem—but what a difference in the little procession that set out now! No cheering crowds, no waving branches. Just a few silent women setting out in the gray dawn to perform the last sad rites at the tomb.

The day that changed human history was not a public occasion but a private one. The day when everlasting life broke into earthly time began not with celebration but with tears.

This is still the way Easter breaks into our lives—when we least expect it, when all seems lost. That's when the stone rolls away and the angel speaks and "death is swallowed up in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:54)

If it seems too good to be true, this joy that invades our hearts, it seemed so on the first Easter morning too. Mary Magdalene could not believe what her eyes were telling her; she took Jesus to be a gardener at work early among the graves. Preoccupied with her loss, she barely glanced at the figure standing before her on the path. She had a mournful task to fulfill and—

"Mary."

There in the first light of dawn, Mary stood still. That voice...that tone of loving involvement. This was the moment, the moment when Jesus called her by name, that Easter broke like the sunrise into her heart. It is how we recognize Him still. The risen Jesus calls us so personally, comes into our lives to individually, that with Mary Magdalene, we cry out in glad recognition.

And then we do what the women did on that first Easter Sunday. Dropping their spices and ointments, the burdens of their sad errand, they rushed to tell the others. They set the pattern, these women who were first at the empty tomb, the two-fold pattern of the Christian faith newborn that Easter morning. They met the living Jesus. And they brought the good news to those who grieved.

That's always our role, when it's Easter in our lives; to tell someone else that He is risen.

<https://guideposts.org/prayer/bible-resources/deepen-your-faith/the-joy-that-invades-our-hearts/>



RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Lazy Lasagna

Ingredients: 1 (24 oz) bag of frozen ravioli; 1 (24 oz) jar of pasta sauce (any kind); 2 cups shredded mozzarella cheese (heaping); ½ cup shredded parmesan cheese (optional)

Instructions:

1. Preheat oven to 400° F and grease a 9 x 13 baking dish
2. Spread a thin layer of pasta sauce on the bottom of the pan
3. Arrange half of the frozen ravioli into a single layer over the sauce
4. Top with half of the remaining sauce and half of the mozzarella cheese
5. Repeat the layers with the remaining ingredients and top with parmesan cheese
6. Cover baking dish with aluminum foil and bake for 30 minutes
7. Remove foil and continue baking for an additional 15 minutes



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MARCH 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: Fountain of Hope Ministries	1 Matt 25:31-46	2 Lk 10:25-37
3 Youth Sunday Meal after Worship	4 Psalm 23	5 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Isaiah 40:1-8	6 Isaiah 40:9-17	7 Is 40:18-24	8 Is 40:25-31	9 (John 10:1-21) Move clocks forward 1 hour
10	11 Matt 10:32-39	12 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Matt 16:13-20	13 Matt 16:21-28	14 Mark 8:31-38	15 (Lk 9:23-27) 3rd hr. (9am) prayer time in the Sanctuary	16 Lk 14:25-33
17	18 Matt 21:1-11	19 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Luke 19:28-40	20 John 12:12-19	21 Ps 118:1-13	22 Ps 118:14-29	23 Mark 11:1-11
24 Palm Sunday	25 Isaiah 53	26 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Matt 28:1-10	27 (1 Cor 15:1-11) Newsletter Submissions Due	28 (1 Cor 15:12-34) Maundy Thursday Service (6pm)	29 (1 Cor 15:35-49) Good Friday prayer time in the Sanctuary (9am)	30 1 Cor 15:50-58
31 Easter Sunday		Weekly bulletin will have the most current information	All events subject to change if needed	Leadership meets as needed	<u>Communion Meditation:</u> 3/03 - Michaela Winfrey 3/10 - Bruce Brower 3/17 - Michael Winfrey 3/24 - Frank Jackson 3/31 - Michaela and Michael	

"For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." (2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV)

Follow Jesus

3/03 - The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37)
3/10 - The Good Shepherd (John 10)
3/17 - The Cost of Discipleship (Luke 14:25-33)
3/24 - Fair Weather Fans (Mark 11:1-11)
3/31 - Erasing Easter (1 Corinthians 15)



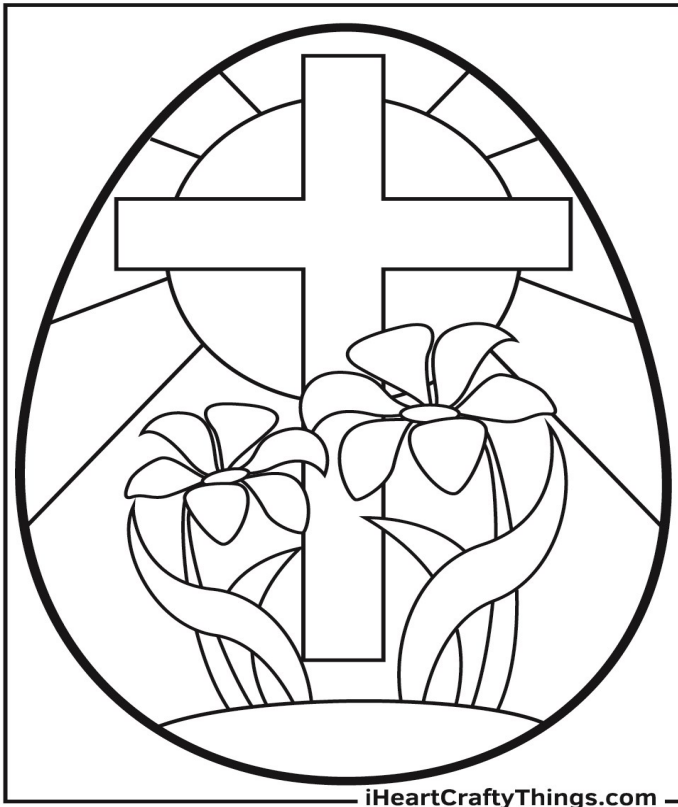
"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." (Hebrews 13:8 ESV)

FCC of Greenwood SC
(www.fccgwd.org)

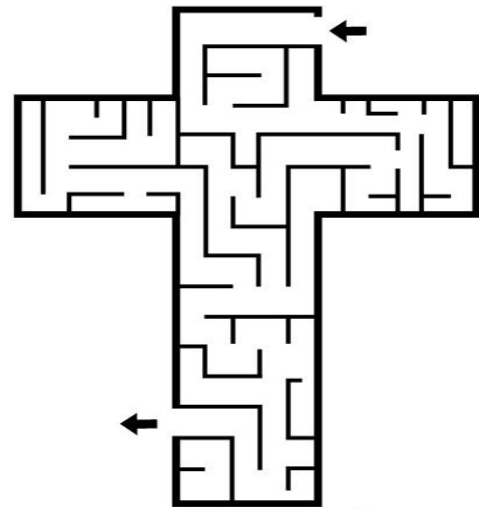


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"Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die." John 11:25



Cross Maze



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Man, I love Easter. Especially when my dad cooks his famous ham! YUMMY! But that's not the only reason why I love Easter. I love Easter because it was when Jesus rose from the dead! Don't ask me how, because I have no idea! All I know is that it was a miraculous event, and that God did it. Knowing that God can raise people from the dead, I can rest assured knowing that God can do anything.

Michaela Winfrey

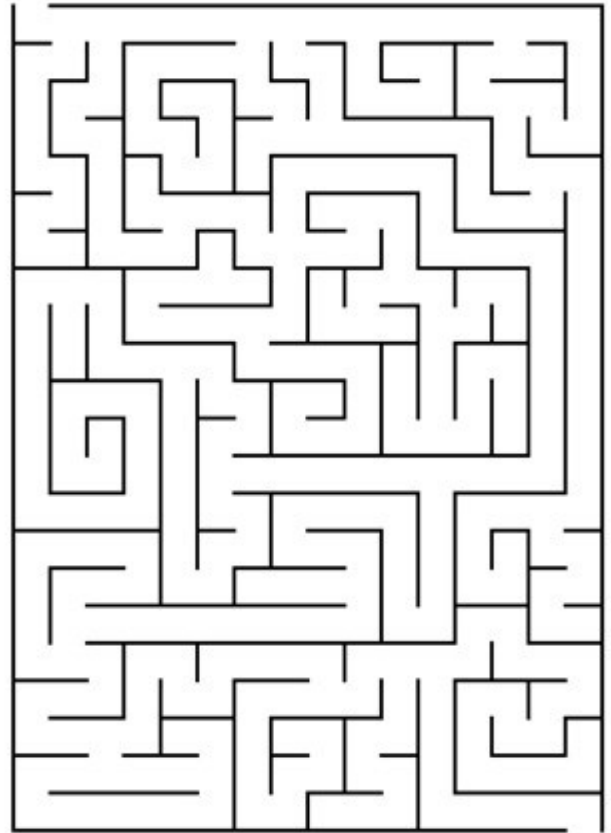
"For God so loved the world, that he gave his one and only son, that whosoever believes in him would not perish, but have eternal life."

John 3:16



Start!

Maze 3



Finish!

SUPERSTARWORKSHEETS

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