

# FOOTPRINTS



**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**GREENWOOD, SC**

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 11, Issue 3  
March, 2025

“<sup>19</sup>Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, <sup>20</sup>teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19-20)

**LEAD**

**LEADER**

2025 Theme

www.fccgwd.org

## WARM WEATHER IS COMING!

March is upon us, and the weather should start getting warmer now that Spring is just around the corner. “In spring, the axis of the Earth is increasing its tilt relative to the Sun, and the length of daylight rapidly increases for the relevant hemisphere. The hemisphere begins to warm significantly causing new plant growth to “spring forth,” giving the season its name.” (Wikipedia website)

When the sun shines on the earth for longer periods of time during spring, life returns as the plants start to grow again. In the same way, when we allow the SON to shine on our church, life will return as our church begins to grow again.

I  
JESUS  
L  
O  
R  
D

I love our church!  
Earl Winfrey  
Earl@fccgwd.org

Givify  
QR Code  
for giving  
online

Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

FirstChristianGWD

Address:

First Christian Church  
474 Deadfall Road West  
Greenwood SC 29649

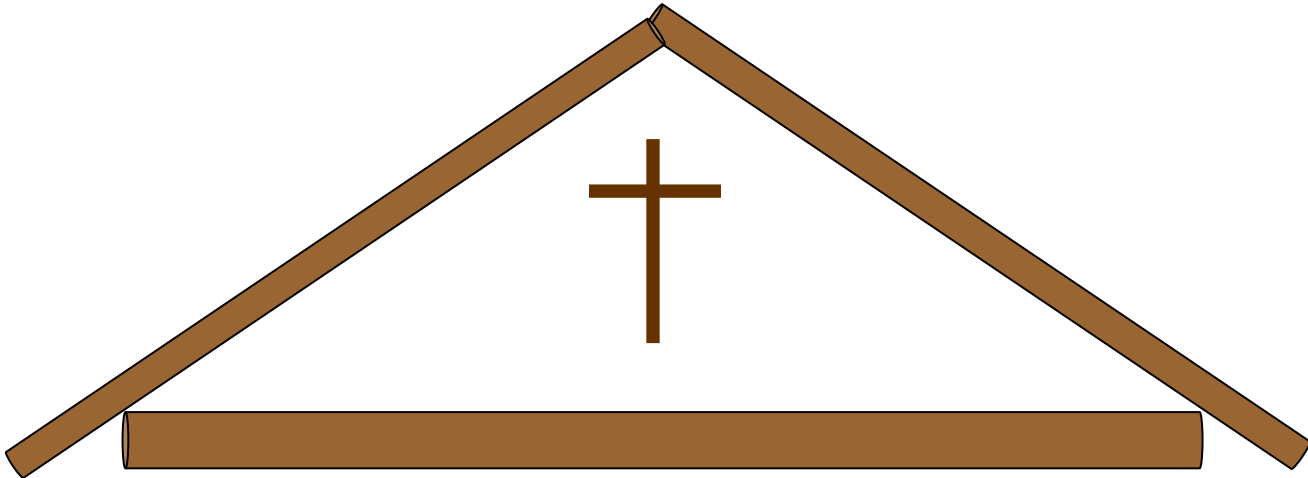
Church Office:

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

## TAKE CARE OF THE CHILDREN

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

Jesus was the ultimate pro-family leader. He continually gave special attention to children. During one incident He was greatly displeased when His disciples hindered people from bringing their children to visit Him (Mark 10:13-14).

The wise and successful corporate leader will do all he can to take care of the children - his, those of his employees, and if his products are used by children, his customers. Among the most important and productive things a corporate leader can do for the children of his employees is to do all he can to see that mothers and fathers spend time with their children. A corporate executive has only so much control here.

There is no way he or she can mandate quality time with the kids even if plenty of time off is allowed. However, a corporate executive can be sure that families and children are not shut out and shut off by the kind of demands placed on mothers and fathers. Managers can create a climate that honors and promotes balance.

There are lots of ways companies can let their employees know that their children are important to their employers. These range from big things such as company-sponsored college scholarships for the children of employees to small things such as recognizing the achievements of children in the corporate newsletter. Nothing angers the public more than a business that is not mindful of its responsibilities to children. Just ask those hapless executives who tried to pass off colored water as apple juice. A major children's food company with an honored brand name was practically wiped out and several of its executives fined and imprisoned when they sold what was basically colored water, calling it apple juice for children. Both the public and the courts come down hard, as they should, on any business or businessman seen to be exploiting children. Remember what Jesus did. "He took [The children] up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them." (Mark 10:16)

## PAY YOUR TAXES

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

One of Jesus' most remembered statements is: "Render therefore to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Luke 20:25). This is not only a pithy saying, but it also provides clear instruction for us. Among other things, it means that we are to pay our taxes. I know of no one who enjoys paying taxes - personal or corporate. Enjoyment is not the issue. Obedience is. Obedience to the law of the land, as well as to God's law. I am always amazed by the number of stories in the Wall Street Journal about both individuals and companies virtually ruined by not paying their taxes. These managers are usually highly educated, with batteries of accountants and tax attorneys at their beck and call. Yet they deliberately try to get away without paying taxes. They get caught, and their careers and sometimes their lives are ruined. Some serve prison sentences. Get the best tax advice available. Don't pay any more taxes than you have to. But pay all that you owe. You will sleep better.

## Who will be our Next Man Up?



## Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

**BACK PORCH  
CONVERSATIONS**



**"Core Belief: There is only One God (Part 2)"**

What kind of God is He? (Genesis 1:3-25)

Alpha and Omega (The Beginning and the End) - At one time there was God, and nothing else. Then "God created the heavens and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). You know what would have made a good verse 2? "And God immediately had seniority over every created thing." What an understatement. The first day of creation, and God had already been here for countless eternal ages. God is truly superior to creation by virtue of his eternal existence. But the idea of God's transcendence refers to more than just God's superiority over time. Because God was not created, he is radically different from everything else that exists. He has no point of origin. He has no creator to whom he owes his existence and powers. He has no superior, no equals. God is truly the beginning and the end.

He is also the All Powerful Creator - The earth is said to weigh about six sextillion, 570 quintillion tons. Its dimensions are 8,000 miles in diameter and 25,000 miles in circumference. Yet the earth is more accurate in its movements than the finest and most delicate watch in the world. The earth travels over 595 million miles in a year's time as it circles the sun and yet it does not vary in time by one second. It has been doing this for thousands of years and it continues to happen today with fail. How can this happen? The only logical explanation is that we have an intelligent designer who created this. Only God could create something like this. And how powerful do you have to be to build something as massive as earth? It is hard to imagine anybody with that kind of strength to be able to build the earth by hand, but God went one step further.

He did not build the earth by hand. He simply spoke the words and the earth appeared. God's words are so powerful; He spoke the earth into existence. The Psalmist declares in Psalm 19:1, "The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the works of His hands." Paul says in Romans 1:20, "For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - His eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made so that men are without an excuse."

As we look at the world, we can be assured that there is a God, and that He is powerful and wise. We also know from Exodus 3:14 that God is the self existing One which means that He was never created because He has always existed. Psalm 90:2 supports the fact that God is eternal. And the fact that we are looking for God is proof that there is a void that only God can fill in our lives. In Acts 17:23, Paul found out that the pagan worshippers in Athens worshipped the unknown God as part of their religious practices. They did not know God, but they knew He existed.

Even if we did not know who God is, we could still know that He exists by looking at the world He created. In Genesis 1:3-25, we see the process of creation as days 1-3 deal with the creation of the earth and then days 4-6 deal with God filling the earth. The conclusion of the work is found in the 7th day which was the day God rested from His work. He had a process that involved a 6 day work week and the details were important to Him.

We see in Genesis 1:5, 8, 10 that God named the objects of His creation. Verse 16, God delegates the sun to rule the day and the moon to rule the night. And in verses 26/28, God gave humans specific instructions for what to do while living on the earth. God named the objects, delegated responsibility and authority, blessed the creatures, and imposed restrictions on creation.



### This month's Church myth: "The Sinner's Prayer is in the Bible"

This church myth is a tricky one for several reasons. Historically, the churches we are identified with reject the "Sinner's Prayer" as being the plan of salvation, and that has brought us many criticisms from churches of all types. We have been accused of teaching salvation by works or denying the Bible when we don't use the prayer. The interesting part about that is the Sinner's Prayer is not in the Bible so when we reject it because we are trying to follow the Bible, we are accused of teaching something false. We teach accepting salvation through praying but it is not the Sinner's Prayer and it is not the only part of the plan of salvation. We are told to repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

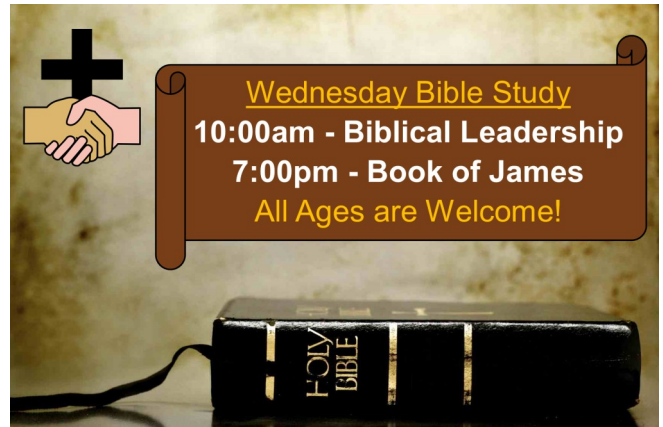
The Sinner's Prayer is not in the Bible so this myth is easily busted but not so easily accepted as a myth. If it is not in the Bible, how was it created and why do many Christians use it today? To answer this question, we need to take a brief look at the Reformation Period of Church history.

While Luther was reforming the church in Germany, a contemporary of his was working on reforms in Switzerland. Ulrich Zwingli was born fifty-days after Luther to farmers who were well established in their farm. During his studies in universities, Zwingli picked up an attachment to humanism, and he later became a priest.

As a reformer, Zwingli had published sixty-seven articles of faith to define his views as a result of his own study and exploration of the scriptures. These articles later helped build the Reformed Church. Although Zwingli was a priest, he still held to some humanist ways of thinking, and this influenced some of his teachings. However, even with humanistic thinking, he still contributed to the reform efforts, and some of his teachings still exist today. The most popular contributions to modern Protestants include the idea of communion being a memorial service, observed four times a year, and the idea that salvation comes from Jesus alone, which is the foundation of what some denominations teach as the Sinner's Prayer plan of salvation.

This prayer replaced baptism which was considered the moment when God declares that we have been forgiven and He gives us the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). Zwingli was the one who separated baptism from the plan of salvation when he claimed that all the "Doctors have been in error since the time of the Apostles" and that the Apostles never taught baptism as part of the plan of salvation. He suggested that a simple prayer was all that was needed to be saved so from that point forward, the Sinner's Prayer has been used by the majority of Christians and sadly, they ignore the rest of what the Bible says is needed for salvation. For more information on this subject, feel free to contact me so we can set a time to study.

# Places to go, People to see, Things to do



## "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!

## Life Lessons Written By Andy Rooney

I've learned.... That no matter how serious your life requires you to be, everyone needs a friend to act goofy with.

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

Answer to last month's question:

Jesus said to go 2 miles if somebody asks you to go 1 mile (Matthew 5:41)

Winners: Michael Winfrey/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: Phillis Jackson

This month's question:

In which book of the Bible would we find Haman, the son of Hammedatha?

## The Story behind "Changed" (Rascal Flatts)



Rascal Flatts' eighth album takes its title from this song, which lead vocalist Gary LeVox penned with sometime writing partners Wendell Mobley and Neil Thrasher. He explained the name represents the different circumstances that the trio found themselves in. "It was a great title," he said. "Everything in our career has changed. We switched record labels. Last year, we switched management companies. A lot of things have changed in the last 10 years. We thought it summed up everything."

LeVox told Billboard magazine this ballad was inspired by the baptism of Neil Thrasher's daughter: "Niel was telling me about his daughter. When they were on vacation, she said, 'Dad, I want to be baptized,' so they found a minister. It was a sunset baptismal out in the ocean," he recalled. "When he brought the song to me, he already had the first half of the verse: 'I came up out of the water, raised my hands up to the Father, gave it all to him that day, felt a new wind kiss my face.'"

The three songwriters built the song from there, with some heavenly assistance. "We really felt like we had something magical on that," said LeVox. "The three of us just held the pen and God kind of wrote the whole thing. It talks about how we all screw up and make mistakes and we can all change, but you have to be man enough or woman enough to say, 'Hey, I'm sorry.' Because you can't live your life with regret. It's time to change and sometimes the hardest thing in life is just forgiving yourself."

LeVox, Thrasher and Mobley wrote the song in the fall of 2010 and guitarist Joe Don Rooney told Billboard magazine how when LeVox played it for him and Jay DeMarcus, it resonated strongly because of the turbulent year the trio had experienced. "We had all this change going on through the year 2010 with Lyric Street Records shutting their doors and Big Machine Records picking us up, which was a godsend. And we parted ways with management," he said. "So we were jumping in bed with a new manager and through all this new stuff going on, this song found us. That song really set up how this album came to be."

The song has made an impact on a number of people, including a guy who was contemplating suicide. He later emailed the group to testify how the song changed him. "He was driving down the road, and pulled over to the side of the road," LeVox told Billboard magazine. "He knew at that moment, after listening to the song, he was going to change for the better. The power of a song - to have that impact on someone that is thinking about ending their own life is really unbelievable, it truly is."

[www.songfacts.com/facts/rascal-flatts/changed](http://www.songfacts.com/facts/rascal-flatts/changed)

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of him. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

'Reverend,' said the young man, 'I'm so sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip.'

The minister chuckled, 'I know what you mean. It's the same in my business.'

## The Spirit of a Woman

*"[Your beauty] should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." 1 Peter 3:4*

Oh, if only we could truly capture the spirit of today's passage! Today we are drastically in need of women who are satisfied with themselves inwardly and reflect a soft and tender peacefulness in their lives. Too often as women we have become loud, aggressive, and masculine in manners. We have left God's pattern of womanhood, sometimes trying to be better men than men themselves.

How do I define "feminine"? Not a particular style of dress or interior decorating. "Feminine" can take on an infinite variety of physical appearances. Instead, I see "feminine" as a softness, a gentleness, and a graciousness. That's not to say, though, that a woman cannot be the president of a corporation or an active participant in the business world. She certainly can, yet a feminine woman will have a softness and graciousness that men simply don't have. To me, "feminine" also means that a woman has a sense of who she is apart from what she does. She nurtures a strong spirituality and manifests the fruit of the Spirit in every aspect of her life (Galatians 5:22-23). "Femininity" also brings to my mind a woman's deep concern for her husband and children, the ability to submit to her husband when appropriate (Ephesians 5:21), and the maternal awareness that she is raising not only her children but generations to come. Finally, a truly feminine woman understands the "mystique" of being a godly wife and mother.

The "gentle and quiet spirit" which Peter refers to—this tranquillity, this sense that a woman is at peace with herself, this ability to share the fruit of the Spirit with people she comes in contact with—results from a woman's relationship with God. When a woman has this inner peace, she doesn't feel any need to prove herself to her husband, or to anyone else. Confident in herself and aware of her God-given strengths, she doesn't feel compelled to use those strengths to control other people. She enjoys an inner contentment that isn't based on accomplishments, status, authority, power, or other people's opinions.

As I mentioned earlier, this woman of God has learned the value of being as opposed to doing. Too many women today have forgotten how to simply be. They have bought into the lie of doing and have become highly obsessive-compulsive about getting work done. As a result, they are cut off from their feminine feelings and nature.

A woman who walks closely with her God, however, is free from competitiveness, aggressiveness, and the need to prove her worth. Yes, she may be aggressive and high-energy by temperament or competitive and very capable in the business world, but the fact is that she is affirmed not by other people but by her God. Such a woman "speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue" (Proverbs 31:26), and her family is blessed: "Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life....Her children arise up and call her blessed" (Proverbs 31:11, 12, 28). Such a woman inspires the man of her life to rise to his own greatness, and she supports him unconditionally in his search for fulfillment and achievement. And such a woman—one closely in tune with God—is indeed worthy of praise as she models godly values and high moral standards. A woman's gentle and quiet spirit makes her a blessing to the people around her.

Continued on next page...



...Continued from previous page

Gentleness, patience, and devotion to God—traits which I view as components of godly femininity—are qualities which hold society together and provide hope for the future. We have an incredible responsibility! History shows that as the woman goes, so goes the family. You give meaning and purpose to a home. You are the heartbeat, pumping vital blood into the family system by setting the spirit and tone. You help other establish and live by moral standards.

The femininity I am describing teaches, inspires, and civilizes. It brings glory to God and hope to His world. And such femininity also has a real “mystique” about it. Men look to women to bring out their gentler natures and their highest ideals, to inflame their passions, and to motivate them to achievement.

One mother, wise about the more practical side of the feminine mystique, offered a piece of advice to her future daughter-in-law. The groom-to-be was a minister and an avid reader who spent large amounts of time in the library studying and preparing for the next Sunday’s sermon. The mother said to her son’s intended: “John loves to study and often works late into the night at the library. Don’t try to change him, but always have his dinner in a warm oven and keep a pot of coffee on the stove.” The young lady listened to her future mother-in-law and, at last account, she had been married to Pastor John for over 40 years.

Pastor John’s wife was an example of “that kind of deep beauty...seen in the saintly women of old who trusted God and fitted in with her husband’s plans” (1 Peter 3:5 TLB). This type of woman can be irresistible to men. This femininity is a rarity in today’s culture, and the traditional male still seeks valiantly for it. The mystique works. Are you letting it enrich your marriage?

#### Thoughts for Action:

- Write in your journal several activities that help you feel feminine. Consider a few of these: buy fresh flowers for your home, light a candle, get a new haircut or add something new to your makeup collection, read a love story or poem, buy that dress you’ve been looking at, pamper yourself with a new bottle of perfume, buy a new set of sheets, start a daily exercise program, unclutter your room
- Choose at least one new activity this week and then another one next week

**Additional Scripture Reading:** Matthew 6:33, Ephesians 4:32

Devotion taken from “15 Minutes Alone With God” by Emilie Barnes

#### Pay It Forward

When somebody blesses you, it is always good to pay it forward. For example, we had a person generously donate money for tickets so our church could go on a train ride a few years ago. Since we didn’t have to pay for tickets, I suggested that we send that money to one of the missions we support. We are blessed to bless others.





# CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MARCH 2025



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	<b>Pray for FCC</b> reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	<b>Mid-Week Bible Study</b> 10am and 7pm (All ages)	Mission of the Month: <b>New Direction Christian Counseling</b>	<b>Weekly bulletin will have the most current information</b>	1  Matt 6:19-34
2	3  Rom 2:1-11	4 <u>Pray for FCC</u>  Rom 2:12-16	5  Rom 14:1-12	6  Rom 14:13-23	7  James 4:1-12	8  Matt 7:1-6
9	10  Luke 11:9-13	11 <u>Pray for FCC</u>  Matt 22:34-40	12  Rom 12:1-8	13  Rom 12:9-21	14  Rom 13:8-14	15  Matt 7:7-12
16	17  Psalm 16	18 <u>Pray for FCC</u>  Luke 13:22-30	19  John 14:1-14	20 (John 15:18-27) Newsletter Submissions Due	21  James 1:2-18	22  Matt 7:13-14
23	24  Matt 12:33-37	25 <u>Pray for FCC</u>  Luke 6:43-49	26  James 1:19-27	27  James 3:1-12	28  James 3:13-18	29  Matt 7:15-29
30  Wil Winfrey Preaching	31  Matt 10:34-42		<b>All events subject to change if needed</b>	Leadership meets as needed	<b>Communion Meditation:</b> <u>1st and 4th Sundays:</u> Jacksons <u>2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays:</u> Winfreys	

LEAD

January/February:

- 26 - The Axe of the Lord (Matt 3)
- 02 - Salt and Light of the World (Matt 5:13-16)
- 09 - Required Righteousness (Matt 5:17-20)
- 16 - Be Perfect (Matt 5:21-48)
- 23 - Secret Service (Matt 6:1-18)

March:

- 02 - Treasure Hunting (Matt 6:19-34)
- 09 - Here Comes the Judge (Matt 7:1-6)
- 16 - The Golden Rule (Matt 7:7-12)
- 23 - Life is Hard (Matt 7:13-14)
- 30 - A Secure Foundation (Matt 7:15-29)

great expectations

April:

- 06 - The Sign of a True Disciple (Matt 16)
- 13 - Fair Weather Fans (Matt 21:1-9)
- 20 - Victory in Jesus (Matt 28)

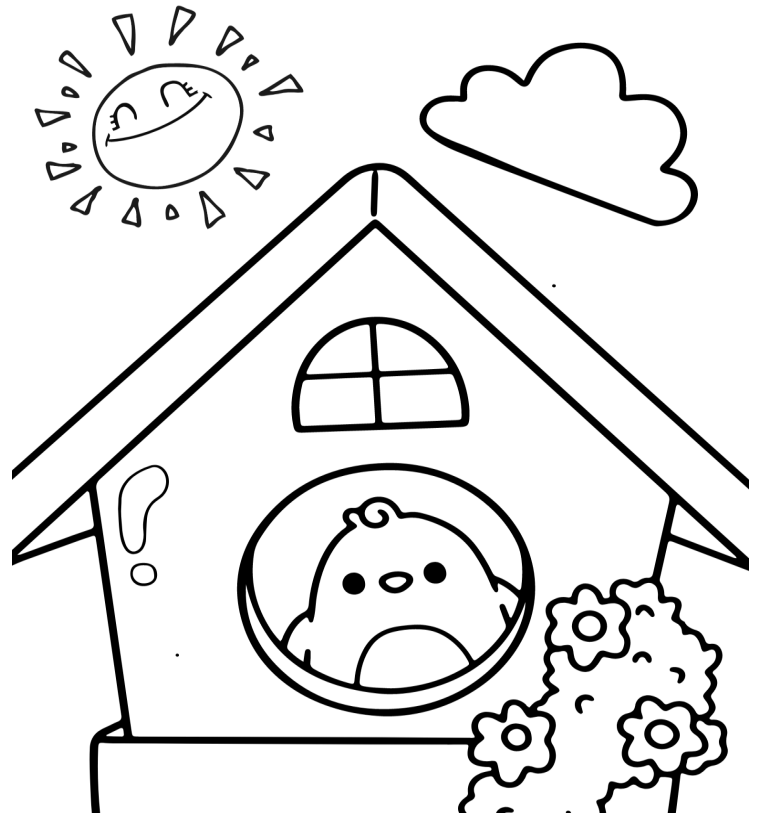
"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" (Matthew 16:24 ESV)

FCC of Greenwood SC - [www.fccgwd.org](http://www.fccgwd.org)



474 Deadfall Road West  
Greenwood SC 29649  
(864) 223-2940 [www.fccgwd.org](http://www.fccgwd.org)

"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1John 1:9



Well, Spring is almost here! Spring is such a good season because it gives us a fresh start from the winter! The pretty flowers bloom, the animals come out of hibernation, and the temperatures slowly but surely rise! The month of March means "a fresh start." Pretty cool, huh? Just like the month of March, we too can have a fresh start in Christ! I'm so glad that God sent his son down so that we can have a fresh start! Happy Spring!

Michaela Winfrey

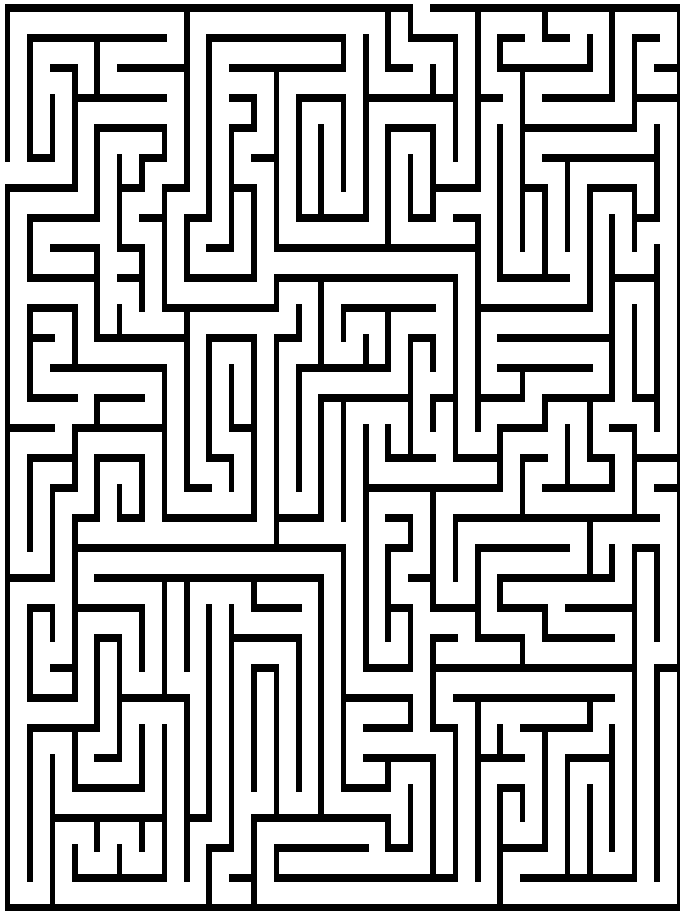
"Because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."  
Romans 10:9

#### RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Italian Grinder Salad

**Ingredients:** (Dressing)  $\frac{3}{4}$  cup mayonnaise / 1 tbsp red wine vinegar / 1 tsp minced garlic /  $\frac{1}{8}$  cup grated Parmesan cheese / 1 tsp dried oregano /  $\frac{1}{2}$  tsp salt /  $\frac{1}{4}$  tsp ground black pepper /  $\frac{1}{8}$  tsp red pepper flakes (optional)

(Salad) 1 head iceberg lettuce, chopped /  $\frac{1}{4}$  cup sliced red onion / 1 cup diced tomato /  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup pepperoncini /  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup diced provolone cheese /  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped salami /  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup chopped deli turkey

**Instructions:** (Dressing) Place mayo, red wine vinegar, garlic, Parmesan cheese, oregano, salt, pepper, and red pepper flakes. Stir well to combine. (Salad) Add in sliced onion, pepperoncini, tomatoes, provolone cheese, salami, and turkey. Top with lettuce and then toss well to combine and coat with the dressing.



## Bible Characters

- Benjamin
- Abigail
- Abraham
- Jehovah
- Esther
- Isaiah
- Joseph
- Samuel
- David
- Jacob
- Jesus
- Jonah
- Peter
- Adam
- Noah
- Paul
- Ruth
- Eve

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

