

FOOTPRINTS



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
GREENWOOD, SC

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 11, Issue 4
April, 2025

LEAD

¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching 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)

LEADER

2025 Theme

www.fccgwd.org

WHO IS JESUS?

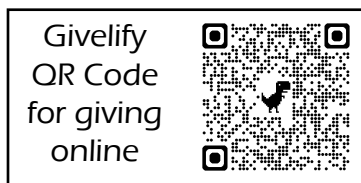
In chemistry, He turned water to wine. In biology, He was born without the normal conception. In physics, He disapproved the law of gravity when He ascended into heaven.

In economics, He challenged 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!

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JESUS
L
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R
D



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

Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

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FirstChristianGWD

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474 Deadfall Road West
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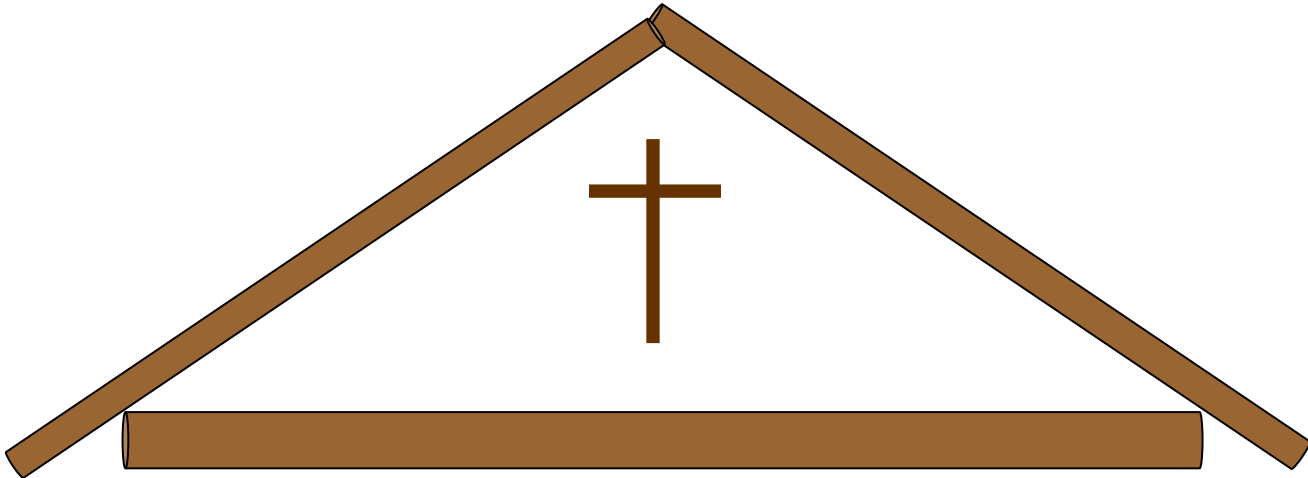
Church Office:

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

DON'T CAST YOUR PEARLS BEFORE SWINE

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

Corporate gadflies and provocateurs are the bane of many corporate executives. At stockholders' meetings, it is incumbent on the one presiding to answer every question from a stockholder, no matter how ridiculous or provoking. Learn to do this with poise and equanimity.

However, outside those highly structured, legally called meetings, corporate executives need to exercise discretion and common sense about "cast[ing] your pearls before swine" (Matthew 7:6). Everyone deserves to have his question considered, but answers are required only to cogent questions asked with goodwill.

Top executives of a large corporation could devote much of their time responding to questions, comments, and criticisms that are really not worth the investment. They must be careful that their time is given only to that which merits attention. Again, Jesus said, "Do not give what is holy to the dogs; nor cast your pearls before swine" (Matthew 7:6). That is good advice for the corporate setting.

BE AN INSPIRATIONAL LEADER

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

"Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:52). This beautiful passage from Luke testifies to the charismatic appeal of Jesus. People were drawn to Him and to His cause and were amazed because He "Taught with authority." In today's language, we would say, "He really knows what He is talking about." The basis for all Jesus' teaching and the thing that gave Him "authority" was His knowledge of the Scriptures. The Scriptures provided the historical and philosophical base for His enterprise, the Church. His success in articulating His vision is empirically demonstrated two thousand years later in the enduring strength of His Church.

None of us can hope to have the charismatic appeal of Jesus. Our enterprises can never have the cosmic and eternal consequences of His great organization. But our business affairs are important to us and Him. He cares about our success and failures. One of the ways to build a successful enterprise is to use Jesus' example and to speak with authority, to know what you are talking about, and to communicate that knowledge with passion.

The corporate executive who thinks inspiration is a by-product of the bottom line, production figures, and dry-as-dust statistics misses one of the great lessons of Jesus. It's also a lesson taught by many of the great builders of business throughout history. They succeeded to a large extent because they believed so fervently in what they were doing and were able to instill some of that fervor in their associates. Be sure you know the history of your business and how it benefits people. Know why your business matters. Be able to discuss it with feeling and fervor. Be a cheerleader as well as a coach.

Who will be our Next Man Up?



Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

**BACK PORCH
CONVERSATIONS**



"Core Belief: There is only One God (Part 3)"

Why did God create us? (Genesis 1:26-31)

We are a reflection of God - In Isaiah 46, God declares that He is unique. There is nothing like Him and yet, here in Genesis 1:26, we see that we are made in His image. That makes us unique too. There is nothing on earth that compares to us because God made us that way. God made us with a body, soul and spirit which means we are made up of 3 parts. How does that work? I have no idea, and there is a chance that we may never know exactly how that works until we get to heaven so we can ask God. However, since we are made in God's image, and we are made up of 3 parts, it makes sense that God is made up of 3 parts too. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit are 3 parts of God which is why we call God the Three in One, the Holy Trinity.

Of course, this is one of those parts of God that we need to accept because we will never be able to figure it out. Just like we can't figure out how our souls stay inside our bodies, we will never be able to figure out how Deuteronomy 6:4 can say that God is one and yet John 1:1-34 tells us that Jesus is God too. The only way this works is if God is the Three in One, the Holy Trinity.

The inability to understand the concept of the Trinity is another piece of evidence that God exists. He is the One who created us which means that He will understand everything about us, but we will only be able to learn what He has revealed to us about Him. The creator will always be above the creation. And as God's creation, we will never be able to fully understand God. God being our creator means that He has the authority and we should obey His commands. This is a simple concept that is not very easy to apply because we are constantly rebelling against God. Although we may have a desire to rebel against God and live the way we want to live, we need to remember that God is the One Who created us, and that means He is in charge of our lives. What was His command for us?

We are to be good stewards of His creation - God said that we would have dominion over earth. That means we have the authority to rule the earth because we are the superior creation. Nothing else on earth can have the kind of relationship that we have with God. Nothing else on earth has been given the responsibilities that we have. And nothing else on earth is made in God's image, and that is what makes us unique.

Of course, having dominion over all the earth is not just about ruling the earth. God told us to be fruitful and multiply so we can fill the earth and subdue it. As the animals and plants fill the earth, we need to make sure we can control the earth by creating more humans. Being fruitful and multiplying is a matter of survival so we can make sure we continue to be the image of God here on earth. And that image involves being able to care for the earth the way God takes care of us.

Ruling the earth means that we are responsible for what goes on here. We have the responsibility to take care of the earth so we can make sure it stays healthy for the future generations. Of course, there is a point where we can go overboard and start placing creation on a pedestal above our own lives, but there is still much we can do to help the environment without becoming one of those extremist who treats animals better than humans. God told us to take care of the earth because we are made in His image, and that means we need to act more like God instead of acting like the animals of the earth.

Continued on page 9...



This month's Church myth: "Thief on the cross is an example of a conversion for us"

As Easter quickly approaches, the last words of Jesus will be the subject of interest among many Christians. One sentence is of particular importance for those who wish to argue against the need for baptism as part of salvation. Here is the passage:

Luke 23:39-43 (ESV), "(39) One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, 'Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!' (40) But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? (41) And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.' (42) And he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' (43) And he said to him, 'Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.'"

The old "Thief on the cross" argument falls short of proving anything about salvation for several reasons, but I will try to keep this short and focus on a couple here. If you would like, I can give a full study on this passage if you want to sit down with me and discuss it.

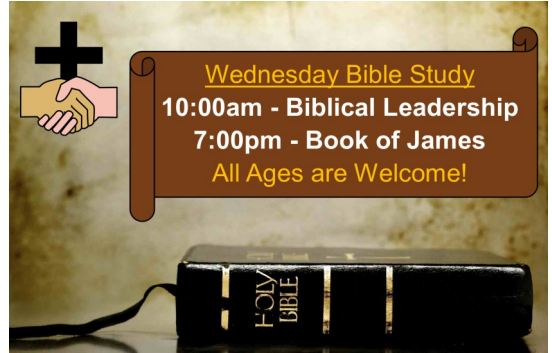
Many people use the "Jesus" card and yes, that can be the end of the conversation for most since Jesus can do anything He wants so if He wanted to save the thief, that is up to Him. However, I believe that we have not successfully proven that this scene is about salvation in the sense that the thief was being converted on the cross. Can we prove that he was not already a follower of Jesus? The way he defends Jesus lets me know that he had some kind of belief and knowledge about who He is before being nailed to the cross. There is so much we do not know about this thief so how can we conclude that this was not a follower being brought back in after he had strayed?

Just for fun, let's assume that this scene is about salvation in the sense that Jesus converted the thief. How can we duplicate this for today's use? Where is the sinner's prayer in this scene that so many people try to insert when talking about salvation? Do we have any other scripture that points to this scene for the purpose of offering the plan of salvation? The Bible is silent when trying to find a conversion that involved something similar to this scene so I cannot use the thief on the cross for an example of somebody being saved without baptism. From the death of Jesus forward, the only conversions shared involved water baptism by immersion.

This myth is busted because even if this was a true conversion, we have no evidence of the early church using it as an example of how to be saved.

Places to go, People to see, Things to do

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



Easter Week Events

Good Friday Prayer Time/Communion in Sanctuary: Friday, April 18 @ 9am
(Prayer guide is provided, communion is self serve, stay as long as you need)

Worship: Sunday, April 20 @ 11am

“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 sometimes all a person needs is a hand to hold and a heart to understand.

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

In Esther 3:1, we find Haman, the son of Hammedatha

Winners: Michaela Winfrey/Wil Winfrey/Michael 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: Bailey Fuller

This month's question:

Which disciple did Paul commend for having “the same faith his mother had”?

The Story behind “How Deep the Father’s Love for Us”



Early in his career, after graduating from Sussex University in 1985, British musician Stuart Townend was shepherded into leadership by the staff at Church of Christ the King, and in 1987 he was offered a position in the music department at Kingsway publishers, where he was involved in producing songbooks and recordings. By 1994, he had established himself as a capable worship leader for large events, and he was involved in leading and producing music for the Stoneleigh International Bible Week. Up to that point, his songwriting endeavors had been focused on writing congregational songs in a popular, contemporary style, but in 1995, he took an important first step in a new direction—the craft of writing a hymn. His first-ever hymn, “How deep the Father’s love for us,” would turn out to be enormously successful. Townend has provided accounts of this experience on more than one occasion. One of the earliest accounts was given for a Worship Together New Song Café video:

I wrote this a few years ago, and really wanted to set out to write a hymn. I was feeling there were lots of songs around, but there wasn’t a lot of content in the songs, and I really wanted to write something that was more hymn-like. I was finding in my own worship leading I was more and more going back to the hymns to introduce content, and I was thinking, “Why is it that we don’t have songs that are full of poetic, powerful language these days?” So I kind of set out to do that.

I remember sitting down and just having that feeling, I want to write a hymn. I’m going to write a hymn. I found the melody came very quickly. It was one of those things where you feel the melody came so easily, you’re thinking, “I’ve borrowed this from something, from somewhere else.” So I probably spent the first two years of the song’s life in panic that someone was going to come up and say, “You stole my melody,” or “Did you realize it’s exactly the same as this?” And then the lyrics began to kind of just spill out, when we contemplate on the cross and the power of the cross, and it came very simply.

This melody just kind of popped out of my head one day. I wasn’t listening to anything in particular or whatever. It was a very easy melody. It just came really easily and quite spontaneously in some ways. I was aware that it was quite hymn-like in a way and I thought, “I wonder what words would fit with that?” . . .

So I started kind of thinking about words for it, and because it had a kind of classic, hymn-like element to it, I thought, well, maybe I should actually just tell the story of Christ on the cross, but tell it perhaps from the point of view—and this is what I was thinking about at the time—was what it cost the Father to give the Son. You know, we have to think about Christ suffering, and there’s a lot of talk about the wrath of God, you know, and is that right to think that the Father’s wrath was poured out on Christ? And I think that is right to say that, but that’s not to say that God is a vengeful God, that actually it cost him to give up his Son.

That’s why the first line says, “How deep the Father’s love,” you know, that he should give his only Son. So that really was the starting place. And then in a sense, the second verse kind of develops my complicity in it, if you like, that actually it was my sin that actually held him there. He went to the cross because of what I’d done. So, although it tells the story, it is telling the story from a personal viewpoint. And then the final verse goes into, you know, I won’t boast in anything except what he has done for me. So really that’s the thinking of the words. In his CD liner notes for *The New Hymn Makers* (2003), he offered another small detail: I think I had “Amazing Grace” in mind as I was writing—not so much because of the content, but because of the wonderful tone of humble gratitude, which undergirds that great hymn as the hymnwriter contemplates the grace of God.

To Know the Love of Christ

"...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ." Ephesians 3:18b

Bob and I are usually not at home on Friday evenings, but we were on the night of June 23rd. We were preparing for a marriage seminar in our home the next morning. After getting everything organized and ready, Bob and I went to the kitchen and began popping popcorn. The phone rang at 9:03pm. I remember checking my watch, wondering who would be calling so late to get directions for tomorrow.

After Bob's first few words on the phone, I knew something serious had happened. Our dear friends of 20 years were calling for care, help, support, and prayers. Their son, Jimmy, had been in a terrible car accident on a street near our home. He had hit a palm tree on Victoria Avenue. That's all it took for Bob to say we would be right there. We had met Jim and Barbara DeLorenzo the first year we moved to Riverside. Jimmy was about 8 years old. They were new Christians, and God truly bonded our hearts and friendship almost immediately. Over the years our families have experienced many memorable times. We still call Jim, Jr. "Jimmy."

But at that moment all we could think of was how dangerous Victoria Avenue is, with palm trees lining both sides of the street and also in a row down the median. The years our children were in high school, eight students had died due to palm tree accidents. We couldn't believe this was happening to Jimmy. He was an excellent driver. He knew very well the danger of Victoria Avenue and how to handle cars in dangerous situations. As we drove to the hospital, all we could do was pray and ask God to spare this child. The first words that came from Big Jim's mouth when Jim and Barbara met us in emergency was, "Jimmy wasn't driving, and the two young men are alive."

The car was going 65 mph when it lost control on a curve and crashed into a palm tree, literally wrapping itself around the tree. The pictures of the accident later showed that only a miracle of God could explain Jimmy's and his friend's lives being spared. The "jaws of life" were used to cut these young men out of the car, and thankfully drugs and alcohol were immediately ruled out.

Jim and Bob stayed with Jimmy as the doctors stitched up his lacerated head, eyes, and hands. Barbara and I prayed. Rather, I prayed as Barbara cried and shook from shock. We knew the situation was in God's hands. We also knew of other parents who had lost their sons and daughters through similar accidents.

Jimmy is okay today, but only after plastic surgery, a shaved head, hundreds of stitches, and a plastic pin in his eye socket.

As Barbara and Jim reflect on the experience, they see what a precious time of love and friendship occurred. The bond we felt between us will always be there. As Barb says, "It's beyond words, the changes we've made with priorities in our life. The results have been a closer prayer life within the family and such growth of fellowship with God and friends, not to mention the times we've had with our son and his recovery."

Their roots of faith in God's love and protection have deepened. They do realize how wide, how high, and how deep God's love really is.

Yes! So easy to read, but sometimes so very difficult to live out in life.

...Continued from page 4

We are the crown jewel of His creation - In Genesis 1:31, we see the words "Very good" at the end of the sixth day. After each day, God saw that everything was good, but on the sixth day, God saw that it was very good because He was finished with His creation. God saved the best for last, and His best creation is us.

God loves us. Let that sink in for a minute. God really loves us. We are created in His image, we are considered to be His children, and even though we have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, He demonstrated His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. God created us, raised us like His children, and provided a way for us to be cured from the sin in our lives. We are the crown jewel of His creation and He loves us more than anything else in this world. God loves us, but I wonder if we love Him.

As God's children, there are times when we have a funny way of showing our love for God. Imagine what would happen if one of your children decided not to show up for dinner or even come home to sleep one night. What would happen if one of your children decided to run away and never call or check up on you or even acknowledge that exist? We would not want our children to do this, but there are many people who do this to God on a daily basis. There are people who deny that God exists no matter how much evidence is presented. Don't be like them.

Of course, we are quick to say that we don't deny God exists because we show up to worship Him every Sunday. That may be true, but what about Monday when church is not having a worship service? How do you live during the week? The way you live can either be a testimony for the one true God or it can be a selfish declaration of you being number one in your own life. There is only One God, and we are blessed to be able to have a relationship with Him.

Let's make sure we never forget this wonderful truth!

This one will take some money to make it happen. When you are at the grocery store, purchase ten \$10 gift cards and hand them to mothers with young children. When they ask why you did it, just tell them that you wanted to do something nice for somebody else because the Lord has been so good to you. If you can't afford 10 gift cards, purchase as many as you can in order to bless as many mothers as possible.



Easter Week Events

**Good Friday Prayer Time/Communion
in Sanctuary:** Friday, April 18 @ 9am
(Prayer guide is provided, communion is
self serve, stay as long as you need)

Worship: Sunday, April 20 @ 11am



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - APRIL 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	Pray for FCC reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	Mid-Week Bible Study 10am and 7pm (All ages)	Mission of the Month: Greater Gwd United Ministry	Weekly bulletin will have the most current information	All events subject to change if needed
		1 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Matt 16:1-4	2 Matt 16:5-12	3 Matt 16:13-20	4 Matt 16:21-23	5 Matt 16:24-28
6	7 Psalm 118	8 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Mark 11:1-11	9 Luke 19:28-40	10 John 12:1-26	11 John 12:27-50	12 Matt 21:1-11
13 Palm Sunday	14 Mark 16:1-11	15 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Mk 16:12-20	16 Luke 24:1-12	17 John 20:1-10	18 Matt 28:1-10 Good Friday Prayer time in Sanctuary (9am)	19 Matt 28:11-20
20 Easter Sunday	21 Rom 8:1-11	22 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Rom 8:12-30	23 Rom 8:31-39	24 (2 Tim 3:1-9) Newsletter Submissions Due	25 2 Tim 3:10-17	26 1 Peter 1:1-12
27	28 Genesis 6	29 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Gen 18:22-33	30 Matt 25:1-13	Leadership meets as needed	Communion Meditation: <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)

greatexpectations

April:

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

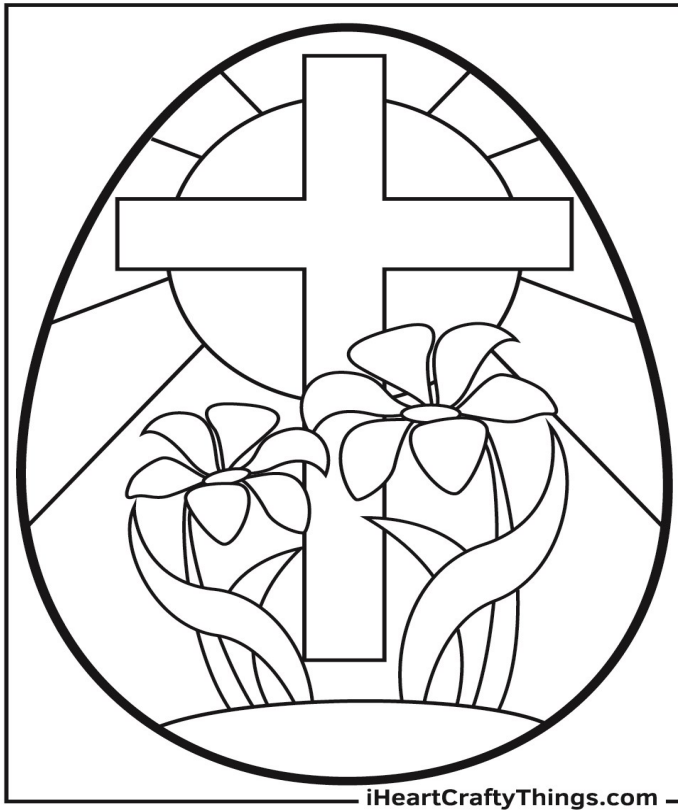
"Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.'" (Matthew 16:24 ESV)

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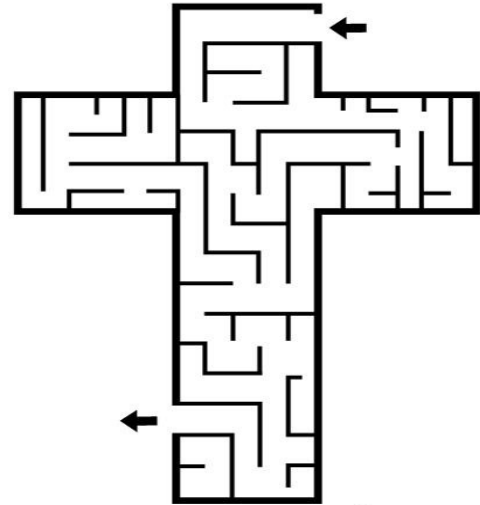


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“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.” John 11:25



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! God has always got our backs, giving us a way to be with him eternally!

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

RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Deviled Egg Macaroni Pasta Salad

Ingredients:

8 oz macaroni pasta / 6 hardboiled eggs / ½ cup plain Greek yogurt / ¼ cup mayonnaise / 1 tbsp Dijon mustard / 1 small red onion, diced / 2 celery ribs, chopped / 1-2 tbsp chopped fresh chives / ½ tsp paprika, more as desired / Sea salt to taste

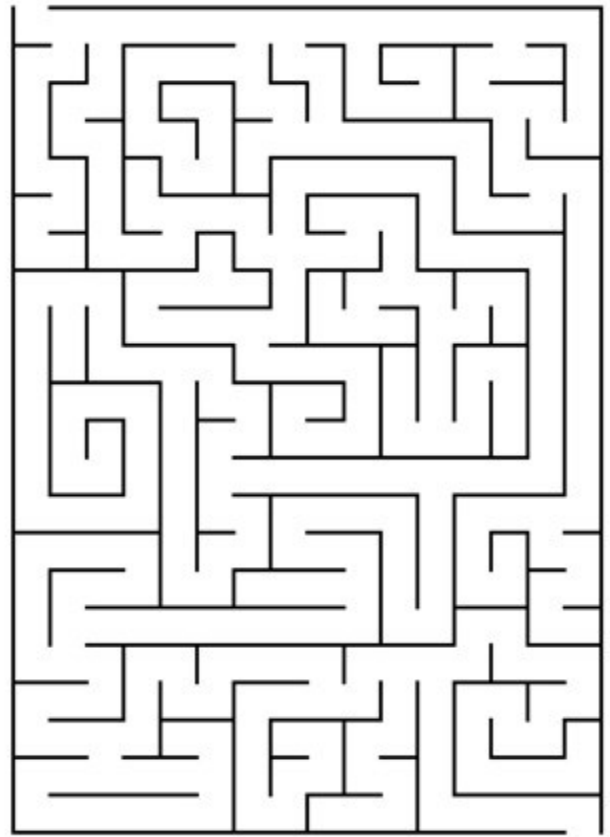
Instructions:

Cook macaroni in boiling water for 8-10 minutes, drain, rinse, and set aside in large bowl / Cut the hard boiled eggs in half and remove the yolks and place the yolks in a small bowl / Chop the whites and add to the pasta bowl / Mash the egg yolks with a fork / Stir in Greek yogurt, mayonnaise, and mustard / Add the chopped onion and celery to the pasta bowl / and stir in egg yolk mixture until combined / Top with fresh chives, paprika and salt as desired / Chill in the refrigerator for at least 1 hour



Start!

Maze 3



Finish!

SUPERSTARWORKSHEETS

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