

FOOTPRINTS



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
GREENWOOD, SC

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 11, Issue 5
May, 2025

“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)

LEAD

LEADER

2025 Theme

www.fccgwd.org

LIVING PROOF

The days following the resurrection of Jesus were filled with rumors, conspiracy theories, and surprise visits by the One who was supposed to be dead. If Jesus decided to appear to His disciples only, there would not be much thought about whether it really happened or the disciples were making this up. After all, desperate times call for desperate measures!

However, Jesus chose to wait and visit those who were not as well known before seeing the 11. This shows that everybody was worthy of an encounter with Jesus as long as they were looking for him. It also shows that this is not a conspiracy. Jesus is living proof that God’s plan to save the world worked! Now it is our turn to build the church on the foundation of the Gospel.

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JESUS
L
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Givify
QR Code
for giving
online

I love our church!
Earl Winfrey
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FirstChristianGWD

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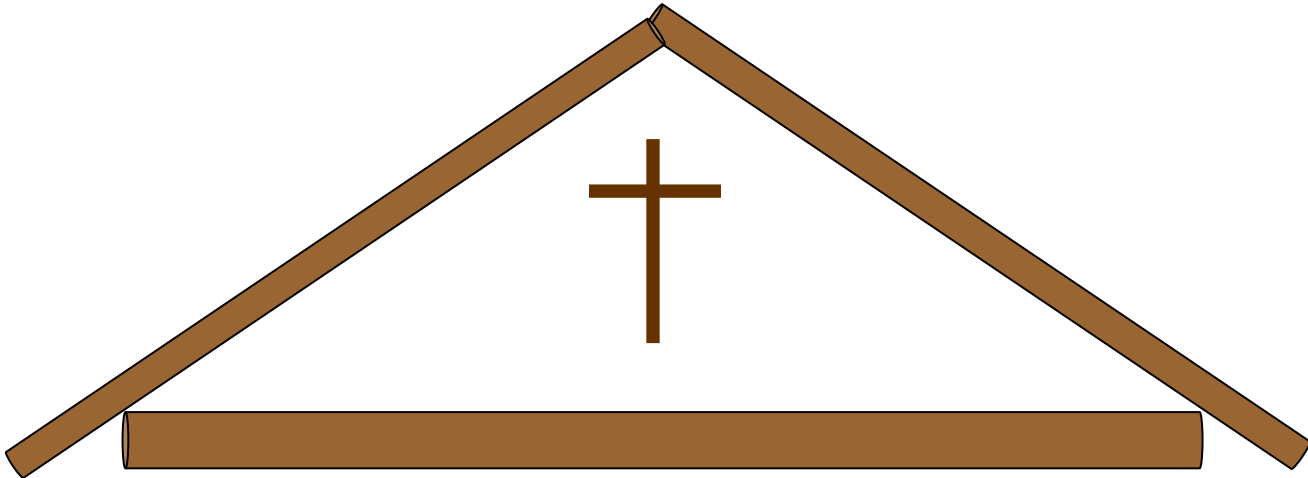
Church Office:

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

PRUNE FOR PRODUCTIVITY

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

Both through His actions and His teachings, Jesus demonstrated that He expected His followers to be fruitful and productive. He was unequivocal on this.

In the powerful and profound fifteenth chapter of John, we read these words of Jesus: "I am the true vine, and My Father is the vine dresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit."

As managers entrusted with the health of an enterprise, we must constantly cut and prune. People, departments, and branches that are not productive must be cut away. This should never be done in a casual manner. The people involved should always be seen as important and valuable, but they must be evaluated by their productivity. Just as Jesus said that the unfruitful fig tree and the unfruitful branches of the vine should be done away with, the unproductive parts of businesses (And churches) must be phased out and closed down. Equally important is Jesus' lesson that every branch that bears fruit must be pruned to enable it to bear more fruit. The history of business is replete with enterprises that enjoyed great initial success but then grew complacent. They were content with past glories, and they eventually collapsed, victims of management that didn't continue to "prune" for even greater productivity.

DON'T TRY TO SERVE TWO MASTERS

(Taken from "The Management Methods of Jesus")

When considering the various jobs to be done and the available personnel to do them, executives are often tempted to "split up" an individual by assigning him or her to two or more supervisors as well as two or more job tasks. This is easy to do on an organizational chart. The reality is, however, that such an arrangement almost never works and almost always results in bruised feelings, intramural squabbling, and poor performances. At least one of the tasks, sometimes both, will be done at less than the optimum level, and there is a good chance you will have at least three unhappy employees on your hands.

In Matthew 6:24 Jesus tells us in no uncertain terms: "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other." It has taken us a long time to learn this lesson in our company. All too often, in a misguided effort to hold personnel costs down or to find a viable position for an otherwise inviable employee, we have made the mistake of assigning someone to several tasks and to multiple supervisors. It's exactly like Jesus said: The employee is invariably more successful in one part of the assignment than in the other and, enjoying that success, gravitates more and more to it and to the praise of his or her supervisor in that area. The other supervisor, knowing he is getting short shrift and seeing that task not getting done properly, becomes more and more unhappy. No one is happy. The job is done poorly - if at all.

Who will be our Next Man Up?



Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

BACK PORCH CONVERSATIONS



"The Bible is God-Breathed" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

The Greek word for "Scripture" was simply the word "writings". It could be used in ancient times for any kind of literature, including secular writings. But in a religious context, it referred to "sacred writings." For us, this would be the writings that are inspired by God's Spirit, called "the Bible."

The Origin of the Bible

Breathed out by God - the Greek word for breathed has also been translated as inspired. Unfortunately, this is the only verse where we find this word so we can't use other verses to help us figure out which word fits best. The word inspired is popular, but it can be misleading because of the way we use that word today. When we talk about something being inspired, it does not necessarily mean that it is an exact copy of something. For example, a song that has been inspired by a certain situation does not have to record the exact details in the lyrics. A story that is written could be inspired even though it may not be an exact representation of what happened. Being inspired does not require exact details to be copied. This is why I like the words breathed out instead. God breathed out the Scriptures which means that the Bible is the breath of God. And what do we usually breathe out? We usually breathe out words that we wish to speak. That means we can say that the Bible is God's spoken Word because it came from the very breath of God. Here is something else I like about using the word breathed instead of the word inspired. In Genesis 2:7, we see that God created man and then breathed life into him. God's breath gives life. And if God's breath gives life, and the Bible is God-breathed, that means the words of the Bible give life to us. The Bible is God's living breath for us. In Acts 7:38, Stephen speaks of the Law as a living oracle of God. And in Romans 3:2, Paul calls the Bible the oracles of God. There is life in the Bible, and that life comes from God.

The Bible was written down for us - Peter defends the Scriptures in 2 Peter 1:16-21 when he wrote that they did not follow cleverly devised myths about Jesus because they were eyewitnesses. And their eyewitness accounts have been written down for us to read. Peter also said that none of the prophecies that are recorded came from people's interpretation of what God said. The prophets were speaking word for word what they were told to say, and the Scriptures were written down exactly as God directed it. Of course, that brings up an interesting question about the Bible. If God told the writers what to write, why did we need humans to write the Bible? Why didn't God just miraculously deliver the Bible to us? Surely He had the ability to do this, but He chose to use human writers instead. And there is a reason for that. God chose to use human writers for creating the Bible because He wanted to use the Bible to reach humans. Have you ever thought about the many different writing styles in the Bible?

We have historical narrative, philosophical jargon, detailed instructions, short stories, parables, poetry, songs, lesson outlines and sermons that can be found throughout the Bible. We have many different styles from many different writers because the many different people reading the Bible come from many different backgrounds and they prefer many different styles of writing to learn from. For example, a mechanic wants an instruction manual because he wants to know how to fix his life. A carpenter wants a blueprint because he wants to build a better life. A musician wants poetry or songs because he wants to compose a great life. And a detective wants a mystery so he will move towards the apocalyptic passages we find in Revelation and other places. Every person is unique and yet there is a writing style in the Bible that appeals to each person who takes the time to read it. Just think about the 4 Gospels that tell us about the life of Jesus. Four different authors wrote to four distinct groups of people because they were trying to reach them for Christ.

Continued on the next page...

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The Bible has been preserved by the Holy Spirit - Think about the amazing unity of the Bible even though it has been written by so many different writers. The Bible was written over a period of 1500 years on three different continents by approximately 40 writers who were shepherders, kings, farmers, fishermen and doctors. The Bible was written in three different languages in 66 separate books and yet they all combine to make one authoritative masterpiece known as God's Word. Only the Holy Spirit could preserve such a work and protect it throughout the centuries. No matter what the church has suffered through, the Bible has always survived. By the way, the church has also survived which means that the church is protected by the Holy Spirit too.

That makes 2 possessions of God that have been preserved throughout the generations, and those are God's Word and the Body of Christ. We are the Body of Christ and the Bible is God's Word. And if the Holy Spirit has protected both through the years, we can be confident that He will continue to protect us until the Lord returns. Many people say that the 2 things we can count on in life are death and taxes. Well, there are 2 more things you can count on, those are the Bible and the Church.

The Authority of the Bible

God's written Word - (Proverbs 30:5-6) "[5] Every word of God proves true; he is a shield to those who take refuge in him. [6] Do not add to his words, lest he rebuke you and you be found a liar."

(Psalm 119:105-106) "[105] Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. [106] I have sworn an oath and confirmed it, to keep your righteous rules."

The Moral Absolute - (Psalm 119:9-11) "[9] How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to your word. [10] With my whole heart I seek you; let me not wander from your commandments! [11] I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you."

(Hebrews 4:12) "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart."

The Benefits of the Bible

Negative reinforcement - If there is no negative reinforcement, there is no growth. This is why Paul used words like reproof and correction in verse 16. If we are not called out for the things that are wrong in our lives, how will we know what needs to be changed?

Positive Discipline - We are often so quick to punish the wrong that is committed, but we need to work on promoting the good behavior too. That is the concept of positive discipline. We need to build up the good habits so the bad habits will start to fade away. The Bible can help us with that. If we focus on what the Bible says about living a good life, we will find out that the bad life is just not worth the trouble it causes.

Training in righteousness - That training began with the Apostles and it continues today. Through the Bible, we have access to the Apostles' teachings even though they are no longer alive to teach us. We can read about how the Apostles led by example and showed the people how to live in a way that pleases God. And if we follow their example, we will be able to lead our families in the way that is right.



This month's Church myth: "Small Churches cannot do much for missions"

When the conversation turns to missions, there is a tendency for the smaller churches to excuse themselves because they think that supporting the local soup kitchen is enough. Well, it is a great thing to support local missions, but we have been called to reach more than our community. In Acts 1, Jesus says that the Apostles were His witnesses for Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and all the ends of the earth. How are they going to reach the entire world? That is where we come in. It is up to each of us to reach the entire world for Christ, but if you are a smaller church, how can you make this happen?

This month's myth is a common belief that has kept many Christians from being productive in areas outside of their zip code. Small churches cannot do much for missions as long as they look at it like they are not allowed to work with other churches.

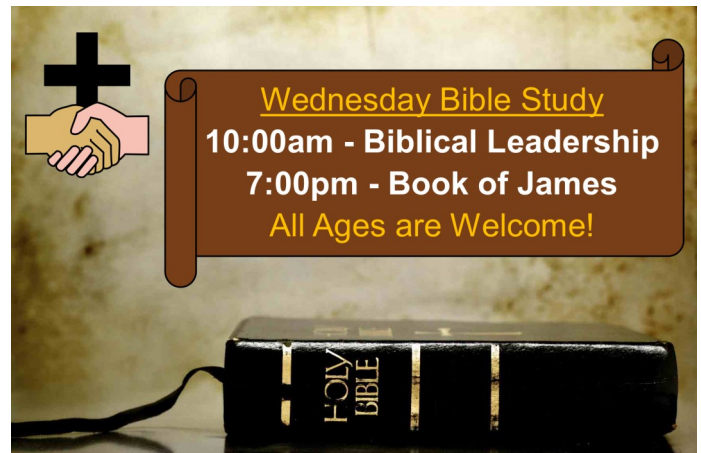
This is the way to make it happen. If your church is small, find another church that is doing something and help them out. It's not hard to do as long as you have the right heart. Unfortunately, there are too many churches involved in battles over the flock when they should be working together to grow the church. If they spent as much energy on reaching the lost as they do on trying to keep members from leaving, the church would be so much bigger than it is right now. When you approach a church to see if you can help them out with a mission project or something like that, don't ask for anything in return. Just show up to work and let that church get the credit. After all, it is their project. You are there to help, not steal the spotlight.

Just think about how much the church could accomplish if nobody cared about who got the credit. Instead of trying to make a big deal out of what you are doing, just do whatever you can and let God make a big deal out of you. If the smaller churches reach out and help the larger churches with mission projects, those larger churches may not seem so strange anymore. Part of the problem is that some people cannot get beyond the size of the church in order to see the heart of the people. Other people think that the larger church does not need any help so they just circle the wagons and stay in their cozy little boxes waiting for something to happen.

Let's not carry on as if we are helpless just because we are small. There is plenty of work out there for us to help with if we could just open our eyes to the possibility that we don't have to be in charge of the project to participate. I am confident that projects that require more than one church exist and they could be closer than we think.

Places to go, People to see, Things to do

What events should we plan?
Let us know what you want 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 simple walks with my father around the block on summer nights when I was a child did wonders for me as an adult.

Bible Trivia Question (Send answers to Earl)

Answer to last month's question:

Paul commended Timothy for having “the same faith as his mother” (2 Tim 1:5)

Winners: Wil Winfrey / Michaela Winfrey / ???



Be one of the first 3 people to answer correctly and you will be a winner!

Be one of #4-10 to answer and you will receive an honorable mention!

Honorable Mention: ???

This month's question:

Which direction did the scorching wind upon Jonah come from?

The Story behind "Unsung Hero" by For King and Country



"Unsung Hero" is a poignant song by the Christian pop duo for KING & COUNTRY, featured on their album "What Are We Waiting For + (Deluxe)" released in 2022. The song serves as a tribute to the often-overlooked figures in our lives, particularly parents, who play a crucial role in our development and well-being.

The song celebrates the unsung heroes in our lives, focusing on the love and support provided by parental figures. It highlights their resilience and the profound impact they have on shaping our identities.

The lyrics of "Unsung Hero" unfold as a heartfelt narrative that pays homage to the quiet strength and unwavering support of parental figures. The song opens with a reflective tone, setting the stage for a journey through memories and emotions tied to these unsung heroes. The first verse introduces the listener to the idea of strength inherited from a father, emphasizing that even in moments of fear, the lessons learned from him provide a foundation of courage. This connection to paternal strength is a universal theme, resonating with anyone who has looked up to a father figure for guidance and support.

As the song progresses, the lyrics shift to highlight the nurturing love of a mother. The line "you love like your mother, like there's nothing to lose" encapsulates the essence of unconditional love that mothers often embody. This juxtaposition of strength and love paints a comprehensive picture of what it means to be an unsung hero. The chorus serves as a powerful declaration of appreciation, where the singer vows to honor these figures through song, acknowledging their sacrifices and the profound impact they have had on their lives.

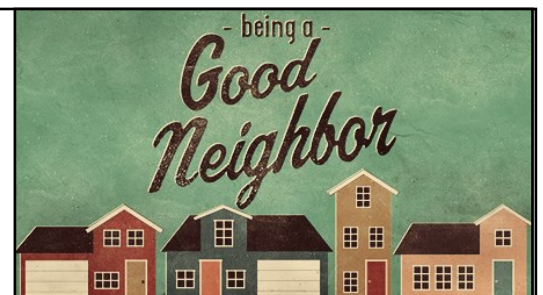
The bridge of the song further deepens this emotional connection, as it reflects on the moments of struggle and triumph shared between the singer and their unsung hero. It emphasizes the idea that these heroes may not seek recognition or praise, yet their contributions are invaluable. The lyrics resonate with a sense of nostalgia, inviting listeners to reflect on their own experiences with parental figures and the lessons learned along the way.

Overall, "Unsung Hero" is a celebration of resilience, love, and the often-unnoticed sacrifices made by those who shape our lives. The song's structure, with its heartfelt verses and anthemic chorus, creates an uplifting atmosphere that encourages listeners to recognize and appreciate the unsung heroes in their own lives.

<https://songtell.com/for-king-country/unsung-hero>

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.



A Prayer for All Seasons

"Since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding." Colossians 1:9

As we spend time with God, we open ourselves to His work in our hearts and in our lives. Then, as we see Him working, we will want to know Him even more. We will want our prayer life to be all that it can be. What does that mean? How should we be praying?

In the Scripture, we find many models of prayer, and probably foremost is the Lord's Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13). This wonderful example of a prayer includes important elements of prayer. We find words of adoration, of submission to God's will, of petition, and in closing, of praise. We can learn much from the model our Lord gave when His disciples said, "Teach us to pray" (Luke 11:1). As meaningful as the Lord's Prayer is to me, I have also found Colossians 1:9-12 to be a powerful guide in my prayer life. If you aren't in the habit of praying or if you want to renew your time with God, I challenge you to read this passage of Scripture every day for 30 days. Look at it in small pieces, dwell in its message each day, take action upon what it says, and you'll become a new person.

Read today's Scripture passage again and think about what a wonderful prayer it is for you to pray for your friend. Knowing that a friend is praying for me is a real source of encouragement and support. If you aren't praying for your friends, daily, let me suggest that Colossians 1:9-12 be your model. Look at what you'll be asking God:

- That your friend will have the spiritual wisdom and understanding she needs to know God's will.
- That she will "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please him, in all respects" (verse 10).
- That your friend will be bearing "fruit in all good work and increasing in the knowledge of God" (verse 10).
- That she will be "strengthened with all power...for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience" (verse 11).
- You would then end your prayer by joyously giving thanks to God for all that He has given you—your friend being one of those gifts (verse 12).

Did you hear those words? What an armor of protection and growth you can give your friend with a prayer like that! With these powerful words and the Lord at her side, your friend will be able to deal with the challenges she faces. I also encourage you to tell your friend that you are praying for her each day, and if she is receptive, tell her the specifics of your prayer for her. Let me assure you that it is a real comfort to have a friend praying for me, asking God to give me wisdom and understanding, to enable me to honor Him in all I do, to help me bear fruit for His kingdom, and to grant me strength, steadfastness, and patience. Know, too, that these verses from Colossians are a good model for your prayers for your husband, other members of your family, your neighbors, and yourself. After all, all of God's people need to know His will, honor Him in everything they do, grow in the knowledge of the Lord, and be strong, steadfast, and patient as we serve Him.

Thoughts for Action

- In your journal, write down the names of one to three friends that you want to pray for each day. Under each name list several specific areas which you want to pray for them.
- Read Colossians 1:9-12 for 30 straight days. Think specifically of the friends you listed in your journal.

Additional Scripture Reading: Ephesians 3:14-19; Philemon 4-7

Devotion taken from "15 Minutes Alone With God" by Emilie Barnes



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - MAY 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: Meg's House	Weekly bulletin will have the most current information	All events subject to change if needed
Communion Meditation: <u>1st and 4th Sundays:</u> Jacksons <u>2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays:</u> Winfreys		Leadership meets as needed		1 Matt 25:14-30	2 Matt 25:31-46	3 1 Peter 1:13-23
4	5 Matt 18:1-6	6 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Matt 18:7-14	7 James 1:12-18	8 James 1:19-27	9 Psalm 34	10 1 Peter 1:24-2:3
11 Mother's Day	12 Isaiah 8:11-15	13 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Is 28:14-22	14 Ps 118:22-29	15 Rom 9:22-29	16 Titus 2:11-14	17 1 Peter 2:4-10
18	19 Rom 13:1-7	20 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Rom 13:8-14	21 Titus 3:1-11	22 (1 Tim 2:1-7) Newsletter Submissions Due	23 Heb 6:1-12	24 1 Peter 2:11-25
25	26 Memorial Day Gen 3:16-19	27 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Eph 5:1-14	28 Eph 5:15-21	29 Eph 5:22-33	30 Col 3:18-25	31 1 Peter 3:1-9

April 27 - Name Calling

May 04 - Staying on Top of Your Game

May 11 - Christianity is an Action Word

May 18 - Rock of Ages

May 25 - A Career in Modeling

June 01 - Follow Me

June 08 - Survival Guide

June 15 - This is for Real

June 22 - Christianity Hurts

June 29 - Finish Strong

For Pete's Sake



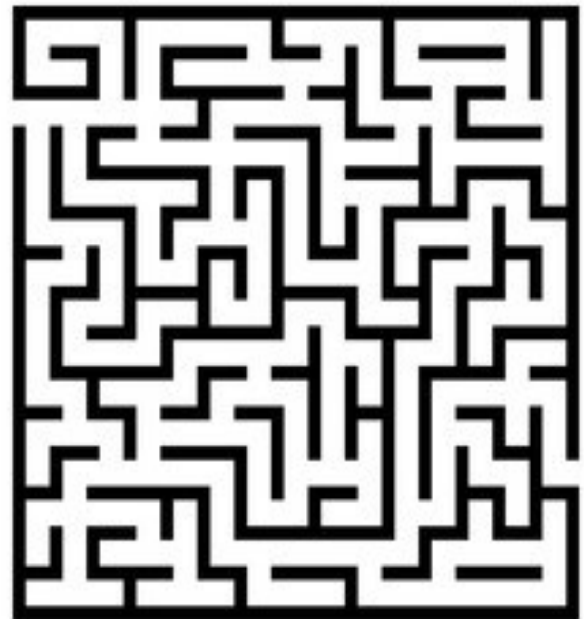
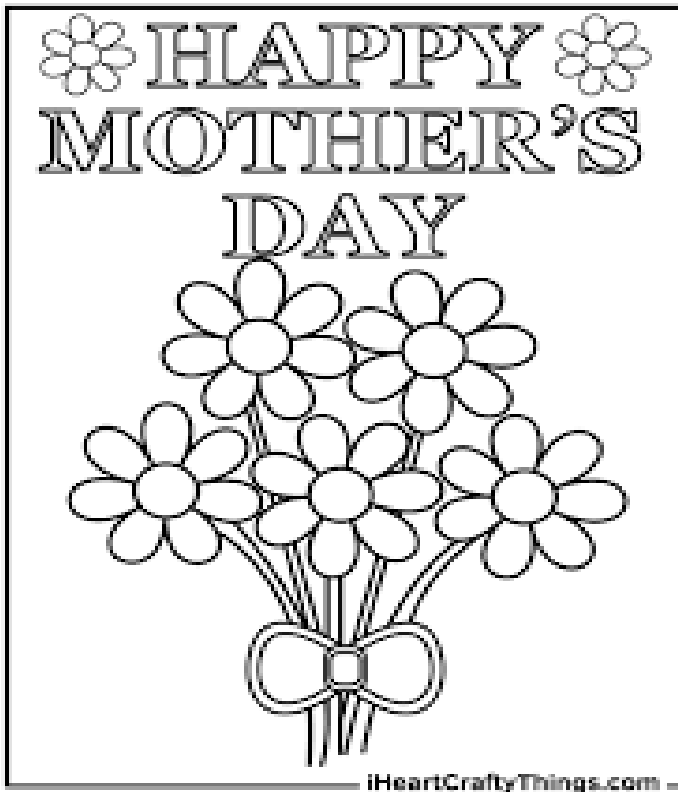
How to thrive when the world around you keeps collapsing

FCC of Greenwood SC - www.fccgwd.org



474 Deadfall Road West
Greenwood SC 29649
(864) 223-2940 www.fccgwd.org

“As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you.” Isaiah 66:13



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Since this month is May, I'll take a moment to highlight the mothers! Mothers have a very important job, which is caring for the children that they provide! They are so strong and amazing, especially my mom. Make sure to thank your mother for the wonderful things she does for you, and thank God for giving you a mother to love! Happy Mother's Day!

Michaela Winfrey

“Honor her for all that her hands have done, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”

Proverbs 31:31



RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Chicken Alfredo Garlic Bread Pizza

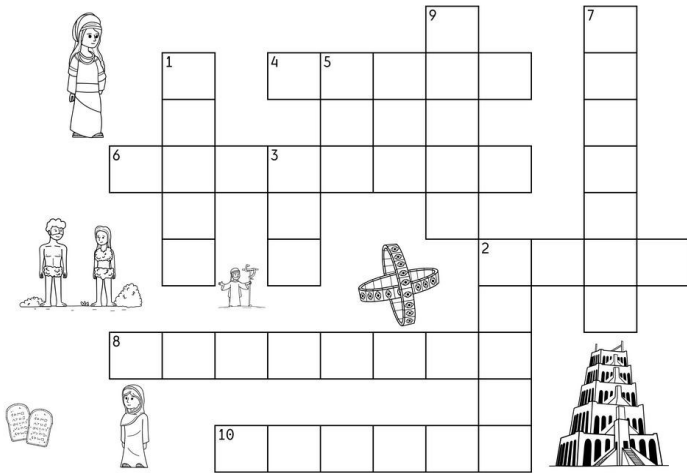
Ingredients: 1 loaf store-bought garlic bread / 4 tbsp butter / 1 tbs olive oil / 2 cups heavy cream / $\frac{3}{4}$ tsp salt / $\frac{1}{4}$ tsp pepper / $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp dried basil / $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp dried oregano / 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups chopped rotisserie chicken / 2 egg yolks / 3 cups shredded mozzarella cheese / 1 cup grated parmesan cheese

Instructions: Preheat oven to 375 / Place garlic bread on parchment-lined baking sheet and bake for 15 minutes / Remove bread from oven and spread the bread evenly with 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ cups of the shredded mozzarella cheese. Set aside / Make alfredo sauce by melting butter and oil in medium-size saucepan / Add heavy cream, salt, pepper, basil, and oregano to saucepan and bring to a simmer / In a small bowl, whisk 2 egg yolks along with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of the hot cream sauce to temper the yolks / Add the tempered egg yolks into the saucepan, and whisk to combine / Gently simmer the sauce to thicken, add the grated parmesan cheese, and whisk to melt / Spread the chopped chicken evenly over the bread / Spoon the alfredo sauce evenly over the chicken and top with the remaining shredded mozzarella cheese / Bake again for 15 minutes until golden and the cheese has melted / Cut into pieces and serve



BIBLE CROSSWORD

READ THE CLUES AND FILL IN THE CORRESPONDING SQUARES ON THE PUZZLE.



DOWN

1. BIBLICAL MATRIARCH
2. HEAVENLY HELPER
3. BIBLICAL SHIP THAT SAVED ANIMALS
5. THE BIBLE CHARACTER WHOSE WIFE TURNED INTO A PILLAR OF SALT
7. NAME CHANGED FROM ABRAM
9. ISAAC'S SON

ACROSS

2. HE WAS CREATED BY GOD IN HIS IMAGE
4. SPECIAL TABLE FOR GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT
6. FIRST CHAPTER OF GENESIS IS ABOUT THIS
8. A HEAVENLY GIFT
10. HANNAH'S SON

ABCmouse®



Happy Mother's Day



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