FOOTPRINTS

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
GREENWOOD,SC

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 12, Issue 11
November, 2026

"THANK YOU" ARE POWERFUL WORDS

Gracias, merci, danke, toda, grazie, arigato, hank-tay ou-yay, thank you! There are many different ways to say thank you depending on what language you speak, but the intention is the same throughout. The idea is to show gratitude for something in your life. Although we have grown up learning how to say thank you, there are times when we forget to be thankful for the blessings in life. As for me, I have much to be thankful for. My family is in good health, we have a roof over our heads and money to pay bills. The Wee Ones are no longer Wee Ones as they will be graduating in May, and they both are on their way to become college students at my Alma Mater! Along with that, we had a good Sunday Night Service preview last month, and I am looking forward to the next one this month. This has the potential for being a great part of our ministry.

As we move through the month, we will begin preparations for the season of Advent, but we should not allow Thanksgiving to pass us by in the process. Let's try our best to maintain an attitude of gratitude throughout November.

Givelify QR Code for giving online

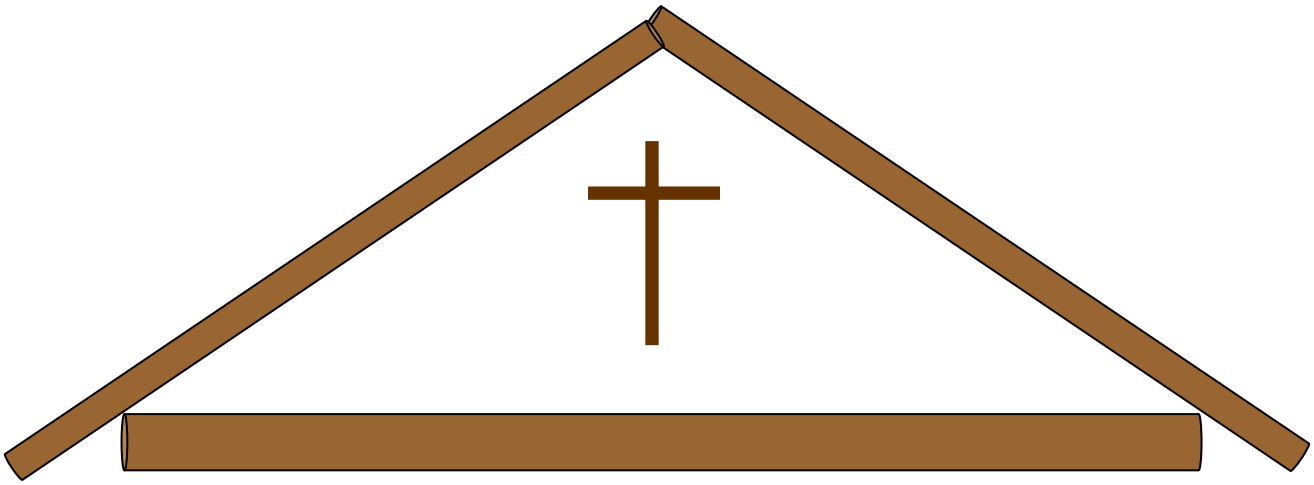
I love our church!
Earl Winfrey
Earl@fccgwd.org

Check us out online:	Facebook:	Address:	Church Office:
www.fccgwd.org	FirstChristianGWD	First Christian Church 474 Deadfall Road West Greenwood SC 29649	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

Basic Lessons From Church Class

(Taken from Earl's "Acts to America" class)

Biblical Guidelines:

The New Testament:

I. Christ's authority
- A. Christ is the ultimate authority for the church
  - 1. As the founder (Matt. 16:18)
  - 2. As the head (Eph. 1:22-23)
- B. Human positions of authority within the church are delegated by Christ

II. Apostolic teaching
- A. The Apostles were commissioned by Christ to establish the doctrine and practice needed by the church (John 14:26; 15:26-27; 16:13)
- B. Apostles' teaching (oral and written) became authority for the early church (Acts 2:42)
  - 1. The church at large should observe those apostolic commands that appear to speak universally to all churches
    - a) Stated as being universal
    - b) Or consistently repeated throughout the New Testament
    - c) Or given a rationale with universal relevance
  - 2. Not necessarily those instructions that address specific (local) issues
- C. The New Testament is our primary source for apostolic teaching

The New Covenant:

I. The new covenant
- A. The church is bound to the new covenant of Christ (2 Cor. 3:6)
- B. Our focus is the Scripture written after the death and resurrection of Christ (Acts-Rev)

II. The old covenant
- A. The church is not obligated to follow the instructions of the old Mosaic covenant
  - 1. The Law has fulfilled its purpose and is no longer binding (Gal. 3:24-25; 4:21-31)
  - 2. The Apostles narrowed the requirements of the Law to 3 fundamental things (Acts 15: 10-11, 28-29): No idolatry, no drinking blood, no sexual immorality
  - 3. The old covenant should now be considered "obsolete" and replaced by the new covenant of Christ (Heb. 8:6-13)
- B. Examples of old covenant rules that some have tried to require in the church
  - 1. Circumcision (Acts 15:5)
  - 2. Food regulations (Col. 2:16-17)
  - 3. Sabbath regulations (Col. 2:16-17)

Who will be our Next Man Up?

Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

BACK PORCH CONVERSATIONS

VOICES IN MY HEAD "You fail as a parent if your children..."

For this month's voice, I left it open ended because there are several directions we can go with this. We fail as parents if our kids: Don't love the Lord, don't follow in our footsteps, don't clean their rooms, don't go to college, don't eat their vegetables, don't cheer for the same college team we like. The list goes on and on. Of course, some of the stuff I wrote is a little silly, but my point is that the devil loves to get you focused on the little things so you can get discouraged and stop looking at the big picture.

It was November 11, 1993 when I held my first born son in my arms after watching him come into this world. This amazing miracle of life put a joy in my heart that I never felt before, but shortly after that, a new feeling in my stomach became the source of anxiety that all of us parents have felt at some point in our lives. It is the fear of failure and that somehow we are going to damage our children to the point where they will struggle for the rest of their lives. No matter what it is, school, sports, walking, talking, playing, or choosing a significant other, if they end up making a mistake, we usually blame ourselves for not being good parents.

This is where we have to understand that being a parent is not about creating a clone of ourselves. Let me say this again. Being a parent is not about creating a clone of ourselves! I hope we get this point because I believe that it is the source of frustration that can cause tension in the relationship. Way too often, parents project their own lives onto their children and live through them when they should be allowing their kids to spread their wings and fly on their own. Will they do things that we feel are way off base? Yes they will. And I am sure we did that too while growing up. But they will also impress us and make us proud when they go above and beyond our expectations for their lives. This is why we need to let them decide for themselves which direction to take and then support them along the way to make sure they remain on the straight and narrow path that leads to heaven.

Being a good parent is not about training them to do what we do. If that was the case, my father would have been a security guard, or I would have been working for the phone company. Instead, we need to be training them to focus on becoming the best version of themselves no matter what they decide to do. I am a preacher, but that does not mean Wil has to be a preacher too. I have a Master's Degree in college, but that does not mean my kids have to go to Seminary. Whatever they decide to do with their lives is up to them, and if I trained them right, they will choose something that will allow them to glorify God on a daily basis.

How do we silence the voice in our heads that says we are not good parents? We need to remind ourselves that being a good parent does not mean we are perfect parents with perfect children.

Offer to assist with your neighbor's yard work.

If you see your neighbor toiling away in the sun (or rain!), step alongside them, grab a shovel, and assist them in their mission. Fostering a service-minded community is important and you can do your part without stepping far from home.

This month's Church myth: "An event is not successful unless people show up for Worship"

This is a myth that has become the "Kiss of death" for many community events. A church works hard at planning something for the community and then they get frustrated when a large group of visitors show up. Although it seems like they should be happy that the event was a success, they become discouraged because they did not see those people show up for the next worship service. As a result, they cancel the event because it was not accomplishing what they felt like it should. The problem is not in the event that was planned.

We need to understand that community events are not designed for filling the pews. They are ways to get the people's attention so we can introduce them to our church. If we don't take the time to get to know the people who show up, there will not be much of a chance for those people to return. The reason why it looks like the events are not successful is because we place the wrong expectations on the event. We should enter into it with the expectation that the people will have a good time and we will get a chance to "break the ice" which will open the door for deeper conversations. Once the introduction leads into the conversation, an invitation can be extended, and eventually, that will lead to visitation. It is a process that takes several months and sometimes years to accomplish.

When thinking about the visitors who show up at church, ask yourself why they are here. Were they introduced to us through an event? Did somebody have a conversation with that person and then invited him/her to church? More often than not, a personal invitation was the reason why the visitors showed up, and if the community event was not there, there would not be a chance for the conversation to begin.

What is the purpose for a community event? The one word answer is exposure. If the church never opens the door and reaches out to the community, the community will not know what is going on inside the building. We cannot assume that they will be curious enough to look in. If they have lived long enough without the church in their lives, why would they all of a sudden choose to show up for the worship service? They need a way for us to connect with them that shows them the value of the church in their lives. This is why we must continue to get to know the people after the event has ended.

For this reason, I would say that the myth is busted because our success is not measured by who shows up on Sunday morning. Our success is measured by how many conversations we can have with the people after getting to know them through the community events.

Places to go, People to see, Things to do

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

Sunday Night Service Begins in 2027

"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 everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.

Mission of the Month

Food Bank of the Lakelands

Food Bank
SERVING THE LAKELANDS.
NOURISHING LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

The Food Bank of Greenwood County strives to reduce hunger and promote health and wellness in the communities of the Lakelands. We are a volunteer-driven organization supported by the generosity of individuals, churches, businesses, and organizations. Every contribution and volunteer helps us meet the emergency food needs in our community.

www.gwdfoodbank.org

The heart of the matter with matters of the heart (Earl Winfrey)

"Remember the Titans" is one of my favorite movies for reasons that many of you can guess. It is about a high school football team in Virginia during the forced integration years. The football team was dealing with the issues that came from the white and black players having to work with each other at training camp. During a pivotal scene, Coach Yoast (Defensive Coordinator) was talking to Coach Boone (Head Coach) about creating some trick plays for the offense. Coach Yoast said that the offense won't put any points on the scoreboard unless they start to have fun with the plays. Up to this point, the entire team was at a stalemate because of the racial tension. Coach Yoast had a good point, but that was not the cause for the lack of interest with the offensive players. Coach Boone had a different idea.

During lunch, Coach Boone had one of the white players stand up and say something about his black roommate that the rest of the team would not know. The player answered, but none of the other players wanted to stand up and share. This was the heart of the issue. None of the players took time to get to know each other, so they were not functioning as a team. They were a collection of football players who happened to be at the same training camp, but they were not acting like a team. Although the trick plays idea may have worked, that would not have solved the real problem which was a refusal to work together in harmony.

When discussing church, people have many opinions especially when the church being talked about is struggling. Everybody knows how to solve the problems of somebody else's church. When trying to solve your own church's problems, everybody else will usually offer "expert" advice whether you asked for it or not. More often than not, the majority of the advice given has to do with gimmicks to fill the pews when the solution usually has something to do with the heart of the church. Just like the trick plays Coach Yoast wanted to create, the gimmicks are fun and can bring excitement to the church, but they usually do not help the issues of the church on a long term basis. The heart of the matter usually involves the matters of the heart.

What makes a church successful is not the amount of gimmicks produced in a calendar year, it is the level of commitment from the people who belong to the church. If the people are sold on the church, they will do what they can to help the church succeed in whatever is going on. But if the people do not feel like they are part of the church, their hearts will belong to other places. Sometimes those places can be other churches, but the other places can also be community organizations, clubs, or worthwhile charity work in the community. People generally want to serve, and they will usually serve where they feel a connection. The hard part is finding out how to establish and maintain the connection.

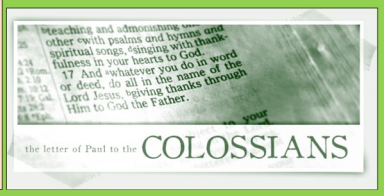
A connection involves two parts coming together at a certain point. If a solid connection is to be established in the church, it will take an effort from both the people and the leadership to make it happen. If one side or the other does not hold up their part of the connection, the church will not be able to make it to the next level. This is why it is so critical that we look beyond the gimmicks and focus on what it will take for us to establish connections so we can get everybody committed to the ministry of the church. Along with that, we need to make sure we maintain a connection with God who wrote the playbook for keeping our church healthy.

"Most people give up just when they're about to achieve success. They quit on the one yard line. They give up at the last minute of the game, one foot from a winning touchdown." - H. Ross Perot

CALENDAR OF EVENTS - NOVEMBER 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Sunday School (9:45am) Worship (10:45am)	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** Oh hold until further notice	Mission of the Month: **Food Bank of the Lakelands**	**Weekly bulletin will have the most current information**	**All events subject to change if needed**
1	2 1 Cor 9	3 Pray for FCC Romans 14	4 Isaiah 29	5 Ezekiel 13	6 Revelation 2	7 Col 2:16-23
8	9 1 Cor 10:1-22	10 Pray for FCC 1 Corinthians 10:23-33	11 Lev 19:1-18	12 Lev 19:19-37	13 Psalm 40	14 Col 3:1-17
15	16 Matt 5:1-16	17 Pray for FCC Matthew 16	18 Mark 9:33-50	19 (James 3) Newsletter Submissions Due	20 Mark 4:1-25	21 Col 3:18-4:6
22 Sunday Night Service (5pm)	23 Isaiah 7:10-25	24 Pray for FCC Isaiah 8:1-10	25 Isaiah 9:1-7	26 Luke 1:26-38	27 John 1:1-18	28 Matt 1:18-25
29 Fifth Sunday Mission Offering	30 Psalm 23			Leadership meets as needed	**Communion Meditation:** 1st Sunday: Chris Crawford 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays: Winfreys 4th Sunday: Frank Jackson	

9/27 - Holy and Faithful
10/04 - Who is Jesus?
10/11 - Chris Crawford Preach
10/18 - The Great Mystery
10/25 - Sweater of Unity
11/01 - Growing in Christ
11/08 - Freedom in Christ
11/15 - Clothed with Christ
11/22 - Living for Christ



"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation." (Colossians 1:15 ESV)

FCC of Greenwood SC - www.fccgwd.org

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Greenwood SC 29649
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