

# FOOTPRINTS



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

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 12, Issue 4  
April, 2026

[4] There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call—[5] one Lord, one faith, one baptism, [6] one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:4-6)






2026 Theme [www.fccgwd.org](http://www.fccgwd.org)

## APRIL IS A BIG MONTH FOR US

Welcome to April! It begins with Easter and ends with the post resurrection appearances as we move towards Pentecost in May. It is also a big month for my family as my nephew Charlie and my son Wil turn 18 years old this year! My dad's birthday was April 4th but this is the 3rd year without him, and I will be 51 years old on the 25th.

Easter is the time we celebrate the victory over death that we have in Jesus and April is the month where the yellow

powder storms remind us that the flowerbeds will be coming to life with colors for us to enjoy for the seasons! The flowers will no longer be dormant as they are given new life through the changing of the seasons. Our faith should not be dormant either because of the changing from the old to the new covenant telling us that we have new life in Christ.

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

I  
JESUS  
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Givify  
QR Code  
for giving  
online



Check us out online:

[www.fccgwd.org](http://www.fccgwd.org)

Facebook:

FirstChristianGWD

Address:

First Christian Church  
474 Deadfall Road West  
Greenwood SC 29649

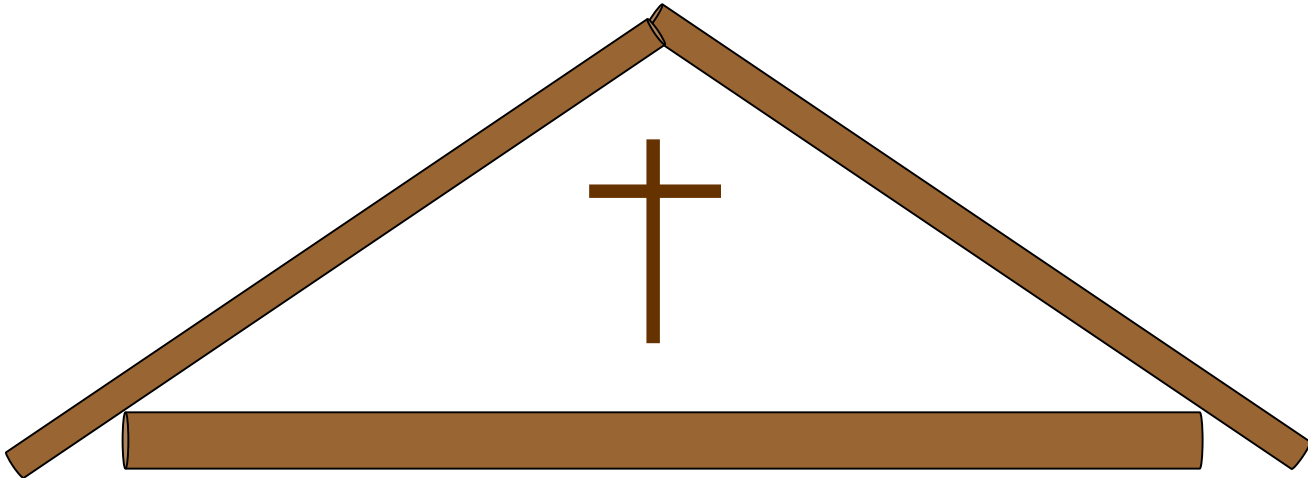
Church Office:

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

## R-E-L-A-X (2017 Blog post from Earl)

The movie "Cars 3" finally showed up on Netflix so we got the opportunity to watch it. That's how we poor people watch movies, but I digress. The movie was an interesting one to watch because the trailer showed Lightning McQueen in a horrible wreck and then the screen went black. I remember the Wee Ones being upset because we had no idea about how this was going to end.

The good news is that Lightning McQueen survived the wreck and he was working on returning to the race track for a major portion of the movie.

At this point in his career, he and the other veterans were heading towards retirement as the new generation of race cars took over. Of course, this was not something he wanted to accept, but the reality was that it was time to pass the baton.

I really liked this movie because of the references to the "Good Ole Days" of racing, and the scenes involving the old racetrack. Just like the first movie, I was able to share some history with the Wee Ones as we watched.

When Lightning McQueen started training again, it was completely different from the way he was taught. Instead of going to the track and burning rubber, he was inside a building with simulators and personal coaches. He entered a modern building with all kinds of bells and whistles, went into the grand lobby that boasted of the owner's financial success, and on the other side of the room were a few cars in training on the simulators.

The cars were making progress until they started thinking about what they were doing.

When one of the cars started slowing down and getting nervous, the coach pressed a button that changed the picture on the screen so the car would see something that helped him relax. After seeing the picture and calming down, his speed increased and he was running the way he was designed to run. What happened?

The car was getting inside his own head and that was causing him to slow down and panic.

We always perform our best when we relax and stop worrying about our present situation. The car was designed to go fast, but when he thought too much about going fast, he would slow down. This happens in the church too.

When we allow ourselves to get inside our own heads, the church cannot "Perform" at its best.

## Who will be our Next Man Up?



## Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

Continued on page 7...

## BACK PORCH CONVERSATIONS



## VOICES IN MY HEAD "You Are Not Worthy"

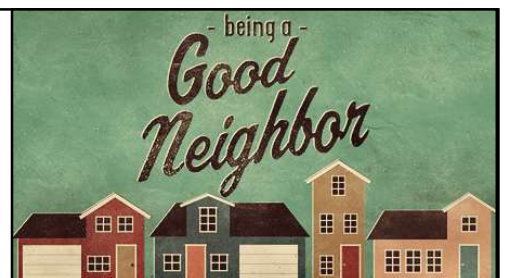
In the movie *Wayne's World*, there is a scene when they are in the dressing room with rock star Alice Cooper. After talking for a while, they feel like it is time to make an exit so they don't appear to be too much like a crazed fan. At that point, Alice says that they should stay and hang out with the band longer. They agreed to stay but then realized that they were hanging out with the rock star Alice Cooper. They immediately dropped to the floor bowing down saying we're not worthy! That was a funny image of how we feel sometimes when we come into the presence of somebody we regard as a rock star for something we view as a lifetime goal. For example, if I had the opportunity to meet Reggie White when I was in high school, I would probably have the same reaction as the scene because I viewed him as the goal for my football career. I played on the defensive line so the NFL Minister of Defense was what I viewed as the "Rock Star" for football. No matter how hard I worked, and I worked really hard during those years, I never achieved the status of NFL player.

When it comes to life goals whether in ministry or anywhere else, there is a voice inside our heads that says we're not worthy of the success that others have. For the secular work force, it could be a promotion or some kind of supervisor position that is just out of reach. For sports, it could be the next level of play whether it is college or professional level. In life, it could be owning a big house, driving a car that was not driven by somebody else first, or having a full closet of brand name clothes, the bank account having money after paying bills or being able to go on a vacation that did not require months of planning for a budget that never works out the way it looked on paper.

The feeling of unworthiness rears its ugly head in ministry when preachers get together to talk about their churches. Those who have bigger churches may appear to be on a different level than others, but we have all graduated from similar schools, had veteran preachers mentor us, and serve the same God when we stand up to preach every Sunday. However, the voice in our heads telling us that we're not worthy can bring us down and keep us from becoming the best version of ourselves when serving the Lord. That's what happens when we compare ourselves to others who have travelled a different road to their success.

How can we stop listening to that voice in our heads saying we're not worthy? First and foremost, we have to stop measuring our success by viewing the highlight reels of others. No matter how close we are to those we view as next level people, we do not have access to their daily lives. We do not know what kinds of struggles they faced when achieving success. All we see is the success they have at the moment, and that can be frustrating. That's why we need to base our worthiness on the fact that God thinks enough of us to open doors for ministry and stop comparing our own context with others who have not lived the life we have lived.

Get some index cards and write Bible verses on them for encouragement. Also, write that whoever is reading the card just got prayed for. (Don't forget to pray!) Then leave them in places where people can see them. Be sure to use Bible verses that are positive and uplifting because the idea is to make somebody smile.





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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## "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 life is tough, but I'm tougher.

# Mission of the Month

## Meg's House

You Don't Have to be Hopeless

Meg's House was incorporated by the State of South Carolina as a not-for-profit organization serving McCormick, Edgefield, and Greenwood counties. The initials of those county names form the acronym MEG, from which the organization is named. The sole purpose of Meg's House is to provide safe emergency shelter and supportive services for victims of domestic violence.



... Continued from page 3

I don't like using the word "Perform" because too many people get hung up on it, but the church does perform a service for God when it carries on its ministry. And if we are not performing at our best, God is not being glorified by what we do. Of course, our best will depend on our skill and ability so we need to keep in mind that while we may not be the best church in the community, we are capable of being the best church we can be for our present situation. How can we become the best church we can be? There is a one-word answer for that: R-E-L-A-X

If we allow ourselves to worry about that which is beyond our control, we hold ourselves back and the results are a mediocre church. We also send a message that we are not completely confident in the church's ability to succeed on its own. This is why many churches make changes based on fear instead of improving their ministry after spending much time in prayer and discussion. When thinking about ministry struggles, the problem is usually not with the church's design, it is our inability to calm down and let the church be the church that it was designed to be. I'm not talking about favoring one method over another. I am talking about our need to stop trying everything that is shiny and new without taking the time to make sure it will work for our present context. I am not against innovation as long as it has a purpose, but if we relax and work with what we already have, we might be surprised at how effective our ministry can be.

#### 2026 LENTEN PILGRIMAGE (Frank Jackson)

The Interdenominational Lenten Pilgrimage has been a Greenwood tradition for more than 30 years (Index/Journal, St. Claire Donaghy). Phillis and I have been participating more regularly since my retirement but this is the first time we really made a conscious effort, at Bro. Earl's request, to organize our thoughts and reflect on the experience. The primary purpose of this event is to act as a fund raiser for the Greater Greenwood United Ministry. The mission of this organization is "To give hope by sharing the love of Jesus Christ and offering a hand up to those in life and medical crisis in our community." This is accomplished by a voluntary offering made for that purpose at each church service. So, why don't people just write a check and send it in? Why do people come on Wednesdays at noon, year-after-year to fill participating churches to capacity? I think it is because the people of Greenwood are drawn together by the spirit of Jesus Christ in a common purpose that transcends denominational differences. It also helps that lunch is part of the service. But more than the food is the opportunity to sit down in Christian fellowship with old friends and become new friends with complete strangers

There were six participating churches this year: Immanuel Lutheran, First Presbyterian, St. Mark United Methodist Church, First Baptist Church, Main Street United Methodist and Morris Chappel Baptist Church. Each church had a 12:30 worship service with a lunch seating at 12:00 before the service or 1:00 afterwards. (It is easy to know who the long talkers are because they choose the 1:00 lunch.) As one might think is obvious, the styles of worship were as different as the physical facilities. However, all the participating churches had in common the same mind-boggling commitment to the planning, the personnel and the financial resources necessary for the successful hosting of their service. Sermons were prepared, musicians rehearsed, programs were prepared and volunteers organized the cooking and cleaning for two different meal services for which attendees were asked to pay a whopping \$2.00 a person. Just think all that had to be done by each host church in the middle of the week. It just goes to show that the spirit of Christian Fellowship is alive and thriving in Greenwood.

## Finding Hope in Jesus This Easter

*“Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?’”*  
(John 11:25-26)

Easter is a beautiful holiday that celebrates the Lord’s death, burial, and resurrection. Good Friday marks the day when the Lord died on the cross for our sins, and Resurrection Sunday is the day the Lord was raised back to life, signifying His triumph over the grave. By placing faith in Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection, we can be saved. (Romans 10:9-11)

Although Easter is rooted in such a profound truth, we sometimes struggle to find joy during this holiday. This is particularly true if we are going through a challenging time, such as losing our job, going through a divorce, or living in the aftermath of a loved one’s passing away. Any of these things can make us feel sorrowful over the Easter holiday.

The first Easter that my family and I celebrated after my mom passed away was one of immense sorrow, but also one of great hope. Before this year, I had only associated Easter with the Easter bunny, egg hunts, and pastel dresses. The year after my mom died changed all this. It helped me to see Easter for what it truly is: the anniversary of the resurrection of our Savior and Lord. Therefore, there were two major changes at Easter: one, my mom was no longer present, and two, I finally understood the true meaning of Easter. Changes can be good or bad.

Think about what changes have happened since your last Easter. Maybe you lost a friend, were diagnosed with an illness, or were demoted at your company. Bring all these concerns to the Lord and set them at His feet (1 Peter 5:7). Talk with Him freely about your concerns, and don’t be afraid to be honest with your feelings.

Regardless of the changes you are experiencing this Easter season, you need to return to the root of Easter: Jesus. The Bible tells us, “Jesus said to her, ‘I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?’” (John 11:25-26) What the Lord tells Martha, He also tells us. He is the resurrection and the life. Although we will die, if we believe in Him, we will live. While our earthly bodies will pass away, our souls will continue. Our souls will occupy our heavenly bodies (2 Corinthians 5:1-5).

This is what Easter is all about. None of this would be possible without Jesus’ finished work on the cross and His resurrection. As you reflect on the Easter holiday, allow your heart to embrace Jesus’ goodness, love, and hope. This could be the change you need in life this year; to truly know the Lord and accept His blessings into your life.

We will all pass away one day, but if we belong to Christ, we will never truly die. Our eternal home is in the New Heaven and New Earth, the home of righteousness (2 Peter 3:13). There, there will be no more pain, weeping, or death (Revelation 21:4). Everything will be perfect, and we will be walking with Jesus. Praise the Lord that He is the resurrection and the life! We would be lost without Jesus. As Christ followers, we can embrace the changes at Easter, whether good or bad, by relying on Jesus. He is our Good Shepherd, who laid down His life for His sheep. (John 10:11).

## Meaning Behind the Song: Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)

by Hillsong United



The song “Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)” by Hillsong United is a powerful worship anthem that has touched the hearts of millions across the globe. Released in 2013 as part of the album “Zion”, the song has since become a staple in many church services and Christian gatherings. Its poignant lyrics and emotive melody have drawn listeners closer to their faith and inspired them to trust in God’s sovereignty, even in the midst of life’s uncertainties.

The song serves as a reminder that, just like Peter walking on water towards Jesus in the biblical account, we are called to step out in faith and trust God’s guidance. The lyrics speak of going “where feet may fail” and being led “deeper than my feet could ever wander.” It encourages believers to let go of their fears and surrender to God’s will, recognizing that He is capable of leading them to places they never thought possible.

The inspiration for “Oceans (Where Feet May Fail)” came from the band members personal experiences with trusting God in times of uncertainty. They drew inspiration from the account of Peter walking on water in Matthew 14:22-33, when Peter’s faith was tested as he stepped out onto the stormy sea.

The phrase “where feet may fail” refers to the challenges and uncertainties we face in life. It symbolizes moments when we feel overwhelmed by the storms around us, unsure of our own abilities to navigate through difficult situations. The song encourages us to rely on God’s strength and trust that He will guide us through the waves.

This song has resonated with so many people because it addresses universal themes of faith, trust, and surrender. The heartfelt lyrics and beautiful melody touch the depths of the soul, reminding listeners of the importance of relying on God’s guidance and stepping out in faith.

[www.OLDTIMEMUSIC.COM](http://www.OLDTIMEMUSIC.COM)



### RECIPE OF THE MONTH: Strawberry Cheesecake Dip

**Ingredients:** 8 oz cream cheese, softened / 1 cup confectioner’s sugar / ½ teaspoon vanilla extract / ½ cup heavy cream / ¼ cup strawberry jam / 1 package graham crackers

**Directions:** In a bowl, add softened cream cheese, confectioner’s sugar, and vanilla extract. Using a hand mixer or stand mixer, mix until fully combined and incorporated. Set it aside.

In a separate bowl, add heavy cream. Using a hand mixer or stand mixer with a whisk attachment, whip for about 2-3 minutes to medium peaks. / Gently fold whipped cream into cream cheese mixture until fully incorporated. Spread cheesecake dip into a wide, shallow bowl and top with strawberry jam. Use a knife to swirl jam into dip.

Serve immediately with graham crackers, or store in the refrigerator until ready to serve.



# CALENDAR OF EVENTS - APRIL 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	<b>Pray for FCC</b> reminder to pray for our church every Tuesday	<b>Mid-Week Bible Study</b>  Oh hold until further notice	Mission of the Month:  <b>Meg's House</b>	<b>Weekly bulletin will have the most current information</b>	<b>All events subject to change if needed</b>
	Leadership meets as needed		1  Isaiah 51	2  Isaiah 52	3 <b>Good Friday</b>  Isaiah 53	4  1 Cor 15:12-26
5  <b>Easter Sunday</b>	6  Luke 8:1-21	7 <u>Pray for FCC</u>  Matt 27:45-66	8  Matthew 28	9  Mark 16	10  John 19:16-42	11  John 20:10-18
12	13  Luke 24	14 <u>Pray for FCC</u>  Exodus 19	15  Luke 9:1-27	16  Luke 9:28-62	17  John 2:1-12	18  Lk 24:13-35
19	20  John 1:9-18	21 <u>Pray for FCC</u>  John 9	22  John 11:1-44	23 (John 14:1-14) Newsletter Submissions Due	24  John 16:16-24	25  John 20:24-31
26	27  Matt 4:12-25	28 <u>Pray for FCC</u>  Mark 1:16-39	29  Matt 14:22-33	30  Matthew 16	<b>Communion Meditation:</b> <u>1st Sunday:</u> Chris Crawford <u>2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays:</u> Winfreys <u>4th Sunday:</u> Frank Jackson	

3/29 - Triumphal Entry

4/05 - Resurrection

4/12 - Living Proof: Mary Magdalene

4/19 - Living Proof: The Road to Emmaus


4/26 - Living Proof: Thomas

5/03 - Living Proof: Peter

5/10 - Mary, The Mother of Jesus

5/17 - Ascension

**Life of Christ**



*"<sup>40</sup> God raised him on the third day and made him to appear, <sup>41</sup> not to all the people but to us who had been chosen by God as witnesses, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead."<sup>1</sup> (Acts 10:40-41 ESV)*

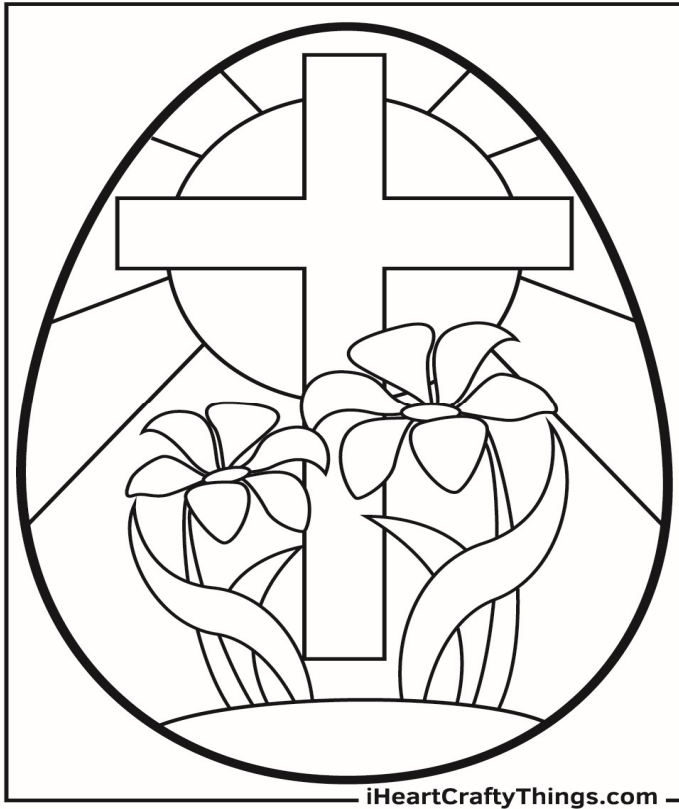
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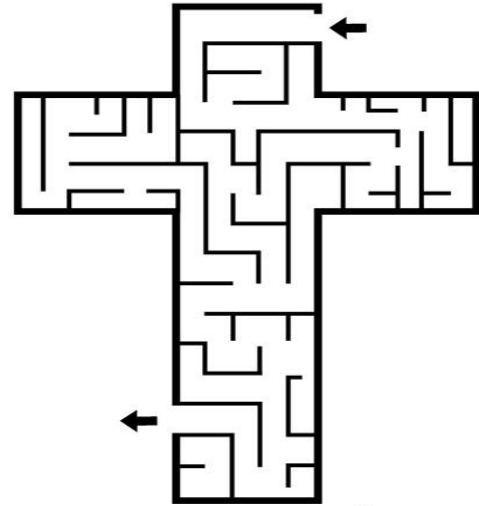
**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
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“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life.  
The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”  
(John 11:25)



## Cross Maze



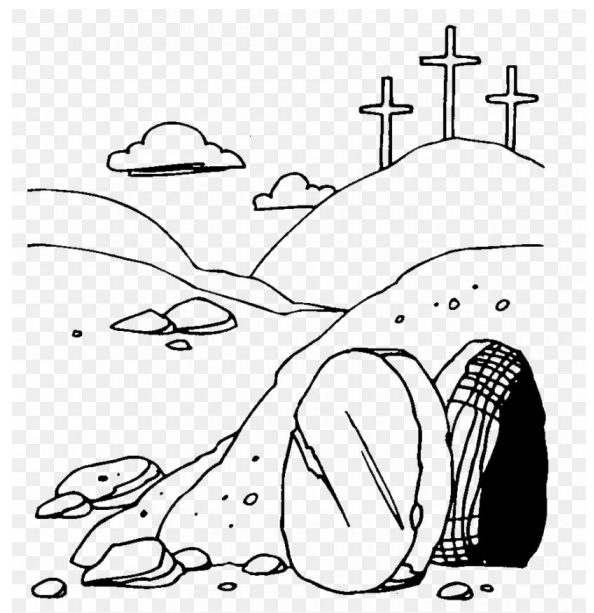
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Man, I love Easter. Especially when my dad cooks his famous ham! YUMMY! But that's not the only reason why I love Easter. I love Easter because it was when Jesus rose from the dead! Don't ask me how, because I have no idea! All I know is that it was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

Michaela Winfrey

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

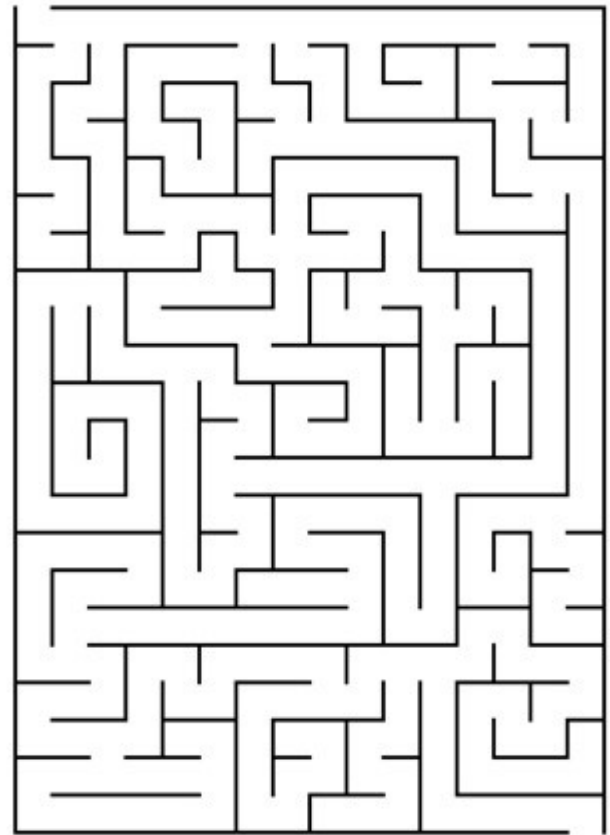
John 3:16





Start!

Maze 3



Finish!

SUPERSTARWORKSHEETS

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