

FOOTPRINTS



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
GREENWOOD, SC

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Volume 12, Issue 6
June, 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

I AM PROUD TO BE A MAN

In a world where the traditional man is frowned upon, we need the church to help us embrace manhood as God created it. Even though our society is trying to tell us that we should be ashamed of our gender, God has told us to be true to who we are and fulfill our purpose that was given to us, being the head of the household and spiritual leaders of our families. As the head of the household, we should be brave enough to make the decisions that are in the best interest of our family and be willing to experience the heat from those who disagree.

As the spiritual leaders, we should be showing our families what a Godly man looks like. Our wives need to know that they married a Godly man. Our sons need to know how to become Godly men, and our daughters need to know what to look for when it is time for them to find a Godly man. Let's take the time to reflect on our lives and make sure we are doing what we can to be the real men of God our families need us to be.

I
JESUS
L
O
R
D

Givify
QR Code
for giving
online



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

Check us out online:

www.fccgwd.org

Facebook:

FirstChristianGWD

Address:

First Christian Church
474 Deadfall Road West
Greenwood SC 29649

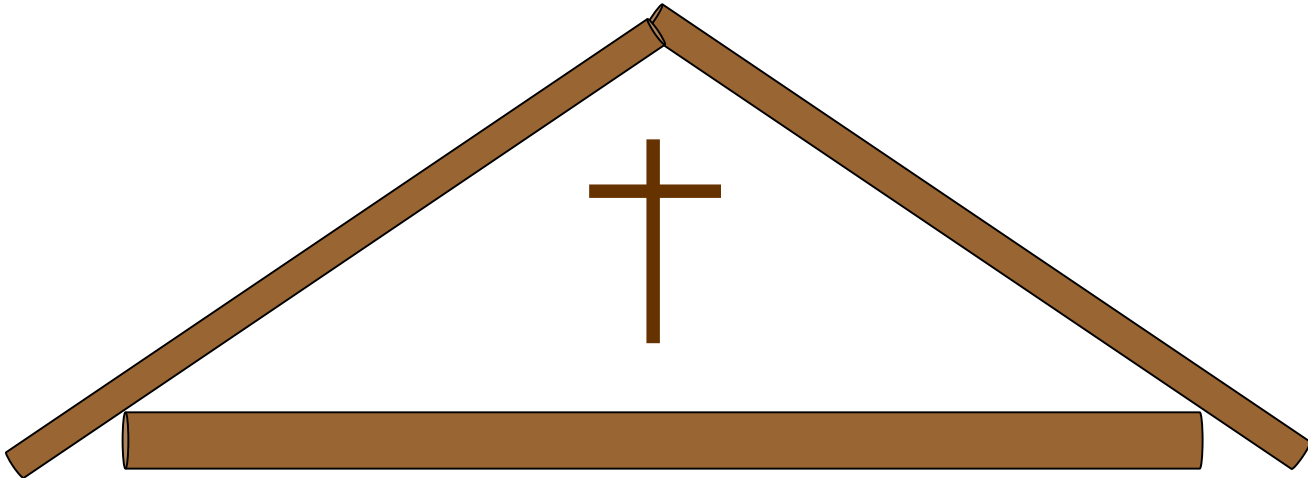
Church Office:

864-223-2940
Earl@fccgwd.org

Please keep us informed of any address changes so we can keep our records up to date.

What Kind of Church is First Christian Church?

First Christian Church is a non-denominational Elders-led Church located in Greenwood, SC. We are part of the movement to restore the simplicity of New Testament Christianity. We believe that Jesus Christ is the son of God, that He lived a sinless life, offered His life for ours on the Cross, and rose on the third day to live forever. We believe that salvation comes through simple obedience to the plan of salvation that is laid out in the pages of the New Testament.



Core Beliefs

A common misconception is that all churches believe and preach the same thing. Unfortunately that isn't the case. In a world that is greatly divided spiritually it is very important to know just exactly what a church believes and practices. We welcome the opportunity to sit with you and discuss these core beliefs in depth.

We believe...

1. That Jesus Christ is the only begotten Son of God who died for our sins and arose from the dead. **1 Corinthians 15:1-8**
2. That the Bible is the inspired Word of God - "a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path".
2 Timothy 3:16; Psalm 119:105
3. That every person has worth as a creation of God but "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" **Romans 3:23**
4. That forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life are available to those who trust and obey Christ as Savior and Lord. **John 3:16**
5. That we are saved by grace through faith in Christ. **Ephesians 2:8-9**
6. That the Church is the body of Christ on earth and exists to save the lost and edify the saved.
Ephesians 4:1-16
7. That Jesus Christ will one day return as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. **1 Thes 4:13-18**
8. That those accepting Christ must repent of sin, confess their faith and be baptized into Him.
Romans 10:9, Acts 2:38

For more information about baptism, see our Baptism FAQ located on our website

Biblical Foundation

Share Your Time

A man came home from work late again, tired and irritated, to find his 5 year old son waiting for him at the door. "Daddy, may I ask you a question?"

"Yeah, sure, what is it?" replied the man.

"Daddy, how much money do you make an hour?"

"That's none of your business! What makes you ask such a thing?" the man said angrily.

"I just want to know. Please tell me, how much do you make an hour?" pleaded the little boy.

"If you must know, I make \$20.00 an hour."

"Oh," the little boy replied, head bowed. Looking up, he said, "Daddy, may I borrow \$10.00 please?"

The father was furious. "If the only reason you wanted to know how much money I make is just so you can borrow some to buy a silly toy or some other nonsense, then you march yourself straight to your room and go to bed. Think about why you're being so selfish. I work long, hard hours everyday and don't have time for such childish games." The little boy quietly went to his room and shut the door. The man sat down and started to get even madder about the little boy's questioning. How dare him ask such questions only to get some money.

After an hour or so, the man had calmed down, and started to think he may have been a little hard on his son. Maybe there was something he really needed to buy with that \$10.00, and he really didn't ask for money very often. The man went to the door of the little boy's room and opened the door. "Are you asleep son?" he asked. "No daddy, I'm awake," replied the boy.

"I've been thinking, maybe I was too hard on you earlier," said the man. "It's been a long day and I took my aggravation out on you. Here's that \$10.00 you asked for."

The little boy sat straight up, beaming. "Oh, thank you daddy!" he yelled. Then, reaching under his pillow, he pulled out some more crumpled up bills. The man, seeing that the boy already had money, started to get angry again. The little boy slowly counted out his money, then looked up at the man.

"Why did you want more money if you already had some?" the father grumbled.

"Because I didn't have enough, but now I do," the little boy replied.

"Daddy, I have \$20.00 now. Can I buy an hour of your time?"

Share some time with those who need you. They need our time more than we will ever know.

Who will be our Next Man Up?



Mentoring today for a better tomorrow

BACK PORCH CONVERSATIONS



VOICES IN MY HEAD

“God doesn't really love you”

Last month, we talked about the voice that says you need to stop being yourself. Another voice that can pile on with the previous one is saying that God doesn't really love you. Since you can't be good enough being yourself, God does not love you. Another way to look at it involves past mistakes. Since you made a huge mistake in the past and fallen short of the glory of God, your sin is too bad for God to really love you. How can He let you into heaven after the sins you committed in the past?

The truth is that God can and will let you into heaven no matter how big the sin was because Jesus took care of it. He suffered so you do not have to, and that shows us God's love. While we are still sinners, Christ died for us. Of course, knowing what the scriptures say is good, but will scripture alone keep the voice inside our heads from speaking to us? After all, Adam and Eve knew what God taught them directly, and they still ended up getting kicked out of the Garden of Eden. Knowing that God loves you may be enough during the good times, but what about those times when life gets hard and everything around you begins to fall apart? Do you feel God's love during those moments?

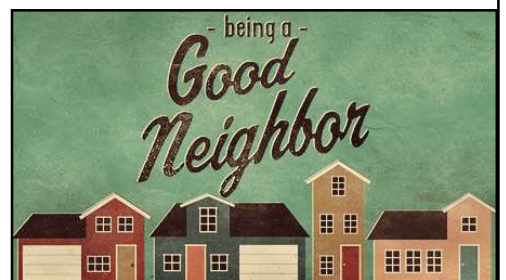
The devil loves to kick us while we are down so when life gets hard, he pushes harder to try to make us fall off into the deep end of the pool. How can we put the voice in our heads on mute when we feel so unlovable? The answer may not be as hard to find as we think. When is the most vulnerable moment when our minds can play tricks on us? The most vulnerable moment is when we are alone. In the animal kingdom, the predator chases the pack until one of the prey ends up isolated and that's when they pounce on them and go in for the kill.

The devil works the same way. He waits until we are isolated from the pack and when we are at our weakest moments, the voices in our heads are screaming the loudest, he pounces on us and convinces us that God does not really love us. That is why we need to stay with the pack.

What is the pack we need to stay with? The Church. God knew that we needed a pack to run with so we could stay strong enough to resist the devil. That is why He built the church. While we meet together and encourage each other to walk the straight and narrow road leading to heaven, we need to remember that the pack is so much more than a place to gather for worship and Bible Study. The pack is where we can pour out our hearts, share what we are struggling with, and find safety in numbers when the devil tries to attack. We should stay faithful to the pack because that is where we belong. God created us for relationships and the pack is where those relationships grow. The pack is where we gain strength. The pack is where we can put those voices inside our heads on mute and remind ourselves that Christianity is a team sport.

Simply extend a friendly wave and “hello” to your neighbor

If time and money prevent you from executing any of the other ideas, a friendly greeting will go a long way in establishing relationships within your community. It's tempting to make the daily sprint from your car to your house (or vice versa), but instead, take a moment to greet your neighbor!





This month's Church myth: "Perfect attendance will get you into heaven"

I would hope that this month's myth could be easily busted because everybody knows that the only way to enter heaven is through the blood of Jesus. We are saved by grace not by works so having perfect attendance should not matter. However, I know that there are many people who will not admit that they think this way, but they act like missing church is the unpardonable sin. Now before you call an emergency meeting to have me removed, let me explain what I mean.

I wish everybody could show up every time the church doors are open, but that is just not realistic. People have responsibilities outside of church. People go on trips. People get sick. Sometimes, people get bored or they have something against the ones in charge. People are human so they will miss church. This includes the preacher who did not go to church one Sunday while being on vacation! Oops!

So... What is the problem here? The problem is that some people will not tolerate a person missing something at church because they feel like the church should be more important than anything. While I may agree with that thought, I am not naive enough to think that today's society allows the church to have the same authority it once had. The church does not have the authority to demand people to show up, and that is a good thing. God does not want a church full of people who are treated more like employees and less like brothers and sisters.

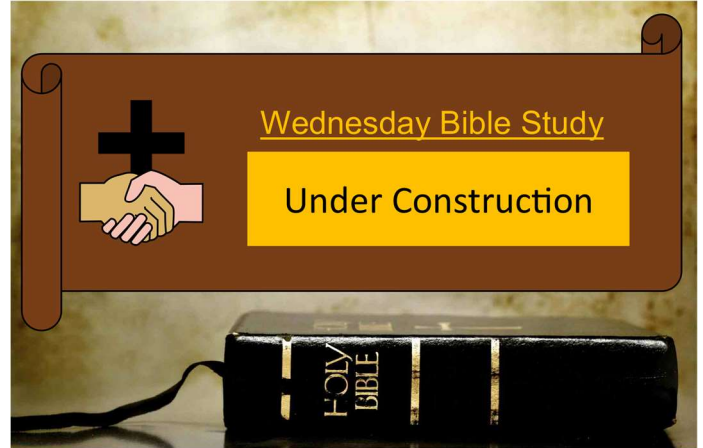
For this reason, it is important for us to be careful about how hard we press people for reasons why they were absent. We can and should tell them that they were missed and we were curious about why they were out, but if they do not want to tell us why they missed, it really is none of our business. This is hard to hear especially since I grew up in a different age for the church, but the reality is that we need to be more respectful of people's privacy because the days of the pins for perfect attendance in Sunday School are gone.

We also need to be careful not to pass judgment when a person is absent. Not everybody misses because they don't love Jesus. They might have something going on that is keeping them away, and if they don't want to share it, we can still pray for that person instead of assuming the worst.

Perfect attendance will not get you into heaven, but we sure do hope you can make going to church a priority. We love all of our people and we hope they can take advantage of the Family of God we have here, but we understand if life gets in the way sometimes. Just remember that we are praying for you even when you are not able to show up!

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....

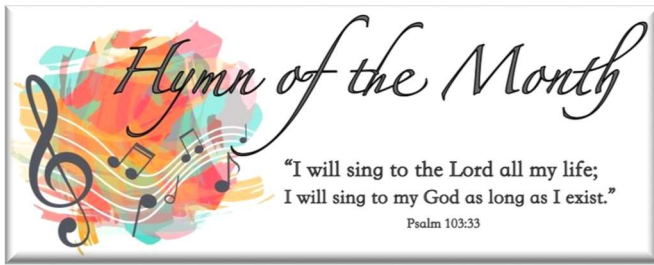
That when you harbour bitterness,
happiness will dock elsewhere.

Mission of the Month



"COME & SEE, GO & TELL"

Camp Edisto provides students a life changing week where kids will be challenged in their walk with Christ. It truly is a time where kids come to see what being a follower of Christ means and they leave with a deep passion to live and share the love of Christ with the world. This is a place where youth can come to hear that they matter to God. A place where they can be honest about what is happening in their lives with peers & find support. During this week they hear that through a life in Christ they can face anything the world throws at them.



This Is My Father's World

What congregation had two successive ministers who wrote hymns that are contained in most North American hymnals? The answer: Brick Presbyterian Church, New York City.

One of the leading Presbyterian ministers of his generation, Maltbie Davenport Babcock (1858-1901) penned a hymn with such concrete language that even children can understand its message at a basic level. He followed Dr. Henry Van Dyke, author of the hymn "Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee" (The UM Hymnal, no. 89), as the minister of Brick Presbyterian Church.

Babcock was born in Syracuse, N.Y., and was a graduate of Syracuse University. He continued his education at Auburn Theological Seminary in New York. After serving two congregations at Lockport near Lake Ontario and Baltimore, he assumed the pastorate at Brick Church. He died just a few months short of his 42nd birthday in a hospital in Naples, Italy, following a trip to the Holy Land.

Babcock was known both as a skilled amateur musician, playing the organ, piano and violin, and recognized as a university sportsman with achievements in swimming and baseball. He was an outdoorsman with broad shoulders and a muscular build. One of his poems gives insight into his approach to life: "We are not here to play, to dream, to drift, We have hard work to do, and loads to lift, Shun not the struggle; face it; 'Tis God's gift."

Our hymn was published posthumously in Babcock's *Thoughts for Every-Day Living* (1901) though it had probably been written much earlier. While a pastor in Lockport, N.Y., near Lake Ontario, hymnologist Kenneth Osbeck noted Babcock's practice of "taking morning walks to the top of a hill north of town where he had a full view of Lake Ontario and the surrounding country." It was said that he had a frequent expression before leaving for these walks, "I'm going out to see my Father's world."

The original poem was composed in 16 four-line stanzas, each beginning with "This is my Father's world." One of Babcock's friends, Franklin Shepherd (1852-1930) adapted an English folk song inserting portions of Babcock's text into three, eight-line stanzas. The hymn in this form first appeared in the composer's hymnal *Alleluia*, a Presbyterian Sunday school book published in 1915. The tune name, TERRA BEATA, means "blessed earth" in Latin.

The first two stanzas are unusually concrete in their references to nature—"rocks and trees, of skies and seas"; "birds..., the morning light, the lily white... rustling grass." For Babcock, nature was not only a visual spectacle, but an aural experience. Perhaps the author's skill as a musician contributed to the many auditory images: "listening ears" and "nature sings" and "birds their carols raise" and "rustling grass."

The author shifts his focus in the final stanza from describing the visual and aural beauty of nature to the reality that all is not right with the world. With a strong sense of Presbyterian providence, Babcock observes "that though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the ruler yet." The closing couplet, posing and answering a question, offers hope: "Why should my heart be sad?... God reigns, let the earth be glad."



Good, Good Father

It's not a stretch to assume that Chris Tomlin wrote his latest Top 10 worship song. According to billboard.com, Good, Good Father again tops the hot Christian songs chart for the week of March 5, 2016. It's possible that you're already singing this during worship in your church service. My family has been worshipping to this song for over a month now in our church. Mr. Tomlin has hit it big again, but this time he did so by choosing the right song to cover, not by writing it.

Tomlin is one of several of artists who have recorded Good, Good Father.

Actually, according to billboard.com, Tomlin is one of several artists that have recorded Good Good Father. The song, written by Pat Barrett and Tony Brown, was originally cut by Housefires, their worship team from Grace Fellowship in Atlanta, GA. The song has also been recorded by Big Daddy Weave, Casting Crowns, and Zealand Worship.

Pat Barrett effectively endorsed Chris Tomlin's version, which was similar to the cover by Housefires. "Tomlin is considered by many as America's worship leader and is the most sung artist in churches around the world. All of that helped," Capitol Christian Music Group's promoter, Grant Hubbard, told billboard.com.

"I love talking about this song cause I had nothing to do with writing it."

Good, Good Father left an impression on Chris Tomlin from the first time he heard it when his wife played it for him. He introduces his cut of the song on his website by saying that "Songs like this don't come around that often. You try and you try as a songwriter to write songs that even get close to this and every once in a while that happens... I love talking about this song cause I had nothing to do with writing it."

Anthony Brown, Good, Good Father co-writer, tells the story of how he came to write the chorus in an interview on newsongcafe.com. Tony explains that he had no dad. "The only one I've ever called 'Father' is God." He said that the chorus arose during spontaneous worship, and that they used the chorus in worship for about four years before he sat down with Pat Barrett and composed the entire song. "Just saying (the word good) once was not enough," and so it is repeated.

"This song helps you unlearn damaging things you have heard about God."

Pat Barrett, his co-writer, continues in the interview; "Good, Good Father helps you unlearn damaging things you have heard about God... the bridge 'You are perfect in all of your ways, to us' personalizes (His goodness)." The result is a powerful song that many people relate to at a deep level.

Good, Good Father is impacting worship around the globe. It's already a classic and will continue to broaden our understanding of the depth of God's love for each of us each time we sing it. Both Tony Brown and Pat Barrett understand that their song carries a priceless message from God as He is worshiped through it. All of us relate to the message of a father's loves, some as sons and daughters, and some as fathers. As Chris Tomlin summarizes, songs like this don't come around very often.

Anniversaries, Transition Plans, and The Next Chapter (Earl Winfrey)

June 28, 2015 was the day that I began as the Preacher here at First Christian Church. It has been a roller coaster of highs and lows throughout the years and our children grew up along the way. From homeschool to middle school and now they are Seniors in high school waiting for the day they move into their dorms at the colleges they will attend. Meanwhile, our church is at a place where we need to make some decisions regarding our future. While we may not know what the future holds, we do know Who holds us as we face the future.

One of the biggest challenges for Preachers is knowing how long to stay without staying too long and becoming counter productive. Every church is different and every Preacher is unique so there is no formula or seminary class to teach how to figure out the best way to handle transition for the time when either the church decides they need a new Preacher or the Preacher decides he needs a fresh start. For example, when I was serving in Mountain City GA, the Elders and I spent a full year praying and discussing what the Lord ultimately wanted us to do before it was time to make a decision. When it was clear that the Lord wanted me to move to Greenwood, we worked out a plan for them to use while waiting for the next Preacher to be called. The transition was smooth because we worked together and maintained the attitude that the Lord's will be done no matter how we felt about the decisions being made. Now that church continues with the new Preacher.

How much longer will I be serving here in Greenwood? I can honestly say that I don't know, but I am praying about the next chapter. This much I do know. Wil and Michaela will no longer be part of our church on a weekly basis when they move away for college. That leaves a huge hole in the volunteer side of our church. That is why I mentioned in our 2025 congregational meeting that we need to pray about what we as a church want to do when they leave. While it would be tempting to fill their spots and continue the same things that we are doing now, it might not be the best idea for our church considering that some of us may have another direction we would like for us to go.

What should we as a church be doing for our next chapter? That is the question that we should all be asking and yes, that includes the possibility that I may not be here either. At this moment, I am exploring my options for what to do in the fall of 2027 and moving away is one of those options. However, we still have ministry that we are responsible for in the remaining months of 2026 and the first half of 2027. We also need to be praying for the Lord to show us the changes that we need to make along the way so the transition to the next chapter is smooth and healthy. Even if we stay here in Greenwood, our church will be different and that can be scary for most of us.

Churches in transition can be easy targets for the devil to attack and if we are not careful, we could end up splitting because of the chaos that comes from changes. That is why careful planning and prayer needs to be involved every step of the way. We cannot be afraid to have conversations that will make us uncomfortable and we cannot hide our true feelings if we want to have a healthy church. There is a lot of Kingdom work left to be done here in Greenwood, and our church has the potential to make a big impact on the community for the Lord. We just need to figure out what it will look like and how we will approach the next chapter when it arrives.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS - JUNE 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: Camp Edisto	Weekly bulletin will have the most current information	All events subject to change if needed
	1 Acts 10:1-16	2 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Acts 10:17-33	3 Acts 10:34-48	4 Acts 11:1-18	5 Acts 15:1-21	6 Acts 15:22-35
7	8 Matt 24:37-39	9 <u>Pray for FCC</u> 1 Pe 3:18-22	10 Psalm 124:3-8	11 Hebrews 11:7	12 Genesis 6:1-8	13 Ge 6:9-22
14 Chris Crawford Preaching	15 Deut 4:1-14	16 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Deut 4:15-31	17 Deut 4:32-40	18 Ez 27:1-25	19 Ez 27:26-36	20 Psalm 46
21	22 1 Kg 22:41-50	23 <u>Pray for FCC</u> 2 Ch 20:1-23	24 2 Ch 20:24-37	25 (Isaiah 55) Newsletter Submissions Due	26 Zechariah 14	27 Psalm 47
28	29 Isaiah 2	30 <u>Pray for FCC</u> Micah 4		Leadership meets as needed	Communion Meditation: <u>1st Sunday:</u> Chris Crawford <u>2nd, 3rd, and 5th Sundays:</u> Winfreys <u>4th Sunday:</u> Frank Jackson	

The Church

5/24 - Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41)
5/31 - The Fellowship of Believers (Acts 2:42-47)
6/07 - The Jerusalem Council (Acts 15)

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8 ESV)

FCC of Greenwood SC - www.fccgwd.org

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
GREENWOOD, SC

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Father's Day

Dad-Libs

Dear _____ Dad.
adjective

I love you because you smell like (a) _____.
noun

_____ and enjoy listening to _____.
animal a sound

_____ hair, _____ eyes, and are _____ feet
color color number

tall. I love when you tickle my _____ and when you take me
body part

out to eat _____ ice cream at (the) _____.
food place

I was thinking about getting you tickets to _____ game, or a
sport

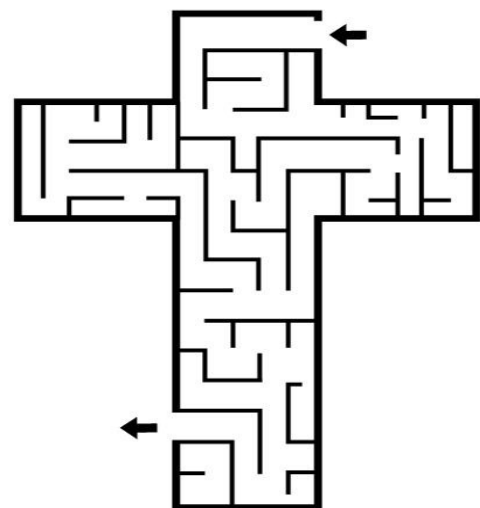
_____ to wear around your _____, but I think
article of clothing body part

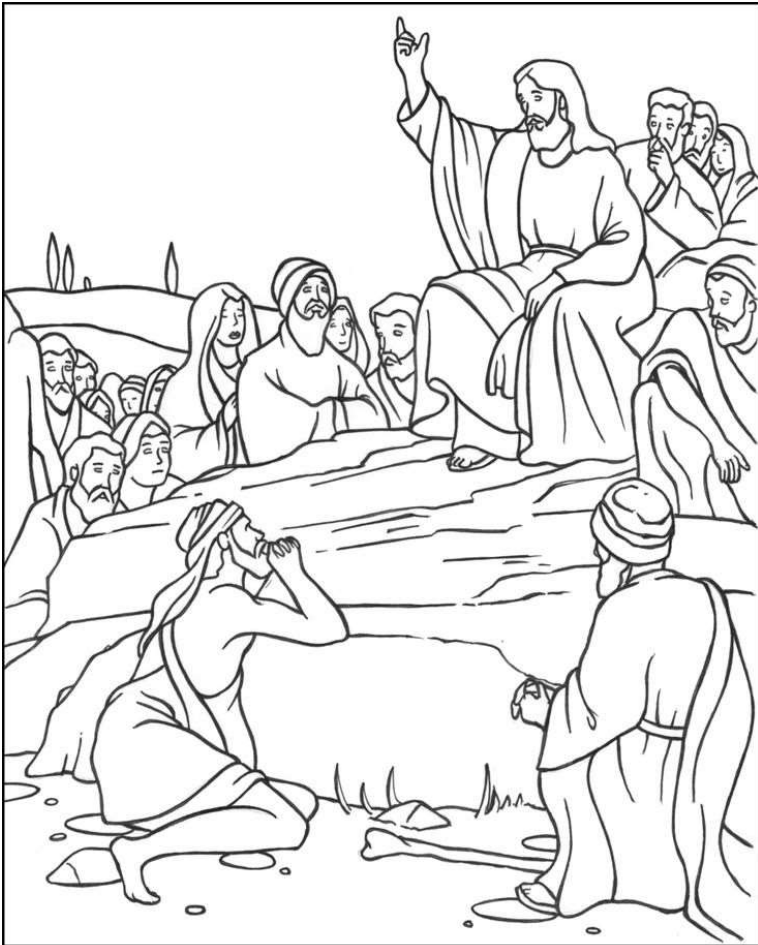
you'll like what I ended up with. Happy Father's Day!

Love, _____



Cross Maze

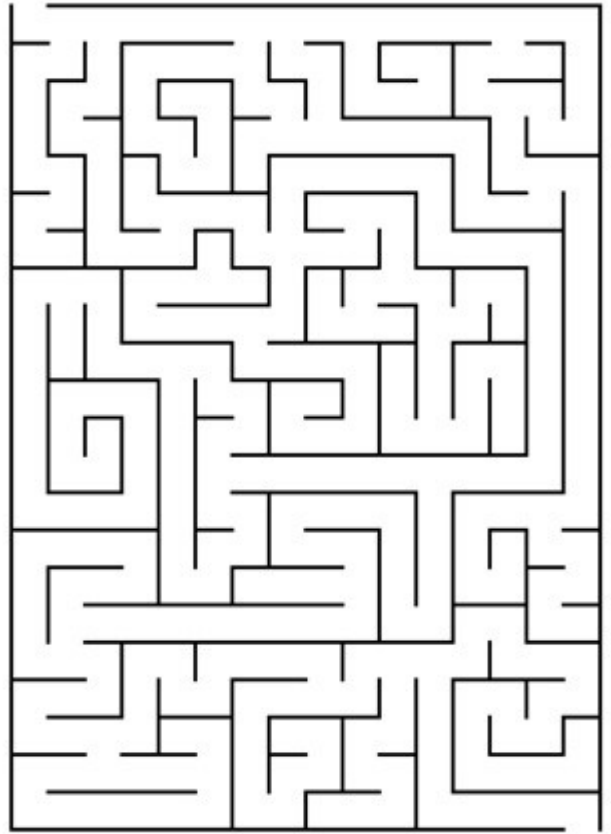




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Start!

Maze 3



©Tm's Printables

Finish!

