

Our Vision

To be a faithful, growing church that demonstrates true community, deep Christian spirituality and a passion for justice. (Micah 6:8)

GREETINGS! Below is a recap of our latest KAIROS Prison Mission. Thanks again for all your support! To God be the GLORY!!

Pocahontas Kairos #21 / April 11-14, 2024

As usual, the men entered the gym at Pocahontas State Correction Center on Thursday very reserved and apprehensive. However, it didn't take long for the mood to change and the atmosphere to begin to shift. The program began with introductions and the forming of what we refer to as, families. We form 7 families that consist of 6 inmates and 3 volunteers. The families have biblical names, Peter, Paul, Matthew, Luke, John, Mark, and James.

After the tables are settled, we begin a series of short talks which begin to introduce and build upon the Gospel and lead towards the benefit of forgiveness. There are 10 of these talks and time after each one for discussion, interaction, and personal reflection. It is amazing to watch how the participants change over the course of the 4 days we are with them. No one can come away without truly being overwhelmed by the love of God that permeates the room.

The program culminates in the forgiveness ceremony which takes place on Saturday evening. The men are able to unload burdens of unforgiveness and shame. You can literally watch the weight being lifted from their backs.

Sunday morning is a time of celebration and encouragement. The last few talks begin to focus on how to live a Godly Christian life in their days ahead. We also spend time encouraging them to get involved in the inside Church and to plug into ongoing Bible study and prayer groups.

During Kairos #21 we saw God touch men's hearts in remarkable ways. It is impossible to tell what mysterious things He did in every man's heart but I am confident no one left in the same condition in which he arrived.

At the end of the program, we ask the participants a series of 3 questions. 1. In what spiritual condition did you arrive when you came to Kairos?

Some answers we received: Torn, conflicted, lost, broken, chaos, beaten to spiritual exhaustion, wanting to grow, wanting to connect, had all talk and no walk, an unpolished stone, needing to learn, sad, in shambles, frustrated and drained.

2. What did you find here?

~Pastor's Note~

GOD'S SPECIAL TIME

Some answers we received: Closure, family, community, eagerness, wanting, enlightenment, compassion, friendship, gratitude, forgiveness, insight, acceptance, love, no judgement, renewal, knowledge, fellowship.

3. What are you taking with you when you leave?

Love, joy, the will of God being done, acceptance, closure, clarity, energy to combat spiritual exhaustion, forgiveness, gratitude, leaving behind extra baggage, better understanding, better tools, memories, courage to be a real Christian, renewed outlook, fellowship, friendship, an extra 5 pounds.

Some short recap of some of the stories we heard:

J. said he had been Muslim for 20 years and previously a Christian but had never experienced the love of God and others like during these 4 days. Came to realize faith without works is dead.

C. said it was a miracle that he attended the weekend. He did drugs, he sold drugs and he was a thief, but had found the Lord. Previously he said he was a dead shell, but now wants to use his story to tell others of his experience of forgiveness and love.

L. said he was a devout Muslim but felt broken, destroyed, suicidal, and just didn't care about anything, still struggling with pain and addiction but felt changed. (I watched as he completed the forgiveness ceremony he wept tears of brokenness, went across the gym, leaned against the wall and sank to the floor. One of the elders from the inside church went to him and embraced him as they both wept together.)

S. spoke of Galatians 2:20, how we should bear one another burden and fulfill the law of Christ.

D. said he was struggling with depression, fear, and feelings of worthlessness. He had thoughts of suicide, he had overdosed and did not feel he was loved, but had found that he was loved by God.

D. said his mom had died 5 months ago and confessed that he had tried to kill himself.

T. said he wanted to celebrate Jesus because of the overwhelming love and fellowship he had received.

Another young man told of his estrangement from his father while he was growing up and how he had grown to hate him. He said that because of his incarceration they had been able to reconcile and forgive one another and he encouraged not to give up on broken

Our Mission

To be and to share the Good News of Jesus Christ, witnessing, loving and serving from our doorsteps "to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8)

relationships because God is able to heal them

I had two men in my family that both said they did not know why they were there. D. had just transferred in to Pocahontas and did not want to be there. He has already requested to transfer somewhere else. He told me that one evening someone slipped an invitation under his cell door. He decided to come and see. He told me that he had never experienced anything like it and knows that no matter where he goes, he has got to trust and follow Jesus. The first day G. told me someone had tricked him by putting his name on the list but he decided to come just to see what it was about. He then said "I probably won't be back tomorrow." He came back all 4 days and I watch as God broke through and literally pierce his stony heart. He listened intently to all the talks and took it all in. He confessed to me at one point he was a Buddhist, but at the end when we were asking what will you take back with you, he said "Jesus." I'm not sure he got quite all the way there but I know that God touched G. deeply with His love.

These are just a few of the stories. I know there are many more and some we will never know until we get to heaven. I want to say THANK YOU!!!! For all your prayers and cookies. You are just as much a part of this ministry as those of us who go inside. We could not do it without you. Thank you, thank you, thank you, and may God bless you. Bill Rich

Psalm 150:1-6 (NIV) ¹ Praise the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty heavens.

² Praise him for his acts of power; praise him for his surpassing greatness. ³ Praise him with the sounding of the trumpet, praise him with the harp and lyre, ⁴ praise him with tambourine and dancing, praise him with the strings and flute, ⁵ praise him with the clash of cymbals, praise him with resounding cymbals.

⁶ Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Praise the LORD.

PRAISE THE LORD INDEED! PDoug





Prayer Requests



Shut Ins

George Brooks
Tom Farmer
Pat Gomillan

Kim Tinder
Haile Meadows
Bob Rose
Nancy Mulkey
Jeff Stiltner
Al Hancock
Archie Lawson
Keith Louthan
Steve Hedrick
Norma Barr
Randy Peek
Kathy Swauger
Tonia Russell

Bereavement

The Family of Lena
The Family of Don Wood

Prayer Request

Our Pastor
Our Country
Our Church Family
Kairos
Our First Responders
General Church
Regional Church
Regional Minister & Staff
Celebrate Recovery
Wade Center
Fatima Sano
Boy Scout Troop 14
AL & Sonia Hancock
Zelma Aichel
Nikki Massaro
Gary Hendricks
Bob Searle
The family of Dave Potonzo
Melissa Smith & Family
Barbara Rose
FCC Property Committee
Jon Gendron
Lucky Family
Recovery Centers in the area
All those effected by flooding
Malik Robinson
Phil Leonard
Joyce Farmer
Mission Trips
The Maples
FCC Youth
Ben & Michelle
Kathy & Larry Peters
Jesse Dolinar & Family

Health Concerns

Allen & Nancy Neal
Charlotte Dunahoe
Ruth Stevenson
David & Shirley Hines
Joanna Camacho
Nolan Farmer
John & Lois Gibson Roger
Mullins
Lois Comerose
Eddie & Betty Williams
Mary Ann Moyer
Theresa Thomason
Jimmy Musser
Phyllis Willis
Mary Crigger
Melissa Smith
Amelia Evans
Cindy Scharff & family
Anthony Graham
Halley Boerboom
Emma Murphy
Kathy Kennedy
Katie Croye
Spencer
Chris Akers
David Reed
Mark Riley
Brannen Tome
Belinda Bradshaw
Jennifer
Bob Mahood
Tracy Mitchell
Charles & Phyllis Wood
Chip Doss
Virginia Hudson
Nelson & Tina Harrah
Nancy Baker
Vicki Himerman
Rita Hamm
Sherry Melbourn
Sam Vance
Frank Tinder
Jack Eastridge
Lisa Sears
Chuck Comer
Elijah Smith
Martha Morris

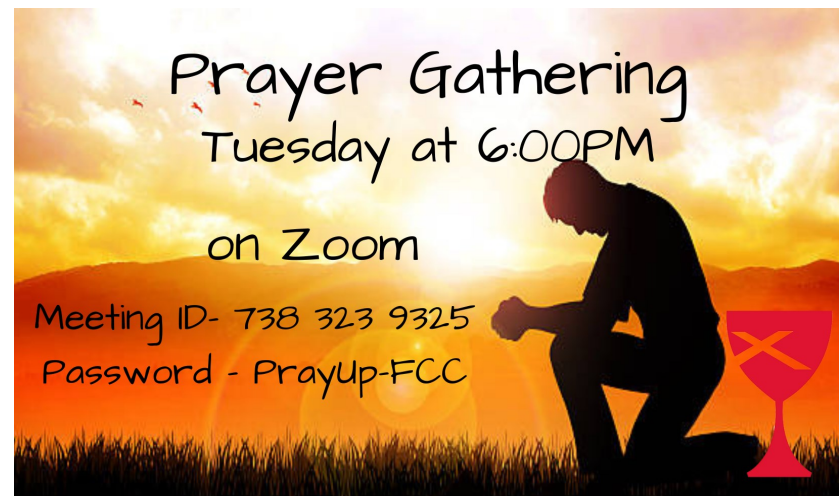
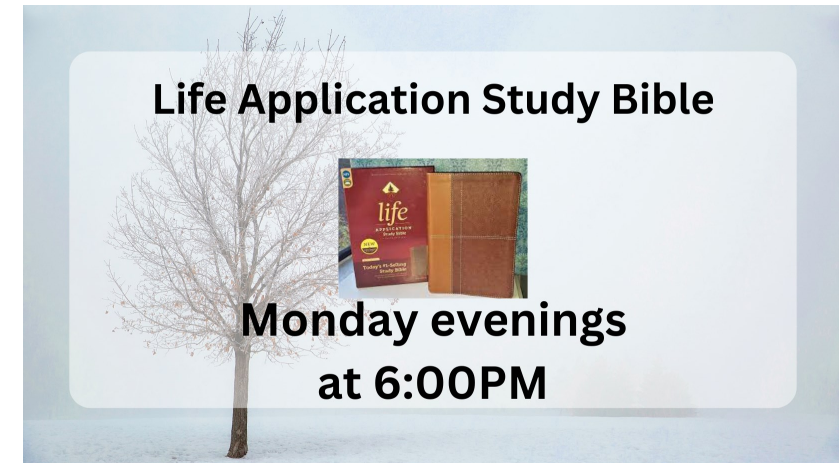
May 2024 Lectionary

May 1: Psalm 80; Isaiah 65:17-25; John 14:18-31
May 2: Psalm 98; Isaiah 49:5-6; Acts 10:1-34
May 3: Psalm 98; Isaiah 42:5-9; Acts 10:34-43
May 4: Psalm 98; Deuteronomy 32:44-47; Mark 10:42-45
May 5: Acts 10:44-48, Psalm 98, 1 John 5:1-6, John 15:9-17
May 6: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 7:1-11; 1 Timothy 6:11-12
May 7: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 11:1-17; 1 Timothy 6:13-16
May 8: Psalm 93; Deuteronomy 11:18-21; Mark 16:19-20
May 9: Acts 1:1-11, Psalm 47, Ephesians 1:15-23, Luke 24:44-53
May 10: Psalm 47; Exodus 24:15-18; Revelation 1:9-18
May 11: Psalm 47; Deuteronomy 34:1-7; John 16:4-11
May 12: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26, Psalm 1, 1 John 5:9-13, John 17:6-19
May 13: Psalm 115; Exodus 28:29-38; Philippians 1:3-11
May 14: Psalm 115; Numbers 8:5-22; Titus 1:1-9
May 15: Psalm 115; Ezra 9:5-15; John 16:16-24
May 16: Psalm 33:12-22; Genesis 2:4b-7; 1 Corinthians 15:42b-49
May 17: Psalm 33:12-22; Job 37:1-13; 1 Corinthians 15:50-57
May 18: Psalm 33:12-22; Exodus 15:6-11; John 7:37-39
May 19: Acts 2:1-21, Psalm 104:24-34, 35b, Romans 8:22-27, John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15
May 20: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Joel 2:18-29; 1 Corinthians 12:4-11
May 21: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Genesis 11:1-9; 1 Corinthians 12:12-27
May 22: Psalm 104:24-34, 35b; Ezekiel 37:1-14; John 20:19-23
May 23: Psalm 29; Isaiah 1:1-4, 16-20; Romans 8:1-8
May 24: Psalm 29; Isaiah 2:1-5; Romans 8:9-11
May 25: Psalm 29; Isaiah 5:15-24; John 15:18-20, 26-27
May 26: Isaiah 6:1-8, Psalm 29, Romans 8:12-17, John 3:1-17
May 27: Psalm 20; Numbers 9:15-23; Revelation 4:1-8
May 28: Psalm 20; Exodus 25:1-22; 1 Corinthians 2:1-10
May 29: Psalm 20; Numbers 6:22-27; Mark 4:21-25
May 30: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Samuel 1:1-18; Acts 25:1-12
May 31: Psalm 139:1-6, 13-18; 1 Samuel 1:19-27; Romans 8:31-39



Join us each Sunday morning at 10:00AM for our Worship service You don't have to have a Facebook account to be able to view the live video!

If you are unable to watch it live, no worries you can always go back and watch the service from the beginning. Just go on the link to the church's Facebook which is: <https://www.facebook.com/bluefieldfcc>



Directory Update



Hello Church,

Good News!!!! We are growing!!! & God is Good!!
It is time to update our church directory. What do you need to do?

If you are happy with your photo and all your information on your directory page is correct, then you don't have to do anything.

Soon we will be emailing Directory Information Forms to those folks that have an email connection with us. If you don't receive one via email, there will be forms at the church.

If you would like to change your photo or need to correct any information, it can be done. You would need to fill out the Directory Information form and scan and email Sarah (email listed below), also if you would like to change current photo you may scan and email that as well. If scanning and emailing is not your "thing" (like me) then you can stop by the church M – Fri 9am

to 1pm and Sarah can scan your corrected information and photo as well.

If you are new to FCC, we need you to fill out Directory Information Form and scan and email that along with a photo and again if you are not an email/scan kind of person then stop in to see

Sarah M- Fri 9am – 1pm.

First Christian Church email is fccbluefield@gmail.com If emailing please put **Directory Info** in the Subject line of your email. This will be helpful to Sarah.

If you do not have a picture you would like to use for the for the directory we can surely take one at church.

If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to call me. My cell number is 304 922 0634.

Helen Selbee



Patriotic Wordsearch

Find the hidden words



W I W P K Y O L W E L K D V R H Q I Y Y H W K K U U S O A S
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- Honor
- Kennedy
- Carter
- Veteran
- America
- Voter
- Jefferson
- Republic
- Nixon
- Democracy
- Presidential
- Representative
- President
- Patriot



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W8K6LD

Tuesday Evening Bible Study
 with Roger Mullins
 Tuesday's at 7:00PM
 We will be studying the book of Romans

Morning Prayer
 Wednesday's
 7:30AM
 Bethany Hall

HAVE A HURT, HABIT OR HANG-UP?
 JOIN US FOR
Celebrate Recovery
 At First Christian Church every Thursday at 6:00PM. Call the church at 304-327-5633 for more info.



March 2024

TREASURER'S REPORT



Treasurer's Report



Below is the financial report for March 2024. God continues to bless us with faithful givers. God is good, all the time!!

I want to let everyone know how the roof capital campaign project is progressing. We have a estimate of approximately \$55,000 that will be required to do the work over the education wing and over the entrance to Bethany Hall. As of this writing, we have amassed approximately \$45,000 of the funds necessary to complete this project with some additional pledges to come in. Along with approximately \$10,000 of savings, we are moving forward to have the project begin soon. So, we will still need some "ROOF" money, but to replace the savings we are using to complete the entire need. I am so grateful to our God for His provision to His people and your generosity. We are not quite there yet, so I am asking everyone to continue to PRAY that this need will soon be met, and that God will show us the "next thing" He desires for us to tackle with His help.

E-GIVING UPDATE: We are evaluating our online giving portal. There has been limited usage of the portal, and just recently we have been made aware of additional security testing that will be required to keep the product. I would like to hear from those of you that have used the online portal, primarily to let me know what impact the elimination of this portal would mean to your ability to contribute to the church. Alternatively, if there is anyone out there that would be willing to perform security testing for our system on a quarterly basis, please let me know.

As a reminder, please continue to check for LIGHTS, RUNNING TOILETS, A/C OR HEAT, etc. following all meetings at the church. Don't assume someone else will lock up or turn off. Also, if you become aware of maintenance issues with the property, please bring it to the attention of the Property Ministry Team or the church office. Thanks to Scott, Allen, George and all the rest of the guys who selflessly give their time to keep our facilities in great condition!!! Our Church is truly blessed!

Ronnie Hypes, Treasurer

First Christian Church
Financial Information for March 2024

	Month-to-date	Year-to-date
Total GF offerings and other sources	\$ 19,566.02	\$ 55,042.01
Total expenses	18,746.10	53,164.86
Excess (deficit) of offerings to expenses	819.92	1,877.15
Transfers from (to) savings	0.00	0.00
Increase (decrease)	\$ 819.92	\$ 1,877.15
March 31, 2024		
General Fund		\$ 2,653.13
Memorial and Special Gifts		15,441.21
Property Repairs and Replacement		50,708.86
Scholarship		8,152.82
Bequested Funds and other savings		106,894.51
Total		\$ 184,850.53



Family Breakfast



EVERY SUNDAY
9:00AM IN BETHANY HALL

 **Summer Camp 2024**
June 9-15, 2024
Camp Laurelview in Rockwood, PA



This is for youth 12 & under, who would not be able to go on the mission trip!

FCC - Bluefield Youth Mission Trip
June 23 - 28, 2024



Vigilant Hope
in Wilmington, NC
this mission trip is open
to all youth 13 & up



If interested in going please contact Darrin or Sarah as soon as possible!





May 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 7:30AM Prayer 6:00PM Prasie Team Practice	2 6:00PM Celebrate Recovery	3	4
5 10:00AM Worship 6:00PM Teen Believers	6 6:00PM Bible Study	7 6:00PM Prayer 7:00PM Bible Study	8 7:30AM Prayer 6:00PM Prasie Team Practice	9 6:00PM Celebrate Recovery	10	11
12 10:00AM Worship 6:00PM Teen Believers	13 6:00PM Bible Study	14 6:00PM Prayer 7:00PM Bible Study	15 7:30AM Prayer 6:00PM Prasie Team Practice	16 6:00PM Celebrate Recovery	17 11:00AM Newsletter Submissions Due	18
19 10:00AM Worship 6:00PM Teen Believers	20 6:00PM Bible Study	21 6:00PM Prayer 7:00PM Bible Study	22 7:30AM Prayer 6:00PM Prasie Team Practice	23 6:00PM Celebrate Recovery	24	25
26 10:00AM Worship 6:00PM Teen Believers	27 OFFICE CLOSED 6:00PM Bible Study	28 6:00PM Prayer 7:00PM Bible Study	29 7:30AM Prayer 6:00PM Prasie Team Practice	30	31	1
2	3	Birthdays & Anniversaries Johnny & Julie Francisco - May 21 Abby Shoemaker - May 6 Carolyn Bassett - May 15 Shawn Boerboom - May 23 Melissa Woolwine - May 23 John Gibson - May 25 Mary Anne Collins - May 28 Gery Piluso - May 28 Jaida Lee - May 31				

We heartily welcome all
May you be blessed today.

Office Hours: M-F 9:00 am -1:00 pm
304-327-5633
www.bluefieldfcc.com

Welcome To Our Church

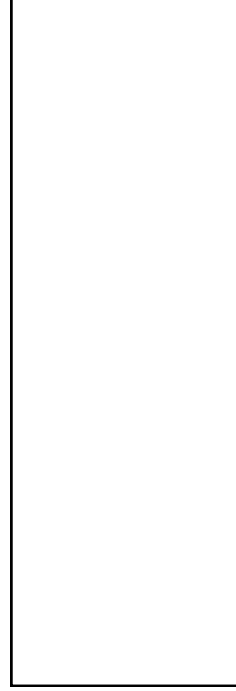


9:00 am Bible Study
10:00 am Combined Worship Service
Douglas W. McDaniel Jr., Pastor

First Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
2200 Bland Road
Bluefield, WV 24701



US Postage Paid
Permit # 51
Bluefield, WV 24701
Non-Profit Organization



Youth Events

Sunday Teen Believers
7:00PM

Annual
Summer Camp & Winter Retreat

Wednesday God's Creations 7:00PM

If you have any questions concerning youth
events please contact Darrin Coe, Youth Minister at
276-245-8374