

## *Our Vision*

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

*The noon sun beamed high in the sky as I began warming up my daughter's team in the outfield grass. It was the start of another 12U softball Saturday in the Chicago suburbs.*

*As I lined up the girls, I watched our head coach pull up in his minivan about 15 minutes late for warm-ups. His daughter trudged to the field to join her team.*

*I gently nudged her as she stepped onto the field and said, "Tired, Stephanie? Don't worry—you'll be fine once we get going."*

*She looked at me and said, "Yeah, I know, but I ran a 5k this morning."*

*Her comment caught me off guard. I responded, "OK... wow—that is a lot. Well, let's play a little catch. You'll be good once the game starts."*

*In the third inning, her dad pulled me aside and said, "Hey, Ray, we will see how things go, but Stephanie and I might have to leave early. You are OK taking over, right? My son has a hockey game in northwest Indiana, and if we don't leave here by 1:30, I don't think we'll make it with the traffic."*

*I said, "Yes, no problem. Busy day, huh?"*

*He paused and said, "The worst part is that we have to hustle back up here to Schaumburg after my son's game because Stephanie has an 8 o'clock basketball game tonight."*

*I thought my head was going to explode.*

*I wish this episode were an exception, but I keep seeing situations like this as my kids grow older and their activities require more time and commitment.*

## **THREE STONES**

*During a recent sermon about exhaustion, our pastor taught us a parable I had never heard before.*

In the story, God asked this man, "Would you put three stones in a wagon and do me a favor and take them up to the top of that big hill?"

So, the man started up the hill, doing exactly what God had asked.

On his way, the man bumped into someone who said, "Hey, I see you are going up the hill. I need to get a stone up there—can I put my stone in your wagon?"

The man replied, "Sure, no problem. I got it."

And then the man encountered another who said, "You look hot and tired like you could use a cold glass of lemonade. You want some?"

# ~Pastor's Note~

## **“If the Devil Can’t Make You Bad, He’ll Make You Busy” by Ray Craig**

The man said thanks and chugged the drink. The lemonade giver asked, “By the way, would you mind taking a few stones up the hill for me?”

The man felt he owed the other man for the lemonade, so he nodded and reluctantly loaded more stones into his wagon.

Similar exchanges happened several more times until the man’s wagon was filled with stones. The man began to tire and struggle, finally to exhaustion, as he collapsed on the side of the hill.

The man looked up at the sky and yelled at God, “I can’t believe you’re asking me to do all this! It’s too much!”

The Lord reached down and started picking up the stones, examining them one at a time. God said, “No, I don’t remember giving you this one,” as he mercifully removed one from the wagon. Eventually, the wagon’s contents returned to the original three stones God had given the man.

Pointing at the wagon, God said, “This is all I asked of you. The rest was you.”

## **THREE D’s TO MANAGE OUR WAGONS**

At one time or another, we have all been the man with an overloaded wagon. The question is how we can keep our wagons in check. In my own life, I’ve found three d’s that bear remembering as I evaluate which stones need carrying and which burdens should be let go.

## **DIVINE**

Does this stone bring me closer to the divine—or what is ultimately meaningful in life?

After my wife’s death 10 years ago, I thought I was finally focusing on my faith. But over time, I continue to realize how far I fall from perfect. I do a pretty good job of prioritizing God, then family, followed by my demanding job. But there are times when my other interests clamor for attention.

I become restless when I fall behind in listening to my regular podcasts or can’t get to an intriguing book I want to read. I get irritated when I have the inspiration to write but can’t find time on my laptop to capture my thoughts before they evaporate.

When I force these other activities into my schedule, it’s not long before I find myself falling asleep before my nightly prayers or getting short with my kids because I am frustrated by my lack of time. Those are signals that I need to reprioritize my pursuits.

When this happens, I don’t give up on these other interests that spark my soul. But I slow down, re-evaluate, and recenter, knowing that it won’t be the last time I will need to make such an adjustment.

## *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)**

## **DISCERNMENT AND DISCIPLINE**

I work to surround myself with positive people who share similar values. I am lucky to be around many terrific parents who want the best for their kids. However, these people usually need the most help deciding what goes into their wagons.

It’s been said, “If the devil can’t make you bad, he’ll make you busy.” Like the family at the start of this article, many moms and dads get involved in way too much. These parents not only sign their kids up to too many teams, but they also volunteer to coach or organize. Youth sports are out of control, but it is not isolated to that. Even church, school, or family activities can become a burden if not managed correctly.

I see moms and dads with a bucket list of family traditions who insist their children partake in all the same experiences they had growing up. It is important to pass down this heritage, but one has to be realistic.

Since we live in the suburbs of Chicago, I have made peace that my kids won’t walk beans, bale hay, or work with livestock like I did while growing up on a farm. But I can teach them the same critical lessons I took from farming if I creatively look for opportunities.

The two things that often trip people up are discernment and discipline. Some people don’t pause to think about the impact of their decisions before saying “yes” to another stone. Others talk as if they realize the importance of simplifying their lives but must summon the will to follow through with it.

If we don’t figure this out, we will likely miss some of the best moments. We won’t have the time or energy to play catch in the backyard, shoot baskets in the driveway, eat relaxing family dinners, or have the buffer to enjoy the unplanned days we remember most.

I pray that we all look inside our wagons and make tough but necessary decisions for us and our families.

*I imagine this article hits close to home for a number of us. It sure does for Jess and me.*

*Be sure to prayerfully keep your wagons in check.*

So, whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God. 1 Corinthians 10:31 (NIV)

*PEACE...*

*PDoug*



## Prayer Requests



### Shut Ins

George Brooks  
Geraldine Neal

### Health Concerns

Nancy Neal  
Charlotte Dunahoe  
Ruth Stevenson  
David & Shirley Hines  
Joanna Camacho  
John & Lois Gibson  
Roger Mullins  
Eddie & Betty Williams  
Mary Ann Moyer  
Theresa Thomason  
Mary Crigger  
Melissa Smith  
Amelia Evans  
Cindy Scharff & family  
Halley Boerboom  
Kathy Kennedy  
Katie Croye  
Virginia Hudson  
Nancy Baker  
Sherry Melbourn  
Lisa Sears  
Chuck Comer  
Kim Tinder  
Haile Meadows  
Nancy Mulkey  
Jeff Stiltner  
Steve Hedrick  
Norma Barr  
Randy Peek  
Tonia Russell  
Joe Dotson  
Kathy Davis  
Joyce  
Raymond Spradin  
Marsha Mitchell  
Dr. Amanda Reese  
Lane  
Jan Bailey  
Mary Lynn Malamirsua  
Tim Crouch  
Jeff Nehr Korn  
Chip Doss  
Alicia  
John Jewell  
Janet Shawver  
R. T. Andrews  
Kevin Martin  
Londyn  
Lesla Piluso

Tom Shupe  
Martha Saltzman  
Alice Matthews  
Kim Miller  
Emma Christian

### Bereavement

The Family of Rita Hamm  
The Family of Tom Farmer

### Prayer Request

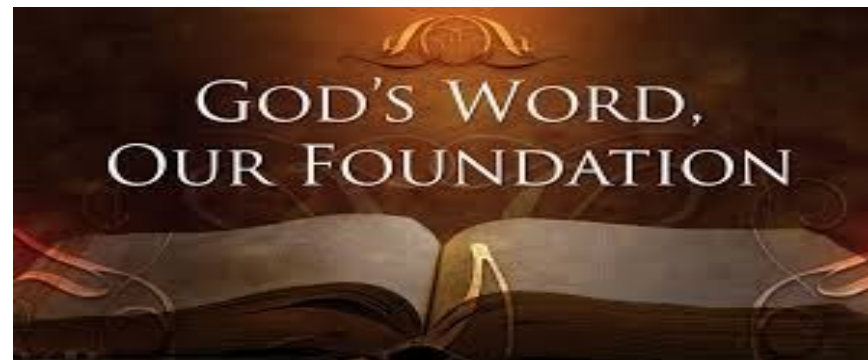
Our Pastor  
Our Country  
Our Church Family  
Kairos  
Our First Responders  
General Church  
Regional Church  
Regional Minister & Staff  
Celebrate Recovery  
Wade Center  
Fatima Sano  
Boy Scout Troop 14  
AL & Sonia Hancock  
Zelma Aichel  
Nikki Massaro  
Gary Hendricks  
Bob Searle  
The family of Dave Potonzo  
Melissa Smith & Family  
Barbara Rose  
FCC Property Committee  
Jon Gendron  
Lucky Family  
Recovery Centers in the area  
Malik Robinson  
Joyce Farmer  
The Maples  
FCC Youth  
Ben & Michelle  
Kathy & Larry Peters  
Shirley Grim  
Vicki Miller  
Betsy & Steve Cardwell  
Turman Family  
Tammy Godfrey  
The Colley Family  
Jordan  
Malachi Foster  
Helen Selbee  
Kairos Walk 22

### Unspecified Prayer Request

A.C. Martin

## October 2024 Lectionary

October 1: Psalm 140; Esther 5:1-14; 1 John 2:18-25;  
October 2: Psalm 140; Esther 8:1-17; Matthew 18:6-9;  
October 3: Psalm 26; Job 2:11-3:26; Galatians 3:23-29;  
October 4: Psalm 26; Job 4:1-21; Romans 8:1-11;  
October 5: Psalm 26; Job 7:1-21; Luke 16:14-18;  
October 6: Job 1:1, 2:1-10 and Psalm 26, Genesis 2:18-24 and Psalm 8, Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12, Mark 10:2-16  
October 7: Psalm 55:1-15; Job 8:1-22; 1 Corinthians 7:1-9;  
October 8: Psalm 55:1-15; Job 11:1-20; 1 Corinthians 7:10-16;  
October 9: Psalm 55:1-15; Job 15:1-35; Matthew 5:27-36;  
October 10: Psalm 22:1-15; Job 17:1-16; Hebrews 3:7-19;  
October 11: Psalm 22:1-15; Job 18:1-21; Hebrews 4:1-11;  
October 12: Psalm 22:1-15; Job 20:1-29; Matthew 15:1-9;  
October 13: Job 23:1-9, 16-17 and Psalm 22:1-15, Amos 5:6-7, 10-15 and Psalm 90:12-17, Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31  
October 14: Psalm 39; Job 26:1-14; Revelation 7:9-17;  
October 15: Psalm 39; Job 28:12-29:10; Revelation 8:1-5;  
October 16: Psalm 39; Job 32:1-22; Luke 16:19-31;  
October 17: Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b; Job 36:1-16; Romans 15:7-13;  
October 18: Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b; Job 37:1-24; Revelation 17:1-18;  
October 19: Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35b; Job 39:1-30; Luke 22:24-30;  
October 20: Job 38:1-7, (34-41) and Psalm 104:1-9, 24, 35c, Isaiah 53:4-12 and Psalm 91:9-16, Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45  
October 21: Psalm 75; Job 40:1-24; Hebrews 6:1-12;  
October 22: Psalm 75; Job 41:1-11; Hebrews 6:13-20;  
October 23: Psalm 75; Job 41:12-34; John 13:1-17;  
October 24: Psalm 34:1-8; 2 Kings 20:12-19; Hebrews 7:1-10;  
October 25: Psalm 34:1-8; Nehemiah 1:1-11; Hebrews 7:11-22;  
October 26: Psalm 34:1-8; Job 42:7-9; Mark 8:22-26;  
October 27: Job 42:1-6, 10-17 and Psalm 34:1-8, (19-22), Jeremiah 31:7-9 and Psalm 126, Hebrews 7:23-28, Mark 10:46-52  
October 28: Psalm 28; Isaiah 59:9-19; 1 Peter 2:1-10;  
October 29: Psalm 28; Ezekiel 18:1-32; Acts 9:32-35;  
October 30: Psalm 28; Ezekiel 14:12-23; Matthew 20:29-34;  
October 31: Psalm 146; Ruth 1:18-22; Hebrews 9:1-12;



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>



Meeting ID- 738 323 9325  
Password - Prayup-FCC



# SEPTEMBER 2024 YOUTH NEWS

Greetings Church Family.

Autum is upon us and that means the fall events are quickly approaching.

With that said, once again we will be doing our Trunk or Treat. We had an amazing turn out last year, we want to make it just as successful this year. If you would like to be involved by having your trunk in the event. Please contact Sarah or Darrin. The event in October 31, 2024 for 5-8pm. We will also need candy donations, if you are led to donate candy you can do so by simply dropping it at the church anytime before Sunday, October 27, 2024.

Other than that we are gear up of the Christmas Season. Please be on the look out for Children Christmas Program announcements in the upcoming weeks.

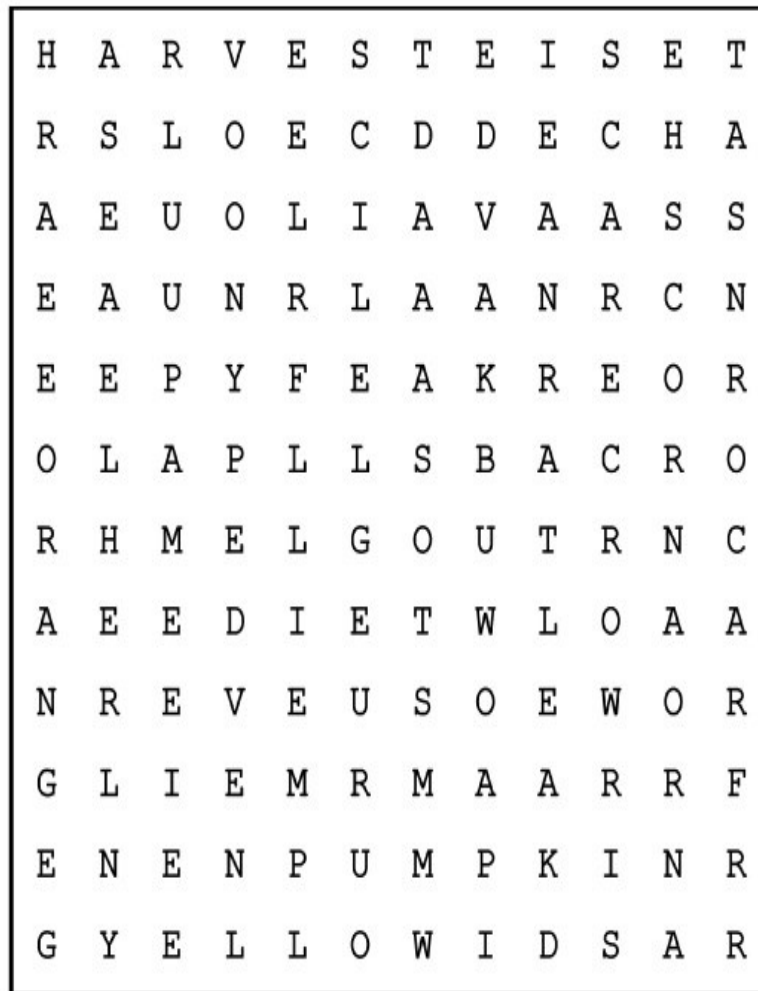
As always thank you for allowing me to serve such a wonderful congregation.

God Bless,  
Sarah Neal



## FUN FALL WORD SEARCH

Find each of the fall words hidden below.

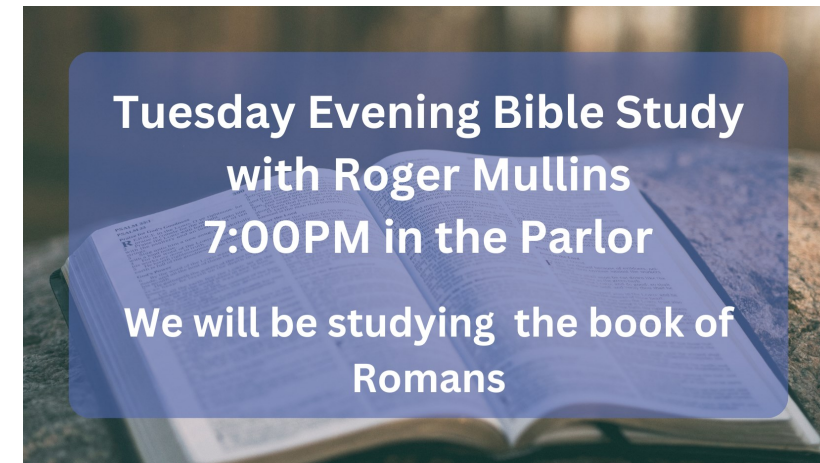


### WORDS TO FIND:

- |           |              |
|-----------|--------------|
| pumpkin   | harvest      |
| yellow    | apples       |
| scarecrow | hayride      |
| autumn    | red          |
| leaves    | Thanksgiving |
| sunflower | football     |
| acorns    | orange       |
| corn      |              |



Find more printables for children at [scholastic.com/parents/activities-and-printables](https://www.scholastic.com/parents/activities-and-printables) SCHOLASTIC





August 2024

TREASURER'S REPORT



Treasurer's Report



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

I want to let everyone know that the roofing project is completed using less than \$11,000 from our savings. I want to remind everyone that as generously as you have supported this project, please remember your regular tithes and offerings to our general operations. We still have staff salaries, utilities and other expenses that are met through your regular giving. I am so grateful to our God for His provision to His people and your generosity with those provisions to the life and ministry here at First Christian.

**HVAC UPDATE:** Your generosity has raised approximately \$16,100, which was enough to complete the installation of the two units for the sanctuary, AND order the new unit for the education wing. SO, it's time to dig in again and ask for your support for HVAC unit replacement. We anticipate the full cost to be around \$19,000 to replace two of the units that cool the sanctuary and one unit for the educational wing.

**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 have on 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 August 2024

	Month-to-date	Year-to-date
Total GF offerings and other sources	\$ 14,841.69	\$ 192,173.71
Total expenses	13,780.42	194,015.16
Excess (deficit) of offerings to expenses	1,061.27	(1,841.45)
Transfers from (to) savings	0.00	6,500.00
Increase (decrease)	\$ 1,061.27	\$ 4,658.55

August 30, 2024		
General Fund		\$ 5,466.07
Memorial and Special Gifts		16,581.63
Property Repairs and Replacement		5,728.03
Scholarship		8,152.82
Bequested Funds and other savings		85,503.13
Total		<b>\$ 121,431.68</b>

What am I here for? Does my life matter? What is my purpose?

PURPOSE  
DRIVEN  
LIFE

A Young Adult Bible Study

Mondays • 6:30 p.m. • Beginning September 16  
Featuring dinner and fellowship, followed by devotion and discussion  
Hosted by the Shoemakers • 615 Summit Street, Bluefield, VA  
Please RSVP by text to 276-245-5429



Family Breakfast



EVERY SUNDAY

9:00AM IN BETHANY HALL

Youth Gathering

EVERY 1ST & 3RD TUESDAY AT  
6:00PM IN BETHANY HALL

Contact Darrin Coe or Sarah Neal for more info.

FCC TRUNK OR TREAT

OCTOBER 31, 2024

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
2200 BLAND ROAD, BLFD, WV  
BOTTOM PARKING LOT FROM 5:00- 8:00PM

JOIN US FOR CANDY, FUN AND MORE!!!





# October 2024



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	1 6:00PM Prayer Gathering 7:00 PM Bible Study With Rorger	2 7:00AM Prayer 6:00PM Praside Team Practice	3 6:00PM Celebrate Recovery	4	5
6 9:00AM Family Breakfast 10:00AM Worship	7 6:00PM Bible Study	8 6:00PM Prayer Gathering 7:00 PM Bible Study With Rorger	9 7:00AM Prayer 6:00PM Praside Team Practice	10 6:00PM Celebrate Recovery	11	12
13 9:00AM Family Breakfast 10:00AM Worship	14 6:00PM Men's Bible Study 6:00PM Women's Bible Study	15 6:00PM Prayer Gathering 7:00 PM Bible Study With Rorger	16 7:00AM Prayer 6:00PM Praside Team Practice	17 Kairos Walk 22 6:00PM Celebrate Recovery	18 Kairos Walk 22 11:00AM Newsletter Submissions Due	19 Kairos Walk 22
20 Kairos Walk 22 9:00AM Family Breakfast 10:00AM Worship	21 6:00PM Men's Bible Study 6:00PM Women's Bible Study	22 6:00PM Prayer Gathering 7:00 PM Bible Study With Rorger	23 7:00AM Prayer 10:00AM Assembly 6:00PM Praside Team Practice	24 6:00PM Celebrate Recovery	25	26
27 9:00AM Family Breakfast 10:00AM Worship	28 6:00PM Men's Bible Study 6:00PM Women's Bible Study	29 6:00PM Prayer Gathering 7:00 PM Bible Study With Rorger	30 7:00AM Prayer 6:00PM Praside Team Practice	31 5:8PM Trunk or Treat 6:00PM Celebrate Recovery	1	2
3	4	<b>October Birthday's</b> Virginia Hudson - Oct. 3 Courtney Boerboom - Oct. 6 Grat Shawver - Oct. 6 Samuel Martin - Oct. 7 Nancy Neal - Oct. 7 Luke Louthan - Oct. 14 Janet Tabor - Oct. 14 Lois Mullins - Oct. 15 Nick Stacy - Oct. 22 Dorothy Thomas - Oct. 23 Johnny Francisco - Oct. 26 Charlie Stacy - Oct. 27 Larry Peters - Oct. 28 Sarah Smith - Oct. 28 Glenn Woolwine - Oct. 30 Ruth Stevenson - Oct. 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](http://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 Worship for our  
Youth

Annual  
Summer Camp & Winter Retreat

1st and 3rd Tuesday— 6:00PM  
Youth Meeting

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