

FIRST CHRISTIAN ASSEMBLY



WELCOME to First Christian Assembly, an independent church whose mission is articulated by Jesus in Mark 16:15 when he said "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature". Following this great commission, First Christian Assembly preaches and teaches the gospel of Jesus Christ. In so doing, we trust that God, working through His Holy Spirit will draw souls to salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

What is Heaven Like?

Heaven is a real place described in the Bible. The word "heaven" is found 276 times in the New Testament alone. Scripture refers to three heavens. The apostle Paul was "caught up to the third heaven," but he was prohibited from revealing what he experienced there (2 Cor 12:1-9).

If a third heaven exists, there must also be two other heavens. The first is most frequently referred to in the Old Testament as the "sky" or the "firmament." This is the heaven that contains clouds, the area that birds fly through. The second heaven is interstellar/outer space, which is the abode of the stars, planets, and other celestial objects (Gen 1:14-18).

The third heaven, the location of which is not revealed, is the dwelling place of God. Jesus promised to prepare a place for true Christians in heaven (John 14:2). Heaven is also the destination of Old Testament saints who died trusting God's promise of the Redeemer (Eph 4:8). Whoever believes in Christ shall never perish but have eternal life (John 3:16).

The apostle John was privileged to see and report on the heavenly city (Rev 21:10-27). John witnessed that heaven (the new earth) possesses the "glory of God" (Rev 21:11), the very presence of God. Because heaven has no night and the Lord Himself is the light, the sun and moon are no longer needed (Rev 22:5).

The city is filled with the brilliance of costly stones and crystal clear jasper. Heaven has twelve gates (Rev 21:12) and twelve foundations (Rev 21:14). The paradise of the Garden of Eden is restored: the river of the water of life flows freely and the tree of life is available once again, yielding fruit monthly with leaves that "heal the nations" (Rev 22:1-2). However eloquent John was in his description of heaven, the reality of heaven is beyond the ability of finite man to describe (1 Cor 2:9).

Heaven is a place of "no mores." There will be no more tears, no more pain, and no more sorrow (Rev 21:4). There will be no more separation, because death will be conquered (Rev 20:6). The best thing about heaven is the presence of our Lord and Savior (1 John 3:2). We will be face to face with the Lamb of God who loved us and sacrificed Himself so that we can enjoy His presence in heaven for eternity.

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

- ⇒ **Meet with Pastor TODAY if you are interested in Believers' Baptism.**
- ⇒ **See Paula if you would like to write to those who are imprisoned for their Christian beliefs. (Information/prayer cards are from Voice of the Martyrs.)**

Missionaries – Papua, New Guinea

From Neal & Lois:

I'm an English word grinder. I take the aircraft engine textbook and chop the chapters and paragraphs into the little gems and nuggets that I need to educate our national engineers. Because they work full time I don't have the luxury to take the time I need to teach a proper course. What use to take five or six weeks back in the US I have to condense down into two or three days. I have to explain details in English to minds that are more comfortable conversing in Tok Pisin the local language. I think this is one of the gifts God has given me to be able to take the complex and make it simple. That's what instructors do.

PRAYER POINTS:

- Pray for continued good health.
- MAF PNG is going through some growing pains and we ask you to pray for God's blessing and guidance for our leadership as they continue strategic planning.
- Pray for the nationals Lois has been ministering to that they will continue to grow in the Lord while we are gone.

There is always thanksgiving and praise in our hearts for your prayers and ongoing support which God has used to sustain us by His grace and unfailing love. Thank you for giving to the Lord. It is making a difference in our ministry.

(FCA) First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148
 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

215-389-6721
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The Philadelphia Access Center is a ministry of First Christian Assembly. Our mission is *revealing Christ through compassionate service*. Services available at PAC include social services information and referrals, biblical counseling, support groups, volunteer training, and community outreach. All services are free of charge and available to anyone. To learn more, visit us in person (across the street from FCA) or online at www.philaccess.org or www.facebook.com/philaccess.

WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS

	FCA	PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study</i> 11:00 AM <i>Worship Service & Children's Sunday School</i>	
Monday		7:00 PM <i>Stepping Stones</i>
Tuesday	6:30 PM <i>Prayer (Sanctuary)</i> 7:00 PM <i>Worship (Sanctuary)</i>	
Wednesday	6:30 PM <i>Men's Fraternity (on hiatus)</i>	1:00 PM <i>Women at the Well</i> 1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i>
Thursday		6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i> 7:00 PM <i>Bible Study</i>
Friday		7:00 PM <i>Right Path</i>

- *Coram Deo*: A men's Bible study and Christian fellowship.
- *Right Path*: A Christ centered support and recovery group for people whose lives have been affected by drug and alcohol addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support and fellowship; in genuine confidential sharing, coupled with a Biblical twelve step model of recovery.
- *Stepping Stones*: A Christ centered support group for men and women impacted by a loved one's addiction. In a warm and friendly atmosphere, we provide loving support, fellowship, confidential sharing, and intercessory prayer.
- *Women at the Well*: This group is Biblically based and promotes hope, healing, and fellowship for women impacted and struggling with brokenness.

Looking Ahead



- ❖ *Sunday June 22, - Neal and Lois Semanision, FCA supported missionaries to Papua New Guinea, will be joining us during our morning Worship Service. They will have some pictures and a DVD presentation detailing God's work among the people of Papua.*

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Ministries (present and future) at First Christian Assembly and the Philadelphia Access Center
- Christians around the world being persecuted for their faith.
- Our supported missionaries
- For our Pastor and his family.

