



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.

MALE and FEMALE

When God designed male and female, He created more than mere physical differences. Men and women were created to fulfill differing roles in creation and in our relationship with the Lord. Rejecting those God-assigned roles is a symptom of rebellion against our Creator. When people defy God and decide they can live any way they choose, God allows them to follow their perverted lusts to their natural consequences. Romans 1:26–27 says, "That is why God abandoned them to their shameful desires. Even the women turned against the natural way to have sex and instead indulged in sex with each other. And the men, instead of having normal sexual relations with women, burned with lust for each other. Men did shameful things with other men, and as a result of this sin, they suffered within themselves the penalty they deserved".

Perversion escalates when women and men abandon their God-ordained identities and try to adopt the characteristics of the opposite gender. Men become like women, and women become like men. The sin lies in our choices, not our natural differences.

The phenomenon of gender reversals is escalating in our day with sex-change surgeries and demands that the "transgendered" be accommodated. People are abandoning their natural identities and mentally identifying as any gender they choose. Society is indulging this craziness, which leads to even more confusion. For a man to despise his gender and identify as a woman, or for a woman to abandon her gender and present herself as a man, is wrong. It is a defiance of God's design when He created male and female." Thinking that we know better than God, is the doorway to becoming a fool. When a man defies his masculinity or a woman rejects her femininity, it is a symptom of grosser sin: rejection of God's ultimate authority. For those struggling with gender confusion, the answer lies not in altering their physical bodies, but in allowing the Holy Spirit to change their hearts (1 Peter 4:2). When we submit ourselves fully to the lordship of Jesus, we desire to follow His design for us, rather than choose our own design (Gal 2:20).

The closer we grow to God, the more we can embrace our gender identity. Both genders display certain aspects of God's character in a unique way. When we pervert His choice for us, we limit the opportunities He gives us to demonstrate the glory of being created in His image (Gen 1:27).

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

Bring your requests and your praises as you PRAY together on Tuesdays, 6:30 PM @ FCA and on Thursdays, 6:00 PM @ PAC.

Missionaries

Donna Schaber, Philippines

Be Joyful in hope, Patient in affliction, and Faithful in PRAYER...

- Remember Phyllis' dad losing his love of 73 years [Phyllis' mom went to be with the Lord on April 29.] They spent a week away at the seaside to get some time away from the apartment. This was good.
- Pray as the K-team and I visit in the community that we would prayerfully talk about Jesus, that listeners would have eyes to see Him and ears to hear Him. YES!! LET'S KEEP PRAYING THIS!
- The team is hoping to get their home church excited about the DBS studies so that they will want to share it with others also.
- Pray for our next visit with the BL mayor.
- Pray for me as I close up my apartment and prepare for home service. I leave for Manila on June 16 and for the US on June 21. June to August, I'll be in Ohio and Florida (with mom). In September to November, I'll be at the Chapel and visiting supporters and churches in the East.
- Pray for the safety of Jim and Roxanne. Jim has been targeted by some who think that he voted against them in the election even though he did not.

Enjoying the goodness of Jesus, Donna

(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
 215-389-1985

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 a 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.



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.

From: Voice of the Martyrs

Apr. 22, 2016 / China: Pray for Brother Yang, Who Ministers Among Muslims

Brother Yang was estranged from his Muslim family after he accepted Christ, but he continued to share the gospel with other Muslims in northwest China. He currently leads several Bible studies, and relations with his family have recently improved. Yang's older brother has even shown interest in learning about Jesus. Brother Yang is getting married soon to a Christian woman from a Muslim background. Pray for the couple as they pursue their goal of planting churches in a region of minority Muslims.