



# 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.*

## *DISCIPLESHIP*

The terms *disciple* and *Christian* are related but not synonymous. The Greek term for "disciple" in the New Testament is *mathetes*, which means more than just "student" or "learner." A disciple is a "follower," someone who adheres completely to the teachings of another, making them his rule of life and conduct. The Pharisees prided themselves in being disciples of Moses (John 9:28). Jesus' followers were called "disciples" long before they were ever called "Christians." Their discipleship began with Jesus' call and required them to exercise their will to follow Him (Matt 9:9).

Jesus was quite explicit about the cost of following Him. Discipleship requires a totally committed life: "*Any of you who does not give up everything he has cannot be my disciple*" (Luke 14:33). Sacrifice is expected: "Jesus said to his disciples, '*If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me*'" (Matt 16:24).

Not all of Jesus' followers were able to make such a commitment. There were many who left Jesus after a while. "*From this time many of his disciples turned back and no longer followed him*" (John 6:66).

Jesus used the term *disciple* but never *Christian*. The name "Christian," meaning "belonging to Christ," appears to have been invented by those outside of the church. It was most likely meant as a derogatory term.

A true Christian (and not one in name only) will have to be a disciple of Christ as well. The only question is whether they have counted the cost and have totally committed their life to following Jesus. A disciple accepts the call to sacrifice and follows wherever the Lord leads. The Christian disciple completely adheres to the teaching of Jesus, makes Christ his number-one priority, and lives accordingly. He is actively involved in making other Christian disciples (Matt 28:19-20).

A true Christian disciple is a believer in Christ and possesses new life through the indwelling Holy Spirit. Because he loves Christ, a Christian will also be an obedient disciple (John 14:15). Paul describes the reality of being a Christian disciple: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Gal 2:20). *Join us on Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 PM as we learn to grow as Disciples.*

## Ministry Highlights

### Announcements:

➤ Tuesday evening's service will have an emphasis on *Discipleship and Practical Christianity*. Meetings will be from 7:00 to 8:00 PM and will include instruction followed by small group discussion and prayer. Meetings will take place in the Basement Fellowship area.

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### Missionaries- Binu John, India

Dear beloved:

Greetings from India! You made 2016 great!!

Because of your love, prayers and giving, Care India Mission has had an impact in four different states in India, trained five missionaries, distributed over hundred thousand tracts, reached over hundred children through VBS, hosted two short term mission teams, started three new church plants, trained nine women in Tailoring and so much more...

Without your wholehearted support this would not have been possible. Therefore I take this opportunity to say BIG thanks for your commitment to missions, especially to the lost people of India.

We are so grateful to you and we cover you in our prayers for Almighty God to continue to bless you richly in all sphere of life and enlarge your boundaries. Thanks again. God bless you.

Blessed New Year! With lots of love!! ...Binu, Suni, Abigail and Angel

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 (PAC) Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.philaccess.org) or [www.facebook.com/philaccess](http://www.facebook.com/philaccess).

### **WEEKLY SERVICES /MEETINGS**

|           | <b>FCA</b>   | <b>PAC</b>   |
|-----------|--|--|
| Sunday    | 9:45 AM <i>Bible Study</i><br>11:00 AM <i>Worship Service &amp; Children's Sunday School</i> |  |
| Monday    |  | 7:00 PM <i>Stepping Stones</i>                               |
| Tuesday   | 6:30 PM <i>Prayer (Sanctuary)</i><br>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><br>1:00 PM <i>Coram Deo</i> |
| Thursday  |  | 6:00 PM <i>Prayer Service</i><br>7:00 PM <i>Bible Study</i>  |
| Friday    |  | 7:00 PM <i>Right Path (on a hiatus)</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
- Our country and God's will for it

From **Donna Schaber, our missionary in the Philippines**: Thank you for praying through these requests for us all.

- That we will stand firm, not be defensive but ready to give a response for the hope that is in us.
- That they have opportunities to answer their Muslim friends the way Jesus answered---with a question or with a parable.
- That they will believe the **best** about the one they are talking with.
- That they will believe that the harvest is **ripe**.
- They will lift up Jesus and not Christianity or their church and He will draw them to Himself.
- They will speak in terms a child could understand and not in Christian-ese.
- Support for each worker as they are living at a minimal level.