



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.

LOVE

The Bible has a great deal to say about love. In fact, the Bible says that "love is of God" and "God is love" (1 John 4:7-8); in other words, love is a fundamental characteristic of who God is. Everything God does is impelled and influenced by His love. There is a distinct word for the type of love that God displays. In the Greek, this word is *agape*, and it refers to a benevolent and charitable love that seeks the best for the loved one.

Agape, the benevolent, selfless love that God shows is mentioned often in the New Testament, including in the "love chapter," 1 Corinthians 13. Of the greatest of God's gifts, faith, hope, and love, "the greatest . . . is love" (verse 13).

The Bible says that God was motivated by love to save the world (John 3:16). God's love is best seen in the sacrifice of Christ on our behalf (1 John 4:9). And God's love does not require us to be "worthy" to receive it; His love is truly benevolent and gracious: "God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

The Bible says that, since true love is part of God's nature, God is the source of love. He is the initiator of a loving relationship with us. Any love we have for God is simply a response to His sacrificial love for us: "This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins" (1 John 4:10). Our human understanding of love is flawed, weak, and incomplete, but the more we look at Jesus, the better we understand true love.

The Bible says that we are to love others the way that God loves us and that our love for God is related to our obedience of Him: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). In addition, His command to love one another is a demonstration to the world around us that we are His Disciples (John 13:34-35). *To learn more, please join us on Tuesday Evenings at 7:00 PM as we study Discipleship and Practical Christian Living.*

Ministry Highlights

Announcements:

- *Tuesday evening's service has an emphasis on Discipleship and Practical Christianity. Meetings are from 7:00 to 8:00 PM and include instruction followed by small group discussion and prayer. Meetings take place in the Basement Fellowship area.*
- *Aid for Friends, a partner ministry of the Philadelphia Access Center, will join us on Sunday February 26th to share more about this vital ministry that provides home cooked meals to homebound individuals.*
- *Also, on Sunday the 26th, we will have a baby dedication.*

Missionaries-Papua, New Guinea Neal & Lois Semansion

...I continue to give out tracts to Chinese here in town. First of all, they did not have a chance to hear about Jesus if they are from mainland China, and secondly, God has sent them to a country where one is free to share with them about the love God has for them. I have run into a store employee from Burma and want tracts in that language. Any leads?

...Lastly, I will mention Jacob. He has a drug alcohol dependent lifestyle. He supports himself by selling cooked eggs on the street. While the Portuguese missionary was here, it looked like Jacob was going to start following Jesus, but sadly he has opted for the lifestyle that is dragging him down. We have prayed for him so much during the morning devotions I have with the guards. I saw him yesterday. He told me he does not trust God, only me, people. I told him we pray for him and I challenged him to come back to Jesus. He used to go to the Bible Institute that Pr. Coelho ran and he was super intelligent. Now he looks terrible, with a face all scarred up and so thin I had trouble recognizing him yesterday.

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

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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 (Fellowship area)</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 (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: Neal & Lois (continued from front page)

He had a history of incarcerations. So tragic. Please pray for Jacob.

Life here is all so interesting and challenging. I am so grateful for the freedom I have to enter the prison and the hospital to do outreach. Remarkable. Living under the banner of the All Mighty God. ----Lois