



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.

Marriage Supper

In [Revelation 19:7–10](#), John saw and heard the heavenly multitudes praising God because the “marriage supper of the lamb” was about to begin. The concept of the marriage supper is better understood in light of the wedding customs in the time of Christ.

These wedding customs had three major parts. First, a marriage contract was signed by the parents of the bride and the [bridegroom](#), and the parents of the bridegroom or the bridegroom himself would pay a dowry to the bride or her parents. This began what was called the betrothal period—what we would today call the engagement. This period was the one Joseph and Mary were in when she was found to be with child ([Matt 1:18](#)).

The second step in the process usually occurred a year later, when the bridegroom, accompanied by his male friends, went to the house of the bride at midnight, creating a torchlight parade through the streets. The bride would know in advance this was going to take place, and so she would be ready with her maidens, and they would all join the parade and end up at the bridegroom’s home. The third phase was the marriage supper itself, which might go on for days, as illustrated by the wedding at Cana in [John 2:1–2](#).

What John’s vision in Revelation pictures is the wedding feast of the Lamb (Jesus Christ) and His bride (the Church) in its third phase. The implication is that the first two phases have already taken place. The first phase was completed on earth when each individual believer placed his or her faith in Christ as Savior. The dowry paid to the bridegroom’s parent (God the Father) would be the blood of Christ shed on the Bride’s behalf. The Church on earth today, then, is “betrothed” to Christ, and, like the wise virgins in the parable, all believers should be watching and waiting for the appearance of the Bridegroom (the [rapture](#)). The second phase symbolizes the rapture of the Church, when Christ comes to claim His bride and take her to the Father’s house. The marriage supper then follows as the third and final step. Attending the wedding feast will be not only the Church as the Bride of Christ, but others as well. The “others” include the Old Testament saints. The marriage supper of the Lamb is a glorious celebration of all who are in Christ!

Missionary Highlights

Philippines

Greetings prayer partners! This is just a quick update on your wandering furloughing missionary!

Friday night (5/12), Phyllis took this "moderately" resistant nurse missionary to an Emergency Room here in PA. I was having an attack of pretty severe chest pain. The kind doctors determined it was unlikely from my heart, possible something from my GI tract instead, so we were home by midnight, thankful for the Lord's good care. I have been having physical problems ever since I left the Philippines in March. So I would ask you to PRAY for me - for freedom from fear -- we medical people can always imagine the worst! And pray for wisdom for the doctors, who have to think a bit outside the box as we come from a very different environment in the tropics!

TRAVEL UPDATE: You may remember I had the privilege of writing you last time from the Philippines in early March, at the end of my mid-furlough trip back. I went there to get some needed health check-ups more cheaply (ah, yes, insurance challenges!), to be with Phyllis as she grieved the loss of her parents (both "adopted parents" of mine too!) and her closing ministry of Director of PIE.

From there, we traveled together to be with our mutual supporting church, Hope Chapel, in Maui, where we were refreshed by many fellow followers of Jesus! After two weeks we went on to Colorado, to share with Phyllis' spiritual and extended Obie family in a memorial time for her parents, and again, precious fellowship along the way. We then traveled to Lancaster PA in time to celebrate the passion week and Resurrection Sunday with Phyllis' home church. After a bit of trial and error in deciding on housing, again producing precious new friends to grow with in Him along the way, I helped Phyllis finally settle in a very cool second floor apartment in an old house. Her "landlady" is a very long-term friend, a Filipina sister in the Lord! She has made both of us feel incredibly welcome.

While here, we were able to visit my sister in New Jersey to celebrate my birthday. We also had a very precious time of fellowship with the Chinese brethren of Emeth Chapel in Boston. I have been walking together with this dear pastor and his wife in ministry even before I was in the Philippine. We were able to encourage the youth group Friday night, the children's SS, and the adult fellowship Sunday, by talking about sharing Jesus through stories and friendship.

So with Phyllis and I here together in PA for now, we've been seeking out needed medical care for me, and each praying about our next steps in this furlough ministry.

As always, I am so grateful for your partnership!
Donna

First Christian Assembly, 1900 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

215-389-6721

First Christian So Jersey, 123 Egg Harbor Rd. Sewell NJ 08080

Philadelphia Access Center, 1832 S. 11th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148

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

	Meets at FCA	Meets at PAC
Sunday	9:45 AM <i>Bible Study – Phila -location</i> 10:00 AM <i>South Jersey Worship Service</i> 11:00 AM <i>Phila Location Worship Service</i> & <i>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		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 at First Christian (Phila.& NJ) and the Philadelphia Access Center
- Christians around the world being persecuted for their faith
- Our supported missionaries – Donna Schaber
- For our Pastor and his family
- Paula Grazulis

If you are a Christian, you are not a citizen of this world trying to get to heaven; you are a citizen of heaven making your way through this world.

--Dr. Vance Havner, Preacher (1901–1986)