



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.

Heaven

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 Corinthians 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 ([Genesis 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 ([Ephesians 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 ([Revelation 21:10-27](#)). John witnessed that heaven (the new earth) possesses the "glory of God" ([Revelation 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 ([Revelation 22:5](#)).

The city is filled with the brilliance of costly stones and crystal clear jasper. Heaven has twelve gates ([Revelation 21:12](#)) and twelve foundations ([Revelation 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" ([Revelation 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 Corinthians 2:9](#)).

Heaven is a place of "no mores." There will be no more tears, no more pain, and no more sorrow ([Revelation 21:4](#)). There will be no more separation, because death will be conquered ([Revelation 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.

Missionary Highlights

Neal and Lois - PNG

Part two – Continued from last week

Due to violence as a result of the recent elections Lois and Neal were on alert to be evacuated. Here are some excerpts;

Last night we were told the city water has been poisoned with oil so our valves were turned off. We have tank water. Yesterday we heard shots in town. Found out 2 people were killed and one hospitalized as they were trying to burn down a house. The council chamber was already burned down. The siege continues. One day I went out to the hospital to the special care nursery as I had some care packages. What a privilege to carry the love and hope found in Jesus to them. Today the kids are supposed to come to our house. Let us see what happens. Very much want to shop at the market today, but not sure if it is open and safe. We will see. Our lives are in God's hands and Jesus has redeemed us for all eternity.

Most recent update

We are so grateful that we did not have to be evacuated. Town is open again. Today I was so glad to have a day (so far) where there were no gunshots (probably rifles is what I had been hearing). The election drama is not over, but the kids are back in school across the street. The city water seems to be turned on.

Down the street from us, there are little stores. Well, yesterday a man in one store was savagely beaten with a pipe, a payback situation, but he was the wrong man. The man they were after had run away. I hope to find out the victim's name so as to visit him in the hospital.

Today we saw the security guard from the prison and I asked him which day would be better for me to visit. He said tomorrow. God willing, that is where I plan to go. Today a house on our compound was robbed. That is a first I believe since we have been here.

You know a radio preacher on Sunday had a wonderful Biblical account from the book of Esther. Haman had had gallows built for his enemy Mordecai. Well, Haman, the evil trickster wound up being hanged on it himself. With all the dishonesty, bribes, and so on with this election, I believe something like the Haman story will be repeated here. It is all in God's hands. - Lois

First Christian Assembly,	1900 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
First Christian So Jersey,	123 Egg Harbor Rd. Sewell NJ 08080	
Philadelphia Access Center,	1832 S. 11 th 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 & 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
- For our Pastor and his family
- Paula Grazulis

" [Jhn 3:3] Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.