



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.

Invitation

In [Joel 2:32](#), where the prophet is declaring the terrible judgments of the Day of the Lord, God offers an invitation of deliverance to "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord." In [Isaiah 1:18](#), God offers the invitation to come, though your sins are as scarlet, and He will make them white as snow. [Revelation 22:17](#) is an open invitation: "Come! Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." In these and other verses, the clear implication is that, even though we are sinners, God invites us to come to Him as we are, so that He can cleanse us.

Sometimes well-meaning Christians tell people that they have to "clean up their lives" before God will accept them, but that is not what we see in Scripture. When speaking to the woman at the well who was living with a man she was not married to ([John 4:1-26](#)), Jesus addressed the fact of her sin, then offered her the salvation she needed. Again, when the woman caught in adultery ([John 8:1-11](#)) was brought before Jesus, He told her, "Go, and sin no more." The sin was never excused or ignored, but forgiveness was offered to anyone who recognized his sin and was willing to confess and forsake it.

The invitation to "Come as you are" is sometimes misunderstood and misapplied in today's church. Some take the grace of God and turn it into licentiousness ([Jude 1:4](#)) by teaching that it makes no difference how you live, as long as you believe. If you come to Christ in an illicit relationship, some say Christ will accept you just as you are and sanctify that relationship. If you come to Christ as someone who enjoys the night life, you can continue in that path, and use it to "reach others for Christ." This may be a popular message, but it directly contradicts Scripture which clearly says that these things from our past lives should be left behind and that our former friends will think us strange for doing so ([1 Peter 4:3-4](#)). [Romans 13:13](#) commands us to walk honestly, or decently, no longer participating in the licentious lifestyle of the world. [Galatians 5:13](#) says that we are called to liberty, but that we cannot use liberty "for an occasion to the flesh," excusing our continued sins.

God is amazing, gracious, loving, and forgiving, so He calls us to [salvation](#), even though we don't deserve it. While we were still sinners, Christ died for us ([Romans 5:8](#)), making it possible for us to receive forgiveness. He requires us to confess and forsake our sins when we come to Him, but He receives us just as we are, then begins to change us as we submit to Him in obedience.

Special Announcements

Hurricane Harvey Relief – We will be collecting for those affected by Hurricane Harvey. All of the funds collected will be sent to Samaritan's Purse who mobilizes staff and equipment and enlists thousands of volunteers to provide emergency aid and spiritual comfort to victims of tornadoes, hurricanes, wildfires, floods, and other natural disasters in the U.S. Often volunteers stay behind after their initial response to rebuild or restore houses for needy families. Please use the collection box located in the rear of the sanctuary to make your offering.

Men and Women's Fellowship – After a summer long hiatus, we will renew our Men and Women's Fellowships. The first meeting of the Fall Season will be a combined dinner for both Men and Women and will be held on Monday September 25th at 6:30 PM. In addition, we have extended an invitation to everyone who attends our new Church plant (First Christian South Jersey) to join us. This will be an excellent opportunity to spend some time with and get to know your Brothers and Sisters in Christ from both the Philadelphia and New Jersey locations. This is a free event. However so that we may accommodate everyone for dinner, please see Gloria Felicione to register. Children are welcome but no childcare will be provided. I hope that you will be able to join us.

Operation Christmas Child – Once again First Christian Assembly is excited and blessed to partner with Samaritan's Purse and its Operation Christmas Child. Every year People from various churches pack shoebox gifts to bless children in need around the world. Churches and groups collect these boxes the third week of November. Then, thousands of volunteers inspect and prepare the shoeboxes for international shipping. Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the Gospel and bless children. After receiving a shoebox gift, children have the opportunity to enroll in a 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, The Greatest Journey. As a result of what they learn, boys and girls grow in Christ and share Him with others. Families are reached, churches grow, new churches are started, and communities are transformed. We will begin collecting money on Sunday September 17th until Sunday October 22nd. Volunteers from FCA will purchase specific items for the shoeboxes and we will pack the boxes during a packing party to be held on Monday November 13th.

Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study - After a brief absence, our Sunday morning Bible study class returns with a brand new study in the Book of Acts. You are invited and encouraged to join this in depth verse by verse study beginning Sunday morning September 17th at 9:45 AM. A special preview of this study will be held this Sunday, September 10th during our 11:00 AM Worship Service.

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
- Those experiencing hardship due to Hurricane Harvey

"You could not be saved through any effort of your own, but now that you are saved it is necessary for you to put forward every effort you can to glorify Him." – H.A. Ironside