



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.

Let's Study

Because Christianity was never intended to be a spectator sport, group Bible study is not just valuable, it is invaluable. Small group study is so effective that Jesus used it to train the men who would be known as the apostles ([Luke 6:12](#)).

Christianity is meant to be relational—first, on a vertical axis between ourselves and God and, second, on a horizontal axis between ourselves and those around us. Small group Bible studies move us from being spectators in a weekly church service to active participants in a like-minded community dedicated to spiritual growth.

As we encounter God's Word together, we have an opportunity to share our different perspectives and insights and are broadened because of the interaction. More information is retained when there is active involvement, so biblical literacy is enhanced. Application and accountability bring understanding that moves God's Word from the intellect to the heart. Transformation is encouraged ([Rom 12:2](#)), and our lives are changed. When our lives are changed, the lives of those around us are changed as well.

A group Bible study can be a place to celebrate life's victories, get prayer support, be encouraged in tough times, and keep ourselves accountable in our personal growth. Group Bible studies offer a structured time to focus on topics that address our needs or interests. Believers are the Body of Christ ([Rom 12:5](#)); as such, we are His hands and feet on earth, the ones who will continue His work. As we gain in our knowledge of the Bible and deepen our relationship with God and other believers ([Col 2:7](#)), we become better equipped to live and share the gospel with those in our schools, neighborhoods, and workplaces.

Our commitment to a group Bible study is a model to those around us. It is evidence that we value our spiritual growth enough to invest time in it. Others are watching our actions, and they gain firsthand knowledge of what it means to be a follower of Christ and honor the Word. They benefit from our commitment because they see us walking our talk, working out our salvation ([Phil 2:12](#)).

God designed us to need Him and each other. His word to us is to reach out and love one another. [Col 3:16](#) says we should allow "the message of Christ [to] dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts." What better place for that than in a small Bible study group?

Missionary Highlights

Afghanistan

Dear Friends,

Join me in thanking God that New life has finally received our approval from the Afghan government to begin the live in phase of the program!

This past week we interviewed six men and took in three men for the live in phase of the project...we have finally started!

One man came to us from a detox unit and is physically fine but the other two are presently going through withdrawal from heroin.

Please pray as this is a very difficult time for them. One man grew up in the US but was deported back to Afghanistan when he was about 18 and became an addict two years ago. He has come to our Friday groups very consistently. The other man, we met under the bridge just last week. As soon as we told him about New Life he wanted to come. I felt in my heart that there was something different about him, an openness. He came and stayed after for the interview time and seem to really grasp what we are trying to do. We told the men that whoever came back the next day we would pray and take one of them. I really felt we were to take in this man but wanted to see if he showed up the next day. He was first person to arrive!

Please pray for us as we are now 24/7, seven days a week and this is all new for my men.

Pray for wisdom as we try to think if and how we can continue our weekly outreach under the bridge while doing the live in phase.

We are also trying to develop our own desktop calendar that I hope we can make available for a donation as a way to generate income for the project...please also keep this in prayer.

I am very grateful for the men working with me, they have really stepped up to take on this task. Thank you for partnering with us on this journey! Your prayers and support are invaluable!

Continuing in His radical grace,
John

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</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
- For our Pastor and his family
- Paula Grazulis
- Those experiencing hardship due to Hurricane Harvey

To get the full flavor of an herb, it must be pressed between the fingers, so it is the same with the Scriptures; the more familiar they become, the more they reveal their hidden treasures and yield their indescribable riches. — John Chrysostom, A.D. 347–407