



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.

Cursed on a Tree

Deuteronomy 21:22–23 teaches that there was a divine curse placed on a hanged person: *"And if a man has committed a crime punishable by death and he is put to death, and you hang him on a tree, his body shall not remain all night on the tree, but you shall bury him the same day, for a hanged man is cursed by God. You shall not defile your land that the LORD your God is giving you for an inheritance"* (ESV).

For most capital offenses covered by Jewish Law, stoning was the form of punishment. On some occasions the dead body would be hung in public as a deterrent to further crime. This law made it illegal to do so overnight (Leviticus 18:24–27; Numbers 35:3–34).

The apostle Paul referred to this law in relationship to Jesus and His death on the cross. In Galatians 3:13 we read, *"Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us—for it is written, 'Cursed is everyone who is hanged on a tree'"* (ESV). Jesus was cursed for us, hanging on the cross as a substitute for our sins. The law in the Mosaic economy was a foreshadowing of the redemption of man.

Another interesting detail is that the cross of Christ was sometimes referred to in Jewish contexts as a "tree." Acts 5:30 states, *"The God of our fathers raised Jesus, whom you killed by hanging him on a tree"* (ESV). Acts 10:39 says, *"They put him to death by hanging him on a tree"* (ESV).

The concept of cursing and blessing in association with a tree is found in the larger narrative of Scripture. In Genesis 3 Eve and then Adam eat fruit from a *tree* from which they were forbidden to eat. In Revelation 22:14 the eternal state includes those who eat from the *tree of life*. A tree was involved in the entry of sin into humanity (through the tree in the Garden), the answer to sin for humanity (through the cross), and the ultimate removal of sin in eternity (through the tree of life).

Under the Mosaic Law, those who were hanged on a tree were cursed. The law made it illegal to leave the body hanging overnight. This law applied to Jesus, who was executed on a tree, although He had done no wrong. Jesus' dead body was removed from the cross on the same day of His death and was buried. Jesus took the curse of sin upon Himself to redeem us from sin.

Announcements

Outreach - Open House

This semi-annual outreach is a wonderful opportunity to connect with our community and share the Gospel of Jesus.

There will be a Bake sale, a Craft table, a Literature and Information table and a Prayer tent. In addition to the bake sale, we will be distributing soft pretzels and bottled water.

All proceeds from the Bake sale will go towards Operation Christmas Child.

There will be many ways to be involved and we encourage everyone to participate in some capacity. **Here are some ways that you can help:**

Baking – Cookies, Cakes, Cupcakes, Brownies etc.

Bake sale table – Organize and sell the baked goods.

Literature distribution – Flyers will be available. Distribute around the Church or around your neighborhood.

Arts and Crafts – Help children (and some adults) assemble a craft that they will be able to take home with them.

Information table – Distribute Gospel tracts and literature about First Christian Assembly and the Philadelphia Access Center

Prayer tent – Be available to pray for and with individuals who ask for prayer. In addition we will be praying for God's direction and favor before, during and after the event.

Set up and tear down – Set up tents, tables and chairs, and other required items before the event. After the event, take everything down, return to storage and clean up.

Distribution – Hand out Gospel tracts, bottled water and soft pretzels to passersby or throughout the neighborhood.

Follow up – After the event, connect with those who inquire about the Church or Access Center

Intercessory Prayer – Before during and after the event. Pray in your "closet" or join us as we pray on Tuesdays at the church or Thursdays at the Access Center, both begin at 6:30 PM

How do you get involved?

Volunteer sign up - You are encouraged to help in one or more of these areas. See Gloria Felicione to sign up.

Outreach Team meeting – Will be held on Tuesday October 17th in the Church at 6:00 PM. While this meeting is not mandatory you are encouraged to attend to receive additional information. Prayer will follow at 6:30 PM

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
- Outreach on October 21, 2017

[Mat 28:19–20] 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, [even] unto the end of the world. Amen.