



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.

Victory over Sin

We all struggle with sin ([Rom 3:23](#)). Even the great apostle Paul lamented over his ongoing struggle with sin in his life: ([Rom7:18-20](#)) finally saying "What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death?" ([Rom 7:24](#)). Yet in the next breath, he answers his own question, as well as ours: "Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!" ([Rom 7:25a](#)). It's interesting to note that Paul, as an Apostle, declared that, of all sinners, "I am the worst!" ([1 Tim1:15](#)). Paul affirms the struggles we all have as we battle with sin and temptation in our lives. The struggles are real, and they're debilitating. We grow weary from the never-ending temptations and in falling short of God's glory. Paul, in essence, is telling us that we need not pretend that we're untouched by our struggles. He's been there. He understands. Though our efforts to do right seem desperate, we do have hope "through Jesus Christ our Lord" ([Rom7:25](#)). And He, in fact, is the key to our victory over sin.

Here are some ways we as Christians can learn how to overcome sin:

CHANGE OUR "DESIRES"...Since this is where the process of sin begins, (James 1:13-15) it is the best place for us to begin. How do we change our desires? The WORD OF GOD has always been instrumental in helping people overcome sin - [Ps 119:11](#)- As we read of sin and its damnable consequences, we come to hate it!-[Ps 119:104](#) - So the more we study God's Word, the less likely we will have the desire to sin.

LIMIT OUR "OPPORTUNITIES"...While we work on changing our desires, we should limit the opportunities to fulfill wrongful desires. This can be done by asking for God's help, as Jesus taught - [Mt 6:13](#); [26:41](#) -We can cooperate with God by purposely avoiding situations that might excite wrongful desires. Following the example of David - [Ps 101:3-4](#), avoiding those whose evil behavior encourages us to sin with them. Also see 1Co 15:3

EXERCISE "SELF-CONTROL"...Remember, it becomes sin when we yield to action in fulfilling our sinful desires, if we can control ourselves so as to not yield, then we can overcome sin! How does the Christian exercise self-control? Self-control is but one aspect of the "fruit of the Spirit"-[Ga5:22-23](#). Strengthened by the Spirit, we are able to "put to death the deeds of the body" - [Ro 8:12-13](#), -

OBTAIN "FORGIVENESS"... However, even when we employ the tools that God has given us, we will still fall short. That is when we remember that Christ is truly the "propitiation" for our sins! By His blood, we were forgiven of past sins when we have been "born again"- [Ac 2:38](#); [Re 1:5](#) and by His blood, we can be forgiven of present sins when we REPENT, PRAY, and CONFESS our sins to God - [Ac 8:22](#); [1Jn 1:9](#). At any time the Christian can overcome sins that were committed, by repenting and confessing them to God!

The Amazing Journey of a Simple Shoe Box Gift

Packing - From children to seniors, people pack shoebox gifts each year to bless children in need around the world. Parents often use the project to teach their kids about giving. Year-round volunteers support these efforts across the country.

Collecting - Churches and groups of all sizes collect boxes from their communities. Some churches also serve as drop-off locations for shoeboxes the third week of November every year.

Shipping - Thousands of volunteers serve annually inspecting and preparing shoeboxes for international shipping. Every hour work stops for a few minutes to pray for the children who will receive the boxes.

Worldwide Distribution - Long before shoeboxes arrive in more than 100 countries, volunteer National Leadership Teams train pastors and community leaders who want to share the message of the Gospel and bless children. The leaders learn how to host child-friendly outreach events, & how to implement The Greatest Journey follow-up discipleship program.

Outreach Events - Pastors around the world host shoebox distributions in places where people may not know Christ and invite them to follow Him. Other churches use the boxes as resources for outreach in orphanages and other at-risk areas. In many places, they also offer The Greatest Gift, a Gospel story booklet Samaritan's Purse developed for shoebox recipients.

Discipleship & Multiplication - As a result of what they learn in The Greatest Journey, boys and girls grow in Christ and share with friends and family. The students also invite others to their graduations where the Gospel is shared. This often brings parents, siblings, and friends to accept Christ and become active members in the local church. Families are reached, churches grow, new churches started & communities are transformed. It all starts with you! *Join in what God's doing. We continue to collect monetary donations until Sunday Nov 5th and we will join together to pack shoeboxes on Monday Nov 13^{at} 6:30 PM*

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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

True repentance will entirely change you; the bias of your souls will be changed, then you will delight in God, in Christ, in His Law, and in His people. --George Whitefield