



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.

Abraham

The life of Abraham takes up a good portion of the Genesis narrative from his first mention in [Genesis 11:26](#) all the way to his death in [Genesis 25:8](#). *"The LORD had said to Abram, 'Leave your country, your people and your father's household and go to the land I will show you. I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you'"* ([Genesis 12:1-3](#)).

God calls Abraham out from his home in Haran and tells him to go to a land that He will show to him. What really makes Abraham special is that he obeyed God. *"By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going"* ([Hebrews 11:8](#)).

How many of us would leave behind everything that is familiar to us and just go without knowing our destination? The concept of family meant everything to a person living in the time of Abraham. In that time, family units were strongly knit; it was unusual for family members to live hundreds of miles apart from each other.

To be sure, Abraham had his moments of failure and sin (as we all do), and the Bible doesn't shrink from relating them. The "Father of the Faithful" had his moments of doubt and disbelief, yet he is still exalted among men as an example of the faithful life.

One obvious lesson to draw from Abraham's life is that we are to live a life of faith. Abraham's faith wasn't a blind faith; his faith was a settled assurance and trust in the One who had proven Himself faithful and true. If we were to look back on our own lives, we would see the hand of God's providence all over it. God doesn't have to speak from burning bushes or part the sea waters to be active in our lives. God is superintending and orchestrating the events of our lives. Sometimes it may not seem that way, but Abraham's life is evidence that it is true. Even Abraham's failures demonstrate that God, while not protecting us from the consequences of our sin, graciously works His will in us and through us; nothing we do will thwart His plan. **Learn more about Abraham's life of faith each Sunday from our messages in Genesis series.**

Body and Soul

Christmas tree - Cinnamon – Common Cold

Good tidings I bring... As we gather together during **CHRIST**mas may we learn what it all really means. Did you know that an evergreen tree is recognized to symbolize God's everlasting love and eternal life, which is God's gift to us through our Lord Jesus Christ. He died on the cross to save us. So, as we are celebrating his birth by decorating and gathering around the **CHRIST**mas tree. May we remember the reason for the season.

Not to mention when the weather is cold the season's spice is Cinnamon, which comes from the cinnamomum tree a genus of an evergreen tree. Cinnamon has a nostalgic smell and can also help burn that stubborn fat as some research has shown. However there still isn't enough evidence to start taking it in supplement form. So, for now just continue adding it to sweet potatoes, lattes and pancakes...

Uniquely the saying God bless you is the common salutation used when someone sneezes. This saying originated thousands of years ago and is attributed to Pope Gregory the Great during the bubonic plague because sneezing was a common symptom, this leads me to the common cold. There are over 200 different viruses that cause the common cold. You will never have the same cold twice. However, it is contagious and can be spread by air droplets, coughing, sneezing and touching contaminated surfaces. Symptoms are sore throat, blocked or runny nose and sneezing. Some complications are bronchitis and pneumonia. People with lung conditions are more susceptible to colds than other people.

So, as we tie this all together for the end of the year. Remember to drink your latte with cinnamon while you are decorating your **CHRIST**mas tree, wash your hands and say your prayers because even though germs seem to be all around, **Jesus is everywhere**. Until next time
Mikki

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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
- Operation Christmas Child

Faith is the confidence that what we hope for will actually happen; it gives us assurance about things we cannot see. Heb 11:1 NLT