



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.

Unconditional Love

God's love, as described in the Bible, is clearly unconditional in that His love is expressed toward the objects of His love (that is, His people) despite their disposition toward Him. In other words, God loves because it His nature to love ([1 John 4:8](#)), and that love moves Him toward benevolent action. The gospel message is basically a story of divine rescue. As God considers the plight of His rebellious people, He determines to save them from their sin, and this determination is based on His love ([Eph 1:4-5](#)). Listen to the Apostle Paul's words from his letter to the Romans: "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us" ([Rom 5:6-8](#)).

Reading through the book of Romans, we learn that we are alienated from God due to our sin. We are at enmity with God, and His wrath is being revealed against the ungodly for their unrighteousness ([Rom 1:18-20](#)). We reject God, and God gives us over to our sin. We also learn that we have all sinned and fallen short of God's glory ([Rom 3:23](#)) and that none of us seek God, none of us do what is right before His eyes ([Rom 3:10-18](#)). Despite this hostility and enmity we have toward God (for which God would be perfectly just to utterly destroy us), God reveals His love toward us in the giving of His Son, Jesus Christ, as the propitiation (that is, the appeasement of God's righteous wrath) for our sins. God did not wait for us to better ourselves as a condition of atoning for our sin. Rather, God condescended to become a man and live among His people ([John 1:14](#)). God experienced our humanity—everything it means to be a human being—and then offered Himself willingly as a substitutionary atonement for our sin.

This divine rescue resulted in a gracious act of self-sacrifice. As Jesus says in John's gospel, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends" ([John 15:13](#)). That is precisely what God, in Christ, has done. Also see ([Eph 2:4-5](#)) and ([1 John 4:9-10](#)).

It is important to note that God's love is a love that initiates; it is never a response. That is precisely what makes it unconditional. If God's love were conditional, then we would have to do something to earn or merit it. We would have to somehow appease His wrath and cleanse ourselves of our sin before God would be able to love us. But that is not the biblical message. The biblical message—the gospel—is that God, motivated by love, moved unconditionally to save His people from their sin.

Missionary Update PNG

July 4 was a big day for Tiger, the 6 year old who often accompanies his grandmother and us as we do outreach in the prison and hospital. The prisoners like him a lot. On July 4, Tiger gave his heart to Jesus right here in our apt. I made a picture sign for him with the date so he could remember his spiritual birthday.

Attached is a photo taken of a little boy in the hospital who was very excited to receive a Jesus coloring book. In the background you can see the pastor that we have visited many times. He fell down a cliff and has been in the hospital for 4 or 5 months. He just had surgery and the nurse said it did not go well. She said he will be in the hospital for 4 more weeks. We have some crutches for him that were bought by another missionary. We plan to see him Monday. He believes God has him there for a purpose. (We do outreach in the hospital on Mondays and in the prison on Wednesdays.)

With the Friday kids group in our apt, we have been playing Scrabble, but not like Scrabble anyone else has ever played following rules. Basically, anyone who can come up with a word plants it on the board. It helps with the English. Then there are some little ones who just like to have letters for themselves and so I try to help them make words. One little boy (Lazarus) thinks the letters are for him just to hold and he put up a big fuss about letting them go. You see the group is a mix of ages, which can be a challenge. A friend in Australia had sent a card game with Bible figures which you have to match. This is a good game as those who cannot read can see the pictures and get involved in matching.

I still meet former prisoners on the street who tell me they were visited by me while incarcerated. How wonderful. Most of this week we had no internet access, so it is nice to be back on line.

Thanks for prayerfully following us. Lois

First Christian Assembly,	1900 S. 11 th Street, Philadelphia, PA 19148	215-389-6721
First Christian So Jersey,	1960 Delsea Drive, 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>Discipleship class (Fellowship hall)</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>Free Indeed</i>

- *Coram Deo*: A men’s Bible study and Christian fellowship.
- *Free Indeed*; Is a Spirit led Men’s Fellowship that emphasizes godly counsel, leading to spiritual growth, healing and deliverance.
- *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.

Youth Group meets tonight – See Jason or Jennifer Kohn for details

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

Though our feelings come and go, God’s love for us does not”.
C.S. Lewis