



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.

Revelation

The key to Bible interpretation, especially for the book of Revelation, is to have a consistent hermeneutic. Hermeneutics is the study of the principles of interpretation. In other words, it is the way you interpret Scripture. A normal hermeneutic or normal interpretation of Scripture means that unless the verse or passage clearly indicates the author was using figurative language, it should be understood in its normal sense. We are not to look for other meanings if the natural meaning of the sentence makes sense. Also, we are not to spiritualize Scripture by assigning meanings to words or phrases when it is clear the author, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, meant it to be understood as it is written. One example is [Rev 20](#). Many will assign various meanings to references to a thousand-year period. Yet, the language does not imply in any way that the references to the thousand years should be taken to mean anything other than a literal period of one thousand years.

A simple outline for the book of Revelation is found in [Rev 1:19](#). In the first chapter, the risen and exalted Christ is speaking to John. Christ tells John to "write, therefore, what you have seen, what is now and what will take place later." The things John had already seen are recorded in chapter 1. The "things which are" (that were present in John's day) are recorded in chapters 2–3. The "things that will take place" (future things) are recorded in chap 4–22.

Generally speaking, chapters 4–18 of Revelation deal with God's judgments on the people of the earth. These judgments are not for the church ([1 Thess 5:2, 9](#)). Before the judgments begin, the church will have been removed from the earth in an event called the rapture ([1 Thess 4:13-18](#); [1 Cor 15:51-52](#)). Chapters 4–18 describe a time of "Jacob's trouble"—trouble for Israel ([Jer 30:7](#); [Dan 9:12, 12:1](#)). It is also a time when God will judge unbelievers for their rebellion against Him.

Chapter 19 describes Christ's return with the church, the bride of Christ. He defeats the beast and the false prophet and casts them into the lake of fire. In Chapter 20, Christ has Satan bound and cast in the Abyss. Then Christ sets up His kingdom on earth that will last 1000 years. At the end of the 1000 years, Satan is released and he leads a rebellion against God. He is quickly defeated and also cast into the lake of fire. Then the final judgment occurs, the judgment for all unbelievers, when they too are cast into the lake of fire. Chapters 21 and 22 describe what is referred to as the eternal state. In these chapters God tells us what eternity with Him will be like. The book of Revelation is understandable. God would not have given it to us if its meaning were entirely a mystery. The key to understanding the book of Revelation is to interpret it as literally as possible.

Missionary Update PNG

On Saturday, Dr. Nimi and I joined the outreach lunch at Four Square Church. The lunch is offered to persons who are hanging around on the streets. We had a good crowd. Before they came, Dr. Nimi and I had spoken with Linda, an elementary school teacher, who volunteers at the lunch. She has been a public school teacher for over 20 years. She shared that she has a student who is deaf. As a result, Linda had taken special training in Melanesian sign language and other training to help this student. Now mind you, the class size is around 60. Linda has also made the remarkable commitment to this girl to move up to the next grade with the girl so she can continue to teach her, as no one else would have been trained to address her special needs. Linda teaches Sunday School at the church and uses the same lessons with her class at school as Bible is part of the curriculum. Someone in the US had sent some Bible lessons which I had passed on to Linda, which she has been using. Another amazing thing God has done. Linda would like to start a children's library at the church.

Today some of the inmates at the prison prayed with us to receive Jesus as personal Savior. Some others shared that they were not ready, so we encouraged them to pray to ask God to reveal Himself to them. The women's cell had no blankets and it has been a rainy cold day so we were able to get them some blankets. We were told that some inmates that we had visited previously have been moved to Baisu, the large prison out of town. They had taken the Bibles with them that we had given them. How good is that. God willing, some of us plan to visit the women in Baisu next week. It is quite far out of town and the travel is on challenging roads.

Thank you for praying with 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.

Important Dates;

- **Evangelism class Tuesday, 7:00 PM**
- **Be on the lookout for news regarding Sunday Morning and Tuesday Evening Bible studies**

He which testifieth these things saith, Surely I come quickly. Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus. Rev 22:20