



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.

Lazarus come forth

Lazarus of [Bethany](#) (John 11), was the brother of Mary and Martha. These three siblings were friends and disciples of Jesus, and they were people Jesus loved. Once, an urgent message came from Bethany to Jesus: His friend Lazarus had become ill, and Mary and Martha wanted Jesus to come and heal him, for he was near death. Jesus then puzzled His disciples and friends. He started by saying that the illness would not lead to death; rather, it would be for God's glory. Then Jesus stayed two days where He was before suggesting going back to Judea, where Lazarus was but also where Jesus' enemies had also recently tried to stone Him. During Jesus' delay, Lazarus died, but Jesus referred to Lazarus as "asleep" and told the disciples He was going to wake him up. The disciples responded, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better," clearly thinking of physical sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly that Lazarus had died, but they were still going to see him. Thomas perfectly expresses the disciples' confused frustration by saying, "Let us also go, that we may die with him"—he saw that Jesus was resolute, but knew the dangers of such a trip.

When they arrived at Lazarus' home in Bethany, they found Mary and Martha grief-stricken. They had buried their brother four days earlier. Jesus had not come to help. They were confused and frustrated, but their faith in Jesus was intact. Everything became clear when Jesus did the unexpected: He went to Lazarus' tomb and raised him from the dead.

The entire episode of Lazarus' sickness, death, and resurrection worked toward giving glory to God and increasing the faith of Jesus' followers, just as Jesus had said when He heard of Lazarus' illness. Just before He raised Lazarus, Jesus prayed, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me. Jesus' prayer was answered: Lazarus came back to life, and "many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, believed in him".

After Lazarus was raised from the dead, the chief priests and Pharisees plotted to kill him, because so many witnesses to the miracle believed in Jesus ([John 12:9-11](#)). The enemies of Christ couldn't deny the miracle; the next best thing, in their view, was to destroy the evidence—in this case, the evidence was a living, breathing person. But they couldn't stop the truth from spreading.

Missionary Update *Afghanistan*

Dear praying friends, hope this finds all of you doing well. Here are some praises and prayers:

Praises:

- 1.) Another man in the project has become a follower of the way.
- 2.) We now have 8 men in the project! 6 have been here at least 4 months or more.
- 3.) The knives sales have gone really well.
- 4.) We may have a good contact at the base to be able to send knives to the US as domestic mail. I sent six today.
- 5.) Did my first post - surgery run and it was fine.

Prayer:

- 1.) Continued wisdom on how and with whom to share the story and how to follow up those who become followers.
- 2.) That J would reveal himself to my language teacher.
- 3.) That the Base contact would be able to get us permission to regularly bring and mail knives. That would be an amazing help!
- 4.) That J would put it on a woman's heart to come and start a female/family (women and children) branch of NL. The need is incredible and unlike Mongolia it must be started and staffed by females. We have people coming to us and begging us to help their addicted daughters, wives etc. They have put them in the government program but they were able to get drugs there and became even worse! Please, please lift this need up in prayer!
- 5.) That in between knife making, redoing tables, and moving people we need to make another set of bunk beds. Please pray we can somehow find the time.

Blessings!! - John

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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>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 continues on Tuesday, 7:00 PM**
- **Sunday morning Bible Study begins a new series in Genesis**
- **Thursday Bible Study continues our Study in the Gospels**
- **Lord’s Supper and Fellowship lunch – Sunday April 14, 2019**

Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? – John 11:25–26