

February 2026

The Christian Letter



First Christian Church
Love God, Love Others, Make Disciples for Christ



Sunday Worship Schedule

8:30 Sunday School

10:00 Worship Service

(Service also streamed live via Facebook)

Pastor: Mike Moulden

Email: mikemoulden@firstchristianwinchester.org

Office Hours: M,T,W,TH 9am-2pm

Pastor Mike's Message

Many Christians assume that immediately after Jesus died, rose from the dead and went back to heaven, that a leather-bound copy of the Bible descended from the sky. Complete with the 27 finalized books of the New Testament and Jesus' words etched in red, this Bible was delivered to the church and has been studied ever since by Christians around the world.

The reality is we did not have the New Testament in its complete form until 367 A.D., when Bishop Athanasius of Alexandria listed all 27 books of the New Testament for the first time. That is three centuries, 334 years to be exact, after Jesus' ascension. Comparatively, that is like Jesus showing up in the Jamestown colony when it had only 75 people in it, teaching, dying, raising from the dead, and then the Bible coming together in its final form this Thursday right before we head out to Applebee's for lunch.

It is hard to imagine what it must have been like to be a Christian without a Bible. One hundred years after Jesus left, it appears that some churches had copies of the collected letters of Paul and a gospel or two, but that is it. Many had collections with books of debated authenticity that were later taken out. No one in the first and second century had a final New Testament like we have today. Whatever copies existed remained in the possession of the local church leadership. No one, it appears, owned their own copy of the Bible for personal "Bible study" unless they were wealthy enough to pay the substantial cost to have it transcribed.

Besides, with the high rate of illiteracy among the social groups represented among the second and third century churches, having a personal copy of the Bible would have been useless anyway. Most Christians would not have been able to read it.

I bring all this up to make one simple point: The modern-day church places a ridiculous amount of emphasis on Bible study. It is obvious, from historical observation alone, that one can be a sold-out, fully devoted, willing to die a martyr's death follower of Jesus and spend next to no time practicing the spiritual discipline of Bible study.

Do we think it is any coincidence that the period of the church's greatest growth and expansion (33AD – mid 300's AD) occurred during the time when there was not a Bible in every Christian's hand and when there was not an obsessive preoccupation with Christians gathering to study it word by word, line by line and page by page? Many Christians today assume that to be a Christian means to have a personal relationship with the Bible instead of the risen Jesus. To be consumed with it. To obsess over its details. To memorize curiously meaningless trivia about it. To study its root words and the historical data behind every sentence, every chapter, and every book.

But what if we are totally missing the point? What if one of the reasons we are so spiritually dead and the church is abysmally failing at its mission is not because we study the Bible too little, but too much? Instead of being out and about extending the works of the kingdom, Christians are using precious time excessively "studying the Bible" in groups and feeling quite content that if they are practicing the "spiritual disciplines" at home that they have done their duty and can call it a day.

What does it matter if I never open my mouth and share my faith today? Or forgive those who do me wrong? Or share my money with those in need? Or my house with the homeless? All is good. I read my Bible today. You can know the Bible cold and still be a stranger to God.

A seminary professor once met a man overseas who claimed he had memorized the OT. Not in English but in Hebrew. Every word! The professor did not believe him, so they agreed to meet again. "Where should we start?" the man asked. "Psalm 1," the professor replied. For two hours, the man recited the text without hesitation while the professor followed along, stunned. Then came the shock.... The man was an atheist. He knew the Bible better than most Christians ever will and he did not believe in God.

That story exposes something we do not like to admit. Scripture can be mastered without ever being obeyed. It can be handled, taught, and quoted all while never touching the heart. Information is not transformation. Familiarity is not faith. Jesus said it as plainly as it can be said: "Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me." (John 14:21)

Not whoever has them and debates them. Not whoever has them and masters them. Whoever has them and keeps them. It is not enough to know the truth. When we obey the truth, it will be shown by our love for others and sharing the truth with them. What do you think? Do I have a point, or am I missing the point?



FCC Youth Newsletter Corner



Hey, kids!

February is all about love! Let's see what the bible says about it!!

♥ How to Love Your Family and Love God ♥

1. Love Your Family

- Be kind with your words
- Listen and help at home
- Say "I'm sorry" and forgive
- Show respect and care

"Be kind and loving to one another." — Ephesians 4:32

2. Love God

- Talk to God when you pray
- Thank God for what He gives you
- Do what God says, even when it's hard
- Trust God knows what's best

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart." — Matthew 22:37

3. Love Like Jesus

- Help people who need it
- Be kind to everyone
- Forgive others
- Share God's love with your actions

"Love one another as I have loved you." — John 13:34

Remember: Love is not just something we say—love is something we do.
When we love others, we show God's love too!





First Christian Church Youth Ministry

FCC DATES:

4th and 5th grade Bible Study:
Thursdays from 630-730pm
2/5, 2/12, 2/19

Middle School Bible Study:
Tuesdays from 630-730pm
2/3, 2/10, 2/17 and 2/24

High School Bible Study:
2/1, 2/8, 2/15, 2/22
6:00-7:00pm



K-5th grade
Friday, Feb 27th
6pm-8pm



Have questions or want to support the
youth?
See Jamie or Lauren!



JR. CHURCH TOPICS



1st: "What is LOVE?" *John 3:16*

8th: "How do we show love to others?" *Ephesians 4:32, 1John 3:18, and Matthew 22:39*

15th: "How do we show love to God?" *John 14:15 and Matthew 22:37*

22nd: Bible Trivia (game)

XOXO

**FCC YOUTH:
FEBRUARY PROJECT**

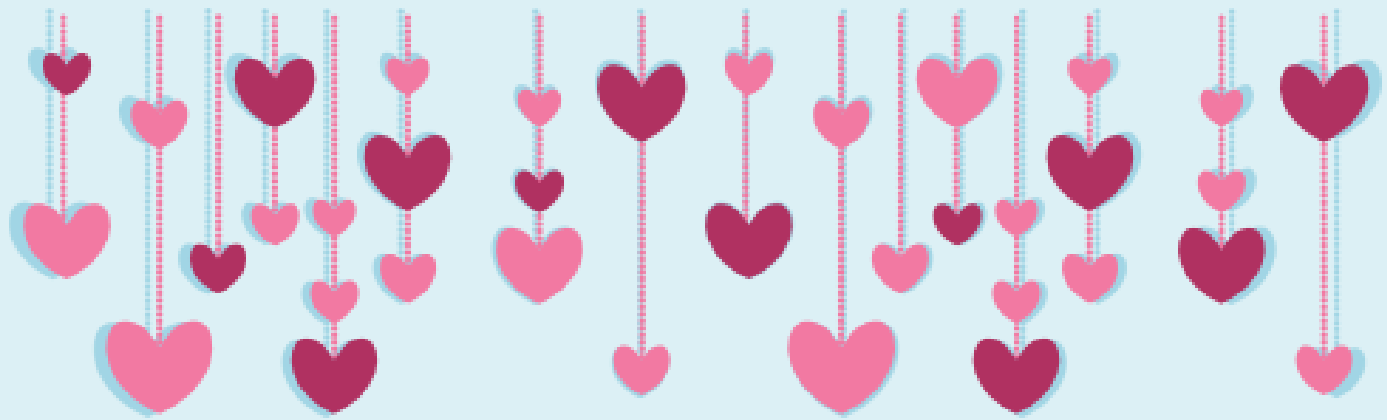
**"WE LOVE OTHERS
BECAUSE.....
HE 1ST LOVED US"**

The FCC Youth will be purchasing
supplies and creating special
hygiene bags for Family Promise



Nursery Volunteers

2/1 Susan and Sara D
2/8 Mendy LeVan
2/15 Melany Y
2/22 Erica Anderson
3/1 Susan and Sara D
03/08 Cathy Shiffler
3/15 Melany Y
3/22 Morgan H
3/29 Heather A
4/5 Susan and Sara D
4/12 Aubree and Jackie A.
4/19 Melany Y
4/26 Amy Moulden



WATTS Happening?

FCC is hosting WATTS the week of March 21-28

If you would like to contribute items that will be needed to host our guests during the week or provide items that we will be placing in their backpacks when they leave the shelter – please see the bulletin board in the hallway right outside the sanctuary.

The current items needed should be returned to the church no later than FEBRUARY 28.

ALL OF THE ITEMS CURRENTLY SHOWN ON THE BOARD ARE ONLY NON-PERISHABLES. *Another listing of perishable food items for shelter meals will be placed on the board in late February.*

ANY QUESTIONS???

SEE LAURIE MOULDEN

OR CALL (540) 533-1154

FEBRUARY GREETERS			
Date	Entry	Foyer	Outside
Feb. 1	Joann	Betty	Brad
Feb. 8	Terri	Diane B	Rick
Feb. 15	Laurie	Diana	Mark
Feb.22	Tanya	Kathy Lee	Donnie



Financial Report

2026 General Operating Budget.....\$277,145.00 Amount needed weekly.....\$5,329.71

January 1st-21st Amount Received.....\$16,413.00 Expenditures.....\$20,3849.90



First Christian Church

75 Merrimans Lane

Winchester, VA

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*Church office: Melissa Bucher

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First Christian Church

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