

November 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

Dear First Christian Church Family,

As you are reading this letter, I will have already begun a time of sabbatical for the month of November. I am grateful to our elders for allowing this time away. Maybe you are wondering, "What in the world is a sabbatical? Who will be leading Sunday morning worship and preaching? How will the sabbatical be spent? How can I pray and help?" These are all great questions! I hope to address each of them briefly, so you can understand and pray for God to accomplish His great work during this sabbatical.

What is a Sabbatical?

The word sabbatical comes from the same word from which we get sabbath. It means "to stop" or "to cease." For a pastor, a sabbatical does not mean to cease all work and take a giant vacation. While there certainly is time spent resting and enjoying family, that is not the main thing. Rather, the idea is to cease ordinary work, in order to experience productive rest and to engage in focused study and work that the regular demands of pastoral ministry do not allow. The goal of both the productive rest and focused work is to provide opportunity for deep spiritual renewal, refreshing personal and family time, and growth in personal walk and pastoral ministry.

Who Will Lead While I am Away?

During my absence, the ministry of our church will continue moving forward just as if I were here. The elders will be leading the worship services. There are guests coming, as well as some of our elders, to fill the pulpit on Sunday mornings. For hospital visits, counseling, or urgent pastoral needs, please contact one of the elders or the church office. Arrangements have been made so that all those needs will be met timely and appropriately.

How Will the Sabbatical Be Spent?

To achieve the true rest and disconnection required for a successful sabbatical, I will not be checking my church email, taking work calls, or attending regular church gatherings during this time. I will be visiting other churches on Sunday mornings for worship. Much of the time will be spent in "tree stand therapy" sessions, spending time with the Creator in His creation with His Word always close by.

I see the Lord preparing First Christian for a season of growth that will require us to respond to His leading with childlike faith, taking steps of faith when we cannot see the whole path. It will require us to get comfortable with being uncomfortable. I will be praying for direction, discernment, and wisdom on leading His church in His direction.

How You Can Pray and Participate

I would ask that you pray earnestly for the Lord's blessing on this time of sabbatical. Please pray for the Lord's protection on the leadership and congregation of FCC, for the Spirit's blessing on our people and ministries, and for the powerful advancement of Christ's mission during this time. Please pray for Laurie and me. Pray that God will enable this time to be spent well for all His good purposes. Pray that He might meet with me in a powerful, transforming way. Pray that He might richly bless time spent with family and friends. Pray that He might grant renewed vision and increased clarity and direction in ministry. Pray that I might return in the fullness and power of the Spirit for the blessing of God's people, the advancement of Christ's mission, and the glory of our God's name.

Thank you, FCC family, for your love, your commitment to prayer and encouragement, and for your faithfulness to Jesus and His church. Please know I will be earnestly and expectantly praying for you, while I am away. I am deeply grateful for this church family and look forward to returning refreshed and ready and equipped for the next season of ministry God has for us.

Because He Lives!

Pastor Mike

FCC Milk & Honey Food Pantry Ministry

FCC Milk & Honey Food Pantry Ministry handed out **21 bags** of food as part of our Outreach Ministries. We were blessed to give homemade vegetable soup out with the bags. This soup was prepared by the loving hands of **Cheryl Gray**. The soup was a perfect choice on a very cold Saturday morning.



Another mission for FCC is preparing and serving a meal at the **Winchester Rescue Mission**. Our **Youth** supported the mission meal by purchasing the food this month. **Cherly Gray** did all the cooking this month! She prepared her famous meatloaf recipe and made scalloped potatoes. **Diane Walter** baked all the desserts that included brownies, ginger snaps and chocolate chip cookies. These two ladies blessed us and the people by giving hearts and service. We fed around 70 people who were friendly and full of appreciation. It is an honor to serve our community!

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

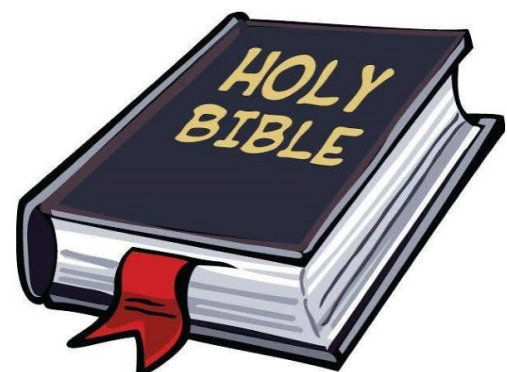
6:30-8:00 pm

Putting On the Full Armor of God - *Ephesians 6:10-18*

We have started a new study called "Love Thy Neighbor". It is a 10-week study in growing in compassion and kindness. Love is the heartbeat of the Christian faith. It is the language of heaven, the greatest commandment and the evidence that we truly belong to God.

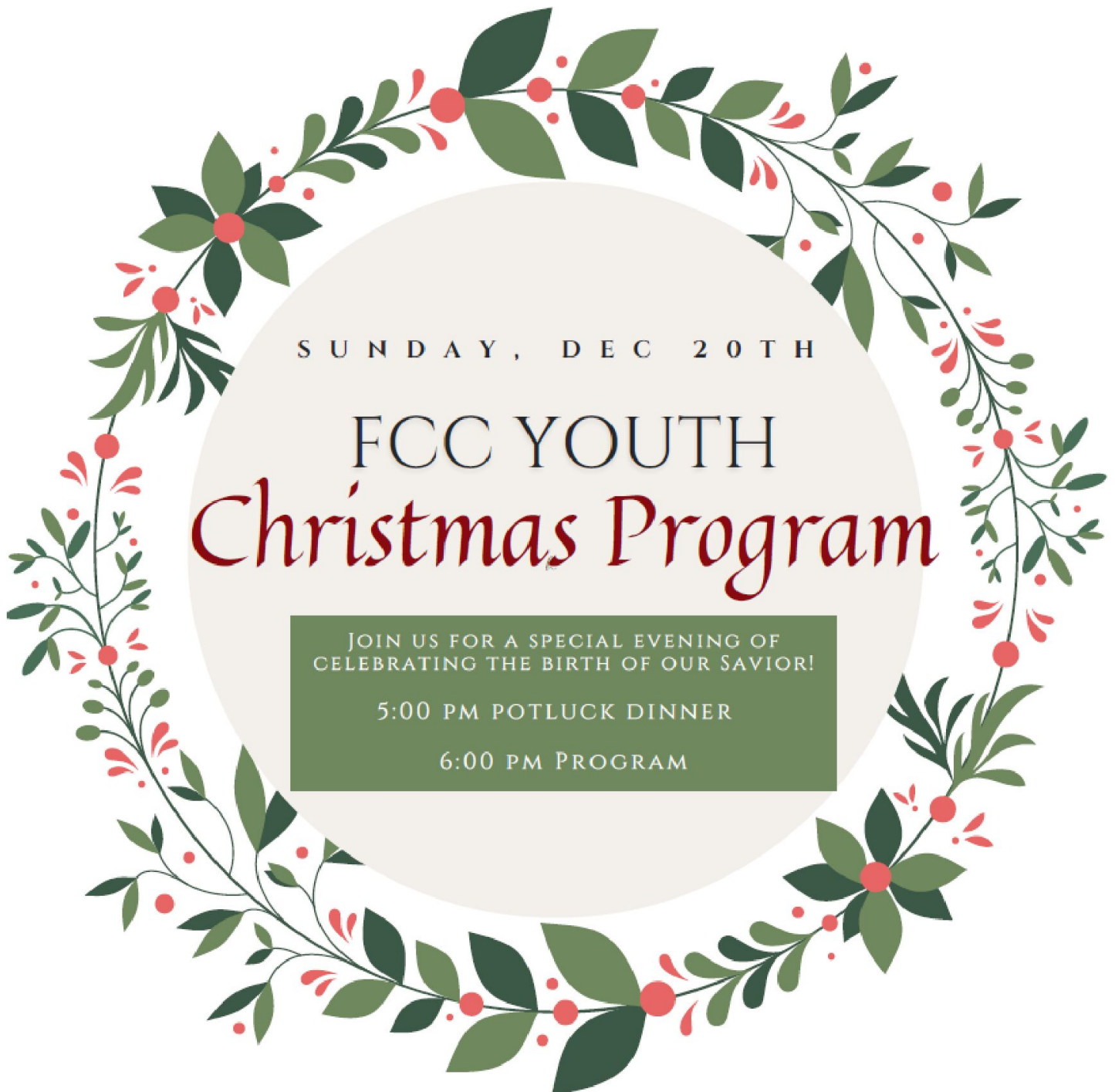
Matthew 22:37-39 "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind and love your neighbor as yourself." What wonderful words for us to follow. We have learned what it means to "Love beyond Boundaries" and the "Compassionate Heart of Jesus".

Join us for the next sessions including: "Love that Listens", "Love that Serves", "Love that Forgives", "Love that Gives", "Love that Endures", "Love in Community", "Perfected in Love" and "Living Out Love Every Day". A wonderful group of ladies meet weekly to discuss God's Word and pray for one another and others. We have a great time together.





There will be an annual member meeting on November 8th following worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to vote on the 2027 church budget as well as the slate of elders and deacons. Please plan to attend.





Mark your calendars now for a Sunday school breakfast on November 15th at 8:30 (Sunday school hour). Come enjoy a time of food and fellowship. Everyone is invited!

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

SUNDAY
NOV.
8TH

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PRACTICE

1PM-2:30PM

STARTING 11/8 WE WILL MEET ON SUNDAYS TO PRACTICE FOR OUR PROGRAM! TIMES MAY CHANGE AS WE GET CLOSER TO DECEMBER!
(WE WILL NOT MEET ON 11/29)

SUNDAY
DEC
20TH

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

6PM

(MORE INFO TO COME!)

SEE LAUREN OR JAMIE FOR MORE DETAILS!

PARENTS/FAMILIES: PLEASE MONITOR YOUR PARENT GROUP TEXT
FOR UPDATES OR CHANGES!



NOVEMBER YOUTH EVENTS

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Jr Church	2	3	4 k-12 Youth Group 630-730	5	6	7
8 Jr Church Christmas Program Practice following service till 1:45 (lunch: Mason)	9	10	11 k-12 Youth Group 630-730	12	13	14
15 Jr Church Christmas Program Practice following service till 1:45 (lunch: Holmes)	16	17	18 k-12 Youth Group 630-730	19	20 k-12th Friendsgiving! 6pm-8pm *must rsvp by 11/18	21
22 Jr Church Christmas Program Practice 3pm-5pm	23 No Youth Events this week due to Thanksgiving! (We will have Jr. Church on 11/22 and play practice!) **Please note the practice time change due to the Church Thanksgiving meal					28
29 No Jr. Church No Program Practice	30					

For more information or if you have any questions about youth events or our youth ministry, please contact Lauren or Jamie.

📞 540-327-4041

✉ youth@firstchristianwinchester.org

NOVEMBER GREETER SCHEDULE			
Date	Entry	Foyer	Outside
November 1	Lisha	Linda Edwards	Joe
November 8	Terri	Diane B	Rick
November 15	Tanya	Kathy Lee	Mark
November 22	Pat Hilleary	Linda Edwards	Donnie
November 29	Franzi	Joann Lower	Matt



Financial Report

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

October 1st-20th Amount Received.....\$17,796.86 Expenditures.....\$16,484.21



First Christian Church

75 Merrimans Lane

Winchester, VA

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Email: mikemoulden@firstchristianwinchester.org

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

*Chairman of the Board: Rick Edwards

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*Newsletter: Mike Davis

Email: bellgirl.davis@yahoo.com

*Youth Director: Jamie & Lauren Bucher

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