

August 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

Pastor: Mike Moulden

Email: mikemoulden@firstchristianwinchester.org

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

Pastor Mike's Message

I need to highlight a foundational fact: God's goal is not to make sure you are happy. No matter how hard it is for you to believe this, it is time to do so. Life is not about your being comfortable and happy and successful and pain free. It's about becoming the man or woman God has called you to be. Unfortunately, we will rarely hear that message proclaimed today. All the more reason for me to say it again: Life is not about *you*! It is about *God*.

How can I say that with assurance? Because of Paul's response in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, *"So now I am glad to boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ can work through me. That's why I take pleasure in my weaknesses, and in the insults, hardships, persecutions, and troubles that I suffer for Christ. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

That's it! He got it, too. And he went with it for the rest of his days. When you and I boast of our strengths, we get the credit, and we keep going under our own head of steam. But when we boast in what God is doing in the midst of our brokenness, inability, and inadequacy, Christ comes to the front. His strength comes to our rescue. He is honored.

Do not miss that point. The very things we dread and run from in our lives are precisely what brought contentment to Paul. Look at the list: I am content when I lose. I am content when I am weak. I am content with insults. I am content when I am slandered. I am content in distresses. I am content with persecutions. I am content with difficulties and pressures that are so tight I can hardly turn around. Why? "Because when I am weak, then I am strong". Knowing that brought the apostle to his knees. What a way to live your life—content in everything—knowing that divine strength comes when human weakness is evident.

Paul recommends an attitude of unselfish humility. Quite remarkably, you never read where Paul said to his Roman guard, while he was in prison: "I need you to do me a favor. Next time you happen to be near one of the Emperor's assistants, urge him to get me out of this dump. I shouldn't be here in the first place. I have been here for one year, seven months, four days, five hours, and nine minutes, and that is long enough." Paul's attitude of unselfish humility prevented him from keeping records of the wrongs done to him in Rome, or anywhere else for that matter. He was in prison by divine appointment. He willingly submitted to his situation.

Christ modeled the great emptying-out principle that permeated Paul's remarkable life. If we want to learn contentment, developing an attitude of unselfish humility is the perfect place to begin. Start with your family or neighbors. Model it before your employees or clients. You will not believe the impact that sort of selfless mental attitude will have on people. You will not have to raise flags or pass out tracts. Just demonstrate an attitude of unselfish humility. The results will amaze you.

Paul exhorts believers to have an attitude of joyful acceptance. Paul minced no words about how believers should relate to one another. *"Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people."* (Philippians 2:14-15). He sought an attitude of joyful acceptance, free of petty disputes and bickering. He pled for authentic joy. Nothing is more contagious!



"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6

One of the greatest blessings at First Christian Church has been watching God grow our youth ministry over the past few years. When Jamie and I began serving as Youth Directors in 2022, we had just five children involved. Today, by God's grace, we are blessed to be connected with nearly 40 kids—and He continues to bring more through our doors.

While growth in numbers is exciting, what truly fills our hearts with joy is watching young lives grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ. Each gathering for a Bible lesson, times of fellowship and fun, mission project, meal, conversation, and prayer is an opportunity to plant seeds of faith that we trust God will continue to nurture for years to come.

Youth ministry is about so much more than providing activities for children. It is about building relationships, creating a safe place where kids are known and loved, and helping them develop a firm foundation on God's Word. The truths they learn today will help shape the choices they make tomorrow. Our prayer is that every child leaves our ministry knowing they are deeply loved by God, valued by their church family, and equipped to share the Gospel wherever He leads them.

Research consistently shows that children and teenagers who are actively involved in a church community are more likely to develop lasting friendships rooted in faith, remain connected to the church as they grow older, and build a strong biblical foundation that helps them navigate life's challenges. We believe investing in the next generation is one of the church's greatest privileges and responsibilities.

On Sunday, August 9, we will celebrate Youth Recognition Sunday as we recognize and pray over each of our youth members.

As you read the following notes from several of our parents, we hope you'll catch a glimpse of the ways God is using this ministry to encourage, strengthen, and build a lasting foundation of faith in the next generation.

-With an abundance of gratitude for God's grace, Jamie and Lauren Bucher

"As parents, our greatest hope is to see our children walk in the truth and love of Christ. Being part of the FCC Youth Program has been an incredible blessing for our daughters. Through engaging Bible studies, uplifting worship, and fellowship with peers who share their values, we have watched them blossom. The program has deepened their faith by teaching them how to apply Scripture to their daily lives. It has guided them in discipleship, helping them grow into confident young women who actively seek out Christ's will. Most importantly, it has instilled a true heart for charity. Through the youth group's local mission projects and community outreach, our girls have learned the joy of serving others and putting their faith into action. We are so grateful to the leaders and the entire FCC community for investing in our next generation"—**Heather Alonge**

"Marcus is 13 years old, and like many young people his age, he is navigating a world filled with distractions, pressures, and voices competing for his attention. As a single mother, I often pray that God would surround him with faithful men and women who would continue pointing him toward Christ when I am not beside him. God has answered that prayer. The difference I have witnessed in Marcus is unmistakable. Today, he speaks openly about God and Jesus without hesitation. He proudly wears his "Blessed" shirt without shame, unafraid for others to know where his faith is rooted. He eagerly looks forward to Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings, Boys' Night, and every opportunity to gather with the youth because those moments are more than activities, they are opportunities for his relationship with Christ to deepen."—**Stacy Scott**

"I would like to share the tremendous growth in character, and a deepening of Gabby's relationship and understanding of Jesus and God as a direct result from her involvement in our First Christian youth program. Gabby has expanded her friendships and learning what it means to truly serve others. I am profoundly inspired by her growth, interest in bible memorization and a love of the bible and seeing her walk with Jesus expand."—**Meredith Singer**

Continued on next page:

Continued from previous page:

“We could not be prouder of the spiritual guidance and support that Kevin and Grace have been receiving through the youth program here at First Christian Church. They having been learning to not only pray for those in their church community, but for those around them globally. Their prayers have become much more meaningful as well as their knowledge about the Bible and scripture recall. We are so proud as parents when we see the excitement and abundance of joy our kids have when attending youth activities. The youth program and its leaders Jamie and Lauren are building the knowledge needed for the long-lasting strong relationship with Jesus. The youth are our future and it’s going to be a great one!”- ***Mendy LeVan***

“First Christian Youth has been a blessing to our family. Not only has our 11 year old grown in spirituality and confidence since getting involved with the FCC youth organization, she has established a few very special friendships along the way. It is reassuring to know that she has a safe place to connect with other like-minded families, under the care and guidance of Lauren & Jamie. From VBS to weekly bible studies to supper club & service projects, the passion & love that is poured into the event planning and facilitating is beaming. We are truly grateful for Lauren & Jamie and the FCC youth program”. - ***Morgan Holmes***

AUGUST GREETERS			
Date	Entry	Foyer	Outside
August 2	Lisha	Linda	Joe
August 9	Terri	Diane B	Rick
August 16	Laurie	Diana W	Mark
August 23	Tanya	Kathy Lee	Donnie
August 30	Betty	Joann	Brad



AUGUST

FCC YOUTH EVENTS



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4	5 Final Supper Club! 6pm-730pm	6	7 Friday Hangout! 12:00-3:30pm k-8th Water games, lunch and outside fun!	8
9 Youth Sunday!	10 High School Hangout! 630-730	11	12 k-8th Youth Group 6-7pm	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 k-8th Youth Group 6-7pm	20	21 k-8th Movie Night! 6:00-8:00	22
23	24 High School Hangout ! 630-730	25	26 k-8th Youth Group 6-7pm	27	28	29
30 Family Sunday! No jr. church	31					

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

Monday Night Women's Bible Study

6:30-8:00 pm

Walking Worthy of Our Calling – Reflections on Ephesians 4 & 5

In **Ephesians** chapters 4 and 5, the **Apostle Paul** encourages believers to live lives that reflect their faith in Christ. He reminds us to "**walk worthy of the calling**" we have received, demonstrating **humility, gentleness, patience, and love** in our relationships with one another.

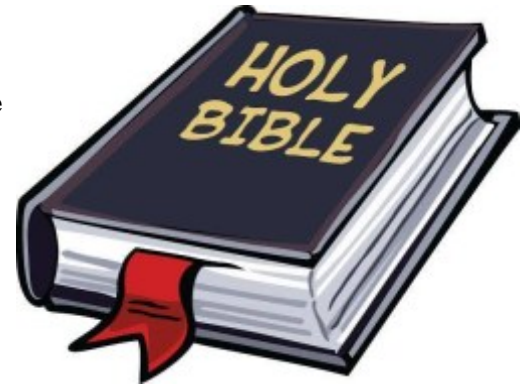
Paul emphasizes the importance of unity **within the body of Christ**. While each of us has different gifts and talents, we are all called to **work together** to build up the Church and strengthen one another in faith. As we grow spiritually, we become **more like Christ** in our words, actions, and attitudes.

Ephesians 5 challenges us to be imitators of God and to **walk in love**, just as Christ loved us. Paul encourages believers to leave behind behaviors that do not honor God and instead pursue **goodness, righteousness, and truth**. He reminds us that we are called to be "children of light," shining God's **love and grace** in a world that often needs hope and encouragement.

These chapters also teach us the importance of **gratitude and wisdom**. We are encouraged to make the most of every opportunity, seeking God's will in all we do and giving thanks for His many blessings.

As we reflect on Ephesians 4 and 5, may we be inspired to live lives marked by **kindness, unity, forgiveness, and love**. Through our daily actions, may others see the light of Christ shining through us and be drawn closer to Him.

Join us on Monday nights!



The FCC Milk & Honey Food Pantry continues to be a blessing to our community through its outreach ministry. This month, we distributed 14 bags of food to families in need and welcomed two new families to our pantry program.

In addition to providing food bags, our volunteers prepared a special meal of turkey salad and rolls, made with loving hands and caring hearts. Our pantry friends were deeply touched by the meal and expressed how much they enjoyed it, as well as the meal that was provided last month. Their kind words remind us that sharing food is also an opportunity to share God's love, encouragement, and fellowship.

We were also grateful to have Diane Boone join us as a guest helper this month. Her willingness to serve helped make the morning even more special.

What a wonderful day it was, sharing food, fellowship, and Christ's love with members of our community. Thank you to everyone who supports and volunteers with the Milk & Honey Food Pantry Ministry. Your generosity and service continue to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Food items needed: Spaghetti Sauce, Rice

You'll be Bacon my heart if you don't mark your calendars now for an Eggs-tra special Sunday school breakfast on August 9th at 8:30 (Sunday school hour). Come enjoy a time of food and fellowship. Everyone is invited.



If you have a favorite breakfast dish you would like to share with everyone or if you feel moved to serve the lord by helping in the kitchen, please see Rob Sutphin or Mike Davis.



Financial Report

2026 General Operating Budget.....\$277,145.00 Amount needed weekly.....\$5,329.71
July 1st-20th Amount Received.....\$19,8089.59 Expenditures.....\$16,061.33



First Christian Church
75 Merrimans Lane
Winchester, VA

*Senior Pastor: Mike Moulden

Email: mikemoulden@firstchristianwinchester.org

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

*Chairman of the Board: Rick Edwards

Email: chairman@firstchristianwinchester.org

*Church office: Melissa Bucher

Email: info@firstchristianwinchester.org

*Newsletter: Mike Davis

Email: bellgirl.davis@yahoo.com

*Youth Director: Jamie & Lauren Bucher

Email: youth@firstchristianwinchester.org

Church Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/firstchristianwinchester>

First Christian Church

75 Merrimans Lane
Winchester, VA 22601-6203

