

The Somerset Christian

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF FCC



Love God
Love Others
Make Disciples

AUGUST 2020

First Christian Church

139 E. Main St., Somerset, PA. 15501

Phone: 814-445-8112

Office email: fccsomerset@comcast.net

Pastor Brent's email: Brent@somersetfirstchristian.org

Website: www.somersetfirstchristian.org

Instagram: [fcc_somerset](https://www.instagram.com/fcc_somerset)

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00AM

WORSHIP 10:00AM

The Shepherd's View

Camp Christian: A Place Set Apart

Camp Christian is committed to providing a place and an opportunity where young people and adults alike can be still and know who God is. We are dedicated to the exaltation of Jesus Christ through excellent programs of worship, education, recreation, and social activity.
(This is the Mission Statement of Camp Christian)


Let us share some good news about Camp Christian but first a little history. Camp Christian was originally a train depot. It was used by a lot of people from the city coming to the country to enjoy the beautiful area. The train depot was acquired by Christian Churches and Churches of Christ to be used as a church camp. Over the years, many people from First Christian Church have served at camp. A few that come to mind are Pete & Mary Weber, John & Patty Barchey, Jim & Loretta Hauger, Loretta's mom, Bill & Mary Meekins, Wanetta Escherich, and many more people not listed. Thanks to all of you who have given of your time and talents to Camp Christian.

I believe it was approximately 19 years ago the Mill House at Camp Christian fell into disrepair. So much so that it had to be torn down and a new one built. That's where this story starts.

The original loan amount for the Mill House was approximately \$976,000. Just shy of a million dollars. In 2015 the director of camp at the time, Joel White, and the board of directors had a vision, that vision was to pay off the mortgage in 2020. The mortgage at the time was still at \$824,000. So as you can see, that was a very aggressive goal for a five-year timeline. At First Christian, we signed on with the idea and pledged \$25,000 a year for five years from the Snyder Trust Fund, again an aggressive commitment. First Christian Church finished its giving ahead of time completing our \$125,000 pledge in April 2019. The camp mortgage was down to \$194,000. I would like to share with you some good news, As of June 2020 the Mill House is PAID OFF. Isn't it wonderful how you can see God working through his churches to pay off an \$824,000 debt within five years!!!!

Going forward with a debt free Mill House, there are many new ideas and plans coming for the future of Camp Christian. Unfortunately Covid 19 has halted some things at Camp but plans are still moving forward. Many young people, with the guidance of Godly men and women, have made a decision at camp to give their lives to Christ. Camp now has a new director, Greg Voss and any help or support we can provide over the coming years will help young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to hear God's Word.

2 CORINTHIANS 9: 10-11



¹⁰Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. ¹¹You will be made rich in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.

The Pastor's Page

When we read Acts 15:36-41, we can get the idea that Paul was task oriented, and Barnabas was people-oriented. Paul and Barnabas got in a sharp disagreement about taking John Mark on their next missionary trip. We know that Barnabas was an encourager. He built people up and saw the potential in people. John Mark was also his cousin! But we should not be too quick to judge Paul as task oriented. As you look into the second missionary journey, you'll find Paul picking up Timothy in Lystra and taking him along (Acts 16:1). Paul was also interested in developing people. Timothy learned from Paul and became the leading pastor in Ephesus. John Mark ended up being a blessing to Paul as well (2 Tim. 4:11) and he wrote the Gospel of Mark. My point is that we need to see the value of people. At first, youth, children, or that new Christian may not seem to have much to offer. But God can do amazing things in people over time. Pour your life into people, not things. Encourage people to grow in their faith. Teach them to follow Jesus and give them a love for the Word. People have value. Leave a spiritual legacy that the next generation can follow.

People can be like the Liberty Bell. Now days it is famous, and you need to go through a metal detector flanked by armed guards who protect this valuable relic. It was once rung when the Declaration of Independence was signed. But it wasn't always viewed as valuable. Back in 1828, the city fathers had decided to give the bell to a bell-maker named John Wilbank in exchange for a replacement. Wilbank agreed to knock \$400 off his bill in exchange for the 2000-pound Liberty Bell. But, when Wilbank went to collect the bell he decided it wasn't worth the trouble. The city sued him because they didn't want it either. The metal was substandard. It was so damaged from structural weakness that it was rung only rarely. Finally, Wilbank relented. He bought the bell and then turned around and donated it back to the city. Some people are like that bell. Like John Mark, they may seem to be sub-standard. They may have faults and cracks in their personality. But God knows that each person has value and potential. Live your life planting spiritual seeds in the hearts of others. You never know what child or new Christian may turn out to be the next Liberty Bell.

Brent Williams

**Live your life planting spiritual seeds
in the hearts of others.**

Church Covid 19 Update

As a nation we've been through a crazy time dealing with the coronavirus and I want to review what we've been through as a church family. We are not done with the changes yet and as of this writing we are still under restrictions to combat the spread of the virus. Like other churches around the country, we went through Stage 1—No in-person church services. We had to go to Facebook live-stream. Then we did both Facebook and YouTube recorded services. We moved our small groups to Zoom meetings. We thought that all this would be over in two weeks!

Stage 2: The restrictions drag on for months and we get better at doing an on-line service. Zoom is used for many meetings and small groups and socials such as Bingo. We did Prayer Tag. We had two parking lot Sunday worship services.

Stage 3: The Governor puts our county on green and we are allowed back inside with social distancing. We can have up to 50% capacity in our sanctuary. Many people are excited, but others stay home. Adult Sunday school and the praise band are back but we have no children's programs or kid's classes.

Stage 4: The coronavirus is making a comeback and cases go way up in our state as well as many other states. The Governor puts out more restrictions and facemask requirements. We get discouraged. How long will this last? We continue to meet for worship with some apprehension. We are trying to go forward and be safe at the same time.

I don't know what Stage 5 will be, but we must be ready for change. We must keep our spirits up. People still need our help. We want to be a caring, loving family. I hope we can be creative in doing the ministry God has called us to do with social distancing and wearing facemasks. I trust that you will continue to grow in your faith and continue to be fervent in prayer. I thank you for being willing to adapt to the changes. Thank you for your continued financial support. Thank you being so supportive of me and my family as we have tried to get to know our new church family. Tough times don't last, but tough people do!

Pastor Brent

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

CHILDREN'S CHURCH for grades K – 5 meets in the new Children's Complex (behind the baptistry). The children are dismissed for Children's Church after worship on Sundays.

THRIVE Youth Ministry

Though we are in the unknown of a pandemic in our world, student ministry here at FCC is having fun. Our weeks this summer have been different than those we have seen in the past, but we are making the most of them with youth group, secret mission Fridays, and pool parties on a weekly basis.

If you are a parent that wants to get your student involved and are not in the loop for student ministry events at FCC, please feel free to contact me! We have our last secret mission Friday on July 31st! Please RSVP by sending Pastor Shae a text or by calling him at the office! As we move into the unknown of school quickly approaching, we here at FCC will continue youth group and events as we see fit. Please do not hesitate to reach out with any concerns! Blessings to you!

Pastor Shae Frazier



August 2nd
August 9th
August 16th
August 23rd
office

August 30th

In honor of Joyce Heiple's birthday.

In honor of John Matkosky.

In honor of Delores Shaulis's birthday.

No flowers ordered. Cost is \$20 per vase. Call the

at 814-445-8112 to place flowers.

In memory of Forest & Olive Hall.



Nash Palmer Stanchfield born July 19th to Maddy (Carey) & TJ Stanchfield. He weighed 6lbs. 9oz. Grandparents are Denise & Dave Ferris.

CONDOLENCES

Bonnie Gay, grandmother of Karamie Johnson passed away July 18th.

Church News

- **2020/21 CHURCH BUDGET**
 - The revised budget is available on the window ledges for you to pick up and review. We will approve the new budget on August 16th.
- **ICE CREAM SUNDAY**
 - Don't miss church on August 2nd. Ice cream sandwiches will be handed out after church.
- **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES – 9:00am Sunday**
 - The 99 & Under class will meet in fellowship hall.
 - The Golden Achievers class will meet in the class in the front of the café area.
- **THURSDAY SMALL GROUP**
 - Meets at 7:00pm at Mike & Karen Costea's, 165 Oak Hill Dr., Friedens.
- **MONTHLY LEADERSHIP MEETING – Tuesday, August 11th at 6:00pm.**
- **T. N. T. (The FCC Dynamite Seniors)**
 - Meet Wednesday, August 19th at 11:00am – location and more details available in the bulletin as they become available.
- **WOMENS HAPPENINGS**
 - **WEEKLY WALKING** every Tuesday at 7:00am at the ACM college trail.
 - **WEEKLY COFFEE SOCIAL** every Thursday at 9:00am at Hazbeans uptown.
 - **HAYRIDE** Saturday, August 22nd, at 5:00pm at Ramona Sherbine's, 560 Byers Rd., Somerset. Call Ramona at 814-233-9859 to join attend.

MIND BENDERS

CAN YOU FIND 31 DIFFERENT BOOKS OF THE BIBLE IN THIS STORY?

By Pastor Brent

Esther worked at **Jonah's** café. **She brews** great coffee and felt like a **pro. Verbs** such as "able" and "quick" described her but for one bad re**mark** she was fired - - **a most** terrible mistake, not fun, a human error. She had said, "Look at the **Hag, Gai!**" Now she was in a **jam. Esther** needed money. **Matthew** said, "That **job** was a lulu. Keep looking for someplace else." **Peter** invited her to the youth group. At the meeting she told them the **truth** and all the **facts. Numbers** of people felt sorry for her and thought her boss was an unfair **judge. So** then **Joe** let her know about another place that needed a worker. The owner, Mr. **Roman**, saw **Esther** and hired her. **Timothy, Daniel,** and **Joshua** also worked at the restaurant. She learned to use a **hose a** and a broom when cleaning the **john.** She made friends with **Jude & Titus** too. Her **lamentations** were over, a new **revelation** had occurred; an **exodus** from one **job** could mean the **genesis** of another.

Called to Serve

SERVING AT THE TABLE

Offering

Communion

8/2	Shane Lenhart	Tom Minnick
8/9	Rick Meyers	Shane Lenhart
8/16	Doug Huston	Rick Meyers
8/23	Matt Rouch	Doug Huston
8/30	Dave Ferris	Matt Rouch

CHILDREN'S CHURCH TEAM

8/2	Rick Marker & Tim Baker
8/9	Christy Hay & Erin Baker
8/16	Jesse & John Landis
8/23	Matt & Sarah Rouch
8/30	Susan Slope, Becky Knopsnider

COMMUNION PREPARATION

8/2	Joyce Lee
8/9	Peggy Wilkins
8/16	Jeff Hay
8/23	April Morocco
8/30	Mary Ann Riggs

VAN MINISTRY

8/2	Brandon Lambert
8/9	George Perras
8/16	Rick Marker
8/23	Mike Costea
8/30	John Schrock

"For even the Son of Man
came not to be served but to
serve others and to give his
life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 20:28 (NLT)

Women's Events

Tuesdays through August 18th

- Meet and walk at ACM Track at 7:00 am.

Thursdays through August 13th

- Coffee Social at HazBeans at 9:00 AM

July 18, 2020, 10:00am

- Kayak at Laurel Hill State Park bring a picnic lunch to follow kayaking

August 22, 2020, 5:00pm

- Hayride at Ramona Sherbine's home, 560 Byers Rd., Somerset

September 12, 2020, 5:00pm

- Covered Dish and Movie in the church Fellowship Hall.

October 16, 2020, 6:30pm

- Craft Night in the church Fellowship Hall

November 14, 2020, meet at church at 4:45.

- Progressive Dinner in Berlin.

December 6, 2020, 5:00pm

- Ladies Christmas Dinner Party in the Fellowship Hall

January 22 - 24, 2021

- Ladies Retreat at Camp Christian (Details available in the fall)

February 12, 2021, 6:30pm

- Ladies Game Night in Fellowship Hall

March 12, 2021, 6:30pm

- Service Project in church Fellowship Hall

April 11, 2021 leave after church

- Phipps Conservatory (Details available closer to the event)

May 14, 2021, 6:30pm

- Mexican Fiesta at Jesse Landis's home, 359 White Horse Rd., Berlin