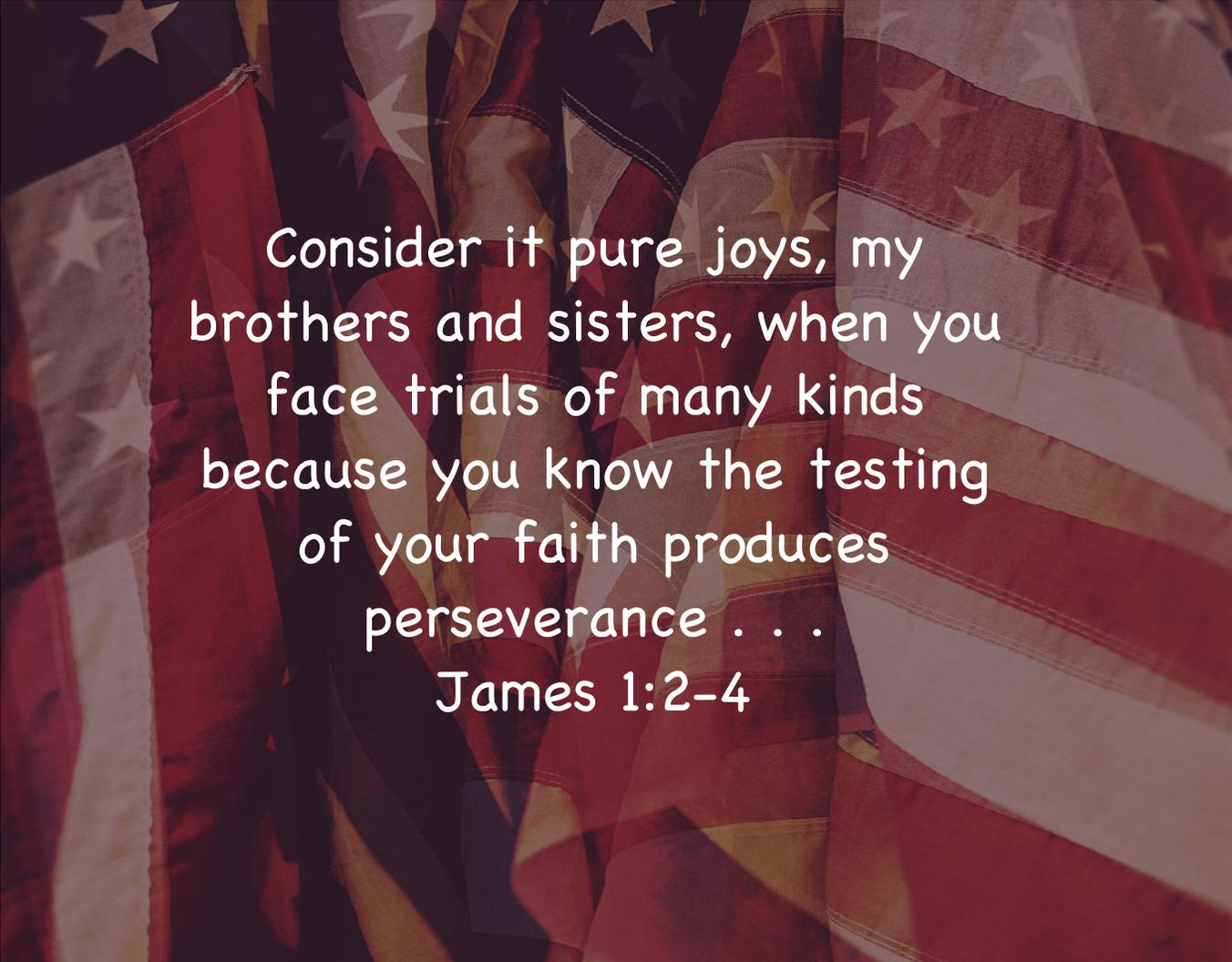


The Somerset Christian



Consider it pure joys, my
brothers and sisters, when you
face trials of many kinds
because you know the testing
of your faith produces
perseverance . . .

James 1:2-4

July 2019

First Christian Church

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

Phone: 814-445-8112

Email: fccsomerset@comcast.net

Website: www.somersetfirstchristian.org

Elders: elders@somersetfirstchristian.org

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



Chase's Corner

Live Generously Giving Initiative

The reality is the American church could literally change the world. If every American Christian just gave a little, the difference we would make would be greater than anything seen before. The much more somber reality is we aren't willing to do it. We cannot even commit to giving 10% of our income so that the world could be transformed, and people could hear the message of the Gospel.

Now, I know the tithe, a 10% offering, is not mandated in the New Testament. And I firmly believe we are not held to the Old Testament Law, which includes the tithe. Jesus came and fulfilled the requirements of the law and replaced the Old Covenant with a New Covenant. In other words, we are no longer bound by the Old Testament Law.

While we are not held to the tithe, we are called to live generously. Which is talked about regularly and is supposed to be the trademark of Christians. We are called to be generous people. So what does it say about the America Church that we have the opportunity to change the world, but instead sit on our hands? So what is something simple we can do to start living generously?

On Sunday, June 30th I will challenge every giver in our church to set aside one extra dollar a day for the month of July. That's thirty-one dollars per individual for the month of July. Yes, this can make a difference if everyone participates. That is an additional six to seven thousand dollars to start off the fiscal year. This is not a challenge to just make our finances look good. This is a challenge so FCC can continue its purpose in supporting the spread of the Gospel message around the globe. This income will not sit in the church savings account, it'll go into our general account to be used for operations, missions, benevolence, and blessings for others. Please pray about joining us in this live generously giving initiative.

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

Proverbs 11:25



Shepherd's View

Acts 2:38 And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit".

John 3:6-8 "Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. You should not be surprised at my saying, "You must be born again". The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit".

The Holy Spirit is an integral part of the Trinity.....God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. God the Father is the Creator of everything, including us. God gave us his Son who we are called to follow and emulate. And God gave us the Holy Spirit which is the Being that is in us and around us at all times. The Spirit is what helps guide us in our daily life. The Spirit is what helps us know right from wrong. The Spirit is what keeps us connected to God and his Son so we can live a faithful life while loving others.

As we enter these summer months, may we appreciate that God made each one of us and has a plan for each of us. May we fully appreciate the birth, death, and resurrection of his son, Jesus. And let us open ourselves to listening to the quiet voice of the Holy Spirit.



Deaconess News

Thank you to everyone who helped serve or donated Watermelon for the Relay for Life Survivors Dinner. We served about 90 Cancer survivors and caregivers.

Please remember to put money into the Laundry Detergent Bottles found at the information station and in your Sunday School Classes. To date we have collected around \$550.00 worth of Laundry Detergent for the Grundy Mountain Mission School in Virginia. We have purchased enough detergent to do 10,000 loads of laundry.



Dear Friends in Christ

At a public dinner given by the people of Norfolk, VA, circa 1816 Stephan Decatur, after his victory over the Barbary pirates, gave a toast that has become famous: “My country, may she ever be right, but right or wrong, my country.”

These words have caused criticism and dissent ever since. Sen. Carl Shurz in an address in 1872 said: “My country, right or wrong. When right to be kept right, when wrong to be put right.”

There were elements both right and wrong in the founding of our country. If you want to find out what is wrong with America today it isn't hard to do. Let me give you a couple examples of wrong:

- Greed and Dishonesty
- Alcoholism and Immorality
- The Drug Epidemic
- A waning sense of Patriotism and lack of respect for our flag and country.

Just read the daily paper or watch the news programs on TV to see what I mean. Yes it's true that America is being used by too many people instead of being served by them.

But what is right with America? Let me share a couple of examples here as well:

- Freedom is right. Thank God that we still have it although it is being eroded daily.
- We can read the Bible and worship as we please.
- Brotherhood and goodwill are right. People helping people is right.

So you could find things that are right and wrong in America but there is more right than wrong.

Christians are to be good citizens and the Bible commands us to pray for our leaders. We need to work hard at doing what is right instead of what is wrong.

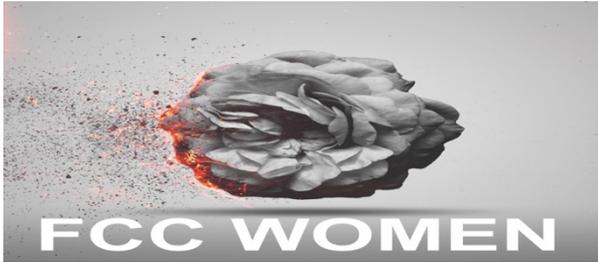
A Bible verse all Christians need to memorize is 2 Chronicles 7:14: “if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.”

May God Bless America

In Christ,

John Barchey

A Year in the Making



Finally, it feels like summer has arrived. Just this past weekend I was able to spend more time outside than inside. We saw more sun than rain.

Just last year at this time I was starting my new position at FCC as the Women's Ministry Director. At that point I could not even imagine what the year had in store for me personally, or our family, or our church. What a year it has been.

FCC Women officially launched in the fall. Our first two events were scheduled to be outdoor events that ended up being inside because of the weather. If we ever need rain again just give me a call and have me schedule an outdoor event and it is sure to rain.

We have had a busy year with monthly events, a retreat, studies, meeting one on one with some of you, and me learning the ropes of ministry at our church. In truth I still feel like I am brand new to all of this. Working in the church is a new adventure every week.

We still have many events for you to participate in this summer. On Tuesday mornings we walk on the trail at the Penn Highlands Campus in Somerset. We meet at 7AM. On Thursdays some of us have been meeting up at Hazbeanz up town Somerset for coffee at 9AM. July 20th we will be going kayaking. If you are interested in this event keep an eye out for the sign-up and for more details. For other events pick up a summer schedule at the information station.

I am currently working on the 2019-2020 schedule. I am looking for three more women who are interested in hosting a monthly get together for the women of our church either at your home or in the church. If you have questions or are interested, please come talk to me.

Hope you have an awesome July.

Anne Onstead, Women's Ministry Director



On Saturday morning July 6th seven people from our church will be leaving for a week of ministry in Costa Rica. Please be in prayer for our team.

Dane and Cynthia Cramer – The Cramers are seasoned travelers and have been on a number of mission trips. This is their second mission trip with Praying Pelican to Costa Rica. They were part of the team that helped to

dig the foundation for the church that now stands in Costa Rica. They will get to see and experience first-hand the ministry that is now operating where they invested their time and sweat.

Shae Frazier – This is Shae's first time traveling outside the United States as well as his first mission trip.

Austin Lyons – This is also Austin's first mission trip and he is looking forward to the construction project. We will be building an outdoor kitchen.

Anne and Allie Onstead – This is their third trip to Costa Rica with Praying Pelican. Both of them are excited to return to the area and re-connect with old friends as well as make new ones. Anne will have an opportunity to lead women's ministry again and Allie loves going on food distribution.

Ryan Yachere – This is his first mission trip as well and is excited about sharing the love of Jesus with those in Costa Rica.

Our team will be joining up with teams from Alabama and Michigan as well as a family of three who are signed up for our week. Please pray for all of us as we minister in Costa Rica. Pray for our safety as we travel and that our hearts would be open to do and receive all God has for us this week. Also pray for the staff of Praying Pelican as they lead us and for the beautiful people of Costa Rica.

Thank you for all your prayers and support. We look forward to sharing with you when we return.

Anne Onstead, Go! Missions Director



By Tammy Schrock, Children's Director

As we enter the month of July, I look back on the very busy month of June. First, we started our combined classes during worship time on June 2 where the kids have been learning about Joseph's life with songs, acting, crafts, and games. Then we started Mobile Ministry at two new locations on June 11 and 12 with lots of kids and so much laughter and fun. Then we had Vacation Bible School the week of June 17-21 where we learned...

When life is unfair...God is good!
When life is scary...God is good!
When life changes...God is good!

When life is sad...God is good!
When life is good...God is good!

The kids and adults had so much fun at VBS! Everyone raised money for Go! to take with them when they travel to Costa Rica for two different programs there where they feed children. \$706.33 was raised! How amazing is that! Now, that money is worth 3-4 times that amount in Costa Rica. Way to go everyone who helped out!

Looking on to July, the kids during worship will be learning they were Created by God and Built for a Purpose. Becky Knopsnider and I continue to run the kids' program (age 4 through 5th grade) with some teenage helpers. Meanwhile, Rachel Davis continues to run the Tiny Tots program (ages 2-3) with help from teenage helpers also. It is awesome to see our teenagers help and the kids love it too! It gives the kids good examples to look up to.

Mobile Ministry continues every Tuesday and Wednesday evening. On Tuesdays at Laurel Village (800 East Main St.) we have had 15-20 kids and Wednesdays at Highland Hills we had around 10-12 kids and they love us as much as we love them at both locations! We have felt so welcomed in these areas. Many of the kids from here attended VBS this year also. We handed out some Brown Bags (similar to the backpacks but in a brown bag) and plan to continue that also throughout the summer. I look forward to being able to bring these kids and their families into different church activities we have throughout the year.

If you are at all interested in helping kids know Jesus and showing them firsthand the love of Jesus, please consider joining us on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening. I promise you will get as much, if not more, out of it than the kids do.

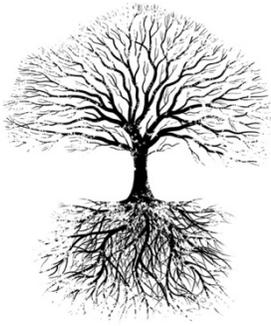
I hope you enjoy your summer and find ways each day to see how much you are loved by God and then pay that forward to others.

***Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old
he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6***

THRIVE Youth Group

By Shae Frazier, Student Pastor

UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS – PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS



- **THRIVE YOUTH GROUP** meets Thursday nights from 7:00–8:30pm (except 7/25)
- **MIX PARENT MEETING** July 7th after church in fellowship hall.
- **MOVE PARENT MEETING** July 14th after church in fellowship hall.
- **JR, HIGH MIX CONFERENCE** July 15th – 18th.
- **SENIOR HIGH MOVE CONFERENCE** July 22nd – 27th
- **RED ENVELOPE:** \$2,080 was raised. The funds will be used to send individuals to church conventions that cannot afford to go. Thank you for your generosity.
- **SOMERSET ANTIQUE FAIR FUNDRAISER** takes place on August 10th in the space behind the church. The church sells food to raise money for the Student Book Fund which provides book scholarships for college students to help defray the cost of college books. Sign-ups for food donations and volunteers will be available in July at the information station.

Church News

SPECIAL PRAYER REQUESTS

- Please be in prayer for all those going on the Costa Rica Mission trip July 6th – 12th: Anne & Allie Onstead, Dane & Cynthia Cramer, Shae Frazier, Austin Lyons, Ryan Yachere.
- Please be in prayer for the students and chaperones attending the MIX Conference July 15th – 18th.
- Please be in prayer for the students and chaperones attending the MOVE Conference July 22nd – 27th.

JULY FLOWERS

- July 7th In memory of Richard Wrestley by daughter Linda Parke.
- July 14th Happy 80th birthday Pete Kelly by wife Jean.
- July 21st In memory of Ed Shaulis by wife Delores.
- July 28th In memory of my son-in-law Cpl. Brian Whitaker, USMC, killer July 27th, 1997. Given by Joyce Lee. In honor of Mildred Will's 91st birthday.

To order flowers please call the church office at 445-8112
or email the church office at fccsomerset@comcast.net. Cost is \$20 per vase.

SPECIAL MUSIC

- | | |
|---------|--------------------------|
| July 7 | Millie Will |
| July 14 | Stanley Supranowicz, Jr. |
| July 21 | Alexis Somerville |
| July 28 | Caleb Onstead |



Church News

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00am
WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00am

TUESDAY'S

- Women's Walk & Talk at Penn Highlands Trail, 7:00am.

THURSDAY'S

- Women's Coffee Time at Hazbeans uptown, 9:00am.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED

- Thursday, July 4th for Independence Day. The Office will reopen on Monday, July 8th.

COSTA RICA MISSION TRIP

- July 6th – 12th. Please be in prayer for our mission team: Anne & Allie Onstead, Dane & Cynthia Cramer, Shae Frazier, Austin Lyons and Ryan Yachere. If you would like to see what the team is doing you in CR can go to: <https://www.prayingpelicanmissions.org/mission-trip-journals?tripid=14881>

DONUT SUNDAY

- Join us for donuts and fellowship on Sunday, July 7th, 8:30am in the fellowship hall hosted by Mike & Karen Costea.

OFFICER INSTALLATION

- Newly elected Officers will be installed during the service on July 7th.

MIX PARENT MEETING

- Sunday, July 7th after service in fellowship hall.

MONTHLY LEADERSHIP MEETING

- Tuesday, July 9th at 6:00pm for Elders, Deacons & Deaconesses

MOVE PARENT MEETING

- Sunday, July 14th after service in fellowship hall.

TNT GET TOGETHER

- The Dynamite Seniors of FCC meet on Wednesday, July 17th at 11:00am. Director: Sandy Pyle. All are welcome for a Dutch treat lunch and fellowship.

WOMEN'S HAPPENING EVENT

- Kayaking, July 20th at Laurel Hill.

ONLINE GIVING

- Go to www.somersetfirstchristian.org
- Click: Online Giving
- Enter the amount you want to give to the church
- Enter the frequency you want to give
- Enter the date your offering is to be withdrawn from your checking or savings account
- Click continue and set up your online giving information (bank, bank acct. #, etc.).

2018-19 Highlights

- JULY 2018** Seven individuals went to California on a Mission Trip. Jesse Walker was ordained into ministry. At least 20 children received brown bags of food each week via Mobile Ministry. Anne Onstead joined the church staff as the Women's Ministry Director.
- AUGUST 2018** The food booth at the Antique Fair raised money for the Student Aid Book Fund which provides scholarships to college students for books.
- SEPTEMBER 2018** Baby Dedication took place. Women's Happenings monthly events began. A local mission trip took place at His Place in Pittsburgh. Six small groups began. Shae Frazier was hired as the full-time Student Pastor. Compassion Sunday was held, and 10 children were sponsored.
- OCTOBER 2018** Freezer meals were made for those in need in our church. Trunk or Treat was held for the community and 739 people attended the event. The annual church picnic was held. Shae Frazier was ordained into ministry.
- NOVEMBER 2018** 20 Children at Grundy Mountain Mission School received Christmas gifts from FCC. Operation Christmas Card took place and 150 cards were sent to the military.
- DECEMBER 2018** Loose offerings were collected each week and distributed as follows.: Mobile Food Bank: \$650.60, Costa Rica Mission Team: \$1,077.00, The Kids at Grundy Mountain Mission School: \$664.19, The Next Step Center: \$901.00, Birthright of Somerset: \$834.76, FCC Backpack Program: \$821.00.
- JANUARY 2019** The New Church Vision: KNOW GOD: LOVED BY HIM was launched. Quarterly Prayer Journals were designed and provided to the congregation to use as a sermon tool. The second annual Women's Retreat was held at Camp Christian. We began collecting donations for laundry soap for Grundy Mountain Mission in Virginia. The annual Fire & Ice events held at FCC were a success and well attended by the community.
- FEBRUARY 2019** Mission Corps was restructured and is now called GO! New offices were built on the second floor for the ministry staff.
- MARCH 2019** Photograph's were taken of church members for the 190th church anniversary. Volunteer Appreciation Sunday took place in March. A special dinner was held to recognized the numerous volunteers who serve at FCC.
- APRIL 2019** The first annual Spring Fling & Easter Things community event was held and well attended. The Men of FCC held a Golf Scramble at Middlecreek Golf Course and 26 attended.
- MAY 2019** 30,000 meals were packed for Haiti. Adoption/Foster Care Awareness Sunday took place on May 19th.
- JUNE 2019** The Annual Congregational Meeting and Graduation Sunday were held. Six students graduated from high school, college or trade school. Mobile Ministry resumed with new locations: 800 E. Main and Highland Hills in Somerset. Vacation Bible School was held.