

The Somerset Christian

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF First Christian Church



May 2021

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

SUNDAY SCHOOL 9:00AM

WORSHIP 10:00AM



The Shepherd's View

This month is my turn to write the Shephard's View. I will have to be perfectly honest with you and admit that I struggle with this assignment. I have a most difficult time gathering my thoughts and putting them down on paper. Needless to say the same is true for this writing. I spent most of this proceeding month petitioning God for direction.

Well this morning during my devotion time, God spoke to me through the devotional writing. The devotion was titled "The God of all Comfort". During times of my personal life and I am sure your life also, we all required comfort. We have been dealing with the miserable year of 2020 and now into the early months of 2021. We all need to have some comfort in our lives.

The apostle Paul writes to us today in 2 Cor. 1:3-7. In these versus, Paul calls our God, "the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort". As we struggle through these times of sickness and despair we need to remember God our Father will comfort us in our struggles. God is there for us. Remember Paul is writing this letter to the Corinthians from a Roman prison cell. Paul offers the Corinthians encouragement of God wanting to comfort them even as Paul is comforted by God in a prison cell. Oh what a God we serve. God the Father through His Son Jesus Christ offers us comfort in our times of struggle. God promises each and every believer, "I will not abandon or forsake you". God will provide you with comfort. Praise the living God of our salvation. Remember to listen for God's direction from heaven. We are not alone. By simply believing in God the creator of all things, that no matter what our present condition, God is prepared to provide us comfort.

The weather outside today is grey and the ground is covered in snow. This is the end of April and there is snow on the ground. This is just an example of what is portrayed in this writing. All seems to be wrong with the weather, but the forecast is for the low 70s by the middle of next week. God in all of His wisdom knows what the future holds for each and every believer. God cares for you. Never forget this fact. If God is for you, He will provide for you. Even in our deepest darkness, God has prepared for us a sunny day ahead. God's love is never wasted. He will provide an everlasting reward.

The devotion I read ended with this prayer that I now share with you. "Dear God, I thank you for your comforting peace in my pain and sorrow. Help me in turn to be a comfort to others". Just be completely satisfied that God cares for you and if God is for you, who in the whole world can stand against you. May God richly bless you and keep you all the days of your life.

Dave Ferris



The Pastor's Page



It was 1870. Milton was a promising young 41-year-old circuit preacher, pastor and professor of theology in the Church of the United Brethren in Christ. He was also the Editor of the denomination's weekly newspaper—The Religious Telescope. Milton was attending his denomination's annual conference. This year the conference was held on the campus of a college in Indiana. In one of the informal meetings the president of the college said, "I think we live in a very exciting age."

The young Pastor Milton, said "What do you see?" The college president, something of a visionary, responded, "I believe we are coming into a time of great inventions. I believe, for example, that men will fly through the air like birds." Milton said, "This is heresy! The Bible says that flight is reserved for the angels. We will have no such talk here."

Thirty-three years later at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, two sons of Milton smashed their father's theory. On December 17th, 1903 at 10:35 a.m. Wilbur and Orville Wright flew an air machine 120 feet, then 195 feet and then 200 feet in 15 seconds. At about noon, Wilbur flew 852 feet in 59 seconds. Demonstrating beyond any doubt that the machine was capable of sustained flight.

Forty-four years later man was flying faster than the speed of sound. Sixty-six years later we had landed two men on the moon. In 1870 Milton Wright couldn't even picture a man flying; most certainly he wouldn't have dreamed of his two sons becoming the pioneers of heavier-than-air, powered, manned flight. As the Apostle Paul said in 1 Cor. 13:12, "Now we see through a glass darkly."

It was late May, 1910, that Milton Wright joined his two boys. After the two brothers went up together, it was their dad's turn. The old man had never flown before. But here he was, the 81-year-old Bishop, climbing up next to his youngest son for his first flight. They remained aloft for 6 minutes, 55 seconds, hundreds of feet in the air. Milton caught the vision and he had the good grace to change his mind in his changing world. At one point during the flight the old pastor leaned close to his son's ear and shouted above the combined roar of engine, propellers, and the slipstream: "Higher, Orville, higher." (Adapted from Tom Crouch, *The Bishop's Boys*, W.W. Norton, New York, 1989)

At First Christian Church we carry on a fellowship that started over 190 years ago. Technology changes; music styles change; clothing styles change; but God's Word never changes.

1) We are obligated to "Worship the Lord your God; and serve him only." (Matt. 4:10). We want to be a church that experiences God. Our view must not be on "singing songs" but worshipping God. We want to emphasize intimacy with God in Sunday worship, at prayer meetings, and in our personal lives. Our purpose as created beings is to worship.

The Pastor's Page



John in Revelation 7:9 says, "There before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb." All God's children from around the world will worship him. "All the angels were standing around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures. They fell down on their faces before the throne and worshiped God." (Rev. 7:11) We are to make worship a priority in our church.

2) We will be a church that teaches the Bible for all ages. This is done in the service and in small groups and in Sunday school classes. Jesus said, "Man does not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God." (Matt. 4:4)

3) Hebrews 10:25 says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." We want to be a church that builds close friendships. We want to encourage fellowship by having fun socials. I envision a church that is busy all week long with many different kinds of meetings such as sports, board games, hobbies, senior events, youth events, children's events, women's events, men's events, mission outreaches, and much more.

4) We will be a church that does evangelism. We don't want to grab people who are going to other churches. Real evangelism is going after the unchurched. Jesus commanded us to "Go into all the world and make disciples." (Matt. 28:19). You win people by caring about them and meeting their needs.

5) We will be a church that does compassion ministry such as giving out food, helping the poor, giving money to missions, going on mission trips. We already do this well. In Galatians 2:10 Paul remembers when the Jerusalem church told him: "All they asked was that we should continue to remember the poor, the very thing I was eager to do."



The Pastor's Page



6) Jesus said, "My house shall be called a house of prayer." (Matt. 21:13) We want to be known as a praying church. We want to make pray a vital part of the ministry. Every group should incorporate prayer in their meetings.

Keep these six values in mind as our church starts to fly. First Christian Church is blessed. Although we've been dealing with a pandemic, we have a wonderful facility in a great location. We've made many adjustments as a church in this last year, but our vision still needs to be, "Higher, still higher." We want to grow deeper in our worship of God. We want to grow wider in our outreach to people. We want to keep up with the times. We want to reach children and youth. We want to be more devoted to prayer and more committed to discipleship. It is healthy to look back and be grateful, but we should also look forward with expectancy. In the next ten years we want God to expand our church and our influence. In Philippians 3:14 Paul says, "I press on toward the goal." God has more in store for you and for First. It is OK to count the years, but now, let's make the years count.

Pastor Brent Williams

So we fasted and petitioned our God about this,
and he answered our prayer.

Ezra 8:23



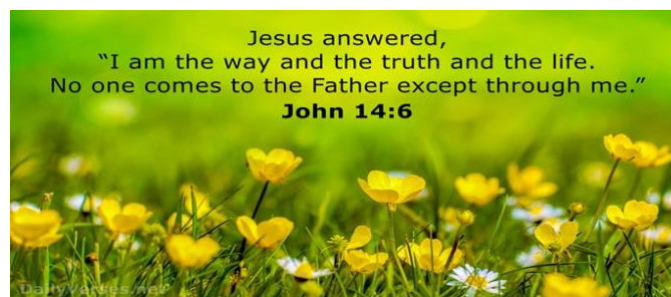
From Victor

One of the songs that I have been listening to lately is a song called *Something Greater* by Austin Stone Worship. The chorus goes like this;

You are greater, greater
Than anything I've known or seen
You're stronger, stronger
Than the grave that once held me
Your love is deeper and wider
In the highest place be lifted higher still
Oh you have and always will
be something greater

The song talks about how God is greater and how He is to be something greater in our lives. Let me ask you a question; and I want you to take some time to ponder this too. What are you passionate about? I know that we may become passionate about sports, work, hobbies etc. But why does it seem that we are not passionate about Jesus? If Jesus is greater, why not be all about Jesus when it comes to what is important in our lives? In John 14:6, Jesus says, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Notice how Jesus doesn't say He is "a way", He says that He is "the" way. So, If Jesus is "the" way, then why not be passionate about Him who will bring you to the Father? He is greater than all things and I am not sure about you, but I want to put my faith and trust in "the way" that brings me to the Father.

The other thing about Jesus that I want to put my faith and trust in, is His love for us. He is stronger and His love is deeper and wider. What does that mean? The same way that we study how God loves others in His word, is how we should be loving others in our everyday lives. It is



UPCOMING CHILDREN & YOUTH EVENTS

Kids Sunday school: Grades K-6 meet in the youth wing. 9:00am Sundays

Youth Sunday school: Grades 7-12 Meet in the Lounge on the second floor. 9:00am

Topic: Job.

THRIVE Youth Group meets in the fellowship hall from 7- 8:30pm.

The Loop

MEMBER NEWS

NEW MEMBERS CLASS

If you want to join the church come to the 3 classes taught by Pastor Brent on May 2nd, 9th and 16th at 9:00am in classroom in front of the Information Station.

SHEBREWS WOMEN'S DEVOTION TIME

Join Judi Mickey at 7:15am on Zoom Monday's. Meeting ID: 811 0433 1341 PW: mickey

THURSDAY SMALL GROUP

Meets at the Cramer's Home (130 W. Union, Smst) at 6:30 pm. No dinner. Bring your bible and own drink.

MONTHLY LEADERSHIP MEETING

Tuesday, May 11th at 6pm.

MONTHLY ELDERS PRAYER MEETING

Tuesday, May 25th at 6pm.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

Thursday, May 6 at noon on the Courthouse steps.

BACKPACK DONATION

We are collecting summer items for the backpack kids. We are in need of toothbrushes, toothpaste, sunscreen and body wash. These items will be placed in the weekend bags for summer. Please bring these items and place in the box labeled backpack near the Information Station.

NEW FCC OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR

Josie Rigo has been hired as our new Office Administrator. Josie has over eight years of experience as an Office Administrator with experience in staff management and money management. She has worked at Valley Community Services as the program manager overseeing a staff of 15 in two residential group homes that take care of individuals with intellectual or physical disability. She is also the founder and owner of Busybee Photography. She comes with high recommendations. Megan Jacob called her, "Trustworthy and reliable. She goes above and beyond the job." Melinda Patton said of Josie: "She's good, very passionate, calm & collected

Bring friends to these events, then invite them to church.

CHURCH PICNIC

Church Picnic at Greg & JoAnne Painter Property –May 23 from 1pm to 3pm. Bring your own lunch. Fishing in the pond. Corn hole tournament. Christmas Tree Tag Hunt.

CHURCH CAMP FIRE AND HOT DOG ROAST

Church Camp Fire and Hot Dog roast at the farm of Jeff & Christy Hay, Sunday June 6, 6pm to 8pm.

CHURCH ZOO FIELD TRIP

Church Field Trip to the Pittsburgh Zoo – adults \$16.95, children \$14.95, Sat. June 12, meet at 8 am.

THE BALL BROTHERS CONCERT

Ball Brothers' Concert at FCC – June 26 at 6PM. Tickets \$5 each. Check them out on You Tube!



MISSION SUNDAY

Mission Sunday. June 27. Powerful sermon by Matthew Geppert, president of SEAPC. We will do a Prayer Walk after the service and those who go get a free lunch.

BOWLING

Bowling on a Sunday afternoon – July 11 at 3 pm.

CHURCH PICNIC

Church Picnic at Laurel Hills State Park, kayak and Adventure race on Sunday, August 15, 1pm - 3pm.

CHURCH SIGHT & SOUND FIELD TRIP

Church Field Trip to Sight & Sound – Queen Esther – August 21, leave at 9 am – return at 9 pm, \$84 plus \$6 for gas. Lunch and dinner are extra. Book your own tickets right away before it fills up



Called to Serve

SERVING AT THE TABLE

	Offering	Communion
5/2	Matt R.	Reuben W.
5/9	Tom M.	Matt R.
5/16	Karl S.	Tom M.
5/23	Shane L.	Karl S.
5/30	Terry F.	Shane L.

COMMUNION PREPARATION

5/2	Joan G.
5/9	Ginger D.
5/16	Jeff H.
5/23	April M.
5/30.	Mary Ann R.

PRAYER TEAM

5/2	Reuben W.
5/9	Anne W.
5/16	Sarah R.
5/23	Dane C.
5/30	Anne W.

MEDITATIONS

5/2	Bill Kaufman
5/9	Deb Kaufman
5/16.	Jim Kight

SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDRENS TEAM (Age 4 – Grade 5)

May Becky K.

CHURCH NURSERY

If you are in need of Nursery, please contact Victor Correa.

JUNIOR CHURCH TEAM (Age 4 – Grade 5)

5/2	Sue S.
5/9	Christy H.
5/16	Mary & Steve G.
5/23	Sarah & Matt R.
5/30	Karen C.

SANCTUARY FLOWERS

- May 2nd In memory of Florence Picking
In memory of Eric Sicheri
- May 9th In memory of Martha Mae & John Frederick Christner
- May 16th In memory of Martha Mae



Sunday School

KIDS CLASS: For grades K – 6 meet in the Youth wing behind the baptistry.

YOUTH CLASS: For grades 7-12 meets on the second floor in the Lounge. Topic: Job Teacher: Victor Correa

GOLDEN ACHIEVERS CLASS: For adults meets in the classroom in front of the café. Topic: Basic Christianity and the unique values of this church. Teacher: Pastor Brent

99 & UNDER CLASS: Is for anyone age 99 & Under. The class meets downstairs in the fellowship hall. Topic: “Encounters With Jesus.” Teacher: Dane Cramer