

# Church of Christ

# Florence

April 30, 2017

## Elders

*Robert Budy*  
home (859) 525-7396  
*Art Green*  
cell (859) 743-3290

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact one of the elders.

## Deacons

*Jesse Black*  
*Matthew Hallmark*  
*Wyatt Robbins*

## Minister

Bruce House  
cell (270)570-0830

## Schedule of Services

Bible Class 9:30 am  
Worship 10:30 am  
Evening Worship 6:00 pm  
Wednesday Class 7:00 pm

## Contact Information

1141 Boone Aire Rd.  
Florence, KY 41042  
  
(859) 283-2355  
www.florencecc.org  
churchoffice@florencecc.org

### FROM THE ELDERS

Due to safety concerns  
The church doors will be locked  
10 minutes after the beginning of service.

Someone will be stationed in the foyer  
to allow admittance to latecomers.

## The First Fruits

by Ethan R. Longhenry

"But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits; then they that are Christ's, at his coming" (I Corinthians 15:23).

Despair turned to excitement on that first day of the week so long ago when Jesus arose from the dead (John 20:1-31, etc.). In the midst of all the excitement, however, there was one theological conundrum that needed to be addressed.

The idea of resurrection was not foreign to the Jews; the Pharisees believed in the resurrection (Acts 23:8), and no doubt many other Jews did also. But "the resurrection" in which they believed was the resurrection on the last day. That is what Daniel 12:2 seemed to indicate. It certainly was the expectation of Martha when Lazarus died (cf. John 11:24).

But someone rising from the dead in the resurrection before the end? This was not something you would automatically take away from a reading of the Old Testament, nor was it something immediately obvious to Pharisees and others. Perhaps this was part of the challenge the disciples faced in not understanding Jesus' predictions of the event (Mark 9:30-32, etc.). How could it be that One could rise from the dead before everyone was raised from the dead?

The Holy Spirit, through Paul, would make this understandable. Jesus was the first fruits of the resurrection!

The idea of the first fruits comes from passages like Deuteronomy 18:4:

"The first-fruits of thy grain, of thy new wine, and of thine oil, and the first of the fleece of thy sheep, shalt thou give him."

The first fruits were the first part of a harvest-- the first wheat or barley harvested, the first wine processed, the first of the fleece shorn, and so on and so forth. The Israelites were to devote the first fruits to God (Exodus 23:19), and God gave them to the Levites for sustenance (Deuteronomy 18:4). After the first fruits had been offered, the rest of the harvest belonged to the people for their own consumption and use.

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*The Church you read about in the Bible*

The first fruits image, therefore, helps us understand the relationship between Jesus' resurrection and the resurrection on the final day. Jesus is the first fruits-- the first to rise from the dead, never to die again (I Corinthians 15:20). He had been given as an offering to God to atone for the people (II Corinthians 5:21; Hebrews 9:1-15). He paves the way for the resurrection to come, the resurrection of which we all take part (John 5:28-29; I Corinthians 15:12-57)!

There is something obvious about the first fruits that is important for the resurrection. The first fruits are not different in kind or type from the harvest that comes later. The first fruits of wheat are wheat just as the "second fruits" or "third fruits" would be; the same goes for barley, wine, fleece, and the like. So it is with the resurrection: we should not believe that our resurrection will be something different from Christ's resurrection (I Corinthians 15:23). The difference involves time, not type or kind. As Jesus died in the flesh but remained alive in the spirit (II Peter 3:18), and was then raised bodily from the dead, the tomb being empty, and His flesh being transformed for immortality (Luke 24:1-49), so it goes with those who serve Him. All who have died, and those who will be dead before His coming, remain alive in the spirit, but will then be raised bodily and transformed for immortality (I Corinthians 15:35-57; Philippians 1:21-23; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)!

In reality, the resurrection is a challenging concept, for one of the few "guarantees" in the physical realm is that once one dies, one is always dead. We do not see people rising from the dead, never to die again.

Yet that is precisely the hope by which the Christian must live (cf. Romans 8:20-25). And we have confidence in that hope because of Jesus the first fruits. We do not have to wonder whether God can or will raise the dead, for we know He raised Jesus from the dead. If He is able to raise Jesus from the dead, He is able to raise us from the dead also, and He has promised to do so (Romans 8:11)!

The last enemy, indeed, is death (I Corinthians 15:26). Through Jesus' life, death, resurrection, and lordship, believers now can have confidence in their spiritual regeneration in this life (Romans 6:1-23, 8:1-9). The believer is able to be a new creature in Christ (II Corinthians 5:17), yet we are all still cursed with physical death.

But death will be abolished. The day will dawn when we all will have the victory over not just sin but also death through Jesus Christ our Lord, and on that day the rest of the harvest will be brought in to the praise and glory of God in Christ (I Corinthians 15:53-57; II Peter 1:6-7). We can have complete confidence in this because Jesus gained the victory over sin on the cross and over death in the resurrection, and He is the first fruits! Let us all serve God so that we may attain to the resurrection of life (cf. Philippians 3:11-13)!

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### Excuse Our Mess

We have been dealing with water issues for the past couple of weeks. Much of the building was flooded and services were abbreviated and bible studies were cancelled. We appreciate everyone's patience and flexibility during that time.

The situation has been resolved and now it is a matter of repairing the damage the flooding caused. The water is back on and the restrooms are in working order. YAY!

We are very thankful we are able to once again study and worship together.



## Collecting For Those In Need

### The Emergency Shelter of NKY items needed:

(Men's Shelter)

- **SOCKS**
- Men's Jeans
- Men's Sweatshirts
- Men's and Women's Sweatpants
- Underwear (New)

*There is a sign-up sheet for those interested in helping at the shelter.*

### Benevolence Pantry items needed:

- Canned Goods
- Fruit
- Vegetables
- Meat
- Milk
- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Macaroni & Cheese
- Ramen Noodles
- Juice Packs
- Baby Formula & Food



*All Ladies are cordially invited*

*Sunday, May 21st*

*3:00 p.m.*

### Ladies Bible Study

Tuesday Evenings

7:00-8:00

We will begin in Genesis

For more information

Please see Teddi Budy

Please check the prayer list and let me know of any updates.

Thank you.-Nita

**To ensure accuracy of announcements and prayer requests please fill out a gold or blue form and turn in to the office by Wednesday.**

## Prayer List

**Nathan House** mission in Guatemala

**Allison Mayfield**

**Kim Brannon**, Stacey Brown's Aunt, testing and transplant

**Caleb Robbins**

**Astin Vick and daughter Emerson** Emerson was born 2 months early

**Malakai Martin**

**Barbra Thompson** health issues

**Rachel Dooley** recovering from accident

**Rachel Wilson**, Leah Robbins' ballet teacher, passing out

**Candice and Raelynn**, friend of Cassi Lemay

**Eunice Chumbley**

**Roy & June Pugh**

**Alexis Aiken**, Joyce Bewley's Great Granddaughter,

**Bowen Becker**, Bob Becker's grandson, heart problems

**Cindy Walker** health issues

**Our Elders**

**Our Nation's Leaders**

**Our Military Personnel**

**Our Police, Emergency and Healthcare Personnel**

**The Churches of Christ around the world**

**All those traveling**

**The Emergency Shelter**

**The Creation Museum and Ark Encounter**

**Those Who Have Lost Loved Ones**

**Michelle Thorpe family**

### **Those with cancer and their families**

Libby McDonald	Dennis Blundell	Margie Koons
Randy Williams	Desirae Wilson	Janice Gallagher
Gary Burke	Dwight Lowerg	Kay Shinc
Jim Kennedy	Layla Adkins	Jim McCarthy
Kristen Shaw	Ayden Egan	Donnice Palmer
Donna Farrar	Peggy Davis	Mike Lohman
Lorraine Starr	Gwen Miller	Lindy Blankenbuehler
Tammy Palmer	Chad Fischer	Buddy Webb
Ashley Pike	Debbie Hellman	Lois Stroub
Theresa Falukner	Nancy Lambert	Ruth Phelps
Mike Lowe	Steve Dobson	Serena
Debra Bullock	Sharon Graff	December Vosquez
Will Rogers	Mrs. Zeph	

### **Our shut-ins and those caring for them**

Joyce Tingle	Chuck Gambil
Eveline Lanham	Dessie Hacker

*"For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous and His ears are attentive to their prayer" 1 Peter 3:12*

## Serving in AM Worship

	April 30	May 7
Announcements	Bill Morgan	Bill Morgan
Opening Prayer	Robert Budy	TBA
Song Leader	Jerry Gorman	TBA
Communion	Randy Johnson	TBA
Serve	Dan Brown	TBA
Serve	Kyle Strasser	TBA
Serve	Bobby Lemay	TBA
Serve	Wyatt Robbins	TBA
Serve	Mark Walker	TBA
Serve	Steve Thomas	TBA
Scripture Reading <i>Mark 16:1-8</i>	Matthew Hallmark	TBA
Sermon <i>We Have Hope Because Jesus Was Resurrected From The Dead</i>	Bruce House	Bruce House
Closing Prayer	Bobby Lemay	TBA

## Serving in PM Worship

Announcements	Bill Morgan	Bill Morgan
Opening Prayer	Wyatt Robbins	TBA
Song Leader	Jerry Gorman	TBA
Communion	Randy Johnson	TBA
Invitation	Bruce House	TBA
Closing Prayer	Dave Moster	TBA

## Wednesday

	May 3	May 10
Song Leader	TBA	TBA
Invitation	TBA	TBA
Announcements	Art Green	Art Green
Closing Prayer	TBA	TBA

## Communion Prep

April	Nancy Prater
May	Gormans

## Greeters

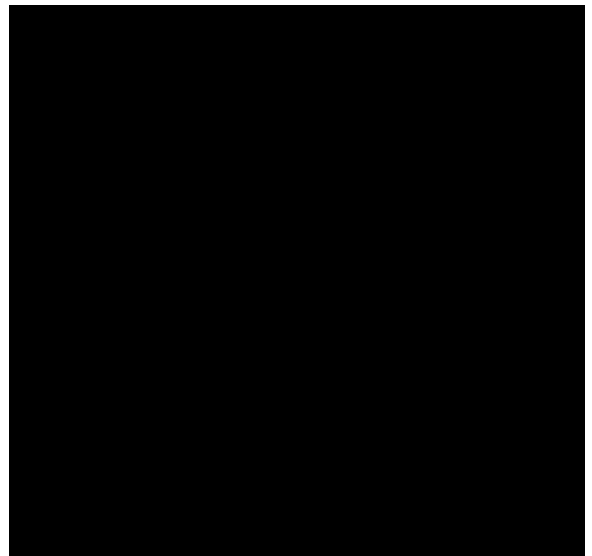
April	Blacks
May	Greeters Needed

Serve  
wholeheartedly, as  
if you were serving  
the Lord, not men.  
Ephesians 6:7



## Mark Your Calendar

May	7	Men's Prayer Session
May	13	Shelter Meal
May	20	VBS Workday
May	21	Ladies Tea
May	28	Potluck Theme: Summer Kick Off
Jun	11	VBS Kickoff
Jun	12-14	VBS <u>May The Faith Be With You</u>



## Deacons

Jesse Black	<i>Children's Education/ Fellowships</i>
Matthew Hallmark	<i>Building Maintenance</i>
Wyatt Robbins	<i>Youth and as needed</i>

## Coordinators

Jerry Gorman	<i>Prime Timers</i>
Dave Moster	<i>Worship Service/ Duty Roster</i>

STAMP

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