

Church of Christ

Florence

March 26, 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.

How to Become a Christian

by W. Frank Walton

"If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come" (II Corinthians 5:17).

- The Bible says salvation from sin is only in Christ (Acts 4:12). The most important commitment you'll ever make is deciding to become a true Christian.
- What "steps" are revealed in the Gospel to pass from death to life in Jesus Christ the Savior?
- Have you done what the Bible teaches to insure you're right with God?
- Have you obeyed, in penitent faith, the original gospel of Christ? Jesus is "the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Hebrews 5:9).

The Way of Salvation in Jesus

Jesus said, "I am the way, and the truth and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). God's Son came into the world to show us the only way back to God. The apostles boldly proclaimed that He's the exclusive way to salvation from sin and death: "there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved" (Acts 4:12).

God wants you to be saved with Him forever. A true Christian will "glorify God in this name" (I Peter 4:6). Are you a faithful, heaven-bound follower of Christ?

We must trust God's way by following His revelation. "For without faith, it is impossible to please God, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and a rewarder of those of diligently seek Him" (Hebrews 11:6). This faith is a submissive response to the terms of God's grace in the gospel (Acts 15:11).

A Christian is someone who has, in faith, "obeyed the gospel of our Lord" (II Thessalonians 1:8; cf. Romans 1:5; 10:16; 16:26). Saving faith is a trusting, active response to God's grace, as the believer Abraham demonstrated: "we follow in the steps of faith" (Romans 4:12).

Follow the Original Gospel Standard

How do get into Christ to receive the gift of eternal life? Some think, just be a good person and follow the golden rule or the ten commandments. Others think you just need a one time decision to "accept Christ and say the sinner's prayer." Others think, if you're sprinkled as an infant, then you're a Christian. Others say, "Joining the church of your choice makes you a Christian." Yet, others point to Scripture that teaches a penitent believer in Christ must be "baptized (immersed) into Christ" (Galatians 3:26-27; cf. Romans 6:3; Mark 16:16), and that "baptism now saves us" (I Peter 3:21). It's not who's right but what's right! Beware that man's subjective opinions lead astray (Judges 21:25; Proverbs 14:12; Matthew 15:13ff)

God's Word is the objective standard, and it's always right! Acceptable faith only comes "by hearing the word of Christ" (Romans 10:17). The "seed of the kingdom" is Christ's "word," which tells the good news of His saving work for us (Luke 8:11). The gospel seed, sown in a human heart, produced simply Christians in the first century (Acts 11:26). A seed reproduces after its own kind. It produces the same today. A Christian, who is added to Christ's one true church, is simply someone who has "obeyed the truth" (I Peter 1:22; cf. Acts 2:37-47).

(continued on page 2)

The Church you read about in the Bible

Only the truth of Christ, not human traditions or pious feelings, reveals the divinely authorized steps into Christ. The Hebrews writer, in reviewing how one becomes a Christian, lists these ordained steps into Christ in Hebrews 10:22-23 as (1) faith in Him, (2) repentance of an evil conscience, (3) confession of Christ-centered hope, and (4) cleansing of baptism.

Faith in Christ

The first step to become a Christian is to wholeheartedly believe in Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 16:16; John 6:69). He was sent from heaven as the only Savior from sin (John 8:24). "He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life" (I John 5:12).

He is the divine Messiah prophesied in the Old Testament and confirmed in the New Testament by His perfect life, with His profound, heavenly teaching, His loving, redemptive sacrifice of Himself, and miraculous resurrection from the dead (John 12:32, Acts 2:22-36). Study the gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John to learn how wonderful Jesus is, in order to entrust your life to Him.

To be saved, we must realize we have a desperate spiritual need, that "all have sinned" and we cannot trust ourselves to save ourselves (Romans 3:8-23). Without Christ, sinners are on a death march to a devil's hell (Romans 6:23). Instead of trusting in yourself, you place your complete trust and confidence in the crucified and risen Christ (John 20:30-31; Acts 16:34; Mark 16:16). He is the only Savior of souls and builder of lives. This first step of faith gives us "the right to become a child of God" (John 1:12).

Repentance from Past Sin

When you turn to Christ, you must turn away from your sin. Sin is wanting our way above all else. It's a rebellious deviation from God's will (I John 3:4; James 4:16). Jesus said, "Except you repent, you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3). Repentance is a change of mind toward sin and self (Acts 2:38; 3:19).

Sin's not trivial, for it crucified Jesus! True repentance produces the "fruit of repentance" (Matthew 3:8), which is a changed life. Sins such as selfishness, hatred, envy, evil speaking, lying, sexual promiscuity, adultery, materialism, etc. can no longer be continued impenitently (Colossians 3:5-10; Ephesians 4:17-24; I Corinthians 6:19-20; Galatians 5:19-21; II Peter 1:4). Real repentance is being sorry enough in your heart over your sin that you stop living in sin and change the course of your life, looking to God's help (Romans 2:4-12).

Confession of Christ's Deity

The next step is the good confession that Jesus is the divine Lord and Christ, the Son of the living God. "If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord, you will be saved ... For with the mouth, confession is made unto salvation" (Romans 10:9; cf. Matthew 16:16; I Timothy 6:12). This is a declaration of loyalty to Him, that all He said and did are divinely true. You'll confess Him to others as the life-changing Savior (Matthew 10:32; Mark 5:19-20).

Baptism into Christ for Forgiveness.

Faith's immersion in water is the occasion of being united with Christ and cleansed by His saving blood (Romans 6:3-5, 17-18; Galatians 3:26-27; Revelation 1:5). Baptism's purpose is "for the forgiveness of sins" (Acts 2:38; 22:16; I Peter 3:21). The old man of sin is "buried" in that watery grave and a new person is "raised up" to a new life in Christ (Colossians 2:11-14; II Corinthians 5:17).

Baptism isn't a church ordinance to join a denomination. It is a command of Christ that is the converting step that produces a Christian, by applying His redeeming blood and returns us to God (Revelation 1:5; Acts 22:16; 3:19). This is when a person is added to Christ's one body, the church (I Corinthians 12:13; Acts 2:47).

Baptism is the gospel re-enacted. We "obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were committed" (Romans 6:17). Romans 6:2-4 shows this gospel "form" re-enacted as:

1. Jesus' "death" for sin on the cross means we must "die" to sin.
2. Jesus was "buried" due to being killed for sin, and we must be "buried with Him by baptism" to end the old life and contact His shed blood.
3. He was "raised" to a new life, and by baptism we're "raised ... to walk in newness of life" (Romans 6:4).

Baptism marks the beginning of a new life, in following Christ in thought, word and deed. Being a transformed Christian prepares you to live and to die with hope in Christ.

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

**Area-Wide Singing
Grant County
Church of Christ
Sunday, April 2, 2017
2pm-4pm**

Celebrating 10 Years!

Potluck Today!

Please join us for food, fun, and fellowship
following the morning worship service.

Lads to Leaders

Team A and B meet today

1:00-3:00

Centurions of Scripture

We would like to congratulate all those who participated in our Centurion of Scripture Challenge this year. We hope that you will continue to study and write the Word of God on your hearts.

Proverbs 22: 17-19

17. Pay attention and turn your ear to the sayings of the wise; apply your heart to what I teach,

18. for it is pleasing when you keep them in your heart and have all of them ready on your lips

19. So that your trust may be in the Lord, I teach you today, even you.

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

Caleb Robbins has the flu

Astin Vick and daughter Emerson Emerson was born 2 months early

Norma Beckett, Megan Beckett's grandmother, heart issues

Robin Dunaway & Dave Harris Mission work

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

Walker 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

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

	March 26	April 2
Announcements	Bill Morgan	Bill Morgan
Opening Prayer	Bob Warmack	Art Green
Song Leader	Dale Franklin	Matthew Hallmark
Communion	Randy Johnson	Clint Green
Serve	Matthew Hallmark	Dan Brown
Serve	Bobby Lemay	Kyle Strasser
Serve	Dave Moster	Bobby Lemay
Serve	Daniel House	Wyatt Robbins
Serve	Jerry Gorman	Mark Walker
Serve	Elvis Byrd	Steve Thomas
Scripture Reading	Kyle Strasser	Dave Moster
<i>Exodus 35: 4-9</i>		
Sermon	Bruce House	Bruce House
<i>Having a Willing Heart</i>		
Closing Prayer	Mark Walker	Randy Johnson

Serving in PM Worship

Announcements	Bill Morgan	Bill Morgan
Opening Prayer	Jerry Gorman	Robert Budy
Song Leader	Dale Franklin	Matthew Hallmark
Communion	Randy Johnson	Clint Green
Invitation	Bruce House	Bruce House
Closing Prayer	Jesse Black	Dan Brown

Wednesday

	March 29	April 5
Song Leader	Jesse Black	Jesse Black
Invitation	Bruce House	Kyle Strasser
Closing Prayer	Daniel House	Wyatt Robbins
Announcements	Art Green	Art Green

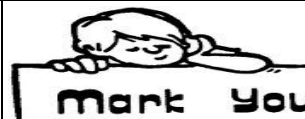
Communion Prep

March	Naiome House
April	Nancy Prater

Greeters

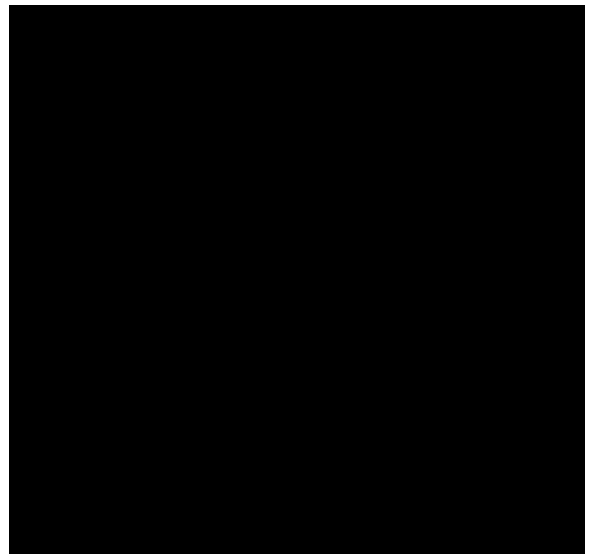
March	Greeters Needed
April	Greeters Needed

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



Mark Your Calendar

Mar	26	Lads to Leaders Team B
Mar	26	Potluck Theme: <i>Everything Green</i> Bring whatever main dish you would like, but if you are bringing a side or dessert, bring something green!
Apr	1	Lads to Leaders Indv. Scrapbook
Apr	2	Lads to Leaders Team A
Apr	7	Bible Bowl Meeting
Apr	8	Lads to Leaders Group Scrapbook
Apr	9	Lads to Leaders Team B
Apr	14-16	Lads to Leaders Convention



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

Florence Church of Christ
1141 Boone Aire Road
Florence, KY 41042