

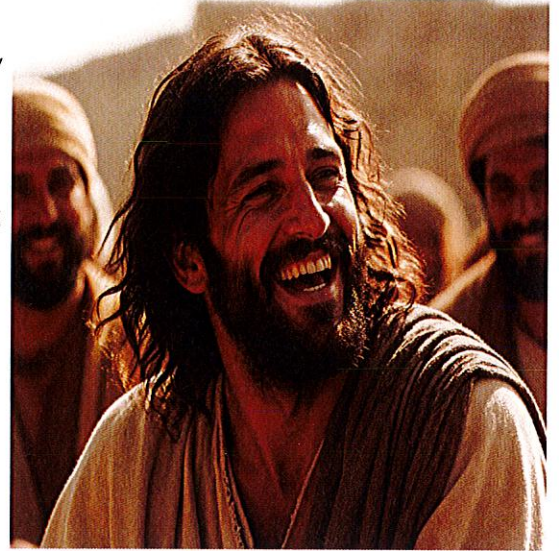
Messenger

May 2026

A publication of First Christian Church, Meadville, PA

When most people picture Jesus, they tend to see Jesus as a great Teacher, such as when He delivered the Sermon on the Mount (*Matthew 5–7*). They remember Him flipping tables in righteous anger (*Matthew 21:12–13*). They picture Him weeping at Lazarus' tomb (*John 11:35*). And, of course, they see Him suffering on the cross. All of those images are true—and deeply important, but they are incomplete. Remember, not only is Jesus fully God. He is also fully human, and I have never met someone who has never laughed.

In *Luke 10:21*, we're told that Jesus was "full of joy through the Holy Spirit." Imagine that. The Son of God, in the middle of a broken and sinful world, overflowing with joy. Even in the shadow of the cross, joy was present. *Hebrews 12:2* says, "For the joy set before Him He endured the cross." Jesus didn't ignore suffering, but He looked beyond it. Joy wasn't the absence of pain; it was the presence of His purpose.



So why don't we think of Jesus this way? Maybe it's because we tend to associate joy with lightness, laughter, and ease, and we struggle to connect that with the weight of Jesus' mission. However, Biblical joy runs deeper than circumstances. It is rooted in relationship, purpose, and the unshakable goodness of God.

Not only does Jesus have joy, we are called to live the same way:

- "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" (*Philippians 4:4*)
- "But the fruit of the Spirit is... joy..." (*Galatians 5:22*)
- "Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete." (*John 16:24*)

Joy is not optional for the Believer. Joy is a part of us. We hear that, but if we are honest, there are times when joy can feel elusive, and life is heavy. Circumstances change. Stress, loss, and disappointment can weigh us down. That's why it's so important to remember this truth: Our joy is not found in what happens to us; it's found in Who we belong to.

So, what does it look like to live with joy?

- It means we choose gratitude even when life isn't perfect.
- It means we trust God's purpose even when we don't understand the moment.
- It means we anchor our hearts in eternity, not just today.

Joy doesn't mean we ignore sorrow either. Jesus didn't. Joy means sorrow doesn't have the final word. If the people around us only see us as stressed, negative, or defeated, they may never connect our lives with the Jesus we claim to follow. However, when we live with steady, resilient joy, we reflect the heart of Christ in a powerful way.

So maybe it's time to expand our picture of Jesus. Jesus rejoices! We should too!

Robert

FCC
TEENS

LET'S EAT
ICE CREAM!

Sunday
Sundaes!



May 3rd
6-7pm

This is the last Sunday
Night Youth Group until
September!



Hi Kidz,

You are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14)!! God loves you so much! Trust in the Lord! Read your Bibles! Pray everyday!! Grow in Jesus!! ☺

Kidz, join us on **Sunday, May 3rd, 6-7pm** for our **KidZone Blow Out!** Come and enjoy pizza, ice cream sandwiches and a lot of fun games! This will be our last Sunday night until fall. It is going to be a **BLAST!!**

Promotion Sunday will be on June 7th. If you are moving into a new class, you will move on this Sunday. Checkout KidZone check-in counter for all the upcoming events.

Kidz, don't forget to bring your Bibles to church with you each Sunday. Get ready to dig into God's word! Bring a friend or two with you! Everyone needs to know how special they are to Jesus! I can not wait to see you on Sunday! Have a great week!! ☺

God Bless!
Miss Lori

☺ JESUS LOVES YOU!! ☺

Attendance

	<u>Sunday School</u>	<u>Sunday Worship</u>	<u>Night</u>
03/29	92	155	27
04/05	82	183	no classes
04/12	82	136	38
04/19	96	130	22

Offering

Weekly Budgeted Needs - \$5,503.89

	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Designated</u>
03/29	\$2,881.00	\$290.00
04/05	\$4,186.00	\$115.00
04/12	\$5,601.00	\$671.00
04/19	\$5,371.00	\$95.00

Online giving for the month of March

This amount is in addition to the amounts printed above.
\$2,200.00

BLOW OUT!!

**SUNDAY,
MAY 3RD, 6-7PM**

**COME JOIN IN ON THE FUN!!
ENJOY GAMES & ICE CREAM!!**

**THIS WILL BE OUR LAST
SUNDAY NIGHT UNTIL FALL.**

FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

Join us on Sunday, May 17th
for breakfast!

Breakfast will be served during Sunday
School hour, beginning at 9am.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
Meadville, Pennsylvania

Thank you

*We want to thank our Church Family for all
the prayers and concerns for my brother,
Lewis Kougher during his stay in the hospital.*

*Thank you to all of you,
Bill & Levina Hunt
Lewis & Linda*

*Women's Prayer Breakfast
at 8:30am on
Saturday, May 9th*

Come join us for good
food, fellowship and prayer.
Please bring a dish to share and
bring a friend.

*Mother's Day Event
and Luncheon*

**Saturday, May 16th at
Noon to 3pm in Heritage Hall**

Enjoy some fellowship and good
food. Please Sign up in Heritage Hall,
so we can have a count.

**OPEN MIC
NIGHT**

Looking for talents of
ALL kinds from ALL ages!

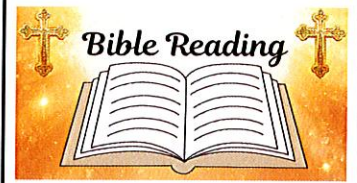
Sign up in Heritage Hall to participate
in this exciting new event!

Friday, May 29th ● 6-8pm ● Heritage Hall

Counters

- 5/03 Dawn Fronce
Candi VanTuil
- 5/10 Katie Heiner
Michelle Glenn-Pennino
- 5/17 Sherry Manuel
Jan VanTuil
- 5/24 Eileen Smith
Marci Dickson
- 5/31 Candi VanTuil
Marci Dickson

May



1. 2 Kings 1-3
2. 2 Kings 4-5
3. 2 Kings 6-8
4. 2 Kings 9-10
5. 2 Kings 11-13
6. 2 Kings 14-15
7. 2 Kings 16-17
8. 2 Kings 18-20
9. 2 Kings 21-23
10. 2 Kings 24-25
11. 1 Chronicles 1-2
12. 1 Chronicles 3-5
13. 1 Chronicles 6-7
14. 1 Chronicles 8-10
15. 1 Chronicles 11-13
16. 1 Chronicles 14-16
17. 1 Chronicles 17-20
18. 1 Chronicles 21-23
19. 1 Chronicles 24-26
20. 1 Chronicles 27-29
21. 2 Chronicles 1-3
22. 2 Chronicles 4-6
23. 2 Chronicles 7-9
24. 2 Chronicles 10-13
25. 2 Chronicles 14-17
26. 2 Chronicles 18-20
27. 2 Chronicles 21-24
28. 2 Chronicles 25-27
29. 2 Chronicles 28-30
30. 2 Chronicles 31-33
31. 2 Chronicles 34-36

Communion Preparation

Mark Manuel

Communion Meditation

- 5/03 Bruce Lawrence
5/10 Ric Fraker
5/17 Brian Little
5/24 Denny Weaver
5/31 Steve Hills

Communion Servers

Lary Williams
Mark Manuel
George Tedesco
Rich Sorger

Need a Ride to Church?

If you need a ride to Sunday School and Church, please call the church office by Friday at noon. (814) 336-3540

Greeters /First Impressions

Heritage Hall

- 5/03 Eileen Smith
5/10 Bill Hunt
5/17 Bill Hunt
5/24 Cheryl Hodges
5/31 Tiffany Bolin

Please sign up in Heritage Hall for June

KidZone Check-in Counter

- 9am Shawn Hollabaugh
10am Brian Smith

Anniversaries

- 2 Bill & Levina Hunt
21 Bruce & Carolyn Lawrence
26 Jordan & Lindsay Kohler

Birthdays

- 4 Tess Skillsky-Irwin
6 Donna Tedesco
8 Ariana Liller
11 Brian Little
12 Jennifer Brown
13 Matthias Birchard
15 Dawn Fronce
17 Bill Heisey
18 Mikey McGuire
19 Jordan Kohler
22 Katie Heiner
Claire Sherrod
Jessica Kornman
30 Jim Kurt
31 Michelle Steinbaugh

KidZone Volunteers

9:00am Sunday School

- 3's
3's-K Lori Hollabaugh
4's-K
1st
1st-3rd Marci Dickson
2nd-3rd
4th-6th Jenni Torok

10:00am Worship Service

- Anastasia Joliet
Lindsay Kohler
Various Teachers
Sherry Manuel
Candi VanTuil

Nursery

9:00am

- 5/03 Levina H.
5/10 Alyson C.
5/17 Breakfast
5/24 Jennie S.
5/31 Levina H.

10:00am

- Mary S./Hope H.
Jenna M./Jennie S.
Bonnie G./Hope H.
Michelle G.P./Jessica K.
Kim & Dana R.

Soup Kitchen

Ila Williams,
Marabeth Geiger,
George Tedesco,
Ernestine Steinberg,
Linda Karns,
Denise & Randy Guy



Baptismal Ministry

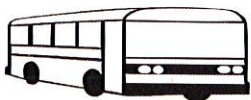
Male Assistant:
Kurt VanTuil

Female Assistant:
Eileen Smith



May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Last Sunday Evening Programs until Fall	4	5	6 Elders 7pm	7 Al-Anon 7:30pm	8	9 Women's Prayer Breakfast, 8:30am
10 	11	12	13	14 Al-Anon 7:30pm	15	16 Mother's Day Luncheon and Event, 12-3pm
17 Fellowship Breakfast, 9am	18	19 Election Day	20 Soup Kitchen 10am Posey Party (Church Clean-up), 5:30pm	21 Worship Practice, 6pm Al-Anon 7:30pm	22	23
24/31	25  Office Closed	26	27	28 Worship Practice, 6pm Al-Anon 7:30pm	29 Open Mic Night, 6-8pm	30 Men's Prayer Breakfast and St. James Meal, 8:30am



Need a ride to Sunday School and Worship
Call the church office at 814-336-3540, by Friday at noon.



503 N. Main Street Ext.
Meadville, PA 16335
814-336-3540

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit #182
Meadville, Pennsylvania

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Sunday Services:

Sunday School9am
Worship Service 10am
Sunday Evening Programs will return in the Fall.

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday.....9am - 3pm

Staff:

Robert McGuire - Senior Minister
Lori Hollabaugh - Director of Children's Ministry
Mark Manuel - Custodian
Kelly Wade - Secretary

