

AUGUST 2026 FIRSTNEWS



First Church of God
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Jesus Goes with Us Through the Storms of Life

We are in currently in the hurricane season. We pray that we won't have to deal with a hurricane this year. There are a lot of preparations that we do while waiting for a hurricane to come through including getting the necessary food and water, boarding up our house, and helping our friends and family to prepare with any of their needs. Hurricanes test us. They test our anxiety levels. They test our faith. Hurricanes also test the foundation of the house we are living in.

In Matthew 5-7 Jesus preached the best sermon that has ever been delivered. The message was called the Sermon on the Mount. At the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus compares the listeners to his sermon to two kinds of people. First, are the people that listen to Jesus' words and do what he says and apply Jesus' message into their lives. As Matthew 7:24-25 states, "24 Therefore, everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock." Storms have a way of testing foundations to see if it is a weak or a strong foundation. Those that listen to Jesus' words and do what he says are built on a solid foundation on God and can overcome the storms of life because such a foundation is built on a solid rock.

Second, Jesus spoke about the people that listen to his words and do not do what he says. As Jesus continues in Matthew 7:26-27, "26 But, everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash." Like the first house, the second house experienced the same storm, but whereas the first house stood strong on a solid foundation of a rock, the second house fell with a great crash since it had its foundation on the sand.

Both men heard the same sermon, but the wise man had a strong foundation because he built his life on Jesus' words and such a foundation was on a solid foundation. The reason the second man was foolish was that he thought listening to Jesus' words was enough and it was not. Jesus' words are to be lived and if we do not live by Jesus' words, we are like the second man in Jesus' message and have our lives built on sand and when the storms of life come, the storm will prove what an unstable foundation we had. How are you living, as a wise person or as a fool? Are you living by Jesus' words? Are you doing what he says? Let us all listen to Jesus and do what Jesus tells us to and make His words the foundation our lives.

Blessings, Pastor Kenny

Happy Birthday

6 Myron Coon
7 Edie Williams
10 Kenny Williams
13 Vince Williams
14 Landon Swope
17 Susan King
19 Pastor Tim Cox
19 Dian Pete
20 Elfriede Berzins
23 Kelly Stevens
25 Tom Ray
26 Pat Brooks
27 Jamie Seals Sr.
29 Patti Miller
29 Mil Kuhn
30 Nancy Nagy
31 Neil Brown

HAPPY Anniversary

1 Bill & Barbara Taylor
2 Brian & Holly Popa
3 Tom & Tami Ray
6 Terry & Joy Sowles
8 Gary & Kay Zamzow
13 Phil & Shay Greenfield
14 Bert & Norma Studley
14 Mil & Elaine Kuhn
30 Paul & Gwen Hanson
31 Harold & Eddie Steele



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS



August 8th (Saturday) Join us for Men's Breakfast at 8:00am in Fellowship Hall. We will have breakfast, meeting, & devotion. All men are welcome!

August 9th (Sunday) Join us after the morning service for "Sunday Sundae" Please sign up in the lobby to bring an ice cream topping. The church will supply the ice cream, hot dogs, & sloppy joes! All are welcome!

August 11th (Tuesday) Leadership Council Meeting at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall

August 18th (Tuesday) CWC (Christian Women Connection) will meet at 6:30pm in Fellowship Hall. All ladies are welcome!

August 22nd (Saturday) 5:00-7:00pm, come join the youth, children and families for a game night in Fellowship Hall. We will be having a nacho bar! Please sign up in the lobby to bring your favorite nacho topping or sweet treat! the church will provide tortilla chips and drinks.

August 28th & 29th (Friday & Saturday) is Ladies Weekend of Fellowship & Fun through crafts, scrapbooking, puzzles and/or games. The group will start at 1:00 on Friday and at 9:00am on Sunday.

It's that time again! Through Tuesday, October 13th we will be collecting donations to bless children through our Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry! The packing party is on Tuesday October 27th!



The First Church of God in Winter Haven welcomes you to our "Hometown Harvest Vendor Market" on Saturday, October 17th at 8:00am to 2:00pm. We still have vendor spots available!

If you have questions or would like to reserve a spot please contact Doris Covalt at 317-409-8160 or Deb Hepler at 863-399-0009 or the First Church of God at 863-956-4601

This is an outdoor sale. Each spot is \$35 and goes toward missions. Thank you for your support!

(Rain Date is scheduled for October 24th, if needed)

*We ask that you refrain from smoking or using foul language while on church property. Thank you.



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help spread the word



COMING SOON



First Church of God, Winter Haven

Home School Support Group

Be praying that God would use this group to minister to the children & parents of this church and in our community.

For more information contact the church office at 863-956-4601 or Sorina Howard at 803-295-3997

