

SEPTEMBER 2026

FIRSTNEWS



First Church of God
3025 US HWY 92 W
Winter Haven, FL 33881
(863) 956-4601
office@fcogwh.org
pastor@fcogwh.org
www.fcogwh.org



You Can Choose to Live by Faith or Fear

During these difficult days in which we live, the challenge before all of us is how are we going to live? There are two basic answers where we can choose to live by faith, or we can choose to live by fear.

We can understand why people choose to live by fear. One definition of fear is "an unpleasant emotion caused by the belief that someone or something is dangerous, likely to cause pain, or a threat." We can be afraid of people that might want to harm us. We can be afraid that one of our loved ones might lose their job because of the economy. We could be afraid that we won't have enough money to buy food and pay for our rent. We might be afraid that we will lose our health. We can be fearful of the deep political divide in our country. We could possibly be fearful that our unsaved loved ones will die and go to hell.

We need to reject the choice to live by fear. God has called us to live by faith. Jesus' most common command was, "Do not be afraid." One place where Jesus tells us not to fear was when he was walking on the water on a lake when His disciples were in a boat. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on water, they didn't recognize Him and they were afraid. Matthew 14:27 states, "But Jesus immediately said to them: 'Take courage! It is I. Don't be afraid.'"

Instead of being people of fear, let us be people of faith. We should not fear because God is always with us. As Deuteronomy 31:8 says, "The Lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Faith in God is acting as if what God has said is true. Put your full trust in God and He will lead us with a life without fear. The enemy wants to paralyze us with fear but let us go forward with a confident faith in God! The most important component of faith is the object of your faith. We are to put our trust in God through Jesus Christ.

Faith is taking God at His word. To become a Christian and to live as God desires us to, we must live by faith every day. We are not to live by our feelings. We are to live by faith. We need faith to become a Christian and to live as God desires us to, we must live by faith every day. As a community of believers, God gives us strength that we would encourage one another in our walk with God as we seek collectively to serve God by faith.

Blessings, Pastor Kenny

Happy Birthday

- 1 Barbara Curry
- 2 Amy Hiller
- 5 Garland King
- 6 George Dean
- 7 Barbara Moss
- 8 Tami Ray
- 9 Deborah Hepler
- 9 Mary Lou Weisbrod
- 10 Linda Gipson
- 10 Fred White
- 14 Kay McDonald
- 16 Bert Studley
- 21 Robert Kaetzel
- 22 Peter Huntington
- 23 Milton Wood
- 23 Doris Cox
- 24 Dave Hepler
- 25 Larry Rabon
- 27 Marty Zuniga
- 30 Russell Thorn

Anniversary

- 2 Art & Carol Small
- 5 Russ & Irene Sheffield
- 7 John & Mary Jo
Malborn
- 12 Mike & Sara Hobbs
- 13 Roger & Pat Fisher
- 13 Alan & Jeanie Wessell
- 14 Dawn & Tony
Bauerlein
- 20 Don & Janet Pell
- 29 Pete & Pam
Huntington



ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

The Office will be CLOSED on Labor Day - Monday, September 7th

September 5th (Saturday) Men's Breakfast at 8:00am in Fellowship Hall. All men are welcome.

September 6th (Sunday) David K, "that flute guy" will be leading us in worship. Make plans to attend this special service.

September 8th (Tuesday) Leadership Council Meeting at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall.

September 11th & 12th (Friday & Saturday) is the annual Choir Workshop! It will start Friday from 6-8pm and on Saturday 9:00am-noon. Please sign up in the lobby if you plan on attending.

September 19th (Saturday) Family Game Night from 5-7pm in Fellowship Hall. Join us for a potluck meal, devotion followed by games! Sign up in the lobby.

September 22nd (Tuesday) CWC Meeting at 6:30 in Fellowship Hall. Join us for a light meal, devotion, followed by event planning. All women are welcome.

September 25th & 26th (Friday & Saturday) Ladies Weekend of Fellowship & Fun through crafts, scrapbooking, puzzles/games. The fun will begin on Friday at 1:00pm and on Saturday at 9:00am. All ladies are welcome!

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

SAVE THOSE POP CANS! Our youth group is having a fundraiser to help support our Shoebox Ministry! Bring the cans with you to church - we will collect them, recycle them, turn them into cash that will be used to take the gospel message to children all over the world.



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.

First Church of God
3025 US HWY 92 W
Winter Haven, FL 33881
(863) 956-4601
email: office@fcogwh.org
website: www.fcogwh.org



CWC Meeting (Christian Womens Connection)

**Tuesday, September 22nd
at 6:30pm
in Fellowship Hall**

light meal, event planning & devotional

(All Women are Welcome)

