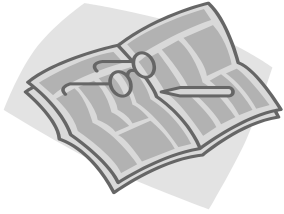


The Elkins Exchange

Volume 19, Issue 1

November 2017



If anyone would like to receive the newsletter via email please send a note to Ruth at:

firstchurchofchristelkins@frontier.com

Please keep the church updated with address and phone number changes! Can give to Ruth Morgan or email.

Please give any news, pictures, happenings, etc. that you would like to see in the newsletter to Ruth Morgan by the third Sunday of the month.

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From the Preacher's Desk

I once knew a college mathematics professor who was faced with a bit of a dilemma. In one of his classes, his students, one-and-all, had decided to not do the work, under the idea that as a professor he couldn't fail all of them. But what they failed to understand is that the State of Illinois sets minimum standards for college classes and doesn't allow college professors to 'dumb down' the class to grade-school levels. Ultimately every student in that class did fail, because they were not being graded against each other but against a higher standard set by the state.



I think many of us today have a wrong idea of what sin is. I think too many of us have been influenced more by what the world thinks than by what the Bible says, and we probably need a better understanding of what sin is.

Both the Greek and the Hebrew word for 'sin' mean to miss the mark, like an archer who misses the target. But I think that sometimes we can misunderstand what this means.

I have a friend named Jamie who recently picked up archery, and he's pretty good. Sometimes he hits the target, sometimes he misses, but he always tries. When he misses, we all cheer him on and say, "Well done, Jamie! You're getting better. You almost had it; you'll get it next time." This is not what we mean by 'missing the mark', although the idea is related.

Sin is not about trying your best and hoping to get better. It's not about encouraging one another to achieve human perfection. Sin does mean 'to miss the mark', but what the Bible means by this is that God set a target, a perfect standard set by a perfect God. We're not perfect, and we do not have the ability to hit that target. You might have a sinless

day (I can't imagine I ever have, but maybe there are some really devout people out there who can follow God wholeheartedly for that long), but you won't have a sinless life. We are all sinful by nature, and God's standards are that any one sin, any missed arrow, destines us for hell.

"That's not fair!" you might say, but really it is the ultimate 'fairness'. We're not compared to our neighbors or some

sliding scale. We are judged by God's unchanging standards, and as He is the one who created us and created the target, He decides where to set the mark. It is perfectly fair; our issue is not in the fairness, but in the grace. Since we cannot as humans achieve God's exacting standards and are all otherwise destined for hell, is there a way out of our predicament and damnation? And this is where the message of the Gospel is so amazing.

God says, "Yes, of course there is! I love you and I don't want to see you go to hell. I will not lower my standards, but I will forgive you for failing to meet them if you accept my Son Jesus's success as your own. He meets My standards, and you can be on His team." The bar has not been lowered, but we have been forgiven for missing the mark.

So now it doesn't matter if we sin, right? Wrong. The target is still there. We are still expected to try. The target has not been moved. But now, not only has God forgiven us through the victory of Jesus, but the Holy Spirit comes alongside us. "Here, let me help you with that. Let me help you aim better." To refuse the Spirit is to reject being on the same team as Jesus. And this is what grace is. To not only be forgiven for missing the mark, but to also be helped to aim better in the future. Will we ever aim perfectly? Not perfectly, but the point is that we have God's Holy Spirit to help us. This is what it means to grow spiritually: improving our aim daily with His help.

Mission of the Month

A Promise Of Help, Hope, and Healing
 Set on more than 1,000 acres at the foothills of the Ozark Mountains in rural Northeastern Oklahoma,



- Family Style Living
- Spiritual Formation
- Therapeutic Services
- Christian Education

We support this mission with our Sunday school offerings on the 20th.

Cookson Hills provides a rustic and relaxing retreat for children requiring out-of-home care. Children receive the benefits of:

Facts and Figures for October
 AM Service 73
 PM Service 31
 Weekly Budget need: **2,205**

News



We are happy to announce two baptisms this month. Shawn Bailey and Kayla Arbogast were baptized on October 15th. Welcome to the church family!



Life group/Bible Study on Thursday evenings.

- Mark Morgan at his home, Beverly/Dailey area, 7pm, currently studying Churches of Revelations.
- Jason Brandon 6:30pm at the church.

Currently in the book of Matthew

- **Kids Own Worship Wed. 6:30pm**



Cantata practice is in full swing at 5pm on Sundays. This year's Cantata is *Bethlehem Morning* by Richard Mauldin. The performance will be Christmas eve.



Our **Annual Holiday Dinner** to commemorate Thanksgiving/ Christmas season will be **Sunday December 3rd**. It is a potluck where everyone brings their favorite holiday dishes.



Some notes from the Ladies Guild:

- Items needed for Thanksgiving baskets will be posted soon. Know of someone in need of basket let Etta Jean Kendall or Nancy Messer know.
- Need donations for Kids Own Worship Christmas party and gift cards.



The church will again sponsor "**Gifts for Grundy**". This Mt. Mission school in Grundy, VA is for orphans and disadvantaged children. Our church sends Christmas gifts for the children. The children age from preschool to high school. Please wrap gifts, label them boy or girl, and label the age range. **The gifts are due December 10th**. Please leave gifts in the library. See Cliff Phillips for more details.



Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes

Complete boxes or supplies are needed by November 5th. We could still use money for postage if you would like to help. We hope to pack 60 boxes this year! See Ruth Morgan for details.

Please give directory updates to Ruth Morgan, we are getting ready to print new ones! We need your picture also if we don't have one!



Trunk or Treat 2017

Calendar of Events

November 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 *Barbara Fuhrman	2	3	4 *Cliff Phillips
5  Shoeboxes Due	6	7 Board Mtg 7pm	8	9	10	11
12	13	14 Guild 6:30pm *Stacey Smith	15 *Finley Kelly	16	17	18
19 Mission Sunday *Mike Price	20 *Kenny Lehman *Shaylynn Thompson	21 *Ruth Morgan	22	23 *Seth Hensil Thanksgiving	24 *Virginia Burdick	25
26	27 *Jean Ann Lambert	28 Elders Mtg. 7pm	29 *Eddie Weese	30		
Grundy Gifts Due Dec. 10						

Church Flowers given this month

Thank you to Sandra Lilly for the new seasonal silk flower arrangements for the pulpit. We still encourage donations in memory or special occasions. Please make your own arrangements with florist and let Mary Ann Kyle know.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST

300 Main Street
Elkins WV
26241

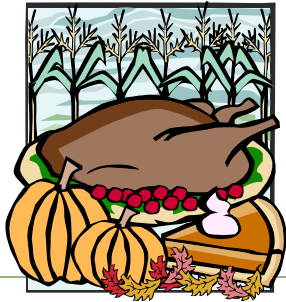


Phone: 304-636-1590

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another. John 13:35

Preaching Minister Jason Brandon
Bible School Sunday 9:30 am
Worship Service Sunday 10:30 am
Choir Practice Sunday 5:00 pm
Youth Meetings. Sunday 6:00 pm
Evening Service. Sunday 6:00 pm
Kids Own Worship. Wednesday 6:30 pm
Small Groups. Thursday 6:30 and 7 pm



Visit your
church
website
at:

firstchurchofchristelkins.com

Scripture Readings for November

		1 st	John 7:37-44 2 Peter 1:1-11 Job 1 Ezekiel 1-3	2 nd	John 7:45-53 2 Peter 1 :12-21 Job 2 Ezekiel 4-8
3 rd	John 8:1-11 2 Peter 2: 1-9 Job 3 Ezekiel 9-12	4 th	John 8: 12-20 2 Peter 2:10-16 Job 4 Ezekiel 13-15	5 th	
7 th	John 8:21-30 2 Peter 2:17-22 Job 5 Ezekiel 16	8 th	John 8:31-47 2 Peter 3: 1-9 Job 6 Ezekiel 17-19	9 th	John 8:48-59 2 Peter 3:10:18 Job 7 Ezekiel 20, 21
10 th	John 9:1-12 1 John 1: 1-4 Job 8 Ezekiel 22, 23	11 th	John 9:13-25 1 John 1 :5-10 Job 9: 1-20 Ezekiel 24-26	12 th	John 9:26-41 1 John 2:1-11 Job 9:21-35 Ezekiel 27, 28
14 th	John 10:1-10 1 John 2: 1 2-17 Job 10 Ezekiel 29, 30	15 th	John 10:11-21 1 John 2:18-23 Job 11 Ezekiel 31,32	16 th	John 10:22-42 1 John 2:24-29 Job 12 Ezekiel 33, 34
17 th	John 11:1-16 1 John 3:1-10 Job 13 Ezekiel 35-37	18 th	John 11: 17-37 1 John 3:11-18 Job 14 Ezekiel 38, 39	19 th	John 11 :38-44 1 John 3: 19-24 Job 15:1-16 Ezekiel 40, 41
21 st	John 11 :45-57 1 John 4:1-6 Job 15:17-35 Ezekiel 42-44	22 nd	John 12:1-11 1 John 4:7-21 Job 16 Ezekiel 45-47	23 rd	John 12:12-19 1 John 5:1-12 Job 17 Ezekiel 48
24 th	John 12:20-36 1 John 5:13-21 Job 18 Daniel 2	25 th	John 12:37-50 2 John 1-13 Job 19 Daniel 3, 4	26 th	John 13:1-11 3 John 1-14 Job 20 Daniel 5, 6
28 th	John 13:12-17 Jude 1-7 Job 21:1-21 Daniel 7, 8	29 th	John 13: 18-30 Jude 8-16 Job 21 :22-34 Daniel 9	30 th	John 13:31-38 Jude 17-25 Job 22 Daniel 10-12