



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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Office Hours: Mon.-Thurs., 9 AM-2 PM

Pastor Isaac Mahler, Senior Minister • Faith Milam, Youth Director

COME WORSHIP WITH US

COFFEE BAR AT 8:00 AM • WORSHIP AT 9:00 AM • SUNDAY SCHOOL AT 10:15 AM

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First Christian Church's mission is to grow disciples who are:

*“Believing in Christ,
Behaving as Christ,
Becoming like Christ”*

Fresh Cuts From The Board

Here's a first look at two important highlights from last night's Board meeting, with the full *Splinters from the Board* report coming in the next newsletter.

First, the 2025 Nominating Committee has been approved and will soon begin their important work. This group—Joe and Evie Gill, Ellen Webb, Emily Thomas, Megan Mahler, Troy Sanders, and Pastor Isaac—will be prayerfully inviting members to serve in key roles such as Elders, Trustees, Deacons, and Deaconesses, as well as recommending who will lead each of our committees beginning in 2026. Please keep them in your prayers as they listen for God's guidance and extend these invitations to serve.

Second, the Board has launched a process to re-examine and realign our committee charters so that the work of the church is best supported in the years ahead. Committees are being asked to meet soon, review their charters, and share feedback about what is essential to their ministry. A new task force will meet with committee chairs to discuss these recommendations, with the possibility of reassigning certain responsibilities, shifting tasks between committees, and even creating new committees if needed. Committees are asked to have their feedback ready before the November Board meeting.

This is an exciting opportunity to strengthen our structure and ensure we are well-positioned for the future God is calling us to. Please continue to pray for our church as we move forward in faith towards this new season of ministry!

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Pastor Appreciation Month

October is Pastor Appreciation month. We invite you to show your appreciation to Pastor Isaac with cards or gifts during this time! We invite you to a Pastor Appreciation Reception immediately following services on Sunday, October 12th. We encourage everyone to participate in showing gratitude. Let's make this month special for Pastor Isaac.

CALENDARS!

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

- **Sept 17th: Lunch on the Lawn @ PHS**
- **Sept 18th: Koinonia 9:00AM**
- **Sept 26th: Scarecrow Project on the Square**
- **Sept 27th: Honeybee Parade & Scarecrow Project**
- **Oct 7th: Circle of Light 5:00PM**
- **Oct 9th: Circle of Prayer 6:00PM**

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

September 11, 2025

PASTORS CORNER

What a wonderful summer we have had together at FCC! I want to take a moment to celebrate and thank the **Membership Committee, the Evangelism Committee, and all of our incredible committee members** for their hard and faithful work. From bowling to the Shrine Parade, from the church picnic to the pool party, from the generosity of our *Christmas in July* giving to the many people who shared special music on Sunday mornings—this summer was full of joy, fellowship, and meaningful ministry. Thank you for making it such a success!

Now we turn the corner into fall. We kicked off this new season with a fun and successful **tailgate party** last week, and what a joy it has been to hear the **choir back in the loft** and see so many ministries relaunch in full swing. For me personally, life has gotten a whole lot busier—but in the best kind of way. Mondays now include **community office hours (12–2 PM)** and **Bible study (6–7 PM)**. On Tuesdays, I get to walk alongside people in **Grief Share at 10 AM**, and on Wednesdays we start the day with **Bible study at 10 AM** and continue into the afternoon with **God's Gang at 2:30 PM**. Add to that the ongoing responsibilities of visitations, ministerial fellowship, regional DOC cluster meetings, and preparing for our **new sermon series on the Parables of Christ**, and you can see it's a full and exciting season. I'm so grateful to be doing this ministry with all of you.

This past Sunday we were reminded of our mission as a church: **to grow disciples who Believe in Christ, Behave as Christ, and Become like Christ**. That's the heartbeat of all we do, and it's something each of us is invited into.

- If you're wrestling with **Belief**, come to a Sunday School class or Bible study, join a CWF group or the Men's Discipleship group—find a place to ask your questions and grow in faith.
- If you're working on how to **Behave like Christ**, look for opportunities to serve and get involved—help with the Honeybee Parade, join a committee, or dive deeper into Scripture to see *why* our behavior matters.

And if you're ready to **Become more like Christ**, it's time to take up your cross and follow Him. Lead a group, teach a class, mentor someone, help with God's Gang—the list is endless, and the need is great.

My prayer is that everyone at FCC finds a place to continue growing in their faith, and that together we keep living out our mission: **to Believe, Behave, and Become**. What an exciting season ahead!

— Pastor Isaac

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen & Ron Odle

Pleasant Meadows: Linda Driver

Twin Lakes: Irma Julian, Brandon Bell & Sherill Perry

Continued Prayers for: Paula Shepherd, Carol Winemiller, Linda Chittick, Rev. Mike Dixon, Brad Farnham, Marge Houghland, Roy Rogers, Sue Bennett, Russ Adams, Kenny McCain, Theresa Emerson, Brandon Moss & Donna Garver

BELIEVING LIKE CHRIST

They do not say in their hearts, 'Let us fear the Lord our God, who gives the rain in its season, the autumn rain and the spring rain, and keeps for us the weeks appointed for the harvest'".
Jeremiah 5:24

SEPTEMBER PRAYER

Dear Heavenly Father,
As we welcome the autumn months, may the earlier setting of the sun remind us to take time to rest.
May the brilliant colors of the leaves remind us of the wonder of your creation. May the steam of our breath in the cool air remind us that it is you who give us the breath of life.
May the harvest from the fields remind us of the abundance we have been given and bounty we are to share with others. May the dying of summer’s spirit remind us of your great promise that death is temporary, and life is eternal. We praise you for your goodness forever and ever.
Amen.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to more than 60 people who came to celebrate our tailgate event. A beautiful fall day and so much delicious food. A special thank you to Tony Peel for grilling the burgers and hotdogs. Also, to all the groups who carried our heavy tables and chairs to provide seating! What a special day!
- Membership Committee

ATTENDANCE

We count because YOU count!

Aug 31th: 114/ Nursery: 2 Online:39/59* SS:15
TOTAL: 175*
Sept 7th: 130/ Nursery:3 Online:44/66* SS: 0
TOTAL: 199*

Per CCIW Regional Office: to allow for additional people watching electronically, the formula is - view count x 1.5

GIVING

OFFERING	August*	YTD*
General Fund	\$ 22,710.70	\$ 148,110.28
Missions Fund	\$ 1,437.00	\$ 12,294.00
Building Fund	\$ 4,368.00	\$ 131,824.00
Memorial/Scholarship	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,197.00
Permanent Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 750.00
TOTAL	\$ 28,515.70	\$ 305,175.28

*Month to Date, As of Date of Publication

DISCIPLE’S MEN’S OUTING

The men will meet on Sunday, September 21st at 3:00PM at the Church to go to the Beef House for dinner. A sign up sheet is on the desk in the hall.

HONEYBEE PARADE

The Honeybee Parade will be on September 27th. Line up for the parade will be at the church to get on the bus at 9:45 AM and then to our assigned location at 10 AM. Walkers are needed and appreciated. Also, we will meet Monday the 22nd at 10 AM to tape the cards to the honey sticks. Thank you!



CIRCLE NEWS

Circle of Light, will meet Monday, October 7th at 5:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall.
Circle of Prayer will meet at 6:00 PM on Thursday, October 9th in the Church Kitchen.
Koinonia will meet on Thursday, October 18th at 9:00 AM in the Church Kitchen.

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE



The monthly blood drive will be held Monday, September 22nd from 11:30AM- 5:30PM at the VFW Hall.

FUNERAL DINNER DIRECTORS NEEDED

When it’s time to plan a funeral dinner, who can we call on to plan and carry out the meal? For years we had the people, but it’s time for new leadership. Talk to your friends about joining forces and let us know who would be willing to take up this worthy cause. Sue Bennett said she’d be happy to text with amounts of food needed for various sized groups. A book was kept with all information about meals planned in the past. If you are interested, please contact the office

SCARECROW PROJECT

Our FCC Scarecrow Project will take place during Honeybee weekend, September 26th & 27th. We are in search for a few volunteers to help with creation of scarecrows. We are in need of long sleeve shirts and pants. Please bring any of your items to the church where there will be a donation container set up underneath the welcome desk. For any further information or questions, see Coralie Smittkamp.



Hello from 412 Youth!

Fall is here, whether the weather feels like it or not, and that means our regular programming is happening again! Club 35 & k2 crew are in full swing on Sunday mornings and youth group is in full swing on Sunday evenings. We will also start our monthly club 35 youth groups at the end of September, with our first one being from 5-6pm on Sunday, September 28th.

Upcoming Events:

Sept 14 - Youth Group 6-8PM
Sept 21 - Youth Group 6-8PM
Sept 28 - Club 35 Youth Group 5-6PM
Youth Group 6-8PM
Oct 5 - Youth Group 6 pm at Church
~ Faith Milam, Youth Director



LUNCH ON THE LAWN

Lunch On the Lawn at PHS is scheduled for Wednesday, September 17th! Notice the display board in the hallways with the list of needed items. We appreciate your donations! If you can help that day, please sign up or contact Ellen Webb.

GOD’S GANG

God's Gang began its fall session yesterday with a great group of students and volunteers! The theme for this semester is "God Bless America." Each week we will celebrate a different state in our beloved country. We are looking for individuals who have lived in another state and could speak briefly during the dinner portion of God's Gang. If you have, and would like to share information about the state you lived in, please contact Kim Woods or Angel Templeton!

Date	Worship Elder	Bread Elder	Deacons	Deaconess	Jr. Deacons	Ushers
September 14,2025	Pete Templeton	Daniel Smittkamp	Team #3	Jill Coombes	Team #1	Team #3
September 21 , 2025	Tammy Terry	Angel Templeton	Team #1	Faye Eitel	Team #2	Team #3
September 28, 2025	Daniel Smittkamp	Nels Kasey	Team #2	Connie R	Team #1	Team #3
October 5, 2025	Barb Free	Tammy Terry	Team #3	Margo Y	Team #2	Team #1
October 12, 2025	Steve Webb	Pete Templeton	Team #1	Evie Gill	Team #1	Team #1