

THE MESSENGER

Believing, Behaving, Becoming Like Christ

January 15, 2026

PASTORS CORNER

Good Morning FCC Family,

As we turn the page into a new year, I want to begin with a heartfelt **THANK YOU!** The love offering you shared with me and the rest of the staff at Christmas was truly overwhelming—in the very best way. Your generosity was a tremendous blessing, and I want you to know how deeply grateful we are. More than the gift itself, it was the love behind it that meant so much. It is a gift to serve a church with such a huge heart, a church that consistently looks for ways to care for, encourage, and bless others.

That generous spirit was on full display throughout the Advent and Christmas season. So many of you poured your time, energy, and gifts into making this season meaningful and beautiful. Thank you to our Advent candle readers, our bell choir and choir members, and to Amy and Jessica for the countless hours they invested through music and leadership. Thank you as well to everyone who decorated the sanctuary, prepared candles and communion, welcomed guests, and served quietly behind the scenes. Advent does not “just happen”—it happens because faithful people show up and serve. Once again, FCC did exactly that, and I am so grateful.

As we move into the new year, I also want to share a few important housekeeping notes:

- **Pastor's Bible Study** will resume:
 - Monday evenings beginning **January 26 at 6:00 PM**
 - Wednesday mornings beginning **January 28 at 10:00 AM**
- **Youth Group format changes** will begin on Sunday, January 25, as we try a new schedule for the next few months:
 - 1st & 3rd Sundays: Combined Middle School + High School Youth Group and Club 3–5, from 10:15 AM–12:00 PM
 - 2nd & 4th Sundays: Middle School + High School Youth Group only, from 10:15 AM–12:00 PM
 - 5th Sundays: A family event for all ages (*Our first 5th Sunday event will take place in March*)
- Plans are still being discussed about whether to offer a second round of GriefShare this spring or wait until the fall. If we wait, we will offer a Lenten Bible study this spring instead.
 - If you are interested in a specific Bible study topic or format, please let me know!

I also want to say how genuinely excited I am about the year ahead. God is doing good and meaningful work in and through First Christian Church, and I feel incredibly blessed to be part of it—with you. I am thankful for this church, for your faithfulness, and for the ways the Lord continues to lead us forward together. I truly believe the best is still ahead, and I can't wait to see all that God has in store for FCC in the months to come.

As we look a little farther down the road, it's also worth remembering that **in 2030, First Christian Church will celebrate 175 years of ministry**—which is now just four years away. That's a remarkable milestone and a powerful testimony to God's faithfulness across generations. My hope is that when we reach that moment, we won't just be celebrating our history, but the ministry God has done through this church—lives changed, souls saved, and people growing in faith. Over the next few years, I pray we will continue to dream and listen together, asking how we can live fully into our calling to help people **Believe in Christ, Behave as Christ, and Become like Christ**, and what God may be inviting us to invest in and work toward now. The story of FCC is still being written, and I'm grateful to be walking into that future alongside you.

With gratitude and hope,
Pastor Isaac



THE MESSENGER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

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Office Hours: Mon.-Fri, 8 AM-1 PM

Pastor Isaac Mahler, Senior Minister

COME WORSHIP WITH US

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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

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

FIRST CUTS FROM THE BOARD

At its most recent meeting, the Board approved the finalized job descriptions and hours for two new staff positions: **Children's Director** and **Youth Director**. With this approval, both positions are now officially open and have been posted on our website and Facebook. We are eager to welcome new staff into these roles, so please help spread the word to anyone who may feel called to serve in this important ministry.

We will begin reviewing applications and conducting interviews as qualified candidates apply, with applications requested by **January 31**.

In addition, the Board approved the New Building Committee's current proposed building layout. With this approval, the committee will move forward with securing a more detailed drawing of the proposed layout and a rough cost estimate based on that design. Once this information is available, the next step will be to present the layout and estimated costs to the congregation before proceeding with hiring a full set of architectural building plans.

DEDICATION OF LEADERS

On Sunday January 18th, we will have our annual dedication of new leaders during the worship service. All those who are serving in 2026 are encouraged to attend the service to participate in this wonderful tradition.

CALENDARS!

UPCOMING EVENTS & MEETINGS:

- Jan 18th: Dedication of Leaders
- Jan 22nd: Koinonia 9 AM
- Jan 25th: FCC 101
- Jan 26th: Pastor Bible Study
- Jan 28th: Pastor Bible Study
- Feb 4th: God's Gang Starts
- Feb 5th: Elders Meeting 5 PM
- Feb 9th: Staff Relations Mtg 6 PM
- Feb 10th: Circle of Light
- Feb 12th: Circle of Prayer
- Feb 19th: Koinonia
- Feb 21st: Disciples Men Breakfast
- Mar 1st: Soup Luncheon
- Mar 1st: Evangelism Meeting
- Mar 12th: Trustee Meeting 6 PM

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NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Paris Healthcare: Martha Stephen, Ron Odle, Chuck McClarey & Chuck Dean

Pleasant Meadows: Linda Driver

Twin Lakes: Irma Julian, Brandon Bell

Continued Prayers: Paula Shepherd, Carol Winemiller, Linda Chittick, Rev. Mike Dixon, Brad Farnham, Marge Houghland, Roy Rogers, Sue Bennett, Russ Adams, Theresa Emerson, Nancy Weger, Betty Swanson, Karen Jobst, Dorothy Farnham, Cynthia Faulk, Mary Lou Adams & Unspoken.

BECOMING LIKE CHRIST

Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
Isaiah 40:31

JANUARY PRAYER

Lord, Allow me in this time of resolutions, to make my greatest resolution be the strengthening my relationship with you. Amen.

FCC 101

We invite you to a relaxed meeting after service on Sunday, January 25th led by Pastor Isaac in our foyer. Please contact our Church Office if you'd like to join us!

THANK YOU!

The FCC Staff would like to express their heartfelt gratitude for the generous love offering that was given in December! You truly are a generous congregation!

RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

The monthly blood drive will be held Monday, January 26th from 11:30AM -- 5:30PM at the VFW Hall.

Date	Worship Elder	Bread Elder	Deacons	Deaconess	Jr. Deacons	Ushers
January 18, 2026	Cindy Mathis	Angel Templeton	Team #1		Team #1	Team #1
January 25, 2026	Lisa Young	Barb Free	Team #2		Team #2	Team #1
February 1, 2026	Chris Milam	Candice Milam	Team #1		Team #1	Team #2
February 8, 2026	Dean Muchow	Nels Kasey	Team #2		Team #2	Team #2

COMPASSIONATE CLOTHING

CLOSET

The Compassionate Clothing Closet (CCC) is in dire need of certain clothing items and volunteers to serve on Tuesdays. Of great need is men's jeans of any size. Also men's shoes, socks and casual (not dress) shirts, sweatpants, sweatshirts and tees. Children's clothing of all sizes are also being requested. Items can be dropped off at the CCC on Mondays from 10:00-12:00. Because some regular Volunteers are experiencing illnesses and some being out of state for several months during the winter, the CCC is requesting any church member let them know if you can help fill in on Tuesdays from 11:30 am to 2:00 pm whether it is this church's month to serve or not. This office has the names and phone numbers of the CCC's Board members, so call and the office will give you any of their phone numbers to call to say you can help. We urge any of you who find they have some time to volunteer and have the compassion to help your fellow needy community members in this worthy endeavor to please do so. You will feel good for having helped! God is good!

DISCIPLE'S MEN BREAKFAST



The men will meet at the Main Street Cafe at 8:00 AM on Saturday, February 21.

2026 CHURCH KEYS

Those going off of committees from 2025 with church keys, please bring them to the office or give them to the 2026 committee chair. If you pass them on to the new Chair, please email or call the office to update the information.

CIRCLE NEWS

Circle of Light will meet Tuesday, February 10th at 5:00 PM.

Circle of Prayer will meet at 6:00 PM on Thursday, February 12th.

Koinonia will meet on Thursday, February 19th at 9:00AM.

CIRCLE OF LIGHT SOUP LUNCHEON

Circle of light will be holding their annual soup luncheon on Sunday, March 1st following the morning Worship Service. There is a sign-up sheet on the registration desk. Please specify whether you plan to dine in or carryout or both? This will help us decide the amount of soup to prepare. There will be several types of soup to choose from as well as grilled cheese sandwiches.

JOB POSITIONS AT FCC

We are hiring two part-time directors to lead our children and youth. One position is for a Children's Director, overseeing programs for preschool through fifth grade. The other position is for a Youth Director, working with kids from sixth grade through high school. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

In Loving Memory of Cathy Melendez

Our church family mourns the passing of **Cathy Melendez**, a longtime and faithful member of First Christian Church. Cathy served this congregation in countless ways over the years — through CWF, helping in the church office, serving as Church Board Secretary, supporting God's Gang, singing in the choir, and faithfully serving on the board of the Compassionate Clothing Closet. Beyond her many roles, Cathy was a trusted friend, a listening ear, a quiet encourager, and a steady supporter of the life and ministry of this church. Cathy lived her faith through service, compassion, and genuine care for others. Her presence, kindness, and dedication will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. We give thanks to God for Cathy's life and legacy, and we hold her family in our prayers as we grieve with hope in the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ.

412 YOUTH



Hey 412,

We hope you all had a fantastic Christmas break and a smooth transition going back to school. Please note that we are making a few changes to the schedule starting on **January 25th**. On the **first and third Sundays** of the month, Middle School, High School Youth Group, and Club 3-5 will meet together from 10:15 AM to 12:00 PM. On the **second and fourth Sundays**, we will host only Middle School and High School Youth Group from 10:15 AM to 12:00 PM. Whenever a month has a **fifth Sunday**, we will host a special family event, with our first event scheduled for this March. We look forward to seeing you there!

Future Dates

Jan 25th:	Middle School & High School Youth Group
Feb 1st:	Middle School, High School Youth Group, & Club 3-5
Feb 8th:	Middle School & High School Youth Group
Feb 15th:	Middle School, High School Youth Group, & Club 3-5
Feb 22nd:	Middle School & High School Youth Group

If you have any questions, please contact the office.

GOD'S GANG

We had a very successful fall semester at God's Gang and Crossroads! We had a total of 27 elementary children and 7 junior high students registered, along with approximately 30 adult helpers each week. The program was successful because of the people who pour into these children each week....and we are so appreciative of all of our volunteers.

The semester ended with Christmas caroling and a well attended, beautiful program by the children which told the Christmas story. We now look forward to the spring semester that will begin on February 4. With that being said, we will have a planning meeting on Wednesday, January 21 at 4:30 for all staff who have been involved...or anyone who would like to be involved in this vital ministry!

FCC CALENDAR

FEBRUARY EVENTS

REOCCURRING EVENTS

SUN	8 AM Coffee Bar 9 AM Worship 10:15 AM Sunday School
WED	6:30 PM Chancel Choir

OTHER EVENTS

FEB 1	Middle School & High School Youth Group, & Club 3-5
FEB 4	God's Gang Starts
FEB 5	5 PM Elders Meeting
FEB 8	10:15 AM Christian Ed Meeting Middle School & High School Youth Group
FEB 9	6 PM Staff Relations Meeting
FEB 12	5 PM Circle of Light MESSENGER 6 PM Circle of Prayer
FEB 15	Middle School, High School Youth Group, & Club 3-5
FEB 18	Ash Wednesday Service
FEB 19	9 AM Koinonia
FEB 21	Disciple Men's Breakfast
FEB 22	Middle School & High School

**Notice a date that needs
correcting? Please let us know
the right details by contacting
the church office via phone or
email so we can update our
records.**

FCC GIVING

<u>December</u>	<u>12/7</u>	<u>12/14</u>	<u>12/21</u>	<u>12/28</u>
❖ General Fund				
➤ General Offering	\$ 4,340.50	\$ 2,272.00	\$ 4,652.65	\$ 12,235.35
➤ Sunday School			\$ 25.00	
➤ God's Gang				\$ 50.00
➤ MICE				
➤ Food Pantry				\$ 8.00
➤ Choices Pregnancy				
➤ Envelopes				
➤ Love Offering	\$ 1,896.00	\$ 1,175.00	\$ 160.00	
➤ Youth Fund			\$ 25.00	
➤ Designated			\$ 20.00	
❖ Mission Fund				
➤ Undesignated	\$ 125.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 225.00	\$ 295.00
➤ Christmas Offering			\$ 426.00	\$ 160.00
❖ Building Fund				
➤ Undesignated	\$ 850.00	\$ 100.00	\$ 695.00	\$ 1,240.00
➤ Building Usage			\$ 500.00	
➤ Life Center	\$ 100.00		\$ 325.00	\$ 75.00
❖ Memorial Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		
➤ Designated			\$ 492.26	
❖ Scholarship Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00		
➤ Mink Nursing			\$ 175.00	
➤ Moss Agricultural				\$ 1,000.00
❖ Permanent Fund	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
<hr/>				
TOTAL	\$ 7,311.50	\$ 3,547.00	\$ 7,770.91	\$ 15,013.35

ATTENDANCE

We count because YOU count!

Dec 28th: 77 / Nursery: 1 Online: 47/71* SS: 0

TOTAL: 149*

Jan 4th: 102 / Nursery: 4 Online: 48/72* SS: 16

TOTAL: 178*

Jan 11th: 120 / Nursery: 2 Online: 64/96* SS: 11

TOTAL: 218*

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