

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
200 W Third Street
Mansfield, OH 44902-1287
419-524-4813

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

The Quest

January, 2026

Leadership Team

Rev. David Zerby
Interim Minister

Sandy Stout
Church Secretary

Kathy DeLozier
Music Director

Sandy Stout
Chairperson of the Board

Beth Armstrong
Vice-Chairperson of the Board

Stana Shogren
Church Treasurer

Sue Dyson
Finance Secretary

Dominic Morris
Diaconate Chair

Joe Rice ~ Stacia Scott
Co-Chairs of the Elders

Bill "Scotty" Scott
Chair of the Trustees

**Fred Kohler
& Stacia Scott**
Co-Chair of the Finance Committee



**Worship Time: 10:30 am
Adult Sunday School: 9:30 am
Youth & Young Adults: 10:30
am**

www.firstchristianchurchmansfield.com

Check the website any day to look at the Newsletter, the Mid-Week-
Updates, the Church Calendar and so much more

Pastor's Peace:

Dear First Christian Church family,

The calendar once again turns to another year. We enter this new year with much anticipation of what 2026 will bring for this faithful congregation. The book of Ecclesiastes reminds us that '*For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven*'. (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

None of us know for certain what the next season in the life of this church will look like exactly. We do know that it will look different than it did fifty years ago, ten years ago, and yes, even different than in 2025. Change happens and it is indeed inevitable. How we prepare for change and how we choose to respond can make all the difference in the world.

For the past eighteen months I have witnessed a faith community coming to terms with the understanding that things are very different than they once were. At the same time, I have appreciated your willingness to accept the need for change while also continuing to be a consistent gathering of Disciples committed to finding ways to be Christ to one another and to those beyond the church building. I encourage all of you to keep your eyes, your ears, and your hearts open to new possibilities and directions.

The prophet Isaiah shared words of divine inspiration that are as relevant today as when they were first given: "I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth; do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." (Isaiah 43:19)

Our season together is soon coming to a close. I consider it a true blessing to have served as your interim minister for this part of your congregational journey. We may not have accomplished everything we had hoped for. For the areas where I may have fallen short, or 'stepped on toes', or 'ruffled feathers' please understand it was never intentional to hurt or diminish anything or anyone. Part of doing transitional work is to help congregations consider ways of being church a bit differently for new seasons while remaining ever faithful to the timeless truth of the Good News.

While I conclude my interim ministry here in Mansfield on Sunday, January 25, I hope you know that you will always remain within my heart and in my prayers for your continued journey forward.

As Jesus was preparing to leave his earliest followers he shared with them a blessing. May you hear and receive hope from these words for yourselves and for the future of what is to come with your next season.

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

In all things with love!

Pastor David

Snap Shots from 7th Annual Celebrating Sobriety Holiday Party, held Thursday, December 11th ~ 6 pm – 8 pm in First Christian Church Fellowship Hall



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Our Community Breakfast the 3rd Saturday of each month will be **Saturday, January 17th**

Set up & preparation begins at 7 am
Serving **8:30 to 10:00 am**
~ Clean up to follow by 10:30 am.

Menu for January will be:



Pancakes, Sausage Pattie, Biscuits and Homemade Sausage Gravy, bowl of Grits, and choice of a bowl of cereal plus a glass of orange juice and coffee or hot chocolate

Please sign up and come help at this rewarding ministry.



Thank you for all your care & compassion over Mom's last few years. She greatly appreciated your cards, visits and prayers. Thank you to those who were able & attended her calling hours & funeral. The food prepared was so appreciated and everyone raved about how delicious it was. Thank you Shogren's, Johnson's & Mellick's for serving. You all were special to Mom.

Sincerely,

***Marsha Hoover & Family &
Terry Swanger & Family***

I-Connect Classes:

**Intro to Cell Phone Uses 10 – 11 am
Low Impact Chair Exercises 11 am – 12 Noon
Fridays, January 2nd, 9th, 23rd, & 30th**

All Sunday Worship Services Zoom Call-In Invite Numbers:
312-626-6799 or 929-205-6099

Meeting ID: 281 630 1855
Passcode: 334189

For those wishing to call in, please know that you can dial either of the phone numbers listed above and when prompted, key in the **Meeting ID** and then again when prompted, key in the **Passcode** and then you will be connected.

You may talk and we will hear you; we just won't be able to see your smiling face(s)!!! We are set that the Phone numbers along with the Meeting ID and Passcode remain the same for each invite.

Those who have email, receive email invites each Thursday via Email ~ If you would like to join via email, send your email address to: Mansfield1stcc18 33@gmail.com and you will be added!!!!

Outreach ~ Christmas

January 4th the Christmas decorations will come down and be put away until next year; however, you can still bring ***hats, gloves, mittens, scarves and socks*** and leave them in the box at the front entrance. (We really need more warm socks). These will be shared with those who need them at our January 17th Community Breakfast.

Christian Builders Adult Sunday School will begin a study entitled “The Twelve Disciples.” Come at 9:30 and learn why our church is also called “Disciples of Christ.”

Our New Path Forward

Advent / Christmas / Epiphany season offers FCC an opportunity to look back at the past, celebrate the present, and especially look for where we will be in the future. God call each of us, individually and collectively, to seek God's vision for 2026. May we all be blessed as we move into God's future....

Blessings and Love,

Jane Stout

Calendar Reminders

Chat & Chew Quilt Club

Quilt Club will not meet again until
March 16th

Disciple Men's Fellowship

We will not meet during the winter months
See you in April!!!

Elder's Meeting

The next Elder's Meeting is **Tuesday, January 6th** via Zoom at 7 pm

Euchre Card Party

No Euchre Parties until March

Sarah Group

Sarah Group will not meet again until
March 3, 2026

Church Board

Will meet Wednesday, **January 14th** at **7:00** pm via Zoom.

Worship & Music

Worship and Music Committee wants to thank those that helped set up the Advent/Christmas decorations. The decorations will be coming down January 4th after Church and we could use any and all those wonderful hands in storing our decorations for next year. We hope everyone enjoyed the Advent devotional and had a wonderful Christmas.

Blessings, Beth

Congregational Meeting



The 2025 First Christian Church Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 18th (weather permitting). The meeting will be held In the Sanctuary following Worship Service ~ Following the meeting we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a delicious Pot Luck Lunch ~ Please see the sign-up sheet just as you come

into the church to sign up to bring a covered dish to share ~ A Main Dish or a Side Dish or a Salad or a Dessert ~ Beverages will be provided by the Sarah Group Ladies ~ We will also be using paper plates and silverware!

The 2026 Directory's will be available at this meeting. If you have any changes to your name, address, phone numbers (home and/or cell) or email address, please notify Sandy before January 11th

Doris Reece Obituary



Mansfield: Doris Marie Reece passed away peacefully surrounded by her loved ones on Monday, December 8, 2025. She was 97.

She was born on September 26, 1928 in Flint, Michigan to the late Halden H. and Marceta (David) Harris. After graduating from high school, Doris went on to receive her degree in social work from Ohio University, where she also met her husband Alvin Reece. The couple shared nearly 72 years of marriage together until his passing in 2022, now they are together again.

Doris was a longtime member of the First Christian Church in Mansfield, where she served as a deaconess, the wedding reception coordinator, church librarian, as well as a Bible School teacher and leader of many women's devotional groups. Professionally, she worked for many years as an Assistant Librarian for the Madison Schools, primarily at the old junior high school and Madison South. In her spare time she was an avid reader, particularly anything in the historical romance genre, as well as sitting down with a good crossword puzzle. Doris and Alvin also enjoyed taking bus trips, visiting the Outer Banks, and walking all three parks at Disney World. Above all else though, she loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She is survived by her two daughters Marsha (Tim) Hoover and Terry Swanger, four grandchildren Jason (Heather) Hoover, Joshua Hoover, Ben (Allison) Swanger and Erin Swanger, twelve great grandchildren Mackenzie, Brooklynn, and Aubrey Hoover, Tristan Jones, Griffin Hoover, Kyle, Aiden, Dylan, Easton, and Trinity Swanger, and Aubriella and Aryanna Taylor, and sister-in-law Nellie Parker.

The Reece family will receive guests on Friday, December 12, 2025 from 10 am to 10:30 am in the Snyder Funeral Homes, Marion Avenue Chapel, where a funeral service honoring her life will begin immediately after. Rev. Zerby will officiate. Burial to follow in Mansfield Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Mansfield First Christian Church or to the Richland County Dog Shelter.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff at Wedgewood Estates and Hospice of Western Reserve for their exceptional care of Doris.

UPDATED/REVISED: Hygiene Kits ~

We are collecting Hygiene Kits for Church World Service

***Beginning in January or sooner you may bring in completed kits or the items listed below:
Please Note, Items have changed from in the past:***

1 washcloth (January)

1 fingernail or toenail clipper (removed from Package) (Feb)

1 toothbrush in original packaging (March)

1 Bath size bar of soap in original package (April)

1 Travel-size deodorant (3.4 oz. or less, non-aerosol) (May)

1 Travel-size lotion (3.4 oz. or less, fragrance-free, NEW Only) May

1 Travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz. or less, NEW Only) (June)

1 Travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz. or less, expiration date of 1 year) (July)

1 Sturdy wide-tooth comb (6" minimum teeth, packaging removed) (August)

1 gallon resealable plastic bag

Sarah Group Ladies will put together any non-completed items at their September meeting.



**We have a
cupboard in
fellowship hall
(behind the
curtain) to
store the kits
and various
supplies as they
come in.**

**If you're interested in putting the kid's kits together, please pick
up a copy of the supplies for it on the sign- up table**

January



1st Stacia Scott

14th Jane Mellick
Bill Scott

18th James Baker

19th Hannah Johnson

22nd Rev. David Zerby

28th Marsha Hoover

31st Reid Gillen

Early Fe3bruary, 2026 Birthdays:

3rd Darrell Glenn

Marilyn Johnson

Sandy Stout

5th Tony Morris

*The Outreach Committee is happy to
Wish each of You a very Happy
Birthday and to say "Thank You" for
your contribution to the Birthday Fund
which helps with the cost of our
monthly Community Breakfast*



No January Anniversaries

January 25th will be Pastor David's last Sunday with us & we will send him off with a reception & light refreshments in the lounge. Please come and help send him off with our Thanks for the past 18 months with us.



Elders

01/04 Jill Danison

01/11 Scott Danison

01/18 Stacia Scott

01/25 Laurie Parish

Lay Leaders

Jill Danison

Scott Danison

Teresa Lupton

Stacia Scott

GREETERS

January, 2026:

February, 2026: Need a Volunteer

(if unable to Greet ~ Contact Peggy Boddy 419-512-0696)

PREPARING COMMUNION January: Peggy Boddy

Preparing Communion February, 2026 Need a Volunteer

January Diaconates: Need 2 Volunteers

From Your Church Secretary, Sandy



Hello 2026!!!

- ◊ Hey, Hey, Hey, Can you believe it is 2026!!!! Yes, we will all turn a year older in 2026 and we will continue our many outreach programs in 2026 as we continue to look for our part-time settled minister.
- As you begin to bring Hygiene Kits or the items for them, put them on the table in the lounge and we will then take down into Fellowship to the cupboard until time for the Sarah Group ladies to put them together and pack them away. We hope to be able to have 100 again, as they are much needed and used all around the US and the world.
- The new 2026 Sign-Up Sheets are on the table in the Nave just outside the Sanctuary ~ help with Community Breakfast, Serve as a Greeter, Serve as a Lay Leader, Help prepare Communion, serve as a Diaconate, sign up for the I-Connect Use of Smart/Cell Phones &/or the Chair Exercises (invite a friend to come) ~ Please stop by and sign up where you best can!!!!
- **IMPORTANT:** Community Breakfast workers ~ Please continue to make things easier for the Community Breakfast Shoppers by writing on the white board what supplies that are needed for the next month breakfast. The white board is on the door of the supply room!!!

The February 2026 Quest deadline will be: Tuesday, January 27th for Committee meetings, Notices, Photos, Articles, etc ~ Quest will be emailed & mailed Thursday, January 29th!

Nothing can bring you peace but yourself

November Numbers

2nd 52	Income	\$ 8,073	\$129,667
9th 31	Expense	<u>\$15,349</u>	<u>\$136,875</u>
16th 27	Difference	\$ -7,276	\$ -7,208
23 rd 25			
30th <u>23</u>			

164

(includes visitors & Children) Via
Zoom, & Sanctuary visitors &
Facebook Viewers

Scriptures- January, 2026

Jan. 4th Second Sunday after Christmas	Ephesians 1:3-14 John 1:10-18
Jan. 11th Epiphany	Acts 10:34-43 Matthew 3:13-17
Jan. 18th Second Sunday of Epiphany	1 Corinthians 1:1-9 John 1:29-42
Jan. 25th Third Sunday after Epiphany Pastor David's Last Sunday with Us	1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Matthew 4:12-23



Please remember our Prayer Concerns

Betty Zartman is home and continues needing our prayers for her health concerns;
Heidi Barler-McKenzie is now on oxygen with additional health concerns;
Steve Storch (Sandy Stout's son) continues his struggles with grief from the passing of Christa;

December Community Breakfast Prayer Requests are on the table in the Nave beside the sign-up sheets



Remember those who have ongoing health concerns: Frank Daniell, Darrell Glenn, Theresa Hilbert, Lisa Stout, London & Carley Hamilton, Baby Garrett Egler (friend of Laurie Parish), Sharon Ryan, Robert and Delores Au & Troy and Krista Cramer family; Marylyn Bradley, Kennedy Evelyn Scott (great-granddaughter of Bill & Stacia Scott), Terry Hall, Weston Montgomery, Rantavia, Lisa, Julie Rogers-Milligan, Sherie Bowman, Greg Rogers, Missy Bradley, Beverly Whitaker, Sally Rogers, Janet Hess (Sandy Stout's sister)

All those serving in the Armed Services currently military serving here and/or abroad

Please forward prayer concerns & updates to Sandy or Stacia Scott, Elder Chairperson