

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

PUBLISHED MONTHLY

The Quest

August, 2025

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

"I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35)

The Pastor's Peace

July 27 was the last Sunday of my interim call agreement with this congregation. And yet here I am still writing to you in this month's newsletter. So what's up with that?

On the bulletin board outside of the pastor's office you will find a depiction of an interesting looking bird. The image of a Sankofa bird is depicted with its body pointed and moving forward while its head is turned backward and holding an egg in its beak. This embodies the idea that it's not wrong to go back and retrieve knowledge or lessons from the past.



The Sankofa symbol also encourages critical examination of the past, acknowledging both positive and negative aspects, to learn from them and create a more just and equitable future.

During our interim time together, we have looked at some key areas as your profile was prepared and your search began for your next settled pastor. Exploring congregational history and heritage, identifying current mission opportunities, developing church leadership, and strengthening denominational connection are all important areas to be looked at as a church prepares for its future minister.

As I have shared before, search processes don't occur nearly as quickly as they once did (and it likely goes without saying not as fast as most would prefer). Quite frankly there aren't nearly enough people in vocational ministry right now. We have more leaving ministry through retirement, financial reasons, and other needs than we have people responding to calls to faithfully serve local congregations. The average length of time for search processes have increased. What at one time may have taken a year or less has now extended up to two years and potentially longer.

What does that mean for us here in Mansfield? My initial call agreement has ended. Church leadership and I have agreed for us to shift to monthly renewal periods for this present time. We have found ways to adjust my call agreement to provide some financial saving to the church. One of those ways is that I will be away one Sunday a month.

So we will continue to journey on a path together for a bit longer – as you continue your search for settled pastoral leadership and as I explore what comes next for me.

I will do my best to keep asking questions that will prompt you to keep looking back from time to time to gather up the important things that you will take with you as you continue moving forward.

On July 27 I kept my personal tradition of sharing one of my favorite stories in worship. It's a story I share at the beginning of and at the end of my interim call with a church.

Continued

And I paired that story with the gospel text I began this article with.

May we continue to strive to love one another as Christ loves us. As we cast our vision forward while occasionally looking behind us, may First Christian Church Mansfield be the church God calls us to be.

In all things with love!

Pastor David



Screen over the window well outside the Archives Room ~ People were throwing trash, clothing, etc so, Nelson, Scotty, Teresa and her nephew Derrick cleaned out the well and then made this cover for it!!

Great way to use the old risers from fellowship hall to make our building look nice!!!!

Sign UP Table

Here you can sign up to be a:
Greeter,
Prepare Communion (and yes all supplies are provided and in the kitchenette),
be a Diaconate to serve Communion (while meeting in the Chapel) and Collect the Offering,
to help at the next Community Breakfast,
have a fun evening playing Euchre,
pick up a current directory,
pick up the prayer concerns from our Community Breakfast,
pick up a listing of supplies needed for Hygiene Kits, Period Packs and Kids Packs
and so much more ~
Stop by and see what interest you.



The **Ohio Sales Tax Holiday** for 2025 will take place from **August 1, 2025, to August 14, 2025**. During this period:

- **Items priced \$500 or less, such as clothing, electronics, and home goods, will be tax-free.** Includes School Supplies

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!!!!



PRAYER GROUP: Our first of the month Prayer Group will meet **Wednesday, August 6th**. We will begin at 1:00 and conclude around 1:30 p.m. Please enter at the Fellowship Hall door as it will be available until 12:55. This allows Sandy and those in the office and others in the church to share in the group. Everyone is welcome to join in. We invite you to continue to share as a family as we also bring worship and music to our friends at Wedgewood at 2:30. All are welcome.

DIRECTORY UPDATES

**Carrie Dyson-Blanco
& Family
40 Cedar Walk, Unit 2209
Long Beach CA 90802**

**In our July 9th mid-week we
Advised you that Nina Holmes
had a new phone number ~ She
DOES NOT ~ Her number is
419-756-6068 as it is in the
directory**

**Jean Wendland
Cell Phone # 419-612-2508**

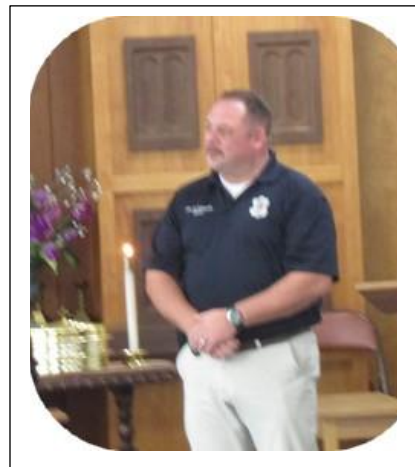
**Heidi Barler McKenzie
address correction
446 ½ Apple Lane
Mansfield OH 44905
Email Address: Hswilliams36@yahoo.com**



As Ray & Jane Mellick celebrated 64 blessed years of marriage, their children and grandchildren surprised them by attending worship service, Sunday, July 13th!!

Pictured Left to Right: front row: Missy, Hannah, Greg, Ray, Jane, Carrie; back row: Dude, Eli, Scott, Andrew, Noah, Jill, Mackenzie, Nick, Corrin and Chase

Sunday, July 13th, our Second Sunday Guest Speaker was Mansfield Police Officer Alen Edwards. He shared his mission and duties, which he really enjoys, Enforcing the Law, being a part of the Neighborhood Action/Impact for Youth Involvement; He enjoys meeting people and having honest dialog with honest intent



Sunday, June 29th our Guest Speaker was Pastor Tim Brown, Regional Chaplain for Northeast Ohio. He provided an oversight for the Regional Support Plan for our Facility.

Chaplain Services: Confidential Counseling; Prayer; Private Devotions; Religious Accommodations; Crisis Management; Spiritual Guidance; Grief and Loss; Available 24/7 for Residents and Staff;

You may contact Chaplain Brown at: 330-844-0270 or email: TBrown@nationalchurchresidences.org.

“Chaplaincy: Spiritual Care grounded in our shared Humanity”

Our New Path Forward

Last week was a whirlwind of activity for Sandy and me. It was good to be out in our community and feel part of life outside our apartments. When we got home each day I would do what I absolutely had to do before drifting off to sleep while watching old Christmas movies on Hallmark. Saturday evening, I was looking for a messaged to share at our Waterford Service when the quilt hanging that had been hanging in the same spot for most of my time in the apartment suddenly dropped 2 feet before the tension rod caught again. It could have been the amount of dust that had accumulated on and around it or maybe it was God reminding me that being out and about was good but not at the expense of my time with God.

It was a sign that I need the inward journey as much, if not more than I need to move from task to task. I needed to be refilled from the roots up, absorbing all I can so that I can be present with God. Fortunately, this week is a much slower, more inward time for me at home. I still have laundry and all of my tasks of cleaning, but this week will mainly center on reading and writing and reflecting on being in God's presence. There also may be a few Christmas movies to watch, too. It depends on what God has planned for our much-needed time of being present.

I hope you take time to be present with God as we share a new path together.

Blessings and peace, Jane Stout

RUMMAGE SALE, 2025

This year's Rummage Sale Netted the Churches General Fund:
\$570.18

Very Little was left over: Clothing went to Addy's Attic; Books went to Galion Library for annual book sale; Dishes went to Volunteers of America; the last of the small items were offered to Community Breakfast attendees and what was left over went to Goodwill

Annual First Christian Church Picnic, Sunday, August 10th at the Marshall Park Pavilion (which is totally handicapped accessible parking & to the pavilion & rest rooms) ~ This year the Committee is inviting you to select a recipe from one of the First Christian Church recipes books to prepare ~ If you do select a recipe, you are asked to put the author of the person on your dish. Laurie Parish will be making Ruby Bowden's Sloppy Joes as our meat this year ~ You will still need to bring your own Place Setting ~ So, get your picnic baskets ready!!



Hygiene Kits ~ We are collecting Hygiene Kits for Church World Service

Beginning in March you may bring in completed kits or the items listed below:

1 hand towel (measuring 15"x28" or 16"x32") (March)

1 washcloth (March)

1 wide-tooth comb (removed from Package) (April)

- ♦ *Must be Sturdy with at least 6 inches of teeth*
- ♦ *No Pocket Combs or Picks*
- ♦ *Rattail & Combs without handles are acceptable*

1 finger nail or toe nail clipper (removed from Package) (May)

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

1 toothbrush in original packaging (July)

10 standard size Band-Aids (August)

If you make the kits yourself, **DO NOT add toothpaste**. Seal all items in a one- gallon plastic bag with a zipper closure.



Period Packs & Kids Packs List are on the Sign Up Table ~ Great time to think about doing Kid's Packs with School Supplies on Sale!!

Preparing Communion

Please see the sign up sheet to Prepare Communion (grapes are provided) ~ Also, to serve as a Diaconate to collect the offering ~ Please see Dominic Morris for an questions!!!

As Peggy is organizing our Archives Room, she has found that we have extra yearbooks ~ If you would like one of the old yearbooks, they are on the table in the lounge in front of the kitchenette ~ They go back as far as 1972 and up to the last one done in 2016!!!!



COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Our Community Breakfast the 3rd Saturday of each month will be

Saturday, August 16th

Set up & preparation begins at 7 am

Serving **8:30 to 10:00 am**

~ Clean up to follow at 10:30 am.

Menu for August will be:

Scrambled Eggs, toast along with Sausage Pattie, Biscuits and Sausage Gravy, bowl of Grits a bowl of fruit 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.

Calendar Reminders

All Church Activities/Meetings & Worship happening will continue via Zoom or Church Worship in Person in the Sanctuary

Each Worship Service Zoom invite will be mailed in the mid-week or the next month Quest Newsletter for those calling in on the phone lines & emailed on Thursday for those connecting via Computer

Church is open for worshipping on Sunday mornings, using the Front Door

Zoom meeting/worship invites are emailed prior to the meeting

The Elder's will be having a Worship Service at **Wedgewood** on **Wednesday, August 6th** at **2:30 pm** with music, worship, and prayer & **The Waterford** on **Sunday, August 17th** at **3:00 pm**

Elder's Meeting
The next Elder's Meeting is
Tuesday, August 5th via
Zoom at 7:00 pm

Disciple Men's Fellowship
Will meet Tuesday, August 19th at
12 Noon at the Amvets on Fourth
Street

CHURCH PICNIC
SUNDAY, AUGUST 10TH
MARSHALL PARK
PAVILION

Chat & Chew Quilt Club
We will meet on Monday, August
18th at 11:00 am for a light potluck
lunch in Fellowship Hall. Bring
project pieces that we passed out at
our last meeting. Come, chat, chew
and quilt.

Sarah Group is off for the Summer
months of June, July and August;
however, you may still bring in
Hygiene Kits or the various supplies
for the Hygiene Kits; Plus please note
we are adding CWS Period Packs and
CWS Kids Kits and we will see you on
September 2nd

Church Board
Will meet Wednesday, August
13th at 7:00 pm via Zoom

BRING YOUR OWN PLACE SETTING
~ COLD WATER PROVIDED ~
COVERED DISH TO SHARE

Euchre Card Party, Friday, August 15th, at 5:00 pm in
Fellowship Hall
~ Please sign up on the Sign Up Sheet on the Table outside of the
Sanctuary so we know how many table and chairs to set up ~
Also, bring a snack to share



August Anniversary

08/09 Casey and Kasey Gillen
will celebrate their 11th
Anniversary

2nd Jean Wendland
6th Joseph Rice
17th Heidi Barler-McKenzie
20th Jennifer Morris
21st Shealyn Scott
29th Mary Tuel

Operation Christmas Shoebox

If you are thinking about putting a shoebox or two together, now is a good time to start as many of the items are School Supplies and School Supplies are on Sale as it will soon be time for the kiddo's to return to school. The Shoeboxes are usually needed to be completed early November.



**Operation
Christmas
Child**

Early September Birthdays:

2nd: Norma Jean Gongwer
Larry Hilbert
Seth Dahlhausen
Teresa Lupton

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

Elders

08/03 Scott Danison
08/10 Missy Parish (Picnic)
08/17 Stacia Scott (Waterford)
08/24 Laurie Parish (Wedgewood)
08/31 Ray Mellick

Lay Leaders

Scott Danison
Stacia Scott
Teresa Lupton
Need a Volunteer
Need a Volunteer

GREETERS

August, 2025 Front Door: Sandy Stout
September, 2025: Need a Volunteer
(if unable to Greet ~ Contact Peggy Boddy 419-512-0696)

PREPARING COMMUNION August: Sandy Stout
Preparing Communion September Need a Volunteer

August Diaconates: Need a Volunteer

From Your Church Secretary, Sandy

Hello August!!!



◇ Here we are already in our last days of “summer” those days we call the “Dog Days of Summer” which means: Although the dog days of summer traditionally has referred to the hottest days of the year, the days are actually a specific period: **July 3 to Aug. 11** every year. The phrase, though, can be traced back thousands of years to the days of the Roman Empire, according to the National Weather Service.

□ **IMPORTANT REMINDERS: PLEASE REMEMBER TO ALWAYS CLOSE THE GATE AND THE OUTSIDE DOOR OF THE ELEVATOR!!!! ALSO, PLEASE LABEL ITEMS IN REFRIGERATOR & BE SURE DOOR IS ALWAYS COMPLETELY CLOSED**

□ Check out the Annual Picnic Article on Page 5 ~ We had a friend in Civitan who called Sloppy Joes “Untidy Joesph’s”!

□ Cannot stress enough the importance to see the Sign Up Sheets on the Table in the Hallway as you head back to the Chapel for Worship ~ Please stop by and sign up where you best can!!!!

□ **Attn: Community Breakfastworkers ~ 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 September, 2025 Quest deadline will be: Tuesday, August 26th for Committee meetings, Notices, Photos, Articles, etc ~ Quest will be emailed & mailed Thursday, August 28th !!!

When it is dark enough, you can see the stars. Charles Beard

June Numbers

1st	83	Income	\$26,234	\$83,579
8th	32	Expense	<u>\$10,098</u>	<u>\$76,417</u>
15th	29	Difference	16,136	7,162
22nd	54			
29th	<u>52</u>			

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

Sermons & Scriptures– August, 2025

Aug. 3rd Colossians 3:1-11
Luke 12:13-21

Aug. 10th Church Picnic, Marshall Park

Aug. 17th Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16
Luke 12:32-40

Aug. 24th Hebrews 11:29 – 12:2
Luke 13:10-17

Aug. 31st Hebrews 13:1-8
Luke 14: 1, 7-14



Please remember our Prayer Concerns

Jean Wendland had outpatient surgery at Avita, July 22nd and is home resting and taking it easy as she heals;

Betty Zartman had surgery at OhioHealth Mansfield, Friday, July 11th & is home resting as she continues to heal and will be doing some Chemo treatments;

Stanley Marlow (Laurie Parish's cousin) had a very serious tedious surgery at the James, July 17th & is doing well;

Julie Rogers-Milligan (Beth Armstrong's sister) was been diagnosed with Breast Cancer & had surgery, July 22nd and she did very well with her surgery~expected to go home July 23rd to rest and heal;

London Parish, Sr. (Dude Parish's father) fell & was life flighted to University Hospital in Cleveland for surgery on his broken hip;

Sandy Messick (a friend of Sandy Woosley & Florida Regional Minister) recently diagnosed with metastatic breast cancer;



July 19th Community Breakfast Prayer Requests are on the table beside the sign-up sheets

Remember those who have ongoing health concerns: Frank Daniell, Darrell Glenn, Theresa Hilbert, Lisa Stout, Beverly Whitaker, London & Carley Hamilton, Carolyn Hootman, Joe Schultz, 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, Sherry Bowman, Weston Montgomery, Heidi Barler-McKenzie, Rantavia, Lisa, Christa Storch

Those serving in the Armed Services: All current military serving here and/or abroad

Please forward prayer concerns & updates to Pastor David &/or Sandy

Learn to Spot Phishing Scams

Fraudsters continually develop new ways to try to find out your personal information. Things to Watch For:

Posing as legitimate companies: Email and web address that are similar to a recognized entity, but are off by one or more characters; Ask for information that they should already have: your account number, Social Security Number, Employer Identification Number, or username and password; Be cautious if they refer to recent activity that you didn't make, such as a purchase or deposit, or to an account you don't have.

Messages that create a sense of Urgency: Claim there has been suspicious activity on your account; Indicate a loss of access to your account if you don't respond; Request you upgrade or install new privacy software or identity theft solutions; Offer a gift or prize for responding.

Emails with links or attachments: Include web links that at first glance look right, but lead to a fraudulent website; Attached is a document that looks legitimate but contains malware (malicious software). **Only open attachments you are expecting to receive;** Preview links to see where they go by having your mouse over the link without clicking on it. It will display the real website address.

Know when you may have been phished: Your statements stop being delivered to your current address; Suspicious charges to your account; Denied credit unexpectedly; IRS notification of duplicate taxes.

Tips to help Protect Yourself: Enroll in Your Bank or Credit Union Online; Use their Mobile app; Sign up for Alerts; **DO NOT PROVIDE** your Social Security number unless absolutely necessary ~ if you must provide your Social Security Number, call a known phone number or ask them to send a written request through the mail; If you receive a call or email you did not initiate requesting personal information, ask them to send you a written request. If they refuse or are not comfortable with the phone call, tell them you're not interested and hang up. If your account statement does not arrive as expected, contact your Bank or Credit Union immediately; Be careful what you post on-line about yourself; Check your Credit Report regularly ~ the law requires each of the national consumer reporting agencies to provide you with a free copy of your credit report, at your request, once every 12 months; Used multi-factor authentication (MFA) on on-line accounts ~ for example, along with the password, users might be asked to enter a code sent to their email, answer a secret question, or scan a fingerprint!

BOTTOM LINE IS BE ALERT AND EXTRA CAREFUL