

January 3, 2026

Dear Friends,

Attached is our annual "First Christian Church Year in Review." With God's grace, we have accomplished much and had an impactful year. We have supported our brothers and sisters in Christ and we have had fun along the way! As we fondly remember the past year of worship, fellowship, outreach, and community, let's reflect on the bounty of God's blessings. We pray for peace and continued ability to serve God and our community in the New Year.



JANUARY

- On January 3 we rang in the New Year with a hearty breakfast provided and served by Disciples Men and Disciples Women. In the past year we have seen an increase in participation in both groups.
- In mid-January we met with the Habitat for Humanity Board and with our sister church, Parkway Christian Church, to finalize details for our sponsorship of the upcoming build.
- The Membership Committee hosted a potluck and invited the Korean Christian Church, the Seventh Day Adventists and the Quaker Friends (our resident congregations). A good time was had by all!
- We collected over 300 boxes of tissues for Fairview School.

FEBRUARY

- Our Technology Director, Tex Wizard, enhanced our website and livestreaming capabilities and arranged for radio broadcasts of our service.
- On February 14, in partnership with the other downtown churches, we delivered sweet treats to all of the shelters in town.

MARCH

- Christian Education Committee hosted a lock-in for all church youth.
- Cheryl Lipe and Associate Pastor Lydia Loving hosted our annual Disciples Overview seminar. This informational event has proved to be valuable to our newest members.

APRIL

- Rev Goodfriend conducted somber Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services that were deeply moving and meaningful.
- On Easter morning, Jack & Amy Matthews supervised the youth groups in hosting our annual Omelet Bar, followed by Rev. Goodfriend's joyful Easter service.
- Kristin Mapes, our church historian, treated us to coffee and donuts after service in recognition of the 192nd birthday of our church!

MAY

- We broke ground on the Habitat House! Over 50 members of FCC & Parkway showed up to help on the first day of construction!
- The FCC Choir presented Music Sunday. We thrilled to the beautiful music and enjoyed duets by Carolyn Quinlan & Sharon Goughnour & Marianna Curtis & Lily Heitz. While the choir was on summer hiatus, we were blessed by music from the Grateful Bread Band (Alaina, Cole, Terry, Patty & Stacy). We also enjoyed performances by the Bell Choir throughout the summer.

JUNE

- Work continued on the Habitat House. We knew, of course, that Scott Wilkin, Robert McKeown and Kent Jacobs are skilled construction workers, but we were pleasantly surprised to discover that Dwight and Sandra Roberts are both handy with a hammer.

- Our annual neighborhood Block Party saw a large crowd of church members, friends & neighbors. Music was provided by the Grateful Bread Band. Last year's dance-off winners, Don and Sheri Ramsey, graciously handed off the trophy to the 2025 champs, Kent and Donna Jacobs.
- Marcia Monier and her counterpart at Parkway, Lynda Maddox, coordinated a hugely successful VBS that was attended by nearly 200 excited children. Their exuberance was contagious, and the children and all volunteers had a memorable experience.

JULY

- The Habitat build continues. On July 10 we were delighted to welcome our friends from Fairview School, who contributed a day of labor to the cause.
- Associate Pastor Lydia Loving led a small group series for families of young children.

AUGUST

- The Ramseys hosted the annual church picnic at their cabin. A great time was had by all – especially Sam Lipe who won the fishing contest, reeling in 32 bass and blue gill. The youth groups had a cornhole competition which was won by Team Casey.
- The Fairview School Library volunteers reconvened to prep the library for the new school year. We were blessed with 6 new volunteers this year!

SEPTEMBER

- Parkway hosted a reception to celebrate the completion of the Habitat House. The happy new homeowners, the Newcomes, started attending our church.
- We conducted a successful diaper drive for the Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery.

OCTOBER

- At the annual chili cook-off, Charlie Watts fought off his competitors and defended his title of Chili Champion with his "Don Mohr Memorial Chili." Lee Williams won second place with "Lee's Sportsman's Chili," and Brenda Matthews took home the third-place trophy with "Brenda's Bountiful Chili."
- We enjoyed a wiener roast with our friends at Parkway at the home of Hunter Fields.

NOVEMBER

- Disciples Women hosted the 4th annual Angel Gift Mart, which provides Christmas gifts for low-income families at Fairview.
- In conjunction with Parkway Christian Church, we hosted a Thanksgiving dinner for those in need.

DECEMBER

- The Ramsey's invited us to invade their home for their annual candy cane party. Their house was overflowing with excited children!
- Throughout the advent season, Revs. Goodfriend and Loving led us in meaningful worship.
- Our tech specialist, Tex Wizard, created an interactive online calendar for keeping track of church events in 2026.

We have many groups at First Christian Church that meet regularly and work to serve God, FCC and the community. The above year-end summary details only some of the highlights of 2025. Other ongoing outreach supports many activities at Fairview; in conjunction with the Quakers, we provide a monthly meal at Helping Hands homeless shelter; Miss Linda serves a monthly cookie and punch reception; and our amazing Property Department guys, Dave Gillespie and Scott Wilkin, are ever watchful over the many maintenance needs of our building. Praise Be to God!