

2021 Annual Reports

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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BOARD CHAIR

Last year's Annual Report began with "2020. Enough Said". Unfortunately, this year's will begin almost the same way - 2021. Enough said. An unprecedented year in an unprecedented world. Covid-19, 2021 continued to wreak havoc on "the normalcy" of our church life, but we persevered and continued to worship and meet with the same energy and creativity that First Christian Church of Wadsworth is known to have.

January of 2021 found FCC worshipping with one service via livestream and holding meetings through zoom. The Board received a letter of resignation from Jennifer Frisby as church Secretary, a new projector was purchased for the Sanctuary, and Jerry Ritzman was elected by the Board to complete the term of Dave Heisler (resignation) on the Legacy Foundation Committee.

February saw us continuing to worship through livestream and meeting by way of zoom. The season of Lent, the time of reflection and preparation before Easter, had our Worship Committee searching for ways to make this time special even though we could not meet in person. Felicity Wilson and her committee did an excellent job of doing just that. Claire Wilson was approved by the Board as part-time Secretary. Claire was a welcome addition to our office staff.

Yes, March continued with one service at 10:00 am via livestream only and zoom meetings. Reverend Allen Harris was hired as the new Minister for our Region. A prayer wall was placed near our Boyer Street entrance during the Lenten Season to encourage church and community members to share prayers publically by tying prayer ribbons on the wall.

March also saw a new committee formed at FCC. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion or DEI Committee. The purpose of the group is to be a resource for education, outreach, social justice reform, and fellowship.

In March, we also received word that \$45,000 of our Paycheck Protection Program loan was forgiven. This was a Small Business Administration Loan that helped us keep our staff employed during the Covid-19 crisis. Many thanks to Lisa Jones, our church Treasurer for her dedication in applying for this loan and her concentrated effort in seeking forgiveness of this loan.

April continued with us worshipping (1 service) via livestream and meeting through zoom. A beautiful outdoor sunrise service was held on Easter Sunday, however, and those who attended were thrilled to be able to celebrate the resurrection of our Lord in person with other congregants.

Through your generosity, our Month of Compassion allowed us to send over \$22,600 to Week of Compassion. We certainly did "Let Love Flow". April also bought us the reorganization of our Women's Ministry, with Susan Ritzman established as Chair and Felicity Wilson, Vice-Chair. Their goal is to revitalize this essential ministry of our congregation.

May - yes, we still worshiped via livestream, but had plans to host outdoor worship services, weather permitting. A motion was approved by the Board to replace our existing boilers and associated equipment. The Board also approved a motion to commit \$10,000 over the next three years to Circle of Compassion. This will help sustain funds used for immediate disaster support and ongoing development for developing countries. The money will be used for immediate needs and growing the funds to be available for the long run.

A Search Committee was formed in May to find a Contemporary Music Leader. Paul Huber, Chair, Pastor Shelby, Felicity Wilson, Scott Marsh, Karen Rule and Cindy Farver (ex-officio) were to finish the job description and begin the process of finding the appropriate candidate.

June - **Hallelujah** - Worship returned to in-person (also livestreamed) with one masked service at 10 am. Our Official Board was on summer recess. Vacation Bible School, Director Kate Gray and many volunteers, welcomed kids to three days of "Treasured—Discovering You're Priceless to God". And the kids were priceless.

The Contemporary Music Leader Search Committee continued its work in finding the right person to fill this important position.

July continued with masked indoor and outdoor services and a little more normalcy in terms of get-togethers and meetings. Camp Christian was open to the youth of our congregation and school supplies were collected for the Salvation Army Back to School project.

August welcomed Gary Oliver as our Contemporary Music Leader. Gary's job description includes providing musical oversight for our Coffee and Connections worship service, also.

Our wonderful Outreach Committee, chaired by Dan Sondles, was able to hold its annual Garage Sale in our Fellowship Hall. Thank you Outreach for contributing over \$4,000 to Circle of Compassion and our Camp Christian Maintenance Fund.

September was a very busy month as we started back with two in-person worship services, Sunday School resumed, the Men's and Women's groups held gatherings, a Baptism & Pastor's Class was offered (16 of our youth will be baptized) and motions were approved to update the Youth Room and replace some front steps and railings and stairs and railing in the parking lot. The service window between the kitchen and Fellowship Hall will also be replaced.

October was, this year, Staff Appreciation Month, with different departments being honored each week. Without this incredible staff, FCC would not be able to function as we do. Many thanks to you all...Donna Kronander, Claire Wilson, Bob Heller, Anita Tenney, Kate Gray, Scott Marsh, Gary Oliver, Mary Rocha, Lisa Jones and Kathy Johnson. Although our Pastors chose not to be "appreciated" this month, we still thank them for their dedication to leading and guiding our church and being examples of living a life of faith.

Outreach was busy again in October with painting portions of Camp Christian, assisting with Feeding Medina County drive-thru food distribution, and, again, collecting supplies for the Bucket Brigade. FCC members truly have servants' hearts. **You are all so appreciated.**

At the October Board meeting, Val Baughman, Nominating Committee Chair, introduced changes to the Usher/Deacon roles in the church. The proposed idea would involve 24 Deacons (3 teams of 8) serving on a rotating basis. Two chairs would share leadership responsibilities and Board duties. This change will be brought to the congregation for vote during the 2022 Annual Meeting.

November - due to the resignation of our Building Operations Manager, Bob Heller, in October, Terry Tucker was asked to lead us through the interim period. Terry agreed to help with the physical plant with no

hesitation. A Search Committee consisting of Dave Critchfield, Chair, Paul Huber, Rick Rule, and Terry Tucker was formed.

December brought us a Christmas Season that was much different from the previous year. We held our 47th Search For the Christ Child, and met in person for Sunday services, The Longest Night, and two candle light services on Christmas Eve.

The committee assigned to finding a new Building Operations Manager did that in record time. Felicity Wilson was approved at the December Board meeting to fill this position. Welcome back, Felicity.

Despite all the challenges of the past year, we will rise above them and ride triumphantly into 2022. I am thankful to God for you all and hope the New Year opens doors of unprecedented blessings to us all. May we all have the wisdom to navigate the twists and turns. Enjoy the peace and always remember that First Christian Church of Wadsworth "feeds the need for togetherness, community, and prayer to give us a sense of normalcy and a dose of hope".

Blessings to you all in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Farver, Official Board Chair

SENIOR PASTOR **OVERVIEW**

When I wrote last year's Annual Report I naively assumed it would constitute an "unprecedented" anomaly in the life of First Christian Church. But as we head into our third calendar year of a global pandemic, practices we once considered temporary are becoming a way of life for our faith community: everything from mask wearing to self-serve communion to hybrid worship, Sunday School, and meetings. However, we do not lose hope, because through all of the ongoing challenges we are facing as individuals and as a church, God continues to work among us and through us to spread God's compassion.

Teaching and Worship Leading

- **“Community” Sermon Series and Bible Study** - During Lent and Easter when we were unable to worship together in person due to the pandemic, Pastor Shelby and I worked together to develop and deliver a special sermon series aimed at strengthening our sense of community. With the help of our talented staff we interviewed members of the community at large and put together custom videos examining the theme of community. We also created an accompanying bible study exploring the biblical foundations of community and our calling to build the Beloved Community.
- **Prayer Practice Videos** - Pastor Shelby and I wanted to find ways to assist our members in continuing to grow spiritually despite our physical separation, so we developed a series of videos on different types of prayer practices and published them weekly during the season of Lent.
- **Holy Week and Easter** - When it became clear that we would not be able to worship in person for Holy Week and Easter we worked hard to design special worship experiences for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday including an outdoor Easter Sunrise Service hosted on the church lawn.
- **Sermon Series “Tell Me A Story”** - In response to the disconnection and tension resulting from this year of pandemic separation and societal discord we decided to offer a sermon series over the summer rooted in storytelling. The goal was to help us reconnect with one another and find encouragement by highlighting our shared humanity and spiritual journeys. We were blessed by many different inspiring stories.
- **Contemporary Service Revamp** - Since my arrival I have been wanting to revamp the Contemporary Worship service so that it has a more contemporary feel. We put together a team of regular attendees to review our current order of worship and discuss ways to enhance the experience for our current worshipers and attract new members. With the expertise of our new Contemporary Music Leader, Gary Oliver, we spent

the fall implementing these changes. In the new year we will continue to review and enhance this service.

- **Hybrid Church** - I spent time this past year educating myself and exploring ways that our church can develop or enhance our hybrid church experience in all areas of our church life including worship, study/spiritual growth and community building. I attended an online training entitled “Healthy Practices - Hybrid Church”. I continue to work with our staff and tech leaders on ways to make our online presence more marketable for attracting and engaging new and younger members while also providing a meaningful experience for those participating in person.
- **Usher/Deacon Role Review** - Returning to in person worship during the pandemic has brought about changes in the duties of our Ushers and Deacons and has also decreased the number of people willing to serve. I had several meetings with former and current Usher and Deacon chairs to adapt the job descriptions, retrain the current volunteers and explore how this ministry can be most effective going forward.

Shepherding and Oversight

- **Mission and Vision** - I initiated meetings with the Elders over the summer months to host conversations about the church’s vision and mission. This was partly in response to the departure of some members who perceived preaching about racial equality and LGBTQ+ inclusion as “too political” or inconsistent with their own beliefs. These conversations will continue into the new year with greater intentionality as we put together a visioning committee to discern where God is calling us over the next 5 years.
- **Staff Retreat** - I secured a facilitator and worked with them to plan and conduct an all day off site staff retreat this Fall.
- **Staff Hires** - This past year saw the hire of three new staff members. I worked closely with Personnel Chair Paul Huber to oversee the hire of a new Secretary, Contemporary Music Leader, and Building Operations Manager.

- **Women's Ministry** - I worked closely with the leadership of the Women's Ministry Committee to provide support and assistance as the new team and structure got underway.
- **Stewardship** - I continue to chair the Generosity Team which meets regularly to discuss how we inspire the spiritual practice of generosity and communicate to the congregation about how their dollars translate into ministry. Our theme this year was "Stronger Together" and featured custom videos and a display in the Gathering Area.
- **Legacy Foundation** - Over the course of several months I worked closely with the leadership of the Legacy Foundation to review and update the policies.
- **Safety Protocols** - Throughout the year I worked to keep abreast of the latest CDC guidelines and recommendations and worked with staff and volunteers to adapt our procedures to ensure the safety of our congregation.
- **Policies and Procedures** - The Handbook that outlines our church's policies and procedures is overdue for a complete update. I have been working closely with our Board Chair to determine the best way to accomplish this task. We have a plan to undertake this task in the new year.

Community Engagement

- **Outreach** - The pandemic has resulted in increased hardship for many. Our church responded by increasing our Outreach giving to local and global needs. For more detailed information please see the Outreach report.
- **Month of Compassion** - Our church continues to be one of the top givers to this special offering and the past year was no exception. In addition to exceeding our goal of \$20,000, we became members of the "Circle of Compassion" and pledged to raise a minimum of \$10,000 additional dollars over time to help establish a \$1 million dollar endowment fund for Compassion.
- **Prayer Wall** - At the beginning of Lent we installed a temporary prayer wall in an attempt to provide a public space for members of our community to express our individual and collective prayers.

- **Joint Worship with Trinity UCC** - Due to the pandemic both the ecumenical Lenten series and our pulpit swap with Trinity were cancelled. So I approached Pastor Adam next door and proposed that we host a joint outdoor worship service with our two congregations. I was delighted by the positive response and turnout for this joint worship service.
- We continued to engage the community in events over the course of the year including hosting an **Outdoor Movie, Fourth of July** lawn games, **Search for the Christ Child**, and participating in the December **First Friday**.

Pastoral Care

With pandemic restrictions in place at many hospitals and nursing homes, my ability to visit in these settings was severely limited in 2021. I relied heavily on reaching out and praying with people over the phone as well as in person visits at the office or in people's homes.

Phone Calls - 201

In person - 121

Office - 97

Home Visits - 17

Hospital - 7

Funerals/Weddings/New Members

New Members: 1 (no 6th grade baptisms)

Reaffirmations: 1

Child Dedications: 0

Funerals: 6

Weddings: 4

Worship Statistics

January - April (Online only) Avg. Attendance = 174 (total views)

May (2 Outdoor Worship services, the rest Online only)

June (Resumed in person worship in the Sanctuary but kept Online option)

Worship Attendance June - December 2021

Average In person: 113

Average Online: 40

Average Total: 153

Christmas Eve = 226

(Contemporary 64, Traditional 99, Online 63)

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Sarah West, Senior Pastor

ASSOCIATE PASTOR AND DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES

Overview

While we were still enduring a pandemic for the entirety of 2021, our ability to build relationships and our opportunities for group gatherings in person increased from 2020. Thus, I was able to finally meet most of our members and experience special FCC traditions such as Search for the Christ Child; I was also able to be a part of important and fun events in the spiritual lives of our youth like summer camp and Youth Sunday. We resumed two services and Sunday School in the fall, allowing me to participate in vital ministries of this church I had not yet been able to experience.

2021 was not, however, an easy year in the life of our world, our country, our community, and our church. Due to the pandemic and a tense and divisive political climate, people were more sequestered than ever, making it even more difficult to connect across boundaries of difference. Many in our church community have struggled personally and communally, especially as we engage the tasks of visioning and discernment. For some, this has been an opportunity to lean into this beautiful and diverse community, but for others, these tensions have led to departure. As we seek to imagine a way forward with both creativity and sensitivity, I believe that God is at work in this church and in the lives of our members. I am hopeful and confident that we will be able to find a way forward that balances change and tradition, embracing an identity and future that we can pursue together. I am grateful to be in ministry with this congregation and I feel blessed to journey alongside a church family that values faith, compassion, and community.

Youth

In addition to weekly Youth Group during the winter/spring and fall/winter semesters and Sunday School beginning in September, I planned and hosted regular fellowship events for our Chi Rho (6th-8th grade) and CYF (9th-12th grade) youth groups with the help of our excellent volunteers. Thank you to Renee Prentice, Patrick Baxter-Andrews, and Kate Gray for your help with Chi Rho! Thank you as well to Chris Jones, Val Baughman, Sarah Maxon, Katie Speicher, Jean Sullivan, David Harris-Guerra, and Renee Prentice for helping out with our CYF group! A big thank you to Heather Errante, who also

been an incredible volunteer with both youth groups (in addition to teaching the baptism Sunday School class) - she has shopped for, prepared, served, and cleaned up meals and snacks for many events in the past year!

I also collaborated with Pastor Sarah, Kate Gray, Heather Errante, and Amy Tuck to plan this year's Baptism/Pastor's Class. We have worked and continue to work with sixteen adult volunteers serving as mentors to our Baptism Class as well.

The Youth Room also got a makeover to match 2020's paint job! Thanks to the hard work of Lisa Jones, who designed the new concept, ordered, picked up, and assembled the furniture (with the help of Chris Jones as well!), the Youth Room has a new and contemporary look, a more functional and versatile setup, and awesome additions like a coffee bar. As we continue to update and arrange the space, you'll see other changes such as the old youth office transitioning to a library and study space for our youth and framed photos moving into albums to be kept in the new youth library. Thank you to Lisa and the other volunteers who have helped renew and organize this space!

Below is a summary of 2021 youth events:

January

- CYF Trivia Night on Zoom
- Chi Rho Online Escape Room event
- All-Youth MLK Jr. Day of Service on Zoom (writing letters to home-bound members)

February

- CYF Jackbox Online Game Night
- Chi Rho Jackbox Online Game Night

March

- CYF Fellowship Event
- Chi Rho Fellowship Event

April

- CYF Fellowship Event
- Chi Rho Fellowship Event

May

- Youth Sunday Service & End of Year Picnic (CYF)

June

- Ice Cream Fridays
- CYF Half Lock-in (no overnight)

July

- Ice Cream Fridays
- Chi Rho Camp
- CYF Camp

August

- Ice Cream Fridays
- Chi Rho Scavenger Hunt
- CYF Committee Meeting

September

- CYF Fall Kickoff - Treasure Hunt & Bonfire at the Ritzman's
- Chi Rho Fall Kickoff - Game Night

October

- Chi Rho Fellowship Event
- CYF Halloween Party
- CYF Mohican Trip (High Ropes)

November

- Feedback meeting with high school youth, young families, and youth volunteers
- All-Youth Trampoline Park
- CYF & Chi Rho Bucket-Filling
- Search for the Christ Child prep & practice

December

- CYF Christmas Party/Lock-In
- Chi Rho Christmas Party
- Search for the Christ Child
 - With 171 guests, Search 2021 was a bit smaller than in previous years. Some changes were made due to COVID and fewer participants/actors than we've had in the past. We tried some new things that worked and some that didn't, but overall, it was a great event! We also raised \$596 for FISH and collected donations of food and personal care items for FISH, Salvation Army, and our own food pantry. A big thank you to the many youth, parents, and other volunteers who gave time, energy, expertise, feedback, and more. Search wouldn't have happened without all of you and I am so grateful!

Other

- Worked with other youth leaders around the country to curate resources for youth around faith issues (this is ongoing)

- Updated youth informational materials (example - new brochure)
- CYF Regional Events
 - FCC Wadsworth CYF prepared & shared a brief vespers service and discussion via zoom
- Youth Leadership During COVID ecumenical small group meetings
- Collaborated with Kate Gray to begin revising and developing our policies concerning youth, children, and other vulnerable populations

Young Adults

Though progress has been slow in developing a special ministry for young adults at FCC, I am optimistic that we can grow our small group of adults in their 20s and 30s into a thriving ministry for fellowship, spiritual growth, and support. In the meantime, we do have some young adults participating in our existing ministries - on the Board, the Elders, the DEI committee, and other groups. We also have young adults teaching Sunday School, volunteering with our youth, and participating in our music ministries. In addition to one-on-one meetings with some of these young adults, the events and initiatives listed below were specifically geared towards this age group.

Winter/Spring

- TED Talks Sunday School class

Summer

- Berry Picking fellowship event

Fall/Winter

- College-age fellowship gathering
- College care packages

Worship

I participated in weekly worship planning and leadership as well as occasionally preaching, singing, and assisting in decorating the chancel. Pastor Sarah and I worked together to plan services in advance and center our worship services around scriptural themes for each season. I also joined a group of staff and lay leaders to re-vision the Contemporary Worship Service.

Sermon Series

Epiphany: Living in the Light

- Lent: Community
- Easter: Witness & Wonder
- Summer: Tell Me a Story

Special Services

- Lent & Holy Week online services
 - Ash Wednesday Zoom
 - Maundy Thursday livestream
 - Good Friday Zoom
- Advent
 - Lessons & Carols
 - Longest Night
 - Christmas Eve
- Coffee & Connections
 - January
 - May - Bring Your Questions
 - June - Tell Me a Story
 - August - Barriers to Bridges

(There was also a Coffee & Connections in October, but it was planned and led by Pastor Sarah.)

Supplemental Content

- Lenten Prayer Practice videos
- Outdoor prayer wall for Lent
- Sermon podcast
- Videos for Holy Week & Children's Chats (such as Week of Compassion children's chat)

Pastoral Care

While Pastor Sarah handles most of the pastoral care, I fill in when she is unavailable as well as intentionally lend pastoral care to young people and their families. In 2021, I had many in-person visits in the office, in people's homes, and out for meals or coffee. I also provided pastoral care via zoom, phone, and text. I presided over 3 funerals and attended events in support of our youth like sports games, a dance performance, and the WHS graduation ceremony. I also provided pastoral care for youth experiencing bullying, struggles with mental health, and trouble in their relationships.

Church and Community Life

I also had the opportunity to participate in other areas of church life such as the Women's Ministry Christmas Party, helped plan and lead events like the DEI Dialogue Dinners, and periodically joined the FCC Preschoolers for music. Alongside Pastor Sarah, I led the storytelling station at Vacation Bible School as well as leading the kids in "energizers" each morning. Thanks to new relationships made at camp, I had the opportunity to mentor a college-age youth director at a Disciples Church in Green. I also had the honor to give the invocation for

the City of Wadsworth 9/11 Commemoration. In December, I joined Jerry Ritzman at White Oak Village for a Christmas celebration with some of the residents.

Meetings

- Board - Monthly
- Elders - Monthly
- Staff - Weekly
- Staff Retreat (once)
- Outreach - Occasionally
- Worship - Monthly for most of the year, changed to quarterly; also attended some subgroup meetings
- Personnel - Occasionally
- Media Marketing - Occasionally
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Occasionally
- Budget (once)
- Ohio Region Clergy Gatherings - Occasionally
- District 3 Clergy Gathering - Occasionally
- Camp Christian Committee - Monthly starting in August
- Regional Youth Council - Monthly starting in September

Resource Development

Christian Education

- 'The Bible' informational poster
- 'Community' Lenten Bible Study
- 'Big Questions' Sunday School class (in progress) Worship
- 'Seasons of the Liturgical Year' handout for worship committee

Pastoral Care

- Preparing for End of Life (in progress)
- Community Resources (for therapy, non-profits, etc.)

Continuing Education

Thanks to many continuing education opportunities now being offered online, I was able to attend various conferences, workshops, webinars, and more over the past year. Though offerings for different areas of ministry varied greatly (for example, events focusing on preaching and worship were plentiful while youth ministry learning opportunities were rarer), I did my best to continue learning in ways that would benefit this congregation as well as myself.

Webinars, Workshops, & Lectures

- Youth Ministry
 - Post-Pandemic Youth Ministry
 - “Abuse Prevention: Back To The Basics” from Praesidium Inc.
- Pastoral Care & Christian Leadership
 - Exploring American Sign Language in Communal Care
 - Post-Pandemic Preparation: Re-vision, Re-start, Re-engage
- Preaching, Worship, & Bible
 - Post-COVID Congregational Worship
 - Holy Week & Easter Worship Planning
 - Postcolonial Biblical Interpretation
 - From Sanctuary to Screen: Adapting to Online Preaching
 - Preaching in Times of Disaster and Crisis
 - Performing Proclamation: Attending to Voice and Gesture
 - Decolonizing Worship
 - Prophetic Preaching in Polarized Times
 - Sermon Preparation and Writing
 - The Peoples’ Sermon: Preaching as a Ministry of the Whole Congregation facilitated by The Rev. Dr. Shauna Hannan, Homiletics Professor, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary

Books & Articles

- Youth Ministry
 - Sustainable Youth Ministry by Mark DeVries
 - Relationships Unfiltered by Andrew Root
 - ‘The End of Youth Ministry?’ by Andrew Root
- Preaching & Worship
 - Preaching in the Purple Zone by Leah Schade
 - Preaching with Cultural Intelligence: Understanding the People Who Hear Our Sermons
- Disciples of Christ History & Polity
 - Room at the Table: Struggle for Unity and Equality in Disciples History by Sandhya Rani Jha
 - The Faith We Affirm: Basic Beliefs of Disciples of Christ by Ronald E. Osborn
 - Renewing Christian Unity: A Concise History of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) by Mark G. Toulouse, Gary Holloway, & Douglas A. Foster

- Leadership & Personal Growth
 - Essentialism by Greg McKeown
 - Canoeing the Mountains: Christian Leadership in Uncharted Territory by Tod Bolsinger

Other

- 1-Week Intensive Disciples History and Polity class with the Disciples Seminary Foundation
- Monthly meetings and quarterly retreats with a diverse, ecumenical cohort of other ministry professionals (I plan to travel to the Holy Land on a two-week trip with this cohort in May 2022)

Overall, I feel that the endeavors and experiences in 2021 have better prepared me for this next year of ministry. I’ve learned so much (with the help of Pastor Sarah, our church staff, and many faithful and dedicated volunteers) and have greatly enjoyed being one of your pastors - I look forward to our continued faith journey together.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Shelby Baxter-Andrews,
Associate Pastor/Director of Youth Ministries

DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Office Responsibilities

- Manage Sunday School classes; nursery- 8th grade and 4 adult classes (began Sept. 2021)
- Review, purchase, and manage Sunday School curriculum: 3yrs --8th Grade and adult classes
- Oversee monthly Children’s Church along with teacher volunteers
- Prepare and manage Child Care schedule for weekly worship services & special services
- Prepare 2022 budget for CCED and Adult Departments
- Coordinate God’s Kids Club and Junior Youth Fellowship-began October, 2021
- Plan and facilitate all other programs and events for CCED
- Write all Board Reports, Bulletin Announcements, Caller Articles, & correspondence that goes out to parents and Sunday school members.
- Liaison for the Women’s Ministry Team
- Handled the online chat for the streamed church service(s).

CCED Report

We started off 2021 shut down due to the COVID pandemic and didn't meet in person (outside only) until May 23, 2021.

Sunday School

There was no in-person Sunday School January-May 2021. Kate Gray recorded (and edited) an online Sunday School class weekly for the children using the curriculum *Simply Loved* by Group Publishing. Sunday School resumed in person on September 12, 2021. Average Children's/Youth Sunday School attendance for the 2021 calendar (September- December only) year was around 24.71 per week. We continued with the curriculum called *Gospel Project for Kids* for Preschool and Kindergarten, Grades 1-3 used the Curriculum *Simply Loved* by Group Publishing. 4th and 5th graders used the curriculum called *Gospel Light*. 6-8th grades were all in the baptism class. They used the curriculum *re:form*.

Third Grade Bible Presentation

Bibles were given to 3 students in the month of October.

Ministry/Fellowship Groups

God's Kids Club- Monthly K-5th grade outreach based ministry to FCC homebound members.

- Kate Gray - began again in October during the Sunday School hour

Junior Youth Fellowship- Monthly K-5th grade fellowship group, which meets during Second service in the Fellowship Hall.

- Kate Gray and Heather Errante

VBS - Treasured (Group Publishing) June 14-16 – @ 9:00 am - 12:00 pm

- Kate Gray- Coordinator
- 64 Children registered
- 33 Volunteers
- We went back to the way that we have always held VBS with stations being both indoor and outdoors. We did drop off and pick up in the parking lot instead of having parents come into the building to drop off their child(ren). The kids were led inside to the Sanctuary by teen volunteers where they were put in their groups. We did not use classrooms as a meeting place this year. Kids were each given a bag full of supplies for VBS and instructed to bring a beach towel and bottle of water. They picked up their bags on June 7th at the church.

Special Events

February - You Are Loved Boxes

- Because we couldn't meet in person, Kate assembled "you are loved" boxes and delivered them to the children of the church (up to 6th grade). Inside the boxes were coloring books, pencils, rubix cube, squishy balls, chips, skittles, and a little note telling them that their church was thinking of them in addition to the Compassion Banks.

June - Outdoor Movie Night

- The movie "Abominable (2019) was watched outside on the lawn on the big screen. Popcorn and bottles of water were served. A collection of "Taxable Items" was collected and donated to the Salvation Army.

November - Advent Boxes

- Boxes were handed out to families on November 29th after service that included a kit to make their own Advent wreaths. Also included were: a song, coloring pages, an advent calendar/devotional and stickers.

November 29 - December 27- Mystery Christmas Angel Ministry

- This was another way to connect with the children of FCC during COVID social distancing. The adult, or Mystery Christmas Angel, sent their child a gift or card each week of Advent and then announced who they were with their last gift or card.

ACED Report

- † The 2021 Sunday School year began with 4 adult classes.
 - **Families in God** are examining scripture with the purpose of applying it, not only to their lives, but also that of their families. Their leadership team is Katie Boorman, Donn Taylor, Cheree Johnston.
 - **Gateway** continues to have a full fellowship schedule along with strong teaching leadership.
 - **Scripture Seekers** with a strong leadership team used the Bible Studies For Life series. Their teaching leaders are Bob Henderson, Diane Davis, Dan Sondles, and Karen Leatherman.
 - **Sisters In Christ** is under the leadership of Felicity Wilson. They spent time consistently in God's

Word to build a relationship with Christ. They studied various Bible Studies and books which led to some lengthy discussions.

- **Bethany Class** merged with Scripture Seekers class because longtime leader, Ruth Darling, stepped down from teaching this year. She had been teaching Bethany Class since 1990!
- † Due to COVID, Sunday School classes could not meet in person from January until May. Classes resumed in person on September 12, 2021. Some classes used a hybrid style where members who did not feel comfortable meeting in person or were out of town could log in to class through Zoom or Google Meet.
- † The average adult Sunday School attendance for the calendar year 2021 was 55 people.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Gray, Director of Christian Education

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Contemporary Worship

I began on August 15th to serve as Contemporary Worship director. It has been a great 4 ½ months getting to know many in the congregation and working with the staff.

We started the weekly 9:00 am Contemporary Worship service in September. We generally practice with the Worship Team on Thursday night and prepare the Chancel for the service on Sunday. Each week many hours go into planning the service, researching music, rehearsing, organizing worship teams and the overall planning for the Contemporary Service.

With the help of the Contemporary Music Committee, we have made a number of changes in the format of the service to facilitate smoother transitions and provide greater opportunities for the congregation to connect to God through the worship songs. We have also tried to create a casual environment for new people to feel welcome. It is our goal that by creating this new format and the casual environment, it will help people connect to God in a deeper way.

I want to thank the Tech Team who work so faithfully to take care of the slides, lights, and sound system each week. They give of their time each week and are only noticed when something does not go as planned. Thank You! I also

want to thank Chad for his continual work on upgrading our lighting and computer software for the services.

Each week it takes a team of many volunteers to provide the Contemporary Worship experience. It is my joy to work with them and to have the privilege to lead worship each week.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Oliver, Director of Contemporary Worship

Chancel Choir – Bell Choir

Overview

The pandemic had a significant impact on our choir programs in 2021. For the first half of the year we were worshipping entirely online and limiting worship participants to the bare minimum. This translated to no chancel or bell choir, just one or two singers leading praise songs and hymns in our weekly combined worship services. We resumed in person worship over the summer but this is typically the season our chancel choir and bell choir don't rehearse or perform.

Bell Choir

Beginning in the fall the bell choir was able to resume rehearsals and performed the third Sunday of each month. Our numbers are down to 6 members but our Director Scott Marsh was able to find some lovely pieces written for 12 bells. This faithful crew rehearsed and performed while masked. It was a delight to our worshipping community to be able to enjoy bell music once again during the Traditional Service and especially on Christmas Eve!

Chancel Choir

Due to safety concerns about the airborne nature of COVID combined with the age of our choir members, the close proximity of singing in a choir and the difficulty posed by trying to sing while masked; the choir did not rehearse or perform during the early fall. We did, however, enjoy some solo and ensemble performances from several singers and instrumentalists. In the late fall the chancel choir resumed regular rehearsals in preparation for the Christmas Eve Traditional Worship service. It may have been a long time coming, but that made the Christmas Eve service even more special. Seeing the choir seated on the chancel along with a string quartet was a joyous sight to behold. When we all stood

to join in the first carol, "Angels We Have Heard on High" hearing the voices of the choir harmonizing with the congregation brought tears to my eyes. The Chancel Choir and Bell Choir performed selections throughout the service accompanied by the piano and string quartet. The service was filled with beautiful music from start to finish filling our worship with wonder and praise.

Departure of Scott Marsh, Director of Choirs

The year concluded with the departure of Scott Marsh who has directed the choirs for the past four years. Scott served with passion and dedication and was an invaluable help keeping things going during the pandemic when he stepped up to lead and direct the music for the combined online services every Sunday and worked behind the scenes to coordinate the efforts of the tech teams. He enhanced our special services over the years by bringing in fellow amateur and professional musicians from the area. He worked hard to make it possible to host outdoor worship services as often as possible. He will be missed, but we wish him Godspeed in his new career.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Sarah West, Senior Pastor

OPERATIONS MANAGER

"Annual" for me is really just two weeks, having started on 12/15. It's been a busy time, though. I started off reacquainting myself with the building, the Trustees, and needs of the staff as well as setting goals for projects in 2022. Projects will include the sorting, purging, and organizing the entire campus, beginning with the 3rd floor. We also need to finish the phone system change over that is a high priority item as our contract runs out and we need to arrange for the changes to avoid charges. Thankfully, there's already a very capable committee in place for this project. I'll also work with the Trustees to evaluate and prioritize the list of building projects and their timeline. A huge thank you to Terry Tucker for staying on top of everything in the interim. I really appreciate him sharing his knowledge and abilities, as well as his time, to keep the train running. I'm excited to be back on staff and in a position to help care for the church building and this congregation that I love.

Respectfully submitted,
Felicity Wilson, Operations Manager

PRESCHOOL

Staff: Mary Rocha - Administrative Director/Pre-K
Colleen Tennant - Pre-K Teacher, 4/5's Teacher
Kate Gray - 3's Teacher
Natalie Slife - Teacher Assistant 3's, Pre-K/4/5's
Mary Rocha - Tiny Tots

This is the preschool's 16th year, we have students here on Monday-Thursday this year. We have 23 students currently enrolled.

Outreach: James Singleton Preschool Scholarship Fund provided 3 students this year with a scholarship, one of the students is in the Pre-K and the other 2 are in the 3's class. We found these students with the help of the Salvation Army and Wadsworth FISH. They are all a wonderful addition to our preschool family.

The staff, students and their families adopted two children from the Salvation Army Angel tree for Christmas. We provided toys, clothing, and shoes for these two little girls. We also sent coloring sheets to the homebound of First Christian Church, we wanted to let them know that they are loved!

We held a First Christian Church Preschool T-shirt sale with the proceeds going to the Scholarship Fund. We have done this for the past 8 years.

Enrichment: Wadsworth Public Library has story time every other week at the preschool. Pastor Sarah and Pastor Shelby provide music and movement for the students all through our school year. We are so lucky to have them share their talents. The students also perform songs for the Christmas program and Preschool Graduation.

Family Building: We will hold our 10th annual Fall Family Night in March. Our preschool families are invited to come for an evening of fun, crafts and games. The parents had an opportunity to attend their child's field trip in October to Bauman Orchards, they enjoyed a hayride, some apple cider, and got to pick an apple right off the tree! ☺ We also have an evening Art Fair at the end of April when all of our students and families are invited to enjoy samples of the children's art work from the school year. We have crafts for the children and refreshments for all. At the end of our school year we hold a Graduation Celebration and reception for all the

students and their families who will be attending kindergarten in the fall.

The staff at FCC Preschool and I want to thank you for all of your support and prayers for our school!

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Rocha, Administrative Director

SUB BOARD REPORTS

ELDERS

2021 began with an Elder's Orientation Retreat featuring Rev. Allen Harris as our keynote speaker just a few months before he became Ohio's Regional Minister and President. He introduced us to a conversation method called Mutual Invitation, which is used when small groups want to discuss difficult topics. This training proved helpful as the Elder Board discussed many difficult subjects and struggled through a second year of COVID while supporting Pastors Sarah and Shelby and this congregation.

In addition to our traditional responsibilities, we dealt with a lot of new language. Words like mutual invitation, diversity, equity, inclusion, hybrid worship, COVID updates, social distancing, and social justice. We didn't resolve every issue to its end, but we laid a foundation of trust and cooperation that will be valuable as this church enters another visioning effort in 2022 and 2023.

We listened to many in the congregation who had questions and ideas about church attendance, growth, singing, preaching, and teaching. We provided input regarding the restructuring of our Deacon and Usher Boards as well as many changes to our Order-of-Worship. We dealt with budgets, technology, personnel, and masks, and now, we're planning the orientation retreat for the next Board of Elders. A lot happened in 2021 and we've prepared a solid group of Elders to lead this church in this challenging but wonderfully blessed time.

I'd like to thank our Elders for their dedicated service and faith. And thank the congregation for its continued support of God's mission for this church. It has been an honor and pleasure. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
Kevin Kaufman, Chair

DEACONS AND USHERS

A huge thank you to the 2021 FCC Usher and Deacon teams. This team did a fabulous job helping us transition to worshipping on the lawn and to in-person worship. Someone was always willing to step in and help when a sub was needed. A special thank you to Lynn and Marilyn Slaby, who filled in for open positions and were always willing to lend a hand when needed. We appreciate each and every one of you and our grateful for the relationships that were formed. We would like to extend our gratitude to Val Baughman, who helped us with the transition, assisted with outdoor worship, was always available to bounce ideas off, and continues to support us into the new year.

Respectfully submitted,
Hilary Hrutkai and Karen Theodore,
Deacon and Usher Chairs

TRUSTEES

2021 came and went! We Trustees performed our usual tasks of making sure the building needs were met.

Lightbulbs were changed, toilets were fixed/unclogged, air conditioners were installed and uninstalled, etc.

I want to thank Bob, Terry, and Fitz for helping schedule and organize these tasks as well as my fellow Trustees for being so dependable.

It was truly a team effort!

Respectfully submitted,
Matt Gruver, Chair

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

SPECIAL FUND

Fortunately, the only expenditure that we had this year was for a sump pump at a cost of \$2,382.

The Huntington account Balance is \$56,254.02. The year end balance in the Beasley Growth Fund held through the Christian Church Foundation is approximately \$77,000.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Henderson, Chair

CONGREGATIONAL LIFE

The Congregational Life Committee, by its charter, plans and implements two to three congregational events during the year, including the Congregation Celebration and Annual Meeting in January. The goal of the committee is to develop creative and varied events that are appealing to a broad cross-section of the congregation and provide a time of fellowship for the Congregation. Due to safety policies requiring masking indoors, communal meals were suspended for 2021.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee was formed and received approval by the First Christian Church Board of Wadsworth in 2021.

Purpose & Mission

First Christian Church Wadsworth seeks to build lives of compassion through our faith in Jesus Christ and the building of an inclusive, diverse and loving community for all people. As congregants, this committee strives to empower the congregation to become who we already believe ourselves to be.

Committee Objectives

The Committee's acronym "DEI" contains special significance as it aligns with the Latin translation of Imago Dei, "in the image of God." FCC Wadsworth proclaims that, "We affirm that all people are God's children," and that "We proudly welcome all people to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us." One of the pillar value statements of our church asserts, "We embrace all, without prejudice, to seek God together."

As a committee,

- We strive to achieve an inclusive place of worship for all.
- We seek to encourage conversation, education, and spiritual development.
- We aim to build a safe place to share our thoughts, doubts, and experiences so our differences can be understood and celebrated.

Committee Members

The Committee is comprised of the following FCC members and allies who are passionate about loving and accepting all people and appreciating the differences that make us all unique such as race, ethnicity, gender,

gender identity, sexual orientation, age, social class or physical ability.

- Katie Boarman
- Mary Ellen Huber
- Sean Mika
- Hilary Mika
- Jim Rivers
- Olivia Thompson
- Amy Tuck

2021 Events & Activities

- Informational articles in The Caller
- Launch of Dialogue Dinner events

Respectfully submitted,
Hilary Mika, Chair

IT COMMITTEE

The IT committee was again very busy this last year. 2 staff computers were purchased along with a new IT server.

- 2021 Major Projects
- Purchase IT server, laptop, and PC computer
- Setup ESXI software on server to run multiple servers on it
- Setup Active Directory to help make maintaining staff user accounts and services
- Tied NAS device and Google accounts into AD
- Move security software to server
- Setup new office printer for staff
- Purchased new Mac for tech booth
- Upgraded ProPresenter software on Mac
- Installed lighting software and discontinued use of lighting board

Future projects will include replacing the phone system with a VOIP phone system. Keeping an eye on front projectors as they are aging. Two more staff computers in 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
Chad Gray, Chair

MEDIA/MARKETING TEAM

This ad hoc team was put together in 2019 with the goal of finding ways to enhance our presence in the community through media and marketing. The primary task was an overhaul of our website, creation of a new logo, and use of social media platforms.

In 2021 our chair stepped down and this small group stopped meeting monthly. The media/marketing discussions shifted to the staff.

Projects for 2021

- Lenten Prayer Wall - It's purpose was to support our community during a difficult time and make our community ministry more visible.
- Easter Flower Cross - We once again put a flower cross outside the main entrance of the church for the community to enjoy and participate in.
- First Friday - Kate Gray organized opportunities for FCC to engage in community wide events (July 4th Fireworks, December Candle light walk First Friday).
- Contemporary Service Worship Flyer - We created a more contemporary looking flyer to replace bulletins for the Contemporary Service. We stopped this practice after facing challenges getting people in the habit of handing these out after worship each week. We also received feedback that people missed having an order of worship to follow.
- Became members of the Wadsworth Chamber of Commerce - This gives us some additional opportunities to promote our church and activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Sarah West, Senior Pastor

MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

In 2021, the Memorials Committee received donations of \$2,445. The expenditures for the year were: \$592.31 for Tech equipment for the Outdoor Worship services last summer and \$300 for a speaker system for the Scripture Seekers Sunday School Class.

The closing balance for the year is \$21,467.66.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Henderson, Chair

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Each week Outreach team members drive to Feeding Medina County's Medina location to pick up food for seniors at White Oak and MENWA as well as Weekender's bags for students at Central Intermediate School, Isham, Lincoln, and Valley View elementary schools. Feeding Medina County distributes food monthly at Art Wright Stadium on the fourth Thursday of each month. <https://feedingmedinacounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-Food-Distribution-Calendar.pdf>

FCC Outreach members assisted with the September distribution. We will be assisting again in 2022.

In support of our community, we contributed \$150 (from your donations) to help the Wadsworth Fire Department purchase FirePups Program training materials from the National Fire Safety Council. Chief Robert Lindner distributes printed materials to Wadsworth elementary school children for their fire safety education.

Outreach members helped assemble panels for a new Habitat for Humanity home in April, which were later hauled to Wadsworth, raised and attached on a foundation on Durling Drive.

Our Outreach painters went to Camp Christian in June and again in October painting Girls & Boys Cabins restrooms, waterproofing shower stalls, two small pump houses, the old block restrooms and the camp site manager home. Earlier in the year Monroe Lodge restroom stall dividing panels, which had been pulled out for cleaning and repainting, were reinstalled over new tiled floors and walls we painted late last year.

MainStreet Wadsworth has a non-profit membership category. We have been members since 2019. We participated in the July 2, First Friday and Fireworks, on our church lawn and front steps. Thanks to Donna Kronander's playing the keyboard at a Chamber event, we are also members of the Wadsworth Chamber of Commerce. We look for ways to participate in the life of our community.

Two years ago we pledged \$2,000 to help Francis House Recovery become a reality. Upon signing a property lease, we sent the money in 2021, for the purchase of furnishings and operations. They hired a "Member Steward" resident manager and have opened their doors to seven men, who are working their way back from

addiction, with your help. Three of our members spent an August afternoon, working side-by-side with Francis House members, clearing brush from their fence-line in the rear of their 563 Main Street location. They continue to need our help with household products, transportation and life skills training.

We learned that the perfect way to recycle is to hold a garage sale. Everything goes somewhere else. You donated thousands of items, which raised over \$4,000 in donations, which we divided between Circle of Compassion and our Camp Christian maintenance fund.

In response to COVID, Salvation Army revised their dinner schedule during 2021, from each night of the last week of every month, dining-in at the Salvation Army kitchen, to delivering a boxed dinner every Tuesday to all who come to the distribution at Wadsworth Towers.

Thank you for your donations of:

- Hundreds of personal care items, Haven of Rest put into Hope Tote bags and gave to the needy during Holy Week.
- Items going into 26 goody bags for our members who are homebound.
- Laundry, cleaning & personal care articles Marian's Closet requested, you brought to Drop & Drive on June 12.
- Hundreds of school supplies and backpacks to help Salvation Army share with our students.
- 33 Bucket Brigade containers, full of clean-up supplies, for storm and disaster affected families.
- 636 food items and 340 personal care items you brought in Red Bags. Items are counted and go to Salvation Army for their emergency pantry. These numbers do not count anything that you put into the Boyer Street outside pop-up food pantry, which sees a lot of volume, in and out, for the needs in our community.

Thank you for generously supporting Outreach by volunteering, contributing your gifts and great ideas. If you want to join us for anything we do, like Val Baughman did last year, just let us know.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Sondles, Chair

LEGACY FOUNDATION

The Legacy Foundation met in January to elect its officers and review the financial statements.

The election of officers resulted in: Chair; Lynn Slaby, Vice Chair; Jerry Ritzman, Treasurer; Kathryn Johnson, Secretary; Karol Tucker.

The major project for the year was to review and update the Policy and Procedures. The final draft was presented to the Elders, for their required vote, in December. They voted to move it on, without changes, to the full Board in February and March.

Our Permanent Funds are invested with the Christian Church Foundation. The semi-annual report was reviewed mid year. We have been fortunate to have had a little over a nine percent return at that time.

During the year, gifts made to the foundation were both undesignated and designated. Those that were designated were deposited into the Permanent Fund. The undesignated gifts were divided between the Current Ministry Fund and the Permanent Fund per the Policy and Procedures guidelines.

We did have donations totaling \$19,212.04 in 2021. The amount spent for ministry was \$3,954 (Outreach), \$4,904.70 (Building) and \$0 (Non-Budgeted). Investment Transactions totaled \$9,885.64 (assigned to Current Ministry). The total value of the Permanent Fund at year end is \$206,369.49.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Slaby, Chair

MINISTRIES

CARE & VISITATION MINISTRIES

Communicating our concerns, celebrating our joys, visiting our sick and homebound, assisting with rides, praying for special concerns, and keeping all our members connected with First Christian Church are accomplished with help from our various Care Ministries.

Card Care Ministry - Kay Bowman sends congratulations to members who are celebrating their 50+ wedding anniversary and 80+ birthdays. We pray our members can feel the caring spirit of our congregation conveyed by these notes and cards.

Prayer Chain - There are over 140 members on the Prayer Chain and notifications are sent via email. Contact the office if you would like to be added. Prayer requests may be made through the pastor by contacting the office.

Prayer Shawl Ministry - Prayer shawls lovingly knitted and prayed over by members of the congregation are delivered to church members in the hospital or recovering from illness at home. A special thank you to Marilyn Slaby for keeping us well stocked with beautiful shawls and lap blankets.

Homebound Ministry - The goal of this Ministry is to keep our members assured that we care and that they are not forgotten. They are supported by gifts and letters from God's Kids Club and the Outreach Committee. Everyone can be part of this ministry by simply sending a "Birthday Card" or a "Thinking of You" note. They really appreciate hearing from you. A Homebound List, name, address, and birthday is available in the Gathering Area by the Registration Table. Homebound members received deliveries of "Blessing Bags" on numerous occasions.

SALVATION ARMY

Very much like the year 2020, FCC's involvement with the Salvation Army looks a lot different. The soup kitchen continues but without meals being prepared and served on site. Some volunteers have prepared food at home and delivered it to the army on the appropriate days. Currently there are no plans to return to the "good old days."

The Red Kettle Campaign continues with enthusiasm. FCC can always be counted in on this event. In 2021, FCC manned the bells on a very windy, cold and rainy Saturday. \$886.00 was our kettle deposit, a wonderful contribution to the Campaign. Overall, the Wadsworth Salvation Army kettle collections were \$70,000; showing incredible support from our community. Again, it is important to remember that ALL Red Kettle Campaign contributions stay in Wadsworth to continue in support of the needs of our residents.

This year we are grateful for our members and friends who rang the bells on that cold, windy and rainy day: Kirt and Leanne Virgin, Joan Acuff, Ken and Janet Dye, Jack and Sue Elliott, Val and Jerry Baughman, Dave and Leslie Critchfield, Lucy Sondles, Kevin Kaufman, Tracie Pascoe,

Connie and Bill Dague, Kathy Grecni, Denny Hoops, Sarah West and Family. How about joining the fun next year?

Respectfully submitted,
Cathy Hall, Coordinator

FUNERAL DINNER COMMITTEE

The Funeral Dinner Committee provides a warm and inviting meal in a comfortable setting for family members to gather after a memorial service for their loved one. The menu is chosen by the family and prepared at a nominal cost. Desserts and beverage are provided by our church through donations by members.

This is a truly appreciated ministry at FCC. Thank you to all who volunteered their time preparing meals, calling volunteers, serving, and donating desserts.

For the time being due to safety concerns related to the pandemic, families who request funeral receptions are bringing in their own food. The Funerall Committee members assist with se up, serving, and clean up.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

In April, 2021, all women of our congregation were invited to a zoom meeting to discuss the reorganization of the Women's program. The outcome of that meeting was the formation of a new Women's Ministry Board. Elected members to that Board, and their job descriptions are as follows: Susan Ritzman, Chair; Tanya Keaton, Past Chair/Advisor; Felicity Wilson, Vice Chair (Co-Chair); Pat McGaffick, Secretary/Historian; Jerri Saltz, Treasurer; Val Baughman, Spiritual Development Advisor/Elder; Claire Wilson, Social Media/Communications Coordinator; Karen Longfield, Service Coordinator; Sharon Wright, Small Groups Coordinator; Janie Parish and Kim Laurene, Social Fellowship Coordinators; Jean Sullivan, Retreat Coordinator and Kate Gray, Staff Liaison.

We meet once a month on the third Thursday of each month. This year we have updated the charter, chosen a new logo, chose our theme for this year: Women's Health: Mental, Physical and Spiritual. Karen Longfield has chosen the Battered Women's Shelter for our Service project. We held a book study this fall, a social event in

December, and a sweatshirt fund raiser. Jean Sullivan has formed a Retreat Committee and has started making plans for our April Retreat.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Ritzman, Chair

FIRST MEN OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The First Men’s fellowship program eased back into programming in August after suspending activities during the COVID-19 challenge. The following are highlights from 2021:

All-church softball game - On Sunday, August 8th FCC fielded two teams to compete for bragging rights in the all-church softball game at Valley View Park. Captains, Amos West and Greer Johnston lead their teams in a match that wasn’t too close until the very end. Players of all ages filled out rosters and more hearty souls came out to root for their favorite team.

Golf Outing - On Sunday, August 15th, five scramble teams teed off at Pine Valley Golf Club. It was a fun afternoon which concluded with a cookout at the Kaufman farm and discussion led by Kevin Kaufman reflecting on our experiences of over a year restricted by the pandemic.

Fall Kickoff Pig Roast - Sept 12th - It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon just ahead of the Brown’s promising opening day game. Approximately 25 men gathered at the Kaufman Farm for an afternoon of fellowship. We started with our traditional corn hole tournament. We were then treated to Noah and Bill Bentley’s amazing smoked pork and chicken. After the meal, Chris Jones re-introduced us to the 23rd Psalm and Max Lucado’s inspiring message from his book, Traveling Light.

Men’s Forum - FCC men met weekly from September 13th thru November 15th at both Wadsworth and Medina churches. The group used Max Lucado’s Traveling Light materials to explore the messages David captured for us all in the 23rd Psalm continuing what we started during the Feb. 2020 Men’s Gathering and several sessions of Men’s Forum in Feb-Mar 2020 prior to suspending for COVID-19.

All Church Euchre Tournament - Nov 19th - We had 23 who gathered in the Fellowship Hall to compete for the honor of Euchre Champions. Our big winners were Janet Dye and John Knox.

Thanks to all the hard work and commitment by our steering committee of Adam Church, Donn Taylor, Kevin Kaufman, and Dave Baker from FCC Medina. Many thanks also to everyone who supported and participated in our events who helped to make our limited programs impactful.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Hess and Chris Jones, First Men Coordinators

2021 FINANCIAL SECRETARY’S REPORT

2021 CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET	<u>\$440,874.00</u>
Regular Offerings Received	
Envelopes	\$446,814.00
Loose Offerings	1,644.44
Sunday School	759.49
Initial	<u>337.50</u>
Total Regular Offerings	\$449,555.43
Special Offerings Received:	
Easter	\$ 3,923.00
Pentecost	2,350.00
Thanksgiving	3,733.00
Christmas	<u>4,128.00</u>
Total Special Offerings	<u>\$ 20,145.00</u>
Total Received Toward Budget	<u>\$463,689.43</u>
Amount Over Budget 2021	<u><u>\$22,815.23</u></u>

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Johnson, Assistant Treasurer

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - TREASURER'S REPORT
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

GENERAL FUND - CASH ACTIVITY - 2021

Cash Balance, January 1, 2021 \$229,124

RECEIPTS:

Contributions (Budget: \$440,874)	463,689
Subtotal	692,813

DISBURSEMENTS:

	<u>EXPENSE</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>	
Salaries & Benefits	287,674	\$302,184	
Insurance	13,430	14,500	
Copier Lease	2,814	4,000	
Purchase Equipment/software	6,710	1,650	
Office Supplies	1,301	1,500	
Church Supplies	2,807	3,500	
Postage	1,409	2,500	
Custodial Supplies	1,969	1,500	
Christian Education Supplies	0	50	
Subscriptions/books	537	470	
Curriculum	1,322	2,480	
Music	1,586	2,000	
Maintenance	8,422	4,250	
Maintenance Contracts	6,718	4,025	
Grounds Maintenance	4,630	5,000	
Christian Education Programs	2,155	2,850	
Youth/Young Adult Programs	2,795	3,150	
Church Programs/Functions	1,473	2,325	
Continuing Education	337	1,500	
Utilities	19,264	23,980	
Technology/Social Media/Advertising	3,343	2,200	
Banking Fees	4,807	5,500	
Communications	5,077	4,000	
General/Regional Assembly	37	0	
Miscellaneous	110	160	
Continued Improvement	61,872	59,250	
Total Budgeted amount for Outreach		45,000	
Disciples Mission Fund	22,812	0	
Local: Camp Christian - Operations	8,042	0	
Local: Marian's Closet	450	0	
Local: FISH	2,350	0	
Local: The Garage	200	0	
Local: Salvation Army	2,429	0	
Local: Cleveland Christian Home	1,756	0	
Local: Feeding Medina County	6,100	0	
Local: Medina Habitat for Humanity	750	0	
Misc. Local Charitable Groups	1,052	0	
Designated: CTEN	3,800	0	
Designated: HHN	1,500	0	
Subtotal	493,840	499,524	-493,840
Less: Transfer to Cash Reserve Fund	10,000	10,000	-10,000
Transfer to Building Fund	0	5,000	0
Transfer from Outreach	-3,954	0	3,954
Add: Transfer to Preschool	0	0	
Total Expense / Budget	\$499,886	\$480,493	-2,066
PPP Loan Payback of unused funds			-2,066
Cash Balance, December 31, 2021			\$190,862

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - TREASURER'S REPORT
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

BUILDING FUNDS - FUND BALANCE - DECEMBER 31, 2021

Cash Account - Building Fund	\$56,254
Beasley Growth Fund - CCF (Investment value: \$ 75,318)	55,542
Total Fund Balance - Building Funds	\$111,796

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS - FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31, 2021

FELLOWSHIP FUNDS:	
Golden Agers	\$100
L.Critchfield Women's Retreat	437
MEMORIAL FUNDS:	
General Memorials	21,468
Landis/Snyder Children's	687
Trent/Kelley/Brubaker Youth	17,503
PERMANENT FUNDS:	
Legacy Foundation	3,000
Common Balanced Fund	197,731
SPECIAL MINISTRY FUNDS:	
Food Bank	330
COVID Compassion Fund	11,350
Good Samaritan	2,018
Funeral Dinner	1,390
Martha Everhard Bibles	4,610
CD/DVD Ministry	228
Women's Ministries	4,667
Men's Ministries	673
Chi Rho & CYF Outreach	933
OUTREACH FUNDS:	
Outreach Committee	5,293
Children's Sunday School Outreach	326
J.Singleton Preschool Scholarships	4,739
Legacy Fnd./Current Ministry - Outreach	2,583
Compassion (Includes \$4525 for Kentucky)	7,025
Christmas Outreach	25
MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS:	
Choir-Chancel	5,371
Handbell Choir	3,820
Choir- Children's	346
Library	200
Children's Library	118
Garden Group	295
Staff Continuing Education	3,365
IT Fund	318
Grief Ministry	639
Interior Building Revitalization	250
Sanctuary Banners	460
Legacy Fnd./Current Ministry - Building	6,934
Legacy Fnd./Current Ministry - Non-Budgeted	9,443
Designated	12,777
Cash Reserves	96,439
Total Fund Balance - Special Accounts	\$427,890

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - TREASURER'S REPORT
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021**

FCC PRESCHOOL - CASH ACTIVITY - FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2021

Cash Balance, July 1, 2020			<u>\$394</u>
RECEIPTS:	INCOME	BUDGET	
Tuition	\$25,160	\$45,720	
Registration	1,120	1,925	
Miscellaneous	613	0	
Total Receipts	26,893	47,645	26,893
DISBURSEMENTS:	EXPENSE	BUDGET	
Personnel expense	\$20,367	\$42,080	
Insurance	885	885	
Supplies - Office	164	325	
Supplies - Classroom/art	203	800	
Supplies - Cleaning/health	93	275	
Curriculum/resources	11	300	
Programs	38	225	
Cell Phone	600	525	
Miscellaneous	789	350	
In-service Training	70	500	
Background checks	140	100	
Advertising	90	125	
Total Expense	23,450	46,490	-23,450
Net Increase in Cash - before Transfers			3,837
Transfer to General Fund	0	0	0
Transfer to Preschool Cash	6,000	0	1,500
Cash Balance, June 30, 2021			\$5,337
Preschool Cash Reserves - Beginning Balance			\$2,500
Transfer to Preschool Cash Balance			4,500
Cash Balance, June 30, 2021			\$7,000

OUTREACH SUMMARY 2021

<u>Cash Disbursements:</u>	
General Fund	\$51,241
Compassion (Includes Circle of Compassion)	25,812
Special & other accounts	2,882
<u>Other:</u>	
Camp Fees Paid	3,050
Total Outreach Disbursed 2021	\$82,985

There were many non-cash drives and outreach projects held by the Outreach Committee, CYF, Women's Ministries and other groups, including the following:
 Food and personal items for the Salvation Army (Red Bag program), as well as school supplies and backpacks for Salvation Army, clothing and supplies for Marian's Closet, and Churchworld Service Buckets.
 Prayer shawls, and many other items made by Sewing Sisters .

Respectfully Submitted,
 Lisa Jones, Treasurer