

Leadership

Board Chair - Norma Savage
Vice Chair - Gary Dunn
Secretary - Ken Hicks
Treasurer - John Billingsley
Worship - Ronda Park
Outreach - Rick Herring
Stewardship - Jim Pegg
Membership - Lynn Wiseman
Fellowship - Barbie Oaks
Education - Carey Roberts
Property - Adrian Park
Evangelism - Gary Dunn
Technology - Hannaphen Park
Elder Chair - Ted Moffett
Deacon Chair - Helen Scribner



[January 10](#)

Men's Breakfast
McNew Memorial Service

[January 11](#)

Tom Plumbley
Retirement Reception

[January 18](#)

Board Meeting
[January 25](#)

Birthday Lunch
[February 07](#)

Men's Breakfast
[February 15](#)
Cabinet Meeting

REGULAR SUNDAY EVENTS

Adult Sunday School

9:30 am Faith Keepers
9:30 am Loyal Fellowship

Children's Sunday School

9:30 am Crossroads Kids age 3 & 4

Lesson: David and the Giant
Group A - Kinder - 5th grade
Group B - 6th - 12th grade
Study: Feeding of the 5,000

10:15 am Choir Rehearsal
10:50 am Worship Service

12 - 2:30 pm Prayer Shawl Ministry
8:45 am Elders Meet (1st Sunday)

[January 11, 2026](#)

Minister - Tom Plumbley
Elder - Darryl Bihm
Deacons - Marilyn Lansford,
Karen Crews, Carey Roberts,
Elizabeth Faulkner
Prep/Clean-up: Karen Crews

First Christian Church

Fort Worth, Texas

Embracing ALL by loving, serving, and growing disciples downtown.

Volume 34 Issue 02 - January 07, 2026

A Special Day to Honor Tom Plumbley



After serving at First Christian Church for over twenty four years; this Sunday will be Tom Plumbley's last day in the pulpit. Tom has enjoyed a long and successful career in ministry serving in many church's throughout the United States. There are so many stories that he could tell it reminds me of Gulliver's Travels, only we would have to call it Tom's Travels.

Many of you have gone through the rough patches and growing pains of a congregation that is as old and established as this one. From the beginning Tom rose to the challenge of being a good shepherd teaching us the true word of God and what it means to be a Disciple of Christ. He has performed weddings, funerals and baptisms, and he has watched little ones grow up and become valued members of society. He has counseled those in need, sat with those who were grieving, and regularly takes time out of his day to visit those in the hospital. He has walked with some of us through some lengthy drawn out situations that felt like they would never be resolved. Praying for the broken hearted and the displaced, ready to buy a meal for the hungry and pray for the hurting, always seeing the good in everyone.

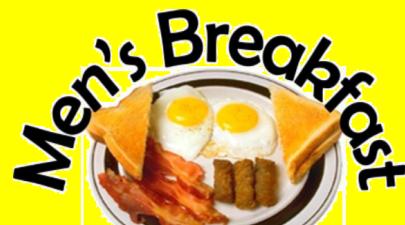
If you want to join us in celebrating the man you have come to know so well and share your stories with him this Sunday the congregation is hosting a reception following the worship service in Anderson Hall. Please make plans to join us!



Stop by and check out the display case at the Taylor Street entrance for a little walk down memory lane.

Debra Lochtrog has gathered some of the items that highlight Tom's time here at FCC.

"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy, not on fighting the old, but on building the new."



Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 8:30 am

All men are welcome to join us for food & fellowship.

Remember - Parking in the lot on Saturday is **NOT** free.
Parking on the street is always **free** on the weekend.

Tom's Turn – Stay Vulnerable, Stay Light

The melody that came over the voicemail was anything but pleasant. Some guy I don't know. Who knows the source of his pain? He sang a tune of his own composition. It began with "Jesus Christ ___ s! Jesus Christ ___ s!" a tacky refrain he repeated a dozen times. Then he went on to describe how he was using the Bible for, well, don't bother guessing. And that was only the first half of the recording. Then he decided to get truly nasty, accusing me, or the church generally, or some minister he had known sometime in his life, of pedophilia and worse - if there is worse.

It was a new voice, but an old tune, one I'm glad no one else on our staff had to hear - at least this time. We get such calls from time to time. It's just part of the life we lead in the church office. It can be difficult. It can cause one to want to put up walls, to close ranks, to seek absolute security, to seek some shadow place in which to hide. But that's the last thing for a church to do.

In this, my last Tom's Turn, I encourage you always to choose vulnerability over walls and light over any sort of shadows. After all we just finished a feast time because of the One most vulnerable, the Way, the Truth, the source of all light. I hope you took the season slow, as one scholar said, "learning how to trust an emerging light rather than seize it too quickly." Because as the unhappy heart behind that vulgar voicemail bore witness, life is fragile, never finished.

But it is in response to that fragility that our Good News bears witness. For our news is that God came among us and is always with us. God did not come armor plated but vulnerable. God did not come triumphant but born of a

peasant woman. Holiness was born into a body that could be hurt and was ultimately killed. Born on the margins. Born at risk.

Weakness is the church's disposition. Fragility is its way in the world. It is our lot as Christians, not because of our choice but because of God's example. We live in a nation of people overstimulated and undernourished. We find ourselves distracted to the point where we can no longer feel at all. To be vulnerable as Jesus was, is to find our way back to sensation. Then we can truly care. Then we can be here for each other. Then we can stay light. Then we can be light.

Beginning next week, I will do something I do not know how to do. I feel defenseless and exposed because I have no good example of how to retire. One grandfather was well past retirement age when I was born and the other was dead well before he retired. My father died before he retired. And I don't have good examples from the women in my family either. So, I feel quite susceptible to failure. It is quite a leap into the unknown.

Likewise, this congregation is in a position it has not been in for the last quarter of a century. You may feel in these next weeks and months exposed, helpless, and weak. For both of us, then, I guess the example of our Lord must be one we take to heart. For vulnerability was his calling card. And light was the fruit he bore. May you and I do the same.

And, for the last time, I'll see you on Sunday. Remember to share your bread with the needy and to find a way to share God's love even if only with a smile. To prepare for worship Sunday read Acts 10:34-43.

Peace, Tom

THE BEATITUDES

BLESSED ARE THE POOR IN SPIRIT,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO MOURN,
FOR THEY WILL BE COMFORTED.

BLESSED ARE THE MEEK,
FOR THEY WILL INHERIT THE EARTH.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEY WILL BE FILLED.

BLESSED ARE THE MERCIFUL,
FOR THEY WILL BE SHOWN MERCY.

BLESSED ARE THE PURE IN HEART,
FOR THEY WILL SEE GOD.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS,
FOR THEY WILL BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD.

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO ARE PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS,
FOR THEIRS IS THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN.

BLESSED ARE YOU WHEN PEOPLE INSULT YOU, PERSECUTE YOU AND
FALSELY SAY ALL KINDS OF EVIL AGAINST YOU BECAUSE OF ME.
REJOICE AND BE GLAD, BECAUSE GREAT IS YOUR REWARD IN HEAVEN,
FOR IN THE SAME WAY THEY PERSECUTED THE PROPHETS WHO WERE
BEFORE YOU.

MATTHEW 5:3-12

Please join us this Saturday at 11:00 am for
Mikel McNew's Memorial Service.

Parking is free on the lot from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

Lectionary - January 11

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 29



Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 3:13-17

To Spur Your Thought, Your Prayer, Your Action

"When we elevate leaders to a separate, higher orbit, it is dangerous for their souls, and it is dangerous for our communities." *Jenna Barnett*

COMMUNION PREP & CLEAN UP

January 11 - Karen Crews
January 18 - Carey Roberts
January 25 - Elizabeth Faulkner



NEW CONCERNS

Troy Miller (Jones friend)
John Disch (Reed friend)
Justin Woods (McNew family)
George Warner (Istook friend)
Olivia Johnson (Peoples family)
Diane Scalling Pegg (Pegg family)
the Hajee family (Reed friends)
the Wedel family (Reed friends)
Maria Balderas (Balderas family)

Prayer Request

Members: Barbara Batts, George Brady, Dawn Edwards, Emma Gardner, Joshua Gelvin & family, Cookie Hargrave, Herbert Johnson, Ted Klein, Maddison Mason, Anita McNew, Jim Malmberg, Adrian Park, Jan Ragland, John Smith, Jack Whisenand, Mary Wilcox

Non-Members: Bobby Barker & family, Loree Behymer, Hannah Cobe Campbell, Douglas Carnley, Jeremy Dailey & family, Jerald Davis, Dino De La Cruz, Ruby Aurora Dodd, Rozlyn Kohl, Robin McCarty, Bob Parrish, Garrett Perales, Kyle Pierson, John Rotelsdorf, Ronnie & Jeanie, Debbie Sanders, Jerry Sanders, Jeanne Wagner, John Whisenand, Amy Yaws,

Joys and Accolades

- ♦ Last Sunday morning the elders held their first meeting for 2026 and elected Mark Mueller as their chair. Mark will serve not only as chair of the elders but also as chair of the Staff Relations Team.
- ♦ Monday morning Tom met the new group of student doctors for the spring semester at the eye clinic. He told them that though he will soon be leaving they can always count on First Christian Church if they need us.
- ♦ Great BIG "Thank You" to John Billingsley, Aaron Keller and Chet Atkins for playing the part of the Three Kings and helping to bring the scripture to life during service last Sunday.



Disciple Women's Ministry



All ladies are invited to attend our meetings and activities.

Need information please contact:

Ronda Park 817-825-2693

Terri Benepe 817-852-5988

Janice Whisenand 817-988-8358

Alternative Gift Market - 2025 Totals

Amounts purchased for each charitable organization:

Tarrant Area Food Bank: \$132

Valiant Hearts: \$295

Don't Forget to Feed Me: \$270

Community Eye Clinic: \$400

Heifer International \$175

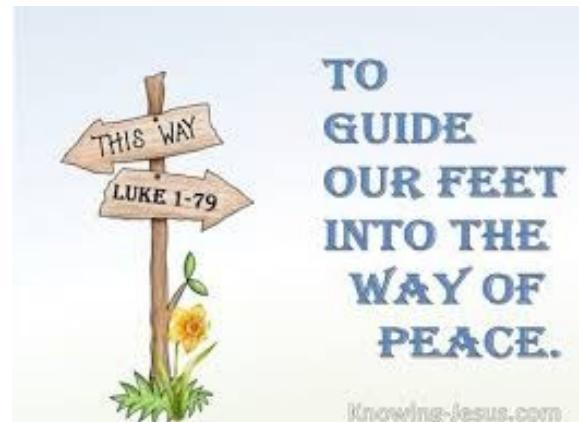


Total purchases by members: \$1,272

The Outreach Committee will match each amount above so the total amount of donations = \$2,544

Thank you to all who participated!

Rick Herring,
Outreach Department Chairperson



Parking On the Lot North of Church

Congregation is permitted to use up to 50 spaces for free on Sundays from 8:00 am-6:00 pm and Wednesdays from 5:45pm-10:00 pm.

The Church also has four dedicated spaces next to the Taylor Street entrance that are used for staff and weekday church business. Vehicles using these spaces must be registered through the church office. Validation by the office is required at the time of use for parking in these spaces. Two free curbside street

parking spaces are available on Taylor St. These are marked as "Church Only" spaces and require a "First Christian Church" sign on the dashboard (available from the office).

If you have followed the appropriate parking rules and still receive a ticket in the mail, please forward it to the church office and we will attempt to get it rectified.



First Christian Church
612 Throckmorton
Fort Worth, TX 76102

OFFICE HOURS

Tuesday thru Thursday 9 am to 5 pm and Friday 9 am to 1 pm



Global Ministries

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
and the United Church of Christ

Global Ministries Weekly Prayer

Pray for **Syria** on Sunday - January 11, 2026
www.globalministries.org/topic/weekly_prayers

What Kind of Church Are We? Well, We're This Kind:

OUR VALUES: We value worship – attributing worth to God

We value fellowship – relating to and enjoying one another.

We value preaching and teaching – communicating God's word to people.

We value community – caring about and addressing the needs of others.

OUR MISSION: Embracing **ALL** by loving, serving, and growing disciples downtown.

PROFILE OF A DISCIPLE: Unconditional love, prayer, reflection on scripture, service
and sharing, openness to the spirit of God and giving of our time and talents

IDENTITY STATEMENT OF OUR DENOMINATION: We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a
fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ we welcome all to the Lord's table as God has welcomed us.



Tom Plumley - Senior Minister
Keith Critcher - Minister of Music
Jan Shelton - Dir. of Music - Children & Youth
Mary Mason - Dir. Burnside Handbell Choir
Carey Williams - Financial Secretary
Trisha Bell - Church Administrator
Rickey Sneed - Custodian

**Embracing ALL by
loving, serving,
and growing
disciples downtown.**

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E-mail: ftwfirst@sbcglobal.net

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