

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 - Mark Muller  
Deacon Chair - Helen Scribner



January 18

Board Meeting

January 20

DWM Meeting

January 25

Birthday Lunch

February 07

Men's Breakfast

February 15

Week of Compassion

Cabinet Meeting

February 17

DWM 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 18, 2026

Minister - Rick Truitt

Elder - Ginger Bihm

Deacons - Marilyn Lansford,  
Karen Crews, Carey Roberts,  
Elizabeth Faulkner

Prep/Clean-up: Carey Roberts

# First Christian Church

## Fort Worth, Texas

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

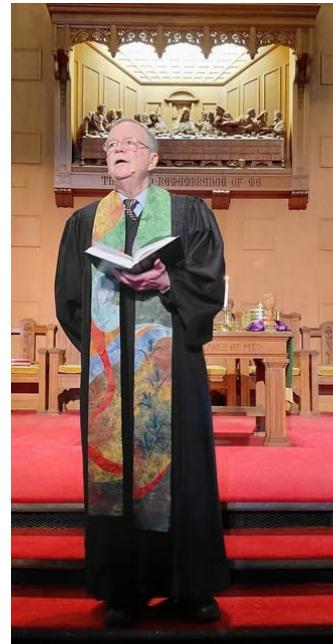
Volume 34 Issue 03 - January 14, 2026

### Tom Plumbley's Last Day at First Christian Church



#### Christy's Presentation

We celebrate with Rev. Tom Plumbley as he retires after 45 years of ministry; 24 of those with the faithful at First Christian Church of Fort Worth.



#### Tim Noonan

Tom, thank you so much for 24 years of guidance and pastoral care.

You are loved and respected by so many people. You will be greatly missed. God Bless You!

#### Communion - written by Gary Dunn

Oh my, how many times over the last 24 years has Tom lead us in Communion through regular Sunday morning worship, Christmas Eve candlelight, Easter, Maundy Thursday, and countless other occasions. Always inviting all to the Table to partake of this inclusive meal.

If you notice right near Tom's left elbow, there is a wooden chalice made from olive wood, and created by Don Istook, given in honor of Tom's retirement.

As is always the custom of Disciples' churches, there is an elder, praying and assisting the minister in the service of communion. Today's elder was Darryl Bihm.



#### Children's Moment - written by Gary Dunn

One of the hallmarks of Tom Plumbley's ministry at First Christian Church has been his relationship with children, particularly during Children's Sermon. How bittersweet it is to experience his last sermon with our children! Rockelle started going forward to Children's Sermon with Tom when she was three and has continued through today; she's now in 7th grade.

## Rick's Reflections – Discernment

Last Saturday several of our Elders participated in a CCSW Regional Spiritual Leadership study and reflection zoom conference on discernment and decision making in the congregation, skills and practices we always need, especially as we proceed through the year before us.

The term discernment comes from the Greek word which means “to sift through.” Very early it was seen as sifting the wheat from the chaff, sifting through our own interior experiences, ideas, thoughts and feelings, all of which are brought about by the circumstances in which we find ourselves. It is simply impossible to do spiritual discernment if we do not pray, that is, consciously seek to find God. Prayer is making myself present to God within me and around me.

We are not aware that God is present to us unless we focus our awareness on God. We pray in order to become open to God. When we bring an openness, a freedom, to our prayer time, when we are able to adopt the unconditional attitude, “God when you show me a direction to follow, I will say ‘Yes’ no matter what the cost.”

Unfortunately, too often we use prayer to escape having to pay a price for our faith (or what we believe to be “faith”) and end up with some very good excuses for avoiding what we fear, trying to convince ourselves that we can find peace by not having to face the cross, or by letting someone else face it for us. The cross of Jesus didn’t excuse us from our cross. Its power is in showing us the courage of faith to face it ourselves, without excuses.

Discernment is not simply having the pastor offering a prayer and then going about working out a solution using the best of our rational skills. Discernment does not mean we simply go along with the prayer – because that is what we are supposed to do – and then we get down to the real work of deciding through rational discourse. Discernment means just the opposite. Our real work is in the praying prior to our work, with the rest flowing out of that. What follows prayer is not so much a reasoned approach to things as genuine listening to one another, being open and seeking the truth that is revealed within and to the whole community, even when it is painful, otherwise healing can never really take place.

There is nothing rational or prudent about the Paschal Mystery, the sacrificial life and death of Christ. It is a stumbling block to some and folly to others (even for those in the church), yet it remains the heart of the Good News. Either we believe that, or we are not Christians at all.

As we try to discern the will of God for this congregation, the focus will not be on simply doing the rational, prudent thing but rather on doing the faithful thing. When a Christian congregation tries to discern the will of God for its future, it most likely will be choosing to continue in the path of Christ – of entering suffering and brokenness to do the sacrificial, life-giving thing.

Grace and peace, Rick Truitt



Men's Breakfast had a great turn out last Saturday as they celebrated Tom's birthday during their regular monthly meeting.

### Lectionary - January 18

Isaiah 49:1-7  
Psalm 40:1-11



1 Corinthians 1:1-9  
John 1:29-42

### Miriam Circle Meeting

*NEW MEETING LOCATION*

Tuesday January 20 at 10:00 am  
La Madeleine  
8825 N. Frwy #109

### Board Meeting

*This Sunday January 18th after  
worship service in Anderson Hall.*

### COMMUNION PREP & CLEAN UP

January 18 - Carey Roberts  
January 25 - Elizabeth Faulkner



# PRAYER REQUESTS

## NEW CONCERNS

Harold Recer  
Rickey Sneed  
Heather Glenn (Bullock friend)  
Cindy Crezier (Bullock friend)  
the family of George Clemons  
the family of Charlea Vedder  
the family of Kimberly Cochran (Simons family)

**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:** Maria Balderas, Bobby Barker & family, Loree Behymer, Hannah Cobe Campbell, Douglas Carnley, Jeremy Dailey & family, Jerald Davis, Dino De La Cruz, John Disch, Aurora Dodd, Olivia Johnson, Rozlyn Kohl, Robin McCarty, Troy Miller, Bob Parrish, Diane Scalling Pegg, Garrett Perales, Kyle Pierson, John Rotelsdorf, Ronnie & Jeanie, Debbie Sanders, Jerry Sanders, Jeanne Wagner, George Warner, John Whisenand, Justin Woods, Amy Yaws,

## Joys and Accolades

- ◆ A HUGE shout out and Thank You to everyone who helped make Tom's reception such a wonderful send off for him! Words cannot express my gratitude for everything everyone did. I believe he truly knows how much we love him and will miss him. Everything was simple wonderful! Thank You, Thank You!!! Barb Oakes and The Fellowship Team
- ◆ The Executive Committee of the General Board (Norma Savage, Gary Dunn, Ken Hicks, and John Billingsley) provided a beautiful floral arrangement on the Chancel this morning in honor of Tom Plumbley on his retirement. We are grateful to Joe Don Conger as he designed this gift for worship.



- ◆ Kudos to all who participated in making Tom's last day a huge success. Anderson Hall was all dressed up to receive the guests, family and friends, many from out of town, some from other churches, even the regional office and the pension fund were there. The reception was a mix of great food and conversation, along with hugs and congratulations! Thank you one and all!



## Keith's Keynotes

My deep appreciation for collaborating in ministry with Tom Plumbley, June 2024 - January 2026. We worked well together and shared the love of creating worship to lead us all in praise to God and a deeper understanding of the Christian life. He trusted me with the hymn selections, and we worked together in planning the special services for Holy Week and Christmas Eve. I am grateful for his acceptance and support during the hiring process of me as your Minister of Music, as God's hand was certainly in the plan.



*"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you. Always with joy in every prayer for you.  
I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, in every prayer with joy. I thank my God.  
I thank my God for your fellowship in the Gospel from the very first day till now.  
I thank my God for you.  
And I am sure that He, who began a good work in you,  
will bring it to completion at the day of Christ.  
And this I pray, I pray that your love may abound more and more.  
Abound in knowledge, in judgment, that you may approve what is excellent to the glory of God.  
That you may be pure and blameless,  
filled with the fruits of righteousness which comes through Christ Jesus.  
I thank my God in all my remembrance of you. Always with joy in every prayer for you.  
In every prayer with joy, I thank my God!"*

I appreciate our Chancel Choir singing beautifully, with much heart, the Choral Benediction we offered on Sunday to Tom and the congregation. Following are the lyrics taken from Paul's letter to the church at Philippi, a Roman colony in Macedonia (modern -day northern Greece). Philippi was notable for being the first Christian church founded by Paul in Europe. Philippians 1: 3-6; 9-11, set to music by David Schwoebel.

**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 **Hong Kong** on Sunday - January 18, 2026  
[www.globalministries.org/topic/weekly\\_prayers](http://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

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disciples downtown.**

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Website: [fortworthdisciples.org](http://fortworthdisciples.org)

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