

2022 Annual Reports

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

116 E Boyer Street Wadsworth, Ohio 44281
(330) 336-6697 www.fccwadsworth.org

BOARD CHAIR

2022 was the year that brought us, in the words of Val Baughman, out of our “Covid Cocoon” at First Christian Church of Wadsworth, Ohio. After spending almost two years outside of our norm, First Christian was back in full swing. Women’s and Men’s Ministries were meeting, a Baptism Class Retreat was held, Gary Barnard led us again in Month of Compassion, and Val Baughman, along with 11 other congregation members, became part of Visioning 2022: Imagining Our Future.

January of 2022 found adults invited to a limited Sunday School class entitled Big Questions, led by Pastor Sarah and Pastor Shelby; families invited to Bowling, and all church members invited to the ever exciting Euchre Tournament. Scott Marsh, former Director of Choirs, was honored with a “Thanksgiving of Ministry” and a reception on Jan. 2. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (DEI) continued their work in bringing our church members closer together rather than dividing us and we welcomed Rebecca Steele, who joined FCC in November Of 2021. Rebecca was married at FCC in 1973, moved away and has now returned to Wadsworth. Welcome Back!

February, once again, was deemed our Month of Compassion with the theme “Love Remains”. The annual Compassion Bake Sale was held and our youth shared Feb. 20 with Month of Compassion leading us for Youth Sunday. It is always so wonderful to see the youth of our church on the Chancel leading the congregation in a heartfelt service. And speaking of youth, the Baptism Class Retreat was held with a record number of 15 attending. Our Chancel Choir returned to their seats on the Chancel leading the hymns and providing anthems.

March brought us the Lenten Sermon Series entitled “Good Enough - Embracing the Imperfections of Life and Faith, along with another worship gathering of Coffee & Connections. Our FCC Preschool was in full swing, with 4 separate age groups, under the direction of Mary Rocha and many of our committees began meeting in person, as well as on zoom - the new norm. It also was announced that Vacation Bible School - “Hayday - Growing in Friendship with Jesus” would be held in June.

April showers cleansed the earth for the celebration of Easter, but brought us tears as the decision to close First Christian Church Preschool was made. Declining

enrollment, due to all day offerings in the public schools and the need for child care after school, led us to this decision. So many of our community and church members’ children have benefited from our preschool over 16 years and we thank the directors, Andrea Orchard, Brenda Grom and Mary Rocha, along with all the past teachers. We also thanked our current teachers - Kate Gray and Colleen Tennant, along with teacher aide, Natalie Slife. Job well done!

May welcomed the Visioning Committee, under the leadership of Val Baughman and facilitator Pat Berry. Eleven church members rounded out the committee, but it was stressed that Everybody will/should be involved in the process of planning for the future of First Christian Church of Wadsworth. Ideas and feedback would be solicited from the congregation and regular reports would be published in the Caller, along through other means of communication. Our Preschool closed its doors for the last time and four of our youth (some of whom attended our Preschool) graduated from high school. Congratulations and best wishes to Paige Eley, Conner Frisby, Liz Gromofsky and Sophia Novak.

Our summer worship service began in June with an outdoor service followed by a picnic. We welcomed Pastor Eddy Buissereth from Puit Chacha, Haiti, in June and listened to an update of his work with his school, orphanage and foundation in Haiti. Our first congregational Visioning Session was held, along with a potluck luncheon. The Visioning Committee presented results of the first two phases (Vision & Mission Statements and Short Term Goals) and solicited feedback from the congregation. 53 kids and 41 volunteers attended Vacation Bible School under the direction of Kate Gray. It was extremely hot, but no matter what, everyone heard over and over that Jesus loves us!

Even though it was summer, our fabulous Outreach Committee continued to work on their numerous activities. Painting Habitat for Humanity homes, painting buildings at Camp Christian, helping out with Feeding Medina County, holding a Pancake Breakfast and leading monthly Red Bag collections all fit into their busy schedules, not to mention all they would be doing in the upcoming months. Thanks to the leadership of Dan Sondles and to each and every member of the Outreach Committee. You are truly all appreciated!

July was a busy month beginning with Cookout for a Cause held in conjunction with Downtown Wadsworth's First Friday. This event took the place of our annual Car Hop and raised money for "Youth Mental Health Project". Even though it really rained, our crowd was dedicated and we appreciated their attendance. The Outreach Committee constructed their schoolhouse in the Gathering Area and collected school supplies for the annual Back to School event at the Salvation Army. Dave Heisler donated supplies for and built a storage closet in the Youth Room to house all the costumes for Search for the Christ Child. Thanks, Dave, that hallway never looked so neat and tidy.

Throughout the summer, opportunities were offered to our youth to either work in the community (Urban Plunge) or just have fun. Thanks to Pastor Shelby for coordinating these activities and to all the other adults who helped our youth make connections in more ways than one. You are all amazing!

August watched our Visioning Committee complete our Visioning and Mission statements and present the draft of the five Short Term Objectives to the congregation. The committee also began discussing the Intermediate Objectives and continued to meet twice a month for two hours during each meeting. The All Church Softball game was held on one of the hottest days of the year, but all had fun as the raindrops kept everyone a little cooler, and the men cheated (just kidding) their way through an afternoon of golf during their annual golf outing. Way to go Team Dean, Kaufman, Kreuscher and Keach.

Sadly for us, but happily for her, Kate Gray resigned as our Director of Christian Education. Kate accepted a full time position in the area, but will still be an active member of First Christian. Thank you Kate for your dedication and love to our children and church. Our Sewing Sisters, under the leadership of Cathy Hall, were meeting and making baby blankets and pillowcases for local charities. Sewing Sisters is such an important ministry, with such talented ladies involved. THANK YOU!

September welcomed back Sunday School and two church services, along with child care for all three times. We had another cookout in conjunction with Wadsworth First Friday and raised money for Wadsworth Fish. A Visioning Town Hall was held on Sept. 11 to introduce the four Intermediate Objectives to the congregation. A Kid's

Cart was added to the Sanctuary to help make worship a welcoming place for families, children, youth, and "kids-at-heart". Many types of activities can be found in the cart. Women's Ministries had a kick-off event in Silver Creek Park (and a surprise for Pastor Sarah on her 50th birthday) and the first hike of a Fall Hiking Spree. First Men kicked off their year with a Pig Roast and Barbeque at the Kaufman Farm. The men also began their forum on Get Real. The Outreach Committee conducted the Bucket Brigade collection and painted the Youth Room and the hallway near the elevator. Thanks, Outreach, for brightening up lives in many different ways. The Bells of FCC resumed rehearsals after the bells were refurbished.

October was the month to celebrate and express our gratitude to our Pastors, Pastor Sarah and Pastor Shelby for their ministry, guidance and care. All they do is appreciated and we pray, not just in October, but every day, that God bestows great blessings on them and their families. The blessings we receive from both our Pastors is beyond compare. We thank them for their dedication to leading and guiding our church and for being examples for living a life of faith.

And even though we do not have an official "thank the staff month". I do want to thank the staff for all they do throughout the year. Donna Kronander, Officer Manager & Organist; Claire Wilson, Secretary; Lisa Jones, Treasurer, Kathy Johnson, Assistant Treasurer; Gary Oliver, Contemporary Music Leader; Felicity Wilson, Building Operations Manager, Anita Tenney, Custodian; and Mary Rocha, Custodian are all treasures in themselves. THANK YOU!

The movie, Zootopia was opened to the community through the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee of FCC. All were invited to join in pizza and snacks while watching the movie, followed by a discussion of difficult life situations all humans experience. The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering was collected the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October. This offering will help ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist Identity. These gifts strengthen our Church's witness to God's unending love for all humanity.

Claire Wilson began serving as our Sunday School Coordinator through the end of December and Tanya

Keaton as our Nursery Care Coordinator. Several volunteer teams stepped up to lead God's Kids Club and Junior Youth Fellowship (JYF) activities. Thank you to all involved in keeping our programs at FCC running smoothly. We welcomed LuAnn Beaver-Willis and Michael Fox back to FCC as members. We love that you both "found" us again.

November witnessed our final Congregational Visioning Session. A Pot-Luck lunch was held and afterwards, the committee presented the four Long Term Objectives and FCC's updated Core Values/Beliefs. Val Baughman and her committee did an outstanding job of designing, tweaking, presenting and partially implementing the 3-year plan. Many meetings and many hours went into "Revealing Christ by building lives of compassionate faith". Thank you, thank you, thank you to Val, Pat Berry, the Visioning Committee and you, the congregation for caring about and loving First Christian Church of Wadsworth. Claire Wilson resigned as office Secretary.

A huge thank you to Felicity Wilson who served as our Building Operations Manager for the last year. Felicity has stepped down to take a position at the Chamber of Commerce, but will continue to chair our Risk Management Committee, one thing she reinstituted during her tenure as BOM. Thank you Felicity for your service once again to First Christian. You accomplished a great deal in 12 short months. Best wishes.

December brought us a beautiful Christmas season! The music presented was outstanding! Thanks to our special music musicians and to Donna Kronander and Gary Oliver for their leadership. No matter what service I attend, I always look forward to the music. Search for the Christ Child was held in conjunction with Wadsworth First Friday on Fri., Dec. 2. Many youth as well as adults participated in this year's production. Thank you to Pastor Shelby for spearheading our 48th Search and for the many hands that made it a huge success. The Outreach Committee took over the Giving Tree and collected gifts to give children registered with the Wadsworth Salvation Army. Bridget Tomblin was hired as our church secretary and will begin in the position in January 2023.

The church looked wonderful this year as the Worship Committee and congregation, together, decorated. The additional decorations to the Chancel added a beautiful

spark to the Christmas Season. Thank you, Jody Meager and Committee. Job well done!

In conclusion - where have the last 3 years gone? It seems like yesterday that I was standing in front of you at the Annual Meeting and accepting the role of Board Chair of First Christian Church of Wadsworth. I will admit, it was a job I thought I never would take, but because of the taps on my shoulder by our God, I accepted the challenge. Has it been easy? No. Did Covid interfere with everything and anything? Yes. Am I sorry I accepted the position? Absolutely not! The congregants of this church are the most supporting, loving people I have ever had the honor to work with. We are all called to serve our God, and that is exactly what you have done - I don't have the words to thank you all for everything you do day in and day out to make FCC the church it is. It truly takes a village... Thank you for being that village! Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Farver, Official Board Chair

SENIOR PASTOR

OVERVIEW

After two years of what felt like almost constant adaptation and change fueled by the pandemic; this past year we were finally able to carve out time and space to explore future plans for the church. In 2022 we embarked on a congregational visioning process "Imagining the Future" with the help of facilitator Pat Berry who donated his time and expertise. This was my first time participating in a church visioning process and I learned a lot along the way. The process reminded me once again how incredibly blessed our congregation is to have such faithful and dedicated leaders and members. The members of the Visioning Committee put in over 1,000 hours of work over a nine month period. The congregation provided essential input through surveys and three congregational feedback sessions. This was definitely a collective effort! Most importantly, it was a process guided by the prayers of the church as we earnestly sought God's guidance to direct our steps.

The goals of the visioning process were to:

- Review and confirm our core values, vision and mission
- Assess our current strengths and weaknesses

- Assess where our church's particular strengths meet the needs of our community
- Determine our priorities and goals for meeting our Vision and Mission for the next three years
- Develop an achievable plan of action to focus our resources to achieve these goals

The following strengths were identified: leadership, outreach, and inclusion, along with the following weaknesses: lack of young families and individuals, music, political/social issues. Areas of opportunity included: programs for young families and individuals, enhanced marketing/visibility, one on one pastor experiences, and music enhancements while "threats" or sources of competition/conflict included: sports on Sundays and competition from other churches. Out of this assessment we developed nine objectives to bring Faith, Compassion and Community to those both inside and outside of the walls of our church. These can be viewed in more detail in the final report. One of the proposals to come out of this plan is to create a new position "Director of Child and Family Ministries" who will be devoted to building relationships and developing programs to meet the spiritual needs of current and prospective young families. This plan will be voted on at the Annual Meeting and implementation will begin immediately after approval. I am excited to put these plans into action and I want to thank all of you in advance for sharing your time, energy and talents to be a part of God's transforming work in the world!

Pastoral Care

Providing pastoral support to our members; whether in hospitals or homes, in person, by phone or even by text, continues to be one of the most meaningful and rewarding parts of my ministry. I am humbled and honored to walk alongside you in times of sorrow, in times of joy and every time in between.

Statistics:

In person - 132

Phone Calls - 142

Teaching and Worship Leading

- Lent Sermon Series and Book Study - In consultation with the Worship Committee we selected a sermon series and small group book study for Lent entitled "Good Enough" by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie. I worked to develop

sermons, recruit small groups and adapt liturgies for Lent and Holy Week based on this series. I also led one of the small group book studies during Lent.

- Baptism Preparation - Pastor Shelby and I worked together to develop a new Baptism Class curriculum. I helped to lead the baptism class, baptism retreat, and accompanied the youth on a field trip to a local Jewish temple.
- Big Questions Class - I led a Sunday School class on the topic of "What happens to non-Christians after death?" The topic was inspired by conversations generated in one of our adult Sunday School classes.
- Lord's Prayer Conversations - Facilitated conversations and researched worship practices around offering an alternative Lord's Prayer.
- Sermon Series "Press Play" - In response to congregational interest in digging deeper into the bible using a non-lectionary format, Pastor Shelby and I designed a new sermon series focusing on the book of Genesis. I adapted an idea from another church who uses movie clips in their sermons to entice people to attend worship during the summer months (typically a low attendance season). We decided to pair reality tv show clips with our weekly sermons to highlight the universal human struggles depicted in the bible stories and also provide a bit of levity and fun.
- Joint Worship with Trinity UCC - I approached Pastor Adam and proposed that we once again join together for worship on a Sunday in the summer. We chose to do it the same week Pastor Eddy Busserieth was visiting from Haiti so that both congregations could get an update on the ministries we help support. There was a good turnout, helped in part by the fact that the VBS children sang a couple of songs during the service as well.
- Outdoor Worship - We hosted worship outside on the lawn twice over the summer. (The third date was moved inside due to inclement weather). Although the logistics are challenging to set up and livestream this service, many say they really look forward to worshipping on the lawn. It is a good visual reminder to the community that we are an active and vital congregation.

- Sermon Series “Imagine a World with More . . .” - I chose our denomination’s sermon series “Imagine a World with More. . .” to tie in with our Visioning Process and Fall Generosity Campaign. The theme helped us explore the timely questions of, “What is God calling us to be about as individuals and as a faith community? What is our special role to play in shaping the world to look more like God envisions it to be?” I expanded and supplemented the material to extend through the month of November. Members of the Visioning Committee addressed the congregation at each service with messages that were both information and inspirational.
- Contemporary Service - A group met over the summer to review the changes made to the Contemporary Worship service last year and discuss what to keep and what to change for the Fall. We discussed everything from liturgy to music to lighting. The biggest change we made was to move from a 45 minute service to an hour long service. This allows us to have more time for quiet meditation following communion and also sing a final praise song. Other changes included returning to an elder led offering invitation. Although no plates are passed (boxes will remain available at the doors). We will continue to work for a relaxed atmosphere including having the worship leaders and pastors dress casually to encourage people to “come as you are”.
- Communion - I met with a group of leaders to discuss ways to simplify communion preparation and distribution at both worship services. The decision was made to keep the method consistent so that both services follow the same procedures for serving. This will make communion preparation a little easier and reduce the number of deacons needed to serve communion at the Traditional Service.
- VBS - I served as a small group leader at VBS this year. And when the petting zoo was cancelled at the last minute due to weather, I put together and led a storytelling lesson for the final day of the event.

Shepherding and Oversight

- Mission and Vision - I spent a significant amount of time this year (approximately 20 hours/month)

preparing for and helping to lead our visioning process “Imagining our Future: FCC Vision 2022”.

- Staff - This past year saw the departure of several staff members including Director of Choirs Scott Marsh, Christian Education Director Kate Gray, Building Operations Manager Felicity Wilson and Church Secretary Claire Wilson. Most of these employees left to take better paying positions with more hours. I led conversations with the Visioning Committee about how to reconfigure our staff to meet our church’s current ministry goals and objectives. We are proposing shifting many of the current Building Operations Manager duties to the church office and Trustees and not rehiring this position. We are also proposing that we create a new position “Director of Child and Family Ministries” in place of our former Director of Christian Education position. This change will enable us to focus our staff and financial resources to build up our ministries for young families.
- Chancel Choir and Bell Choir - Upon Scott’s departure as Director of Choirs I facilitated conversations with our current chancel and bell choir members. The consensus was to continue with these important music ministries. Donna Kronander graciously stepped in to lead the Chancel Choir. Under her capable and joyful leadership, the choir provides regular anthems and has resumed sitting on the chancel to lead congregational singing and choral benedictions in the traditional service. Donna also coordinates and accompanies solo and ensemble vocalists and musicians who share special music offerings throughout the year. The Bell Choir is continuing under the volunteer leadership of Karole Heisler and Sue Elliott. Donna provides them with support as needed. It is challenging to find skilled musicians willing and able to serve small choirs. We are incredibly fortunate to have such talented and faithful musical leaders!
- Preschool Closure - In the early Spring of 2022 we learned that our Preschool Director and all of our teachers and aides (with the exception of one) were stepping down. As we began the process to hire a new director we quickly learned that we faced significant challenges to keeping the program viable including: declining enrollment,

competition from a changing marketplace, deflated salaries and a shortage of preschool teachers. With a heavy heart we made the difficult decision to close the preschool. We are grateful for the devoted directors and teachers who lovingly cared for the children in the program over its sixteen-year history. We are also grateful to the church who supported this important outreach ministry including the scholarship fund for families in need.

- Women's Ministry - I participated in the Women's Retreat and led a workshop for the event. I also led music at the fall kick-off event.
- Stewardship - I continue to chair the Generosity Team who 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 "Imagine a World with More" and included a display in the Gathering Area highlighting current ministries and weekly speakers from the Visioning Committee.

Denominational Involvement

- Attend District 3 clergy meetings regularly
- Attend Regional clergy gatherings periodically
- Attended a conference hosted by the Christian Church Foundation for senior ministers
- Attended the Regional Assembly at Camp Christian

Community Engagement

- First Friday - I participated in both First Friday events over the summer as well as "Search for the Christ Child" in December.
- Library Card Campaign - I participated in a "get carded" media campaign with the Wadsworth Public Library.
- Community Fundraiser - I attended a fundraising event for the Free Clinic of Medina County in August.
- Community Award Ceremony - I attended the Senior Advocate Hall of Fame Induction of the Wadsworth Older Adults Foundation in July
- Salvation Army Bell Ringing - I rang the bell at Walmart and attended the Candlelight Walk event downtown.

Continuing Education

- I attended the Senior Ministers Conference for Disciples pastors in Kansas City, MO with keynote speaker Adam Hamilton.
- I attended a webinar on Lent planning
- I attended a 15-hour training class on staff supervision taught by Susan Beaumont
- I attended a webinar entitled "Inviting People to Church"
- I attended a webinar on Giving
- Books:
 - "Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive" by Thom Rainer
 - "Heaven and Hell" by Bart D. Herman
 - "Love Wins" by Rob Bell
 - "Cracking Your Church's Culture Code: Seven Keys to Unleashing Vision and Inspiration" by Samuel Chand
 - "Good Enough" by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie

Funerals/Weddings/New Members

New Members: 2

Baptisms: 14

Confession of Faith: 1

Child Dedications: 0

Funerals: 6

Weddings: 1

Worship Statistics

Worship Attendance:

2 Service Sundays:

Average In person: 128 (Cont. 61, Trad. 67)

Average Online: 39 (Cont. 21, Trad. 18)

Average Total: 167

Combined Worship Sundays:

Average In person: 108

Average Online: 28

Average Total: 136

Christmas Eve - 199 (Cont. 87, Trad. 71, Online 41)

Respectfully submitted,

Pastor Sarah West, Senior Pastor

ASSOCIATE PASTOR AND **DIRECTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES**

Overview

This past year has seen some changes in the life of our church. With staff departures and visioning committee improvements, our church has relied more heavily on volunteers and our staff to maintain and move our church forward. I have spent more of my time on youth this past year than in years previous with the hopes of continuing to grow our program and try new things. I also had the opportunity to participate in many events in the life of our church such as the Women's Retreat, DEI Movie Night, and First Fridays. I have continued to participate in our worship life and preach about once a month. I have also continued to assist Pastor Sarah with pastoral care. This year I also had many great continuing education opportunities which provided me with new insights to bring to all aspects of my ministry.

Youth

In addition to weekly youth group and Sunday School during the winter/spring and fall/winter semesters, 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 Chris Jones, Val Baughman, Katie Speicher, Jean Sullivan, and Mary Ellen Huber for helping with youth group, Sunday School, and fellowship events. A big thank you to Heather Errante, who has also been an incredible volunteer with both youth groups (in addition to teaching the baptism Sunday school class for 2021-2022) - 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 teach and prepare our baptism/pastor's class. We worked with sixteen adult volunteers serving as mentors to our baptism class as well. Thanks to all of you for your participation in preparing our students for baptism. In April, we baptized 14 youth and had one confession of faith.

We also tried something new this year called the Urban Plunge - a few days of youth mission, fellowship, bible study, and worship over the summer. We painted the FCC food pantry, cleaned out a shed at the Soprema Senior Center, sorted food at the Akron/Canton Food Bank, and helped out at Marian's Closet. Many thanks to

the many volunteers who helped make that event happen. We will be reprising and expanding this event in 2023.

Below is a summary of 2022 youth events:

January

- Baptism Retreat

February

- Baptism Class Field Trip

March

- CYF Retreat
- Baptism Class
- M&M Fundraiser - \$1,167.00 raised for Camp Christian
- All-Youth Fellowship Event

April

- Baptism Class
- Baptism Sunday

May

- Baccalaureate Sunday & Banquet

June

- Ice Cream Fridays
- The Urban Plunge
- CYF Camp

July

- Ice Cream Fridays
- Chi Rho Camp
- Cookout for a Cause Fundraising Event
- The Cookout for a Cause fundraiser replaced the Chi Rho Car Hop fundraiser usually put on in July. Due to low numbers, we made this fundraiser an all-church event where the youth had a very active role. We raised a total of about \$500 for the Youth Mental Health Project.

August

- All-Youth Kayaking Event
- Chi Rho Game Night with Harmony Springs Church
- Youth Committee Meeting

September

- CYF Lock-in
- Chi Rho Corn Maze Event
- Bucket Brigade Bucket Filling

October

- All-Youth Halloween Party

November

- Search for the Christ Child prep & practice

December

- All-Youth Christmas Party
- Search for the Christ Child
 - Many thanks to everyone who participated in Search for the Christ Child this year! We had 179 people come through, more than 38 volunteers who set up, cleaned up, baked cookies, passed out cocoa, and more, and 34 folks in costume acting out different roles! We also had three babies who played Baby Jesus. We also had donations of \$197 and non-perishable goods to go to the Salvation Army and our own food pantry! The Search was a great success and we are grateful for everyone who came to support us!

Other

- Collaborated with Felicity Wilson to revise and develop our policies concerning youth and children
- Attended a choir concert, plays, sports games, and other student events
- Attended graduation and graduation parties
- Taught CYF Sunday School using a self-developed curriculum on the Gospels

Young Adults

This year, our young adult ministry opportunities have been when our college-age young adults have been home. Thus, opportunities were few. We held a young adult game night during the summer and a get-together over the Christmas holiday. I was also a keynote speaker at the young adult “Advance” conference at Camp Christian over the summer. Throughout the year, I have had the opportunity to get together one-on-one with a few young adults for coffee, gelato, or lunch.

Worship

I participated in weekly worship planning and leadership as well as preaching monthly and occasionally singing. Pastor Sarah and I worked together to plan services in advance and center our worship services around scriptural themes for each season.

Sermon Series

- Lent: Good Enough
- Summer: Press Play
- Fall: Imagine a World with More
- Advent: Keep Awake

Special Services

- Lent & Holy Week services
 - Ash Wednesday
 - Maundy Thursday
- Advent
 - Lessons & Carols
 - Christmas Eve
- Coffee & Connections
 - After holding services in January, February, and March, Pastor Sarah and I determined that Coffee & Connections was not worth the time and effort spent planning and holding the services due to low attendance.

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 2022, I had a handful of in-person visits in the office, in people’s homes, and out for meals or coffee. I also provided pastoral care via phone, and text. 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 a **food distribution for Feeding Medina County**, attending the **DEI Movie Night**, attending the **all-church softball game**, and leading a Bible Study workshop at the church’s annual **women’s retreat**. I also taught an intergenerational **“Big Questions” Sunday School class** for one Sunday on sin. I led the music station at **Vacation Bible School** as well as leading the kids in “energizers” each morning. I also had the opportunity to continue mentoring a college-age youth director at a Disciples church in Green. In September, I helped out at the **First Friday** event by running the face painting station (which was very popular with the kids!) During the fall, I did a ten-week social media series called **“Theology Thursday”** where I tackled issues of faith and theology in a brief video each week. Throughout the year, I also participated in the **Visioning process** by attending meetings, helping facilitate congregational visioning sessions, and planning the youth objective.

Meetings

- Board - Monthly
- Elders - Monthly
- Staff - Weekly
- Outreach - Occasionally
- Worship - quarterly; also attended some subgroup meetings
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion - Occasionally
- District 3 Clergy Gathering - Occasionally
- Camp Christian Committee - most months
- Regional Youth Council - most months until my resignation in October
- Visioning - every other week

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. These included the Montreat Worship and Music conference and multiple webinars on preaching. I also traveled to the Holy Land with a cohort of other ministers and attended a couple of mini-retreats with this cohort throughout the year.

Overall, I feel that the endeavors and experiences in 2022 have better prepared me for this next year of ministry together. I've learned so much (with the help of Pastor Sarah, our church staff, and many faithful and dedicated volunteers) and have 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

No final report this year due to staff vacancy. Please refer to 2022 monthly Official Board Reports for details of activities. Contact the church office for more information.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Contemporary Worship

It has been an eventful year in the Music Department. I have been working with the Visioning Committee on how to enhance the Contemporary Worship experience. We have already been putting new things in place and more will be rolled out in 2023.

In 2022 we were able to upgrade the digital keyboard that is used for Contemporary Worship. The keyboard we purchased is much more user friendly and has some great features like drums and hundreds of sounds we can access for various worship experiences. When musicians are not available, we can use those features to supplement the worship band.

We have had some former Worship Team musicians and vocalists join the team as well as some new members. Our goal is to build up to 4 full Worship Teams that can rotate so the same people are not having to lead each week. As more musically gifted people volunteer, our worship teams will continue to grow. I am also working on forming one worship team that is made up of mainly teenagers and young adults. I am trying to get as many of them involved in leading and participating in worship.

We continued to add new songs to the music library to help enhance worship. When I introduce a new song, we do it at least two weeks in a row so the congregation can become familiar with it. When selecting new songs, I have to evaluate if we have the instrumentation and vocalists to be able to do the song well. I have to select songs that meet the giftedness of the volunteer vocalists and musicians that we currently have. I try to introduce at least 8-10 new songs a year.

Our ultimate goal in the Contemporary Worship Service is to help people to connect to God through the songs and service structure. We want people to have an experience in worship and not just sing contemporary songs. We do our best to streamline every element of the services to we have smooth transitions. We are intentional about trying to create an environment and an atmosphere of connectedness to God through the entire service experience. Everything we do in the service is to help those attending the service connect deeply with God.

We will continue to look for ways to enhance and grow the worship experience in 2023 by looking at new ways to do things. We will encourage more involvement of

those who have made the Contemporary Service the service that they attend.

May God help us to reach more people in 2023 through the Contemporary Service experience than ever before.

Respectfully submitted,
Gary Oliver, Director of Contemporary Worship

Chancel Choir – The Bells of First Christian

Welcome back to Chancel Choir and The Bells of FCC! After a slight “rest” due to leadership changes, both groups are back to “a tempo!”

The Chancel Choir rehearses on Wednesday evenings September through May providing anthems on Sundays and Special Services and always leading the hymns. The faithful choristers of the Chancel Choir are Karole Heisler, Jody Meager, Connie Dague, Susan Ritzman, Marcia Stubbendieck, Jerry Ritzman, Tom Kaufman, Carolyn Kiser, Kent Stubbendieck, and Jim Rivers.

Special Music has been a big plus to our services. A shout out to vocalists Karen Leatherman, Nanci Sullivan, Jim Rivers, Tom Kaufman, Anne West, Cecilia West, Lisa Monterroso and instrumentalists Michael Fox and Mary Ellen Huber for their willingness to add to worship with such joy in their hearts.

The Bells of FCC had a little housekeeping duties during the summer. All of the bells were hand delivered to Malmark in Pennsylvania for refurbishing, cleaning, polishing, and a good once over! The bells returned all nice and shiny and in refurbished cases, too! Thank you to Jane Ross for taking care of the transportation.

Once the bells made it “home” safely, the ringers scheduled rehearsals for Wednesday evenings. Karen Leatherman, Maggie Sayre, Elaine Williams, Sue Elliott, Terri Hansen, Diane Pels, Kristen Sayre, and Karole Heisler make up the current ringers. A special thank you to Karole Heisler and Sue Elliott for leading the charge.

Standing ovations are well deserved for everyone who participates in the music ministry of FCC! It would be nice to see YOUR name in print next year!

Respectfully submitted,
Donna Kronander, Organist

BUILDING OPERATIONS MANAGER

No final report this year due to staff vacancy. Please refer to 2022 monthly Official Board Reports for details of activities. Contact the church office for more information

PRESCHOOL

After a very heart wrenching time of deliberation, we made the decision this spring to close our preschool program. Since our preschool started 16 years ago the preschool landscape has changed: public schools are now offering both Pre-K and preschool programs, all day wrap-around care is more in demand and the industry is facing a teacher shortage. In light of these changes and our declining enrollment, we were no longer in a position to compete in this market and sustain a viable program. We made the decision in the spring so that our families had time to find alternative enrollment options for next school year.

We are incredibly grateful for the faithful and caring leadership of our current and former directors and founders Mary Rocha, Brenda Grom, and Andrea Orchard; as well as all of our teachers past and present including this year’s teachers Kate Gray and Colleen Tennant and teacher’s aide Natalie Slife. Their dedication and love have impacted hundreds of little children instilling in them the skills to become successful learners and caring friends. I know many of our church families speak with great fondness of the preschool experience their children received through this program.

We are hopeful that as time goes on God will provide us other opportunities to serve our community at large. Let us continue to work and pray together so we are ready when that day comes.

With deep gratitude,
Pastor Sarah

SUB BOARD REPORTS

ELDERS

The year started with the Elder Orientation Retreat on February 12, 2022. Topics covered were role and responsibilities, participation in the Contemporary and Traditional services, visitation in homes, nursing facilities and hospitals, and prayer development. The session closed with the commissioning of the oncoming Elders and communion.

During the year we reviewed the proposed changes to the Legacy Foundation Charter and made recommendations to the Board, discussed the concept of alternative versions of the Lord's Prayer, discussed whether to continue with two services or change to one per Sunday, reviewed and discussed year to date church finances, provided hospital visitation coverage for the Pastors as needed, called on and served communion to twenty-five plus homebound members, proposed to the Board a method to fund the Visioning Committee's initiatives, served at all worship and special services.

Now, we're planning the Orientation Retreat for the next Board of Elders. Much has happened in 2022 and a solid group of Elders is prepared, with your support, to lead this church in this challenging but wonderfully blessed time. We thank our Elders for their dedicated service and faith and thank the congregation for its continued support of God's mission for this church.

Respectfully submitted,
Karol Tucker, Jerry Ritzman, Co-Chairperson

DEACONS

We would like to thank all of our Deacons as we transitioned several times throughout this year. The teams were flexible and willing to learn each time we made a change from offering boxes and self-serve communion, to passing the plates, and finally serving communion once again on Easter Sunday. Even when that happened, we had several changes to the weekly routine as we continued to battle Covid. We would also like to thank Pastor Sarah, Pastor Shelby, Val Baughman, and Karen Rule who were always there supporting us with each change. An extra thank you to Karen for cutting the bread for us each week. And Donna, thank you for your weekly reminders for the entire team on our

scheduled weeks, and keeping us notified of the latest changes, mid-week, so we had time to plan for Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,
Heather Errante and Ray Landis,
Deacon Co-Chairs

TRUSTEES

As Chair, I attended the monthly Board meetings. The Trustees of the month performed general maintenance issues including light bulb replacement, minor plumbing/electrical and building repairs. Our monthly duties also included a weekly building walk-through.

In addition to our monthly duties, the following items were completed:

In April minor repairs were performed on all of the pews in the Sanctuary. Darkening blinds were put up in the Sanctuary for the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Furniture was moved from Pastor Shelby's office to the Youth Room and some was discarded.

Cleaned up partitions and cardboard and took items to the Transfer Station.

Installed A/C units in May and removed units in October, on 1st and 2nd floors of the Ed Wing.

In November the Trustees helped the Advent/Christmas Committee move Christmas decorations from the 2nd floor to the Courtyard Room in preparation for "Hanging of the Greens". Installed the stars above the High Street front door and Ed Wing doors in preparation for Search for the Christ Child. The Trustees also helped with putting up the decorations, including hanging banners, and also garland/lights on the High Street front doors. Installed banners on Ed Building pillars for Search for the Christ Child.

Cleaned out parking lot drains.

December – arranged for leveling of the sidewalk and entrance end slab of concrete to the Boyer Street entrance. Arranged for thermostat replacement for Sanctuary. Repaired south screen in Sanctuary.

Sent out the Sunday morning snow removal schedule to the Trustees (3-person teams). Ice melt was put in containers in preparation for the winter season.

I would like to thank my fellow Trustees for serving in 2022: Ted Wilson, John Thompson, Mike Gromofsky, Dave Frisby, Rich Weiss (resigned Oct.2022), Bill Tuck, Bill Roberts, and Matt Gruver (fills Rich Weiss's remaining term). A special thank you to Trustee, Terry Tucker, for his expertise and extensive knowledge of the church property, buildings and equipment, and for his continued support and dedication to the Trustees and our church.

Respectfully submitted,
Bill Dague, Chair

COMMITTEE REPORTS

BUILDING CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

SPECIAL FUND

We made it through the year without any major parts of the building needing repair or upgrading! Consequently, we did not have to tap into our fund.

The Huntington account Balance is \$61,254.02.

The year-end balance in the Beasley Growth Fund held through the Christian Church Foundation is approximately \$60,000.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Henderson, Chair

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

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 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 Christ
- Denise Hachat

- Mary Ellen Huber
- Jim Rivers
- Olivia Thompson
- Amy Tuck

2022 Events & Activities

- Prepared informational slides shared during church services and Weekly Update emails.
- Researched hearing loop and closed captioning technologies for feasibility and cost with the goal of making our church services more accessible to people with hearing impairments.
- Proposed an alternate version of the Lord's Prayer which contains more inclusive language. This version is printed in the weekly bulletin and all are welcome to say the prayer in the version or language that speaks to them.
- On June 12, 2022, our Committee members served "Lemonade on the Lawn" after the church service.
- On October 2, 2022, we hosted a movie night featuring the movie Zootopia and a discussion afterward on the movie's themes of diversity, bullying, pre-judgment, and stereotypes.
- Planned a speaker forum on the topic of "Building a Community of Belonging" which will take place on March 26, 2023.
- Held two fundraisers to raise funds for our upcoming speaker forum and future events.
 - November 21, 2022, at Casa Del Rio
 - November 28 - December 4, 2022, at Five Below

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Tuck, Committee Member

VISIONING COMMITTEE

Summary:

It is important for any organization, including churches, to always be thinking and planning for the future. Our congregation has a history of undertaking a visioning process every 5-7 years. The last one was conducted in 2014. Due to a time of transition in our pastoral staff and an unexpected pandemic we were overdue to conduct a visioning process. So in 2022 we put together a Visioning Committee and with the assistance of a pro bono

facilitator, Pat Berry, embarked on the process of designing a three-year strategic plan for the church.

Goals:

- To review, and confirm our core mission and vision
- Assess our current ministry assets and resources
- Assess where our church's particular strengths meet the needs of our community
- Determine our short term (next 3 years) priorities and goals
- Develop an achievable plan of action to focus our resources to achieve these goals
- Get people engaged and excited about the vision and direction of the church

Participation:

While the board did appoint a Visioning Committee to do the heavy lifting, (over 1,000 total hours) throughout the process they solicited ideas and feedback from the congregation through surveys, interviews and congregational feedback sessions.

Outcome:

The process culminated in the creation of a forty-seven-page Visioning Plan which was presented to the congregation on Jan. 8 and will be voted on at the Annual Meeting on Jan. 22. For more details, please refer to the final report.

Word of Thanks:

I am grateful for the commitment this congregation showed throughout the process through your prayers and participation. I want to express special thanks to our Visioning Chair, Val Baughman for her positive and organized leadership, to Pat Berry, for sharing his expertise with such generosity and passion, and to our Visioning Committee members who gave so sacrificially of their time and energy to accomplish this important task!

Visioning Committee Members:

- Val Baughman - Committee Chair
- Sarah West - Senior Pastor
- Kevin Kaufman - Board Chair Elect
- Roger Wright
- Dan Sondles
- Diane Pels
- Kirt Virgin

- Jerry Ritzman
- Katie Boarman
- Jenny Brothers
- Ex-officio: Shelby Baxter-Andrews (Associate Pastor) and Cindy Farver (Board Chair)

Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass. (Psalm 37:5 NKJV)

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Sarah West

GENEROSITY COMMITTEE

In 2022 the Board voted to approve the creation of a Generosity Committee. Although a Generosity "team" was pulled together by Pastor Sarah in 2019 and has been working over the last few years to oversee and encourage stewardship, it did not become an official committee until this year. The purpose of the committee is to assist the congregation in living out our call to generously share a portion of what God has given us to further the work of God's church. The committee is comprised of 6 members and the pastors serve ex-officio. The members are appointed by the Generosity Committee Chairperson in consultation with the Pastor(s) and Board Chairperson based on recommendations from the current committee and serve for 2 year terms.

General Responsibility:

Keep the congregation informed about how their financial gifts translate into real ministry. Find creative ways to inspire generosity.

Activities of Committee in 2022:

- Designed and implemented the annual generosity campaign "Imagine a World With More . . ." in conjunction with the Visioning process and with the assistance of speakers from the Visioning Committee.
- Arranged for the distribution and collection of Commitment Cards.
- Helped plan Thanksgiving Sunday.
- Scheduled monthly "Mission Highlight" speakers from outside organizations we support to provide an annual update on their activities.
- Researched best practices and trends in church giving, paying attention to the way various

generations respond to different types of messaging.

Members of the Committee:

Dan Sondles

Joe Sayre

Amy Benson

Pastor Sarah West

Respectfully Submitted,
Pastor Sarah West

MEMORIALS COMMITTEE

It was a busy year for the Committee:

We received contributions totaling \$2,225.25.

We authorized a total of \$3,552.58 to be spent on a variety of things ranging from electronic equipment for meetings, such as TVs and speaker systems, to a replacement water fountain, to communion tray lids, to Christmas decorations for the Sanctuary, and finally, Bibles for our youth.

The closing balance for the year is \$20,140.33.

Respectfully submitted,
Bob Henderson, Chair

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Outreach publishes monthly *Caller* articles to keep the congregation abreast and ahead of the next planned opportunity.

In March, three sofas, eight chairs, a television and a table were taken out of service from our Library, Courtyard and Youth rooms. We donated and delivered them to Afghan families who have recently immigrated into the US, to the West Side of Cleveland. A sofa, mini-fridge and bookshelf were donated to Francis House Recovery in Wadsworth.

Camp Christian: On Spring and Fall trips, our painters prepped and painted the Ezrin House and the Camp Superintendent's residence.

Church World Service: We gathered your donated cleaning supplies in August. Our Youth packed them into five-gallon buckets. We delivered 35 Bucket Brigade

emergency clean-up buckets to a depot, to be deployed following the next storm catastrophe.

Cleveland Christian Home: March 20, Judith Mansour, Chief Development Officer, of the Cleveland Christian Home, came to both worship services to thank FCC and visit with members. Without church funds we participated in their summer golf fundraiser. In the fall we hand-delivered FCC's donation and met with the director.

We supported Feeding Medina County (FMC): Weekly during the school year, three families deliver close to 200 Weekender bags to Wadsworth Elementary, CIS, Middle School, High School and Head Start program, for youngsters' weekend food needs.

Monthly, Outreach volunteers deliver hundreds of pounds of food to Staples for Seniors to MENWA and White Oaks from the Feeding Medina County warehouse in Medina.

January 20, July 28, and September 23, nearly 80 volunteers helped Feeding Medina County with their monthly Wadsworth Food Distribution.

Habitat for Humanity: FCC painters put two coats of paint on Habitat builds at 1621 McKinley Ave. in Brunswick, and 490 Durling Drive, Wadsworth. Pastor Sarah gave the blessing to the Wadsworth home when the keys were handed over.

Haven of Rest: We gathered personal toiletries during lent and took them to Haven of Rest, where they were bagged as Easter Hope Totes and handed out during Holy Week to the neediest from their Akron location.

Marian's Closet and Francis House Recovery were recipients of your Drop & Drive personal items, toiletries, and laundry products. They were most appreciative of your support.

Our Outreach friends made over 200 Holiday Table Runners with holiday fabrics from Carol Simonds collection, which was donated to FCC, so we could make and sell table runners to our FCC family, as well as next door at Trinity UCC, so we could send \$2,155 to Helping Haitians in Need to help Pastor Eddy.

Ronald McDonald House, Akron: We collected aluminum pull-tabs for the Ronald McDonald House next to Akron Children's Hospital to help them purchase interior items

in support of parents whose children are in the hospital for extended periods.

We supported the Salvation Army: Throughout the year with your Red Bag monthly donations of 663 food items and 181 toiletries, Nancy Hachat Memorial Pancake breakfast raising \$533, welcome bags for enrichment class students meeting in FCC's Ed Wing, Backpack & Back to School Supplies donations in July, 69 presents for the Giving Tree prior to Christmas. Captain Ashley Farrell came to thank and update our congregation on their new building. We rang the bell next to a Red Kettle for Candle-light Walk in November and in December at Buehlers.

FCC is a member of both the Wadsworth Chamber and Main Street Wadsworth. We invited the community to our corner to participate in Main Street's July and December First Fridays.

Our Outreach volunteers also made bags for our congregation's most senior members in the Spring and Christmas.

We are looking for ways to expand God's love in our community. If you think of personal service actions we might offer to families with younger children, young adults and especially weekend opportunities, you can help us expand and reach our Vision objective.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Sondles, Chair

LEGACY FOUNDATION

The FCC Legacy Foundation is an avenue for the receipt and careful management of gifts to FCC through wills, bequests, other estate planned gifts. These donations are divided between Permanent and Current Ministry funds as prescribed by the Legacy Foundation charter or as directed by the donor. Permanent funds are invested through the Christian Church Foundation and Current Ministry Funds are distributed as outlined in the Legacy Foundation Charter. From January through September 2022, over \$25,000 has been donated to the Legacy Foundation. As of September 30, 2022, the balance in the Legacy permanent fund was \$190,503.57.

Legacy Foundation members are Kathy Johnson, Chuck Keach, Karol Tucker, Joan Acuff, Bob Henderson, and

Jerry Ritzman. The Senior Pastor, Board Chairperson and Board Treasurer are ex-officio, non-voting members.

A revision to the Legacy Foundation Charter was approved by the FCC Official Board in 2022. The new charter had several "housekeeping" changes. The main change was the elimination of an automatic annual withdrawal from the permanent fund.

In September, the Committee met with Matt Rosine, Christian Church Foundation Vice President for the Great Lakes Zone. Matt reviewed FCC's investments, their performance, and the fee structure. The performance was thought to be satisfactory considering the current investment environment and the fee structure very reasonable.

For further information about the fund, the financial details or how you may contribute, please contact one of the Legacy Foundation Committee members.

Respectfully submitted,
Jerry Ritzman, Chair

IT COMMITTEE

The IT committee was pretty busy this last year. Two staff computers were purchased along with a new IT server.

2022 Major Projects

- Installed new VOIP phone system
- Updated Wifi Access Points
- Installed New Wifi Access Points in Ed Wing to cover 2nd floor
- Purchase and setup TV for Zoom meetings
- Replaced video computer in tech booth
- New Mac computer for the tech booth

Respectfully submitted,
Chad Gray, 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 - Cards are sent to members who are celebrating their 50+ wedding anniversary and 80+ birthdays. Kay Bowan has stepped down from this Ministry after many, many years. Thank you Kay! Thank you to Nanci Sullivan who will be stepping into this roll for 2023. We pray our members can feel the caring spirit of our congregation conveyed by these notes and cards.

Prayer Chain - There are over 150 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 pastors 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

FCC remains actively involved with the Salvation Army, although in several different ways. The Soup Kitchen is still provided for the residents of Wadsworth, Wadsworth Township and Sharon Township however participation remains off-site. Individually packaged sweet treats are part of the dinner once monthly. Should a church member want to provide this treat, please call the Army for further

details. The meals remain hot, good tasting and nutritional, the "gathering" is a little different!

Twenty-four FCC members volunteered at the 2022 annual Red Kettle Campaign in early December. This bell ringing is vital to the annual fundraising campaign of our local corp. Donors are reminded that all money donated stays in the Wadsworth area to continue to support the eservices of our Salvation Army.

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.

ADULT FELLOWSHIP

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

2022 Theme: Wellness: Physical, Mental and Spiritual

The FCC Women's Ministry offered women of the church several programs during the year. These events included:

Women's Retreat and Service Project (April). The attendee enjoyed breakfast and lunch, hearing retreat speakers Natalie Syderenko (Breathing Meditation) and Cheree Johnston (Ideal Self). As part of the Retreat the attendees participated in the Service project of creating blank greeting cards to be sent to Operation Gratitude and FCC homebound.

Women's Lunch (May) held at the Galaxy. This included a presentation by Chris McAnlis of her personal photos from area parks and park literature.

Fall Kick-Off (September) held at Silver Creek Park included food and beverages, review of the upcoming year's Women's Ministry activities, and a fun ice breaker and singing.

Daytime and evening Bible Study (6 weeks, beginning October)

The Yellow Envelope Fundraiser (October) was held to financially support the activities of the Women's Ministry. Once again our congregation generously supported this ministry.

Fall Hiking Spree at local parks (Fall 2022)

Respectfully submitted,
Felicity Wilson

FIRST MEN OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The First Men's fellowship program enjoyed a full year of activities for the first time since 2019. The following are highlights from 2022:

Men's Gathering: Making Disciples - Feb 19

First Men of FCC Wadsworth and Medina gathered at Krabill Lodge near Chippewa Lake for a day's program focused on what it means to be a Disciple of Christ and how we might reach out and make more disciples. Chris Jones, Donn Taylor, Steve Hess, and Dave Baker from Medina led the group through the day's program. Approximately 20 men attended.

Men's Forum

FCC Wadsworth and Medina men met weekly from mid-February through March and again from September through mid-November covering the following materials:

- Disciple Making – No Plan B, from Verge Network
- Get Real, by Derek Maul

Fellowship Events:

All Church Euchre Tournaments - We held tournaments this year on Friday evenings

- Jan. 21 - 20 players, winners: Sue Elliott and Keith Longfield
- Nov. 11 - 23 players, winners: Dona Maxon and Ray Landis

Lenten Breakfast - On Sat., April 2, we held a Lenten breakfast featuring Brian McKeighen's secret recipe pancakes. Following breakfast, we had an open forum discussion about steps we could take as a church and men's group to recover from the more than 2 years of disruption and uncertainty arising out of COVID. About 20 men attended this event.

All-Church Softball Game - On Sun., Aug. 7 FCC fielded two teams to compete for bragging rights in the All-Church Softball Game at Valley View Park. Captains, Mike Gromofsky and Randy Kerstetter lead their teams in a heated game. We had 25+ players of all ages to fill out rosters and more in the stands to root us on.

Golf Outing - On Sun., Aug. 14, four scramble teams teed off at Pine Valley Golf Club. It was a fun afternoon which concluded with a cookout at the Kaufman farm.

Fall Kickoff Pig Roast - Sept. 25 - It was a wet and blustery Sunday afternoon. Approximately 20 men gathered at the Kaufman farm for an afternoon of fellowship. The weather disrupted our plans for the traditional corn hole tournament, but we were treated to Noah and Bill Bentley's amazing smoked pork and chicken. After the meal, Chris Jones introduced us to Derek Maul and preview of Men's Forum use Derek's book and program entitled, Get Real.

Thanks to all the hard work and commitment by our steering committee of Donn Taylor, Steve Hess, 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,
Chris Jones, FCC First Men Coordinator

2022 FINANCIAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

2022 CONTRIBUTIONS BUDGET \$484,137.00

Regular Offerings Received

Envelopes	\$463,367.36
Loose Offerings	1,521.55
Sunday School	1,243.51
Initial	<u>597.50</u>

Total Regular Offerings **\$466,729.92**

Special Offerings Received:

Easter	\$ 6,055.75
Thanksgiving	4,379.75
Christmas	<u>6,246.50</u>

Total Special Offerings **\$ 16,682.00**

Total Received Toward Budget **\$483,411.92**

Amount Under Budget 2022 **\$ 725.08**

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Johnson, Assistant Treasurer

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - TREASURER'S REPORT
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

GENERAL FUND - CASH ACTIVITY - 2022

Cash Balance, January 1, 2022			\$191,111
RECEIPTS:			
Contributions (Budget: \$484,137)			484,965
Subtotal			<u>676,076</u>
DISBURSEMENTS:	EXPENSE	BUDGET	
Salaries & Benefits	309,917	\$333,815	
Insurance	14,774	14,857	
Copier Lease	3,754	4,000	
Purchase Equipment/software	2,113	3,000	
Office Supplies	1,679	1,500	
Church Supplies	4,066	3,000	
Postage	1,539	2,000	
Flowers	448	100	
Custodial Supplies	449	1,500	
Christian Education Supplies	0	25	
Subscriptions/books	249	350	
Curriculum	1,735	2,800	
Music	254	1,100	
Maintenance	8,325	4,750	
Maintenance Contracts	8,318	4,200	
Grounds Maintenance	3,444	5,000	
Christian Education Programs	1,871	2,725	
Youth/Young Adult Programs	5,010	6,300	
Church Programs/Functions	8,440	9,925	
Utilities	20,005	24,980	
Technology/Social Media	2,895	3,800	
Communications	4,645	5,000	
General/Regional Assembly	37	0	
Miscellaneous	108	160	
Continued Improvement	2,111	4,250	
Total Budgeted amount for Outreach		45,000	
Disciples Mission Fund	21,680	0	
Local: Camp Christian - Operations	5,040	0	
Local: FISH	1,700	0	
Local: Salvation Army	1,700	0	
Local: Cleveland Christian Home	1,400	0	
Local: Feeding Medina County	5,900	0	
Local: Habitat for Humanity	1,200	0	
Local: The Garage	1,000	0	
Misc. Outreach	3,500	0	
Designated: CTEN	2,000	0	
Designated: HHN	1,500	0	
Subtotal	<u>452,805</u>	<u>484,137</u>	-452,805
Less: Transfer to Cash Reserve Fund	0	0	0
Transfer to Building Fund (For 2021)	5,000	0	-5,000
Transfer to Compassion	0	0	0
Add: Transfer to Preschool	0	0	0
Total Expense / Budget	<u>\$457,805</u>	<u>\$480,493</u>	
Cash Balance, December 31, 2022			<u>\$218,271</u>

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - TREASURER'S REPORT
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

BUILDING FUNDS - FUND BALANCE - DECEMBER 31, 2022

Cash Account - Building Fund	\$61,254
Beasley Growth Fund - CCF	55,542
(Investment value: \$ 59,989)	
Total Fund Balance - Building Funds	<u>\$116,796</u>

SPECIAL ACCOUNTS - FUND BALANCES - DECEMBER 31, 2022

FELLOWSHIP FUNDS:	
Golden Agers	\$100
L.Critchfield Women's Retreat	587
MEMORIAL FUNDS:	
General Memorials	20,140
Landis/Snyder Children's	14,043
Trent/Kelley/Brubaker Youth	18,003
PERMANENT FUNDS:	
Legacy Foundation	3,000
Common Balanced Fund	191,503
SPECIAL MINISTRY FUNDS:	
COVID Compassion Fund	11,750
Good Samaritan	837
Funeral Dinner	1,374
Martha Everhard Bibles	4,842
Women's Ministries	4,667
Men's Ministries	880
Chi Rho & CYF Outreach	1,308
OUTREACH FUNDS:	
Outreach Committee	3,832
Children's Sunday School Outreach	478
J.Singleton Preschool Scholarships	3,114
Legacy Fnd./Current Ministry - Outreach	6,651
Compassion	2,575
Christmas Outreach	25
MISCELLANEOUS FUNDS:	
Choir-Chancel	3,553
Handbell Choir	709
Choir- Children's	346
Library	200
Children's Library	118
Garden Group	5
Staff Continuing Education	3,220
IT Fund	318
Grief Ministry	639
Interior Building Revitalization	250
Sanctuary Banners	460
Legacy Fnd./Current Ministry - Building	5,061
Legacy Fnd./Current Ministry - Non-Budgeted	14,232
Designated	7,652
Cash Reserves	96,439
Total Fund Balance - Special Accounts	<u>\$422,910</u>

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - TREASURER'S REPORT
YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

FCC PRESCHOOL - CASH ACTIVITY - FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2022

Cash Balance, July 1, 2021			\$5,337
RECEIPTS:	INCOME	BUDGET	
Tuition	\$20,625	\$27,540	
Registration	305	1,085	
Miscellaneous	467	250	
Total Receipts	21,397	28,875	21,397
DISBURSEMENTS:	EXPENSE	BUDGET	
Personnel expense	\$22,669	\$23,619	
Insurance	0	885	
Supplies - Office	4	225	
Supplies - Classroom/art	153	450	
Supplies - Cleaning/health	86	175	
Curriculum/resources	0	100	
Programs	132	150	
Cell Phone	600	650	
Miscellaneous	900	500	
In-service Training	215	250	
Background checks	0	100	
Advertising	0	125	
Total Expense	25,059	27,229	-25,059
Net Increase in Cash - before Transfers			1,675
Transfer to General Fund	0	0	0
Transfer to Preschool Cash	6,000	0	0
Cash Balance, June 30, 2022			\$1,675
Preschool Cash Reserves - Beginning Balance			\$7,000
Transfer to Preschool Cash Balance			0
Cash Balance, June 30, 2022			\$7,000

OUTREACH SUMMARY 2022

Cash Disbursements:	
General Fund	\$46,620
Compassion	33,509
Includes monies for US Fires and Storms	
Special & other accounts	4,000
Other:	
Mission trip/Camp fees/Other expenses paid	7,525
Total Outreach Disbursed 2022	\$91,654

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.
The Giving Tree provided gifts and gift cards for many families in need.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lisa Jones, Treasurer