

# January 2026 Newsletter

***The First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Perry is a family that finds ways of supporting growth through the connection of worship and the compassionate care of our church members and community.***



## Attendance Report:

	8:15 AM	10:30 AM	6:00 PM	YouTube
12/7/25	35	74	16	33
12/14/25	34	80	12	33
12/21/25	42	97	n/a	38
12/24/25	n/a	n/a	187	4
12/28/25	n/a	79	n/a	19
1/4/26	43	75	13	21



## Giving Report

12/7/25	General	\$6,777.63
12/7/25	Restricted-Youth Camp	\$50.00
12/7/25	Restricted-Poinsettias	\$126.00
12/7/25	Special-Christmas	\$25.00
12/7/25	Memorial	\$675.00
12/7/25	Restricted-Boy Scouts	\$500.00
12/7/25	Restricted-Ministerial Alliance	\$303.27
12/7/25	Restricted-LeValley Scholarship Fund	\$5,000.00
12/14/25	General	\$4,235.80
12/14/25	Restricted-Poinsettias	\$18.00
12/14/25	Special-Christmas	\$90.00
12/14/25	Memorial	\$40.00
12/14/25	Memorial	\$15.00
12/14/25	General	\$1,813.00
12/14/25	Restricted-Christmas Boxes	\$300.00
12/14/25	Special-Christmas	\$245.00
12/14/25	Memorial	\$50.00
12/28/25	General	\$4,404.24
12/28/25	Special-Christmas	\$5.00
12/28/25	Memorial	\$50.00
12/31/25	Subsplash	\$1,791.67
12/31/25	ACH	\$800.00
1/4/26	General	\$7,798.63
	Total	\$35,113.24

The church office will be closed Monday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. day.



# STEWARDSHIP MINUTE

January – where reflection meets fresh motivation. As you step into 2026, let it be a reminder that you get another opportunity. A new year is a great place to renew a commitment to manage all resources for God's greater purpose. All resources are time, talents, treasures, health, relationships and the Gospel. A key theme includes God is the owner, you are the steward. Because you are designed in God's image, you are happiest and most fulfilled when serving and giving.

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

If you scrub your hands of sin and refuse to entertain evil in your home, you'll be able to face the world unashamed and keep a firm grip on life, guiltless and fearless. You'll forget your troubles; they'll be like old, faded photographs. Your world will be washed in sunshine, every shadow dispersed by dayspring. Full of hope, you'll relax, confident again; you'll look around, sit back, and take it easy.

[CrossCards.com](http://CrossCards.com)

JOB 11:14-18

## January Birthdays

Diana Noteware 1/1  
David Frazier (Jr.) 1/2  
Cindy St. Clair 1/4  
Connor Androes 1/6  
Claire Androes 1/7  
Beau Williams 1/8  
Jim Sim 1/9  
Kirstin Schweer 1/11  
Ella Han (Leach) 1/12  
Gabe St. Clair 1/13  
Ted Loring 1/16  
Chris Stvan 1/17  
Jean Hageman 1/17  
Mike Knott 1/22  
Jayden Thompson 1/23  
Verna Skouby 1/23  
Barbara Schweer 1/25  
Kathleen Schweer 1/26  
Dian McGuar 1/27  
Tom Trumbla 1/28  
Jenna Schweer 1/28  
Beth Bentley 1/29  
Terence Newton 1/29  
Mollye Henley 1/30  
Billie Sullins 1/30  
David Sharp 1/31

## January Anniversaries

Monty & Shelley Hawkins 1/1  
Kevin & April Bond 1/2  
Ted & Tammy Bolay 1/3

# *Josh's Jottings*

## **A Season of Connection, Growth, and Renewal**

One of the greatest gifts of being part of a church community is discovering that we are never meant to walk alone. As we begin this new year together, First Christian Church is entering a season rich with opportunities to gather, learn, heal, and grow—both in our faith and in our relationships with one another.

We are excited to begin the year with a special event on **Saturday, January 11 at 3:00 p.m.**, when we will host a **book signing and conversation with author Dr. Linda Burks**, featuring her book *Navigating Transitions: Embracing Change and Finding Purpose*. This event is open to everyone and offers a meaningful way to reflect on seasons of change—both the ones we choose and the ones that arrive unexpectedly.

Following the book signing, a **church-wide discussion group** centered on *Navigating Transitions* will begin on **January 25 at 3:00 p.m.** The group will meet **every other week** until the book is completed. If you would like to participate, the book is available for **\$17.00**, and we ask that you **call the church office by January 19** so we can order copies in time. This group is open to anyone who feels called to explore how God meets us in moments of change and helps us find purpose in new chapters of life.

In addition, beginning **February 1**, we will launch another important group focused on grief and healing, using Megan Devine's book *It's OK That You're Not OK*. This group will meet on the **alternating weeks between the Navigating Transitions sessions**, creating a rhythm where one week focuses on transition and purpose, and the next offers space to name grief, loss, and the complex emotions that come with them. Together, these two groups reflect our commitment to walking with one another through life's most tender seasons.

Our ongoing studies continue as well. We are still meeting weekly for our **Tuesday morning Bible study**, currently journeying through the book of **Hosea**, with the hope of finishing before Lent. After that, we will turn our attention to the prophetic voice of **Amos**, continuing our exploration of God's call to justice, faithfulness, and love.

We are also excited to begin a new series for women. Starting **January 8 at 10:00 a.m.**, Pam Lightfoot will lead **Bad Girls of the Bible**, a thoughtful and engaging study that looks at the lives of women in Scripture who were complicated, courageous, and deeply human. All women are invited to attend.

These groups—and so many others—reflect something deeply important about who we are as a church. Whether it's **Men's Ministry breakfasts**, weekly studies, youth group on Sunday afternoons, **Grace After Sundown** on Sunday evenings at 6:00 p.m., our **8:15 and 10:30 a.m. worship services**, or **Disciples Kids on Wednesdays**, the goal is never just the activity itself. It's about being together. It's about building relationships, sharing stories, praying, laughing, listening, and discovering God's presence in community.

The breakfast matters—but not because of the food. The study matters—but not just because of the material. What truly matters is the time we spend with one another, creating spaces where people of all ages and stages of life can connect with each other and with the divine. Our hope is that at any point in the week, and at any season of life, there is a place for you here.

Looking ahead, you may observe some noticeable updates to our facility. In the upcoming months, contractors will be installing new carpet and flooring throughout the church. While construction may present temporary inconveniences, we encourage you to view these enhancements as part of our ongoing commitment to maintaining and improving the spaces that support worship, fellowship, education, and care within our community.

This work is about more than flooring; it is about preparing our shared home for the future. It is about creating welcoming, safe, and beautiful spaces for generations to come. We hope you will share in the excitement as these updates begin to take shape.

There is so much happening at First Christian Church, and each piece—each group, each gathering, each improvement—points to a living, active community grounded in faith and hope. Wherever you find yourself right now, know that there is a place for you, and we are grateful to be walking this journey together.

Shalom, Joshua

# Disciples Kids

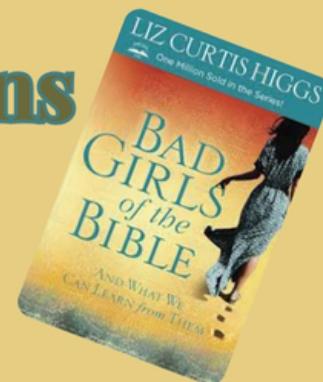
Spring Semester  
Begins January 7th!



## Bad Girls of the Bible

Book Study begins  
January 8th

Thursdays @ 10:00 AM.  
(10-week course)

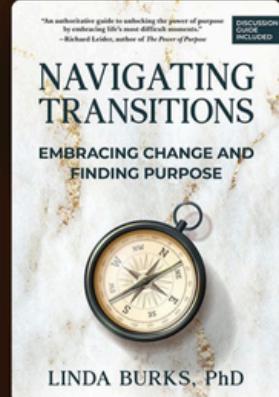


## You're Invited BOOK SIGNING EVENT

LINDA BURKS, PhD

Author of  
“Navigating Transitions”

Meet the author, get your copy signed. Copies of the book are \$17.00 each.



January 11, 2026  
3:00 PM-4:00 PM

**REGISTER NOW BY SIGNING UP IN THE  
NARTHEX OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE.**

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
701 Holly St.  
Perry, OK

580-336-4576

We will begin a book study over  
“Navigating Transitions” on  
January 25th-May 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 PM.  
We will meet every other Sunday.

# Announcements

## Reoccurring Events:

**Sunday School :** Sundays at 9:30 AM

**Sunday Worship Services:** 8:15 AM 10:30 AM

**Grace After Sundown** Sundays 6:00 PM

**Caraway Street:** 3rd Sunday at 9:30 AM.

**Disciples Kids:** Wednesday after school

**Youth:** Sundays at 5:00 PM

**Chancel Choir:** Wednesdays @ 6:00 PM  
(except when Board meetings are scheduled.)

**Bell Choir:** Wednesdays @ 7:00PM (except  
when Board meetings are scheduled.)

**Bible Study:** Bible Study Tuesdays at 9:00 AM

**Disciples Women:** 3rd Thursday of the month  
6:00 PM

**Quilters:** Thursdays 1:00 PM

**Pickleball:** Tuesdays & Fridays at 10:00 AM

**Christian Women's Fellowship:** Events  
scheduled throughout the year.

**Christian Men's Fellowship breakfast:** 3rd  
Saturday of the month 7:00 AM.

## Thank you...

*Dear Family,*

*There are no words that can truly express  
our gratitude for your love, prayers, &  
support during our “worst of times.” While  
we were at the hospital, I learned a new  
term- “chosen family.” No one could have  
a better chosen family than we have in  
you. Thank you for standing with us as we  
begin to adjust to this change in our lives.  
I am especially grateful for Josh, who  
walked us through this difficult time & led  
such a beautiful service for our Nicole.  
Thank you for all your love & support.*

*Diana & Beth*



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
701 Holly St.  
Perry, OK 73077  
580-335-4576



Rev. Dr. Joshua Bell, Sr. Minister  
Shiloah Kennedy, Administrative Assistant  
Emily Androes, Children's Ministry Coordinator  
Paula Shryock, Music Director  
Nancy Wells, Organist  
Karen Douglass, Pianist  
Bobby Cunningham, AV tech  
Ted Loring, AV Tech  
Sharon Worrell, Custodian

*Thank you for reading!*

# January

2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day Church office closed.	2 Pickleball 10:00 AM	3
4 No Youth Grace After Sundown 6:00 PM	5 Bible Study 9:00 AM Pickleball 10:00AM	6 Disciples Kids 3:30 PM Choir 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM	7 Bad Girls of the Bible 10:00 AM Quilters 1:00 PM	8 Pickleball 10:00 AM	9 Nativity take-down 10:00 AM	10
11 Dr. Linda Burks book signing 3:00 PM Youth 5:00 PM Grace After Sundown 6:00 PM	12 Deacons' mtg. 5:30 PM Elders' mtg. 6:00 PM	13 Bible Study 9:00 AM Voting in the Big Room	14 Disciples Kids 3:30 PM Board 6:00 PM	15 Bad Girls of the Bible 10:00 AM Quilters 1:00 PM Disc. Women 6:00 PM	16 Pickleball 10:00 AM	17 CMF Breakfast 7:00 AM
18 Caraway St. 9:30 AM Youth 5:00 PM Grace After Sundown 6:00 PM	19 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Church office is closed.	20 Bible Study 9:00 AM Pickleball 10:00 AM	21 Disciples Kids 3:30 PM Choir 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM	22 Bad Girls of the Bible 10:00 AM Quilters 1:00 PM	23 Pickleball 10:00 AM	24
25 Navigating Transitions Book Club 3:00 PM Youth 5:00 PM Grace After Sundown 6:00 PM	26 Bible Study 9:00 AM Pickleball 10:00 AM	27 Disciples Kids 3:30 PM Choir 6:00 PM Bell Choir 7:00 PM	28 Bad Girls of the Bible 10:00 AM Quilters 1:00 PM	29 Pickleball 10:00 AM	30	31

# Year A Worship Themes & Sermon Planning

## February–May (Including Lent & Easter)

### FEBRUARY (Epiphany → Transfiguration → Ash Wednesday → Lent 1)

Date	Liturgical Day	Gospel Text	Theme	Sermon Title
Feb 1	Epiphany 4	Matthew 5:1–12	God's blessing overturns the world's values	<b>Blessed on Purpose</b>
Feb 8	Epiphany 5	Matthew 5:13–20	Faith that shows itself through justice and light	<b>Bright Faith, Not Busy Religion</b>
Feb 15	Transfiguration	Matthew 17:1–9	Glory reveals who Jesus is and how we must listen	<b>Listen to Him</b>
Feb 18	Ash Wednesday	Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21	Returning to God with honesty and humility	<b>Rend Your Heart</b>
Feb 22	Lent 1	Matthew 4:1–11	Temptation exposes who we trust and serve	<b>The Wilderness Tells the Truth</b>

### MARCH (Lent 2–5 & Palm/Passion)

Date	Liturgical Day	Gospel Text	Theme	Sermon Title
Mar 1	Lent 2	John 3:1–17	New life begins with trust, not control	<b>Born Again into the Light</b>
Mar 8	Lent 3	John 4:5–42	Jesus meets human thirst with living water	<b>Give Me a Drink</b>
Mar 15	Lent 4	John 9:1–41	Christ moves us from blindness into light	<b>Turn on the Light</b>
Mar 22	Lent 5	John 11:1–45	God brings life where hope feels gone	<b>Come Out</b>
Mar 29	Palm/Passion	Matthew 21:1–11 / 26–27	Praise collides with the reality of the cross	<b>Hosanna, Then Silence</b>

## APRIL (Easter Season)

Date	Liturgical Day	Gospel Text	Theme	Sermon Title
Apr 5	Easter Sunday	Matthew 28:1–10	Resurrection changes what is possible	<b>He Is Not Here</b>
Apr 12	Easter 2	John 20:19–31	Peace meets fear; faith grows through grace	<b>Peace Be With You</b>
Apr 19	Easter 3	Luke 24:13–35	Christ walks with us and is known in the breaking of bread	<b>Heartburn on the Emmaus Road</b>
Apr 26	Easter 4	John 10:1–10	Jesus is the gate into abundant life	<b>The Gate of Grace</b>

## MAY (Easter → Ascension → Pentecost → Trinity)

Date	Liturgical Day	Gospel Text	Theme	Sermon Title
May 3	Easter 5	John 14:1–14	Christ comforts troubled hearts and calls us forward	<b>Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled</b>
May 10	Easter 6	John 14:15–21	Love is lived through obedience and Spirit	<b>Love With Skin On</b>
May 14	Ascension	Luke 24:44–53	Christ reigns; the church is sent	<b>Don't Just Stare at the Sky</b>
May 17	Easter 7	John 17:1–11	Jesus prays for unity and protection	<b>Held in the Name</b>
May 24	Pentecost	John 20:19–23	The Spirit turns fear into courage	<b>Breathed Into Courage</b>
May 31	Trinity Sunday	Matthew 28:16–20	We live and are sent in God's holy Name	<b>The Name We Live In</b>

### Seasonal Movement:

- Epiphany: Light revealed in word and life
- Lent: Honest repentance, deep trust, new vision
- Easter: Resurrection shaping daily discipleship
- Pentecost: Spirit-empowered witness

### Core Questions Guiding the Season:

- Who do we trust in the wilderness?
- What does new life actually look like?
- How does resurrection change ordinary life?
- Where is the Spirit sending us next?

December 11, 2025

First Christian Church  
701 Holly St.  
Perry, OK 73077-4240

Dear Beloved Partners in Theological Education,

Grace and peace to you from our community at Phillips Theological Seminary. In this Advent season, we write with profound gratitude for your faithful support. Your partnership makes possible the formation of ministers, chaplains, educators, and nonprofit leaders who will proclaim good news and work for God's justice in the world with integrity, compassion, and hope.

**Celebrating This Year's Impact.** Thanks to your generosity, we have:

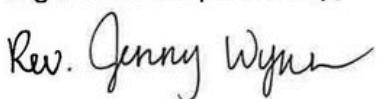
- **Welcomed President Dr. F. Douglas Powe Jr.**, who is committed to Phillips being a place of deep learning, faithful leadership, and global impact
- **Welcomed 67 new students** representing diverse backgrounds, traditions, and callings
- **Served 168 students** by the Center for Lay Ministry Training (CMLT) from a wide range of backgrounds and traditions
- **Given every student a financial scholarship** at 80% to 100% to ensure theological education remains accessible to those called to ministry regardless of financial means
- **Launched the Seminary Scholars Program** that offers eight full-tuition scholarships and a \$21,000 annual living stipend for those moving to Tulsa, as well as mentorship, community and professional development
- **Launched the Continuing Education Leadership Development series** through CMLT that offers fully asynchronous learning to everyone in the Church and beyond on topics like Stewardship and Financial Literacy with more to come in 2026
- **Built Bedford House** which will open in January, offering gathering space, short-term lodging, and greater hospitality for students and guests

**Your Continued Partnership.** We invite you to deepen your connection with Phillips:

- **Share** the enclosed thank you (or use the QR code for a digital copy) in your communications with your congregation
- **Attend** one of our annual events featuring theologians, practitioners and artists or access one of the CMLT education offerings or a course
- **Pray for our students, faculty, and staff**

Your congregation's support, whether through financial gifts or prayer, is transforming lives and renewing the church. Thank you for believing in our students and their callings and for investing in theological education that honors questions and embraces diversity. If you would like resources or more information about Phillips to share with your congregations, we are glad to provide them. May God continue to bless your ministry and ours as we walk this path together.

In gratitude and partnership,

  
Rev. Jenny Wynn  
Director of Development

Thank you for all  
that you do!



## Prayer Requests for January 7, 2026

### The Family of: Sheryl Crumm

#### Recent Health Concerns:

Steve Troutz-stents being placed today at noon.  
Jean Vasek-broke her arm  
Edna Dillon- Diesel Dillon's mother, had a stroke.  
Patti Sylvester-having an MRI on her pancreas on Thursday.  
Kim Hughes-having heart surgery this week.  
Brenda Coats, Chris Thompson's aunt, has pancreatic cancer.  
Rocky Waren  
Jim Gall, Betty Dillon's brother. He has 3 blockages at over 80% and a blood clot in front of his heart. **Update:** he has had three heart attacks & had two stents put in.  
Robert Cunningham  
Kynda Sheets' dad fell and broke his legs. **Update:** He is now in rehab.  
Joyce Choplin

#### On-going Health Concerns:

Rev. Bill Hemm  
Kristie Cook  
Paula Foster  
Duane Dickson  
Dixie-Kelly Frazier's mother  
Tracey Klingaman  
David Frazier, Sr.

#### Unspoken & General Concerns:

##### Praise

Kim & Stan Ward have a new granddaughter! Aurora "Rory" Mae Collier was born 12/29/25 6:06 PM.

##### Cancer:

Brenda Coats	Victor Chavez
Nancy Mitchell	Emily Koch
Shari Bross	Travis Wilhelm
Bev Klingaman	Roger Gierhart
Lindsey Wiley	Brian Fuller
Doris Lewis	Matt Frazier
Doug Butler	Brian Boyea
Roger Ediger	Tracey Klingaman
Junene Whiteley	Sheryl Jackson
Tom Nelson	
Becky Ambrosini	
Tammy Daniels	
Paige Dunham	
Tiffany Hager, cousin of Shelley Hawkins	
Judy Winters	
Shannda Holcomb, friend of Ashley Bode	
George Cunningham, Robert Cunningham's brother	
Lyle Smith	