

# FALL INTO ARTS FESTIVAL

## Step Back in Time: Kennett Courthouse Square & Beyond Historical Walking Tour

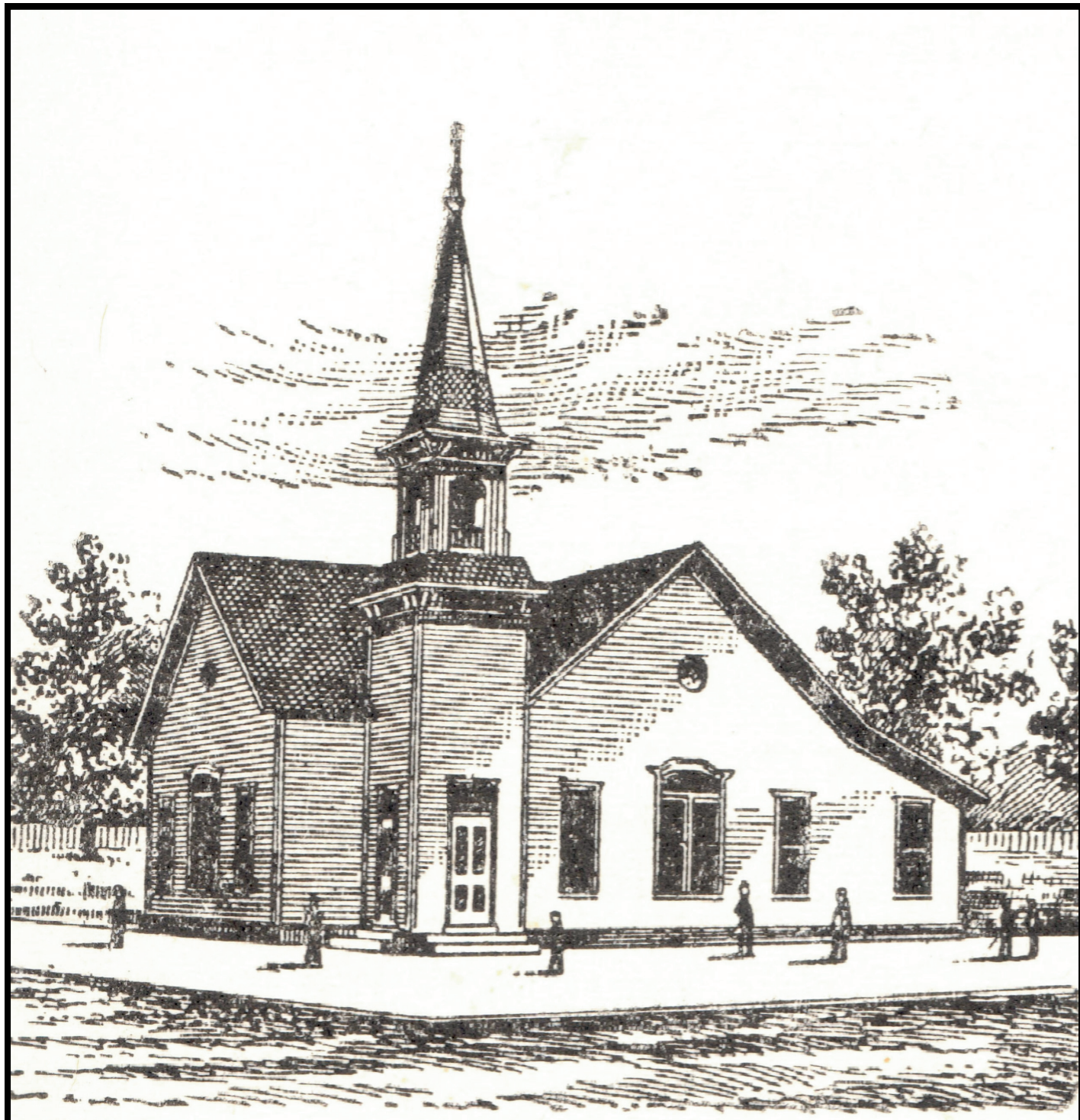
### First Christian Church - Established 1889 - Current Building Completed in 1925

105 W. Washington St.

#### History

Located at the intersection of North Jackson and Washington Streets, the history of this church is deeply rooted in the community.

In the early 1870s, the "Disciples of Christ" movement found a home in Kennett, congregating in various schoolhouses, the courthouse and the Methodist Church. The formal establishment of the church came on May 18, 1889, with 187 people joining the church. Soon thereafter an additional 100 new members were baptized, still without a church building.



Original First Christian Church building, 1895 located at Kennett and Third Streets (south of Causbie's Bakery)

The first dedicated place of worship emerged on the corner of Kennett and Third Streets in 1895, following a September 1894 revival meeting. During the meeting plans were proposed for a House of worship to be built and \$1,000 was raised. Upon completion, local newspapers reported that this new church "was the best in town."

In 1923 the congregation felt that a new church building was needed and with pledges of \$27,655 the church employed an architect to prepare plans for the new building and purchased the property where today's church stands for \$4,200. Construction began in the fall of 1924 and was completed in 1925. That same year the old church building at Third and Kennett Street was sold for \$2,000. During the construction of the new building, services were held at the old Methodist Church on North Main Street where the present Presbyterian Activity Center is located.

The congregation's new home contained six beautiful stained glass memorial windows gifted by families and church groups.

Throughout its journey, the church continued to evolve. The 1930s saw the addition of a basement and the creation of a Youth Orchestra.

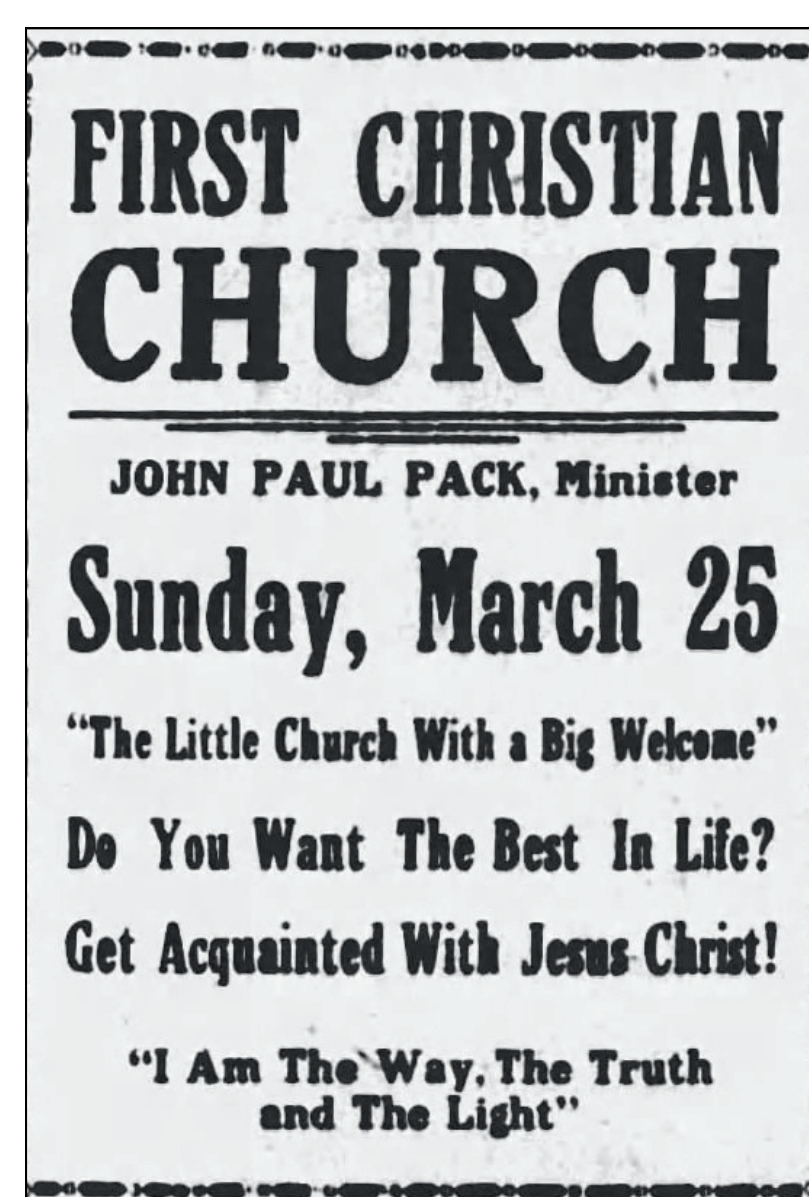
Decades later a sanctuary renovation was completed in January 1957.

Beyond the sanctuary's walls, additions such as a parking lot and ramp expanded the church's facilities, reflecting its evolving role within the community.

In 1981, the church received a gift from Ethel and Paul Jones, transforming their family home into the Parsonage. Meanwhile, the former Parsonage next to the church was repurposed into an annex, housing the church office, the minister's space, and classrooms.

On November 21, 2004, the congregation formally dedicated the Mayes Fellowship Hall. This new space replaced the annex and now hosts church offices, classrooms, and modern kitchen facilities.

With each chapter, the church at 105 W. Washington St. stands as a living testament to the unwavering faith, determination, and growth of a congregation deeply embedded within the heart of Kennett's history.



Ad from the Dunklin County News, March 23, 1919.



The Bible School presented this window, titled *Christ is Risen*, to the church in 1925. It is one of six beautiful windows surrounding the sanctuary.

