



*The Christian Visitor*  
*A bi-monthly publication of First Christian Church*  
*(Disciples of Christ) Rochester, Indiana*

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**Our Mission: Bring people to Christ, grow as disciples, and together serve God**

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### Ministry Team Highlight



The **Christian Education Team** plans and supervises a wide, inclusive educational program for our children and youth. The team is chaired by Letty McKee (cell phone #574-835-3721, email:

[the4mckees@yahoo.com](mailto:the4mckees@yahoo.com)) along with team members Deb Tyler, Amy Bode, Stacey Harsh, and Lori Simpson.

One of the team's responsibilities is to provide age appropriate programming for our elementary students during worship. We call it Junior Church. Junior Church usually involves a lesson, some discussion, a craft, and even some recreation time. Current Junior Church leaders include: Evan Harsh, Stacey Harsh, Lois Morton, Lori Simpson, Kathy Anderson, Peyton Brooks and Micah Heckman.

In addition to Junior Church, the Christian Education team organizes Sunday School classes for our children and youth. Thanks to a recent expansion, our current Sunday School teachers include: Amy Van Heyningen – 4 years through 2<sup>nd</sup> grade, Deb Tyler 3<sup>rd</sup> grade through 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Lori Simpson, Amy Bode & Bob Cannedy will be leading our young adults. With a second elementary class, our young adults moved upstairs to a new area. We have had it painted, and new carpet is on the way. Bill Shewman is working with the young adults to come up with ideas for the walls. Bill is going to supervise the drawings and the painting of some murals.

The final main focus of the Christian Education Team is Vacation Bible School (VBS). We are honored to host a good group of elementary aged children from Little Lambs Daycare as well as others from our congregation and community. This year VBS will meet June 3-7 from 9:30am – 11:30am. This year's theme is **Scuba diving into friendship with God.**

If you are interested in joining our team for the education of our children, please contact Letty.



Be a VBS Volunteer!

## Elder Reflection



Will, Amy and I drove down to Tipton to experience the eclipse in totality. It was a beautiful day and Tipton had a great city park where we set up to view the eclipse. If their bathroom facilities would have been open, it would have been perfect. The mood was kind of eerie as the moon moved into position to block the sun. The color of everything felt like a tornado was about to hit and the temperature dropped at least 10 degrees. When the moon completely covered the sun, the cheers of the crowd went up and the streetlights came on.

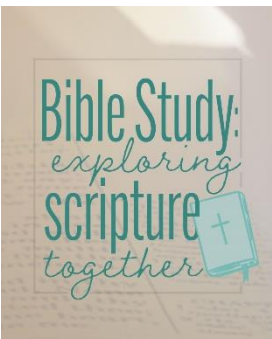
What truly amazed me was the power of light. When looking through our eclipse glasses, you could see a quarter of the sun was blocked by the moon but that had little affect on anything. When  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the sun was blocked, it was still light outside and the day seemed normal. It wasn't until there was only a sliver of the sun still exposed that the colors and mood changed, and as long as there was even a diamond speck of sun showing, it was still daylight. Not until the last tiny speck of sun was covered did the streetlights need to come on. And the moment that little diamond of light was exposed again, there was daylight and the streetlights turned back off.

I was reminded again of the power of light. No matter how much darkness you add, it doesn't change the light, but add a little light, and darkness retreats. Darkness is simply the absence of light, and a little bit of light changes everything.

For me, that little bit of light that changes everything is the hope we find in Jesus Christ. The darkness of war in Ukraine and Israel, the darkness of our political divisions in the United States, the darkness of confusion that is consuming our culture, the darkness of selfishness, the darkness of personal and societal failure; adding more darkness does not affect the amount of light. But turning up the light causes the darkness to retreat. As followers of Jesus Christ, we are beacons of light in the darkness. We are the bearers of hope in a darkening world. And our light does not come from us. It comes from the hope of Easter in our midst. Hope from the fact that life wins. Hope from the fact that the worst thing is not the last thing. Hope from the fact that God is in charge of realizing our hope, not us.

May you find a little extra courage to brighten your light and watch the darkness retreat.

Love,  
Mike



## Teaching Moment Tuesday VIII – 1 Corinthians!

Join Pastor Mike Tuesdays live at noon on Facebook or catch the recording anytime on our Facebook page. We are a studying First Corinthians.

<https://www.facebook.com/rochfcc>

# Prayer List



## Prayer List

\*Key: Person's name (description; who submitted request).

Our Mission Co-Worker in **Lesotho**

**Pauline Scholar** 4/9 hysterectomy 4/11, it is cancer, pray it is contained; by Judy Musgrave

**Cathy Ralstin** 4/9, having some tingling in her legs, starting new physical therapy; by Dave Ralstin

**Curtis Markley** 4/9 home, waiting on kidney & liver transplant, 14 year old grandson of Kay Dulin; by Dick Enyart

**Carlene Musselman** 3/10 home, organs deteriorating due to a protein disease, taking chemo; by Amy Van Heyningen

**Ross Bowers** 2/26 home recovering from skin graft, healing is progressing; son of Jo & John Bowers

**Candy Zartman** 2/25 deteriorating discs; by Allen Glassburn

**Lincoln Lukens** 2/12 hospice care; by Judy Musgrave

**Carol Hughey** 1/18 suffered a heart attack and needs surgery but can't at this time; mother of Jennifer Hughey

**Jim Riffle** 1/7 stage 4 liver cancer; nephew of Barbara Tibbets

**Laura Fortner** 1/3 taking chemo; sister of Stacey Harsh  
**Johna Hogan** 1/3 chemo for Lymphoma, surgery 1/16 for Stem removal, then having stem cell transplants;

By Cheri Hogan

**Rachel Ways** 12/25 cancer relapse, ongoing chemo, bone Marrow transplant; by Kalah Osborn

**Pray for Israel/Hamas/Gaza**

**Amber Harpe** 12/12 home with cancer, no treatments; Andrea Burkett Harpe

**Marty Walters** 10/10 health issues; by Judy Musgrave

**CyndyLou Wolk** 10/10 safety for family friend who lives and works for a news source in Jerusalem; by the Mortons

**Amy Marrs** 9/5 chemo; by Cheri Hogan

**Russia and Ukraine conflict**



God is our refuge  
and strength.

Psalm 46:1





4/22 John & Eve Overmars



4/10 Loie Bowers  
 4/11 Jean Koch  
 4/14 Susan Garman  
 4/20 Eve Overmars  
 4/21 Barb Swihart  
 4/23 John Overmars  
 4/24 Carolyn Deeds  
 4/25 Paula Murphy  
 4/26 Linda Overmyer  
 4/29 Eli Murphy



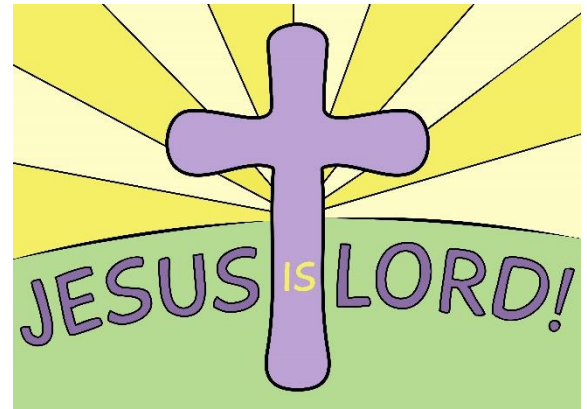
Sandra Hoffarth's Sunday School class for leading the Children's Easter candy hunt as well as all those who brought in candy.

All those who participated in keeping First Christian Church in God's ear for 24 hours in our prayer vigil.

Doug Morton, Nancy Waggoner, Debbie Cannedy, and Bill Shewman for helping to lead our Maundy Thursday worship.

Nancy Waggoner and the worship team for our Maundy Thursday meal.

Everyone who came and made Easter a great day of worship. We had a 131 in-person worship plus around 26 online.



### CHURCH CALENDAR

#### Tuesday, April 9

Noon Teaching Tuesday  
 6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study  
 7:00 pm Elder Meeting

#### Wednesday, April 10

6:00 pm Prayer Vigil Begins  
 6:30 pm Choir Practice

#### Thursday, April 11

6:00 pm Praise Team

#### Sunday, April 14

9:30 am Worship  
 10:30 am Fellowship Time  
 10:45 am Sunday School

#### Monday, April 15

3:00 pm Wynnfield Bible Study

#### Tuesday, April 16

Noon Teaching Tuesday  
 3:00 pm Pastoral Relations  
 6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study

#### Wednesday, April 17

10:00 am Outreach Team  
 6:30 pm Choir Practice

#### Thursday, April 18

6:00 pm Praise Team

#### Sunday, April 21

9:30 am Worship  
 10:30 am Fellowship Time  
 10:45 am Sunday School  
 7:00 pm Board Meeting

#### Monday, April 22

3:00 pm Wynnfield Bible Study with Jan Houlihan

#### Tuesday, April 23

Noon Teaching Tuesday  
 6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study

## Church Clean Up

# Great Job!

### Special Thanks to:

The property team and helpers who cleaned out the dungeon under the sanctuary as well as helped dispose of unwanted items from the daycare. Together, the team filled a pick-up truck and 12-foot trailer with burnables, a



pick-up truck of metal recyclables for Milford food bank, a pick-up truck full for recycling, and a dump truck headed to the landfill. From left to right is John Bowers with grandson Wade and friend Mason, Bill Burkett, Glen Bode, Eric Burch, and Mark Sroufe. (Rich Murphy and Pastor Mike not pictured.)



The Membership Team invites you to Mother's Day Breakfast as we celebrate those who nurture us in life and faith. Whether you are a mother, have or had a mother you are invited to

celebrate. Breakfast is at 8:45 am. When the children ask what you want for Mother's Day, say "Come have breakfast with me and then sit with me in worship."

## Camp 2024

June 10-12	You & Me 1 ages 5+ w/ adult
June 12-14	New Beginnings grades 1-3
June 14-17	You & Me 2 ages 5+ w/ adult
June 17-22	CROSS sports & recreation, grades 6-12
June 24-29	Explorers grades 4-5
July 1-6	High School grades 9-12
July 8-13	Middle School grades 6-8
July 15-20	MAD music, art, & drama, grades 6-12
July 14-20	Mission as Justice grades 10-12

Linked *by* Love

Summer Church Camps are at Bedford. Remember First Christian Church encourages summer camp and pays half of the cost, plus further scholarships for those in need.