



# *The Christian Visitor*

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

Church #574-223-5812  
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**Our Mission: Bring people to Christ, grow as disciples, and together serve God**

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Date: January 6, 2026

Vol. 72, No. 1

## Installation of Officers

This Sunday, **January 11<sup>th</sup>** we will take time during worship for the installation of officers for 2026. Church board officers, committee chairs, elders and deacons please plan to attend and be recognized by the congregation and show your commitment to service this year.

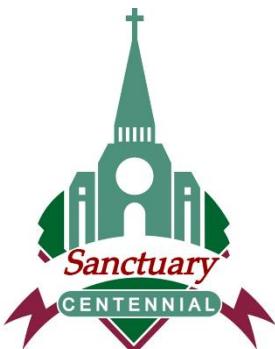
## It's Game Time!!



So Ping Pong is/was your sport. You consider yourself blessed with trivial knowledge. Euchre calls your name. Maybe corn hole or indoor fishing is more your speed. Nintendo? Maybe your gift is in game day foods and snacks. Whatever Game Time means to you, bring it!

On Sunday, **January 18<sup>th</sup>** we will gather in the Fellowship Hall after Sunday School for a Game Day meal and Game Time. We will supply the drinks, tableware, the ping pong table, the indoor fishing area, corn hole, Trivial Pursuit, and cards. You supply the Game Day food and other favorite games. Game Day food can be anything from pizza and brats to finger food and sandwiches to salads and chicken to nachos and grapes. (Let's make it a meal!) Whatever Game Day food means to you, bring some to share and come play!

## Save the Date



In less than one month, we will celebrate the 100-year anniversary month of being in the new sanctuary. **February 1<sup>st</sup>** will be a special worship service followed by a chicken noodle lunch hosted by the Worship Team. We are continuing to receive photographs from the last several decades of weddings in the sanctuary. If you would like to bring a photo to the office, it will be converted to a digital print that will be part of the celebration day on February 1<sup>st</sup>.

## Pastor Reflection



I drove home from the office yesterday and stopped on the side of the road to enjoy the sunset over Lake Manitou (picture below). When I left the house to come to the office this morning it was still dark. The calendar tells me each day is getting longer with 2-3 minutes more sunlight per day. I am still waiting to notice the change.

When in Kentucky for Christmas, we went to church with Amy's family and the preacher reminded us that we can choose how we wait. Whether we are waiting for the streetlight to turn green, waiting for Spring, waiting to graduate, waiting for a promotion, waiting to retire, or waiting to meet Jesus face to face; we can choose how we wait. We can wait with disgust and anger, upset that we have to wait, and become more stressed and anxious every moment. I would call that an unhealthy wait. Or we can wait well. Waiting well begins with claiming where you are and knowing it is okay. When Will was born, people told us not to rush any stage of his development but enjoy each one. Don't live in "I can't wait until he starts crawling" then "I can't wait until he starts walking" then "I can't wait until he starts talking" then "I can't wait until he is out of diapers" and so on. Just enjoy each stage and soak-in what that stage has to offer. We tried to do that, and they were right. Claim and be grateful for where you are. Then use that time of waiting to prepare for what is next. Personally, I have a treadmill in the basement, and I use it through these dark, cold days to prepare for when the sun stays out longer and I get to go outside and play.

We have the same choice when it comes to waiting spiritually. We can wait for our next calling from God, our next revelation, even Jesus' return with disgust and anger, upset that we have to wait, and become more stressed and anxious every moment. Or we can wait well in worship, Bible study, service and prayer. Waiting well spiritually is about preparing ourselves to receive and nurture the seed God is wanting to plant in us and putting ourselves in the place where we can receive it.

Waiting is not easy or fun, but since we have to wait, we might as well wait well.

Love,  
Mike



The first meeting of the 2026 FCC Church Board will be held on **Sunday, January 18<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00 p.m. The church board will meet every other month to report on committee work and to make decisions for church events, mission and property. If you have any questions, concerns or praises about something you see going on at church, please contact Glen Bode or Pastor Mike.



Volunteers needed for the Fulton County warming center program where a safe, welcoming refuge from the cold is provided for those in need. The Nazarene church will host this community wide ministry. Sign up is available at [www.fchope.org/volunteer](http://www.fchope.org/volunteer).

Contact Fulton County H.O.P.E. at 574-223-4357 for more information.

## Ministry Opportunity Booklet

2026 Ministry Opportunity Booklet is available. Please pick one up at the welcome table, fill it out and place it in an offering basket or return it to the office. You can also contact the church office by phone or email to let us know how you will support the ministries of the church in 2026.



## Teaching Moment Tuesday

STUDYING the GOSPEL OF JOHN. Join Pastor Mike each Tuesday at noon on Facebook or watch the recording anytime.

To affirm both the importance of gathering for worship and the importance of being safe in dangerous weather, our weather cancelation policy is simple. If the City of Rochester or Fulton County closes the roads, church activities are canceled. If the roads are open, we are open. Your job is to make a smart decision whether you should stay home or come to worship. Please, be smart and make the best call for you. If the roads are open, worship will be on Facebook.



Thank you to all who gave food by participating in the Blessing Box Reverse Advent Calendar. The food will be a blessing to many in our community.

# JANUARY

Anniversaries

1/24 Ted & Nancy Waggoner

# JANUARY

Birthdays

1/03 Susan Bryant  
 1/07 Brett Hooker  
 1/07 Matthew McKee  
 1/07 Helen Whitfield  
 1/11 Roger Bryant  
 1/16 Sarah Burch  
 1/16 Traci Miller  
 1/19 Connie Hudkins

1/20 Steve Klepinger  
 1/21 Jackie Burkett  
 1/22 Mark Sroufe  
 1/26 Amy Bode  
 1/27 Melinda Burkett  
 1/29 Karmin Reeves  
 1/31 Denny Mikesell



\*Key: Name, date added/updated, description, who submitted request

Our Mission Co-Workers in Egypt, Hong Kong and Syria

**John Overmars** 1/4 hospitalized in Fort Wayne with bacterial flu and pneumonia

**Joan Gordon** 1/4 home from the hospital after heart Afib episode and fall

**Doug and Lois Morton** 1/4 recovering at home from the flu; no visitors at this time

**Harper Simpson** 12/19 returned home and under doctor's care; granddaughter of Lori Simpson

**Carlene Musselman** 12/8 still in congestive heart failure; by Judy Evans

**Mary Jo Rogers** 12/1 Caston teacher in her third round of cancer; by Angie Miller

**Joylynn Whitfield** 11/9 health issues; by Helen Whitfield

**Cathie Lukens** 8/24 home with Hospice; by Judy Musgrave

**Barbara Gainey** 8/18 struggling with heart and lung issues; by Eve Overmars

**Mike Hammel** 8/4 slowly improving from stroke; son of Lois Hammel

**Mike Messick** 6/8 diagnosed with Alzheimer's, also battling Squamous cell skin cancer; father of Sara Story

**Fred Jones** 4/17 continues through his cancer journey; by Sandra Hoffarth

**Mary Ellen Nelsen** 4/10 stage 4 bone cancer; by Jacque Douglas

**Jim Riffle** 3/17 stage 4 liver cancer, receiving treatments; nephew of Barbara Tibbets

**Pray for Israel/Hamas/Gaza/Lebanon/Syria**

**Russia and Ukraine conflict**



### Special Thanks to:

Rissa Kepner, Will Van Heyningen, Angie Miller and Bill Shewman for bringing our Advent Meditations to life.

Everyone who participated in the Reverse Advent Calendar project and collected food for our Blessing Box ministry.

Those who made Christmas a little brighter through providing Christmas gifts for children through Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes and Little Lambs.

The Choir, Praise Team and Scripture readers who led us through the Christmas story on Christmas Eve.

Lea Ann and Ed Rock, Angie and Doug Miller for leading in worship while Pastor Mike was celebrating Christmas with family.

Those who helped take down and put away our Christmas decorations.

### December 2025

December Financials	Year to Date Financials
Income \$30,471.65	Income \$254,693.96
Expenses \$22,747.86	Expenses \$247,761.41
Worship Attendance	In-person      On-line
December Average	69      23
Year to Date Average	73      20

### CHURCH CALENDAR

#### Tuesday, January 6

Noon Teaching Tuesday

#### Wednesday, January 7

5:30 p.m. Community Dinner  
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

#### Thursday, January 8

5:00 p.m. Property Team  
6:00 p.m. Praise Team

#### Sunday, January 11

9:30 a.m. Worship  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time  
10:45 a.m. Sunday School  
10:50 a.m. Worship Team

#### Tuesday, January 13

Noon Teaching Tuesday  
6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study  
7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting

#### Wednesday, January 14

10:00 a.m. Outreach Team  
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

#### Thursday, January 15

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

### CHURCH CALENDAR

#### Sunday, January 18

9:30 a.m. Worship  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time  
10:45 a.m. Sunday School  
11:40 a.m. Game Day and Lunch  
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

#### Monday, January 19

Noon Ladies Luncheon  
6:00 p.m. Little Lambs Board Meeting

#### Tuesday, January 20

Noon Teaching Tuesday  
3:00 p.m. Pastor Relations Team  
6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study

#### Wednesday, January 21

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

#### Thursday, January 22

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

#### Sunday, January 25

9:30 a.m. Worship  
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time  
10:45 a.m. Sunday School