



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

Date: January 27, 2026

Vol. 72, No. 2



Join us as we celebrate the 100-year anniversary of being in the new sanctuary. **February 1st** will be a special worship service with worship order and songs from 1926. Stay to eat as the Worship Team hosts a chicken noodle luncheon at noon following Sunday school. Please bring a salad or dessert to share.



Whether rebuilding after a flood, finding safety after conflict, or recovering from economic hardship, Week of Compassion is finding **A NEW WAY** – a way rooted in relationship, equity, and hope. Together, we are strengthening the church's long-term capacity to respond and accompany, wherever people are displaced or in need. Find more information at www.weekofcompassion.org.

Throughout the month of February, we will be highlighting the ministries of Week of Compassion and Church World Service's Blanket Fund. We will be collecting a special once a year offering to support these ministries the last two Sundays in February.

Pastor Reflection



This Sunday we will be celebrating 100 years of worship in our sanctuary. Since the Church of Jesus Christ has been around since shortly after Jesus' death and resurrection, our 100 years is not long compared Christianity's 2000 years. But to me, 100 years is a long time. It was challenging to the point of being humorous when the worship team gathered to plan the worship order for this Sunday. On most days, the team challenges itself with updating our worship service to keep it solid and relevant for those who attend, while at the same time modernizing it to keep it solid and relevant for the next generation of believers. As our church brochure says, "Our worship service remains relevant and meaningful to people of all ages by claiming the best traditions and music of old as well as the best music and style of today."

All that changed with the decision to worship like it was 1926. The team struggled to try and plan a worship service like it was before they were born. Some remembered before there was a Praise Team. Others remembered when communion came before the sermon. Still others could remember when the offering came before communion. But in the oldest worship bulletin we could find, worship included a processional hymn, morning prayer, the Gloria Patri, communion, then offering, then the sermon and invitation. Nobody could remember details from that long ago. It was challenging to the point of being humorous that it was just as hard to put together a worship service from the generation before us as it is to create a worship service that appeals to the generation after us. I went home from the meeting both remembering how hard it is to think outside ourselves and our experience; and being truly grateful for those who do that hard work, not only in worship planning, but in relationships, in policy making, in schools and politics, in family, and all things intergenerational and intercultural.

I do hope you can join us in worship on February 1 as we worship like it was 1926. Rumor has it some folks are even dressing up for the occasion with pill hats and suits with vests.

Love,
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.

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 cancellation 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.



MISSION MOMENT

BUILDING HOPE THAT LASTS

HOW LAHAINA IS REWRITING THE RULES OF DISASTER RECOVERY

Even before the ashes cooled from the 2023 wildfires on the island of Maui, the people of Lahaina began charting a path to keep their people home – and fight the displacement that has become almost inevitable after disasters around the globe. We have all heard the stories from post-disaster communities across the continent – where despite billions of dollars that often pour into communities through federal assistance programs, numerous studies from across the continental U.S. have shown that natural disasters widen wealth inequality and drive displacement years into their aftermath. Take New Orleans, for example, where research found that neighborhoods damaged by Hurricane Katrina were more likely to gentrify, an estimated 100,000 Black community members were displaced and never returned, and vacation rentals exploded in newly rebuilt neighborhoods — in part subsidized by billions in government and philanthropic dollars.

For too long, there have been little to no long-term protections tied with the funding meant to make communities whole. But in Lahaina, something different is taking root.

In partnership with local and national disaster recovery organizations, the Lahaina Community Land Trust is creating a new model for disaster recovery – where the investments made in communities today will continue to benefit generations of 'ohana into the future. In the spring of 2025, LCLT partnered with Ho'ola ia Mauiakama Long Term Recovery Group (Maui's LTRG), local nonprofit mortgage lender Hawai'i Community Lending, and Habitat for Humanity to create a powerful partnership to rebuild Lahaina 'ohana's homes by filling the financial gaps left between insurance payouts and actual rising construction costs.

Homes built through this partnership with disaster recovery dollars will be permanently shielded from investor purchase, ensuring that today's relief becomes tomorrow's security.



In practice, this means that any homeowner receiving over \$100,000 in assistance will agree that the home must only ever be resold to local families, at prices within financial reach – a promise that will be stewarded by LCLT in perpetuity.

Week of Compassion grant funds supported essential program operations to manage this complex, multi-partner collaboration. The operational support enabled LCLT's small but dedicated team to maintain consistent program delivery during a critical period when families were making time-sensitive decisions about their futures, and to develop ongoing land stewardship systems. Through LCLT's innovative use of the Community Land Trust model, participating homeowners maintain full ownership while committing to affordable resale terms — creating a permanent legacy of housing security in Lahaina.

This collaboration represents more than rebuilding homes—it's rewriting the rules of disaster recovery itself. By embedding permanent affordability protections into disaster recovery programs, Lahaina is creating a replicable model for communities across the world, proving that disaster relief and long-term housing security aren't separate goals but must be intertwined to ensure community healing. Your generosity to Week of Compassion makes **A NEW WAY** possible.

"This partnership is truly a testament to the strength of the Lahaina community and to our collective dedication to keep families home," said Autumn Ness, Executive Director of LCLT. "There are far too many cautionary tales of displacement that have unfolded in so many other communities after disasters, but by embracing creative solutions and working together, we can keep our people home in Lahaina today and build housing security for generations to come."

Our thanks to the Lahaina Community Land Trust for contributing to this story and sharing photos as part of their Week of Compassion long-term recovery grant report.



SPECIAL OFFERING 2026 FEBRUARY 15 - 22

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.



Happy 70th Anniversary!
2/9 Dick & Helen Enyart

1/27 Melinda Burkett
1/29 Karmin Reeves
1/31 Denny Mikesell

2/5 Roxann Murphy
2/7 Stacey Harsh

2/11 Mary Kay Jance
2/11 Treva Mulligan
2/13 Sydney Gudeman
2/19 David Ray Miller
2/19 Sara Story
2/20 Amanda Hooker

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

Our Mission Co-Worker in
Argentina and Bangladesh

Sula Smith 1/19 health battles.

She would like to thank everyone
for the calls, cards and prayers.

Barbara Tibbets 1/11 lung cancer
diagnosis and has metastasized

Karen Hooker 1/11 open heart
surgery January 9; mother of Brett
Hooker

Joan Gordon 12/29 home from the
hospital after heart Afib episode
and fall

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

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

JOYS

Doug Morton is officially cancer free

Eric Burch shoulder replacement
surgery on January 19 went well

John Overmars is doing much better
and thanks everyone for the cards and
prayers during his illness.

Ben Whitfield returned home
following a hospital stay



Special Thanks to:

Those who said “yes” to serving as congregational leaders through 2026. Board officers include: Board Chair, Glen Bode; Church Clerk, Christina Hughes; Financial Secretary, Nancy Waggoner; Assistant Financial Secretary, Gayle Rodriguez; Treasurer, Letty McKee; and board members at large Eric Burch and Patrick McTaggart.

Ministry Team leaders include: Elder co-chairs, Doug and Angie Miller; Deacons, Beth Burch; Adult Christian Education, Amy Bode; Disciples Women, Kathy Anderson; Evangelism, Doug Morton; Finance, Joe Koch; Little Lambs, Lori Simpson; Membership, Judy Evans; Outreach, Letty McKee; Pastor Relations, Lois Morton; Permanent Fund, Bill Shewman Property, Rich Murphy; Stewardship, Ted Waggoner; and Worship, Debbie Cannedy.

December 2025

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

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 27

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, January 28

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, January 29

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, February 1

9:30 a.m. Worship – Sanctuary Centennial

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Noon Chicken Noodle Lunch

Tuesday, February 3

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, February 4

5:30 p.m. Community Dinner

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, February 5

5:00 p.m. Property Team

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 8

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

2:00 – 4:00 p.m. Dick & Helen Enyart's
70th Anniversary Open House

Monday, February 9

4:00 p.m. Membership Team

Tuesday, February 10

Noon Teaching Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting

Wednesday, February 11

10:00 a.m. Outreach Team

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, February 12

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, February 15

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:45 a.m. Sunday School