



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: February 24, 2026

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Game Day #2

You are invited to "The Winter/Hopefully Spring Games" session on Sunday, March 1. We will gather after Sunday School for a carry-in dinner and play games together. Games will include everything from Ping Pong and Corn Hole to Mahjong, Euchre, trivia and spoons. The Membership Team will provide drinks, plates, napkins, cups and flatware along with some games. You bring some food to share and a game you particularly enjoy. Fellowship is part of who we are as Church.



Nancy Murphy will be 90 on March 21st!

Come and celebrate with Nancy and her family on March 21st in Fellowship Hall from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Cards are welcome, no gifts please.

Pastor Reflection



Lent is a time we use to prepare ourselves for Easter. Sometimes we recognize that we cannot get to Easter without going through the cross, so we focus on the hardship, the challenges, and the discipline of that journey. Sometimes we highlight stories and circumstances in Jesus' life that led up to Easter. Other times we simply focus our time to try and grow closer to Jesus. This year we are doing the latter by focusing on Bible reading and prayer in order to grow closer to Jesus.

Hopefully you are receiving and reading the Bible readings via email each day.

Prayer is our focus for our Lenten Meditation time in worship. We are moving through the classic 5-point prayer system we remember from our study of Adam Hamilton's "The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life". When I think of prayer in the Scriptures, my heart starts to dance. The Psalms are filled with prayers of praise, and when I read them, it helps me see opportunities and reasons to praise God every day. Praise is simply recognizing God's greatness. It is standing in awe of who God is and what God has done: clapping at a sunset, smiling at the gift of a new day, exhaling the tension knowing God sent His Son to bring us home and the rest is just details. No need to sweat the details. The second step in our prayer outline is thanksgiving, and when I think of thanksgiving, I cannot help but picture Paul and Silas chained to the prison walls, and how even if God didn't shake the walls and change their situation, their attitude of praise and thanksgiving did. They had been beaten with rods, stripped, and thrown into the deepest part of the jail, chained to the wall. Yet their prayers of thanksgiving made them free and changed their circumstances. I try to picture that in the circumstances of my own life and how an attitude of gratitude changes everything. The opportunity to bring our confessions to God, our failures, our shortcomings, our mistakes; and do it without fear of rejection but rather a promise of forgiveness is an invitation to grow. Reading how King David brought his failures and shortcomings to God, and how he and God then continued forward together instead of breaking apart; it shows God's heart and allowed David to move forward as opposed to being destroyed. When I read in John 17 Jesus praying for Himself, His disciples and me (one of His future disciples and followers); it lets me know there is power there. When parents and grandparents pray for their families, when children pray for their friends, when we care enough about another person to lift them to God; there is power. Finally, there is the transformative part of prayer, when we offer ourselves to God and invite God to use us for divine purpose and work. If we pray that enough, we actually start to get over ourselves and yield. Perhaps by intentionally offering ourselves to God, we might be able to leave our nets and follow like Andrew and Peter as opposed to having to be brought to our knees and blinded like Paul.

As some of our members use our Lenten Mediation time to share their experiences in prayer, I hope you are inspired to move your prayer to the next level. Remember, Jesus loves you and accepts you right where you are, and He loves you too much to let you stay there.

Love,
Mike



Teaching Moment Tuesday

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



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

Our Mission Co-Workers in **China and Lebanon**

Barbara Tibbets 2/23 resolution of financial negotiations for a targeted cancer therapy so treatment can start and the drug works well

Pat Clary 2/23 transferred to Blair Ridge in Peru; broken pelvis from a fall

Jorge Mierke 2/23 having carotid endarterectomy surgery; husband of Jennifer Hughey

Carol Hughey 2/23 health concerns; mother of Jennifer Hughey

The family of Brian Elliot he was killed in the line of duty; co-worker and friend of Josh Tyler

Joyce Jefferies 2/19 arthritis in her hips, awaiting surgery

Ben Whitfield 2/18 transferred to Lifecare for physical therapy and continued care

Mike Van Winkle 2/16 had a stroke and is at Fort Wayne hospital.

Denny Tyler 2/12 esophageal cancer. Tumor is located where esophagus joins the stomach. Chemo and radiation to shrink the tumor; Deb Tyler's husband

Robbie Payne 2/9 health issues; cousin of Gayle Rodriguez

Beverly Wagoner 2/2 in home Hospice care

Wade Mikesell 2/2 bladder cancer; brother of Denny Mikesell

Prayers for all involved & affected by ICE missions in Minneapolis and other locations; by Eve Overmars

Sula Smith 1/19 health battles

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 & 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

Allen & Jennifer Glassburn were married February 21st here at First Christian Church

Jennifer Hughey & Jorge Mierke were married February 8th in Georgia.



March Birthdays
 3/01 John Bowers
 3/03 Bill Gordon
 3/06 Barton Ball
 3/09 Peyton Brooks
 3/13 Cheryl Ball
 3/15 Betty Vance
 3/15 David Lease

March Birthdays
 3/17 Robert Jance
 3/21 Nancy Murphy
 3/25 Annette Young
 3/26 Brad Burch
 3/26 Michaila Rodriguez
 3/27 Mick Evans
 3/30 Christina Hughes

March Anniversaries
 3/15 Bill & Betty Vance
 3/15 Jerry & Annis DeKeyser
 3/20 Rich & Paula Murphy
 3/26 Jim & Treva Mulligan

Special Thanks to:

Jan Houlihan for sharing about prayer through our Lenten Meditation.

John Bowers, Bill Burkett and maybe Mark Sroufe for putting up our Lenten crosses in the yard in such a way that even the fierce winds couldn't bring them down.

Deb Cannedy and her team for getting the indoor cross out and getting our sanctuary ready for Lent.

January 2026

<u>January Financials</u>	<u>Year to Date Financials</u>	
Income \$16,027.00	Income	\$16,027.00
Expenses \$21,870.80	Expenses	\$21,870.80
<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>In-person</u>	<u>On-line</u>
January Average	61	27
Year to Date Average	61	27

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 24
 Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, February 25
 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, February 26
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, March 1
Second Sunday of Lent
 9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
 10:45 a.m. Sunday School
 10:50 a.m. Worship Team
 11:40 a.m. Game Day

Tuesday, March 3
 Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, March 4
 5:30 p.m. Community Dinner
 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

CHURCH CALENDAR

Thursday, March 5
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Saturday, March 7
 10:00 a.m. Little Lamb Board

Sunday, March 8
Third Sunday of Lent
 9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
 10:45 a.m. Sunday School
 7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

Monday, March 9
 4:30 p.m. Membership Team

Tuesday, March 10
 Noon Teaching Tuesday
 7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting