



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: March 24, 2026

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Holy week starts this Sunday. Information is listed below to prepare your hearts for the celebration.

Palm Sunday is **March 29th**. Join us for a special worship service. Pastor Mike will be wrapping up the Lenten meditation series on the elements of prayer.

Prayer vigil starts at 6:00 p.m. on **April 1st** and concludes at 6:00 p.m. on April 2nd. We want someone from First Christian Church to be in prayer during the 24-hour period. The total time is broken into 30-minute time slots. You can pray at church, at home or at work. Call the office or use the signup sheet on the fellowship hall bulletin board for your time slot.

Maundy Thursday meal provided by the church is **April 2nd** at 6:00 followed by a worship and prayer service at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday is **April 3rd**

April 5th is Easter Sunday. Plan to attend the Easter worship service and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. The children will have an Easter egg hunt following Sunday school.

Reflection



I have to admit that I have felt a little bit of joy ever since I found out we will be starting our 24 hour prayer vigil on the first of April. Being mean to people or trying to make them feel foolish has never been a source of joy for me, so April fool's day has never topped my holiday list; but this year's prayer vigil starting on April Fool's Day is giving me a little sense of pride. When it is my turn to pray, I will sit in a room by myself for half an hour, sing songs of praise, lift prayers of thanksgiving and confession, use the church directory to lift every member and friend of the congregation in prayer, and then ask God to fill me and use me anew as I listen for God. Giving up part of my day to do that could be some people's definition of foolishness or even insanity. I am good with that. With how foolish and insane I find much of the world, I celebrate that the world can look at me the same way. As an active, social person, thirty minutes of prayer is not easy for me; but when I do it, other things become easier. Finding that peace that passes understanding, contentment regardless of my situation, and the courage to be different than the world expects is easier after my prayer time. It is not magic and it isn't instant, but spending that intentional time with God lets me know I am not alone and I am not left to my own power. Like I said, I am happy that those who celebrate April Fool's Day by being mean to those they love think I am foolish for spending 30 minutes praying in a room by myself. I think they are foolish for thinking I am by myself.

1 Corinthians 1:18,25; "For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God... For God's foolishness is wiser than human."

Love,
Mike

Lenten Readings

We are in the season of Lent until Easter on April 5. Lenten readings are an opportunity to help us grow in our faith and remind us of the gift of life that comes to us in Jesus Christ. The Worship Team invites you to continue reading through the Book of Romans with them. Read the daily Scriptures sent by email or pick up a printed reading schedule on the welcome table.



Teaching Moment Tuesday

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

Signup sheet for sanctuary Easter Lilies is posted on the Bulletin board in fellowship hall. You can also contact the office to purchase a Lily. The cost is \$16.



Please bring wrapped candy to put in plastic eggs for the children's Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday. There is a basket in the narthex for collecting the candy.



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

Our Mission Co-Workers in India and El Salvador

Devin Bandow 3/21 is being deployed to the Middle East; grandson of Gayle Rodriguez
Steph Bandow 3/21 is having medical tests done; daughter of Gayle Rodriguez
The family of Patricia Perry she died March 17; sister of Bill Gordon
The family of Lawrence Musgrave he died March 18; brother of Stan Musgrave
Mike Van Winkle 3/9 at Randallia inpatient rehab (Parkview) following a stroke
Denny Tyler 3/8 started chemo treatments and radiation for esophageal/stomach cancer
Prayers for families of service members who lost their lives overseas and to all who are being sent; by Christy Bennett
Dick Enyart 3/4 at Miller's Merry Manor in Warsaw for rehabilitation to get stronger before coming home
Joyce Jefferies 3/2 arthritis in her hips, surgery moved to April 7
Barbara Tibbets 3/2 has started her targeted cancer therapy

Jorge Mierke 3/2 recovering from carotid endarterectomy surgery; husband of Jennifer Hughey
Pat Clary 2/23 transferred to Blair Ridge in Peru room 201; broken pelvis from a fall
Carol Hughey 2/23 health concerns; mother of Jennifer Hughey
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
Sula Smith 1/19 health battles
Carlene Musselman 12/8 congestive heart failure; by Judy Evans
Mary Jo Rogers 12/1 Caston teacher in her third round of cancer; by Angie Miller
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
Jim Riffle 3/17 stage 4 liver cancer, receiving treatments; nephew of Barbara Tibbets
Russia and Ukraine conflict
Middle East conflict



Wynnfield bible study will resume on Monday, March 30th at 3:00 p.m. Jan Houlihan will lead the study on Ecclesiastes.



March Birthdays

3/25 Annette Young
 3/26 Brad Burch
 3/26 Michaila Rodriguez
 3/27 Mick Evans
 3/30 Christina Hughes

March Anniversaries

3/26 Jim & Treva Mulligan

April Birthdays

4/01 Bill Roe
 4/04 Alycia Straeter
 4/14 Susan Garman
 4/20 Eve Overmars
 4/23 John Overmars
 4/25 Olivia Gudeman
 4/25 Paula Murphy
 4/26 Linda Overmyer

April Anniversaries

4/06 Martin & Jan Houlihan
 4/22 John & Eve Overmars

Special Thanks to:

Stan Musgrave and Amy Bode for sharing about prayer through our Lenten Meditation series.
 Angie Miller for bringing our morning message on March 22 as well as Sandra Hoffarth and Rich Murphy for taking on more worship leading opportunities.

February 2026

<u>February Financials</u>		<u>Year to Date Financials</u>	
Income	\$18,259.25	Income	\$34,286.25
Expenses	\$20,927.23	Expenses	\$42,798.03
<u>Worship Attendance</u>		<u>In-person</u>	<u>On-line</u>
February Average		77	26
Year to Date Average		69	27

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 24

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, March 25

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, March 26

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, March 29 Palm Sunday

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

Monday, March 30

3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study

Tuesday, March 31

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, April 1

5:30 p.m. Community Dinner
 6:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil begins
 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

CHURCH CALENDAR

Thursday, April 2

6:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday supper
 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service

Friday, April 3 Good Friday

Sunday, April 5 Easter Sunday

9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
 10:45 a.m. Sunday School
 11:30 a.m. Easter Egg hunt

Monday, April 6

4:30 p.m. Membership Team

Tuesday, April 7

Noon Teaching Tuesday
 7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting

Wednesday, April 8

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

Thursday, April 9

6:00 p.m. Praise Team