



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: August 11, 2026

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Church World Service
Humanitarian aid organization

Outreach Team Collecting Hygiene Items

Church World Service (CWS) is one of the organizations that responds to natural and human disasters around the world throughout the year. We like to help stock their response supplies. When floods contaminate the water and everything you own is contaminated, the gift of a washcloth, soap and a toothbrush is priceless. We help CWS collect those items together into a "Hygiene Kit" which can be stored, then instantly shipped where needed.

Our goal is to put together 100 kits on "Service Sunday" September 20th. We will be collecting the supplies during the month of August. Sign-up sheet is on the fellowship hall bulletin board. Monetary donations are also welcomed.



Glen & Amy Bode will be hosting our church picnic at their home after worship on
August 30

3651 W 200 S Kewanna

It will be like a regular Fellowship Dinner except at the Bode's home, meat and drinks are provided. Bring a lawn chair, a side dish or a dessert and we will share our church meal together. We will eat at 12:30 with games and picnic activities before and after.

Elder Reflection



In the July 29th, 2026 edition of the Rochester Sentinel, I found an interesting article (at least to me) titled “Cut Number of Choices Made Each Day”. The main theme for the article seemed to support the “KISS” theory (Keep It Simple Stupid) because your mind prefers less choices and easier choices. Here are the sub-titles from the article:

“Brain will thank you”

“More is often confusing”

“The brain doesn’t like making decisions”

“Limit your choices and move on.”

Here are some of my random thoughts after reading the article:

I enjoy going to a local restaurant and the waitress asks, “The usual?” and I say “Yes.”

How many TV channels do I watch of the 100+ available? Less than 10.

How many different routes could I take to work? Do I usually default to one? “Yes.”

When faced with a bunch of options, do I worry about making the best choice? “Yes.”

Do I worry later if I made the best choice? “Yes.”

Conclusion, I do like having a few options to choose from as long as the steady, experienced, default option is still available.

Since we are talking about choices, I ponder how I make those choices, and question whether they are Christ centered. I have come to the realization that involving Christ WWJD: (What Would Jesus Do) in active decision making seems to bring peace and contentment following those decisions. Habits/autopilot decisions that are good often were formed because they are physically and mentally good for you. I call that proper utilization of God’s gifts and blessings most efficiently on a daily basis. A few defaults/habits that seem to keep me in balance:

No Caffeine after 3:00 PM, for a good night’s rest.

Brush teeth

Drive close to the speed limit/avoid deer

Daily physical activity

Daily check in with God

My takeaway is choices and options can be overwhelming, but when choices are made Christ centered, the decisions tend to bring peace and contentment and the ability to move on. Maybe I need to work on more Christ centered, decision making. Also, I am going to renew my subscription to the Sentinel.

Bob

Teaching Moment Tuesday

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





Little Lambs Daycare Closure

It is with a sad and heavy heart that we must close the day care. First Christian Church's Little Lambs Daycare ministry has been serving children and their families in this community since April 20, 1997, but that will come to an end on October 2. Little Lambs has been a part of our congregation's ministry for almost 30 years. A special thank you goes out to our current Little Lambs' Board as well as all who have served Little Lambs through the years. A detailed letter was emailed to the church distribution. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

Lori Simpson – Little Lambs Board chair
Pastor Mike

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



Our Mission Co-Workers in **Korea and Morocco**

Charles Young 8/11 had surgery for a perforation in stomach, recovering at Fort Wayne Lutheran Hospital

Dylann Elise Hayden 8/10 in NICU with complications from birth. Born 7/18; by Melinda Burkett

Gretchen Anderson 8/10 hip replacement 8/11; daughter of Nancy & Ted Waggoner

Betty Vance 8/5 battling pneumonia, heart in Afib, good results from heart catheter

Ben Whitfield 8/3 for future treatment plans & for Helen strength to persevere

Ryan Cain 8/3 suffered 3rd degree burns over most of his body from industrial accident has had surgery on colon, small intestine, tracheotomy

Pat Dorisse 7/28 renal cancer that has metastasized to adrenal gland, more tests to follow

Elaine Gottschalk 7/24 will be having cataract surgery in each eye in August

Jennifer Glassburn 7/20 hospitalized in Ft Wayne

Cathy St. Clair 7/2 diagnosed with stage 4 oral cancer; friend of John and Eve Overmars

Phil Samuelson 6/28 advanced prostate cancer, metastasized to other organs, also stenosis of the spine; brother of Joyce Sroufe

Joyce Jeffries 6/26 continued prayer for healing and other health concerns

Jim Riffle 5/18 stage 4 liver cancer, receiving treatments; Barbara Tibbets' nephew

Denny Tyler 5/18 cancer treatments paused to let body recover, esophageal/stomach cancer

Bill Abbott 5/4 home with congestive heart failure; Rick Abbott's father

Mike Hammel 4/20 seizures, his throat is limiting his talking and swallowing; Lois Hammel's son

Barbara Tibbets 4/16 is having positive results from her cancer therapy, continued prayers

Dick Hamm 4/12 former DOC General Minister, aggressive cancer diagnosis, prayers for peace and comfort; by Ted Waggoner

Prayers for families of service members who lost their lives overseas and to all who are being sent; by Christy Bennett

Robbie Payne 3/30 Hospice care; cousin of Gayle Rodriguez

Sula Smith 1/19 health battles

Carlene Musselman 12/8 Congestive heart failure; by Judy Evans

Mike Messick diagnosed with Alzheimer's, battling squamous cell skin cancer; Sara Story's father

Russia and Ukraine conflict

JOY

John McCauslin 8/11 received his lung transplant, surgery went well and is stable, has been very active in MI Region DOC

Sheila Wofford 7/2 received her bone marrow transplant; friend of John and Eve Overmars



Wynnfield Bible study meets each Monday at 3:00 p.m.
Jan Houlihan leads the study on heaven.

AUGUST

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

8/12 Amanda Hooker
8/14 Ted Waggoner
8/15 Ella Brooks
8/16 Michael Hoffarth
8/16 Trinity Lease

8/16 Joyce Sroufe
8/23 Joyce Jeffries
8/24 Blake Hughes
8/26 Elaine Gottschalk
8/27 Edna Bedford
8/29 Elayna Blacketor

Anniversaries:

8/11 Mark & Sara Story
8/14 Dennis & Becki Gray
8/15 Barton & Cheryl Ball
8/18 Bill & Melinda Burkett
8/25 Ben & Helen Whitfield
8/31 Denny & Joyce Mikesell

Special Thanks to:

Those who came early and those who stayed after “Worship on the Lawn” to help set-up and clean-up. It was a good day!

Pastor Relations Team for the cake and ice cream to celebrate the 16 year anniversary of Pastor Mike at First Christian.

July 2026

<u>July Financials</u>		<u>Year to Date Financials</u>	
Income	\$18,157.97	Income	\$119,997.97
Expenses	\$19,954.50	Expenses	\$141,952.80
<u>Worship Attendance</u>		<u>In-person</u>	<u>On-line</u>
July Average		68	16
Year to Date Average		77	20

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 11

Noon Teaching Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting

Wednesday, August 12

10:00 a.m. Outreach Team

Thursday, August 13

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, August 16

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:40 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:50 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, August 17

3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 18

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Thursday, August 20

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, August 23

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:40 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:50 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, August 24

3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study

6:00 p.m. Little Lamb Board Meeting

Tuesday, August 25

Noon Teaching Tuesday