



The Christian Visitor
At 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

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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 at the end of the month.



It is in moments of crisis – wildfire, displacement, disaster, loss – that the shared work of Week of Compassion matters most – to people in crisis, and as people of faith. The gifts you give ensure that the stories, needs, and celebrations of vulnerable communities are heard and seen – and that our whole church is equipped to respond. As our General Minister and President Rev. Terri Hord Owens often says, “When Week of Compassion is there, the whole church is there.”

Over the last 80 years, your gifts transform into community recovery and resilience, welcome of new neighbors, and hopeful futures uncovered in the face of extraordinary challenges. We give thanks for the many ways you embody what you have HEARD AND SEEN, what you have learned and received in Jesus Christ: the call to care for vulnerable communities, throughout the year, throughout the world.



When you support the **CWS Blankets program**, you offer more than just warmth—you provide hope and love to those facing challenging times. **27,275 CWS Blankets** were shared with people in need in 2024, thanks to generous donors like you.

Together, we can continue to make a difference. Join CWS in sharing compassion and blankets today!



Pastor Reflection

Traditionally we have asked people to serve on different ministry teams, in different administrative offices, teaching positions and other jobs that keep First Christian Church running smoothly and faithfully. The system has worked well for us, and we have managed to fill most of the jobs the church has needed done. But what if people could serve where they wanted to and felt called to instead of just where there was an opening? In the hope of having people serve Jesus and the church in roles where they not only have a willingness but even a passion, let me tell you about the “Ministry Opportunity Booklet”. I introduced it as part of the sermon last Sunday. Whether you are officially a member or not, the “Ministry Opportunity Booklet” is a chance for you to prayerfully decide what you feel called to do as part of this congregation.

As you open the booklet, you will see categories with individual opportunities and short blank lines. Those blank lines are awaiting your check mark or your “x”, with the exception of numbers 4 & 5 in the first section which are asking for a number. Nobody is going to check every line in this booklet. Our 6 most active people combined will not check every line in this booklet. But everyone has a few things they can pledge to do. Not everyone is going to check the first line about bringing the morning message while I am on vacation, but hopefully one or two will. But almost everyone can add a number to 4 & 5 and set a goal for how many Sundays you will be present in Sunday School and worship in 2025. Joining us online counts. Nobody is going to keep track of that and send you a progress report. That number is between you and God. As you look through the booklet there is a place to sign up for a ministry team. We highlighted the work of each ministry team in the newsletter this past year, but if you have any questions about what the different teams do, just call the office. If you check one of those teams, we will pass your name to that team’s leader. The booklet includes opportunities to volunteer to greet and welcome guests as well as participate in weekday Bible study groups. There are places for you to pledge your financial support, but it just asks for a check mark, not a dollar amount. There are opportunities to sign-up to help with everything from running the electronics during worship to making snacks for fellowship time to leading Junior Church to lighting candles (a good one for our young people to claim).

We are all called to worship and serve the God who gives us life, sustains that life, and brings us to new life. Nobody knows your skills and passions as well as you do, which is why we want to give you the chance to take the lead. There will still be times we will ask for help in specific places, but we are hoping the “Ministry Opportunity Booklet” will get you serving where you want to serve as well as where Jesus needs you to serve.

“Ministry Opportunity Booklets” are available on the welcome table, where the bulletins are handed out, in the office as well as in email form. Return the completed booklets as part of your offering. Connecting you with the ministry God is calling you to is a great way to get you and God smiling at the same time.

Love,
Mike

Teaching Moment Tuesday X



Join Pastor Mike live on Facebook on Tuesdays at noon or catch the recording anytime on our Facebook page. We are studying the Old Testament book of Exodus. It will be good to explore THE defining moment of The Old Testament.



PRAYER LIST

*Key: Person's name (description; w submitted request).

Our Mission Co-Worker in **China**

Cathy Ralstin 1/27 last bed sore is healing and will be starting PT in Indy soon; by Dave Ralstin

Terry Hempler 1/27 ICU with cancer, server at Tweedle Dees; by Louis Boroff

Chrissy Byers and family at loss of boyfriend to heart attack; by Allen Glassburn

Martha Sloan 1/27 tumor in stomach; aunt of Stacey Harsh

Ben Whitfield is back home but still feeling weak

Beth Clair 1/20 Hospice Care; by Doug Morton

The family of Dave Dawalt he died January 16; by Sandra Hoffarth

John Overmars 1/16 surgery to reattach tendon to knee went well. John is home and getting around with a walker.

Bella Sears 1/16 is 19 years old and has blood cancer; by Peggy Johnson

Carlene Musselman 1/14 monthly chemo injections, still in congestive heart failure but holding her own; by Judy Evans

Lance Musgrave 12/9 steroid capsule inserted into eye to reduce swelling; by Judy Musgrave

Beverly Wagoner 12/9 heart and kidney issues, moved to Life Care; by Dick Enyart

Andrew Gray 11/6 liver cancer; brother of Amy Van Heyningen

Marcia Smith 7/22 diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer; cousin of Jacque Douglas

Barbara Swihart 6/24 home with hospice; aunt of Gayle Rodriguez

Lincoln Lukens 2/12 hospice care; by Judy Musgrave

Jim Riffe 1/7 stage 4 liver cancer; nephew of Barbara Tibbets

Pray for Israel/Hamas/Gaza/Lebanon/Syria

Russia and Ukraine conflict

JOYS

Carla Reynolds is now walking normally; by Allen Glassburn

Alicen and Austin Foster had a baby boy, Beckham James, on January 18. Grandparents Mike and Teresa Harsh. Great grandmas Carol Harsh Shafer and Carol Shriver Schrader.

Richard & Sarah Hamlin's daughter and grandson lost their home in the California fires, have now found an apartment.

December 2024

<u>December Financials</u>		<u>YTD Financials</u>	
Income	33,359.75	Income	251,017.67
Expenses	19,926.99	Expenses	231,039.16

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>In-person</u>	<u>On-line</u>
December Average	Attendance 76	18
YTD Average	Attendance 80	20

Winter Weather Cancellation Policy

In an effort to affirm both the importance of gathering for worship and the importance of being safe in dangerous winter 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, then we are open. Your job is to make a smart decision whether you should stay home and worship online or come to worship in person. Please, be smart and make the best call for you.





1/24 Dick & Helen Enyart



Special Thanks to:

Our 2025 ministry team leads: Adult Christian Education, Amy Bode; Evangelism, Doug Morton; Finance, Joe Koch; Little Lambs, Lori Simpson; Membership, Judy Evans; Outreach, Letty McKee; Pastor Relations, Lois Morton; Property, Rich Murphy; Stewardship, Ted Waggoner; and Worship, Debbie Cannedy.



- 1/27 Melinda Burkett
- 1/29 Karmin Reeves
- 1/31 Dennis Mikesell
- 2/4 Garth Simpson
- 2/5 Roxann Murphy
- 2/7 Stacey Harsh
- 2/11 Mary Kay Jance
- 2/13 Sydney Gudeman
- 2/13 Jacque Douglas
- 2/15 Miles Riffle
- 2/19 Sara Story
- 2/20 Amanda Hooker
- 2/25 Doug Morton
- 2/26 Jessica Riffle

I would like to Thank everyone for cards and prayers for the passing of my mother!

Joyce Jefferies



We are looking for more Nursery Helpers. We have been blessed this last year with several willing to help. We are now in need for one or two more. Jayme Brooks, Eve Overmars and Sara Story are now covering the nursery, and we would like a couple more. Please contact the church office if you would be interested in serving in the nursery.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 28
Noon Teaching Tuesday
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, January 29
6:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, January 30
6:00 pm Praise Team

Sunday, February 2
9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Time
10:45 am Sunday School

Tuesday, February 4
Noon Teaching Tuesday

CHURCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, February 5
5:30 pm Community Dinner
6:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, February 6
6:00 Praise Team

Sunday, February 9
9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Time
10:45 am Sunday School

Tuesday, February 11
Noon Teaching Tuesday
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study
7:00 pm Elders Meeting