



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

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2026 Stewardship Pledge Invitation

The 2026 Stewardship campaign is going on now with Stewardship moments during the worship services. These moments are leading to our Commitment Sunday when we ask you to bring your pledge cards to support the Lord's work through the ministries of First Christian Church.

Like many parts of your Christian life, the tradition at FCC is not to tell you what to give or how to live your life, (you are strong enough to make those decisions) but we will remind you of how other good Christians live their lives. From the lives of Jesus, His Disciples, and the lives of others around us, we find inspiration. This is that time for a reminder.

The Biblical offerings of gifts and tithes are set out as the model tithes. The Lord does not ask for all our resources or income to support the work of the church, but He does want a sacrificial gift, in return for the blessings given to those who love Him.

We are calling our campaign "Break a Good Habit" as you are already in the good habit of giving. That decision was most likely made many years ago. The question is – have you reconsidered the gifts you return to the Lord lately? Habitually doing a nice thing does not always reflect the gratitude that is there or should be there. It may become a mechanical event, and with the more modern forms of making your offering, you may not have a single thought of the gift when it is paid to the church. The less interaction you have, the fewer prayers of thanksgiving will be offered.

Your offerings impact others through the works of His church here in Rochester and the greater world beyond. If you grow your gift for next year, your decision and your tithe will improve the lives of others who also are God's people.

As Jesus says in Matthew 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." Now is a good time to consider where your heart truly is. He says your treasure leads your heart. We know that is how it works with God's people. Join us in counting our blessings by prayerfully considering making a pledge to support the Lord's work through the ministries of First Christian Church. Be here on October 26 to share in the blessings. Pledge cards will be sent to your home this week.

Ted Waggoner

Elder Reflection



Leaning on Faith in Tough Times

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.” *Proverbs 3:5*

I have been thinking a lot about how my faith aligns with the world around me. I thought, for the most part, that if we were Christians and went to church, we were basically on the same page. This line of thinking is very unclear to me right now. I think that across lifetimes, this has been an issue, but at this moment in time, it is our issue.

Pastor Mike’s sermon on October 5th was about faith. I believe that faith is the one thing that carries us through hard and confusing times. Without faith, it is impossible to please God. When we discuss faith, we often refer to things that seem impossible, but with God, all things are possible.

Faith gives us perspective, helping us see that struggles are not the end of the story but part of a greater story we may not yet understand. It builds resilience, giving us the strength to keep going when our own courage begins to wane.

In times of trouble, faith draws us into our community, a reminder that God often works through the love and prayers of others. When we lean on one another, we also lean more fully on Him.

Ultimately, faith invites us to surrender, not in defeat, but in trust. We may not control every outcome, but we can rest in the promise that God’s plan is always good, even when it’s not yet clear.

If you feel like I do right now, always remember that the Lord is our guide and our anchor in unsure times. We may not be able to change what is going on around us, but our faith is what will get us through when all else seems unclear and out of focus.

Angie Miller



2 Timothy 3:16 says, “All Scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness.” Beginning **October 19**, Pastor Mike will engage in a 3 week sermon series revolving around this passage. We will explore how the Bible came to be and how we can read and study it with integrity and faith in a way that cherishes its words and keeps it relevant yesterday, today and tomorrow.



Teaching Moment Tuesday

STUDYING the GOSPEL OF JOHN. Join Pastor Mike each Tuesday at noon on Facebook.

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

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

Our Mission Co-Workers in the
Democratic Republic of Congo and Japan

The family of Loie Bowers 10/14

Loie died October 13th

Sandy Campbell 10/9 coming home from the hospital today

Dan Tibbets 10/6 having repeated episodes of what may be mini-strokes (TIA's); brother of Barbara Tibbets

Pat Clary 10/6 has finished radiation on a cancerous tumor on the back of her head

Sula Smith 9/29 recovering at home after a fall

Vic Kiefer 9/29 open heart surgery, type A diabetic; by Chris Summe

Amanda Marshall 9/24 severe medical complications from a dislodged gall stone, day care employee

Ron Holloway 9/17 struggles with back pain, pray for strength; husband of Joy Holloway

Cathie Lukens 8/24 home with Hospice; by Judy Musgrave

Barbara Gainey 8/18 struggling with heart and lung issues; by Eve Overmars

Jim Wilber 8/11 Hickory Creek with Hospice Care

Carlene Musselman 8/11 monthly chemo injections, still in congestive heart failure; by Judy Evans

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

Mary Ellen Nelsen 4/10 stage 4 bone cancer; by Jacque Douglas

Jim Riffle 3/17 stage 4 liver cancer, receiving treatments; nephew of Barbara Tibbets

Barbara Swihart home with hospice; aunt of Gayle Rodriguez

Pray for Israel/Hamas/Gaza/Lebanon/Syria Russia and Ukraine conflict

JOYS

Sharri Downing 10/12 is receiving helpful treatments for her back; by Judy Musgrave

Patrick McTaggart 10/13 surgery went very well

Tim Bryant 10/13 the spots on Tim's liver are benign, also no change in the spot in his pancreas. Re-scan in six months; Susan Bryant's husband



The month of October is Pastor Appreciation month. Be sure and let Pastor Mike know how much we appreciate all he does: sermons and singing during Sunday worship, being involved in all the ministry teams, Teaching Tuesday lessons and personal visits. Maybe there is a special way he has ministered to you. Let him know by saying 'Thank You'.



10/15 Mark & Joyce Sroufe



10/15 Lori Shewman
10/18 Charlotte Miller
10/19 Mike Van Heyningen
10/19 Jennifer McCarty
10/22 Dee VanWinkle
10/25 Judy Miller
10/25 Joylyn Whitfield
10/26 Jan Houlihan
10/26 Carol Harsh
10/28 Sula Smith
10/30 Christina Hughes



Special Thanks to:

All those who gave to the special Reconciliation offering. Just over \$500 has been collected so far. Thanks also to Letty McKee for highlighting the ministry of Reconciliation in worship.

Ted Waggoner and Patrick McTaggart for moving us toward even more faithful giving through our stewardship campaign.

Carolyn Reed, Ted Waggoner, Lori Simpson, Deb Tyler, and Sandra Hoffarth for leading worship while Pastor Mike was on vacation.

Christina Hughes, Judy Evans and the entire membership team for compiling the next church directory.

September 2025

September Financials

Income 26,409.00
Expenses 17,669.90

YTD Financials

Income 165,636.60
Expenses 187,562.51

Worship Attendance

September Average
YTD Average

In-person

69
73

On-line

15
19

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 14

Noon Teaching Tuesday
6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, October 15

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

Sunday, October 19

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
7:00 p.m. Board Meeting

Monday, October 20

Noon Ladies Luncheon
3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Little Lambs Board Meeting

Tuesday, October 21

Noon Teaching Tuesday
3:00 p.m. Pastoral Relations
6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study
7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting

CHURCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, October 22

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, October 23

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, October 26

Stewardship Commitment Sunday

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

Monday, October 27

3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study

Tuesday, October 28

Noon Teaching Tuesday
6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study