The Christian Visitor

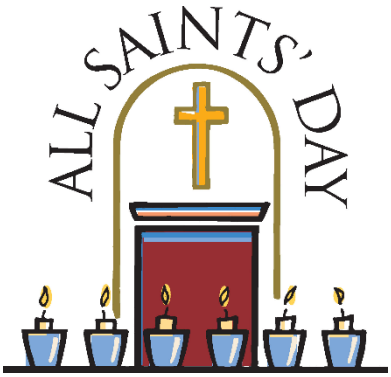
A bi-monthly publication of First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) Rochester, Indiana

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Our Mission: Bring people to Christ, grow as disciples, and together serve God

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Date: October 27, 2026 Vol. 72, No. 20



All Saint's Day is November 1st. We will take time during worship to remember church members and church friends who have died this past year.

Daylight savings time ends on November 1st. Remember to turn back your clocks one hour Saturday night, October 31st.



Little Lambs Update

The Little Lambs Board is doing all they can to make sure everything is done above board as they close the 29 year ministry of caring for children and infants in our community. Apologies for any messages that have come across as harsh or accusing. Because Little Lambs was a registered non-profit organization, all of its assets must be distributed to other non-profit organizations or be in violation of tax code. That means, though it would be nice and even helpful to just invite church members and the community to come take whatever they can use from the daycare, it is not legal. Individuals are not registered non-profit organizations and therefore we cannot give anything to you. That does not mean we cannot sell things at really low prices and then donate the proceeds. Everything has been inventoried and the Little Lambs' Board is currently deciding whether to hold an online sale with an auction company or do more of a traditional garage sale. Either way the board continues to make good, honest, and faithful progress. We will keep you updated.

Pastor's Reflection



One of the hard lessons of growing up is learning the difference between needs and wants. It started in school when our parents helped us realize there is only so much time in the day, and you needed to get your homework done even though you want to go play. Needs before wants. It hit even harder when we became in charge of our own finances. We only have so much money, and we need to pay for the things we need before we spend money on the things we want. We need to pay the house payment, car payment, electrical and water bills before we take a trip to Disney. We need to make sure we have enough gas to get to work before we go out for a nice dinner. When the paycheck comes in, needs get paid before wants or we quickly find ourselves in financial trouble. It is not a fun lesson, but a necessary one.

When the elders presented our new "Contagious Faith" congregational study designed to help us share our faith with others, many of us took a step back. On the inside we thought, "I don't want to do that." Stereotypes of going door to door or the pushy, obnoxious Christian at work made us take a step back. But then your maturity kicked in and you remembered the difference between need and want. You looked at your own faith journey, looked at where we are as a congregation, and declared "This may not be something I want to do, but it is something we need to do." Over 50 people signed up and are participating in a small group study in addition to the work we are doing in worship.

Thank you. Thank you for your maturity. Thank you for your continuing investment in First Christian Church. Thank you for your obedience as Jesus calls us to go fishing and make disciples of all nations. Thank you.

Love,
Mike
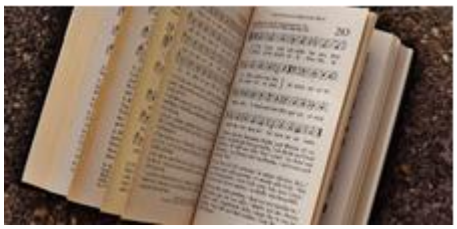
Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child



The Outreach Team invites you to partner with Samaritan's Purse to provide a gift to a child this Christmas. Shoeboxes are available in the entrance way with instructions on what to fill them with. Items include a "wow" toy plus school supplies, personal care items and even a picture of you, the giver. Most boxes go to warm environments, so warm socks, hats, and mittens are not needed. Christmas Shoeboxes are part of a discipling program to share the love of Jesus.

Monetary donations are also being excepted to cover the cost of box contents and the shipping cost. Boxes need to be returned by November 16. Please include $10 along with the filled box to cover shipping costs.

2026 Hymn Survey



Twenty-eight people filled out survey sheets requesting their favorite hymns. These 28 people picked 96 different hymns as their favorites. According to the numbers, on average, half of the hymns each person selected were hymns others also selected, and half were hymns only they identified as a favorite. “How Great Thou Art” was mentioned more than any other with 11 votes, followed by “Amazing Grace” with 9, “In the Garden” with 7, “I’ll Fly Away” (a crossover hit in the hymnal but also sung by the Praise Team) received 6 votes, and “It Is Well with My Soul” was mentioned 5 times. Sixty-one hymns were mentioned only once.

Our goal is to try and sing each requested song once in 2027. In our normal worship service, we sing 2 hymns a week and there are 46 Sundays that are not already defined by Christmas and Easter music, which leaves 92 places to put 96 hymns.

Thank you for helping choose the songs we sing in worship. We do enjoy a variety of good songs. The take home gift is when you hear someone say, “Why don’t we just sing the old hymns that everyone likes?”; you get to roll your eyes with the other worship leaders knowing there is no such list of songs.

“Contagious Faith” Small Groups

We are over half way through the six week Small Group study to explore “Contagious Faith” Meeting times and locations are listed below.

Sundays	10:50 a.m.	Library
Mondays	3:00 p.m.	Wynnfield Crossing
Mondays	7:00 p.m.	Waggoner’s home
Tuesdays	5:00 p.m.	Library
Thursdays	1:00 p.m.	Nancy Murphy’s home
Thursdays	6:00 p.m.	Library
Saturdays	8:00 a.m.	Jarrety’s





The month of October is Pastor Appreciation month.
Be sure to voice your love and appreciation for Pastor Mike this week.

Teaching Tuesday



It was May 2020. At that time, COVID restrictions ruled our culture and everything at First Christian Church was being done online. Since no ministry teams or Bible Studies were able to meet, Teaching Moment Tuesday was created as an opportunity to touch base beyond Sunday morning. Tuesday's Teaching Moment began as an adult level membership class to explore an overview of the Bible, God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Church history and our denominational identity. That was followed by a Bible study of Paul's letter to the Philippians. Since then, with the occasional exception due to technical difficulties, we have been on the air every Tuesday at noon for 6 ½ years with the recorded version available on Facebook anytime. Beyond the initial Membership Class and study of Philippians, study topics have included Spiritual Disciplines, Genesis, Prayer, Luke, Salvation History, 1 Corinthians, What God did in Jesus, Exodus, Christian Church (Disciple of Christ) denominational Identity, and the Gospel of John.

All that background leads up to a goodbye. Like many good things, Tuesday's Teaching Moment has run its course. Thank you to our most faithful participants Laura, Bill and Pat. We are currently exploring other ways to stay connected through Facebook.



Save the date

Congregational meeting and Thanksgiving meal

November 15th at 11:45 a.m.

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Wynnfield Bible study meets each Monday at 3:00 p.m.
Jan Houlihan is leading the group through a six week study based on the book "Contagious Faith". The Wynnfield bible study will be on winter break after the current study is complete.



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

Our Mission Co-Workers in
Germany and Afghanistan

The family of Seanna Yost, she died 10/15; by Amy Bode
Jim Riffle 10/21 stage 4 colorectal cancer, hospitalized in Indy, new chemo is not working; nephew of Barbara Tibbets
Sula Smith 10/19 health battles
Wade Mikesell 10/19 health issues; brother of Denny Mikesell
Phil Samuelson 10/19 is mostly sleeping as his organs shut down, home with Hospice Care; brother of Joyce Sroufe
Mike Hammel 10/11 limited swallowing, improvement with talking; Lois Hammel's son
Pat Dorisse 10/9 continued healing following her successful cancer removal surgery
Dylann Elise Hayden 10/5 infant daughter of Dakota & Lana needs prayer for several health issues; by Melinda Burkett
Dave Reece 10/5 health issues (care giver of Ben); by Helen Whitfield
Rebeccah 10/5 medical treatments needed; by Helen Whitfield
Ed & Diana's mom 10/5 care givers of Ben
Kim Plantz Hunter 10/2 seeking surgical treatment for liver cancer; by Joyce Mikesell
Jennifer Glassburn 9/30 is back at the nursing home receiving therapy; wife of Allen Glassburn
Kandi Zartman 9/30 suffered a stroke; by Allen Glassburn
Sharon Carter 9/30 struggling with cancer; by Allen Glassburn



Dick Hamm 9/22 former DOC General Minister, Dick Hamm's cancer responded very well to chemotherapy but a new nodule needs investigating before next steps can be defined; by Ted Waggoner
Carlene Musselman 9/21 diagnosed with stage 4 chronic kidney disease; by Judy Evans
Jon Martin 8/19 non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma affecting his liver and pancreas; great nephew of Stan and Judy Musgrave
Cathy St. Clair 7/2 diagnosed with stage 4 oral cancer; friend of John and Eve Overmars
Joyce Jeffries 6/26 continued prayer for healing and other health concerns
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
Barbara Tibbets 4/16 is having positive results from her cancer therapy, continued prayers
Prayers for families of service members who lost their lives overseas and to all who are being sent; by Christy Bennett
Mike Messick diagnosed with Alzheimer's, battling squamous cell skin cancer; Sara Story's father
Russia and Ukraine conflict



October Birthdays:
10/28 Sula Smith
10/30 Catherine Hughes

November Birthdays:
11/01 Debbie Cannedy
11/05 Gayle Rodriguez
11/12 Ashley Taylor
11/17 Martin Houlihan
11/19 Annis DeKeyser
11/22 Bill Vance

November Anniversaries:
11/06 Roger & Margaret Bryant
11/09 Bill & Lori Shewman
11/10 David & Trinity Lease
11/20 Dave & Cathy Ginther
11/20 Ken & Christina Hughes
11/23 Glen & Amy Bode

Special Thanks to:

The more than 50 people participating in our congregational study "Contagious Faith". Many of you did not feel comfortable with the topic but knew it could help us as a congregation and joined a small group. Thank you!

September 2026

September Financials		Year to Date Financials	
Income	$20,467.97	Income	$166,778.58
Expenses	$17,176.38	Expenses	$176,763.55

Worship Attendance	In-person	On-line
September Average	69	16
Year to Date Average	77	19

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 27
Noon Teaching Tuesday
5:00 p.m. Contagious Faith, Library
6:15 p.m. Little Lambs board meeting
Wednesday, October 28
6:30 p.m. Choir
Thursday, October 29
1:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Nancy M. home
6:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Library
7:00 p.m. Praise Team
Saturday, October 31
8:00 a.m. Contagious Faith Study, Jarrety's
Sunday, November 1
9:30 a.m. Worship – Memorial Sunday
10:40 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Sunday School
10:50 a.m. Contagious Faith Study, Library
Monday, November 2
3:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Wynnfield
7:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Waggoner's
Tuesday, November 3
Noon Teaching Tuesday
5:00 p.m. Contagious Faith, Library
Wednesday, November 4
5:30 p.m. Community Dinner
6:30 p.m. Choir
Thursday, November 5
1:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Nancy Murphy's home
4:30 p.m. Evangelism Team
6:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Library
7:00 p.m. Praise Team
Saturday, November 7
8:00 a.m. Contagious Faith Study, Jarrety's
Sunday, November 8
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:40 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Sunday School
10:50 a.m. Contagious Faith Study, Library
Monday, November 9
4:00 p.m. Membership Team
3:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Wynnfield
7:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Waggoner's
Tuesday, November 10
5:00 p.m. Contagious Faith, Library
7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting