



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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All Saint's Day is November 2nd and will be celebrated during worship. We will remember six church members as well as remembering our friends and family who have died this past year.



Daylight savings time ends on November 2nd. Remember to turn back your clocks one hour Saturday night, November 1st.



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." **November 2** Pastor Mike will conclude the three week sermon series revolving around this passage. We will conclude our study on 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.

Pastor Reflection



This year's Stewardship campaign grew on me. I have to admit that the theme of "Breaking a Good Habit" illuded me. Why would you want to break a good habit? My brain settled early on the idea that we should break a good habit in order to start a better one. Break the good habit of attending worship twice a month in order to start the better habit of attending three times a month. Break the good habit of giving \$75 a week in order to start the better habit of giving \$100 a week. That made sense to me. But as I listened, it was more than that. A habit is something we do without having to think about it. Some of us write the same check to church every week or month without thinking about it. Some of us have it automated so it just happens without us having to remember. The idea of breaking a good habit included adding the thought back to the action. Thinking about the blessings we are thanking God for in our offering. Recognizing the gift of eternal life and intentionally investing in it while in the midst of challenging times. Breaking a good habit brings back the intentionality, and the prayer that goes with the offering.

Which reminds me, we have been in the habit of gathering on the 2nd Sunday of November for our annual congregational meeting and Thanksgiving Feast since before I arrived in Rochester over 15 years ago. This year we are breaking that good habit and meeting on the 4th Sunday, November 23rd. You should be getting your official letter in the mail soon which will include next year's slate of officers, budget, and some by-law revisions. Remember to stay after the meeting for our Thanksgiving feast where the turkey, mash potatoes and drinks will be provided. Bring a side dish or dessert to share and join us as we intentionally give thanks to God for our church family as we move into a new year.

Love,
Mike



The Samaritan's Purse project Operation Christmas Child collects shoebox gifts filled with fun toys, school supplies and hygiene items—and delivers them to children in need around the world to demonstrate God's love in a tangible way. For many of these children, the gift-filled shoebox is the first gift they have ever received.

This is an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. Samaritan's Purse currently works in more than 100 countries to provide aid to victims of war, disease, disaster, poverty and famine. You are invited to pick up a shoebox or two, fill them up (instructions are in the box) and return them to the church by November 16th.



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 Palestine and Eswatini

Susan Bryant 10/28 knee replacement surgery on October 29 at Fort Wayne Parkview hospital

Sandy Campbell 10/9 home, continuing to recover from a fall

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 home recovering from a fall

Amanda Marshall 9/24 severe medical complications from a dislodged gall stone, Little Lambs 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

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



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



11/01 Debbie Cannedy
11/05 Gayle Rodriguez
11/12 Ashley Taylor
11/17 Martin Houlihan
11/19 Annis Dekeyser
11/22 Bill Vance

The new Church Directory will be available for purchase starting Sunday, November 2nd. Price is \$25 each.



Special Thanks to:

All those who thoughtfully and prayerfully completed their "Estimate of Giving" cards and turned them in.

Glen Bode and Pastor Mike for moving us toward even more faithful giving through our stewardship campaign.

Eve Overmars for sharing a glimpse of history as we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of our sanctuary.

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 28

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

Wednesday, October 29

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

Thursday, October 30

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, November 2 – Memorial Sunday

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

Monday, November 3

3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study
4:30 p.m. Membership Team

Tuesday, November 4

Noon Teaching Tuesday
3:30 p.m. Little Lambs board

CHURCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 5

5:30 p.m. Community Dinner
6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, November 6

4:30 p.m. Evangelism Team
6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, November 9

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

Monday, November 10

3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study

Tuesday, November 11

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