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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Starting this **Sunday, November 29**, the Sunday morning schedule is changing to the following:

Sunday School	9:30
Fellowship Time	10:10
Worship Service	10:30

Stewardship - Look at what God is doing through FCC.

We are in the middle of our 2027 stewardship campaign. Our appeal is based on building what we can do in the way of ministry and mission in God's world. We want to be able to do more ministry and mission.

The church budget is made up of fixed costs and mission dollars. We have utility costs, wages, and building repairs that are generally known, budgeted, and paid. That currently takes about 80% of our yearly giving. 20% of your gifts is devoted to ministry and mission work locally, church-wide, and worldwide. Those dollars locally help United Ministries feed and keep housing for our neighbors and help Compassionate Care Clinic to provide medical care for our neighbors who are uninsured. Our Blessing Box provides over 600 meals each year to local residents needing assistance. We feed another thousand meals at the monthly Community Dinner. We do local missions quite successfully.

Your gifts also fund the spread of Christianity through Disciples efforts including the education of pastors, support of missionaries by funding their mission projects, as well as providing assistance for victims of natural and man-made disasters through Week of Compassion.

When you increase your giving, the Church will not pay more for utilities or furnace repair projects. Your increased giving will go to small salary increases for our pastor and others, and mostly to increasing what God is doing through First Christian Church.

December 6 will be Commitment Sunday, and we are praying that your personal situation is such that you can join in building the ministry and mission of First Christian Church by increasing your giving. Attached to the Visitor email is a form that you can print, fill-in and bring to church that day. If an increase in your giving is not possible, we still ask you to make a statement of your giving commitment. If you forget your form, there will be forms available at the church.

Ted Waggoner
Chair, Stewardship Team

Elder's Reflection



Reflecting on this past year, I have realized that I do not look at things the same way I did last Thanksgiving. I have realized that life is pretty fragile and that things happen that are beyond our control. That is true not only in matters of health but also in matters of faith.

As we formed groups and studied *Contagious Faith*, we were trying to discover our individual faith-sharing styles. The study brought people with different styles together. Our challenge is not only to find our own sharing styles but also to figure out how our styles blend and work together to build our church and glorify God.

Sharing our personal testimony is hard, but Paul modeled this several times, including in Acts 22:14–16: "Then he said: 'The God of our ancestors has chosen you to know His will and to see the Righteous One and to hear words from His mouth. You will be His witness to all people of what you have seen and heard. And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on His name.'" This is a challenge to us as Christians not only to discuss our faith with other Christians but also to reach out to nonbelievers.

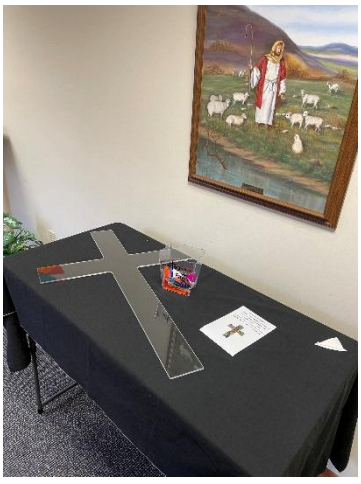
Because of our small-group discussions, I have tried to be more open with people about my feelings and beliefs. In the past, this was a topic I tried to avoid. When given the opportunity to express my belief in God or talk about my church, I have challenged myself to:

- Recognize opportunities to talk with others about my faith.
- Be courageous enough to engage in conversations with others about Jesus.
- Be prepared to share the message that Jesus is the way to salvation.

I challenge all of us to work together as a church family, be brave, and engage in conversations with others about Jesus using our own faith-sharing styles. As we head into the season of Advent, let us find ways to share the greatest story ever told.

Doug Miller

Cross of Invitations



We started with a transparent cross to symbolize our need to be transparent with those around us and let them see how important our faith is. As you do that, and talk with them about church and Jesus, we want you to add a slice of color to the cross to transform it into a piece of stained-glass art. Each time you talk with someone about First Christian Church or Jesus, please add another sticker of color to the cross.

First Christian Church
Merchandise Store



You can order First Christian Church shirts, sweatshirts, and more at the website below, or you can scan the QR code to go to the online store. Disregard the store closing date. The store will be available until we decide to make changes. Orders will be processed weekly.

https://thewinningedge.chipply.com/FirstChristianChurchRochester26/



Show your Contagious Faith and order today!

Website link to the store:
https://thewinningedge.chipply.com/FirstChristianChurchRochester26/

Salvation Army bell ringing will take place November 27 – December 24 at Kroger, Wal-Mart, Smith Farm Store and Runnings. Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall if you would like to sign up to ring the bell this Christmas season. The website to sign up to ring is volunteer.central.salvationarmyusa.org. Most of the money collected stays in Fulton County and is distributed through United Ministries. See Melinda Burkett if you need assistance in registering to ring.



Fulton County United Ministries is preparing for its annual Christmas Baskets Program. Volunteers are always needed to help deliver the baskets. Come to the fairgrounds with a truck and helpers to load up and deliver on December 19 starting at 8:00 a.m.

Because the program does not conduct any fundraising activities, it depends upon monetary donations to purchase non-perishable foods. Checks may be mailed to Fulton County United Ministries, P.O. Box 531, Rochester, IN 46975. Food item donations are also being accepted on December 14 and 15 from 10:00 to 4:00 at the Fulton County fairgrounds.

Call Sarah Daulton at 574-835-0220 with questions or to ask about other needs for volunteers.

Little Lambs Update

As we move forward with closing the 29-year Little Lambs Daycare Ministry with honesty and integrity, the online auction with Metzger's of North Manchester is now live. All the Little Lamb's equipment from strollers and playground equipment to toys and shelving systems is being auctioned off. Bidding is happening now and lots will begin closing on December 8 starting at 6:00 p.m. Winning bidders will pick up their items the following day. Please use the following link if you or someone you know would be interested in viewing and bidding on the items: 12.08.26 -- Little Lamb Daycare Center Online Liquidation Auction! -- Playground Equipment – Children's Toys & Furniture – Educational & Classroom Supplies – Arts & Crafts – Cribs & Strollers – Shelving & Storage – Tablets – Office Equipment – Much More! -- Rochester, IN - Metzger Property Services, LLC



Christmas Poinsettias

If you would like to purchase a Poinsettia for the Sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one this Christmas season, contact the church office or use the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. List your name and the person in memory or honor of. The cost of each poinsettia is $18.00. Please make check payable to First Christian Church and mark "Poinsettias" in the memo line.

Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child



Thank you to all who made our Operation Shoebox Ministry a success!

-The Outreach Team

Disciples Women's Ministries

Mark your calendar for upcoming events in December.

December 14, the ladies will meet for lunch and games of bingo. Pack a lunch and bring a $10 gift for bingo prizes.

December 17 will be the next opportunity for Dine to Donate at Wings Etc. in Rochester.
The women's group receives 15% of food purchases all day when you show the flyer or use our code for online orders. Money received is then given back to the community. Flyers will be available on the table in the narthex on December 13.

DINE TO DONATE

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

Our Mission Co-Workers in
Zimbabwe and Palestine

Treva Mulligan 11/23 has appointments at Cleveland Clinic this week, hopefully to determine the cause of some concerning symptoms; by Jim Mulligan
The family of Alex Long, Alex died 11/21
The family of Bill Abbott, Bill died 11/19; father of Rick Abbott
Jennifer Glassburn 11/23 making good progress with therapy in nursing home wife of Allen Glassburn
Carl Overmyer 11/19 undergoing chemo treatments for kidney cancer; by Judy Evans
Terry McKee 11/19 home with Hospice care; brother in law of Letty McKee
Mitch Summe 11/16 waiting for back surgery to be schedules, prayers for pain to lessen; by Chris Summe
Kim Plantz Hunter 11/16 had surgery for liver cancer; by Joyce Mikesell
Rick Merrill 11/9 having severe circulation issues in his legs. Rick is Paula Murphy's sister Carla's husband.
Steve Kumfer 11/5 had a stroke: brother of Joyce Jeffries
Ben Whitfield 11/02 serious leg pain/cramps
Jim Riffle 10/21 stage 4 colorectal cancer, Chemo has stopped working and he is trying to find a clinical trial he can qualify for; nephew of Barbara Tibbets
Sula Smith 10/19 health battles
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
Dylann Elise Hayden 10/5 infant daughter of Dakota & Lana needs prayer for several health issues; by Melinda Burkett



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
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

JOY

Michalia Rodriguez is home doing well.

Special Thanks to:

All who completed the "Contagious Faith" small group study. I cannot wait to see what God is going to do through you.

Judy Evans and the Membership Team for hosting our incredible Thanksgiving Feast.

Joe Koch and the financial team for preparing and presenting our 2027 Budget.

Ted Waggoner and the nomination team for calling our officers and leaders together for 2027. Thank you also to all who said "yes" when they called.

All who helped decorate and prepare our church building for Christmas. It looks great!



12/01 Angie Kuhn
12/01 Stan Musgrave
12/02 Judy Musgrave
12/03 Patrick McTaggart
12/04 Allen Glassburn
12/04 Sandra Hoffarth
12/08 Dave Ginther
12/09 Eric Burch
12/09 Kayara McKee
12/11 Beth Burch
12/14 Chloe Hoffarth

12/16 Sue Bowers
12/16 Ben Whitfield
12/19 Roselynn Story
12/21 Ken Hughes
12/21 Marvin Murphy
12/23 Joyce Mikesell
12/23 Lillian Gudeman
12/25 Angie Miller
12/27 Cathy Ralstin
12/28 Will Van Heyningen
12/29 Bill Shewman



12/15 Mike & Amy Van Heyningen
12/17 Craig & Lori Simpson
12/23 Marvin & Linda Overmyer

October 2026

October Financials		Year to Date Financials	
Income	$17,564.00	Income	$184,342.58
Expenses	$21,880.39	Expenses	$198,643.94

Worship Attendance	In-person	On-line
October Average	75	15
Year to Date Average	77	18

CHURCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, November 25
6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday, November 26
Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, November 29
First Sunday of Advent
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:10 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Wednesday, December 2
5:30 p.m. Community Dinner
6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday, December 3
6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, December 6
Second Sunday of Advent
Stewardship Commitment Sunday
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:10 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
11:45 a.m. Worship Team meeting

Wednesday, December 9
10:00 a.m. Outreach Team
6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday, December 10
6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, December 13
Third Sunday of Advent
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
10:10 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m. Worship Service
Noon Stewardship Team meeting

Monday, December14
Noon Ladies Luncheon with bingo