



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

Church #574-223-5812
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Our Mission: Bring people to Christ, grow as disciples, and together serve God

Date: March 25, 2025

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Lenten Disciplines



We are in the season of Lent until Easter on April 20. Lenten disciplines are an opportunity to help us grow in our faith and remind us of the gift of life that comes to us in Jesus Christ. First, the Worship Team invites you to continue reading through the Gospel of Luke with them. Read your emails or pick up a printed reading schedule on the welcome table. Secondly, put your small purple cloth in a place you will see it regularly and be reminded to prepare your heart and mind for Easter. Some may choose to use the cloth as a bookmark in their Bible. Others may fasten it to their bathroom mirror to remind them to pray every morning and evening while they brush their teeth. Others may tie it to their key ring or attach it to their phone to remind them multiple times a day of the sacrifice Jesus made for them to give them access to heaven. Choose a good place for your ribbon as a simple reminder that brings to mind what Jesus has done for you.

Upcoming Events of Note:

Palm Sunday, April 13 – the beginning of Holy Week and a great day for a parade.

24 Hour Prayer Vigil – From 6:00 Wednesday evening until 6:00 Thursday evening we want someone from First Christian Church to be in prayer. The time is broken in to 30 minute time slots. You can pray at church, at home or at work. Sign-up on the bulletin board or contact the church office for a time slot.

Maundy Thursday, April 17, 6:00 pm – Join us for dinner and worship as we remember Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples and move toward His sacrifice for our sins.

Easter, April 20 – The Sunday morning that started Sunday morning worship. Come and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord.



Pastor Reflection



Thank you again for the time to be with Amy and her brother for the last few days of his life on earth and again for the time to be in Kentucky for his visitation and funeral.

Will and I were asked to serve as pall bearers for the funeral and were happy to do so, but with how this particular funeral home director planned things, it meant we sat together in the front row of the church during the funeral and were some of the last to leave. There was a good crowd at the funeral, and as they were dismissed, they gathered and visited in the halls. That is when Amy's cousin Kenny, a fellow pall bearer, leaned over to me and said, "Do you hear that? Do you hear the people greeting each other and visiting, talking and even laughing? You don't hear that at funerals of non-Christians."

After taking a moment to think and reflect, I had to agree with him. A cloud of sadness, fear and loss covers the funeral service of the non-Christian. It is an ending, a brokenness, in which the person lost the battle of life and death. While sadness and crying are still a part of the Christian funeral because the relationship we had with the person has ended, the atmosphere remains one of hope and life – there is visiting, talking and even laughing. We know our Savoir lives and He promised to come to us and bring us home. For those in the faith, we know death is not the end, but a transition into a new life – life without pain and death. Instead of sadness, a Christian funeral is defined by hope and therefore we respond differently. That is the way it is supposed to be. In 1 Thessalonians 4, Paul says, "We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope." We grieve, but we grieve differently because we have a hope and a promise non-Christians don't have.

Personally, I cherish the opportunity to be present at the funeral dinners our congregation hosts. There I get to witness family being family with even more greeting and visiting and talking and laughing than in the halls after the funeral. It is a time to see stories being told, hope prevailing, and life continuing. It is yet one more place where the presence of Jesus and His promises change everything.

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. Currently we are in the middle of The 10 Commandments.



PRAYER LIST

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

Our Mission Co-Worker in **Jamaica**

Cathy Ralstin 3/25 started PT in Indy, can sit up on own strength; by Dave Ralstin

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

Candy Myer 3/10 has colon cancer and stage 4 liver cancer, starting chemotherapy; niece of Liz Robinson

Shana Maples 3/5 battling lymphoma; surgery, radiation and chemotherapy. Also pray for her husband and two year old daughter; friends of John and Eve Overmars

Cora Northrop 3/3 knee surgery on March 3; by Sandra Hoffarth

Lance Musgrave 3/3 eye surgery to remove oil and replacing it with a gas bubble; by Judy Musgrave

Doug Morton 2/24 hormone therapy in preparation for radiation treatments; mild stroke on February 20; by Lois Morton

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

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

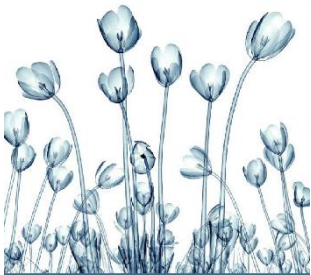
Carlene Musselman 1/14 monthly chemo injections, still in congestive heart failure; by Judy Evans

Pray for Israel/Hamas/Gaza/Lebanon/Syria

Russia and Ukraine conflict

Wynnfield Bible Study started back up on March 24th at 3:00 pm.

For more information contact Jan Houlihan.



Dear Church Family,

What a comfort it was while sitting by my brother's hospital bed to know that my church family was lifting me up in prayer. What a comfort it was while holding my Mama's hand and telling her that Andrew was safe in Jesus' arms to know that you were holding me close to your hearts. And then to arrive at my home church for the funeral, which is no longer my church home, to see a beautiful bouquet sent by my precious church family in Rochester, and to feel once again that love and support over the miles; what a wonderful expression of all you have done to keep me going through this valley. I am so thankful to all of you.

With Love,

Amy Van Heyningen



4/06 Martin & Jan Houlihan
4/22 John & Eve Overmars

Special Thanks to:



Joyce Jefferies, and Steve Klepinger for sharing part of their walk in our Lenten Mediations.

The Elders and the Property Team for hosting our Fellowship Dinner in honor of our visiting Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. Christal Williams. Thank you to everyone who brought side dishes and everyone who stayed to eat.

Deb Tyler for leading Children's Moment while Pastor Mike was on vacation.

Lois Morton for sharing her talents by taking over the Christian Education bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall.

4/04 Kim Enyart
4/10 Loie Bowers
4/14 Susan Garman
4/20 Eve Overmars
4/21 Barbara Swihart
4/23 John Overmars
4/25 Paula Murphy
4/26 Linda Overmyer

New Address for Vera

Vera Harper
14409 Sunrise Court Apt 19
Leo, IN 46765

February 2025

<u>February Financials</u>	<u>YTD Financials</u>
Income 16,014.16	Income 33,411.16
Expenses 21,241.15	Expenses 43,537.34

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>In-person</u>	<u>On-line</u>
February Average	Attendance 60	27
YTD Average	Attendance 67	24

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 25

Noon Teaching Tuesday
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, March 26

6:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, March 27

6:00 pm Praise Team

Sunday, March 30

9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Time
10:45 am Sunday School
10:50 am Membership Team

Monday, March 31

3:00 pm Wynnfield Crossing Bible Study

Tuesday, April 1

Noon Teaching Tuesday

CHURCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 2

5:30 pm Community Dinner
6:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, April 3

5:00 pm Property Team
6:00 pm Praise Team

Saturday, April 5

9:30 am Bylaw Team

Sunday, April 6

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

Monday, April 7

3:00 pm Wynnfield Bible Study

Tuesday, April 8

Noon Teaching Tuesday
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study
7:00 pm Elder Meeting



During our combined Sunday School hour, Dr. Christal Williams mentioned and invited us to the next General Assembly to learn more about evangelism. The General Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) will gather in person from July 12th to 15th, 2025, in Memphis, TN. This year's General Assembly theme: "**BEYOND**" is based on **Ephesians 3:20-21**.

Secure the best deal today by registering for the 2025 General Assembly at exclusive early bird rates! Act now—fees increase on April 1, so don't miss this opportunity to save.

