



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

Church #574-223-5812  
1101 Madison St. Rochester, IN 46975

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

Date: August 26, 2025

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## Church Picnic

Glen & Amy Bode will be hosting our church picnic at their place after worship on September 14th @ 12:30  
3651 W 200 S Kewanna

It will be like a regular Fellowship Dinner only

at the Bode's house, meat and drinks are provided.

Bring a lawn chair, a side dish or a dessert and we will share our church meal together. We will eat at 12:30 with games and picnic activities before and after.



## Service Sunday September 21

September 21 will not be your usual Sunday. The preacher will not even be wearing a tie. On "Service Sunday" we will roll up our sleeves and take some time to be a gift to others. We will gather in the sanctuary for a song, a prayer, communion and a blessing before splitting up into work groups for the morning. The groups will be listed in the next Visitor.

SERVANT  
QUILTING SINGING  
TRANSPORTATION ALTAR  
THANK YOU GUILD  
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER ACOLYTE  
LEADER  
SERVING OTHERS  
YES TEAMWORK  
READER  
GIVE  
MENTORING  
USHERING  
GREETING  
WORKING TOGETHER BEING AVAILABLE  
THE HEART OF EVERY CHURCH EVERY WHERE  
ANSWERING THE CALL  
GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS  
STEPPING UP  
ASSEMBLING SCHOOL KITS  
DISCIPLESHIP  
FOOD PANTRY  
THANK YOU FOR  
SAYING  
YES



### Pastor Reflection

What is the most important part of worship? Being on the Worship Team and being a worship leader, I ask myself this question regularly. What is the core of worship? Personally, I put the most time into preparing the sermon. Instruction that helps us learn more about God and more about us in relation to God is an important part of worship. But is it the most important? Singing our praises to God is important because it is when the people are actively worshipping, actively praising God for who God is and what God has and continues to do. Prayer fits in that category too (especially when the people are praying and not just the minister), because it is actively connecting with God. Communion is a time of intimacy in which each person has a chance to touch and be touched by God. Where do Children's Moment and Special Music fall? What about the offering when we get to bring our gifts to God? Does "the most important part" simply depend on the individual and how they relate to each aspect of worship?

This is just me talking, but from my perspective, the most important part of worship is the moment you acknowledge anew that you are not God. Singing praises and praying to God is vital because it is an acknowledgment by the one singing and praying that they are addressing God, and therefore are not God. The message and communion are moments when you realize there is more than just you, your thoughts and your experience to listen to, connect with, and submit to. I think the core of worship is about proclaiming at least every week that life is about more than just me, more than about how I feel, more than what I think, more than how I was brought up and how I look at the world. The core of worship is to say, "There is a God and it is not me!"

I know it sounds silly, but we live in a country and a world that revolves around the individual and caters to them. "The customer is always right." "That is just how I feel about it." "You can't tell me what to do or how to think." Worship is proclaiming there is more than just me. There is One more powerful than me, One wiser than me, and One I give authority over me. The beginning of worship is the simple proclamation "There is a God, and it is not me!" See you in worship, my wise friends.

Love,  
Mike

### Teaching Moment Tuesday NEW SERIES STARTED ON TEACHING TUESDAY



August we began a new series as we explore who we are as members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Our denomination was started on the American Frontier and that still shapes who we are and what we do and do not do today. Join us for the exploration.



## PRAYER LIST

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

Our Mission Co-Worker in **India**

**Lance Musgrave** 8/26 home from hospital, still not well and seeking other treatment; by Judy Musgrave

**Karalee** 8/26 cancer is back and seeking treatment options: daughter of Pat & Fred Dorisee

**Cathy Lincoln Lukens** 8/24 home with hospice.

**Pat Clary** 8/21 has a cancerous tumor on her neck that has not spread. She will be starting 20 straight days of radiation therapy in Logansport. This should shrink and possibly eliminate the tumor and alleviate headaches.

**Dick Enyart** 8/20 home with Hospice care

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

**Charlotte Miller** 8/18 home after knee replacement

**Tim Bryant** 8/12 home with an obstructed stone in his pancreas, waiting to see an ERCP; Susan Bryant's husband

**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

**Cathy Ralstin** 7/31 healing well from outpatient surgery July 9, resuming physical therapy; by Dave Ralstin

**Mike Messick** 6/8 diagnosed with Alzheimer's, also battling squamous cell skin cancer; father of Sara Story

**Gay Downing** 6/8 heart attack 92 year old mother-in-law of Lance Musgrave

**Sharri Downing** 5/9 has severe back pain; by Judy Musgrave

**Marcia Smith** 5/5 has stage 4 breast cancer, struggling with side effects from treatments; cousin of Jacque Douglas

**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**

## Joy

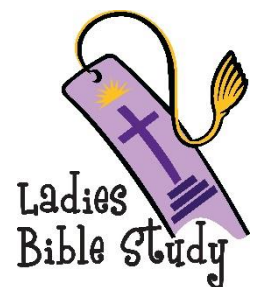
**Kelly Nunemaker** home recovering from surgery, no cancer; daughter of Joyce and Denny Mikesell

## Outreach Team Collecting Hygiene Kits



Thank You to all who donated to the Hygiene Kits. We received all that we needed!

**Ladies Bible Study** will be starting up on September 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall. We are starting a new series, so please come join us.





9/04 Bill & Joan Gordon  
9/06 Brett & Amanda Hooker  
9/22 Robert & Mary Kay Jance  
9/28 Mick & Judy Evans



### Special Thanks to:

Those who have signed-up and brought supplies to pack hygiene kits for Church World Service.

### CHURCH CALENDAR

#### Tuesday, August 26

Noon Teaching Tuesday

#### Thursday, August 27

6:00 pm Praise Team

#### Sunday, August 31

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

#### Monday, September 1

Labor Day

#### Tuesday, September 2

Noon Teaching Tuesday

#### Wednesday, September 3

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



9/03 Becki Gray  
9/05 Joe Koch  
9/09 Lois Morton  
9/10 Barb McGee  
9/12 Helen Enyart  
9/16 Bev Wagoner  
9/18 Margaret Bryant  
9/25 Sharon Border  
9/28 Liam Taylor  
9/28 Marci Murphy  
9/29 Rich Murphy  
9/30 Cheri Hogan

### June 2025

#### July Financials

Income 15,831.44  
Expenses 24,322.60

#### YTD Financials

Income 118,130.60  
Expenses 148,347.29

#### Attendance

July Average  
YTD Average

#### In-person

Attendance 73  
Attendance 74

#### On-line

17  
18

### CHURCH CALENDAR

#### Thursday, September 4

5:00 Property Team  
6:00 pm Praise Team

#### Saturday, September 6

8:00 am Property Team

#### Sunday, September 7

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

#### Monday, September 8

3:00 pm Wynnfield Bible Study  
4:30 pm Membership Team

#### Tuesday, September 9

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



*What a wonderful experience for me to have so much of my church family, my own family and numerous other friends celebrating my 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. There was so much love and friendship in that room! Thank you all for your good wishes, cards and gifts; and for allowing us to use the church.*  
Joyce Sroufe

## Regional Workshops

Congregational leadership is getting harder. Many pastors and churches feel stuck, or even in decline. Yet, there are stories of hope and opportunities to grow - spiritually and numerically. This event will feature some of those stories and create a space for people to talk about what they've tried, what's working, and what opportunities they see in their own ministry contexts. If you're looking for new ideas or a place for renewal, this is it!

**Who:** Clergy and Lay Leaders

**When:** September 17, 2025 9:00--3:30 EDT

**Where:** Allisonville Christian Church

**Cost:** \$50 per person



## LAY LEADERSHIP – CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES, SALARIES AND PACKAGES



Sep 27, 2025 at 00:00 AM Tabernacle Christian church, 198 N Water St. Franklin, IN 46131

Congregational Finances, Salaries and Packages Presented by:  
Rev. Dr. Monica J. Ouellette, Associate Conference Minister,  
Indiana-Kentucky Conference, United Church of Christ Saturday,  
September 27, 2025 from 10:00 am EDT to 3:00 pm EDT  
Tabernacle Christian Church 198 N. Water St. Franklin, IN 46131  
Tentative Schedule 9:30a Registration 9:45 Opening...