



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

Pastor Mike Van Heyningen: fccroch@rtcol.com

Pastor Mike's local cell (574) 201-9730

website: www.fccroch.org

Secretaries: Letty McKee & Debbie Cannedy churchsecretary@rtcol.com

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

Date: April 8, 2025



Vol. 71, No 7



Palm Sunday, April 13 – Holy Week begins with Jesus parading into Jerusalem to the cheers of the people. In honor of that event, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall before worship and then parade into the sanctuary cheering the goodness of Jesus.

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 into 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.

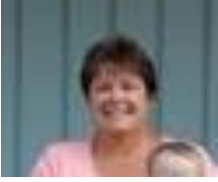


Maundy Thursday, April 17, 6:00 pm – Jesus gathered with His disciples for their last meal together before His arrest and crucifixion. During that meal He instituted what we call communion proclaiming we should break the bread and drink the cup in remembrance of Him. In honor of that event, join us for dinner and worship. The complete meal of chicken hashbrown casserole with salad and drinks is provided as we remember Jesus' Last Supper with His disciples and then move to the sanctuary to honor Jesus' sacrifice that we might be forgiven.

Easter, April 20 – Easter is considered the holiest day of the year as we remember and celebrate Jesus' resurrection from the grave. Don't miss it. It will be a day of joy as we proclaim freedom from death, freedom from the grave, and a freedom to live in love.



Elder Reflection



With Easter coming in a few weeks, I wanted to share an Easter Devotional with you.

While Christmas celebrates the birth of Hope, its Easter that brings the sacrificial gift in Christ that was born in that hope. For Christians, the painful crucifixion of Christ can be difficult to embrace. The more we dive into Christ's journey the more we will understand the profound love that was poured out on the cross. It would be so much easier to deny the excruciating details, the betrayal, the horrific torture, and the weight of grief that comes with understanding Christ's death. But it's in those details we discover the truth, and the inconceivable love God has for us. I believe this Devotional will help you do just that. It has for me.

"Reflecting Easter: Living and Understanding the Resurrection" by Stacy Voss is 40 short devotionals that lead you through the Easter story. While reading I discovered so many new layers to the Easter story. This one particularly opened my heart.

"Then some began to spit at Him; they blindfolded Him, struck Him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy!" And the guards took Him and beat Him." Mark 14:65 Can you imagine being slapped, spit on, hit while blindfolded? I cannot comprehend that level of pain. If this was me, I would be in fear and unable to form a thought, let alone talk. Yet Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." Luke 23:34

Father, forgive them. The physical anguish had to be vast, yet Jesus pushed past the pain in order to say these words to ask God to forgive. Friends, we all need to know we are forgiven. Soak it in, Jesus tells us over and again We are forgiven. This hits me hard. Over and again, we sin. I sin. Yet over and again He forgives. In the blood of Christ this is the truth we can all receive, embrace and live out in our daily lives. God's relentless love and endless mercies are for us all. Over and again.

Blessings in Christ,
Lori Simpson

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 **Fiji**

Mary Ellen Nelsen 4/10 stage 4 bone cancer; by Jacque Douglas

Sandra 4/9 tumor in stomach; friend of Peggy Johnson

Jackie Liebrandt 4/9 cancer treatments, just lost mother; by Christy Bennett

Doug Morton 4/3 recovering from a mild stroke in February in the midst of radiation treatments

Cathy Ralstin 3/25 started physical therapy in Indy, she is able to sit up on her 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

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



There will be a Children's Easter egg hunt on Easter Sunday. Please bring in wrapped candy for us to put out!





4/22 John & Eve Overmars

Special Thanks to:



Mark Sroufe and Doug Morton for sharing part of their walk in our Lenten Mediations.
Will Van Heyningen for creating our Lenten Meditation video and to Deb Tyler for narrating it.

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

March 2025

<u>March Financials</u>	<u>YTD Financials</u>
Income 18,523.00	Income 51,934.16
Expenses 20,360.75	Expenses 63,898.09

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>In-person</u>	<u>On-line</u>
March Average	Attendance 67	20
YTD Average	Attendance 64	24



Pastor Mike no longer has a landline phone at home. Please call the office phone (574 223-8913) or his cell phone (574-201-9730) when you need to contact him.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 8

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

Wednesday, April 9

10:00 am Outreach Team
6:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, April 10

6:00 pm Praise Team

Sunday, April 13 Palm Sunday

9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Time
10:45 am Sunday School
7:00 pm Board Meeting

Monday, April 14

3:00 pm Wynnfield Crossing Bible Study
6:00 pm Little Lamb Board

Tuesday, April 15

Noon Teaching Tuesday
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study

CHURCH CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 16

6:00 pm Prayer Vigil Begins
6:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, April 17 Maundy Thursday

6:00 pm Prayer Vigil ends
6:00 pm **Maundy Thursday** Dinner & Worship

Sunday, April 20 Easter Sunday

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

Monday, April 21

3:00 pm Wynnfield Bible Study

Tuesday, April 22

Noon Teaching Tuesday
3:00 pm Pastor Relations Team
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study

