



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

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Highlighting Ways to Give Back to the Community



Salvation Army bell ringing will take place November 28 – December 24 at Kroger, Wal-Mart, Smith Farm Store and Runnings. Sign up to ring by going to www.RegisterToRing.com. 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 20 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. Call Sarah Daulton at 574-835-0220 with questions or to see where other volunteers are needed.



Volunteers needed for the Fulton County warming center program where a safe, welcoming refuge from the cold is provided for those in need. The Nazarene church will host this community wide ministry. Sign up is available at www.fchope.org/volunteer.

Contact Fulton County H.O.P.E. at 574-223-4357 for more information.



FOP Lodge 143 is asking for community support through donations to support multiple children this holiday season. Checks can be mailed to FOP Lodge 143, PO Box 284, Rochester, IN 46975 or dropped off at the Rochester Police department or the Fulton County sheriff's office.



Fulton County United Way 2025 Community Impact Drive is underway. This effort raises funds to directly support local nonprofit organizations. Learn more and donate today at www.fultoncountyunitedway.com



The Support Café of Fulton County provides hygiene items to individuals who come to them with nowhere else to stay. The Ladies group will be putting together hygiene kits for them to distribute during their meeting on December 15. We are collecting travel size soap, shampoo, deodorant, Kleenex, etc. There is a box in the narthex to place your donations.

Pastor Reflection



As I approach the Thanksgiving festivities this Thursday, I am reminded again of the power of giving thanks. Back in our sermon series on the 10 Commandments, John Ortberg helped us see there are two tents we can live in in life. You can live in the tent of discontent: where you never have enough, the grass is always greener on the other side, and the Joneses always have something new which you wish you had. Or you can live in the tent of contentment: where you are good where you are with what you have.

Living in the tent of discontentment grows from a dissatisfaction with what our own life looks like when compared to others, and the inability to wish the best for others. It is not about what we have or don't have. It is about seeing what others have, and thinking we would be content if we had just a little bit more. The fact that at today's rate, Rockefeller had over \$340 some billion dollars when he said he would be content with "Just a little bit more" should tell us something. Money and stuff are not where contentment is to be found. At some point, you need to take a moment and be grateful for what you have instead of always looking for "Just a little bit more."

And let's not overlook the other cause of discontent, the inability to wish for the best for others. Romans 12:15 says, "Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep." If we are to truly love our neighbor as ourselves, we can be happy for them. We can celebrate their victories and successes without being envious of them.

So if living in the tent of discontentment grows from a dissatisfaction with what our own life looks like when compared to others and the inability to wish for the best for others, what does it look like to move into the tent of contentment? It looks like gratitude over greed – being thankful for what we have instead of always looking for "Just a little bit more." It looks like loving our neighbors enough to be happy for them, even rejoice with them or as we said last Sunday, shifting your focus from what you lack to what you have.

Whether you will be alone, gathered with one or two others, or have an extravaganza of friends and family to celebrate with, take some time to celebrate what others have and give thanks for what you have. Choose your tent.

Love,
Mike



Teaching Moment Tuesday

STUDYING the GOSPEL OF JOHN. Join Pastor Mike each Tuesday at noon on Facebook.

Little Lambs' Gift Tree

One of the ways we bless the children in our Little Lambs Daycare is by providing presents for their Christmas party. There is a Christmas tree in the Fellowship Hall filled with names, gender and age of students in our Little Lambs Daycare. You are invited to take a name card off the tree and write down whose name you took on the sign-up sheet. Purchase a \$10-\$15 gift for them, wrap it (no gift bags please), and return it by December 8th. The children will open their gifts with Santa on Friday, December 12th.



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.



The new Church Directory is available for purchase for \$25. Books can be picked up on Sunday mornings or in the church office during the week. Contact the office if you would like one placed in the mail.



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



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 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



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

Our Mission Co-Workers in **Lesotho**
and **Egypt**

Jacque Douglas 11/24 Hospice care
at Lutheran Hospital, Fort Wayne

Joylynn Whitfield 11/9 health
issues; by Helen Whitfield

Wesley Hickie 11/3 forty-five year
old with heart failure, heart pump
being installed November 11; by
Judy Evans

Sula Smith 9/29 home recovering
from a fall

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

**Pray for Israel/Hamas/Gaza/
Lebanon/Syria**

Russia and Ukraine conflict

JOYS

Debbie Fuller 11/21 surgery for
uterine cancer was successful and
she is now cancer free; niece of
Judy and Stan Musgrave

Fred Dorisse kidney cancer surgery was
a success, by Lois Morton



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

-The Outreach Team



Special Thanks to:

Judy Evans and the Membership Team for hosting our Thanksgiving Feast last Sunday and to everyone who brought food to share and came to celebrate.

Bob Cannedy and the nominating team, Joe Koch and the financial team, Jacque Douglas and the By-Laws team, and Lori Simpson and the Little Lambs board for preparing the agenda items for our Congregational meeting.

Debbie Cannedy and her crew for hosting Barbara Swihart's funeral dinner.

Avery Gerwin for sharing our 3rd Centennial Moment as we celebrate the 100th year anniversary of our sanctuary.

October 2025

<u>October Financials</u>		<u>YTD Financials</u>	
Income	\$14,657.00	Income	\$180,293.60
Expenses	\$18,597.69	Expenses	\$206,160.20
<u>Worship Attendance</u>		<u>In-person</u>	<u>On-line</u>
October Average		71	17
YTD Average		73	19

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 25

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

Wednesday, November 26

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, November 27

Thanksgiving Day

Sunday, November 30

First Sunday of Advent

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

Monday, December 1

6:00 p.m. Little Lambs Board Meeting

Tuesday, December 2

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, December 3

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

Thursday, December 4

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, December 7

Second Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:45 a.m. Sunday School
10:50 a.m. Worship Team

Tuesday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 10

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, December 11

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Friday, December 12

Little Lambs Christmas Party

Sunday, December 14

Third Sunday of Advent

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

Monday, December 15

Noon Ladies Luncheon



Restock The Blessing Box Shelves

Let the spirit of giving through Thanksgiving and Christmas mean something through January and February. The church invites you to join us in a **Reverse Advent Calendar** food drive to help stock our Blessing Box for months to come. Reusable bags and food item lists are available in the Fellowship Hall.

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO YOUR BAG

BRING BAGS TO CHURCH ANYTIME THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR

NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE

November 30 – can of green beans
December 1 – can of Spaghetti-O's
December 2 -- boxed potatoes
December 3 – box of macaroni and cheese
December 4 – can of mandarin oranges
December 5 – can of chicken
December 6 – can of tuna
December 7 – jar of peanut butter
December 8 – jelly, squeeze bottle
December 9 – box of Rice-a-Roni
December 10 – can of peas
December 11 – can of pork & beans
December 12 – can of pears
December 13 – can of vienna sausages
December 14 – can of chili
December 15 – bag of Knorr pasta side
December 16 – can of Hunt's pasta sauce
December 17 – box of spaghetti noodles
December 18 – Raman noodles
December 19 -- can of black beans
December 20 – can of mixed vegetables
December 21 – can of soup
December 22 – box of cereal
December 23 – boxed dinner helpers
December 24 – can of Chef Boyardee pasta

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY