



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

Date: March 26, 2024

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Our 24-hour prayer Vigil begins at 6:00 pm on Wednesday March 27. We want someone from First Christian Church praying to God every minute for 24 hours. It is the heart of our preparation for Maundy Thursday worship and Easter. Half hour prayer slots are available for individuals who can either come to the church to pray or pray from their home/office. Sign up at the welcome table or contact the church office to reserve your time.



The prayer vigil ends at 6:00 pm on Thursday, March 28 with our **Maundy Thursday dinner and worship**. The Worship Team is providing sub sandwiches, fruit, chips and drinks for dinner before journeying toward the sanctuary for communion and worship as we continue our theme of journeying to the cross with Jesus.



March 31 is **Easter Sunday** and it is the holiest Sunday of the year for the Christian. It is the day we remember and celebrate Jesus' victory over the grave and over death. Don't miss it.

It is a good day to bring a friend or neighbor. It is a good day to bring a spouse or family member. It is a good day to bring a total stranger. Every Sunday is a celebration of Easter, but this Sunday it is our hope that you feel new life. We will host a children's **Easter Egg Hunt** following Sunday School.

Easter Egg Hunt

Please bring in your individually wrapped candy for the Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday. The basket is in the Narthex.



Pastor Reflection



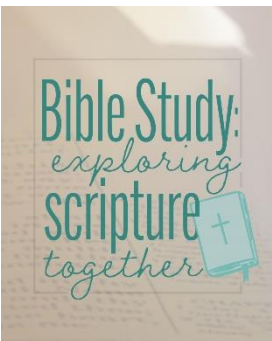
Thank you for the week's vacation over school Spring break. Amy, Will and I went to Breckenridge, Colorado for a snow ski vacation. As it turned out, because of Will's recent appendix crisis and doctor's orders to avoid any possible impact in that area, I was the only one who actually skied, but we all went and enjoyed each other and the mountains.

Riding the shuttle bus back and forth from where we stayed to the base of the mountain, I recognized a different perspective on the weather. When we received an unexpected 2 inch dusting of snow one night, people spoke of it being a gift from heaven. No complaining about having to clean the snow off the car or slippery roads conditions, just thankful smiles. The next day after we received almost a foot of snow, causing semi-trucks to jackknife and close I-70, there was nothing but excitement on the mountain. People were lined up half an hour before the lifts opened so they could make some of the first tracks in the new fallen snow. I heard people in lift lines saying the road closures just meant they had time to get 3-4 ski runs in before they had to be at work. Besides, nobody from Denver could get through which meant more snow and less lift lines for us. The only complaint was that the folks about an hour east of us got more snow than we did. Still, as long as the temperature stayed in the mid 20's and below, it should be good skiing for days.

When was the last time you heard an unexpected snow storm called a gift from heaven, people complain that they only got a foot of snow, and prayers that the temperature stayed cold enough that not even the snow on the roads would melt? Like I said, a little different perspective on the weather.

It is that kind of different perspective which makes us call this Friday, Good Friday. Friday is the day Jesus was nailed to the cross and died. Most people would say that was not a good day. The teacher, the healer, the miracle worker was killed out of fear and jealousy – taken away from His family, friends and followers. Not good. But it wasn't just Jesus who died that day. He took with Him all our sins, all our shortcomings, everything that taints us and makes unworthy of an audience with the creator and sustainer of all things. As people of faith, it was a good day because it freed us from our past, freed us from our mistakes, freed us from having to try and live a perfect life in order to earn our way to heaven. It freed us from the confines of this life in order to live today and tomorrow for eternity. This Friday became Good Friday because it is the day Jesus set us free.

Love,
Mike



Teaching Moment Tuesday VIII – 1 Corinthians!

Join Pastor Mike Tuesdays live at noon on Facebook or catch the recording anytime on our Facebook page. We are a studying First Corinthians.

<https://www.facebook.com/rochfcc>

Please be Praying for...

Prayer List

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

Our Mission Co-Worker in **Cuba**

Curtis Markley 3/26 at Riley, needs a kidney & liver, 14 year old grandson of Kay Dulin; by Dick Enyart

The Family of Wes Butcher; died 3/23 father-in-law of Mandy Burkett Butcher

The Family of JoAnne Burch, she died 3/18; mother of Eric Burch

Artis/Yelverton Family in Wilson, NC son died; family of Helen Whitfield

Carlene Musselman 3/10 home, organs deteriorating due to a protein disease, taking chemo; by Amy Van Heyningen

Ross Bowers 2/26 home recovering from skin graft, healing is progressing; son of Jo & John Bowers

Candy Zartman 2/25 deteriorating discs: by Allen Glassburn

Roger Neff 2/23 congestive heart failure; home from Cleveland Clinic and improving with medications

Lincoln Lukens 2/12 hospice care; by Judy Musgrave

Carol Hughey 1/18 suffered a heart attack and needs surgery but can't at this time; mother of Jennifer Hughey

Jim Riffle 1/7 stage 4 liver cancer; nephew of Barbara Tibbets

Laura Fortner 1/3 taking chemo; sister of Stacey Harsh

Johna Hogan 1/3 chemo for Lymphoma, surgery 1/16 for stem removal, then having stem cell transplants; by Cheri Hogan

Cathy Ralstin 1/2, home additional testing has indicated recovery from paralysis will be limited; by Dave Ralstin

Rachel Ways 12/25 cancer relapse, ongoing chemo, bone Marrow transplant; by Kalah Osborn

Pray for Israel/Hamas/Gaza

Amber Harpe 12/12 home with cancer, no treatments; Andrea Burkett Harpe

Marty Walters 10/10 health issues; by Judy Musgrave

CyndyLou Wolk 10/10 safety for family friend who lives and works for a news source in Jerusalem; by the Mortons

Amy Marrs 9/5 chemo; by Cheri Hogan

Russia and Ukraine conflict

Joy

Barb Gainey - She is home and weaning off oxygen; by Eve Overmars

Ingrid Raabe 3/25 home, colon cancer surgery went well; by Judy Musgrave





4/06 *Marty & Jan Houlihan*
4/22 *John & Eve Overmars*



Evan Harsh and Jessica Riffle for helping us journey with Jesus toward the cross through their Lenten Meditations.

Letty McKee, Deb Tyler, Deb Cannedy, Kyle and Hank Riffle, Bill and Melinda Burkett, Glen and Amy Bode, JoAnne Burch, the property team and the high school class for preparing the upper room and making it a good space for the high school/college class as we expanded our elementary Sunday School classes into their area.

Ted Waggoner, Deb Tyler, and Mark Spencer for helping to lead while Pastor Mike was on vacation.



4/04 Kim Enyart
4/08 Jared Tyler
4/10 Loie Bowers
4/11 Jean Koch
4/14 Susan Garman
4/20 Eve Overmars
4/21 Barb Swihart
4/23 John Overmars
4/24 Carolyn Deeds
4/25 Paula Murphy
4/26 Linda Overmyer
4/29 Eli Murphy



CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 26

Noon Teaching Tuesday
6:00 pm Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, March 27

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

Thursday, March 28

6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Dinner and Worship

Sunday, March 31 EASTER

9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Time
10:45 am Sunday School
11:00 am Easter Egg Hunt

Monday, April 1

3:00 pm Wynnfield Bible Study

Tuesday, April 2

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, April 3

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

Thursday, April 4

6:00 pm Praise Team

Saturday, April 6

8:00 am Church cleanup day

Sunday, April 7

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

Monday, April 8

3:00 pm Wynnfield Bible Study with Jan Houlihan

Tuesday, April 9

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



IN HONOR/MEMORY OF:

Loved Ones

Memory of Bill Garman, Paul Hoffarth, Paula McKinney

Memory of Jarrod Ball

Those who have gone before

Memory of Nancy Clay

Memory of our parents

Memory of Linda McTaggart

Memory of Abby & Jay Pierce

Memory of John McKee, Bob & Freda Roe

Memory of our parents

Memory of Hal Morris Hammel

Given by

Doug & Lois Morton

Sandra, Chloe & Michael Hoffarth

Barton & Cheryl Ball

Mark & Joyce Sroufe

Gayle Rodriguez

Barton & Cheryl Ball

Patrick McTaggart

Jacque Douglas

Letty McKee

John & Eve Overmars

Lois Hammel



Church Clean Up

The Property Team has made arrangements for a dump truck to arrive at 8:00 am on Saturday, April 6. Their hope is to clean out the dungeon under the sanctuary as well as other areas of the church. Either be there or contact the church if you want something saved that hasn't been used in 2 years.

FORTY Days OF LENT

Daily Readings for Lent 2024

The Gospel according to John

The Worship Team invites you to read the Gospel of John from now until Easter. We have created a daily reading list for you and included some questions for reflection. Enjoy the blessings John has for you.

March 26: John 19:1-18

Reflection Questions:

1. What one thing caught your attention in the reading and what do you think it is trying to tell you?
2. Pilate went against his judgement and bowed to the will of the Jewish Authorities who brought Jesus to him. Reflect on a time you bowed to peer pressure and a time you stood strong against peer pressure. What made the difference?

March 27: John 19:19-42

Reflection Questions:

1. What one thing caught your attention in the reading and what do you think it is trying to tell you?
2. Why do you think it was so important for John to note all the things that happened to “fulfill Scripture” (vs. 24, 28, 36, 37)?

March 28: John 20:1-18

Reflection Questions:

1. What one thing caught your attention in the reading and what do you think it is trying to tell you?
2. Which would be more convincing for you, the empty tomb or the encounter with Jesus? Why?

March 29: John 20:19-31

Reflection Questions:

1. What one thing caught your attention in the reading and what do you think it is trying to tell you?
2. Thomas and the other disciples believed because they saw the risen Lord. What helped bring you to belief?

March 30: John 21:1-25

Reflection Questions:

1. What one thing caught your attention in the reading and what do you think it is trying to tell you?
2. Are you a jump in the water and swim ahead or a stay in the boat with the others kind of person?

Sunday, March 31: Happy Easter!