



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: April 14, 2026

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The April meeting of Disciple Women will be next Monday, April 20 at noon. Bring your lunch and enjoy fellowship with other ladies of the church. Program will be about recycling.



Mark your calendars for the May meeting also. All Disciple Women are invited to the Ladies Spring Tea on Monday, May 18 from noon to 1:30 in the Church Fellowship Hall. Feel free to bring your own cup and saucer to use and share its significance with others afterward. Lunch will be provided so be sure to sign up by May 10 on the sheet posted on the bulletin board in fellowship hall.

INDIANA DISCIPLES		2026 SUMMER CAMPS
June 12-14	Intergenerational Camp	
June 15-20	Explorers (Completed grades 4 & 5)	
June 22-24	New Beginnings (Completed grades 1-3)	
June 25-27	You & Me (Age 5+ with adult)	
June 29-July 4	High School (Completed grades 9-12)	
July 6-11	Middle School (Completed grades 6-8)	
July 13-18	CROSS (Sports - Completed grades 6-12)	
July 20-25	MAD (Music, Art, & Drama - Completed grades 6-12)	

Summer camp early bird registration deadline is May 1. All camps are at Bedford Camp and Conference Center in Bedford, Indiana. More information can be found at [2026 Camp – The Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\) in Indiana](#)

Elder Reflection

The Ultimate Loophole



Nearly three months ago I had my shoulder replaced and during the first month of recovery, I had limited mobility with a lot of time to watch movies. I came across a feel-good movie, named *Jerry & Marge Go Large*. It tells the incredible true story of a retired couple named Jerry and Marge Selbee, who discovered a mathematical "loophole" in a state lottery, a flaw in the system that guaranteed a win if you played the numbers correctly. Jerry didn't cheat; he simply understood a pattern that others had missed. I have never been a lottery player

and am not encouraging anyone to go out and buy thousands of dollars' worth of lottery tickets like Jerry, but as I reflect on this story, it's hard not to see a parallel to our own spiritual journey. In a world that tells us we must earn our way by working harder, doing more, and trying to justify our own sense of right and wrong, the Gospel reveals a "loophole" that defies human logic.

Jesus is our "Loophole" to Heaven. By the world's standards, the "math" of our sin should lead to a deficit we can never repay, however through the Cross, Jesus stepped into the equation. He took our debts and gave us His mercy. It is a "guaranteed win" not because of our effort, but because of His sacrifice. As Ephesians 2:8 reminds us: *"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God."*

I find one of the most moving parts of the Selbee's story is that they did not keep the secret of how to win to themselves. They invited their neighbors, their friends, and their town to join the syndicate. They knew the blessing was too big to hold privately.

We know the greatest "loophole" in history. We know how the story ends, and we know that the prize of eternal life and peace with God is available to everyone. Our goal in life should be inviting our community into the "syndicate" of faith like Jerry and Marge did.

Let us not keep the Good News a secret. Let's share the message of Grace so that everyone can experience the win through Jesus.

Eric Burch



Teaching Moment Tuesday

STUDYING the GOSPEL OF JOHN. Join Pastor Mike each Tuesday at noon on Facebook or watch the recording anytime.

Wynnfield bible study meets each Monday at 3:00 p.m.
Jan Houlihan leads the study on Ecclesiastes.





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

Our Mission Co-Workers in
Lesotho and Amenia/Middle East

Dick Hamm 4/12 former DOC General Minister, aggressive cancer diagnosis, prayers for peace and comfort; by Ted Waggoner

Lois Wiles 4/12 health concerns; mother of Linda Wiles

Joyce Jefferies 4/7 hip replacement surgery went well, prayers for healing

Kathrin Raabe Trapp 4/6 receiving shots in her back for discs; past foreign exchange student of Musgraves

Mike VanWinkle 4/2 moved to nursing home after a stroke

Helen Whitfield 3/30 health issues, seeing a specialist

Robbie Payne 3/30 Hospice care; cousin of Gayle Rodriguez

Susan Garman 3/30 at Timbercrest recovering from a broken hip.

Charlie Whitesell 3/30 Hospice care; Stan & Judy Musgrave

Gay Downing 3/30 rehab for pneumonia; Stan & Judy Musgrave

Devin Bandow 3/21 is being deployed to the Middle East; grandson of Gayle Rodriguez

Denny Tyler 3/8 started chemo treatments and radiation for esophageal/stomach cancer

Prayers for families of service members who lost their lives overseas and to all who are being sent; by Christy Bennett

Barbara Tibbets 3/2 has started her targeted cancer therapy

Pat Clary 2/23 transferred to Blair Ridge in Peru for therapy of broken pelvis from a fall

Carol Hughey 2/23 health concerns; mother of Jennifer Hughey

Wade Mikesell 2/2 bladder cancer; brother of Denny Mikesell

Sula Smith 1/19 health battles

Carlene Musselman 12/8 congestive heart failure; by Judy Evans

Mary Jo Rogers 12/1 Caston teacher in her third round of cancer; by Angie Miller

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

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

Russia and Ukraine conflict

Middle East conflict



April Birthdays

4/14 Susan Garman
4/20 Eve Overmars
4/23 John Overmars
4/25 Olivia Gudeman
4/25 Paula Murphy
4/26 Linda Overmyer

April Anniversaries

4/22 John & Eve Overmars

Special Thanks to:

Our musicians, choir and praise team for putting in extra time and effort to prepare and lead us in music through Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, and Easter.

Our young people for helping to pass out the palm crosses on Palm Sunday.

Jan Houlihan, Eve Overmars, Doug Miller, Stan Musgrave and Amy Bode for helping to lead worship on Maundy Thursday.

Deb Cannedy and the Worship Team for planning and making all the extras of Holy Week work, including preparing and serving Maundy Thursday dinner.

All those who participated in the 24 hour Prayer Vigil. Your work changes things.

March 2026

<u>March Financials</u>	<u>Year to Date Financials</u>	
Income \$22,464.00	Income	\$56,750.25
Expenses \$20,866.54	Expenses	\$63,664.77
<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>In-person</u>	<u>On-line</u>
March Average	73	18
Year to Date Average	70	23

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 14

Noon Teaching Tuesday
7:00 p.m. Elders meeting

Wednesday, April 15

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, April 16

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, April 19

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

Monday, April 20

Noon Ladies Luncheon
3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study
6:00 p.m. Little Lambs board meeting

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, April 21

Noon Teaching Tuesday
3:30 p.m. Pastoral Relations meeting

Wednesday, April 22

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, April 23

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, April 26

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

Monday, April 27

3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study

Tuesday, April 28

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Save the date for
Mother's Day Breakfast
May 10th at 8:20 a.m.

