



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 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: July 28, 2026

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August 9 is going to be a beautiful morning outside, and we plan on enjoying it. Instead of gathering in the sanctuary that Sunday morning, we will gather on the lawn next to the garage on the corner of 11th and Monroe.

- Dress for the weather, because we are going to be outside.
- We will follow the same basic worship order using our electric piano instead of the organ.
- We will have some metal folding chairs set up, but feel free to bring your own lawn chair (metal chairs are not that comfortable).
- If it is helpful to you, park on the street around the field so you can be close. If you are a good walker, use the parking lots to save the close spaces for those who need them.
- We plan to set up a PA system with microphones so you can still hear. (Yes, we plan on inviting/warning our neighbors.)
- If it is raining or too hot/cold, we will simply move inside.



Church World Service
Humanitarian aid organization

Outreach Team Collecting Hygiene Kits

Church World Service (CWS) is one of the organizations that responds to natural and human disasters around the world throughout the year. We like to help stock their response supplies. When floods contaminate the water and everything you own is contaminated, the gift of a washcloth, soap and a toothbrush is priceless. We help CWS collect those items together into a "Hygiene Kit" which can be stored, then instantly shipped where needed.

Our goal is to put together 100 kits on "Service Sunday" September 20th. We will be collecting the supplies during the month of August. Sign-up sheets will be on the fellowship hall bulletin board next month to make sure we gather enough of each item on the list.

Pastor's Reflection



This past week we buried 3 of our church members. I performed 2 of the services and was present for all 3 funerals and funeral dinners. First of all, thank you to Deb Cannedy and everyone who helped prepare, serve and clean-up the dinners. Three in one week is a lot, but those dinners are an incredible gift to the families. Thank you. I also appreciate the multitude of people who were concerned about me and lifted me in your prayers. There is no question that funerals take time to prepare, but that is the only real drain for me.

Funerals are not a spiritual or emotional drain. I count it a privilege to sit with the family and listen to their stories of the loved one who died. The funeral service itself does not drain me because I get to simply share good stuff. My notes never say "Funeral" at the top. They say "Witness to the Resurrection". I get to share good things about the person's life, and more importantly, share a little bit of the Good News of resurrection.

It was way back in seminary when I was going through a bit of a "dark night of the soul" when my studies were confusing my faith more than cementing it. I was becoming uncertain about my understandings of God and new information had rocked my foundational beliefs. A person in the church I was serving died, and it was through preparing and sharing that funeral message that I was rejuvenated. As the words of resurrection and new life rolled off my lips, I realized they were rolling off my heart. I thought sweating too many details had shaken my faith, but the core was still strong. Jesus is God come to earth, and when we follow Him in life, we get to keep following Him all the way through death and into resurrection. Each time I share in a funeral, that memory comes back and the core of my faith gets a little bit stronger.

Thank you for letting me be your pastor and both inviting me into your stories as well as letting me invite you into God's story.

Love,
Mike

Teaching Moment Tuesday

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



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

Our Mission Co-Workers in
South Africa & Indonesia

Pat Dorisse 7/28 renal cancer that has metastasized to adrenal gland, more tests to follow

Elaine Gottschalk 7/24 will be having cataract surgery in each eye in August

Jennifer Glassburn 7/20 hospitalized in Fort Wayne

The family of Susan Garman she died July 18

The family of Pat Clary she died July 18

The family of Shirley Reid she died July 14

The family of Gay Downing she died; Mother of Andrea Musgrave

Ryan Cain 7/20 suffered 3rd degree burns over most of body from industrial accident

Sheila Wofford 7/2 having a bone marrow transplant later in July; friend of John and Eve Overmars

Cathy St. Clair 7/2 diagnosed with stage 4 oral cancer; friend of John and Eve Overmars

Phil Samuelson 6/28 advanced prostate cancer, metastasized to other organs, also stenosis of the spine; brother of Joyce Sroufe

Joyce Jeffries 6/26 continued prayer for healing and other health concerns

Denny Tyler 5/18 cancer treatments paused to let body recover, esophageal/stomach cancer



Jim Riffle 5/18 stage 4 liver cancer, receiving treatments; Barbara Tibbets' nephew

Bill Abbott 5/4 home with congestive heart failure; Rick Abbott's father

Mike Hammel 4/20 seizures, his throat is limiting his talking and swallowing; Lois Hammel's son

Barbara Tibbets 4/16 is having positive results from her cancer therapy, continued prayers

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

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

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

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 Messick diagnosed with Alzheimer's, battling squamous cell skin cancer; Sara Story's father

Russia and Ukraine conflict



Wynnfield Bible study meets each Monday at 3:00 p.m.
Jan Houlihan's study is in the Letters of John.



AUGUST

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays:

8/08 Sally Hall
8/08 Lois Hammel
8/08 Lori Simpson
8/09 Alex Gudeman
8/10 Deb Tyler
8/12 Amanda Hooker
8/14 Ted Waggoner

8/15 Ella Brooks
8/16 Michael Hoffarth
8/16 Trinity Lease
8/16 Joyce Sroufe
8/23 Joyce Jeffries
8/24 Blake Hughes
8/26 Elaine Gottschalk
8/27 Edna Bedford
8/29 Elayna Blacketor

Anniversaries:

8/02 Dave & Cathy Ralstin
8/03 Doug & Lois Morton
8/11 Mark & Sara Story
8/14 Dennis & Becki Gray
8/15 Barton & Cheryl Ball
8/18 Bill & Melinda Burkett
8/25 Ben & Helen Whitfield
8/31 Denny & Joyce Mikesell

Special Thanks to:

Deb Cannedy and her crews for serving three funeral dinners in one week.

Membership Team for hosting game day, ice cream and desserts on July 26. It is just good to get together with your church family.

June 2026

<u>June Financials</u>	<u>Year to Date Financials</u>	
Income \$10,718.00	Income	\$101,840.00
Expenses \$18,133.37	Expenses	\$121,998.30
<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>In-person</u>	<u>On-line</u>
June Average	85	17
Year to Date Average	77	20

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 28

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Thursday, July 30

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, August 2

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:40 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:50 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, August 3

3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study

Tuesday, August 4

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, August 5

5:30 p.m. Community Dinner

CHURCH CALENDAR

Thursday, August 6

4:30 p.m. Evangelism Team

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, August 9

9:30 a.m. Worship on the lawn

10:40 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:50 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, August 10

3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study

4:00 p.m. Membership Team

Tuesday, August 11

Noon Teaching Tuesday

7:00 p.m. Elder's meeting