



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: August 25, 2026

Vol. 72, No. 16



Glen & Amy Bode will be hosting our church picnic at their home after worship
this **Sunday, August 30**

3651 W 200 S Kewanna

It will be like a regular Fellowship Dinner except at the Bode's home, meat and drinks are provided. Bring a lawn chair, a side dish or a dessert and we will share our church meal together. We will eat at 12:30 with games and picnic activities before and after.

Printed directions to their home will be available in the narthex.

"Contagious Faith" Small Group Sign-Up

Discover your natural style of sharing Jesus with others

Sign-up for a 6 week Small Group to explore "Contagious Faith". Sign-up sheets are on the welcome table in the entrance way or simply contact the church office (574-223-5812). Fill in your name and select up to three choices of day/time when you would like to meet. You can also indicate if you are available to host and/or lead one of the groups.



Pastor's Reflection



I am excited about our new congregational study in October. We have done several congregational studies in the past including: “40 Days of Purpose”, “40 Days of Community”, “40 Days of Love”, and “The Walk: 5 Essential Practices of the Christian Life”. Each study has included most of us participating in a small group as well as our worship time focused on the topic at hand. The studies have deepened our personal knowledge and devotion, built relationships within the congregation, and expanded our ministries together as a congregation.

This year the Elders have chosen to study “Contagious Faith: Discover Your Natural Style of Sharing Jesus with Others”. Like I said, I am excited about this study. It is something I learned nothing about in my schooling and something we as a congregation can use. We are not perfect, but we are pretty good at worshipping God and reaching out to our brothers and sisters in need both locally and internationally. Things like our worship which seeks to claim the best of yesterday and today’s worship styles plus our Blessing Box, Community Dinner, Service Sunday, and amazing support for Week of Compassion speak to our love of God and neighbor. Yet we are still one of the best kept secrets in the county. I would love for us to move from 1-2 baptisms a year to 1-2 baptisms a month. First Christian Church is a great place to connect with God through Jesus, and I am excited to better learn how to share that. Please join me.

“Contagious Faith” is a 6-week, small group, video-based study. We will start October 4 with the last groups meeting around November 12. I know our Monday Bible Study at Wynfield Crossing will become a group, we will have a least one Tuesday afternoon/evening group that meets at church, and I have even heard rumors of a morning group. Most groups will meet in people’s homes. I know not everyone can be at every meeting. Join a group anyway. Having you 5 weeks is better than none. Sign-up sheets are on “The Welcome Table” in the entrance way or simply contact the church office (574-223-5812). Many of us want to learn how we can better share Jesus with those around us. Please take this step to help us all in that journey.

Love,
Mike

Teaching Moment Tuesday

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





Little Lambs Daycare Closure

It is with a sad and heavy heart that we must close the day care. First Christian Church's Little Lambs Daycare ministry has been serving children and their families in this community since April 20, 1997, but that will come to an end on October 2. Little Lambs has been a part of our congregation's ministry for almost 30 years. A special thank you goes out to our current Little Lambs' Board as well as all who have served Little Lambs through the years. A detailed letter was emailed to the church distribution. If you have any questions or comments, please contact us.

Lori Simpson – Little Lambs Board chair
Pastor Mike

Just a Reminder:

If you are suffering from hearing loss and looking into hearing aids, make sure and ask about a "t-coil" or "tele-coil" setting. Our sanctuary is equipped with a loop system that allows the PA system to speak directly to your hearing aid without any extra background noise or interference. It allows you to adjust the volume yourself and hear every word.



Church World Service
Humanitarian aid organization

Outreach Team thanks all who signed up to supply hygiene kits items or gave a monetary donation for Church World Service (CWS). The kits will be assembled on September 20th as one of the Service Sunday projects.

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

Our Mission Co-Workers in Angola and India

Family of Joan Graham she died
August 18

Residents of Gary, IN no power

Stephanie Bennett 8/24 safe travels to
Alaska: daughter of Christy Bennett

Elaine Gottschalk 8/21 cataract surgeries
are complete; prayers for healing

Jennifer Glassburn 8/19 moved to
Warsaw Meadows Care Center

Jon Martin 8/19 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma
affecting his liver and pancreas; great
nephew of Stan and Judy Musgrave

The family of Charles Young he died
August 14; husband of Annette Young

Dylann Elise Hayden 8/17 one month old is
now home with health issues; by Melinda
Burkett

Betty Vance 8/5 battling pneumonia, heart
in Afib, good results from heart catheter

Ben Whitfield 8/3 for future treatment
plans & for Helen strength to persevere

Ryan Cain 8/3 suffered 3rd degree burns
Over most of his body from industrial
accident. Has had surgery on colon, small
intestine, tracheotomy

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

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

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



Wynnfield Bible study meets each Monday at 3:00 p.m.

Jan Houlihan leads the study on heaven.

No bible study on Labor Day, September 7th.



SEPTEMBER

Birthdays and Anniversaries

August Birthdays:

8/26 Elaine Gottschalk
8/27 Edna Bedford
8/29 Elayna Blacketor

September Birthdays:

9/05 Joe Koch
9/09 Lois Morton
9/10 Barb McGee

9/12 Helen Enyart
9/18 Margaret Bryant
9/25 Sharon Border
9/28 Liam Taylor
9/28 Marci Murphy
9/29 Rich Murphy
9/30 Cheri Hogan

August Anniversaries:

8/31 Denny & Joyce Mikesell

September Anniversaries:

9/04 Bill & Joan Gordon
9/06 Brett & Amanda Hooker
9/09 Matt & Stacey Harsh
9/22 Robert & Mary Kay Jance
9/28 Mick & Judy Evans

Special Thanks to:

Ashley Taylor and a few of her students for sharing dance as worship on August 16.

Avery Gerwin for sharing Special Music with us last Sunday.

Angie Miller and Rich Murphy for introducing our new congregational study and inviting us to be a part of it.

July 2026

<u>July Financials</u>	<u>Year to Date Financials</u>	
Income \$18,157.97	Income	\$119,997.97
Expenses \$19,954.50	Expenses	\$141,952.80
<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>In-person</u>	<u>On-line</u>
July Average	68	16
Year to Date Average	77	20

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, August 25

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Thursday, August 27

5:00 p.m. Property Team
6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, August 30

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:40 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Sunday School
12:30 p.m. Church picnic

Monday, August 31

3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study

Tuesday, September 1

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, September 2

10:00 a.m. Outreach Team
5:30 p.m. Community Dinner
6:30 p.m. Little Lambs board
6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday, September 3

4:30 p.m. Evangelism Team
6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, September 6

9:30 a.m. Worship
10:40 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Sunday School
10:50 a.m. Worship Team
10:50 a.m. Young Adults meet with
Evangelism Team

Tuesday, September 8

Noon Teaching Tuesday
7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting