



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: September 22, 2026

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"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). Place your name under one of the groups that matches your availability.

Sundays	10:50 a.m.	Library
Mondays	3:00 p.m.	Wynnfield Crossing
Mondays	7:00 p.m.	Waggoner's home
Tuesdays	6:00 p.m.	Fellowship Hall
Thursdays	1:00 p.m.	Nancy Murphy's home
Thursdays	6:00 p.m.	Library
Saturdays	Morning	location TBD



October 4th is World Communion Sunday when God gathers us at one table with Jesus' followers of every language, culture, and tradition. From cathedrals and chapels, from huts and houses, from fields and cities, God gathers us in many places and makes us one in Christ. We are not alone. Though language, traditions and miles try to separate us, Jesus' table brings us together again. We will have an extra emphasis on communion on October 4th.

Pastor's Reflection



Until Sunday morning at 9:00 am, every weather forecast tried to write “canceled” on our plans for “Service Sunday”, but apparently God wanted us to get some work done. The rain stopped a half hour before we were to start and stayed away until we were done. Thank you to the Outreach Team for orchestrating the day, you for working to make it a good day, and to the weather that cooperated so nicely. Church World Service, the Youth Outlet Center, Columbia Elementary School, the city parks, Annette Young and Sleep In

Heavenly Peace all share their genuine thanks.

We had three groups stay at church. Amanda Hooker led the kitchen crew who not only made lunch for us all, but prepared meals that could be frozen and used anytime for both the Youth Outlet Center and individuals in the congregation. Gayle Rodriguez took lead in assembling the “hygiene kits” for Church World Service. The kits were filled with everything from washcloths to fingernail clippers and will be sent by Church World Service to be distributed wherever needed after natural disasters strike. Charlotte Miller lead the third group that stayed at church who organized and addressed birthday and anniversary cards to be sent throughout the year.

In addition to the groups that stayed at church, four groups ventured into the community to share loving service. Amy Van Heyningen led her team to Columbia Elementary School where they trimmed trees, raked mulch and fought back the grass and weeds to make the playground as well as the rest of the grounds an asset for the children. Letty McKee and her group brought the same gift to Manitou Mountain and surrounding city park. Bill and Melinda Burkett’s crew went to Annette Young’s house to finish transforming Charles’ huge garden into Annette’s manageable back lawn. Dave Lease took a team to sand, drill, assemble and stack bed frames which will be distributed throughout the community to assure every school child has a bed to sleep in. In addition to our group projects, I heard a rumor that some individuals took advantage of “Service Sunday” week to reach out on their own and do acts of kindness and service through the week.

James 2: 14,17-18 says, “What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if someone claims to have faith but does not have works? Surely that faith cannot save, can it? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead. But someone will say, ‘You have faith, and I have works.’ Show me your faith apart from works, and I by my works will show you faith.” Thank you for showing in yet another way, that faith in our Lord Jesus Christ is alive and thriving at First Christian Church.

Love,
Mike

Teaching Moment Tuesday

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









The month of October is Pastor Appreciation month. Begin thinking of ways you can show your love and appreciation for Pastor Mike over the next several weeks.

2026 Reconciliation Ministry - Special Offering



Restoration – Hope in Action

Sunday, September 27th - Sunday, October 4th

This year's Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering invites us to move beyond restoration to hope in action. Psalm 85:6–11 reminds us that God's vision is more than repairing what is broken. It is creating a future where love and faithfulness meet, righteousness and peace flourish, and communities experience new life.

Your gift puts hope into action by supporting education, programming, and grants that equip congregations, camps, conferences, and General Ministries to dismantle racism, strengthen relationships, and build beloved community. Half of each gift remains in the region where it is received.

This offering is an invitation to move beyond restoration and help build a more just, faithful, and hopeful community. Your advocacy and financial support are much appreciated.

Hymn Survey 2026

Music is one of the ways we lift our hearts to God in worship. We tend to sing louder and more joyously when we sing songs we enjoy singing. What songs do you enjoy singing? Reminder to write down up to seven of your favorite songs from the "Praise Songs" book and hymnal.



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

Our Mission Co-Workers in Haiti and Japan

Dick Hamm 9/22 former DOC
General Minister, Dick Hamm's cancer responded very well to chemotherapy but a new nodule needs investigating before next steps can be defined; by Ted Waggoner
Susan Bryant 9/21 recovering from knee surgery, prayers for healing
Cheri Hogan 9/21 knee replacement surgery September 23
Carlene Musselman 9/21 diagnosed with stage 4 chronic kidney disease; by Judy Evans
The Philipps Family 9/14 only child died from a motorcycle accident; great nephew of Jan Houlihan
Allen Glassburn 9/7 consulting with a doctor for shoulder injury
Jennifer Glassburn 9/7 in the hospital with UTI and trouble swallowing; wife of Allen Glassburn
Pat Dorisse 9/6 cancer surgery on September 28
Prayers for families due to the devastation in Nepal
Lisa Nichols 8/13 fell fractured 10 ribs and 2 vertebrae, home; sister of Denny Mikesell
Jon Martin 8/19 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma affecting his liver and pancreas; great nephew of Stan and Judy Musgrave
Dylann Elise Hayden 8/17 one month old is now home with health issues; by Melinda Burkett
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

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

Sula Smith 1/19 health battles

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

Russia and Ukraine conflict

JOY

Zoe Ulshafer is now home doing well; daughter of Elayna Blacketor



Wynnfield Bible study meets each Monday at 3:00 p.m.
Jan Houlihan will lead a group through a six week study based on the book "Contagious Faith" starting October 5th.

OCTOBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

September Birthdays:

9/25 Sharon Border
 9/28 Liam Taylor
 9/28 Marci Murphy
 9/29 Rich Murphy
 9/30 Cheri Hogan

October Birthdays:

10/03 Doug Miller
 10/06 Mary Barnett
 10/09 Terry Van Heyningen
 10/11 Glen Bode
 10/11 Emily Hughes

10/12 Matthew Harsh
 10/13 Jason Lease
 10/15 Lori Shewman
 10/18 Charlotte Miller
 10/19 Mike Van Heyningen
 10/19 Jennifer McCarty
 10/22 Dee Van Winkle
 10/25 Judy Miller
 10/25 Joylyn Whitfield
 10/26 Jan Houlihan
 10/26 Carol Shafer
 10/28 Sula Smith
 10/30 Catherine Hughes

September Anniversaries:

9/22 Robert & Mary Kay Jance
 9/28 Mick & Judy Evans

October Anniversaries:

10/03 Dan & Traci Miller
 10/13 Marvin & Roxann Murphy
 10/15 Mark & Joyce Sroufe

Special Thanks to:

Stan Musgrave for introducing our new congregational study and inviting us to be a part of it.

Our Service Sunday team leads: Melinda and Bill Burkett, Amanda Hooker, Dave Lease, Letty McKee, Charlotte Miller, Gayle Rodriguez, and Amy Van Heyningen.

August 2026

<u>August Financials</u>	<u>Year to Date Financials</u>	
Income \$26,312.64	Income	\$146,310.61
Expenses \$17,634.37	Expenses	\$159,587.17
<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>In-person</u>	<u>On-line</u>
August Average	88	15
Year to Date Average	78	19

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 22

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, September 23

6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday, September 24

5:00 p.m. Property Team

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, September 27

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:40 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:50 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, September 28

3:00 p.m. Wynnfield Bible Study

Tuesday, September 29

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, September 30

6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday, October 1

4:30 p.m. Evangelism Team

Friday, October 2

Indiana Regional Assembly

Saturday, October 3

Indiana Regional Assembly

Morning Contagious Faith Study

Sunday, October 4

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:40 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:50 a.m. Sunday School

10:50 a.m. Contagious Faith Study, Library

Monday, October 5

3:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Wynnfield

7:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Waggoner's

Tuesday, October 6

Noon Teaching Tuesday

6:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 7

10:00 a.m. Outreach Team

5:30 p.m. Community Dinner

6:30 p.m. Choir