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

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Date: November 10, 2026 Vol. 72, No. 21



This Sunday, November 15th, is the annual business meeting of the church. Discussion will include the nomination committee report and budget for 2027.

You are invited. Join us on November 15th for a Thanksgiving feast after the church annual business meeting! The turkey, mashed potatoes, stuffing, rolls, drinks, and tableware will be provided. Please bring your favorite dish to share (salad, vegetable, or dessert) as well as a non-perishable food item for the blessing box.



Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child

Reminder to return your filled boxes by November 16th. Please include $10 along with the filled box to cover shipping costs.





Normally the Women's Luncheon is open to all the women of the congregation, but this month, it is open to everyone. Kathy Anderson will be sharing about her recent journey in the footsteps of her father who was shot down over Germany in World War II and taken prisoner. Kathy will not only be sharing some of the physical journey with the brutality of being a prisoner of war, but also the spiritual aspects at the time and in her. Men and women will be blessed by her presentation. Meet in Fellowship Hall on November 16 and don't forget to bring your lunch!

Pastor's Reflection



As we finish our "Contagious Faith" small group study, many are responding, "That was hard." For many, the idea of sharing their faith with friends and family members was difficult, but the push to share with strangers was beyond comprehension. Others found practicing their story with other group members caused them to dig a little deeper than they were planning. Still others slid through thinking they do not know anyone who is not a Christian and therefore didn't need to know any of this stuff. Personally, I was amazed how quickly God works and how slow I am. I was thinking about one of our neighbors here at church and how we talk, but I never invited her to church. Not two hours after having that thought, I walk to my car to drive home and I see this neighbor walking straight toward my car. I get out and greeter her. She asks about what we are going to do with the Little Lamb's playground equipment and we talk about family for a minute, then I get in my car and drive home. As my front wheels hit the blacktop coming out of the parking lot it hits. "You idiot! You wanted to talk with her about coming to church, God sent her straight to you, and you blew it."

Which makes me ask, "What is next?" Now that we have had a little bit of training, what is next? The answer, practice. My favorite "what's next" response has been the member who went to her agnostic friend and said, "I need to practice sharing my faith for this class I am taking. Can I practice with you?" Her friend was happy to agree and listened intently, but then asked questions she could not answer. Of course after some time to think and talk with others, she now has answers and is looking forward to continuing the conversation with her agnostic friend with new answers and an opportunity to further develop her skills. I love it. The next step for us as individuals is to practice and continue to share Jesus' invitation to "come, follow me."

But what about as a congregation? How can we as a congregation empower your sharing? The Evangelism Team has a few ideas including "church merch" that they will be unveiling at the Congregational Meeting this Sunday, November 15.

Love,
Mike

Little Lambs Update

In their continuing efforts to close the 29-year Little Lambs Daycare Ministry with honesty and integrity, the Little Lambs Board decided to do an online auction with Metzger's of North Manchester. All the Little Lamb's equipment from strollers and playground equipment to toys and shelving systems will be auctioned off. Everything has been sorted and inventoried by Metzger's, but we have not heard when the auction will go live. The goal of the auction is to keep rooms in the basement that are dedicated space (like the kitchen) still functional as that space (with stove and refrigerator) but clear out the other spaces for whatever ministry will fill them next. We continue to be deeply indebted to the Little Lambs Board for their continued hard work.



Help Us "Spruce" Up the Church!

Hanging of the Greens will be November 22nd following the worship service. Plan to stay after worship to decorate the church for the Christmas season.

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

Our Mission Co-Workers in
Samoa and Dominican Republic

Rick Merrill 11/9 having severe circulation issues in his legs. Rick is Paula Murphy's sister Carla's husband.
Steve Kumfer 11/5 had a stroke: brother of Joyce Jeffries
Michalia Rodriguez 11/2 home recovering from surgery
Terry McKee 11/2 Ft Wayne Hospital, left lung continues to collapse, COPD; brother in law of Letty
Ben Whitfield 11/02 serious leg pain/cramps
Bill Abbott 5/4 home with Hospice Care; Rick Abbott's father
Jim Riffle 10/21 stage 4 colorectal cancer, Chemo has stopped working and he is trying to find a clinical trial he can qualify for; nephew of Barbara Tibbets
Sula Smith 10/19 health battles
Phil Samuelson 10/19 is mostly sleeping as his organs shut down, home with Hospice Care; brother of Joyce Sroufe
Mike Hammel 10/11 limited swallowing, improvement with talking; Lois Hammel's son
Pat Dorisse 10/9 continued healing following her successful cancer removal surgery
Dylann Elise Hayden 10/5 infant daughter of Dakota & Lana needs prayer for several health issues; by Melinda Burkett
Kim Plantz Hunter 10/2 seeking surgical treatment for liver cancer; by Joyce Mikesell
Jennifer Glassburn 9/30 is back at the nursing home receiving therapy; wife of Allen Glassburn
Kandi Zartman 9/30 suffered a stroke; by Allen Glassburn
Sharon Carter 9/30 struggling with cancer; by Allen Glassburn



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
Carlene Musselman 9/21 diagnosed with stage 4 chronic kidney disease; by Judy Evans
Jon Martin 8/19 non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma affecting his liver and pancreas; great nephew of Stan and Judy Musgrave
Cathy St. Clair 7/2 diagnosed with stage 4 oral cancer; friend of John and Eve Overmars
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
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
Mike Messick diagnosed with Alzheimer's, battling squamous cell skin cancer; Sara Story's father
Russia and Ukraine conflict

Joy

Congratulations to Emily Hughes and Grant Ott-Large. They were married November 7th.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Please see the flyer on the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall if you would like to sign up to ring the bell this Christmas season. Times and locations are listed as well as detailed instructions on how to sign up.



November Birthdays:
11/12 Ashley Taylor
11/17 Martin Houlihan
11/19 Annis DeKeyser
11/22 Bill Vance

November Anniversaries:
11/10 David & Trinity Lease
11/20 Dave & Cathy Ginther
11/20 Ken & Christina Hughes
11/23 Glen & Amy Bode

Special Thanks to:
Eve Overmars, Jan Houlihan, Ted and Nancy Waggoner, Deb Tyler and Amy Bode, Mike Van Heyningen, Charlotte Miller and Kathy Anderson, Nancy Murphy, and Angie Miller for leading and hosting our "Contagious Faith" small groups.

October 2026

October Financials		Year to Date Financials	
Income	$17,564.00	Income	$184,342.58
Expenses	$21,880.39	Expenses	$198,643.94

Worship Attendance	In-person	On-line
October Average	75	15
Year to Date Average	77	18

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, November 10
Noon Teaching Tuesday
5:00 p.m. Contagious Faith, Library
7:00 p.m. Elder's Meeting

Wednesday, November 11
10:00 a.m. Outreach Team
6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday, November 12
1:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Nancy M. home
6:00 p.m. Contagious Faith Study, Library
7:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, November 15
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:40 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Sunday School
11:45 a.m. Congregational Meeting and Thanksgiving Meal
Church board meeting following the meal

Monday, November 16
Noon Ladies Luncheon – special program, everyone is invited

Tuesday, November 17
6:30 p.m. Little Lambs board meeting

Wednesday, November 18
6:30 p.m. Choir

Thursday, November 19
6:00 p.m. Contagious Faith study, Library
7:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, November 22
9:30 a.m. Worship
10:40 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:50 a.m. Sunday School
10:50 a.m. Hanging of the Greens