



The Christian Visitor
A bi-monthly publication of First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) Rochester, Indiana

Church #574-223-5812
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Our Mission: Bring people to Christ, grow as disciples, and together serve God

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This year's Christmas special offering theme is based on a poem by Howard Thurman. By supporting this offering, we continue the Work of Christmas in the Indiana region. Offering envelopes will be available December 21st and 28th.

The Work of Christmas

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.*

Howard Thurman

Highlighting Ways to Give Back to the Community



Salvation Army bell ringing continues through December 24 at Kroger, Wal-Mart, Smith Farm Store and Runnings. Sign up to ring by going to www.RegisterToRing.com. Most of the money collected stays in Fulton County and is distributed through United Ministries. See Melinda Burkett if you need assistance in registering to ring.



Fulton County United Ministries is preparing for its annual Christmas Baskets Program. Volunteers are always needed to help deliver the baskets. Come to the fairgrounds with a truck and helpers to load up and deliver on December 20 starting at 8:00 a.m.

Because the program does not conduct any fundraising activities, it depends upon monetary donations to purchase non-perishable foods. Checks may be mailed to Fulton County United Ministries, P.O. Box 531, Rochester, IN 46975. Call Sarah Daulton at 574-835-0220 with questions or to see where other volunteers are needed.



Volunteers needed for the Fulton County warming center program where a safe, welcoming refuge from the cold is provided for those in need. The Nazarene church will host this community wide ministry. Sign up is available at www.fchope.org/volunteer.

Contact Fulton County H.O.P.E. at 574-223-4357 for more information.

Ministry Opportunity Booklet

2026 Ministry Opportunity Booklet is available. Please pick one up at the welcome table, fill it out and place it in an offering basket or return it to the office. You can also contact the church office by phone or email to let us know how you will support the ministries of the church in 2026.

Disciples Women Group

The women's group held their final meeting of the year on December 15th.

Below is a summary of their giving for 2025:

Habitat for Humanity	\$200
The Outlet	\$210
Paper Products Drive	\$100
United Ministries	\$300
Disciples Ministry	\$250
Support Café	\$50

In Kind giving:

Hygiene items for Support Café

Puzzles and craft items for local nursing home residents

Elder Reflection



During this Christmas season let us thank and praise our Savior for loving us so much that He sent His son to live in human form among us.

Recently I went for a long walk near day break after a fresh snow fall. I was looking forward to making some of the first tracks along one of my walking (or slogging) routes. As I went, I admired the pure white snow and the soft crunching sound under my feet. Everything also looked clean and fresh with a coat of snow. Surprisingly, I came upon a set of fresh shoe prints in the snow. At first I was somewhat surprised that somebody else thought this was a good time of day and a good route for an outing. The farther I went I began to admire those steps. The strides were long and extremely consistent. I realized the heel toe action was straight. If I had a long rope pulled straight every one of those steps would have landed on the rope in a perfect line. I wondered if I could emulate those other steps in the snow. So with concentration I took off and realized the pace and stride to match those steps was more than I could sustain for very long. Good grief, after comparing my normal steps to those other steps in the snow I might be a duck in human form!

Those steps in the snow drove home a message for me that morning. Skill level, physical ability, experiences, age, tenacity, intelligence, common sense, genetics, interests, passions, health and a multitude of other factors make us individually and collectively who we are. We are all different individually. Collectively, the steps, route and journey will vary among us but the destination at the end is the same.

Gracious God help us to utilize the talents and gifts provided by you to bring you honor and glory by humble service in the body of Christ. Thank you for this season to celebrate your love for us so much that you sent your son to live among us.

Bob



Teaching Moment Tuesday

STUDYING the GOSPEL OF JOHN. Join Pastor Mike each Tuesday at noon on Facebook.

To affirm both the importance of gathering for worship and the importance of being safe in dangerous weather, our weather cancellation policy is simple. If the City of Rochester or Fulton County closes the roads, church activities are canceled. If the roads are open, we are open. Your job is to make a smart decision whether you should stay home or come to worship. Please, be smart and make the best call for you. If the roads are open, worship will be on Facebook.



Christmas Poinsettias



There are five poinsettias still available if you would like to purchase one. Contact the church office or use the signup sheet on the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall. List your name and the person in memory or honor of. The cost of each poinsettia is \$18.00. Please make check payable to First Christian Church and mark "Poinsettias" in the memo line.

Given by:

Mark and Joyce Sroufe
Jackie Burkett
Annis DeKeyser
Gayle Rodriguez
Patrick McTaggart
Annette Young
Barton and Cheryl Ball

In memory of loved ones
In memory of Don Burkett, Mike Burkett
In memory of loved ones
In memory of loved ones
In memory of Jacque Douglas and Linda McTaggart
In memory of loved ones
In memory of Jarrod Ball



12/17 Craig & Lori Simpson
12/23 Marvin & Linda Overmyer



12/16 Ben Whitfield
12/19 Roselynn Story
12/21 Ken Hughes
12/21 Marvin Murphy
12/23 Joyce Mikesell
12/23 Lillian Gudeman
12/25 Angie Miller
12/27 Cathy Ralstin
12/28 Will Van Heyningen
12/29 Bill Shewman



1/24 Ted & Nancy Waggoner



1/03 Susan Bryant
1/07 Brett Hooker
1/07 Matthew McKee
1/07 Helen Whitfield
1/11 Roger Bryant
1/16 Sarah Burch
1/16 Traci Miller



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

Our Mission Co-Workers in Taiwan, Nicaragua and Botswana

Harper Simpson 12/16 admitted to Dallas Children's Hospital, diagnosed with Grand Mal Seizures;

granddaughter of Lori Simpson
Carlene Musselman 12/8 still in congestive heart failure; by Judy Evans

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

Joylynn Whitfield 11/9 health issues; by Helen Whitfield

Sula Smith 9/29 home recovering from a fall

Cathie Lukens 8/24 home with Hospice; by Judy Musgrave

Barbara Gainey 8/18 struggling with heart and lung issues; by Eve Overmars

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

Fred Jones 4/17 continues through his cancer journey; by Sandra Hoffarth

Mary Ellen Nelsen 4/10 stage 4 bone cancer; by Jacque Douglas

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

Pray for Israel/Hamas/Gaza/Lebanon/Syria

Russia and Ukraine conflict

Joy

Wesley Hickie heart pump installed and improving; by Judy Evans



Special Thanks to:

Rissa Kepner, John & Eve Overmars, and Liz Pennington for bringing our Advent Wreath moments to life.

Our musicians, Praise Team, Choir and director for putting in the extra time and effort to make our Christmas season special.

Property Team and others for keeping our parking lots and sidewalks as clear as possible.

November 2025

November Financials

Income \$43,928.71

Expenses \$18,853.35

YTD Financials

Income \$224,222.31

Expenses \$225,013.55

Worship Attendance

November Average

YTD Average

In-person

73

73

On-line

22

19

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 16

Noon Teaching Tuesday

6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, December 17

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, December 18

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, December 21

Forth Sunday of Advent

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Tuesday, December 23

Noon Teaching Tuesday

6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday, December 24

7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Service

Thursday, December 25

CHRISTMAS DAY

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Sunday, December 28

9:30 a.m. Worship with Ed and LeeAnn Rock

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, December 30

Noon Teaching Tuesday

6:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study

Sunday, January 4

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:50 a.m. Take down and put away

Christmas decorations

Tuesday, January 6

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, January 7

5:30 p.m. Community Dinner

6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

Thursday, January 8

5:00 p.m. Property Team

6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, January 11

9:30 a.m. Worship

10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:45 a.m. Sunday School

10:50 a.m. Worship Team



Restock The Blessing Box Shelves

Let the spirit of giving through Thanksgiving and Christmas mean something through January and February. The church invites you to join us in a **Reverse Advent Calendar** food drive to help stock our Blessing Box for months to come. Reusable bags and food item lists are available in the Fellowship Hall.

EACH DAY ADD AN ITEM TO YOUR BAG

BRING BAGS TO CHURCH ANYTIME THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR

NO GLASS JARS, PLEASE

November 30 – can of green beans
December 1 – can of Spaghetti-O's
December 2 -- boxed potatoes
December 3 – box of macaroni and cheese
December 4 – can of mandarin oranges
December 5 – can of chicken
December 6 – can of tuna
December 7 – jar of peanut butter
December 8 – jelly, squeeze bottle
December 9 – box of Rice-a-Roni
December 10 – can of peas
December 11 – can of pork & beans
December 12 – can of pears
December 13 – can of vienna sausages
December 14 – can of chili
December 15 – bag of Knorr pasta side
December 16 – can of Hunt's pasta sauce
December 17 – box of spaghetti noodles
December 18 – Raman noodles
December 19 -- can of black beans
December 20 – can of mixed vegetables
December 21 – can of soup
December 22 – box of cereal
December 23 – boxed dinner helpers
December 24 – can of Chef Boyardee pasta

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY