



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 local 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 29, 2025

Vol. 71, No 14



Outreach Team Collecting Hygiene Kits

Church World Service (CWS) is one of the organizations that responds to natural and human disasters around the world, around 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 kinds of things together into a "Hygiene Kit" which can be stored, then instantly shipped where needed.

Our goal is to be able to put together 100 kits on "Service Sunday" September 21st. We will be collecting the supplies the month of August. Sign-up sheets will be on the bulletin board the month of August to make sure we gather enough of each item on the list.



The CWS Hygiene Kit now includes travel-sized shampoo, deodorant, lotion, and toothpaste, making it more practical for people on the move or in temporary shelters. These updates ensure the kits meet immediate needs with greater care and relevance.

SUPPLIES NEEDED:

- 1-gallon resealable plastic bag
- Washcloth
- Fingernail or toenail clipper (packaging removed)
- Toothbrush (in original packing) **Already purchased**
- Bath-size bar of soap (in original packaging)
- Travel-size deodorant (3.4 oz. or less, non-aerosol)
- Travel-size lotion (3.4 oz. or less, fragrance-free, NEW only)
- Travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz. or less, NEW only)
- Travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz. or less, expiration date of 1 year) **Already purchased**
- Sturdy wide-tooth comb (6" minimum teeth, packaging removed)

****All 100 toothbrushes & toothpaste have been purchased for the Hygiene kits.**



Pastor Reflection

I took the week of July 7 as a vacation week to work on our porch. Last year, Will and I built a roof extension off the back of the house for the porch. This summer was about building the deck under the roof. The first job was to remove some concrete with rebar in it. My saw made short work of the first piece of rebar that needed to be cut, but was taking forever and making little progress on the next piece. Eventually I thought to change the blade. The new blade got me back on track. A little later in the project, I was having to cut sections out of 6"x6" posts. Things were not going as well or as quickly as I thought they should. Again, eventually I thought to change the blade in the saw. Two minutes later, the saw was cutting great and frustration levels diminished.

I have heard it all my life. "Work smarter, not harder." And part of that included, "Take time to sharpen/change the blade. It will save you time in the long run." It is embarrassing how long it took me to realize my saw blade needed attention – not once, but twice.

Time with God is blade sharpening time. Whether we are talking about reading Scripture, prayer, worship, Sunday School, or group Bible study; time with God is blade sharpening time. Yes, we can skip it now and again and keep on working. But if we skip too often, we start working harder and making less progress in our lives. What used to bring us joy becomes work. What once brought fulfillment feels like work without progress. We do what we have always done, but it just doesn't feel like we are making any progress. That is when it is blade sharpening time. Time with God reestablishes what is important. Time with God reestablishes perspective and shrinks frustration. Time with God sharpens us and allows us to "work smarter, not harder."

Love,
Mike

Baby Dedication

We join Dan and Traci Miller in dedicating ourselves to make sure young David Ray Miller will come to know Jesus through knowing us.





PRAYER LIST

*Key: Person's name (description; w submitted request).

Our Mission Co-Worker in **Mexico**

The family of Sande Summe, she died 7/28: Aunt of Chris Summe

Lance Musgrave 7/28 sick and medications are not helping

Arnold Snipes 7/28 not doing well, now on Hospice; by Doug Morton

Denny & Joyce Mikesell fire at home and garage, they are okay

Cheri Hogan 7/21 hematoma removed from leg

Kathy Anderson 7/21 home after surgery to alleviate neck/back pain

BJ Swank 7/21 home from surgery for a broken hip due to a work accident; nephew of John and JoAnn Bowers

Kelly Nunemaker 7/9 medical issues; daughter of Joyce and Denny Mikesell

Fredrick Long 7/1 mental health issues

Cathy Ralstin 6/30 outpatient surgery July 9 then continued physical therapy in Indy; by Dave Ralstin

Judy Musgrave 6/29 home following knee replacement surgery

Oliver & Amanda 6/16 that they would develop a relationship with the Lord; by Todd Wiles

Mike Messick 6/8 diagnosed with Alzheimer's, also battling squamous cell skin cancer; father of Sara Story

Gay Downing 6/8 heart attack 92 year old mother-in-law of Lance Musgrave

Mike Hammel 5/20 had another stroke; son of Lois Hammel

Sharri Downing 5/9 has severe back pain; by Judy Musgrave

Marcia Smith 5/5 has stage 4 breast cancer, struggling with side effects from treatments; cousin of Jacque Douglas

Jim Wilber 5/1 rehabilitation from a stroke

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

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

Jackie Liebrandt 4/9 cancer treatments, just lost mother; by Christy Bennett

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

Barbara Swihart home with hospice; aunt of Gayle Rodriguez

Carlene Musselman 1/14 monthly chemo injections, still in congestive heart failure; by Judy Evans

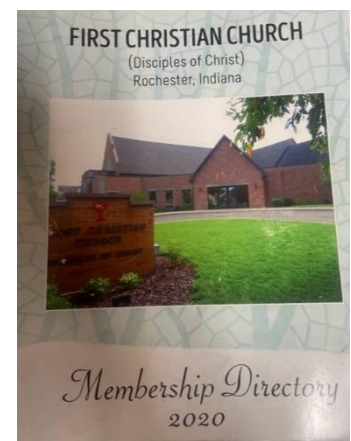
Pray for
Israel/Hamas/Gaza/Lebanon/Syria
Russia and Ukraine conflict

Joys

Shane Rudd after months of chemo, radiation and surgeries he is now cancer free. Thank you for answered prayer; nephew of Deb Tyler

New Pictorial Church Directory

Judy Evans and the Membership Team is putting together a new pictorial directory for the church. The goal is to have one of our photographers visit each church member and friend to take their picture. The family pictures will be combined with some church activity pictures as well as individual contact information into a small book. If you haven't already shared your contact information and good time for your photo op, please contact Judy Evan (574-835-5988).





8/02 Dave & Cathy Ralstin
8/03 Doug & Lois Morton
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



8/05 Drew Riffle
8/08 Sally Hall
8/08 Lois Hammel
8/08 Lori Simpson
8/09 Alex Gudeman
8/10 Deb Tyler
8/12 Amanda Hooker
8/13 Kyle Riffle
8/14 Ted Waggoner
8/15 Ella Brooks
8/16 Michael Hoffarth
8/16 Trinity Lease
8/16 Joyce Sroufe
8/23 Joyce Jefferies
8/24 Blake Hughes
8/26 Elaine Gottschalk
8/27 Edna Bedford
8/29 Elayna Blacketor



Special Thanks to:

All who helped move furniture and prepare the church building for the carpet cleaners to come. Thanks also to the Property Team who returned on Thursday to put all the furniture back.

Judy Evans, Christina Hughes and the hard-working Membership Team for their work toward our new pictorial directory.

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, July 29

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Thursday, July 31

6:00 pm Praise Team

Sunday, August 3

9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Time
10:45 am Sunday School

Monday, August 4

3:00 pm Wynnfield Crossing Bible Study

Tuesday, August 5

Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, August 6

5:30 pm Community Dinner

CHURCH CALENDAR

Thursday, August 7

5:00 pm Property Team
6:00 pm Praise Team

Sunday, August 10

9:30 am Worship
10:30 am Fellowship Time
10:45 am Sunday School
7:00 pm Board Meeting

Monday, August 11

3:00 pm Wynnfield Bible Study

Tuesday, August 12

Noon Teaching Tuesday
7:00 pm Elder Meeting

Teaching Moment Tuesday NEW SERIES STARTING ON TEACHING TUESDAY



On the last Tuesday in July we finished our study of the Old Testament book of Exodus. In August we will begin a new series as we explore who we are as members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Our denomination was started on the American Frontier and that still shapes who we are and what we do and do not do today. Join us for the exploration.



We are fortunate that First Christian Church offers a Junior Church program for our children. Several volunteers graciously share their time and talents in order that this program is offered each Sunday. With a new school year approaching, we took time to look at our Junior Church program, evaluate its strengths and identify any opportunities for improvement. We seek to provide a structured spiritual learning opportunity for our children that is Bible based as well as engaging through Junior Church.

Since we have different leaders weekly, we wanted to provide consistency in our expectations, language and procedures. We have adopted the Fruit of the Spirit as a framework for our Junior Church. Not only can this be applied at Church, but the principles can be used at home.

Each week we will start with an orderly transition from the Children's sermon to an organized and quiet walk to the Fellowship Hall. Throughout Junior Church we will refer to the Fruit of the Spirit. With repeated exposure children should assimilate these virtues and show evidence of spiritual growth and a relationship with God, which will last a lifetime. We will continue to offer study of Biblical stories, games and activities. Fruit of the Spirit will be the constant that children will experience each week.

Fruit for the Spirit are:

Love: a selfless unconditional love for others, reflecting God's love.

Joy: a deep-seeded happiness that transcends circumstances rooted in a relationship with God.

Peace: a sense of inner tranquility and harmony, even amidst life's challenges, stemming from a relationship with God.

Patience: the ability to endure difficult situations and people with a calm and understanding spirit.

Kindness: acts of compassion, generosity, and helpfulness toward others.

Goodness: moral excellence and righteousness reflecting God's character.

Faithfulness: loyalty, trustworthiness and commitment to God and others.

Gentleness: meekness and humility, treating others with respect and tenderness.

Self-control: the ability to manage one's impulses, desires and emotions.

Please join us in support of our new framework, procedures and language as we bring consistency to our time with the children of the church.



Regional Workshops

Congregational leadership is getting harder. Many pastors and churches feel stuck, or even in decline. Yet, there are stories of hope and opportunities to grow - spiritually and numerically. This event will feature some of those stories and create a space for people to talk about what they've tried, what's working, and what opportunities they see in their own ministry contexts. If you're looking for new ideas or a place for renewal, this is it!

Who: Clergy and Lay Leaders

When: September 17, 2025 9:00--3:30 EDT

Where: Allisonville Christian Church

Cost: \$50 per person



LAY LEADERSHIP – CONGREGATIONAL FINANCES, SALARIES AND PACKAGES

Sep 27, 2025 at 00:00 AM Tabernacle Christian church, 198 N Water St. Franklin, IN 46131

Congregational Finances, Salaries and Packages Presented by: Rev. Dr. Monica J. Ouellette, Associate Conference Minister, Indiana-Kentucky Conference, United Church of Christ Saturday, September 27, 2025 from 10:00 am EDT to 3:00 pm EDT Tabernacle Christian Church 198 N. Water St. Franklin, IN 46131 Tentative Schedule 9:30a Registration 9:45 Opening...

