



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: March 10, 2026

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Paul and Ebony Melton dedicated their infant son Cash to Jesus on March 1st. Pastor Mike reminded his parents as well as the congregation of the responsibilities we all have to support Cash in his walk with Jesus as he grows. Cash's big brother Elijah stood with the family also. Congratulations to the Melton family!



Lenten Readings

We are in the season of Lent until Easter on April 5. Lenten readings are an opportunity to help us grow in our faith and remind us of the gift of life that comes to us in Jesus Christ. The Worship Team invites you to continue reading through the Book of Romans with them. Read the daily Scriptures sent by email or pick up a printed reading schedule on the welcome table.



Nancy Murphy will be 90 on March 21st!

Come and celebrate with Nancy and her family on March 21st in Fellowship Hall from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
Cards are welcome, no gifts please.

Elder Reflection

Do Not Worry



One of God's creations is birds. When we feed birds, we have to feed the sparrow and the black birds as well. One of my favorite songs is "His Eye is on the Sparrow and I know he watches me".

Matthew 6:26 reveals "Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?" Jesus said that while people overly worry about what they will eat, drink and wear, God feeds the birds which do not grow crops or build storage barns. He takes care of the wildflowers which quickly fade and die.

An average person's anxiety is focused on 40% of things that will never happen, 30% of things in the past which cannot be changed, 12% on criticism by others (mostly untrue), 10% on health concerns that are made worse by stress and 8% on real problems that we face.

We learn that we should give only to please God and receive His praise. We should put God's concerns first and not forget to forgive others. We learn that we need material things to live and God provides these things for us. We lay up treasure in heaven when we recognize that all we have belongs to God.

Mark Sroufe



Teaching Moment Tuesday

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



All the ladies are invited to attend the Ladies Luncheon on March 23rd at noon. The group starts by enjoying fellowship as we eat our sack lunch. Followed by a devotion, prayer requests, offering and treasure's report. This month Amy Bode will be sharing more information about Redeemed Ministries. This is the organization that held a fund raiser in mid-February with dinner and an auction. Redeemed Ministries supports Women's Prison Bible Ministry and transitional housing for those who have completed recovery programs.



Holy week starts in just three weeks. Information is listed below to prepare your hearts and mark your calendars.

Palm Sunday is **March 29th**. Join us for a special worship service.

Prayer vigil starts at 6:00 p.m. on **April 1st** and concludes at 6:00 p.m. on April 2nd. We want someone from First Christian Church to be in prayer during the 24-hour period. The total time is broken into 30-minute time slots. You can pray at church, at home or at work.

Maundy Thursday meal provided by the church is **April 2nd** at 6:00 followed by a worship service at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday is **April 3rd**

April 5th is Easter Sunday. Plan to attend the Easter worship service and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord. The children will have an Easter egg hunt following Sunday school.



Signup sheets for both the Prayer Vigil and sanctuary Easter Lilies are posted on the bulletin board in fellowship hall. You can also contact the office to sign up.



Thank You! Your generous giving provided over \$6,600 for Week of Compassion and Church World Service Blanket funds.





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

Our Mission Co-Workers in
Costa Rica and Sierra Leone

Mike Van Winkle 3/9 at Randallia
inpatient rehab (Parkview) following a
stroke on Feb. 16

Ted Waggoner 3/8 at Parkview
Hospital in Fort Wayne with an
infection

Will Van Heyningen traveling
mercies as he travels to Italy with
his college March 12-22

Denny Tyler 3/8 starts chemo
treatments March 13 and radiation on
March 16 (5 days a week) for
esophageal/stomach cancer. Prayers
for the family also.

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

Dick Enyart 3/4 at Miller's Merry
Manor in Warsaw for rehabilitation
to get stronger before coming home

Middle East conflict and the safe
passage of people fleeing the
region

Joyce Jefferies 3/2 arthritis in
her hips, surgery moved out to
April 7

Barbara Tibbets 3/2 has started her
targeted cancer therapy

Jorge Mierke 3/2 recovering from
carotid endarterectomy surgery;
husband of Jennifer Hughey

Pat Clary 2/23 transferred to Blair
Ridge in Peru room 201; broken
pelvis from a fall

Carol Hughey 2/23 health concerns;
mother of Jennifer Hughey

Robbie Payne 2/9 health issues;
cousin of Gayle Rodriguez

Beverly Wagoner 2/2 in home
Hospice care

Wade Mikesell 2/2 bladder cancer;
brother of Denny Mikesell

Sula Smith 1/19 health battles

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

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

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



March Birthdays
 3/13 Cheryl Ball
 3/15 Betty Vance
 3/15 David Lease
 3/17 Robert Jance
 3/21 Nancy Murphy

March Birthdays
 3/25 Annette Young
 3/26 Brad Burch
 3/26 Michaila Rodriguez
 3/27 Mick Evans
 3/30 Christina Hughes

March Anniversaries
 3/15 Bill & Betty Vance
 3/15 Jerry & Annis DeKeyser
 3/20 Rich & Paula Murphy
 3/26 Jim & Treva Mulligan

Special Thanks to:

Eve Overmars and Doug Miller for sharing about prayer through our Lenten Meditation.
 Bill Burkett for replacing the closers on the sanctuary doors.
 Judy Evans and the Membership team for hosting our carry-in dinner and game day March 1.
 Lori Simpson, Amy Bode and Alycia Steater for their continued dedication to Little Lambs Ministry by serving on its Board.

February 2026

<u>February Financials</u>	<u>Year to Date Financials</u>	
Income \$18,259.25	Income	\$34,286.25
Expenses \$20,927.23	Expenses	\$42,798.03
<u>Worship Attendance</u>	<u>In-person</u>	<u>On-line</u>
February Average	77	26
Year to Date Average	69	27

CHURCH CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 10
 Noon Teaching Tuesday
 7:00 p.m. Elders Meeting

Thursday, March 12
 5:00 p.m. Property Team
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Sunday, March 15
 Fourth Sunday of Lent
 9:30 a.m. Worship
 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, March 16
 6:00 p.m. Little Lambs Board Meeting

Tuesday, March 17
 Noon Teaching Tuesday

Wednesday, March 18
 6:30 p.m. Choir Practice

CHURCH CALENDAR

Thursday, March 19
 6:00 p.m. Praise Team

Saturday, March 21
 Nancy Murphy's 90th Birthday Celebration
 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Sunday, March 22
 Fifth Sunday of Lent
 9:30 a.m. Worship with Ted Waggoner
 10:30 a.m. Fellowship Time
 10:45 a.m. Sunday School

Monday, March 23
 Noon Ladies Luncheon

Tuesday, March 24
 Noon Teaching Tuesday