

# The Messenger

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Our Mission is to Celebrate and Share Christ's Love through feeding the Body & the Soul.



9540 Fifth St. Highland, IN 46322

219/924-5400

www.fcchighland.net

Winter 2024



## Coming this Lent & Easter:

Ash Wednesday (2/14)

Pancake Supper (5:30 P.M.) (Please RSVP with Rev. Becky)

Joint Worship at Ridge United Methodist Church (7:00 P.M.)

8607 Columbia Ave. Munster

1st Sunday of Lent - Jesus Sought Me

2nd Sunday of Lent—Rescue Me from Danger

3rd Sunday of Lent—Praise on the Mount

4th Sunday of Lent—I'm Fixed Upon It

5th Sunday of Lent—Teach Me

Palm/Passion Sunday—Songs of Loudest Praise

Maundy Thursday at FCC—7 P.M.

Good Friday Tenebrae at FCC—7 P.M.

Easter Breakfast Potluck—9:00 A.M.

Easter Worship—And I Hope

## Upcoming Church Events

- February calendar (p. 2)
- Prayer concerns (p. 4)
- Serving Schedule (p. 5)
- Mission opportunities (pp. 6-7)
- Remarks from Rebecca (pg. 8)
- March calendar (p. 9)

Sundays @ FCC

Disciples Café—  
9:30 A.M.

Worship—10:30 AM



# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Homeless Lunch B: Jay Korman
4 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.  Youth Group 5 P.M.	5	6	7 Game Group 10-12	8	9	10
11 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.  Youth Group 5 P.M.	12 B: Herbie Peck	13 Stitch of Time 10-12	14 Ash Wednesday Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12 Pancake Supper 5:30 P.M. Service 7 P.M. @ Ridge UMC	15	16	17 Youth Ski Trip
18 1st Sunday of Lent Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Youth Ski Trip	19 President's Day	20 Stitch of Time 10-12  B: Lori Brown	21 Game Group 10-12  Soup & Study 12 P.M.	22	23	24
25 2nd Sunday of Lent Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Youth Group 5 P.M.	26 B: Debbie Benson	27	28 Soup & Study 12 P.M.	29		

# PANCAKE DINNER & ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 2/14



Pancake Dinner - 5:30 P.M.  
Worship Service - 7:00 P.M.

@ Ridge United Methodist Church  
(8607 Columbia Ave. Munster)

This is a joint partnership with Ridge UMC & FGC Highland.  
Please RSVP for the Pancake Dinner with Rev. Becky.



Creation Justice Ministries

Justice for God's Planet and God's People

[www.creationjustice.org](http://www.creationjustice.org)

## Carbon Fasting 101

### Why a Carbon Fast?

Humans were put on this earth with the responsibility to be stewards of God's great creation. We know that some of our actions have led to a changing global climate, which translates to warmer temperatures, rising sea-levels, and severe storms, just to name a few.

It is time to repent and ask God for forgiveness for our carelessness with His many gifts to us. We can also take action to change our world's projected course. Little steps can have big results.

A carbon fast is a great way to make small personal changes, while also drawing attention to our society's unsustainable love affair with carbon.

### What is a Carbon Fast?

A carbon fast is a way to be mindful of our consumption, while participating in self-imposed restrictions. These restrictions can be simple to moderately challenging depending on an individual's comfort level with energy moderation.



- Unplug electronics and appliances when not in use
- Reduce your speed while driving
- Buy local goods and products
- Utilize public transportation
- Take shorter, cooler showers
- Take advantage of natural breezes in the summer
- Dry clothes by hanging them

### What can YOU do to fast?

- Pile on sweaters and socks instead of turning up the heat
- Try and eat local and seasonal foods that do not have to travel far to get to your table
- Turn off your lights for one hour every day
- Say no to bottled water
- There are countless other ways to fast!

Lenten  
Soup & Study  
Wednesdays in Lent  
12:00 P.M.  
Studying  
"The Wandering Heart:  
Figuring Out Faith with Peter"



## Easter Scramble

The hour approaches! The time to embark on an epic quest for eggs and treasures draws nigh! Behold, the Easter Scramble, scheduled for the 30th of March at 11:00 sharp.

The hunt shall commence, and the Easter Bunny himself shall grace the event with his presence. This grand adventure is open to children of the age of 10 or younger. If you have a young heir or a regal granddaughter who yearns to join the fray, seek the wise counsel of Linda Messmer or Debbie Benson for the acquisition of tickets.



### Dates to Remember:

**Elders Meeting**  
**Sunday, March 17th after worship**

**Board Meeting**  
**Tuesday, April 16th Board Meeting**  
**7 P.M.**

## Praying for our Friends & Family

### FCC Family

Celia Newcomb, Phyllis Frost, Tim & Kathy Drury, Dolores Cave, Don Dean, Ken Cengel, Judy Olen

**Friends of the Congregation: (Please let me know if there are updates to this ongoing list)** The Yuris

Family, The Murphy Family, Dennis Chambers, Gary Barber, Cindy Williams, Jerry Zolmer, Liz Griffin, Mary Jones, Chris Dury, Al Eckert, Cherie Coolidge,

Melissa Belar, Cathhart Family, Jim Pasour, Ron Straker, Nikki Sweeny, Barbara Blaze, Taft/Weber Family, Terry Mavity, Marty Chidalek, Laurel

Higgenbotham, Sophia Morgan, Sandi Lamb, Jim Pasour, Terry, Renee, Valerie Rushing, Cindy Spicker, Paul Graegin, Joe Luis and Family, Lorie Kime, Ed

Gnaidek, Pauline, Bob Margraf, Christine Phillips, Steven Neyhart, Mickey and Baby Amelia, George

Cengel, Shirley Fliter, Susan Worrell, Nikki, Marian Huizenga, Martha, Shaun, Val Rushing, Larry Kristoff, Bill Murphy, Matt Murphy, Spencer Gordon, Cindy

Bugno, Michael Cole, Chris Cole, Dave Horvath, Josh Lukas, Faith, Tim Gasaway, Family of Casimir Barczak, John Cushing, Rhonda and family, Deborah, Sue,

**The Wider Community:** War in Ukraine; global natural disasters; violence throughout the nation; escalating crises in the Middle East;

## Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
Worship (12/3/23)	\$1560.22
Worship (12/10/23)	\$1037.24
Worship (12/17/23)	\$2915.75
Christmas Offering	\$50.00
Total	\$2965.75
Worship (12/24/23)	\$1008.86
Christmas Offering	\$85.00
Total	\$1093.86
Worship (12/31/23)	\$1045.22
Christmas Offering	\$85.00
Total	\$1130.22
Worship (1/7/24)	\$898.11
Christmas	\$25.00
Initial	\$40.00
Total	\$963.11

## Fifth Street Figures Continued...

Worship (1/14/24)	\$911.89
Worship (1/21/24)	\$2450.00
Initial	\$20.00
Christmas	\$20.00
Total	\$2490.00
Worship (1/28/24)	\$6810.00
Christian Church Foundation	\$6471.03
Total	\$13,281.03

### October 2023 Figures

#### General

Income: \$8454.00

Transfer from Capital Funds: \$3776.00

Expenditures: (\$9628.95)

#### Outreach

Income: \$368.59

Expenditures: —

### November 2023 Figures

#### General

Income: \$6086.00

Transfer from Capital Funds: \$4000.00

Expenditures: (\$9360.69)

#### Outreach

Income: \$25.00

Expenditures: 0

### December 2023 Figures

#### General

Income: \$7386.00

Transfer from Capital Funds: \$4000.00

Expenditures: (\$10,931.83)

#### Outreach

Income: \$220.00

Expenditures: \$524.00

Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministries of our beloved church!

If you are interested in receiving the financial statements for First Christian Church, please contact Delia Helpingstine and she will be happy to share that information with you.

The mission of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Highland, IN:

“to celebrate and share Christ’s love” to “Our Mission is to celebrate and share Christ’s love though feeding the Body and the Soul.”

This amendment was made to identify our passion for food justice as well as spiritual growth in God in all we do.

**Our Mission Statement is to  
celebrate and share Christ's love through  
feeding the Body and the Soul.**

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(Disciples of Christ)  
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www.fcchighland.net  
email: fcchighland9540@gmail.com  
Check us out on Facebook!

Disciples Café 9:30 A.M.  
Worship: 10:30 A.M.



Pastor Office Hours:  
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday  
(9:30 A.M.—1:00 P.M.) or by appointment  
Pastor Rebecca Sundquist  
Cell phone: (217)341-4105  
Email: becky.sundquist@gmail.com  
YouTube: First Christian Church Highland IN  
Facebook: First Christian Church Highland IN  
Instagram: fcchighland

**News from the Christian Church in Indiana!**



This January, we have welcomed Dr. Christal Williams as the new Regional Minister and President and Rev. Anita Cobb as the Program Director for Quest: A Journey of Faith. It is an exciting time for our region, the Christian Church in Indiana! Please pray for both of these wonderful

women of faith as they begin their new leadership positions with us and for us.

Rev. Dr. Williams is making her rounds to all the DOC churches in Indiana to begin her relationship with us!

If you would like weekly e-news from the Christian Church in Indiana please send an email to [info@indianadisciplesorg](mailto:info@indianadisciplesorg)!



**CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
| (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) | in INDIANA

**Elder & Deacon Serving Schedule**

February 4, 2024  
Elder—Sharon Worrell-Schroader  
Deacon—Olivia Sundquist

February 11, 2024  
Elder—Brenda Michalak  
Deacon—Brad Chandler

February 18, 2024  
Elder—Debbie Benson  
Deacon—Linnea Sundquist

February 25, 2024  
Elder—Mary Ellen Carpenter  
Deacon—Linda Messmer

March 3, 2024  
Elder—Delia Helpingstine  
Deacon—Ken Cengel

March 10, 2024  
Elder—Sharon Worrell-Schroader  
Deacon—David Michalak

March 17, 2024  
Elder—Brenda Michalak  
Deacon—Tania Messmer

March 24, 2024—Palm Sunday  
Elder—Debbie Benson  
Deacon—Don Dean

March 31, 2024—Easter  
Elder—Mary Ellen Carpenter  
Deacon—Olivia Sundquist



If you are interested in serving as a lector/  
worship leader on Sunday mornings, please  
see Brenda Michalak or the church office  
for open Sundays. Your voice is important  
in worship leadership!



### Ways You Can Be A Part of the Action!

There are so many ways you can be a part of the mission and ministry at FCC!

We are always collecting items for our Blessing Box and books for the Book Nook!



Hygiene products are always needed. If you know of any seniors

who could benefit from the Senior

Food Box ministry, connect them with Debbie Benson.

You can be a part of the new ministry, Stitch of Time as they make warm and soft blankets for chemo patients in our area. (They meet on the 2nd & 3rd Tuesdays of each month—10-12);

You can join the lunch bunch and be a part of the team that feeds area homeless. See Sharon Worrell-Schroader if you would like to be a part!

## Opportunities to Serve

### Thank You!!

We would like to give a BIG Thank You to everyone for your generosity this year!!! The Outreach Department is dedicated to feeding God's people and helping those in need whenever we can. When we put out a call for help, you are always there to help. This year we were able to provide 73 Health Kits to Sojourner's Truth House, a place that serves abused women and children. We also collected boxes of women and children clothing that they really need. Most times they arrive at Sojourners with just the clothes on their backs. During the "Souper Bowl of Caring" we put out the call for 150 cans of soup, and again you kicked it through the goal post with 164 cans!! And for the holidays, we were able to provide a Thanksgiving dinner and a Christmas dinner and gifts to a struggling family of three here in Highland. We also helped the Highland Schools with their Angel Tree. Gifts and food gift cards were given to 12 "Angels". And finally, thanks to those of you have given money to help stock our Blessing Box. None of these great things would be possible without YOU. We look forward to another great year of helping those that need help.



### Lunch Bunch News

2024 Serving Dates

February 3

March 30

April 6

May 25

June 1

August 3

October 5

December 7

If you are interested in being a part of this amazing team of servants, see Sharon W.S.!

### Souper Bowl of Caring

For the 2024 Souper Bowl of Caring,

We hope to collect 125 cans of soup for the Blessing Box!

Can we rise to the occasion and beat this goal?

We will be collecting cans of soup through February.

All kinds of soup are helpful. Soups with meat and vegetarian soups are helpful as people with many dietary requirements visit our Blessing Box! Let's do this!



## Many Thanks

Thank you to all who have given toward this year's Angel Tree!

Thanks to Brenda and David Michalak, and Linda Messmer for cleaning up the Christmas decorations.

Thanks also belong to Tania and Kevin Messmer for coordinating the Super Bowl Squares Fundraiser! This fundraiser is a huge blessing to our Blessing Box! We are grateful for your leadership!

*Thank You!*

Take sometime this Lent to walk the Labyrinth and see how walking the sacred path will guide you in your faith!



## Game Group

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month!

10-12.

Join this fun group and be blessed!



## News From the Pews



## GIFTS TO LIVE ON

SPECIAL OFFERING | February 18-25, 2024

Weekend **Compassion** FOR 80 YEARS



## 2024 Lenten Devotionals

If you would like a copy of the 2024 Lenten Devotional, please sign up with Rev. Becky!

### A STITCH OF TIME

A Ministry of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Highland, IN  
Creating handcrafted blankets for those undergoing chemotherapy.



The Mission of First Christian Church is to celebrate and share Christ's love through feeding the Body and the Soul.  
- amended August 7, 2022

*Easter*  
**Flower Orders**  
WILL BE ACCEPTED IN  
EARLY MARCH!  
PRICE LIST WILL BE  
POSTED AT THAT TIME

March 24 & 31 2024

**Easter**  
SPECIAL OFFERING

A special day offering of Disciples Mission Fund

supporting general ministries of the christian church (Disciples of Christ)

### A Word from Our Board Chair

Hello friends,

At the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 28, 2024, we discussed the present difficulties our Church is facing. We have reached a time in the life of our beloved community of faith where our attendance and finances are falling to low levels, mostly due to the deaths of so many of our members. Our budget for 2024 is \$125,000 while our pledges are \$55,000 and the rent we collect from Sober School and Tops doesn't cover the difference. We have had to start taking monthly withdrawals from the Sass Bequest to help with our bills. While that fund is \$233,000, it won't last forever. The Board is concerned for our future and we have started a conversation on how we want to move forward. We are looking at ways to address it in order to help keep us moving forward. **Our next Board Meeting is Tuesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M., and I can't stress enough how important it is for all department heads, trustees, elders and deacons to attend.** The Board meetings are open to the congregation, so anyone can attend. Going forward there will be difficult questions to address, but I have faith that we will work through them together for the good of our church. We are doing so many great things! We are doing what we as Disciples are called to do. Let us all be hopeful, prayerful, and strong as we seek guidance and direction on our faith journey together.

Peace and Blessings  
Debbie

Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. *1 Corinthians 12:12*

Dear FCC Sisters and Brothers,

Our word for 2024 is CONNECT. Imagine this word in terms of your faith in every way you possibly can. How are you connected with God regularly? How do you feel connected to friends and family in ways that are life-giving? How are you connected to your church in meaningful ways? How are you connected to the Earth? How are you connected to justice? How are you connected to people through your works of service? How is your connection to God Kingdom building?

I know—there are so many questions I am asking! I am mindful that we have been asking difficult questions about the forward movement of our church. It is through these tough questions of faith that we connect with God, each other, our community, and the beyond. Consider how we can connect in new and meaningful ways that give others life in faith as well as give you life. I still have my Epiphany star from

last year that says “Dream” hanging from my pulpit microphone. There truly ARE good things to come, but we must figure out how to answer some of these questions not just in order to keep it going but to be filled and connected to God beyond our imagining. Keep dreaming! Keep praying! Keep trusting!

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Becky

WORD OF THE YEAR

Connect



# March 2024

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

					1	2
<b>3</b> 3rd Sunday of Lent Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Youth Group 5 P.M.	4	5	<b>6</b> Game Group 10-12 Soup & Study 12 P.M. B: David Michalak	7	8	9
<b>10</b> Daylight Savings Time Begins 4th Sunday of Lent Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Youth Group 5 P.M.	11	<b>12</b> Stitch of Time 10-12	<b>13</b> Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12 Soup & Study 12 P.M. B: Dorothy Barrett & Suzanne Brown	14	15	16
<b>17</b> St. Patrick's Day 5th Sunday of Lent Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Elder's Meeting - 12 P.M. Youth Group 5 P.M.	18	<b>19</b> 1st Day of Spring Stitch of Time 10-12 B: Tom Cushing	<b>20</b> Game Group 10-12 Soup & Study 12 P.M.	<b>21</b> B: Justin Meyers	22	<b>23</b> B: Sheila Cushing
<b>24</b> Palm Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Youth Group 5 P.M.	25	26	<b>27</b> Soup & Study 12 P.M.	<b>28</b> Maundy Thursday Worship 7 P.M.	<b>29</b> Good Friday Tenebrae 7 P.M.	<b>30</b> Easter Egg Scramble 11 A.M.
<b>31</b> Easter Breakfast 9:00 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. A: Ray & Debbie Benson						



First Christian Church

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

