

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

Fall 2024



HAS GOD EVER USED SOMETHING SCARY TO TEACH YOU SOMETHING?

CELEBRATE OUR 3RD ANNUAL SPOOKY FAITH SUNDAY WITH YOUR FCC FRIENDS AND FAMILY!

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH

SPOOKY FAITH WORSHIP @ 10:30 A.M.

CHILI COOK OFF & PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST @ 11:30 A.M.

BRING YOUR LOOSE CHANGE AND BILLS TO VOTE ON THE BEST BOWL OF CHILI! SIGN UP FOR CHILI COOK-OFF ENTRIES IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AT CHURCH OR CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO REGISTER. ALL PROCEEDS FOR THE COOKOFF WILL GO TO THE FCC BLESSING BOX PANTRY.

THERE WILL BE A PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST.

PUMPKINS CAN BE PICKED UP THE SUNDAY BEFORE. TO BE DECORATED AT HOME. BRING YOUR PUMPKIN BACK FOR JUDGING ON THE 27!

DRESS IN YOUR FAVORITE COSTUME OR WEAR YOUR FAVORITE HALLOWEEN ATTIRE!

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

*"to celebrate and share Christ's love though feeding
the Body and the Soul."*

Upcoming Church Events

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

Sundays @ FCC

Disciples Café
9:30 A.M.

Worship

10:30 AM

Youth Group
5- 6:30 P.M.



October 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Game Group 10-12 Boomwhackers Rehearsal 6 P.M.	3 Lunch with the Pastor @ Les Café 11 A.M. B: David Boban	4	5 Homeless Lunch B: Bradley Brown & Wells Sundquist
6 World Communion Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Youth Group 5-6:30 P.M.	7	8 Stitch of Time 10-12	9 Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12	10	11	12 B: Carole Krisco
13 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Animal Blessing 4 P.M. Youth Group 5-6:30 P.M.	14	15 Stitch of Time 10-12 Board Meeting 7 P.M.	16 Game Group 10-12 Boomwhackers Rehearsal 6 P.M.	17	18 B: Patrick Barczak, Kathy Jage, & Valerie Pennanen A: Brad & Carol Chandler	19
20 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Youth Group 5-6:30 P.M.	21	22	23	24	25 B: Jeff Messmer	26
27 Spooky Faith Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Chili Cook-Off Youth Group 5-6:30 P.M.	28	29	30	31 Halloween Boo!		

Rev. Becky gone to AZ for preaching conference

Resumes August 18th
5-6:30 P.M.

Youth Group

@ Ridge UMC



A Ministry Partnership of Ridge United Methodist Church and First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Subs Needed for the Nursery!

As Linnea Sundquist heads off to college August 15th and Olivia will miss some Sundays because of Trojan Guard, we will need a list of substitute nursery attendants for the days Olivia is not able to be in the nursery. Rev.

Becky would like to gather a list of names of interested people who could help out in the nursery from time to time. Please see her if you are able to help!

Youth Group Dinner Sponsorships

If you would like to support the Senior High/Junior Youth Group meetings this fall, providing dinner at one of our weekly meetings a fantastic way to support this important and growing ministry. Please see Rev. Becky with a list of available dates!



Come and Experience

A Night In

Bethlehem

Friday, December 13

6-9 P.M.

*An interactive family experience
at Ridge United Methodist Church
(8607 Columbia Ave. Munster)*



Save the Date!

Parents' Night Out in December is
Friday, December 6th—5-6:30 P.M.

GLOW WITH GOD
PARENT'S NIGHT OUT
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4

5:30 - 8:00 P.M.

@ RIDGE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
8607 COLUMBIA AVE. MUNSTER, IN
RSVP - 219-838-4770

OR BECKY.SUNDQUIST@GMAIL.COM
DINNER * FUN * MOVIE

Praying for our Friends & Family

Members of the Congregation:

Tim & Kathy Drury, Dolores Cave, Judy Olen, Ashley Moss, Jean Morgan, Herbie Peck

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, Lori Kime, Pauline, Bob Margraf, Christine Phillips, George Cengel, Nikki, Marian Huizenga, Martha, Shaun, Val Rushing, Bill Murphy, Matt Murphy, Spencer Gordon, Michael Cole, Chris Cole, Faith, Tim Gasaway, Deborah, Sue, Susan Spore, April Margraf, Maureen Weber and Family, Chad, Anne Fairfield, Sandra Bullock, Kaden & Mara Luthringer, Curt, Sonja Devaris, Jennifer, Jim Moss, Beres Family, Linda Steel, Dave Horvat, David Cole, Scott Bridges, Myles Wolak, Wayne Bigger, David Cole;

The Wider Community: War in Ukraine and War in Middle East; global natural disasters; violence and division throughout the nation;

Joys: Harvest and the hands that tended the Farm this season!

Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
Worship (7/28/24)	\$696.00
Worship (8/4/24)	\$698.65
Transfer from Capital (Pastor's Disc. Exp.)	\$51.34
TOTAL	\$749.99
Worship (8/11/24)	\$1897.93
TOPS	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$1947.93
Worship (8/18/24)	\$1881.04
Worship (8/24/24)	\$1760.04
Reconciliation Offering	\$20.00
TOTAL	\$1780.04
Worship (9/1/24)	\$985.04
Reconciliation Offering	\$25.00
TOTAL	\$1010.04
Worship (9/8/24)	\$1500.04

Fifth Street Figures Continued...

Worship (9/15/24)

\$2006.93

July 2024 Figures

General

Income: \$5742.00

Transfer from Capital Funds: \$4000.00

Expenditures: \$10,098.53

Expenditures (CD purchase): \$20,000.00

Outreach

Income: -

Expenditures: -

August 2024 Figures

General

Income: \$6300.00

Transfer from Capital Funds: \$4000.00

Reimb from Cap. Fund: \$51.34

Expenditures: \$12,336.12

Outreach

Income: \$20.00

Expenditures: -

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 through
feeding the Body and the Soul."

This amendment was made in 2023 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.**

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
9540 Fifth St. Highland, IN 46322
(219)924-5400
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

Elder & Deacon Serving Schedule

September 22, 2024
Elder: Mary Ellen Carpenter
Deacon: Tania Messmer

September 29, 2024
Elder: Delia Helpingstine
Deacon: Don Dean

October 6, 2024
Elder: Sharon Worrell-Schroader
Deacon: Brad Chandler

October 13, 2024
Elder: Brenda Michalak
Deacon: Linda Messmer

October 20, 2024
Elder: Debbie Benson
Deacon: David Michalak

October 27, 2024
Elder: Mary Ellen Carpenter
Deacon: Tania Messmer

November 3, 2024
Elder: Delia Helpingstine
Deacon: Don Dean

November 10, 2024
Elder: Sharon Worrell-Schroader
Deacon: Brad Chandler

November 17, 2024
Elder: Brenda Michalak
Deacon: Linda Messmer

November 24, 2024
Elder: Debbie Benson
Deacon: David Michalak



News from the Christian Church in Indiana!



2024 Indiana Regional Assembly

Installation of
Dr. Cristal Williams as the
Regional Minister
and President
of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in Indiana
Sunday, November 3rd
Light of the World
Christian Church
(4646 N. Michigan Rd.
Indianapolis)
3:00 P.M.



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
| (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) | in INDIANA

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!

Lunch Bunch News

2024 Serving Dates:
October 5
December 7

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



Blessing Box and Book Nook News

We are always in need of items for the Blessing Box, especially hygiene products. Most recently we have been putting infant supplies out there, and they go as quickly as the other hygiene products! We are grateful for anything (hygiene products, cleaning supplies, and food) you bring to be given away as the need is great!

We also continue to receive books of all kinds to put in the Book Nook and they are well received!

Senior Food Box Ministry

We have an awesome team who distributes the senior food boxes (Patrick, Marc, Linda and Debbie)! If you want to be a part of the action, see Debbie Benson!



Opportunities to Serve

News from the Farm

The Farm season is wrapping up with a plenty of fresh veggies that have gone to Greater Hammond Community Services and St. James Food Pantry. We celebrate the team that made it all happen: David and Brenda Michalak, Mary Ellen Carpenter, Brad Chandler, Sheila Cushing, Delia Helpinstine, Rhonda Ryba, Cheryl Sorrels, and Pastor Becky. Tear down will happen on Thursday, September 26th (3-5 P.M.). Until next season, may God bless the winter soil to produce good fruit next year!



RECONCILIATION MINISTRY SPECIAL OFFERING



REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

"You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of the streets to live in." Isaiah 58:12
Sunday, September 29th - Sunday, October 6th



www.reconciliationministry.org

Faith. Education. Leadership Development.

15 Colleges & Universities
7 Seminaries & Divinity Houses

DONATE HERE!



Your Thanksgiving Offering will be Part of a 129 Year Legacy of Educational Support



"The Lord will indeed give what is good, and our land will yield its harvest".

Psalm 85:12



Many Thanks

Thank you to the Fellowship Committee who organized a delightful church picnic in August. The food was delicious. The kids playing in the water were adorable. The weather was perfect.

The company was beautiful. It was lovely to have our friends at Ridge UMC join us too. A wonderful time was had by all. Thank you Linda Messmer, Sheila Cushing, and Debbie Benson!

Thank You!

Game Group

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month!

10-12.

Join this fun group and be blessed!



Boomwhacker
Rehearsals are scheduled for
October 2nd &



October 16th
At 6:00 P.M.
We will be rehearsing for
Spooky Faith Sunday!

News From the Pews

Please Join Us To Celebrate

The Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Celebrating unity and peace together among many faiths.

Date | Time
11.26.2024 | 7:00pm

Ridge United Methodist Church
8607 Columbia Ave. Munster, IN 46321

ANNUAL GREENERY

Taking orders now through November 1st! Distribution is the weekend before Thanksgiving.



Proceeds benefit youth ministries and their mental health initiatives.

SALE

10/8, 10/15, 11/12, 11/19

A STITCH OF TIME

A Ministry of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Highland, IN

Creating handcrafted blankets for those undergoing chemotherapy.



Raffle & Bake Sale

The Stitch of Time Ministry will be raffling off tickets for a blanket (it's beautiful!) and holding a bake sale on November 10th before and after

church. Tickets will be sold throughout October. All proceeds will go to the Cancer Center of Crown Point to assist parents who



are guiding their children through cancer treatments. See Sheila Cushing for more details!

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)
9540 FIFTH ST. HIGHLAND, IN
2024 Animal Blessing
October 13, 2024
4P.M.

WWW.FCCHIGHLAND.NET

ALL ANIMALS AND THEIR OWNERS ARE INVITED TO THIS BLESSING!
ALL CRITTERS MUST BE SAFELY SECURED OR ON LEASHES. WE ASK THAT BITING ANIMALS USE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS OR BRING A COLLAR OR SPECIAL TOY TO HAVE BLESSED ON ITS BEHALF. PICTURES OF YOUR BELOVED PETS MAY BE BLESSED AS WELL, ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE NERVOUS BY NATURE.

LET US HONOR THE SACRED WORTH OF ALL ANIMALS - FURRY, SPIKY FEATHERY, HAIRY SLIMY, FLUFFY, AND SCALY!



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 3, 2023

REMEMBERING OUR SAINTS OF FAITH



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

The next Board Meeting is
Tuesday, October 15th
at
7:00 P.M.
In Fellowship Hall.



Leading Up to the Election

Because the election season is already proving to be contentious, leading up to the election, Rev. Becky will be providing materials to guide your faith in this difficult season. They are NOT guiding your vote, but hopefully the materials will help guide you toward peace, mindfulness, and calm that connects with your faith. She will email and post on Facebook weekly devotional materials to help guide your faith and hope.



A graphic for an Election Day Prayer Vigil. It features a dark blue background with red curtains on the sides. In the center, there are three hands: two red and one white, raised in prayer. Below the hands, the text reads: "ELECTION DAY PRAYER VIGIL" in white, flanked by two white stars. Underneath that, it says "05 NOVEMBER 2024" and "12 - 8 P.M.". At the bottom, it lists the location: "First Christian Church (DOC) 9540 Fifth St. Highland, IN".

Lunch with the Pastor

Join Rev. Becky for monthly lunches with the Pastor! There is no real agenda, but ideas and feedback are welcome topics. Mostly, she wants to use this time to have one-on-one time with those who participate. Our first lunch will be Thursday, October 3rd & November 7th at 11:30 A.M. at Les Café in Highland (2708 Highway Ave).



A graphic for a Gratitude Holy Hike. It features a silhouette of a person with a backpack, looking out over a landscape. The text "GRATITUDE HOLY HIKE" is written in large, bold, green letters. Below that, it says "Coffee Creek Watershed Preserve Chesterton, IN November 27, 2024 10:00 A.M.". At the bottom, the website "www.fcchigland.net" is listed.

Dear FCC Sisters and Brothers,

I feel like I have started this article in the same way several times in the past few years, but it bears repeating that we are in uncertain times with a lot of division and violent rhetoric. In all honesty, this divisive time has made the work of the church even more difficult. This division and hateful rhetoric will likely be around long past the election. Yet here we are, full of faith and hope. We must not only put on the armor of God, but we must also be the light of Jesus Christ before anything else. This season isn't just about hoping that the candidate we want will be put into office, but that our faith will inform how we act, react, and carry ourselves in such a time as this. It is times like these that we most hold fast to the roots of our faith and look to the future with all Kingdom-building hopefulness. We must bear all things in love, even and especially when we do not understand someone else's perspective. Accountability and boundaries will be important tools for us to navigate these next few months, but don't forget the other tool you have: respond by asking questions (if you choose to engage). Pray and pray often! Jesus frequently taught by asking questions. Condemnation and hateful rhetoric (or any violence) are never solutions. They just create a bigger chasm between one another.

Let us move into this tricky season with compassionate caution and inquisitiveness. More than anything else, let us remain hopeful and steadfast in our faith of Jesus Christ that the way of peace, the way of unity, and the way of love are who we are to be together.

One of my favorite recitations is the following:

All is well.

All will be well.

All is well.

May it be so.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Becky



November 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 All Saints Day
3 All Saints Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Youth Group 5-6:30 P.M.	4	5 Election Day Prayer Vigil 12-8 P.M.	6 Game Group 10-12 WWE 6 P.M.	7 Lunch with the Pastor @ Les Café 11:00 A.M.	8	9
10 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Bake Sale & Raffle Youth Group 5-6:30 P.M.	11	12 Stitch of Time 10-12 B: Dawn Wolak	13 Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12 WWE 6 P.M.	14	15	16
17 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Youth Group 5-6:30 P.M.	18	19 Stitch of Time 10-12	20 Game Group 10-12 WWE 6 P.M.	21	22	23
24 Thanksgiving Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Youth Group 5-6:30 P.M. B: Amelia Bridges	25	26 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service @ Ridge UMC 7 P.M.	27 Holy Hike 10:00 A.M. Coffee Creek Preserve WWE 6 P.M.	28 Thanksgiving	29	30 B: Judy Olen

World Communion Sunday

October 6, 2024



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9540 Fifth St.
Highland, IN 46322

Phone: 219-924-5400

E-mail:

fcchighland9540@gmail.com

Website:

www.fcchighland.net

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

