

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Highland, IN

THE MESSENGER

Spring 2026



THE WORK OF
IMAGINATION

Holy Week & Easter 2026

The Work of Imagination

Palm Sunday (3/29): Sacred Protest

Maundy Thursday (4/2) 7:00 P.M.: Risky Mercy

Good Friday (4/3) 7:00 P.M.: Empire's Shadow

Easter Egg Scramble (4/4) 11:00 A.M.

Easter (4/4)

Sunrise Service Video will be emailed by 4:00 A.M.
to view at your discretion.

Easter Breakfast - 9:30 A.M.

Easter Worship: Fulfilling Imagination - 10:30 A.M.

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Sundays @ FCC
Disciples Café
9:30 A.M.

Worship
10:30 AM



www.fcchighland.net



219-341-4105



9540 Fifth St. Highland, IN
46322

April 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--|---|---|---|--|--|
| | | | 1 Game Group 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. | 2 Maundy Thursday 7:00 P.M. | 3 Good Friday Tenebrae 7:00 P.M. | 4 Easter Egg Scramble 11:00 A.M. Homeless Lunch |
| 5 Easter Breakfast 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. | 6 B: Nancy Cave | 7 B: Ally Messmer | 8 Senior Food Box Distribution 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. | 9 | 10 B: Molly Korman | 11 B: Melissa Crawford & Olivia Sundquist |
| 12 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Pastor's Class 12-1:30 P.M. | 13 Good Grief Group Therapy 10:00 - 11:30 A.M | 14 Stitch of Time 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Board Meeting - 7:00 P.M. | 15 Game Group 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. | 16 Lunch with the Pastor at Les Cafe - 12:00 P.M. B: Dan Helpingstine | 17 | 18 |
| 19 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Pastor's Class 12-1:30 P.M | 20 Good Grief Group Therapy 10:00 - 11:30 A.M | 21 Stitch of Time 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. B: Ron Higginbotham & Rev. Becky Sundquist | 22 | 23 B: Linda Herbst | 24 | 25 B: Brenda Michalak |
| 26 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Pastor's Class 12-1:30 P.M | 27 Good Grief Group Therapy 10:00 - 11:30 A.M | 28 | 29 B: Rhonda Ryba | 30 | | |

FAITHFUL FCC KIDS



CORNER

Reminders

Baptism/Pastor Class Schedule

Pastor's class will begin Sunday, April 12, 2026 right after church (12:00 - 1:30 P.M.) for approximately 6 weeks.

Lunch is included in our time together.

Baptisms will be celebrated on May 24, 2026 (Pentecost Sunday)!

Acolyte Update

It's so great to have acolytes bringing in God's light every Sunday. Did you know the acolytes are also helping Miss Debbie fill the Blessing Box on the days they serve? Keep up the great work, kids! We are proud of



you!

What's New

| 2026 SUMMER CAMPS | |
|-------------------|---|
| June 12-14 | Intergenerational Camp |
| June 15-20 | Explorers (Completed grades 4 & 5) |
| June 22-24 | New Beginnings (Completed grades 1-3) |
| June 25-27 | You & Me (Ages 5-8 with adult) |
| June 29-July 4 | High School (Completed grades 9-12) |
| July 6-11 | Middle School (Completed grades 6-8) |
| July 13-18 | CROSS (Sports - Completed grades 6-12) |
| July 20-25 | MAD (Music, Art, & Drama - Completed grades 6-12) |



Family Hike at the Dunes

Join us for an afternoon hiking the Indiana Dunes!
Where: Indiana Dunes National Park West Beach
When: Sunday, May 31st at 2:00 P.M.



Upcoming

Easter Egg Scramble!
Saturday, April 4, 2026
11:00 A.M.
RSVP with Linda Messmer or Debbie Benson by 3/29.
For kids age 10 and under.

Praying for our Friends & Family

Members of the Congregation:

Dolores Cave, Don Dean, Judy Olen, Ashley Moss, Dave Frost, Natalie Peplin, Dawn Wolak, Family of Pastor Michael Sinclair, Family of Jean Morgan;

Friends of the Congregation: (Please let me know if there are updates to this ongoing list) The Yuris Family, The Murphy Family, Jerry Zolmer, Liz Griffin, Cherie Coolidge, Ron Straker, Barbara Blaze, Taft/Weber Family, Paul Graegin, Marian Huizenga, Bill Murphy, Matt Murphy, Spencer Gordon, Michael Cole, Chris Cole, Tim Gasaway, Anne Fairfield, Kaden & Mara Luthringer, Jim Moss, Dave Horvat, Scott Bridges, David Cole, David Harding, Pam Wynne, Tony, Steve and Bethany Chemeil, Dominick Certa, Lisa, Michael John, Elizabeth and Chris, Madge, Charles Fliter, Marie, Carol, Jasper, John, Pea Pod, Lee Howard, Kevin (Natalie's caregiver), Jack, Chris, Ashley Cushing, Martha & Flora Espinoza, Bill Horvat, Phyllis (friend of Herbie), Val Rushing, Paul Mile, Pat Grajineaux, Bob Meyers' mom, Hailey;

The Wider Community: War in Ukraine and War in Iran; violence and division throughout the nation (unrest in the US); people struggling with food insecurity; tornado recovery in Lake Village;

Joys: 4 young people and 1 adult planning to be baptized; Rev. Becky accepted into Doctor of Ministry program at CTS; Walking on Dreams flooring campaign (goal reached!); Welcome to the World Baby Margo!

Fifth Street Figures

| Description | Offering |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Worship (2/1/2026) | \$2365.83 |
| Worship (2/8/2026) | \$2089.83 |
| Week of Compassion | \$25.00 |
| TOPS | \$50.00 |
| Wedding | \$500.00 |
| Hall Rental | \$40.00 |
| TOTAL | \$2704.83 |
| Worship (2/15/2026) | \$2191.83 |
| Worship (2/22/2026) | \$2335.83 |
| Ash Wednesday | \$17.00 |
| Week of Compassion | \$50.00 |
| TOTAL | \$2402.83 |
| Worship (3/1/2026) | \$1905.00 |
| Initial | \$25.00 |
| Week of Compassion | \$25.00 |
| TOTAL | \$1955.00 |

Fifth Street Figures Continued...

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| Worship (3/8/2026) | \$769.55 |
| TOPS | \$50.00 |
| Sober School | \$600.00 |
| TOTAL | \$1419.55 |
| Worship (3/15/2026) | \$2186.85 |
| Worship (3/22/2026) | \$1070.83 |
| Advertising | \$64.00 |
| TOTAL | \$1134.83 |

January 2026 Figures

General Fund
Income: \$5672.00
Tsfr. from Capital Fund: \$3000.00
Expenditures: \$9586.14

Outreach
Income: \$25.00
Expenditures: --

February 2026 Figures

General Fund
Income: \$9582.00
Tsfr. from Capital Fund: \$3000.00
Advance from Memorial Fund: \$3500.00
Expenditures: \$13,582.68

Outreach
Income: \$122.00
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

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



Pastor Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 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
We are a Green Chalice Congregation.

News Around the Region



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) in INDIANA

INDIANA DISCIPLES PODCAST

Check out what is happening
in the region! Be on the lookout
for upcoming editions.



Please pray for the following congregations in the Dunes Area who are in Search & Call: FCC Valpo and FCC Mishawaka. Please hold all of our sister churches of the area in prayer for ongoing ministry and community connection.



Serving Schedule

April 5, 2025 (Easter)

Elder - Mary Ellen Carpenter
Deacon - Tania Messmer
Acolyte - Wells Sundquist

April 12, 2026

Elder - Sharon Worrell-Schroader
Deacon - Marc Obregon
Acolyte - Dean Perez

April 19, 2026

Elder - Brenda Michalak
Deacon - Don Dean
Acolyte - Ally Messmer

April 26, 2026

Elder - Debbie Benson
Deacon - Ashley Moss
Acolyte - Daniel Perez

May 3, 2026

Elder - Mary Ellen Carpenter
Deacon - Brad Chandler
Acolyte - Cameron Ferguson

May 10, 2026

Elder - Delia Helpingstine
Deacon - Rhonda Ryba
Acolyte - Wells Sundquist

May 17, 2026

Elder - Sharon Worrell-Schroader
Deacon - Linda Messmer
Acolyte - Dean Perez

May 24, 2026

Elder - Brenda Michalak
Deacon - David Michalak
Acolyte - Ally Messmer

May 31, 2026

Elder - Debbie Benson
Deacon - Tania Messmer
Acolyte - Daniel Perez

Ways You Can Be A Part of the Action!

Lunch Bunch News

2025 Serving

Dates:

April 4

June 6

August 1

October 3

December 5.

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

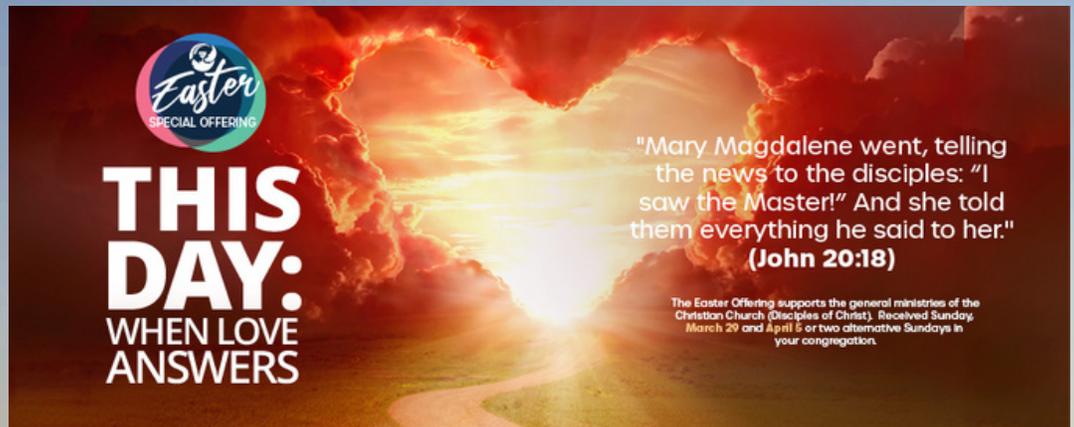
Senior Food Box Ministry

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!

Upcoming Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, April 14, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

Opportunities to Serve

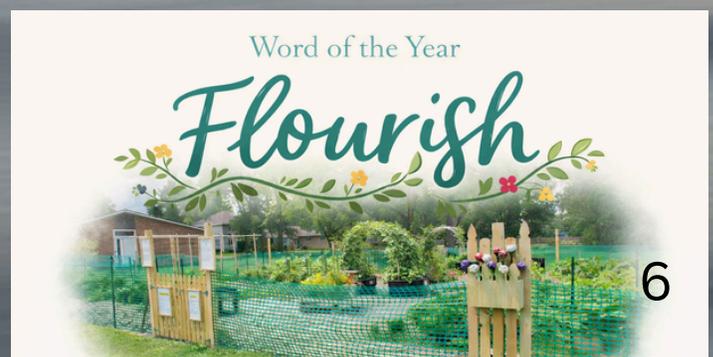


Supporting Our Baptismal Candidates

On May 24, 2026, we will be holding baptism for Cameron Ferguson, Ally Messmer, Dean Perez, and Wells Sundquist

As our baptismal candidates begin to prepare for Pastors class in preparation for baptism, there are a couple of very important ways you can support them. First, pray for the candidates! Your prayerful support of them is very important. Second, if you are able to provide lunch for one of the Pastor's classes in April and May, we would be so grateful. It is both physical and spiritual food. Please see Rev. Becky if you are able to help. Finally, there will be "Agape Bags" for each candidate that can be filled with messages, prayers, or small trinkets that will be presented to them on their baptismal day (May 24th). Again, see Rev. Becky for questions. This is an exciting season for our whole church!

Stitch of Time
knitting group
meets
every 2nd & 3rd
Tuesday of the
month - 10-12



News from the Pews

Labyrinth Updates

Mindful Meditation at the Labyrinth
Check out the Labyrinth for weekly and seasonal guided Labyrinth Walks in your own time and at your own pace.

Each week and as special occasions arise, there will be a new Labyrinth meditation guide if you need. Be intentional about meeting God at the center. You can find these in the weekly email, on Facebook, and on the Labyrinth page of the website.

May 1st is World
Labyrinth Day 2026!



Super Bowl Squares A Big Success

A big thank you to Kevin and Tania Messmer for once again organizing our Super Bowl Squares!

The squares sold out quickly, and we are so grateful to everyone who participated. Thanks to your generosity, the Blessing Box Pantry received \$2,500 to help purchase food, cleaning supplies, and hygiene products for our neighbors and community. We are able to make that money stretch and go far. Blessings on your giving and thank you to all who purchased super bowl squares!

Pentecost Sunday

&

The Celebration of Baptism
for Cameron Ferguson, Ally Messmer,
Dean Perez, and Wells Sundquist

Sunday, May 24, 2026

10:30 A.M.

Sarah Williams-Perez will be baptized
at a later date.

Walking On Dreams:

Capital Fund Campaign Update

On February 22nd, we launched our Capital Fund Campaign, "Walking On Dreams," with a church bake sale! The campaign was created to raise funds for much-needed new flooring in the Fellowship Hallway. We also decided to replace the carpeting in the entry and Narthex, which had begun to unravel and posed a potential tripping hazard. Our goal was set at \$12,000 — and the generosity of this congregation has been nothing short of amazing.

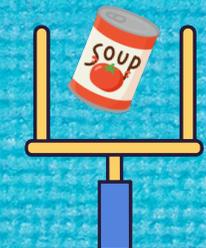
Just over four weeks in, we have already raised \$10,541.58. What a testament to what we can accomplish when we walk together in faith and community! Dreams really do come true when we work as one.

Our beautiful new floors are expected to be installed sometime after Easter. If you haven't yet had a chance to contribute, there is still time — and every gift makes a difference.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has given so generously, and a special thanks to the campaign committee — Debbie Benson, Sheila Cushing, Linda Messmer, and Rev. Becky Sundquist - for their dedication and hard work in getting this all off the ground.

We are again "Souper Bowl" champs!!!!

We collected 237 cans of soup for our Blessing Box Ministry. The goal was set at 200 cans and again we kicked it through the goal post. Well done everyone!!!



Grief Group News

The Monday Grief Group will continue through the month of April. Due to numbers, Rev. Becky will be working on a new format of the group to hopefully be able to reach more people. She is considering a group that meets for 6 week intervals periodically through the year. she is also considering an evening time. Would a zoom option be preferable? If you have suggestions for timing, please let her know as she wants to develop the group in a format that meets the needs of grieving individuals better. For now, the group meets 10-11:30 on Mondays.

Lunch with the Pastor!

April 16, 2026

&

May 14, 2026

12:00 P.M.

Les Cafe in Highland

Pastor's Pen

Easter doesn't end on Sunday.

That's the thing about resurrection – it keeps going. The stone rolled away, and the world hasn't been the same since. We celebrated together, sang our alleluias, and maybe ate too much ham. But the risen Christ didn't stay in the sanctuary, and neither should we.

Eastertide – these fifty days between Easter and Pentecost – is the church's longest festival season. Longer than Lent. Longer than Advent. It's as if the calendar itself is saying: slow down, let this sink in.

So let it sink in – even now, especially now. We don't have to pretend these are easy days. Many of us are carrying real weight: uncertainty about the future, weariness we can't quite name, grief that didn't get the memo that Easter happened. The good news isn't that those things disappear. It's that resurrection meets us right in the middle of them.

Let the hope of Easter settle into the ordinary moments – the Tuesday morning commute, the hard conversation you've been putting off, the neighbor you keep meaning to check on.

And let's keep showing up for each other.

Resurrection is never just a private experience. Mary ran to tell someone. The disciples gathered. The early church ate together, prayed together, and held each other's burdens.

We're still doing that. And I'm so glad we get to do it together.

Pastor Becky

May 2026

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|-----|
| | | | | | 1 A: Brenda & David Michalak | 2 |
| 3 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Pastor's Class 12-1:30 P.M. | 4 A: Sheila & Tom Cushing | 5 | 6 Game Group 10-12 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Pastor's Class 12-1:30 P.M. | 11 A: Tania & Kevin Messmer | 12 Stitch of Time 10-12 | 13 Senior Food Box Dist. 10-12 | 14 Lunch with the Pastor 12:00 P.M. | 15 | 16 |
| 17 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Pastor's Class 12-1:30 P.M. | 18 | 19 Stitch of Time 10-12 B: Leah Helpingstine | 20 Game Group 10-12 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 Pentcost Sunday & Baptisms Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. | 25 B: Don Dean | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |
| 31 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. | | | | | | 9 |



Pentecost Sunday May 24, 2026

**Celebrating the gift of the
Holy Spirit
& Baptisms**

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

Phone: 219-924-5400

E-mail:

fcchighland9540@gmail.com

Website: www.fcchighland.net

Please
place
stamp
here

