

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Highland, IN

THE MESSENGER

Early Summer 2026



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

Worship
10:30 AM



Baptism: May 24, 2026
Congratulations Cameron Ferguson,
Ally Messmer, Dean Perez, & Wells
Sundquist



www.fcchighland.net



219-341-4105



9540 Fifth St. Highland, IN
46322

June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 B: Janis Birmingham	2 Trustees Meeting 9:30 A.M.	3 Game Group 10:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M.	4 Lunch with the Pastor at Les Cafe 12:00 P.M.	5	6 Homeless Lunch
7 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	8	9 Church Clean- Up Day 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. A: Rev. Becky & Steve Sundquist	10 Senior Food Box Distribution 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.	11 Church Clean- Up Day 9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. B: Blake Neyhart	12	13 B: Grace Neyhart
14 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Family Hike 2:00 P.M.	15	16 B: Sharon Worrell- Schroader	17 Game Group 10:00 A.M. -12:00 P.M.	18	19 B: Cameron Ferguson	20
21 Fathering Sunday Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M	22	23	24 B: Mary Ellen Carpenter	25 A: Adam Schroader & Sharon Worrell- Schroader	26	27
28 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M Boomwhackers Rehearsal	29	30 B: Lori Bigger, Mike Pennanen, & Mandy Bridges				

FAITHFUL FCC KIDS CORNER



Reminders

Acolyte Update

See page 5 for the Acolyte Schedule. 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!



Color and cut out Flat Jesus and take pics of him wherever you feel the presence of God! Share your pics with Pastor Becky!



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)

IN THE WILDERNESS



Family Hike at the Dunes

Join us for an afternoon hiking the Indiana Dunes!
Where: Indiana Dunes National Park West Beach
When: Sunday, June 14th at 2:00 P.M.

Upcoming

There are lots of plans in the works for our youth!
Be on the lookout for fun to come!
If you have ideas, please share with Rev. Becky!

Praying for our Friends & Family

Members of the Congregation:

Dolores Cave, Don Dean, Ashley Moss, Dave Frost, Natalie Peplin, Dawn Wolak, Family of Judy Olen, Family, of Carole Krisco, Family of Dean Heisey.

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, Judy Nesper, Michael Beres, Joe, Phyllis, Family of Sollomon Crowder, Arianna Rivera, Fabiola, Carol Sundquist;

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;

Joys: Baptisms of Cameron, Ally, Dean, and Wells!

Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
Worship (3/29/26)	\$545.83
Easter	\$25.00
Total	\$570.83
Worship (4/5/26)	\$2025.83
Easter	\$125.00
Total	\$2150.83
Worship (4/12/26)	\$1532.55
Worship (4/19/26)	\$1597.83
Worship (4/26/26)	\$540.00
Worship (5/3/26)	\$2280.83
Worship (5/10/26)	\$810.00
TOPS	\$50.00
Total	\$860.00

Fifth Street Figures Continued...

Worship (5/17/26)	\$1475.00
Pentecost Offering	\$25.00
Total	\$1500.00

Worship (5/24/26)	\$487.00
Pentecost Offering	\$5.00
Total	\$492.00

March 2026 Figures

General Fund	
Income: \$6,929.00	
Tsfr. from Capital Fund: \$2795.00	
Flooring donations Tsfr. to Capital: \$578.00	
Reimbursement for Member Donation for Advertising: \$64.00	
Expenditures: \$10,714.00	

Outreach	
Income: \$255.00	
Expenditures: \$402.00	

April 2026 Figures

General Fund	
Income: \$6,099.53	
Tsfr. from Capital Fund: \$5,500.00	
Expenditures: \$10,556.50	

Outreach	
Income: \$125.00	
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.

2026 GENERAL ASSEMBLY 
BEYOND:
LOVE SURPASSING
EPHESIANS 3:14-21

July 10-11, 2026

Serving Schedule

June 7, 2026

Elder - Mary Ellen Carpenter
Deacon - Marc Obregon
Acolyte - Cameron Ferguson

June 14, 2026

Elder - Delia Helpingstine
Deacon - Don Dean
Acolyte - Wells Sundquist

June 21, 2026

Elder - Sharon Worrell-Schroader
Deacon - Ashley Moss
Acolyte - Dean Perez

June 28, 2026

Elder - Brenda Michalak
Deacon - Brad Chandler
Acolyte - Ally Messmer

July 5, 2026

Elder - Debbie Benson
Deacon - Rhonda Ryba
Acolyte - Daniel Perez

July 12, 2026

Elder - Mary Ellen Carpenter
Deacon - Linda Messmer
Acolyte - Cameron Ferguson

July 19, 2026

Elder - Delia Helpingstine
Deacon - David Michalak
Acolyte - Wells Sundquist

July 26, 2026

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

Ways You Can Be A Part of the Action!

Lunch Bunch News

2026 Serving

Dates:

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, July 21, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

Opportunities to Serve

Church Clean-Up Days!



Attention All FCC!

Your help is needed for two Church Clean Ups Days to help clean items that are not part of the custodians regular cleaning duties (e.g. windows, pews, etc.)

The Clean-Up Days will be
June 9th
&
June 12th

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Debbie Benson will be posting a jobs list for you to claim as your own project. We appreciate any and all help to keep our church spic and span!

2026 Farm News

Be on the lookout for Farm News coming out soon! Gardening season is rapidly approaching and our farm managers are working on plans as we speak. Stay tuned....

Stitch of Time Update!

The SOT knitting group will not meet over the summer. Please keep knitting and crocheting on your own! This ministry will resume in the fall!

Fall Retreat

Are you interested in an overnight retreat this fall? Rev. Becky would love to organize a retreat for our church. An overnight? Day long? Little cabin in the woods or lake? Let her know if you are interested!

Word of the Year

Flourish



Beach Worship

Church of the Wilderness

at Porter Beach
Indiana Dunes National Park
Friday, July 24
7:00 P.M.

*You do not need to worry about a fee for parking.
**Please bring your own chair if you desire one.

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.



Spirit Move is a series about what it means to be a people of the Spirit – not just in theory, but in the ordinary, sometimes bewildering, always surprising texture of daily life. We'll ask what a Spirit-shaped life actually looks like from the outside. We'll explore the gifts the Spirit has placed in each of our hands, and for whom. We'll sit with the Spirit's mysterious work when we have no words left. And we'll practice what it means to keep in step with a God who is always already moving.

Week 1 – Wind and Fire (Acts 2:1-21) What actually happened at Pentecost, and why does it still matter?

Week 2 – Fruit (Galatians 5:16-26) What does a Spirit-shaped life look like from the outside?

Week 3 – Gifted (1 Corinthians 12:1-13) What has the Spirit placed in your hands, and for whom?

Week 4 – The Most Excellent Way (1 Corinthians 13) What holds all the gifts together?

Week 5 – Groaning (Romans 8:18-27) What does the Spirit do when we have no words left?

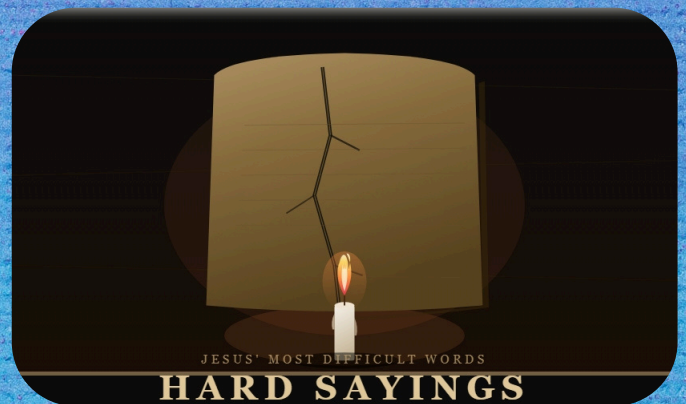
Week 6 – Keep in Step (Galatians 5:25; John 16:12-15) What does it mean to follow the Spirit's lead day by day?

Walking On Dreams:

Capital Fund Campaign Update

Great Big Thank You!!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! Thanks to the generosity of this wonderful congregation, we were able to get new flooring. This is something we have wanted to do for a long time but finances wouldn't let us do it. With the Board's approval we started a Capital Fund campaign to raise the funds for the flooring. Our committee of Pastor Becky, Linda Messmer, Shelia Cushing and Debbie Benson jumped at the idea and got the ball rolling. What we thought would probably take 6 months or more to accomplish, took us just 3 months. The floors look wonderful and add a warm welcoming touch for those who enter through our doors. Well done everyone!!



Jesus was not always easy to listen to.

We tend to remember him as the one who welcomed children, who fed the hungry, who said come to me, all you who are weary. And he was all of that. But he was also the one who said hate your family. Who said the door is narrow. Who said he came not to bring peace but fire. Who looked at a wealthy, earnest young man who had kept every commandment – and told him it still wasn't enough.

These are the texts we skip over quickly, or explain away, or quietly hope no one asks about. They make us uncomfortable for good reason: they were meant to.

This July, we're not skipping them.

Hard Sayings is a seven-week journey through some of Jesus' most challenging, most avoided, and most misunderstood words. We won't smooth them over or domesticate them into something easier to swallow. Instead, we'll sit with them honestly – asking what they meant in their original context, what they demand of us now, and what it says about Jesus that he trusted his followers enough to say hard things to them.

Because here's what we've discovered: the hard sayings are not obstacles to faith. They are invitations to a deeper one.

Celebrating the Lives of FCC Saints

Judith Irene Olen

November 30, 1936 – May 15, 2026



Carole Ann Krisco

October 12, 1934 - May 21, 2026



Pastor's Pen

As I have concluded my Master's program in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, I wanted to offer you my thanks for your continued support on this journey. It has been deeply powerful and I continue to pray that it will be of benefit to you all as well as me. At the last Board meeting, we discussed next steps as I work toward licensure as a Clinical Mental Health Counseling Associate (which means I have 3000 hours to complete with an agency and a fully licensed practitioner before I can be let loose on my own). Pillars of Wellness (who I completed Practicum and Internship with) has offered me a position as a therapist to children and adolescents which I have accepted. My tentative start date is June 15th (pending approval for licensure from the State of Indiana) This DOES NOT change my position with you as your minister. In fact, because of the demographic of when I can see clients (after school and early evening), you will not feel much of a difference. This opportunity will give me the chance to complete my full licensure as well as receive health care benefits for my family. I discussed this with the PRC committee and the board at our most recent meetings and they were nothing but supportive of me. It is my desire to be transparent with all of you as I make this transition. The PRC committee will review my performance with me every 6 months to see if this arrangement works for everyone and what changes need to be made (if necessary). As I did during internship, should an emergency arise, I will reschedule with my clients if and when the time comes. Meetings and evening worship services will continue to be planned as they always have.

You might be wondering then, what about the possibilities for mental health and well-being through the church? I discussed these possibilities at the outset of my program and they continue to be on my radar as I complete my associate hours toward full licensure. I am hopeful of any number of options (including partnering with Pillars or creating our own Mental Health Ministry). Please continue to pray on God's leading for that long term vision. I will be starting a Doctor of Ministry in the fall (a program that is mostly done at my pace) and my plan is to bring these two important components of my life - ministry and mental health care - together. I feel God is at the center of all of this.

Many have caringly wondered about my own mental health as my calendar has been so full. While my own mental health is important and I have created a pretty good self-care strategy, all I really want to convey is that I am happy. I am happy to continue serving you as your pastor and I am happy to work with kids and adolescents as they seek healing and mental health growth. I feel lucky to be able to do both. I also have faith that God is guiding us together in this. Continue to pray. Please pray for me. Certainly pray for our church. And pray for a bright and robust future for all. It is always an honor and privilege to serve alongside all of you.

Grace and Peace
Pastor Becky

Lunch with the Pastor!

June 4, 2026

&

July 2, 2026

12:00 P.M.

Les Cafe in Highland

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Game Group 10-12	2	3	4 Independence Day
5 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	6	7	8 Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12 B: Kevin Messmer	9	10 General Assembly	11
12 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	13	14	15 Game Group 10-12	16	17	18
19 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. B: Brad Chandler	20	21 Board Meeting 7:00 P.M.	22	23	24 Beach Worship 7:00 P.M.	25
26 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Boomwhackers Rehearsal.	27 A: Jeff & Marcie Messmer	28 B: Daniel Perez	29	30	31 B: Adam Schroader	9



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Please
place
stamp
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