The Messenger

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Our Mission is to Celebrate and Share Christ's Love

9540 Fifth St. Highland, IN 46322 219/924-5400 www.fcchighland@att.net October 2021

Coming this Advent.....

Based on author and pastor, Matt Rawle's book, *The Heart That Grew Three Sizes,* we will take a look at Dr. Seuss's beloved children's story, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!* in a new way—through the lens of faith. Rawle uses this beloved Christmas classic to help us understand the redemption and salvation offered to us in Christ, and how the birth of God's son brings peace, hope, love, and joy. Whether we identify with the Grinch, sympathize with him, or feel aversion to his character, we can learn from his journey as he comes to understand that Christmas is more than what he thought.

In four sessions, the study looks at the following themes:

When Everything Is Wrong (11/28/21)

When Christmas Isn't Christmas (12/5/21)

When Light Shines (12/12/21)

When Joy Is Our Song (12/19/21)

"Maybe Christmas *(he thought)* doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more." — **The Grinch**

Upcoming Church Events

- All Saints Day (11/1);
- Mobile Food Market at Griffith YMCA (11/5) 12:15—3:30 P.M.;
- Bible Study (11/3 & 11/17) 7 P.M. (Zoom);
- All Saints Sunday (11/7);
- Prayer Circle (11/10 & 11/24) 7 P.M. (Zoom).;
- Senior Food Box Distribu tion (11/10) 10-12;
- Veterans Day (11/11)
- Veterans Sunday (11/14);
- Board Meeting (11/16) 7 P.M.;
- Thanksgiving Sunday (11/21);
- Labyrinth Gratitude Walk (11/21) 5 P.M.;
- Gratitude Hike (11/24) 11 A.M.;
- Thanksgiving (11/25);
- 1st Sunday of Advent (11/28).

Sundays @ FCC
Worship—10:30 AM

Digital Coffee Hour 2nd & 4th Sundays on Zoom immediately after worship.

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 All Saints Day	2	3 Bible Study— 7 P.M. (Zoom)	4	5 Mobile Food Market at Griffith YMCA 12 :15-3:00 P.M.	6
7 All Saints Sunday 10:30 A.M. Daylight Savings Time Ends	8	9	10 Senior Food Box Delivery Prayer Circle— 7 P.M. (Zoom)	11	12 B: Dawn Wolak	13
14 Veterans Sunday Digital Coffee Hour 10:30 A.M. Angel Tree Starts	15 A: Bob & Carol Coolidge	16 Board Meeting— 7 P.M.	17 Bible Study— 7 P.M. (Zoom)	18 B: Ken Cengel	19	20
21 Thanksgiving Sunday 10:30 A.M. Gratitude Walk at the Labyrinth 5 P.M.	22	23	24 Gratitude Hike 11 A.M. Prayer Circle— 7 P.M. (Zoom) B: Amelia Bridges	25 Thanksgiving	26	27
28 1st Sunday of Advent Digital Coffee Hour	29	30 B: Judy Olen				

Afghan Refugees

If you are interested in helping our Afghan neighbors as they seek refuge in our country following the Taliban take-over in September, let Rev. Becky know. Rev. Becky is working with area clergy to join together in our efforts. More information will come in the next couple of weeks. If you are interested in the Amazon Wishlist that will send items directly to Camp Atterbury, Rev. Becky can get that link to you.

There will be a Gratitude Hike on Wednesday, November 24, 2021 at 11 A.M. at Indiana Dunes State Park.

Digital Coffee Hour

Online Coffee Hour will be every 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month.
Gather online on
11/14 & 11/28
following worship!

Don't forget to grab your coloring pages on Sunday morning along with your Bible Blueprint! Pastor Becky can email them out in PDF format as well. Please contact the church office if you would like one/ them sent to you.

The weekly coloring pages are a wonderful tool for meditation, prayer and focus on the Scriptures. This is a great way to connect with the Scripture throughout the week!

Praying for our Friends & Family

Members of the Congregation:
Celia Newcomb, Jane Ross, Phyllis Frost, Clarence McCoy, Kevin Messmer, Jeff Messmer, Dolores Cave, Carol & Bob Coolidge, Tim Drury

Friends of the Congregation: (Please let me know if there are updates to this ongoing list) The Yuris Family, The Murphy Family, Madge, Gene Beres and Family, Dennis Chambers, Gary Barber, Cindy Williams, Nicky, Sandy, Robert Dean, Terry & Marty Chidalek, Cole, Jerry Zolmer, Liz Griffin, Mary Jones, Lauren, Chris Dury, Zachary Hare, Al Eckert, Cherie & David Coolidge, Millie, Melissa Belar, Cathhart Family, Mike Cole, Faith, Bill Carroll, Ron Spore, Ed Charbonneau, Samantha Bugno, Cindy Bugno, Beverly Goodson, Rita Worth, The Novak Family, Rosa Casanova, Jackie, Barbara Cushing, Jim Pasour, Ron Straker, Louise Wolak, Nicky Sweeny, Phil, Barbara Blaze, Florence Kolbi, Family of Jeremy Lock, Family of Jim Glasgow, Taft/Weber Family

Joys:
Kevin's successful kidney transplant—donation by Jeff Messmer (both are recovering well)
The new Labyrinth installation,
the 2021 Farming Season (over 1400 pounds!)

Global Concerns:
Haiti, Afghanistan and our Afghan refugee neighbors

Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
Worship 10/3/21	$944.28
Reconciliation Offering	$25.00
Plein Aire Painters	$8.00
TOTAL	$977.28
Worship 10/10/21	$1678.49
Reconciliation Offering	$25.00
Plein Aire Painters	$8.00
TOTAL	$1703.49
Worship 10/17/21	$2035.49
Reconciliation Offering	$25.00
Sober School	$450.00
Plein Aire Painters	$16.00
TOTAL	$2526.49

Fifth Street Figures Continued…

Worship 10/24/21	$1169.84
Plein Aire Painters	$8.00
TOTAL	$1177.84

September Figures

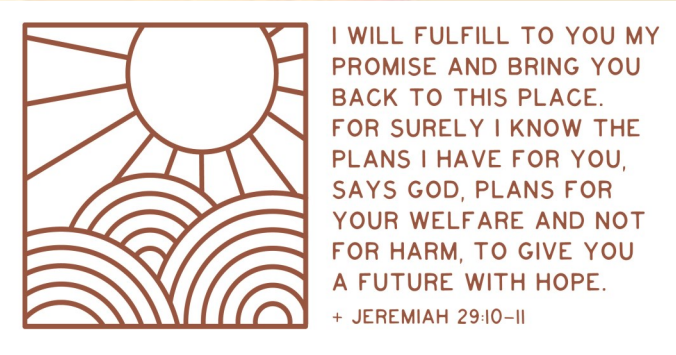
General
Income: $13,216.04
Expenditures: $9,319.20

Outreach
Income: $115.00
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 Grace Kristoff and she will be happy to share that information with you.

We ask for your prayers as the Stewardship Campaign 2021 concludes.
We will look to 2022 with hope!



Elder & Deacon Serving Schedule

November 2021

11/7/21
Elder: Mandy Bridges
Deacon: Brad Chandler

11/14/21
Elder: Mary Ellen Carpenter
Deacon: Ken Cengel

11/21/21
Elder: Delia Helpingstine
Deacon: Brandon Meyers

11/28/21
Elder: Grace Kristoff
Deacon: Linnea Sundquist

Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good. His love endures forever. Psalm 136

Remarks from Rebecca

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I pray you give thanks for God's bounty in all the ways we are blessed. For example, I give thanks for this tiny space to write my remarks because the pages of this newsletter are full of so many good things! A friend of mine recently shared with me her strategy for living in the present and doing so with joy: live with gratitude. Even on our worst days, there are things to be thankful for and when we offer our gratitude to our good God who walks with us in all things, then our outlook changes and we are better able to move through difficult things. That is not to say we cannot be sad or struggle because it is important to feel what we feel. Yet, when we offer thanks regularly, then we can live more fully into the joy God has in mind for us. Just now, I am thankful for each of you!

Thanksgiving Blessings to all.
Grace and Peace,
Rev. Becky

The 2021 Thanksgiving Offering will be received on 11/14 & 11/21

Our Mission Statement is to celebrate and share Christ's love.

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!

Worship: 10:30 A.M.

Pastor Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday
(9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.) or by appointment
Pastor Rebecca Sundquist
Cell phone: (217)341-4105
Email: becky.sundquist@gmail.com

FCC Offers Multiple Platforms to Join the Community of Faith

FCC offers multiple ways to participate in the community of faith. Not only do we offer in-person worship, but you can join together with our community online through YouTube (First Christian Church Highland IN) and Facebook Live (First Christian Church Highland, IN). Recorded services can also be found on Facebook, Youtube, and our website.

Many opportunities to get involved in service and faith formation are posted with the FCC Facebook group and website. Check out **www.fcchighland.net** for weekly and daily updates on both platforms.

Used Books Needed!

If you have any used books in good condition, we will gladly take them off of your hands! We can use books for all ages for the Book Nook mini-library. Thank you for all your donations!

Senior Food Box News: If you or someone you know (over the age of 60) could use a little food assistance, this program provides excellent staples to your pantry. In the summer months, fresh vegetables are provided too. Help us get the word out about this great opportunity for food security in Lake County!

Opportunities to Serve

New Outreach Volunteer Opportunity

The Foodbank of Northwest Indiana offers a number of volunteer opportunities to assist with providing food to the needy. One of these opportunities, providing assistance at a Mobile Market Food Distribution, will be held on Friday, November 5 from 12:15 to 3:30 PM at the Griffith Family YMCA, 1345 N. Broad Street in Griffith. If you would be interested in participating, let Delia Helpingstine know and she will forward you the email listing this (and other) volunteer opportunities. You can sign up directly from the email. Alternatively, you can access the listing by visiting the Food Bank's website at foodbanknwi.org. Click on the orange "Volunteer" box toward the top of the screen and scroll down to "Mobile Food Market Distribution." Finally, if you don't have internet access, let Delia know and she can fill out the form for you. Hopefully, we can get a group of FCC members together to help with this Mobile Market Food Distribution.

The 2021 Angel Tree

The holidays are fast approaching and for some children they won't be so joyful and jolly. We are trying something new for the holidays this year.
In place of working with Love, Inc providing Thanksgiving meals and Christmas gifts for families, we are going to have an "Angel Tree". We will be working with other Highland churches and the schools in providing Christmas gifts for the needy children of Highland. These are children that are from low income families who receive free breakfasts and lunches through the school. Based on information provided by the schools there are over 300 children here in our community that will be need of some holiday happiness. It's hard to believe isn't it.

The Angel Tree will have ornaments with a child's name and age on it. It will give sizes and things that are needed for each child. The goal is to provide something that is needed and something to enjoy for fun. They ask that you spend $40.00 per child so all the children receive equally, especially if in the same household. Our Angel Tree will be in the Narthex November 14th. All gifts are to be wrapped and the ornament attached. Gifts should be here at the church by Tuesday December 7th.

Our hope is to provide gifts for 20 children. If you want to be a part of the Angel Tree but are unable to shop, we have several people happy to shop for you.
If you have any questions see Debbie Benson.

Church Briefs:

Bob & Carol Coolidge's phone number is the same as their Highland phone number. They were able to transfer their home number down to Fishers at their new home. **(219)924-2284**

Let's send **Roger Mierzwa** a shower of cards. He has been lonely in his new home in St. John and this would be a great way to brighten up his days!

Thank You!
Many thanks to Kevin & Jeff Messmer for setting up the new television in Fellowship Hall!

Thank you to **David Michalak** for making baked goodies for us to enjoy after church! We have all enjoyed them!

Thank you **Brenda Michalak** for putting together the 2021 Church Directory! Fantastic job!

Thank you **Steve Sundquist** for filling in for Kevin while he was recovering from surgery.
We are grateful for your effort!

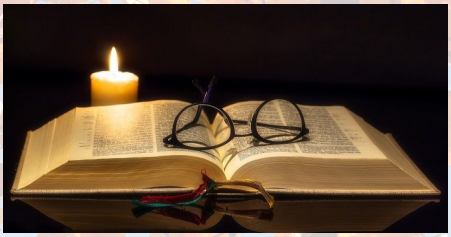
The New Church Directory is now available. If you need one sent to you, please call the church office. One per family please.

Let's Save a tree! If you can receive the newsletter digitally, we ask that you let us know so we can cut down on paper usage!

News From the Pews

Bible Study in November!

On November 3rd & 17th at 7 P.M. via Zoom, we will be examining the Book of Exodus. Join us and learn some truly fascinating information on this ancient book of the First Testament.



Farm Work News

The 2021 farming season has now come to a close. In a record-breaking year, the volunteers harvested **1449 pounds** of produce from the gardens!! Great job to all who worked so hard this season. And a special shout out to our Farm Managers, David and Brenda Michalak for excellence in leadership!

Thanksgiving Labyrinth Walk
Join us at the Labyrinth on Sunday, November 21st for a Walk of Gratitude!
We will gather at 5 P.M. to offer our thanksgiving to God.

Prayer Circle

Join the online prayer circle on November 10th & 24th at 7 P.M. on Zoom! In this season of Thanksgiving, we have much to offer to God in thanksgiving. Join us!

Blessing Box Help Needed!

Many thanks to all who have helped with keeping our Blessing Box stocked during these difficult times. We have helped many of our neighbors not only with food - we have shown them love, given them hope, and let them know that they are not alone. We could use personal hygiene products and cleaning products to add to the Blessing Box. While we often think of just helping with food, the need to keep things neat and tidy is important too. **Items that we could use are: Toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, bath soap, body wash, feminine products, razors, shaving cream, lotions, and any type of cleaning product**. The Dollar Tree store has a great selection and everything is just a dollar! Drop off box is in the narthex. Thank you!

Thanksgiving Sunday
November 21, 2021

First Christian Church

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

Phone: 219-924-5400
E-mail: fcchighland@att.net

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE