

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Highland, IN

THE MESSENGER

Summer 2026

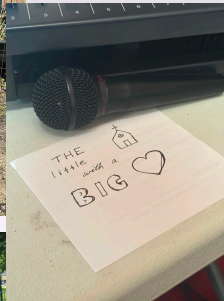


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Sundays @ FCC
Disciples Café & Youth Sunday School
9:30 A.M.

Worship
10:30 AM

Thank you
to ALL
Volunteers!



Farm Planting and General Assembly Pics



www.fcchighland.net



219-341-4105



9540 Fifth St. Highland, IN
46322



August 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Homeless Lunch
2 Backpack Blessing Disciples Cafe - 9:30 A.M. Worship - 10:30 A.M. B: Marcie Messmer	3	4	5 Game Group 10-12	6 Lunch with the Pastor 12:00 P.M.	7 Parents' Night Out 5:30-8:00 P.M.	8
9 Disciples Cafe - 9:30 A.M. Worship - 10:30 A.M.	10 A: Timm & Lori Brown	11	12 Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12	13	14 B: Lindsey Neyhart	15
16 Disciples Cafe - 9:30 A.M. Worship - 10:30 A.M.	17	18 B: Delia Helpingstine	19 Game Group 10-12	20	21	22
23 Disciples Cafe - 9:30 A.M. Worship - 10:30 A.M.	24	25	26	27	28	29 Ukelele Strummers 9:30 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.
30 Disciples Cafe - 9:30 A.M. Worship - 10:30 A.M.	31					

FAITHFUL FCC KIDS CORNER

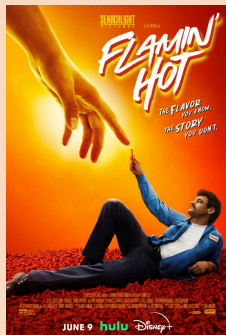


FYI

Acolyte Update

See page 5 for the Acolyte
Schedule.

Family Movie Night Suggestion



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



Back-to-School PNO

Our next
Parents' Night Out
is Friday, August 7, 2026
5:30 - 8:00 P.M.



Dinner and games included!
Wear clothes you can get slimy
with shaving cream! Invite your
friends. Please RSVP with Rev.
Becky!



Sunday School

Join Pastor Becky in her office on
Sunday mornings at 9:30 for
Sunday School.

We will start with studying
"Following Jesus."

We will conclude at 10:15.
We know families are busy,
so just come when you can!

Sunday School starts 9/13!



Youth Group @ FCC!

Youth Group (Intermediate/Middle School
age) at FCC will start this Fall!

Once a month, there will be a youth group
"meeting" with study, activities, and dinner.

We will have tons of fun!

Normally, we will meet the 1st Sunday of the
month from 5-7, but our first meeting will be

September 13th!

Praying for our Friends & Family

Members of the Congregation:

Dolores Cave, Don Dean, Ashley Moss, Dave Frost,
Natalie Peplin, Dawn Wolak, David Michalak

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, Taft/Weber Family, 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, Lee Howard, Jack, Chris, Ashley Cushing, Martha & Flora Espinoza, Paul Mile, Pat Gragido, Hailey, Michael Beres, Joe, Phyllis, Arianna Rivera, Fabiola, Valerie, Kelly Cooper, Fabiola, Kim Fesler, Thomas, Judy Nesper, Tina;, 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: Farm Season underway; General Assembly; Beach Worship

Dorothy Barrett's new address: Brentwood of Hobart
1420 St. Mary's Circle Hobart, IN 46342

Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
Worship (5/31/2026)	\$1330.00
Pentecost Offering	\$60.00
TOTAL	\$1390.00
Worship (6/14/26)	\$2917.55
TOPS	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$3017.55
Worship (6/21/26)	\$1000.83
Worship (6/28/26)	\$655.00
Worship (7/5/2026)	\$1270.00
Worship (7/12/2026)	\$1985.00
TOPS	\$50.00
Sober School	\$800.00
TOTAL	\$2835.00
Worship (7/19/26)	\$1406.72
Nursery - Butterflies	\$34.63
Deposit Correction	\$655.00
TOTAL	\$2096.35

May 2026 Figures

General Fund

Income: \$6,337.00

Tsfr. from Capital Fund: \$5500.00

Expenditures: \$14,373.06

Outreach

Income: \$140.00

Expenditures: ---

June 2026 Figures

General Fund

Income: \$5875.00

Tsfr. from CCF-SASS: \$5295.00

Tsfr. from Capital Fund: \$191.77

Expenditures: \$9,975.84

Outreach

Income: \$205.00

Expenditures: \$470.00

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 though 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

REGIONAL
OCTOBER 2-3, 2026 *Assembly*

INDIANA DISCIPLES
**BUILDING TOGETHER
IN LOVE**

EPHESIANS 4:16
From him the whole body,
joined and held together
by every supporting ligament,
grows and builds itself up in
love, as each part does its work.

SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

FRIDAY
2
OCTOBER
9 AM - 4 PM **CLERGY RETREAT**
7 PM - 9 PM **ALL ASSEMBLY CONCERT**
At Avon Christian Church

SATURDAY
3
OCTOBER
9 AM - 4 PM **ALL ASSEMBLY CELEBRATION**
Fellowship, Bible Study, Worship,
Plenary & Business, Exhibits & More
At Geist Christian Church
Promise Rd Campus


REGISTER NOW

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

August 2, 2026

Elder: Mary Ellen Carpenter
Deacon: Marc Obregon
Acolyte: Ally Messmer

August 9, 2026

Elder: Debbie Benson
Deacon: Don Dean
Acolyte: Daniel Perez

August 16, 2026

Elder: Brenda Michalak
Deacon: Ashley Moss
Acolyte: Wells Sundquist

August 23, 2026

Elder: Delia Helpingstine
Deacon: Brad Chandler
Acolyte: Cameron Ferguson

August 30, 2026

Elder: Sharon Worrell-Schroader
Deacon: Rhonda Ryba
Acolyte: Dean Perez

September 6, 2026

Elder: Brenda Michalak
Deacon: Linda Messmer
Acolyte: Ally Messmer

September 13, 2026

Elder: Debbie Benson
Deacon: David Michalak
Acolyte: Daniel Perez

September 20, 2026

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

September 27, 2026

Elder: Delia Helpingstine
Deacon: Mia Higginbotham
Acolyte: Cameron Ferguson



Ministry Opportunities

Youth Group Meals Needed!

If you are able to provide a meal for youth group, please see the sign up sheet in the office! We will only need food for 5-6 people.

Lunch Bunch News

2026 Serving Dates:

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

The SFBM meets every 2nd Wednesday of the month to distribute food for seniors in need. See Debbie for more information!

Upcoming Board Meeting

The next Board meeting will be held in Fellowship Hall on Tuesday, October 20, 2026 at 7:00 P.M.

Opportunities to Serve

Loving Gift Ministry

I have always had a vision of wanting to give to the people who need it the most. Many times, I would see a senior who would seem lonely as went to visit some of my grandparents' friends in nursing homes or assisted living. My mother also worked for a nursing home and one of the things she would say was that some of these people had no one but their nurses or the staff by their side. No families would call or check in until the inevitable happened. So, I started dreaming and my dream was to be able to create gifts that can be dropped off to senior homes or similar places. Thanks to Revered Becky, my dream is now going to become a reality.

How does this work? There is no right or wrong way. Any type of craft you can think of will work. For example, a friend of mine that has her own non profit donated a bunch of Christmas ornaments, cards, and suncatcher. While Christmas time is going to be my main focus of this ministry, I still want to include birthday things too or any other thing that any of you can think of that someone might enjoy. Maybe we get word of a person who just needs a pick me up, so we make a bouquet of fake flowers they can look at every day or we all just sign a card. It is the simple things that matter. Either way, I want all of us to be included if you choose to but especially the kids too. To start this ministry, I will be making some craft bags that can be kept at the church and as you feel compelled to make something, please do. Then bring it back to church and once we get close to the holidays, I will ask Revered Becky to bless them before we distribute.

At Christmas time, I really want the kids and anyone who feels called to come help me take the gifts around to places. I would like to limit the area to the Highland, Schererville, and Hobart areas. I do not want to be running all over the place with already hectic schedules. I hope this is something that you will all join me in my passion for.

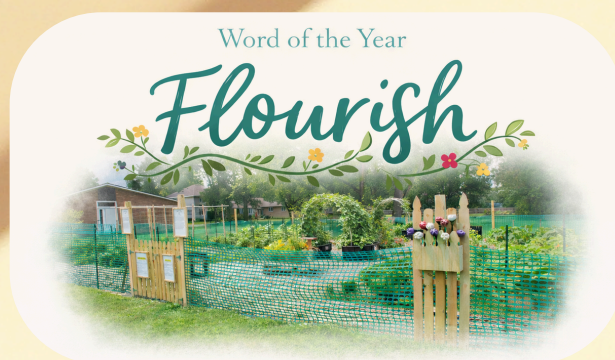
Warm Blessings,
Mia Higginbotham



Stitch of Time Update!

The SOT

The knitting group will resumes this September! Join this knitting/crocheting ministry on Tuesdays - September 8th and 15th 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M. Join us!

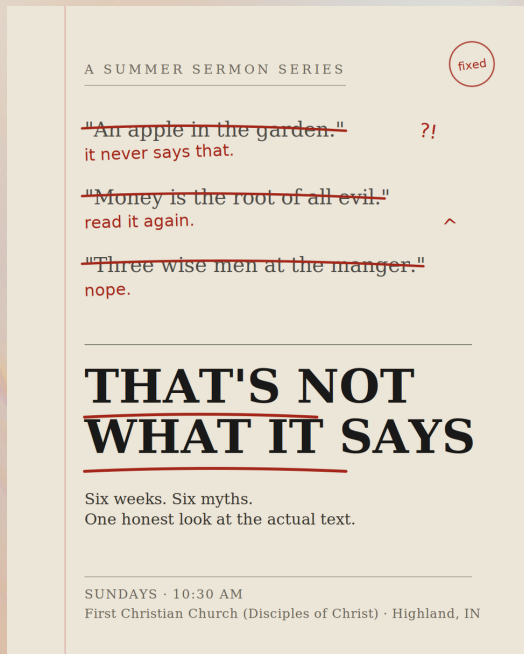


News from the Pews

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. Mindful Labyrinth Walking workshop coming soon!



THAT'S NOT WHAT IT SAYS

A six-week sermon series beginning Late August. Everybody knows the Bible says a lot of things. An apple in the garden. Three kings at the manger. A whale swallowing Jonah. Money as the root of all evil. God helping those who help themselves.

The trouble is — it doesn't say any of that. We're going back to the actual text: what it really says, why the myth took hold instead, and what we've been missing underneath the version we all grew up with. Some weeks that means recovering something stranger and riskier than the tame version we inherited. Some weeks it means letting go of a "truth" that was never scripture to begin with — and was quietly doing us harm. Six weeks. Six myths. One honest look at the text.

Walking On Dreams 2.0

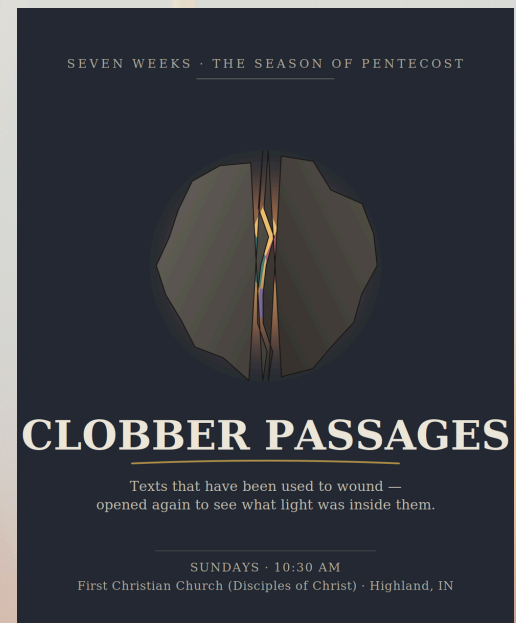
Nursery Refresh

There has been a little refresh in the church nursery with linens and contemporary artwork.

The dollhouse and barn in the nursery were also built by Steve Sundquist for the girls when they were little.

At the July Board meeting, the Board members voted to replace the flooring in the nursery with Memorial funds.

It is an exciting time for our church as use of the nursery grows!



CLOBBER PASSAGES

Beginning this October, we will embark on a seven-week series called, "The Clobber Passages" to complete the season of Pentecost.

Certain verses have been swung like weapons for so long that we stopped asking whether they were ever meant to be. This Pentecost, we're taking seven of them down from the shelf — texts that have been used across generations to wound the LGBTQIA+ community, women, immigrants, and others pushed to the margins — and reading them again, slowly, in context, alongside the rest of scripture's own witness. Some of what we find will be uncomfortable. Some of it will be a relief. All of it is an invitation to see what these texts actually say, and to let the Spirit that fell on "all flesh" at Pentecost have the last word.

A Greeting From Our New Regional Elder

Greetings and blessing ministry colleagues,

I have been appointed as the Regional Elder for the Dunes and Four Rivers areas of the Christian Church in Indiana. Your congregations are in the Dunes area.

I want to take a moment to introduce myself to the area.

I am the Rev. Dr. Brooks Barrick. I have served a wide range of ministries: hospital chaplain, rural congregation, inner city congregations, college campus, and suburban congregation. I retired approximately 15 months ago from First Christian Church in Noblesville, Indiana.

I am the coordinator for the Central Indiana CROP Hunger Walk, a guest lecturer at UIndy, partner with the Ronald McDonald House in Indianapolis, Second Helpings, Good Samaritan of Hamilton County, Habitat for Humanity and several other organizations.

I look forward to journeying and getting to know the pastors and congregations in this area.



Pastor's Pen

It is not unusual for the church to be extra quiet in the summer months. Outside of garden work, the building itself tends to be on the quiet side during June, July, and August. This year, there seems to be some excitement and planning brewing.

We are making plans for youth group and Sunday School for the kids. Parents' Night Out will continue throughout the year. There is a lovely refresh going on in the nursery. It's exciting! Additionally, my supervisor at Pillars of Wellness in Hobart is working with me on a workshop for the Labyrinth and Mindfulness practice (more on that to come). Beach worship was in July and some desire to do that once a month in the colder months was expressed by several people. On top of all that, with last minute work, we put on a lovely welcome for Disciples in our area for the General Assembly as we were a host site for this year's digital-only assembly. This was a first for our denomination in what is known as a triennium (for two years there will be a digital only assembly and then the 3rd year will be at a location somewhere in the U.S.). While there were kinks to iron out, more people were able to participate across the country. It is exciting to be a part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Going forward, I would like to offer Christian Education opportunities for adults for 3-week periods of time quarterly. This will begin in October and we will start with a series on what do all the different translations of the Bible mean? More information will be forthcoming soon.

As we continue through summer and begin thinking about early Fall, be sure to invite your friends, loved ones, and neighbors to join you. Remember, statistically it takes on average 12 times of inviting someone to church before they take you up on it. There is something special going on at FCC. Pray that God will continue to grow the little church with a great big heart.

Grace and Peace
Pastor Becky

Lunch with the Pastor!

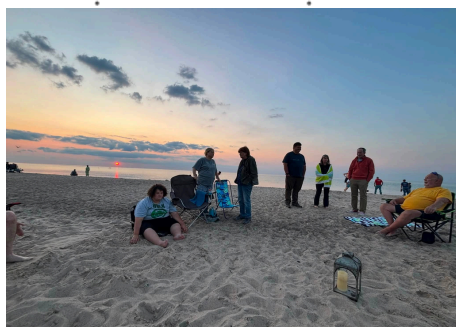
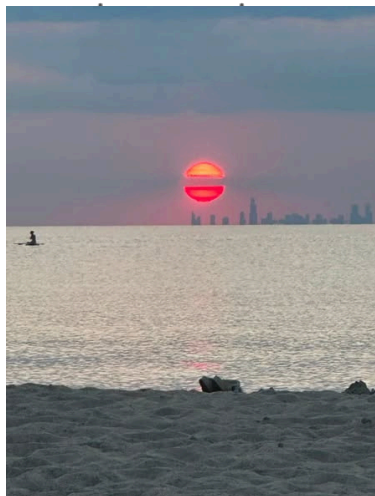
August 6 &
September 3rd
12:00 P.M.

Les Cafe in Highland

September 2026

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Game Group 10-12 B:: Steve Sundquist	3 Lunch with the Pastor 12:00 P.M. B: Samantha Messmer	4	5
6 Disciples Cafe 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	7 Labor Day B: Amelia Neyhart	8 Stitch of Time 10-12	9 Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12 B: Laurel Higginbotham	10 A: Delia & Dan Helpingstine	11	12
13 Disciples Cafe/Sunday School 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Youth Group 5-7 P.M. B: Linda Messmer A: Mia & Ron Higginbotham	14	15 Stitch of Time 10-12	16 Game Group 10-12	17	18	19
20 Disciples Cafe/Sunday School 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 Disciples Cafe/Sunday School 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	28	29	30			9

Beach Worship 2026



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9540 Fifth St.
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fcchighland9540@gmail.com

Website: www.fcchighland.net

Please
place
stamp
here

