

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

January/February 2022

2022 Lenten Study Opportunities

Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die.

Place yourself as a witness of the cross and determine what your own testimony will be!

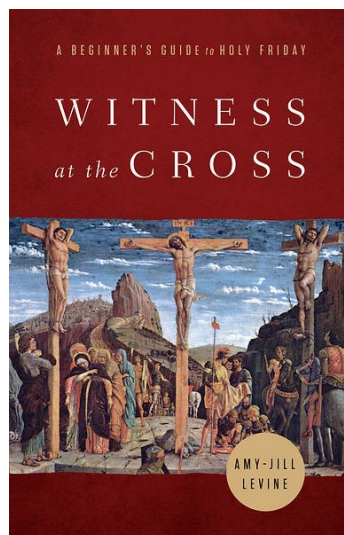
Experience Holy Friday from the perspective of those who watched Jesus die: Mary his mother; the Beloved Disciple from the Gospel of John; Mary Magdalene and the other women from Galilee; the two men, usually identified as thieves, crucified with Jesus; the centurion and the soldiers; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. Jews and Romans, friends and strangers, the powerful and the powerless, the hopeful and the despairing.

The story of Jesus's death is not something we just read: we think about it, and we experience it; we hear the taunts of the soldiers, the priests, and the passersby even as we hear the famous "seven last words" from the cross.

In *Witness at the Cross*, Amy-Jill Levine shows how the people at the cross each have distinct roles to play. Each Evangelist presents a distinct picture of the death of Jesus. Each portrays different individuals and groups of people at the cross, each offers different images and dialogues, and so from each, we learn how those meanings and messages cross the centuries to any who would come to the cross today.

Each Gospel has its own story to tell, all the witnesses have their own memories, and every reader comes away with a new insight. The witnesses at the Crucifixion watch Jesus die, and we watch with them, and we watch them. And we come away transformed.

There will be TWO opportunities to examine this book with others. See Pg. 3 for details.



Upcoming Church Events

- Homeless Lunch (2/5)
- Prayer Circle (2/9 & 2/23) 7 P.M. on Zoom;
- Bible Study (2/16) 7 P.M. on Zoom;
- Souper Bowl of Caring (2/13);
- Ash Wednesday (3/2);
- Lenten Labyrinth Walks Tuesdays at 5:30 P.M.
- Lenten Studies on Wednesdays at 7 P.M. on Zoom;
- Board Meeting (3/15);
- Online Game Night (2/25 & 3/18) at 7:30 P.M. on Zoom.

Sundays @ FCC

Disciples Café will reopen on Sunday, March 6th at 9:30 A.M.

Worship—10:30 AM

Do you like to play cards? Do you like to play Bunko? Plans are in the works for a Wednesday afternoon fellowship time. Let Debbie know if you are interested!

February 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 PRC 7:30 P.M. on Zoom	2 Bible Study 7 P.M. on Zoom	3 B: Jay Korman	4 B: Wendy Mata	5 Homeless Lunch
6 Worship— 10:30 A.M.	7	8	9 CSFP 10 A.M.-12 P.M. Prayer Circle 7 P.M.	10	11	12 B: Herbie Peck
13 Worship— 10:30 A.M. Souper Bowl of Caring	14 Valentine's Day 	15	16 Bible Study 7 P.M. on Zoom	17	18	19
20 Worship— 10:30 A.M. B: Lori Brown	21	22	23 Prayer Circle 7 P.M.	24	25 Game Night 7:30 P.M.	26 B: Debbie Benson
27 Worship— 10:30 A.M. Labyrinth Workshop 12 P.M.	28					

Lent 2022 Schedule

Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

Labyrinth Walk—12 P.M.

Worship Service—7 P.M.

Guided Lenten Labyrinth Walks

Tuesdays at 5:30 P.M.

(except Tuesday 3/22)

Lenten Weekly Book Studies

See the next column for options with the regional staff.

Wednesday Evenings with Pastor Becky at 7 P.M. on Zoom.

(Links will be emailed in the Monday email.)

Palm Sunday

April 10, 2022

Worship at 10:30 A.M.

Labyrinth Walk at 5:30 P.M.

Maundy Thursday

April 14, 2022

Labyrinth Walk at 12 P.M.

Worship at 7 P.M.

Good Friday

April 15, 2022

Labyrinth Walk at 12 P.M.

Worship at 7 P.M.

Easter

April 17, 2022

Sunrise Service Labyrinth Walk at 9:00 A.M.

Easter Worship at 10:30 A.M.

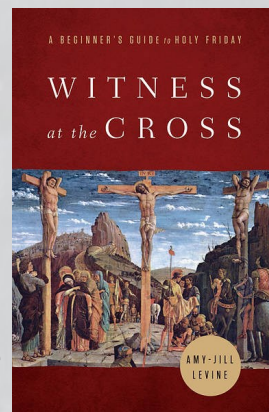
Witness at the Cross

Study Opportunities

This Lent we will be studying the book by Amy Jill Levine, “Witness At the Cross”. There are 2 opportunities for you to engage the powerful material.

1. The Regional Ministers are each offering a time of study and conversation. Rev. Rick Spleth will offer a class on Mondays at 6:30 P.M. Rev. Cheryl Russell will offer a class on Wednesdays at 1. Rev. Carolyn Reed will offer a class on Thursdays at 9:30 A.M. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet some fellow Hoosier Disciples and discuss this powerful work. If you would like to register, please see Rev. Becky. She will forward you the registration information. She also plans to join in Rev. Russell’s discussion on Wednesdays at 1 P.M..
2. I will also be offering a time of discussion and prayer on Wednesday evenings at 7 P.M.

All of the study options will be via Zoom and will begin the week of March 6th. If you need to obtain a copy of the book, please let Pastor Becky know and she will assist you. If you have any questions, please contact the office any time! May this enhance your Lenten journey to the cross.



Praying for our Friends & Family

Members of the Congregation:

Celia Newcomb, Jane Ross, Phyllis Frost, Clarence McCoy, Carol Chandler, Tim Drury, Roger Mierzwa, Dolores Cave, Nancy Cave

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, Sandy, Robert Dean, Terry & Marty Chidalek, Cole, Jerry Zolmer, Liz Griffin, Mary Jones, Lauren, Chris Dury, Al Eckert, Cherie Coolidge, Millie, Melissa Belar, Cathhart Family, Mike Cole, Faith, Bill Carroll, Ron Spore, Ed Charbonneau, Jackie, Jim Pasour, Ron Straker, Louise Wolak, Nikki Sweeny, Phil, Barbara Blaze, Florence Kolbi, Taft/Weber Family, John Kelly, Patricia Eaton, Dale Bodine, Michael & Linda Tusai, John Houchin, Susan Worrell, Jeff Meyers, Theresa

The Wider Community: Divides in our nation, COVID-19 deaths surpassing 900,000, the escalating situation with Russia and Ukraine

Joys: Steve Sundquist working on Commissioned Ministry, Pastor Becky's new designation as a Labyrinth Facilitator

Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
Worship 12/5/21	\$1716.49
Christmas	\$25.00
TOTAL	\$1741.49
Worship 12/12/21	\$3283.79
Worship 12/19/21	\$1785.41
Christmas	\$105.00
Blue Christmas	\$23.00
TOTAL	\$1913.41
Worship 12/26/21	\$603.79
Christmas	\$40.00
TOTAL	\$643.79
Worship 1/2/22	\$2736.51
Initial	\$55.00
Christmas	\$25.00
TOTAL	\$2816.51

Fifth Street Figures Continued...

Worship 1/9/22	\$960.00
Worship 1/16/22	\$2142.58
Initial	\$40.00
Homeless Lunch	\$15.00
TOTAL	\$2197.58
Worship 1/23/22	\$2021.89
Initial	\$10.00
Sober School	\$1100.00
TOTAL	\$3131.89
Worship 1/30/22	\$1206.08
Week of Compassion	\$25.00
Hall Rental	\$50.00
TOPS	\$200.00
Reimbursement	\$14.00
TOTAL	\$1495.08

November Figures

General
Income: \$12,689.39
Expenditures: \$9935.66

Outreach
Income: \$150.00
Expenditures: \$50.00

December Figures

General
Income: \$7482.00
Expenditures: \$11,537.64

Outreach
Income: \$170.00
Expenditures: \$260.00

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 Grace Kristoff and she will be happy to share that information with you.

Elder & Deacon Serving Schedule

February 6, 2022

Sharon Worrell-Schroader (Elder)
David Michalak (Deacon)

February 13, 2022

Debbie Benson (Elder)
Olivia Sundquist (Deacon)

February 20, 2022

Mandy Bridges (Elder)
Justin Meyers (Deacon)

February 27, 2022

Mary Ellen Carpenter (Elder)
Brad Chandler (Deacon)

March 6, 2022

Delia Helpingstine (Elder)
Ken Cengel (Deacon)

March 13, 2022

Grace Kristoff (Elder)
Brandon Meyers (Deacon)

March 20, 2022

Steve Sundquist (Elder)
Linnea Sundquist (Deacon)

March 27, 2022

Brenda Michalak (Elder)
Janis Bermingham (Deacon)

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Don't be afraid; from now on you will fish for people." Luke 5: 10

Year End Reports

Debbie Benson has been compiling Year End Reports from Department Chairs and Executive Board Members. Normally, we would share these reports following a congregational dinner, but the Board feels it is not yet safe enough to share a community meal with COVID numbers being as high as they are. Hopefully, by next year, we can share in meals once again. Let that be our hope! Until then, Debbie has packets of reports regarding ministry in 2021 ready for your review. Please let her know if you would like a copy and she will get a packet to you. The reports will show a lot of great Kingdom-building work!

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

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(Disciples of Christ)
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(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.



Splinters from the January Board Meeting

At the last Board Meeting, the following were key issues discussed:

- A new microphone will be added to the lectern for better sound quality. The funds were donated.
- A temporary prayer wall will be added outdoors to engage the community in their prayer life. David Michalak has agreed to build it for us!
- The Board voted to have a bi-monthly newsletter.

The next Board meeting will be held on March 15th at 7 P.M. All Elders and Deacons are included on the Board along with Executive Chairs and Department Chairs. Everyone's participation is important! Please save the date on your calendar.

FCC Welcomes David Boban!

Our new pianist, David Boban, who has been playing for us the past few weeks, will be joining our worship team officially as the Director of Music. The church he is currently serving is closing so he will need to continue with them until July. He knows, as does the Worship Team, that the recorded playing is not ideal, but this is the reality with which we are faced. As you have heard, David is a wonderful musician and he will bring wonderful music to us—online at first and then in-person. He also plans to take a couple of Sundays off from his closing congregation to be with us in-person and we will celebrate that when it happens. We ask for your patience and understanding as we make this important transition with our new Minister of Music. Please also pray for the Catholic Church that he serves in South Holland as it closes. That is not an easy reality for any congregation to face. Blessings on our continued worship and praise together.

Labyrinth Updates!

Pastor Becky has recently been designated as a Veriditas-trained Labyrinth Facilitator. She now has a lot more tools than she had before for leading Labyrinth Walks (both at the FCC Labyrinth as well as in other locations). You may have noticed that there are several Labyrinth Walks on the March calendar. So you have more tools in YOUR belt, Rev. Becky is offering a Seminar on **February 27th right after church (there will probably be treats of some sort)**. For those who join in online, there will



either be a livestream or a recording of the presentation you can watch. It will last no longer than a half hour but you will learn important facts and fascinating ways we will be able to not only use the labyrinth ourselves but offer opportunities for the wider community to deepen their connections with the divine. If there is any inclement weather on scheduled labyrinth walks, she has a portable canvas labyrinth we will be able to use indoors instead.

March 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Fat Tuesday 	2 Ash Wednesday Labyrinth Walk 12 P.M. Worship 7 P.M.	3	4	5
6 Disciples Café Re-opens 9:30 A.M. 1st Sunday of Lent Worship 10:30 A.M. B: David Michalak	7	8 Guided Lenten Labyrinth Wak 5:30 P.M.	9 Senior Food Box Dist. 10-12 Regional Book Study 1 P.M. Online Lenten Study & Prayer 7P.M. (Zoom)	10	11	12
13 2nd Sunday of Lent Worship 10:30 A.M. Daylight Savings time begins B: Dorothy Barrett Suzanne Brown	14	15 Guided Lenten Labyrinth Wak 5:30 P.M. Board Meeting— 7 P.M. B: Sharon Mor- gan	16 Regional Book Study—1 P.M. Online Lenten Study & Prayer 7P.M. (Zoom)	17 St. Patrick's Day 	18 Game Night 7:30 P.M.	19 B: Tom Cushing
20 3rd Sunday of Lent Worship 10:30 A.M. 1st Day of Spring	21 B: Justin Meyers	22	23 Regional Book Study—1 P.M. B: Sheila Cush- ing	24	25	26
Pastor Becky on Vacation						
27 4th Sunday of Lent Worship 10:30 A.M.	28	29 Guided Lenten Labyrinth Wak 5:30 P.M.	30 Regional Book Study—1 P.M. Online Lenten Study & Prayer 7P.M. (Zoom)	31 A: Ray & Debbie Benson		



Great Job Lunch Bunch!

Thank you to the Lunch Bunch crew for serving a deliciously filling meal to area homeless. On 2/5/22, they served their first meal of the year with chicken and noodles, beans, fruit cookies and a beverage. Blessings on all those who cook, deliver, and donate for this important meal!

Spring Cleaning Idea!

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. We refill the box frequently! Thank you for all your donations!



Opportunities to Serve

Love
remains

Week of
Compassion
Special Offering
FEBRUARY 20-27



Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your gifts to Week of Compassion bring hope out of despair, find blessings amid devastation, and help transform loss into new life. Your contributions bring tangible relief and change the course of lives. When you give, you help rebuild communities recovering from disaster. You also empower farmers to grow new kinds of crops in a changing climate; you support refugees; you empower youth through education, and empower women through vocational opportunities. In so many different ways, your gifts of love have the power to transform lives. Love is shelter. Love is a listening ear. Love is community. Love is a hopeful future. Love is a path forward. When all else seems lost, love remains.

On Memorial Day 2019, tornadoes swept through the Miami Valley of Ohio, destroying thousands of homes and apartments and leaving a trail of downed trees and power lines in their wake. Many of the tornado-affected families have had to relocate multiple times since the tornadoes due to substandard housing conditions and inflated rent. Two years after the storm, the Stephens family were still unable to find adequate living quarters. The family of ten was forced to live apart. In addition to dealing with unscrupulous contractors, the family had to haggle with insurance companies as they tried to rebuild their home. The Stephenses, like so many other families, remained in temporary housing and separated, pending the completion of repairs. Yet, all was not lost. The Stephens family connected with the Miami Valley Long-Term Recovery Operations Group, and volunteer teams finished the repairs. Alongside these traditional home repair projects, and with support from Week of Compassion, the MVLTRG helped launch the Tornado Survivors' Pathways to Homeownership Project to help alleviate the housing crunch in the Dayton area. Volunteers and local nonprofits work together to trans-

sition "nuisance" properties and vacant lots into affordable, single-family housing options for tornado survivors who were displaced from rental housing, stabilizing both families and the community. First-time homeowners receive the support they need to build for their futures. Sammy Deacon, Brethren Disaster Ministries Long-Term Project Leader, says "When you reach out to help someone else, the blessing comes back to you as well. An important aspect of the recovery effort is listening to people's stories and knowing you have the opportunity to help them—physically and spiritually." With support for long-term recovery, including innovative programs like the Pathways to Homeownership project, Week of Compassion helps create opportunities for families to thrive after disasters. Because love remains.



Week of
Compassion

And now
these three
remain:
faith, hope,
and love.
But the
greatest
of these
is love.

1 Corinthians 13:13

photo: ACT Alliance Chambers

Church Briefs:

New Address for Mandy Bridges

5007 70th Ave.

Schererville, IN 46375

New Address for Phyllis Frost

Legacy @ Cedar Creek

18275 Burr St.

Lowell, IN 46356

(There is no new phone number yet but you can be connected to her room by calling 219/225-2513.)

Many Thanks!

Thank you to **David & Brenda Michalak** for cleaning up the Advent and Christmas decorations!

Thank you to **Ray and Debbie Benson** for taking care of ice issues at the church. All is well thanks to them!

Thank you **David Michalak** for hanging the Book Nook sign! It looks great!

Super Job!

The Senior Food Box Ministry is now up to 40 boxes for distribution! Well done Debbie Benson for your compassionate care in making sure those in their Golden Years have enough to eat! If you know of anyone 60 or older in need of a little help with food each month, see Debbie for details and sign-up.

Online Game Night

February 25, 2022

& March 18, 2022

7:30 P.M.

Warm up the winter evening with a cozy and fun game on Zoom! February will be a Disney-themed night! The last one for the year will be the March Game Night. Don't miss out on the fun!

News From the Pews

Bible Study

We will be continuing our journey through the Bible in February. Bible Study will be held on Zoom at 7 P.M. on February 16th and we will finish our study of Exodus. The Zoom link will be posted on Facebook as well as emailed out on the Monday prior to the 16th. We look forward to learning more fascinating facts about our Bible together!



Prayer Circle

February 9th & 23rd

7:00 P.M. on Zoom.

Together, let us share our concerns and joys and offer them to our God who is with us in all things.



Card Shower for Roger Mierzwa

Roger has had a tough couple of months and is a bit down. Let's shower him with love and laughter by sending him some funny thinking of you cards! Please send them to:
9973 Joliet St.
St. John, IN 46373
Thank you!

Souper Bowl of Caring February 13th!

Let's celebrate Super Bowl Sunday with the Souper Bowl of Caring! Bring cans of soup for the Blessing Box to worship. How many cans of soup can you bring?! If you are joining online and want to add to the pile, let either me or Linda Messmer know and we will work it out on your behalf. Can we donate more than 50 cans?! The gauntlet has been thrown!



NWI Interfaith Coalition on Welcoming Afghan Refugee

Check out the Facebook group for the NWI Interfaith Coalition on Welcoming Refugees. We are connected with the Welcome Network for ways we can offer welcome to our new neighbors from Afghanistan.

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

Remarks from Rebecca

Dear FCC Family and Friends,

I want to share that I see you. I know that there is a lot going on in your lives and a lot going on in the world. I am aware that there are changes in the church that feel strange and not what we are used to. The fact that we have been weathering this 2 year long storm of the pandemic, I understand that it is getting old. I get that there is concern for our worship numbers and our future. Believe me. I see you. I share fears and frustration too. So do others. But along with the fear and the frustration, I also have FAITH. Faith that God will help us weather this pandemic storm. Faith that God is guiding the church into the future with integrity and goodness. Faith that in all things, God in Jesus Christ are with us.

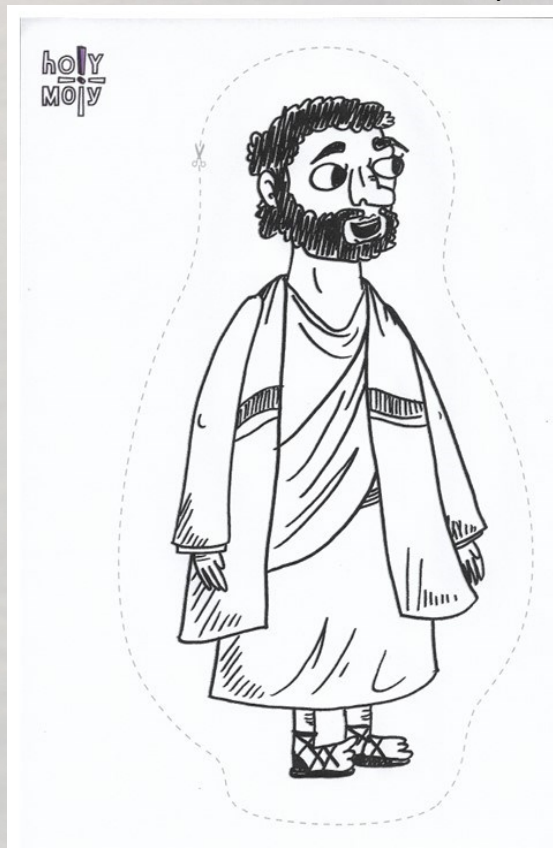
I would like to hold space for you in all that you are carrying. Oftentimes we (and I include myself in this) get stuck in how I should be feeling or disgusted that I am not feeling what I want to be feeling. Friends, we are in a liminal space that is uncertain about the future, grieves for the past, and yet somehow can still laugh in the present moment and have hope in what is to come. Again... I see you. I am here for you. God will be faithful to us. May we hold onto trust that through it all, blessing upon blessing is our gift. You are loved.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Becky

2022 Flat Jesus

Cut him out, color him and take pics of him in places you experience our Emmanuel! Send them to Pastor Becky.



Pastor Becky and Family will be Gone for a week in

March! As plans for Spring break are being made, please note that the Sundquist Family will be out of town the week of March 21st and returning on March 25th. The Elders will be available for any pastoral care issues and emergencies that arise. They will keep Pastor Becky updated as needed.





Heart Finger Labyrinth

Interested in Disaster Response and Recovery?

FCC Highland is teaming up with FCC Valpo on a mission trip to Mayfield, KY following last fall's devastating tornado. Working through Week of Compassion, we are going to work together to help those who lost so much. There **will be an informational**

meeting on Sunday, February 20th at 5 P.M. at FCC Valpo (1507 E Glendale Blvd, Valparaiso, IN 46383). If you cannot attend the meeting but

would like more information, please let Rev. Becky know.

The group is looking for a week long trip in either June or July. The dates will be on the agenda at the meeting. All

skill levels are welcome to participate.



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday March 2, 2022
Labyrinth walk – 12 P.M.
Worship Service – 7 P.M.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

