

# The Messenger



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Our Mission is to Celebrate and Share Christ's Love through feeding the Body & the Soul.

9540 Fifth St. Highland, IN 46322

219/924-5400

[www.fcchighland.net](http://www.fcchighland.net)

Late Fall/Early Winter 2025/2026



## Week One: Vigilant Hope

Isaiah 2:1-5 (Isaiah's Vision) & Mark 13:24-37

## Week Two: Prophetic Peace

Matthew 3:1-12 (John the Baptist's Story) & Malachi 3:1-6

## Week Three: Unexpected Joy

Luke 1:39-55 (Elizabeth's Story) & Isaiah 61:1-4,8-11

## Week Four: Merciful Love

Luke 1:57-80 (Zechariah's Story) & Psalm 89:1-4, 19-26

## Christmas: Embodied Promise

Luke 2:1-20 (Mary's Story) & Isaiah 9:2-7

## First Sunday after Christmas: Generational Praise

Luke 2:22-40 (Anna's Story) & Psalm 148

## Epiphany: Courageous Defiance

Matthew 2:1-15 (Joseph's Story) & Exodus 1:8-2:10

## Upcoming Church Events

- December calendar (p. 2)
- Prayer concerns (p. 4)
- Serving Schedule (p. 5)
- Mission & Ministry opportunities (pp. 6-7)
- Remarks from Rebecca (pg. 8)
- January calendar (p. 9)

Sundays @ FCC

Disciples Café  
9:30 A.M.

Worship  
10:30 AM

Youth Group  
5- 6:30 P.M.



# December 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1</b> Good Grief Group Therapy 10-11:30 A.M. A: David & Maribel Boban	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Game Group 10-12 B: Ray Benson, Marc Obregon	<b>4</b> Lunch with the Pastor @ Les Café 12:00 P.M.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Homeless Lunch
<b>7</b> Advent 2 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Angel Tree Gifts due. B: Kathy Drury	<b>8</b> Good Grief Group Therapy 10-11:30 A.M.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12 B: Dolores Cave, Jamie Neyhart	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> Advent 3 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Christmas Cookie & Craft Luncheon B: Sarah Williams-Perez	<b>15</b> Good Grief Group Therapy 10-11:30 A.M.	<b>16</b> B: Max Schroader	<b>17</b> Game Group 10-12	<b>18</b> Longest Night Blue Christmas Service 7:00 P.M. B: Mickey Mitchell	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Instant Christmas Program Rehearsal 10:00 A.M.
<b>21</b> Christmas Program Advent 4 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Christmas Eve Worship 10:30 P.M.	<b>25</b> Christmas	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
				Office Closed		
<b>28</b> Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. B: Linnea Sundquist	<b>29</b> B: Tania Messmer	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> New Year's Eve			
		Office Closed				

### Christmas Cookie & Craft Luncheon

Join us for a fun Sunday afternoon on December 14th after church. We plan on doing some "holiday crafting" and enjoying lunch together. There will be lots of Christmas crafts for all ages to make and take home. Sandwiches, chips, veggie tray and drinks will be provided. We will also be having a "Cookie Bake Off". We are asking everyone to bring their favorite Christmas Cookies to share. And we will vote for the best and favorite cookie. Hope you will join us for a great afternoon.



### Roof Repair Update

We wanted to let the congregation know of repairs to the church roof that are needed immediately. We have over the last 2 winters experienced ice dams over the front door and in the back over the offices. Both have caused damage to the roof. The roof is now leaking with several rafters sagging which is causing the problem. The concern is that this winter could be harsh and more severe damage could occur. We have called out 3 companies to look at the situation and the board agreed to hire Reliance Roof Troop to do the work. The work has already been completed. The cost will be \$8922.00. We have filed a claim with our insurance company. An adjuster came out to inspect the damage and there was some damage done due to weather. After the claim, we received about \$250 toward the cost of the roof. Ray & Debbie Benson, Property Chairs

### Consecration of 2026

Pledged Giving will be Sunday, December 14th during worship!

Please bring your pledge cards to worship that day (or mail them to the church before 12/14) to the attention of Linda Messmer. All pledges will be included in the blessing.

### Staff Love Gift

It's that time of year again when we all are busy preparing for the holidays. We have eaten the last of the turkey and pumpkin pie and our thoughts turn to Black Friday Deals, tree decorating, Christmas dinner and gifts to give. Speaking of gifts to give, Christmas is the perfect time to thank those people

who give their gifts and talents to the church all year, our church staff. They have provided faithful worship, beautiful music, caring hearts and listening ears, to everyone whether in person or those on-line, every week without fail. Our staff is Pastor Becky Sundquist -"Our Journey Guide", Kevin Messmer-"Mr. Tech Man", David Boban- "The Music Man", and Melinda Hawley -"The Cleaning Lady". Debbie Benson will be collecting for our

"Staff Love Gift". You can give it to her in person, or you can mail it to her 2585 Tulip Lane, Hobart, In. 46342. Please have it to her by 12/22.



## Praying for our Friends & Family

### Members of the Congregation:

Dolores Cave, Don Dean, Judy Olen, Ashley Moss, Tom Cushing, Natalie, Dawn Wolak, Ron Higginbotham, Lori Bigger, 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, Jim Pasour, Ron Straker, Barbara Blaze, Taft/Weber Family, Paul Graegin, Christine Phillips, Marian Huizenga, Bill Murphy, Matt Murphy, Spencer Gordon, Michael Cole, Chris Cole, Tim Gasaway, Anne Fairfield, Kaden & Mara Luthringer, Jim Moss, Dave Horvat, David Cole, Scott Bridges, David Cole, David Harding, Pam Wynne, Tony, Steve and Bethany Chemeil, Dominick Certa, Lisa, Michael John, Elizabeth and Chris, Madge, Jacob Sutherland, Charles Fliter, Marie, Carol, Jasper, John, Pea Pod, Wyatt Raymond, Glen Marker, Lee Howard, Kevin (Natalie's caregiver), Heather, Jenny, Jennifer, The Ray Family, Family of Andrea Meyers;

**The Wider Community:** War in Ukraine and War in Middle East; global natural disasters; violence and division throughout the nation (unrest in the US); Hurricane recovery in Jamaica and the Caribbean; 200 deaths in Brazil; 100 deaths in Gaza; people struggling with food insecurity;

## Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
Worship (9/28/25)	\$1535.83
Reconciliation	\$80.00
Total	\$1615.83
Worship (10/5/25)	\$1476.72
Reconciliation	\$100.00
Total	\$1576.72
Worship (10/12/25)	\$1695.00
Worship (10/19/25)	\$4000.83
Thanksgiving Offering	\$50.00
Christmas Offering	\$50.00
Total	\$4100.83
Worship (10/26/25)	\$625.83
Worship (11/2/25)	\$2040.83
Worship (11/9/25)	\$671.72

## Fifth Street Figures Continued...

Worship (11/16/25)	\$2422.83
Thanksgiving Offering	\$25.00
SASS	\$8965.37
Total	\$11,388.20

Worship (11/23/25)	\$290.00
Reconciliation Offering	\$25.00
Total	\$315.00

## September 2025 Figures

### General:

Income: \$6940.00  
Expenditures: \$9492.80

### Outreach

Income: \$100.00  
Expenditures: \$100.00

## October 2025 Figures

### General:

Income: \$7957.00  
Expenditures: \$10073.08

### Outreach

Income: \$100.00  
Expenditures: -

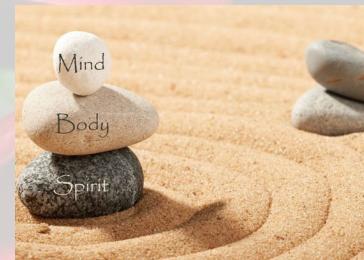
Thank you for your faithful giving to the ministries of our beloved church!

If you are interested in receiving the financial statements for First Christian Church, please contact Delia Helpingsine and she will be happy to share that information with you.

The 2026 Budget was approved by the Board at the October board meeting (10/21/25).

The 2026 budget was approved unanimously by the congregation on Sunday, October 26th.

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."



**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](http://www.fcchighland.net)  
email: [fcchighland9540@gmail.com](mailto:fcchighland9540@gmail.com)  
Check us out on Facebook!

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



Pastor Office Hours:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday  
(9:30 A.M.—1:00 P.M.) or by appointment

Pastor Rebecca Sundquist

Cell phone: (217)341-4105

Email: [becky.sundquist@gmail.com](mailto:becky.sundquist@gmail.com)

YouTube: First Christian Church Highland IN

Facebook: First Christian Church Highland IN

## INDIANA DISCIPLES 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 (Age 5+ 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



## Elder, Deacon, & Acolyte Serving Schedule

December 7, 2025  
Elder—Debbie Benson  
Deacon—David Michalak  
Acolyte—Daniel Perez

December 14, 2025  
Elder—Mary Ellen Carpenter  
Deacon—Tania Messmer  
Acolyte—Cameron Ferguson

December 21, 2025  
Elder—Delia Helpingstine  
Deacon—Marc Obregon  
Acolyte—Wells Sundquist

December 28, 2025  
Elder—Sharon Worrell-Schroader  
Acolyte—Dean Perez

January 4, 2026  
Elder—Brenda Michalak  
Deacon—Don Dean  
Acolyte—Ally Messmer

January 11, 2026  
Elder—Debbie Benson  
Deacon—Ashley Moss  
Acolyte—Daniel Perez

January 18, 2026  
Elder—Mary Ellen Carpenter  
Deacon—Brad Chandler  
Acolyte—Cameron Ferguson

January 25, 2026  
Elder—Delia Helpingstine  
Deacon—Rhonda Ryba  
Acolyte—Wells Sundquist





## Ways You Can Be A Part of the Action!

### Lunch Bunch News

2024 Serving Dates:

December 6

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



### Blessing Box

### and Book Nook News

We are always in need of items for the Blessing Box, especially hygiene products. With the ongoing SNAP issues, we are seeing more and more folks in need of support. We are grateful for anything (hygiene products, cleaning supplies, and food) you bring to be given away as the need is great!



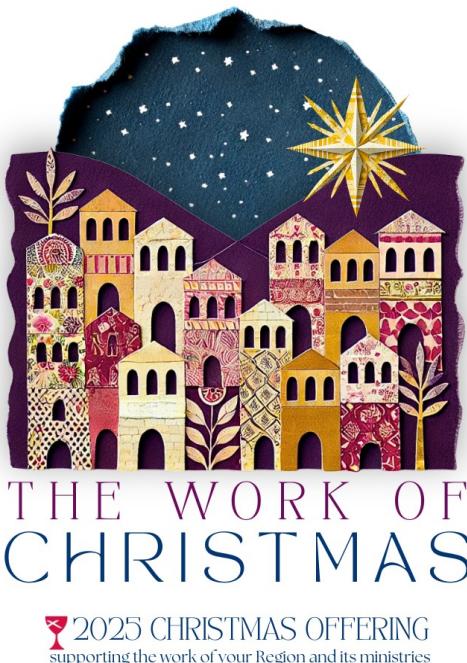
We also continue to receive books of all kinds to put in the Book Nook and they are well received!

### 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!

## Opportunities to Serve

*...the One who began a good work in you will continue to complete it...*  
-Philippians 1:6



1/13 & 1/20

### A STITCH OF TIME

A Ministry of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Highland, IN

Creating handcrafted blankets for those undergoing chemotherapy.



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.”*

Thank you to ALL who contributed to the 2025 Angel Tree that supports students of Highland.

Due to the inclement weather on 11/30, Angel Tree gifts will be due on 12/7. Thank you for all the ways you are creating Merry and Bright holidays for Highland families!



“For unto us a child is born”  
Isaiah 9:6



## Many Thanks

Fellowship Committee  
for a fun Chili Cook-Off  
Our winner was Tania  
Messmer for Best Chili!  
Over \$100 was collected  
for the Blessing  
Box!



## Game Group

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of  
each month!

10-12.

Join this fun  
group and

be blessed!



Many thanks to the crew  
who helped decorate the  
sanctuary for Advent and  
Christmas this season! The  
Michalaks (thanks for the  
pizza!), The Messmers, The  
Campbells, and the  
Sundquists!

*Thank You!*

## News From the Pews



2025 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

We celebrate the life and  
resurrection of  
Jean Morgan.

June 16, 1936—November  
15, 2025



A Celebration of life will be at  
the church on Saturday, January  
24, 2026

Visitation—10:00 A.M.

Service—11:00 A.M.

*In the bulb there is a flower; in the seed, an apple tree; in cocoons, a hidden promise: butterflies will soon be free! In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season, something God alone can see. (Natalie Sleeth)*

The Mission of First Christian Church is  
to celebrate and share Christ's love  
through feeding the Body and the Soul.  
- amended August 7, 2022

The next Board Meeting is  
Tuesday, January 20th  
7:00 P.M.  
In Fellowship Hall.





### Lunch with the Pastor

Join Rev. Becky for monthly lunches with the Pastor! There is no real agenda, but ideas and feedback are welcome topics. Mostly, she wants to use this time to have one-on-one time with those who participate. Lunches are scheduled for Thursday, December 4th and January 8th at 12 P.M. at Les Café in Highland (2708 Highway Ave).

Dear FCC Sisters and Brothers,

As we move through the final weeks of the year and into a new one, we find ourselves at a crossroads of reflection and anticipation. December invites us to remember—the flicker of Advent candles, the quiet mystery of Christmas, and the stories we carry with us from the year behind. January urges us forward—toward resolutions, fresh hope, and the unknown road ahead.

In these winter months, nature teaches us about the sacred rhythm of rest and renewal. The trees stand bare, not barren—but preparing. The cold pushes us inward, not just physically but spiritually. It is in these quiet, even uncomfortable spaces that God often speaks most clearly.

This season, whether you are overflowing with joy or feeling weary from the weight of the world, may you find comfort in the truth that God is with us—not only in the celebrations, but in the silence. Emmanuel, still.

As we cross into a new year, may we dream boldly, hope vigilantly, and walk humbly together—believing that even in the longest night, the light is coming.

**What dreams are you holding?  
What healing are you hoping for?  
What new beginnings might God be whispering into your life?**

Let us journey together, with grace.

Grace and Peace,  
Rev. Becky



# January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				<b>1</b> New Year's Day Happy 2026! <div style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">Office Closed</div>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Epiphany Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Feast of the Epiphany B: Carol Coolidge	<b>7</b> Game Group 10-12	<b>8</b> Lunch with the Pastor at Les Café 12:00 P.M.	<b>9</b> B: Carol Chandler	<b>10</b> B: Tim Brown
<b>11</b> Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	<b>12</b> Good Grief Group Therapy 10-11:30 A.M.	<b>13</b> Stitch of Time 10-12	<b>14</b> Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> B: Dean Perez
<b>18</b> Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	<b>19</b> MLK Day Good Grief Group Therapy 10-11:30 A.M.	<b>20</b> Stitch of Time 10-12 Board Meeting 7:00 P.M.	<b>21</b> Game Group 10-12	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Celebration of Life for Jean Morgan 11:00 A.M. B: Grace Kristoff
<b>25</b> Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Congregational Dinner & Meeting	<b>26</b> Good Grief Group Therapy 10-11:30 A.M.	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

# Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

STREAMING ONLINE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE  
BEGINNING AT 12 P.M.

IN-PERSON ONLY - 10:30 P.M.



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
9540 FIFTH ST.  
HIGHLAND, IN 46322  
[WWW.FCCHIGHLAND.NET](http://WWW.FCCHIGHLAND.NET)  
219/924-5400

First Christian Church

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

Phone: 219-924-5400  
E-mail:  
[fcchighland9540@gmail.com](mailto:fcchighland9540@gmail.com)  
Website:  
[www.fcchighland.net](http://www.fcchighland.net)

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

