

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

Late Spring/Early Summer 2025

LETTERS OF FIRE

“Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared
among them, and a tongue rested on each
of them. All of them were filled with Holy Spirit.”

ACTS 2:3-4

New Sermon Series Launch: *Letters of Fire*

Exploring Paul's Epistles Through the Spirit's Flame

From Pentecost to Advent | Sundays at FCC (DOC) Highland, IN

Throughout this Pentecost season, we're igniting something powerful. Beginning Pentecost Sunday, June 8th, we launch a new 25-week sermon series titled “**Letters of Fire: Paul's Epistles Through the Lens of Pentecost.**” This series invites us to walk alongside the Apostle Paul, not just as a distant theologian, but as a Spirit-filled guide—someone whose life and letters still burn with urgency, compassion, and transformational truth.

Why “Letters of Fire”?

At Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came like tongues of flame, empowering the early church with boldness, unity, and love. As we journey through Paul's epistles this season, we'll see how that same Spirit continues to shape our lives today—rekindling faith, challenging assumptions, stirring hope, and calling us to deeper community and courageous witness.

Each week, we'll explore a different letter or passage from Paul, paired with prayerful reflection, discussion questions for small groups, and hands-on activities that bring the message to life. From Romans to Philippians, from prison letters to pastoral ones, we'll discover that

Paul's words weren't written in cold ink—they were set ablaze by the Holy Spirit.

Whether you're new to Paul's writings or have read them for years, this series is for *you*. Come with questions, doubts, passion, and openness. Come expecting fire.

Join us every Sunday at 10:30 A.M., and invite a friend, neighbor, or coworker. Let's journey together from Pentecost to Advent, hearts open to the Spirit, as we read these ancient letters with fresh eyes and renewed faith.

Upcoming Church Events

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

Sundays @ FCC

Disciples Café
9:30 A.M.

Worship

10:30 AM

Youth Group
5- 6:30 P.M.

Summer Schedule



June 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Graduation Sun- day Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. B: Janis Bermingham	2	3	4 Game Group 10-12	5	6	7 Homeless Lunch
8 Pentecost Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	9 A: Rev. Becky & Steve Sundquist	10 Stitch of Time 10-12	11 Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12 B: Blake Neyhart	12	13 B: Grace Neyhart	14
15 Fathering Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	16 B: Jean Morgan, Sharon Worrell- Schroader	17 Stitch of Time 10-12 B: Brandon Meyers	18 Game Group 10-12	19	20	21
Vacation Bible School (9-11:30 A.M.) @ Ridge UMC						
22 Installation of Elders, Deacons, & Officers Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	23	24 B: Mary Ellen Carpenter	25 Sacred Balance At the Labyrinth 12:00 P.M. A: Sharon W.S. & Adam Schroader	26	27	28
29 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	30 B: Lori Bigger, Mandy Bridges, Mike Pennanen					

VBS 2025!!
Pre-k thru 5th!
Register
Today!

June 16-20,
9-11:30 A.M.



2025 CAMP SCHEDULE

- June 9-14 Explorers (completed grades 4-5)
- June 16-21 Middle School (completed grades 6-8)
- June 23-28 CROSS (Sports, completed grades 6-12)
- June 30 -July 5 High School (completed grades 9-12)
- July 7-12 MAD (Music, Art, Drama grades 6-12)
- July 17-19 You & Me 1 (age 5+ w/ an adult)
- July 21-23 New Beginnings (completed grades 1-3)
- July 24-26 You & Me 2 (age 5+ w/an adult)



Praying for our Friends & Family

Members of the Congregation:

Tim & Kathy Drury, Dolores Cave, Don Dean, Judy Olen, Ashley Moss, Grace Kristoff, Tom Cushing, Brenda 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, Cherie Coolidge, Jim Pasour, Ron Straker, Nikki Sweeny, Barbara Blaze, Taft/Weber Family, Sophia Morgan, 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, Annie Haschke; Than; Molly, Tony, the Beres Family, Sue Bigger, Steve and Bethany Chemeil, Justin Meyers, Val Rushing, Dominick Certa, Jacob Sutherland, Lisa. Michael John, Family of Colleen Barczak, Chuck Fliter, Elizabeth and Chris, Andrea Meyers., family of Terry Mavity, Bobby, Grayson, Pat (Grace Kristoff's sister-in-law).

The Wider Community: War in Ukraine and War in Middle East; global natural disasters; violence and division throughout the nation;

Joys: Graduations

Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
Worship (3/23/25)	\$1530.00
Worship (3/30/25)	\$361.00
Worship (4/6/25)	\$1520.00
Worship (4/13/25)	\$1872.72
Easter Offering	\$55.00
Total	\$1927.72
Worship (4/20/25)	\$2890.00
Easter Offering	\$130.00
Total	\$3020.00
Worship (4/27/25)	\$946.00
TOPS	\$50.00
Total	\$996.00
Worship (5/4/25)	\$755.04
Worship (5/11/25)	\$3042.20
Worship (5/18/25)	\$2075.87
Worship (5/25/25)	\$1610.00

Fifth Street Figures Continued... March 2025 Figures

General:

Income: \$8741.00

Transfer from Capital Funds: \$3798.00

Expenditures: \$9754.79

Outreach

Income: 232.00

Expenditures: 362.00

April 2025 Figures

General:

Income: \$7613.15

Transfer from Capital Funds: \$3809.00

Expenditures: \$12,829.78

Outreach

Income: \$413.00

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 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
email: fcchighland9540@gmail.com
Check us out on Facebook!

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

News from the Christian Church in Indiana!

The CC(DOC) in Indiana Mission

Indiana Identity Statement

The Christian Church in Indiana is a diverse community of congregations called by God to act together in love.

We Value . . .

Christ's Table: We extend Christ's welcome to all through worship and communion.

Connection and Care: We are called to accompany one another.

Shared Wisdom: We gain insight in community.

Mutual Ministry: We do our ministry and mission more effectively together.

Spiritual Leadership: We nurture each one's call as gifted by the Spirit.

We Imagine . . .

A region that engages in networks of diverse relationships which shape our shared mission and ministry. We envision collaborative efforts that assist individuals in expressing their spiritual gifts, equip congregations to serve in their context and give witness to God's hope for a new community. This compels us to allocate our energy and resources in fresh ways and to call forth leadership throughout the region to fulfill this vision.

*Written by the Manna Process,
2010-2012*



CHRISTIAN CHURCH
| (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST) | IN INDIANA

Elder & Deacon Serving Schedule

June 1, 2025

Elder—Delia Helpingstine
Deacon—Don Dean

June 8, 2025

Elder—Sharon Worrell-Schroader
Deacon—Brad Chandler

June 15, 2025

Elder—Brenda Michalak
Deacon—Linda Messmer

June 22, 2025

Elder—Debbie Benson
Deacon—David Michalak

June 29, 2025

Elder—Mary Ellen Carpenter
Deacon—Tania Messmer

The July Deacon schedule will be out soon!

July 6, 2025

Elder—Delia Helpingstine

July 13, 2025

Elder—Sharon Worrell-Schroader

July 20, 2025

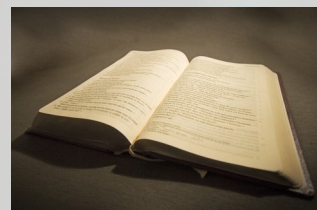
Elder—Brenda Michalak

July 27, 2025

Elder—Debbie Benson



If you are interested in serving as a lector/
worship leader on Sunday mornings, please
see Brenda Michalak
or the church office
for open Sundays.
Your voice is im-
portant in worship





Ways You Can Be A Part of the Action!

Lunch Bunch News

2025 Serving Dates:

June 7th

August 2nd

October 4th

December 6th

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 hygiene products and cleaning supplies for the Blessing Box. These items often go more quickly than the food. Please consider donating today!



Puzzles, coloring books, and board games are fun additions to the Book Nook!

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

GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

2025 PENTECOST OFFERING
SUNDAYS JUNE 1 & JUNE 8



IMAGINATION FREEDOM INNOVATION UNITY CREATIVITY

COMMUNITY SPIRITUALITY JUSTICE TRAIN EQUIP ASSIST



THE 2025 PENTECOST OFFERING IS A SPECIAL OFFERING IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW CHURCH MOVEMENT IN YOUR REGION AND ACROSS THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Stitch of Time Knitting Ministry

Every 2nd & 3rd Tuesday of the month
10:00 A.M.-12:00 P.M.

Knitting & Crocheting blankets for people undergoing chemotherapy.



The 2025 Farm Season is rapidly approaching!

The official start date will be posted soon.

Work hours for the summer will be the same as last year:

Monday and Thursday (3-5 P.M.)

2025 VBS Outreach Project

The VBS Mission Project is making Hospital Kits for kids.

We are in need of the following items:

No sew blanket kits, Push Pop Game It Fidget handheld toy

Stress balls for kids, Nightlight for kids

Mini Lego sets, Uno cards (or similar games)



Please bring them to church prior to June 16th. If you have any questions, see Rev. Becky! The VBS Outreach is in partnership with Stitch of Time.

Address Changes:

Herbie Peck
Sunrise of Flossmoor
19715 Governor's Highway, #129
Flossmoor, IL 60422
(219)384-7022

Carol Coolidge
11011 Village Square Ln.
Apt. 158
Fishers, IN 46038

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, July 15,
2025 7 P.M.

Game Group

1st & 3rd Wednesdays of
each month!

10-12.

Join this fun
group and be
blessed!



Installation of Elders,
Deacons, & Officers
Sunday, June 22nd
during worship.
We will also rededicate
leadership that is
continuing on in their
leadership roles.

News From the Pews

Newly Elected Board Members

At our April Board Meeting the board members approved a slate of officers for the next three years. On May 4 th after church the congregation approved the slate of officers. The following people will serve from July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2028:

Moderator: Debbie Benson Treasurer: Delia Helpingstine

Vice Moderator: Sharon Worrell Shroader Asst Treasurer: Mary Ellen Carpenter

Secretary: Lori Brown Financial Secretary: Linda Messmer

Clerk: Shelia Cushing

Trustee: Don Dean Permanent Fund Trustee: Brad Chandler

Elder: Debbie Benson

Deacons: Brad Chandler, Linda Messmer, Mark Obregon*, Ashley Moss*, Rhonda Ryba*

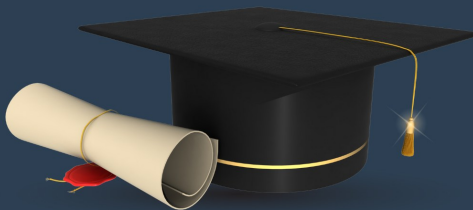
We are so excited to have as new Deacons Mark, Ashley and Rhonda. They are a wonderful addition to our Board. There will be copies of the Official Board in the Narthex if you want one.

Boomwhacker Rehearsal
rehearsal dates to be
announced soon!



2025
Class of

GRADUATION SUNDAY
JUNE 1, 2025



Save the Date!

Lifeline Screening is
coming to FCC

September 29

8:00 A.M.—5:30 P.M.

More information will
come soon!

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 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."

Dear FCC Sisters and Brothers,

As the warm summer days unfold, we are invited to pause, breathe, and embrace the quiet moments that often get lost in the busyness of life. June and July offer us an opportunity to slow down and reflect on the season's invitation to renewal, growth, and deepening faith.

This summer, I encourage each of us to consider how we might encounter God in the simplicity of every-day life. Whether through a walk in nature, time spent with loved ones, or moments of solitude, may we find ourselves open to the quiet whispers of God's presence. The Psalmist reminds us, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). In the stillness of summer, may we listen for God's call and be attuned to the beauty of this season of growth.

Our church will continue to offer opportunities for community and connection throughout the summer. We will gather for worship each Sunday, with special focus on deepening our spiritual lives together. Summer is also a time for service and outreach, and I invite you to consider ways you can be involved in the mission of our church, whether through volunteering, supporting local efforts, or simply reaching out to those in need.

I want to thank each of you for your continued support and commitment to our shared ministry. Your prayers, presence, gifts, and service are a testament to God's work in our midst. As we embark on this summer season, may we be reminded of the joy of community, the blessings of rest, and the transformative power of God's love.

Let us embrace the summer with open hearts, ready to receive the gifts God has in store for us. May our faith grow deep as the days grow long, and may we continue to be light and love in the world.

Grace and Peace,
Rev, Becky



O God,
you are
my
God;
earnestly
I seek you;
my soul
thirsts for
you;
Psalm 63:1

Please note fluid office hours for the next few months!

While Rev. Becky completes Practicum and Internship for her MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, our regularly scheduled offices will be in flux. If you need her in the office, please call ahead of time to be sure she will be there. While she will still be working the same amount of hours for the church, they will be a bit different for the time being. Please do not hesitate to reach out to her!

July 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Game Group 10-12	3	4 Independence Day	5
6 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	7	8 Stitch of Time 10-12 B: Kevin Messmer	9 Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12 A: Tim & Kathy Drury	10	11 Parents Night Out @ Ridge UMC 5:30-8 P.M.	12
13 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	14	15 Stitch of Time 10-12 Board Meeting 7 P.M.	16 Game Group 10-12	17	18	19 B: Brad Chandler
20 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	21	22	23 Sacred Balance At the Labyrinth 12:00 P.M.	24	25	26
27 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. A: Jeff & Marcie Messmer	28	29	30 Beach Worship 7 P.M.	31 B: Adam Schroader		

Bring your own chair or
towel to sit on!



Beach Worship
Wednesday, July 30th
7:00 P.M.

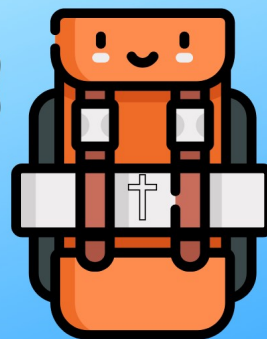
@ Indiana Dunes National Park - Porter Beach

Carpooling is helpful as the parking fee is \$25.
Please do not let cost prevent you from attending.
See Rev. Becky for questions or more info (she also has an annual park pass!).

BACKPACK BLESSING

Sunday

Students
and Teachers
of all ages
and grades!



Start the
school year off
on the right foot!

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2025

@ Ridge UMC
8607 Columbia
Munster

Parents' Night

JULY 11, 2025
5:30 - 8 P.M.

Babysitting, Dinner, Activities, &
Movie provided for Kids for Free!
RSVP with Pastor Becky!



Sacred Balance

Labyrinth Experiences

One Wednesday of each month (6/25 & 7/23) @ 12 P.M.
Receive tools for balance you can take with you every day.

Konnie Kuiper's



KONNIE KUIPER IS OPENING HIS MUSEUM!

Friends of Love INC and their guests are invited to an exclusive, rare opening of Konnie's Museum to enjoy his collection of antique classic cars and more. There are interesting collections of all sorts! What are you waiting for? The tickets are limited.

All proceeds from this fundraiser will go to

Love INC of Greater Hammond!!!

Date: FRIDAY, June 6, 2025

Time: 6:00 – 8:30 pm.

***Admission is \$15.00 (Minimum age is 9th grade.)**

Location: 1423 Gatlin Drive, Griffith, IN 46319

(It is near Colfax St. and the state auto emissions inspection site.)

Please respect the following restrictions: No children under 9th grade. No food or drinks. No photos, videos, etc. on any type of device. Teens need to be accompanied by an adult responsible for their behavior. No touching of the items on display. Your courtesy will be appreciated.

You can purchase tickets using this QR code for your convenience.



TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE at the Love INC office at 1400 N. Broad Street in Griffith. Please call ahead. Our office is open for ticket pick up on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 9:30 am to 2:30 pm. The Love INC office phone number is 219-923-2775.

You may also purchase tickets at the door, but space is limited.

Additional Donations Welcomed and Appreciated

Love INC is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization registered with the IRS

LETTERS OF FIRE

PAUL'S EPISTLES THROUGH
THE LENS OF PENTECOST

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

