

# 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)

January/February 2023

## What's New for 2023?

There are several new opportunities and initiatives at FCC Highland this year! As we continue to bring forth outdoor worship opportunities through Church of the Wilderness and mainstay ministries at FCC like the Farm, the Labyrinth, Senior Food Boxes, the Blessing Box, Homeless Lunches and more, we are adding some new opportunities for you to be blessed by. Here is some of what's new for 2023:

1. A Stitch of Time Knitting & Crocheting Group—Sheila Cushing will be organizing this new group that she plans to have meet a couple of times a month. Plans are still in the works and information will be coming soon. Talk to Sheila if you are interested!
2. Movie Nights—This group will meet approximately quarterly or led by the Spirit. In other words, there is no set time for the gatherings but movies will be involved. Rev. Becky will host the first one at her home on March 31st at 6 P.M. and will feature the movie, "Swimmers". Dinner will be included! Please RSVP so she prepares enough food. Also, kids are welcome to attend and there will be other activities for them with the in-house babysitters to entertain them!
3. Milestone Ministry—Rev. Becky has introduced the Milestone Ministry to our congregation. This will be an ongoing ministry that engages the sacred in the every day activities of our lives and celebrates the good accomplishments and honors the difficult ones.
4. The Story: Getting to the Heart of God's Story—this will be a series that looks at the entirety of the Bible told in novel form. We will explore this dynamic series in the season of Pentecost in both worship and study. This is a study for all ages. More to come!
5. Faith Explorers—this is a new children/youth ministry initiative that explores faith through study and experience. Based on a scouting model, this youth ministry will engage young people in exciting new ways!

## Upcoming Church Events

- Lent, Holy Week & Easter Events (p. 3)
- February calendar (p. 2)
- March calendar (p. 7)
- Mission opportunities (p. 8)
- Remarks from Rebecca (p. 10)

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Sundays @ FCC

Disciples Café—  
9:30 A.M.

Worship—10:30 AM



# February 2023

**Sun**

**Mon**

**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

			<b>1</b> Game Group 10-12  Boomwhackers 6 P.M.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> B: Jay Korman	<b>4</b> Homeless Lunch
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Labyrinth Workshop 10-1
<b>12</b> Scout Sunday  B: Herbie Peck	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> Valentine's Day  	<b>15</b> Game Group 10-12  Boomwhackers 6 P.M.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> Week of Compassion Offering	<b>20</b> B: Lori Brown	<b>21</b> Mardi Gras Pancake Supper 6 P.M.	<b>22</b> Ash Wednesday Service—7 P.M.	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 1st Sunday of Lent Week of Compassion Offering  B: Debbie Benson	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Guided Labyrinth Walk 12 P.M.  Prayer Circle on Zoom 7 P.M.				



## **Lent, Holy Week & Easter 2023**

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper—February 21—6:00 P.M.

Ash Wednesday—February 22, 2023

Service of Ashes—7:00 P.M.

Weekly Lenten Labyrinth walks on Tuesdays at 12:00 P.M.

Soup & Study every Wednesday at 12:00 P.M. beginning March 1st

Lenten worship every Sunday @ 10:30 A.M.

Palm Sunday—April 2nd

Maundy Thursday—April 6th

Good Friday—April 7th

Easter Egg Scramble—April 8th

Easter Celebrations—April 9th

Breakfast @ 9:30 A.M.

Worship @ 10:30 A.M.

Blessings as you journey into the wilderness with these resources to guide and explore your walk to the cross.





## Praying for our Friends & Family

### Members of the Congregation:

Celia Newcomb, Phyllis Frost, Tim Drury, Roger Mierzwa, Dolores Cave, Nancy Cave, Sharon Morgan, Kathy Jage, Lindsey Neyhart, Tom Cushing, Family of Clarence McCoy

**Friends of the Congregation: (Please let me know if there are updates to this ongoing list)** The Yuris Family, The Murphy Family, Madge Lipka, Gene Beres and Family, Dennis Chambers, Gary Barber, Cindy Williams, Jerry Zolmer, Liz Griffin, Mary Jones, Chris Dury, Al Eckert, Cherie Coolidge, Melissa Belar, Cathhart Family, Ron Spore, Jim Pasour, Ron Straker, Louise Wolak, Nikki Sweeny, Barbara Blaze, Taft/Weber Family, Michael Tusai, Susan Worrell, Jeff Meyers, Terry Mavity, Louis Spannik, Jeri Sears, David Coolidge, Tim Gasaway, Joshua Russell (deployed to Afghanistan), Jack, Lee, Chris, Faith, Jon Carpenter, Marty Chidalek, Austin & Rachel Scherer, Laurel Higgenbotham, Margie Cole, Sophia Morgan, Marilyn Jacobsen, Zvette Schuster, Sandi Lamb, Rita Messmer, Ed Gnaidek, Jim Pasour, Terry, Laura Miller, Jeff Mayer, Uncle Chris, Renee

**The Wider Community:** War in Ukraine; recent mass shootings

**Joys:** Kevin's recent good bill of health! Susan Worrell improved health, a higher pledge campaign for 2023, a wonderful Advent & Christmas season, a promising 2023

## Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
Worship 11/27/22	\$1114.23
Thanksgiving	\$20.00
Christmas	\$25.00
TOTAL	\$1159.23
Worship 12/4/22	\$949.23
Thanksgiving	\$20.00
Angel Tree	\$200.00
Christmas	\$45.00
TOTAL	\$1214.23
Worship 12/11/22	\$1984.23
Love Gift	\$25.00
TOTAL	\$2009.23
Worship 12/18/22	\$1849.23
Christmas	\$25.00
Sass Distribution	\$6471.03
TOTAL	\$8345.23

## Fifth Street Figures Continued...

Worship 1/1/23	\$4993.02
Initial	\$25.00
Christmas	\$40.00
TOTAL	\$5058.02

Worship 1/8/23	\$1343.50
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Worship 1/15/23	\$3134.23
Initial	\$25.00
Sober School	\$1000.00
TOTAL	\$4159.23

Worship 1/22/23	\$1244.37
Hall Rental	\$40.00
TOTAL	\$1284.37

## November 2022 Figures

### General

Income: \$5599.00  
Transfer from Capital Fund \$3300.00  
Expenditures: \$9858.83

### Outreach

Income: \$105.00  
Expenditures: —

## December 2022 Figures

### General

Income: \$10,602.03  
Transfer from Capital Fund: \$2,500.00  
Expenditures: \$10,776.71

### Outreach

Income: \$975.00  
Expenditures: \$1535.00

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” to  
“Our Mission is to celebrate and share  
Christ’s love though feeding the Body and  
the Soul.”

This amendment was made to identify our  
passion for food justice as well as  
spiritual growth in God in all we do.



### **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](http://www.fcchighland.net)** for weekly and daily updates on both platforms.

FCC is now on Instagram!!

Follow fcchighland today!

### **Our Mission Statement is to celebrate and share Christ's love through feeding the Body and the Soul.**

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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:  
Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday  
(10:00 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)

### **Elder & Deacon Serving Schedule**

Worship 1/29/23  
Elder: Brenda Michalak  
Deacon: David Michalak

Worship 2/5/23  
Elder: Mary Ellen Carpenter  
Deacon: Janis Bermingham  
Lector: Janis Bermingham

2/12/23  
Elder: Delia Helpingstine  
Deacon: Justin Meyers

2/19/23  
Elder: Sharon Worrell-Schroader  
Deacon: Olivia Sundquist

2/26/23  
Elder: Brenda Michalak  
Deacon: Linda Messmer

3/5/23  
Elder: Debbie Benson  
Deacon: David Michalak

3/12/23  
Elder: Mary Ellen Carpenter  
Deacon: Brad Chandler

3/19/23  
Elder: Delia Helpingstine  
Deacon: Don Dean

3/26/23  
Elder: Sharon Worrell-Schroader  
Deacon: Linnea Sundquist



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 important  
in worship leadership!



## Looking for Indoor Fun this Winter?

Do you like to play Card games - Yahtzee - Dominoes - Bunco? The Game group has a ball every time they gather. If you are looking for some fellowship with some all star people and a relaxed atmosphere with classic games, then check out the Game Group! We will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month from 10:00 to 12:00. Bring your favorite game - bring a friend - and come join us for fun and fellowship. See Debbie Benson for details.



## Boomwhackers Rehearsal Schedule

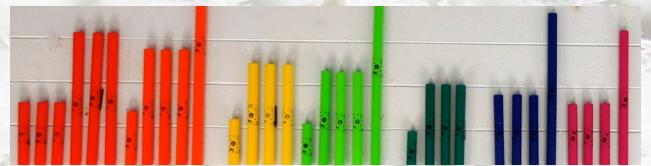
Great job on your debut performance! The Boomwhackers Chorus meets every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month. As we meet in the snowy months of winter, we will cancel rehearsal in the case of inclement weather. For the next couple of months, rehearsal will be at the following dates & times:

February 1, 2023 @ 6 P.M.

February 15, 2023 @ 6 P.M.

March 1, 2023 @ 6 P.M.

March 15, 2023 @ 6 P.M.



## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

SPRING FORWARD

March 12, 2023



Rev. Rick Spleth, Regional Minister & President of the Christian Church in Indiana, has announced his intention to retire September 1, 2023. We celebrate his 22 years of service to Indiana Disciples and this wonderful new chapter of his life in retirement!

# BAPTISM

Interested in Baptism? See Rev. Becky

Well done faithful stewards of FCC Highland as our pledges for 2023 have exceeded those of 2022! Your faithful giving ensures a bright and vibrant future for the ministries of our church!

# March 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> Game Group 10-12 Soup & Study 12 P.M. Boomwhackers 6 P.M.	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 2nd Sunday of Lent	<b>6</b> B: David Michalak	<b>7</b> Guided Labyrinth Walk 12 P.M.	<b>8</b> Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12 Soup & Study 12 P.M.	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> Daylight Savings Time Begins 3rd Sunday of Lent	<b>13</b> B: Dorothy Barrett & Suzanne Brown	<b>14</b> Guided Labyrinth Walk 12 P.M.	<b>15</b> Game Group 10-12 Soup & Study 12 P.M. Boomwhackers 6 P.M.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 4th Sunday of Lent  B: Tom Cushing	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> Guided Labyrinth Walk 12 P.M.  Board Meeting 7 P.M.	<b>22</b> Soup & Study 12 P.M. Prayer Circle on Zoom 7 P.M.	<b>23</b> B: Sheila Cushing	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b> 5th Sunday of Lent	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Guided Labyrinth Walk 12 P.M.	<b>29</b> Soup & Study 12 P.M.	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Movie Night @ the Sundquist home 6:00 P.M.  A: Debbie & Ray Benson	





## Fantastic Job Church!

This Christmas, our congregation supplied gifts for 15 kids in Highland Schools as well as providing grocery gift cards for 10 families. Many, many thanks to all who contributed and made Christmas a season of abundance and joy to so many families.

## The Senior Food Box Ministry Thrives

The Senior Food Box Ministry continues to thrive as it serves 51 clients with a monthly supply of food staples. Each box helps offset the cost of food so that seniors don't have to make the difficult decisions like choosing between food and medicine. If you know of anyone over the age of 60 that could benefit from this service, please contact Debbie Benson. If you would like to help with this important ministry, see Debbie for volunteer opportunities. The boxes are distributed every 2nd Wednesday of the month from 10 to 12.

## Opportunities to Serve



Week of Compassion Special Offering  
February 19 & February 26

*They RISE UP ANEW each morning, so great is God's faithfulness.  
Lamentations 3: 21-23*



## Challenge Accepted!

The Outreach Committee has challenged the church to collect 100 cans of soup for the Blessing Box. We have through February to meet the goal! How many cans beyond 100 can we go? Let's score BIG!



## Church Briefs:

### Thanks!

Many thanks to David & Brenda Michalak and Linda Messmer for both decorating the church at the beginning of Advent and cleaning it all up again at the end of the Christmas season. Everything looked beautiful and it really added to the meaning of the season for us all!

Rev. Becky would like to thank to Kevin Messmer, David Boban and the Elders for helping us pivot so quickly with the looming over storms over Christmas. Your help was instrumental in making the necessary changes go so smoothly. What a team!

Thank you to Debbie Benson for making all of the arrangements so that we could participate in City School of Highland's Angel Tree.

We are grateful to have the opportunity to help those of our community have a nice Christmas.

*Thank You!*

### The 1st Homeless Lunch of 2023!

The menu is planned and the volunteers are all lined up for the 1st Homeless Lunch of the year on February 4th! Well done Lunch Bunch!

## News From the Pews

### Prayer Circle

Many of us are in need of a safe place to talk with church friends and offer prayer for the things that concern us as well as bring us joy. Try out the monthly Prayer Circle on Zoom. Generally, we meet on the 4th Wednesday of the month at 7 P.M. (though there are times we need adjust for scheduling conflicts as we will in February due to Ash Wednesday). Give the group a shot and you will be blessed.

February 28th & March 22nd  
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.

### Lenten Labyrinth Walks

Every Tuesday at 12 P.M., there will be a guided Lenten Labyrinth Walk.

Take some time out of your busy schedule to pause on the prayerful path and discover what this "wilderness walk" holds for you. In

the case of inclement weather, there will be an option for an indoor labyrinth walk. If you are unable to meet at noon on Tuesdays,

Rev. Becky will provide materials for self-guided walks on the Labyrinth page of the church website.



### Lenten Soup & Study

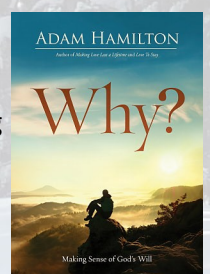
Beginning Wednesday, March 1st, Soup & Study will return at noon each Wednesday of Lent. A lunch of soup will be shared while discussing our Lenten theme for the season.

### Why?

How many times have we asked this short question with inexhaustible possible answers? Where is God when tragedy and suffering strike? When the ground shakes, and a poor nation's economy is destroyed; when the waters rise, washing away a community's hopes and dreams; when a child suffers neglect and abuse; when violence tears apart nations where is God? If God is all powerful, and if each one of us is a beloved child of God, then how can God allow tragedy and suffering to mar his creation?

In *Why?*, best-selling author Adam Hamilton brings fresh insight to the age-old question of how to understand the will of God. Rejecting simplistic answers and unexamined assumptions, he lays out core ideas for comprehending God's plan for the world, including: God will not take away our free will, even when we use it to grieve him.

God will never abandon us, especially in the midst of our suffering. While God is not the author of suffering, God will bring blessing out of tragedy.





"You crown the year with your goodness; your paths overflow with rich food." Psalm 65: 11

#### Remarks from Rebecca

I pray God will bless you in the ways that you need this 2023. I am grateful for the feel of this fresh new year and a clean slate to start anew. Armed with lessons learned from the previous year, we have started this year off well with new ideas and creativity being crafted in many areas of the church. I do appreciate these winter days when like the soil, much is happening beneath the surface that will reap a bountiful harvest later. It is an important gift—to be certain that soil being nurtured today will guide seeds to grow into bountiful harvest later on. It is a breath of fresh air when folks poke their heads into my office to say, "I have an idea..." It is something to be celebrated that the new year has brought increased pledged giving. It is truly special when the gifts our young people bring inspire something new. There is much to look forward to together this year. There is much to celebrate in the present. I am sure there will be hurdles that need to be overcome and there will be difficult moments and challenges to arise. Yet, still we will go forth together and guide others to know what we know—that God's profound love is infinite, compassionate and all-consuming. May we live into the hopefulness that this new year will bring. I know I feel such joy at serving alongside you in new ways and in not-so-new ways but in all things, life-giving ways. Blessings to you dear ones in 2023.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Becky

#### Scout Sunday—February 12th

As we have a couple of scouts in our congregation again, we will be honoring Scout Sunday on February 12th during worship. This day celebrates Girl Scouts/Brownies and Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts. All past and present Scouts are invited to be a part of this special celebration!

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

#### Splinters from the November Board Meeting

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

- Brainstorming ideas to meet our financial goals as well as our spiritual goals;
- Looking into the financial future;

**The next Board meeting will be held on March 21st 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.

*He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6: 8*



## Farm News

There is not much happening out on the Farm these days, but David's wheels are already turning for the 2023 season. May seasons past provide much needed nutrients in the soil and grow a bountiful harvest! It may not seem like a lot is



*Farm & Garden*  
First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Highland, IN

going on the Farm, but deep down, the soil is doing miraculous things for the vegetables to come!

P.S. There is still honey available from the honey harvest at the apiaries on the Farm (on

our church property). This is superb honey crafted through the Earthling Bee Company in Griffith. Let us know if you want more! Bring a clean empty jar to David Michalak and he will fill it for you.



If you would like weekly e-news from the Christian Church in Indiana please send an email to **info@indianadisciplesorg!** Keep up the latest ministries and opportunities the CCIN has for us!



**CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
| (DISCIPLES of CHRIST) | in INDIANA

## Rev. Becky Needs Your Help!

Rev. Becky has been asked to Facilitate a Labyrinth workshop in March and she would love to be able to practice on a friendly bunch! She has scheduled a "Practice Workshop" for Saturday, February 11th from 10-1. Lunch will be provided. If you have the time, she would love to be able to try out her workshop on you! Feel free to bring your friends. If you plan to attend, let her know so that she can be sure to have enough yummy goodies to share! Along with some good food, you will hopefully learn some useful information and resources about how to use our own labyrinth. Thank you for your help and consideration!



## A New Year with Flat Jesus!

Where do you experience the presence of Jesus Christ in your life? Take a pic with your Flat Jesus (either the latest addition or your favorite little flat Savior from previous years) and send it to Rev. Becky. Need a Flat Jesus? Let Rev. Becky know! Laminated pre-colored copies are available at church and/or can be sent to you.

Here is the 2023 version if you would like to color your own. Uncolored copies are available

along with lamination following the completion of your artwork!

We will we find Flat Jesus in 2023?



# Ash Wednesday

Service of Ashes  
February 22, 2023  
7:00 P.M.

First Christian Church

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

Phone: 219-924-5400

E-mail:

fcchighland9540@gmail.com

Website:

www.fcchighland.net

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

