

# 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](http://www.fcchighland@att.net)

October 2020

Greetings FCC Family and Friends!

I would like to say how very grateful I am for your generous gift to me for Minister Appreciation Month. Truly, I give thanks every day for the privilege of serving you as your pastor. While this year has certainly been "different", there is much accomplishment we have shared together. I look forward to what GOOD things are to come—even when we are faced with trials. I am confident that while we are in this season of serving during a pandemic, we do so together in love. Please accept my gratitude for this gift, for your continued support and love of my family. Blessings to you all!

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Becky

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On October 8<sup>th</sup> the Budget Committee, consisting of Debbie Benson, Mandy Bridges, Grace Kristoff, Pastor Becky Sundquist and myself, met to plan for 2021. We have put together a budget that we hope will meet the needs of our congregation for the next year. Normally the Budget would be presented to the Board and then the Congregation for approvals. We have decided that at this time we are going to have to rely on the Board's approval, as it is unreasonable to expect to have a Congregational Meeting. The Board Meeting will be on November 17<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. via Zoom. This will be an important meeting as it helps set the course for the coming year.

Your participation is vital as we consider our ministry for 2021.

You will receive a copy of the proposed Budget in an email prior to the meeting. If you have questions feel free to give me a call.

**See you on November 17<sup>th</sup> on Zoom**

Brenda Michalak  
Administration Chairperson

## Upcoming Church Events

- Water Into Wine Check-In (10/28) 7 PM;
- Drive-Thru Trunk-n-Treat (10/30) 5-6;
- All Saints Day (11/1);
- Stewardship Sunday (11/15);
- Board Meeting (11/17) 7 P.M.;
- Thanksgiving Sunday (11/22);
- Thanksgiving (11/26);
- 1st Sunday of Advent (11/29);
- Together in Joy Devotions at 11 A.M. every Tuesday;
- Online youth encounters will be every Thursday at 5 PM.

Sundays @ FCC

Storytime with Pastor Becky—  
9:30 AM

Worship—10:30 AM



# November 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> All Saints Sunday	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> Election Day  Together in Joy Bible Study 11 A.M.	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Youth Encounter 5 P.M.	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Together in Joy Bible Study 11 A.M.	<b>11</b> Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12	<b>12</b> Youth Encounter 5 P.M.  B: Dawn Wolak	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15</b> Stewardship Sunday  A: Bob & Carol Coolidge	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Together in Joy Bible Study 11 A.M.  Board Meeting 7 P.M.	<b>18</b> B: Ken Cengel	<b>19</b> Youth Encounter 5 P.M.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> Thanksgiving Sunday	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> Together in Joy Bible Study 11 A.M.  B: Amelia Bridg- es	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Thanksgiving	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29</b> 1st Sunday of Advent	<b>30</b> B: Judy Olen					

## Praying for our Friends & Family



### Members:

Celia Newcomb, Woody Messmer,  
Lida Barker, Jane Ross, Phyllis  
Frost, Jim Messmer, Rachelle Dean,  
Grace Kristoff

### FCC Friends:

The Yuris Family, John Sundquist, The Murphy Family, Madge, Cherie Coolidge, The Beres Family, Don Ring, Max Cash & Family, AC Robertson, Holly, Sandra Randolph, Dennis Chambers, Gary Barber, Cindy Williams, Nicky, Sandy, Sharon Horn and Family, Robert Dean, Terry & Marty Chidalek, Will Stackhouse, Chris Cole, Bob McGraff, Jeff Meyers, Liz Griffin, Shirley Oosterhoff, Phillip Culbertson

The Global COVID-19 Pandemic, First Responders and Essential Workers; The voices for justice coming together for reconciliation;

### Joys:

Hygiene Kit record! Worship Kit Distribution

## Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
WORSHIP 9/20/20	\$834.16
WORSHIP 9/27/20	\$1866.67
Reconciliation	\$115.00
TOTAL	\$1981.67
WORSHIP 10/4/20	\$193.97
WORSHIP 10/11/20	\$2457.87
Reconciliation	\$40.00
TOTAL	\$2497.87
WORSHIP 10/18/20	\$1259.16
Homeless Lunch	\$25.00
TOTAL	\$1284.16

### September Figures

Income:	Expenditures:
\$6203.00	\$8164.16

Thank you for your commitment and persistence in giving your gifts to the ministries of our church. Each and every penny, each and every offering of time are important. Be blessed in your giving.

### FCC Financials

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.

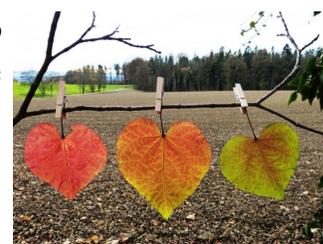
## Offering Information

Your continued giving to the church is as important as always. As you can see, the pages of the newsletter are full with ongoing and new ministries that impact our congregation, our community and beyond with the love and new life of Jesus Christ. Please prayerfully consider how you will continue to give to Christ's church to reach people with the love of God.

**To continue your pledge, please send your checks to Linda Messmer, Finance Secretary, to 314 North Griffith Blvd. Griffith, IN 46319 OR donate online at [www.fcchighland.net](http://www.fcchighland.net).**

Thank you for continuing to support the ministries of the church in this difficult time.

Each and EVERY gift makes a difference!



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

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(Disciples of Christ)  
9540 Fifth St. Highland, IN 46322  
(219)924-5400  
[www.fcchighland.net](http://www.fcchighland.net)  
email: [fcchighland@att.net](mailto:fcchighland@att.net)  
Check us out on Facebook!

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

Pastor Office Hours:  
Monday through Thursday (9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.)  
Pastor Rebecca Sundquist  
Cell phone: (217)341-4105  
Email: [becky.sundquist@gmail.com](mailto:becky.sundquist@gmail.com)



Join us for Digital Coffee Hour!  
Each Sunday after worship,  
(after the final song video is  
played), grab a cup of coffee  
and a tasty treat!  
Catch up with your church  
family and enjoy a special  
time of fellowship.



Together For Joy Weekly Devotion  
every Tuesday  
online (via zoom) at  
11 A.M.

Join us beginning in November for a study in  
Thanksgiving and Gratitude!  
(Zoom links are emailed each Monday as well as posted  
on Facebook and [www.fcchighland.net](http://www.fcchighland.net).)



### Election Day Prayer Vigil

As our nation is so deeply divided right now,  
let's pray for unity and civility during the 2020  
Election.

On Tuesday, November 3rd, FCC will host a  
Prayer Vigil for any who are interested in taking  
a half hour to hour time slot from 8 A.M.  
to 8 P.M.

Call the church office or email Pastor Becky  
([becky.sundquist@gmail.com](mailto:becky.sundquist@gmail.com)) to let her  
know if you are interested in being a part of  
this important opportunity. Prayers will take  
place at your  
homes. Feel free  
to use the Temporary Labyrinth  
too!



### The Labyrinth at FCC

First Christian Church currently has a temporary labyrinth for you to explore and meditate. Try it out before the cold of winter sets in! Our website has devotional guides and meditative music to help you walk this sacred path. You can easily access the Labyrinth page of our website with the QR code on the sign at the entrance of the labyrinth. The Labyrinth Committee hopes you will try it out and see where God's still small voice speaks to you.

The Labyrinth Committee has met and is working on a more long term fixture to our property. Monies have been set aside from the Hay Memorial for the labyrinth. Rev. Becky is also working on a Faith Formation grant through the Christian Church in Indiana to assist with costs. Its an exciting time to see a project long-hoped for become a reality! We hope you will stop by the church to check out the temporary labyrinth!

### FCC's Digital Ministry

**You have all done so well at stepping up to the plate to learn how to join Zoom, Facebook Live, or YouTube for worship, Bible Study, youth events and so much more!**  
**Please keep up the good work and share with your friends all that we are providing during this time!**

**Have you checked out our church website for weekly updates and links, worship service videos, study materials and so much more. Our website is intended to be interactive for use in your meditation spiritual practice throughout the week. We hope you will see what opportunities are in store for you!**  
**Check out [www.fcchighland.net](http://www.fcchighland.net) today!**

Every Thursday at  
5 P.M.

FCC will host  
Youth Encounters via Zoom!  
Join us as we discover the Fruit of the Spirit  
through games, song, object lessons and Bi-  
ble stories! Invite your friends!



Every Sunday at 9:30 A.M.  
gather online for

Story Time & Sing Along with Pastor Becky!  
Each week before worship, we will learn about  
Bible stories, sing new songs, and read inspiration-  
al stories. Zoom links will be posted by Saturday  
and can be found by email, Facebook, and our  
website.

*Storytime*



Sing to God  
a new song,  
for God  
has done  
marvelous  
things.

Together For Joy!

Stewardship Sunday  
November 15th

We are grateful for all the ways you give to  
the ministries of our church. Please prayer-  
fully consider how you will bless First Chris-  
tian Church in 2021!  
Please mail your pledge card to Linda Mess-  
mer to the church or her home.  
Pledges will be blessed on the 15th during  
worship!

**FCC to Host  
Drive-Thru Trunk-n-Treat  
on Friday, October 30th  
at 5-6 P.M.**

**RSVP's required!**



DON'T FORGET TO

**FALL  
BACK**

Sunday, November 1  
@ 2 A.M.



### Thanksgiving Offering

November 22, 2019

The special Thanksgiving Offering supports Disciples colleges, universities and theological institutions. Disciples have a long history of post-secondary and theological education. This offering provides a direct connection to 15 colleges and universities, 7 seminaries and theological programs. Please consider giving to the special Thanksgiving Offering.

### Blessing Box Needs You!

As the economy continues to struggle, folks are in need of food and hygiene products for the Blessing Box now more than ever. Please stop by the blessing box and offer your blessings to those in need! Many, many thanks!



## Opportunities to Serve

### Church World Service Health Kits

**Great job FCC!!** Even though we are in a terrible pandemic, our church continues to look out not only those who are close to us, but those in far away places. CWS Health Kits are a gift of love to those in need. And again, you have been so loving and generous. We have completed 114 Health Kits so far. We have set a goal of 125 and we are almost there. It is possible that we could complete 12 more kits and break that goal, but we are lacking a few items. If you haven't contributed yet, there is still time. Below is a list of things needed to complete the last 12 kits. If you can't shop, you can send a donation to Debbie Benson and she will be glad to shop for you! Thanks to all who have donated items or made kits.



Items needed: 10 towels, 12 toothbrushes, 4 bars of soap, 12 combs, and 2 boxes of 60 Band Aids.

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### Thanksgiving and Christmas for Two Needy Families

**Although we are in the midst of a pandemic, we are still volunteering to sponsor two needy families for both Christmas and Thanksgiving.**

#### Thanksgiving

**As usual, we will provide the food items required for the two families to prepare their own Thanksgiving dinner. Later in October or early in November, we will circulate a "sign-up" sheet that lists the menu items requested by the families. If you would like to participate, please select the item you would like to donate and send an email to me at [delia.helpingstine@gmail.com](mailto:delia.helpingstine@gmail.com) or call me at (219) 201-3579, and I will include you on the list. We will have a drop-off day at the church on Sunday, November 22 from 11:30 AM to 12:30 PM. If you are not shopping due to the pandemic, cash donations will be gratefully accepted. Please contact Debbie Benson. Hopefully we can make this work and stay safe at the same time!**

#### Christmas

**By mid-November, Love Inc. will have sent us the Christmas wish list. This list of gift choices will be circulated along with the Christmas dinner menu choices. Please choose the gift (s) or food item(s) you would like to donate and let me know by telephone or email. As discussed above, if you would rather not shop, but want to participate, cash donations will be accepted. The drop-off day will be December 20, 2020 and the time will be announced later.**

**Thank you for your support. It will be a rough holiday season for many, but hopefully our efforts will make a difference for two of these families.**

Friends and Family, here is a helpful link to a guide on ways to care for yourself and those closest to you during this stressful time.

<http://nami.org/covid-19-guide>

Please do not be afraid to reach out for help. This is tough stuff and help is available. Also, do not hesitate to call Rev. Becky if you just need a listening ear.

(219-924-5400)

Psalm 96:1



Sing a new song to the Lord!  
Let the whole earth sing to the Lord!

**Carole Krisco has Moved!**

**Address:**

**301 S. 725 West  
Hebron, IN 46341**

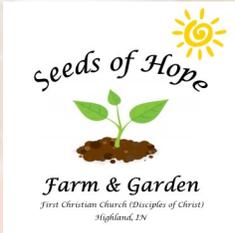
**Phone:**

**219/3052154**

**Please make this change in your church directories.**

## News From the Socially Distanced Pews

### Farm News!



As the Farm Managers we would like to say THANK YOU to all who helped make this a productive year. We donated a total of 758 pounds of produce to the Great Hammond Community Services Food Pantry. They are the only food pantry around that has fresh produce available.

From the planning, planting, watering and picking, to the running of a new water line, and putting up a fence, we couldn't have done it without your help! And a big thank you to Becky for the wonderful video she put together documenting this year on the Farm!

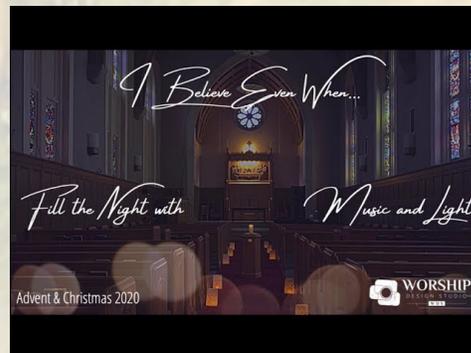
Gardeners take a well deserved break, and we'll see you back on the farm next spring.

David & Brenda Michalak

758 pounds for  
2020!!!

### The 2020 Advent Devotional

The Elders and Pastor Becky have begun working on an Advent Devotional that we hope to present to you every Monday and Wednesday throughout December. The theme is "I Believe Even When..." You are all invited to participate too! Pastor Becky has a list of Scripture passages and suggestions to help you present your devotion. The plan is to either record you through audio or video and she will pair your devotion with a Christmas Carol. While this may seem intimidating, this has the potential to be a very meaningful opportunity for you and for those who will be blessed by it. If you are interested and have some questions, please do not hesitate to ask. Pastor Becky is also willing to help you with a recording (either audio or video) if you would like. Please consider taking on a day to bring a word of hope and joy to your church family!





All Saints Day  
Sunday, November 1st

Honoring Our Saints....

First Christian Church

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

Phone: 219-924-5400  
E-mail: fcchighland@att.net

PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

