

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

September/October 2022

## SPOOKY FAITH SUNDAY

**HAS GOD EVER USED SOMETHING SCARY TO TEACH  
YOU SOMETHING?**

**CELEBRATE OUR 2ND ANNUAL SPOOKY FAITH SUNDAY WITH YOUR FCC FRIENDS  
AND FAMILY!**

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30TH**

**SPOOKY FAITH WORSHIP @ 10:30 A.M.**

**CHILI COOK OFF @ NOON**

**BRING YOUR LOOSE CHANGE AND BILLS TO VOTE ON THE BEST BOWL OF CHILI! SIGN UP  
FOR CHILI COOK-OFF ENTRIES IS ON THE BULLETIN BOARD AT CHURCH OR CALL THE  
CHURCH OFFICE TO REGISTER. ALL PROCEEDS FOR THE COOKOFF WILL GO TO TRICK OR  
TREAT FOR UNICEF.**

**THERE WILL BE A PUMPKIN DECORATING CONTEST.  
PUMPKINS CAN BE PICKED UP THE SUNDAY BEFORE. TO BE DECORATED AT HOME.  
BRING YOUR PUMPKIN BACK FOR JUDGING ON THE 30TH!**

**DRESS IN YOUR FAVORITE COSTUME OR WEAR YOUR FAVORITE HALLOWEEN ATTIRE!**

### Upcoming Church Events

- Pentecost info (p. 3)
- October calendar (p. 2)
- November calendar (p. 7)
- Mission opportunities (pp. 8-9)
- Newcomer Sunday (pg. 9)
- Remarks from Rebecca (p. 10)


Sundays @ FCC

Disciples Café—  
9:30 A.M.

Worship—10:30 AM



# October 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 Homeless Lunch
2 Disciples Café 9:30 World Communion Sunday 10:30 A.M. Reconciliation Offering Animal Blessing 4 P.M.	3 B: David Boban	4	5 Game Group 10-12 Boomwhackers Rehearsal 6 P.M.  B: Brad Brown & Wells Sundquist	6	7	8
9 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	10	11 B: Phyllis Frost	12 Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12  B: Carole Krisco	13	14	15
16 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	17	18 B: Kathi Jage & Patrick Barczak  A: Brad & Carol Chandler	19 Game Group 10-12  Boomwhackers Rehearsal 6 P.M.	20 B: Bob Meyers	21	22
23 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	24	25 B: Jeff Messmer	26 Prayer Circle 7 P.M. (Zoom)	27	28	29
30 Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Chili Cook Off 12 P.M.	31 Halloween 					



## **Celebrating and Discovering Gifts for Ministry throughout Pentecost**

The season of Pentecost is our longest liturgical season of the Christian year. It begins this June and will go through November. As we continue to explore what the gifts of the Holy Spirit are and how we can and do use them for the Great Commission, it has been a blessing to explore music, the arts and food justice with all of you! . As we finish up the last two months of Pentecost and there are ways you would like to contribute, please share your ideas! If there are areas you want to explore further and/or feel the nudge of the Spirit calling upon you, again, please let me know and I am happy to make connections with you. While the gifts of the Spirit and our use of them to respond to our calls to ministry are as creative and unique as we are, these are the remaining areas that we will explore this season:

October—The Gifts of Prayer and Praise

November—The Gifts of Giving

I am truly excited to continue these explorations of these areas and how we can experience and share the love of God in Jesus Christ through these important gifts!

**\*\*Thank you to ALL who contributed to our first ever art gallery in August. We have many talented people in our fold and this gift was very enriching!**

## **Celebrating the Life**

We offer our prayers of comfort to the Ross Family as they celebrated the life of Jane Ross who passed away September 7, 2022. Services of hope and healing were held at the church on September 11, 2022.



We also offer our condolences to the Family of Elaine Yoho who died on August 23, 2022. A celebration of life was held on August 28th.



Congratulations to Patrick Barczak on the occasion of his baptism on August 14, 2022!  
Well done faithful servant!

## **Chalice Praise Songbook Will Be Added Alongside the Chalice Hymnal this Fall!**

Purchased with funds from the Woodrow Messmer Memorial, the Board voted to add the Chalice Praise songbook to work in partnership with our Chalice Hymnal to add to our selection of music. While we will continue to sing beloved hymns every Sunday, we will also be adding some new music to worship with the beautiful music found in the songbook. The Worship Committee hopes this will add to your worship and praise of God each week. Update—the chalice praise songbooks are expected to be delivered this fall.



## Praying for our Friends & Family

### Members of the Congregation:

Celia Newcomb, Jane Ross, Phyllis Frost, Clarence McCoy, Tim Drury, Roger Mierzwa, Dolores Cave, Nancy Cave, Justin Meyers, Sharon Morgan, Kathy Drury, Mandy Bridges, Family of Elaine Yoho, Family of Jane Ross

**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, Jerry Zolmer, Liz Griffin, Mary Jones, Chris Dury, Al Eckert, Cherie Coolidge, Melissa Belar, Cathhart Family, Ron Spore, Ed Charbonneau, Jim Pasour, Ron Straker, Louise Wolak, Nikki Sweeny, Barbara Blaze, Taft/Weber Family, Patricia Eaton, Michael Tusai, Susan Worrell, Jeff Meyers, Terry Mavity, Sandi Lamb, Louis Spannuk, Jeri Sears, David Coolidge, Tim Gasaway, Robert Dean, Joshua Russell (deployed to Afghanistan), Jack, Lee, Chris, Faith, Jon Carpenter, Marty Chidalek, Robert Dean, Jeff Mayer, Bobby, Kenny

**The Wider Community:** War in Ukraine ; movement towards unity and peace; worsening Climate Crisis; recovery from Hurricane Ian.

**Joys:** Baptism of Patrick Barczak, 2022 Harvest, Weddings of Sherry Pressley & Tim Driscoll, Tiffani & Ed Sawyer, Installation of Grace Kristoff as Elder Emeritus

## Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
Worship 7/31/22	\$804.23
Worship 8/7/22	\$1144.23
Worship 8/14/22	\$6322.29
Worship 8/21/22	\$1707.58
Worship 8/28/22	\$1113.79
Worship 9/4/22	\$669.23
Loose	\$20.00
TOPS	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$789.23
Worship 9/11/22	\$1534.23
Loose	\$20.00
Reconciliation	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$1604.23

## Fifth Street Figures Continued...

Worship 9/18/22	\$1460.44
Loose	\$115.00
Reconciliation	\$25.00
TOTAL	\$1600.44

Worship 9/25/22	\$845.44
Loose	\$20.00
Reconciliation	\$125.00
TOTAL	\$990.44

## July Figures

### General

Income: \$9685.32

### Outreach

Income: \$10.00

## August Figures

### General

Income: \$7297.00

Transfer from Capital Fund: \$3000.00

### Outreach

Income: —

Expenditures: (\$39.98)

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.

On Sunday, August 7th, the congregation voted to amend the mission of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Highland, IN from “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!

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

10/2/22

Elder—Debbie Benson  
Deacon—Linda Messmer

10/9/22

Elder—Mary Ellen Carpenter  
Deacon—Brad Chandler

10/16/22

Elder—Delia Helpingstine  
Deacon—Ken Cengel

10/23/22

Elder—Sharon Worrell-Schroader  
Deacon—Linnea Sundquist

10/30/22

Elder—Steve Sundquist  
Lector—Janis Bermingham  
Deacon—Janis Bermingham

11/6/22

Elder—Brenda Michalak  
Deacon—David Michalak

11/13/22

Elder—Debbie Benson  
Deacon—Don Dean

11/20/22

Elder—Mary Ellen Carpenter  
Deacon—Justin Meyers

11/27/22

Elder—Delia Helpingstine  
Deacon—Olivia Sundquist

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

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

**Congratulations to Grace Kristoff who  
was installed as Elder Emeritus on  
Sunday, August 21st!  
We are grateful for her spiritual  
leadership of our congregation.**

**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!**



### Daylight Savings Time Ending Soon

Don't forget to "fall back" November 6th as daylight savings time ends!



All Saints Day—Nov. 1

All Saints Sunday—Nov. 6

We shall honor our saints!



### Boomwhackers Rehearsal Schedule

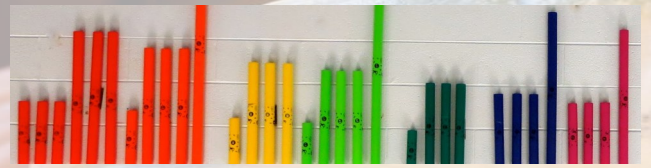
The Boomwhackers Chorus meets every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month. For the next couple of months, rehearsal will be at the following dates & times:

October 5th—6 P.M.

October 19th—6 P.M.

November 2nd—6 P.M.

November 16—6 P.M.



### Honoring Our Veterans

We will be honoring our men and women in uniform on Sunday, November 6th during worship. We give thanks to all who have served the country for the good of all.

### Splinters from the September Board Meeting

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

- Plans were discussed for Newcomer Sunday;
- New flooring was tabled for a later time;

**The next Board meeting will be held on November 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.



Gratitude Labyrinth Walk

Sunday, November 20th @ 5 P.M.



# November 2022

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 All Saints Day	2 Game Group 10-12  Boomwhackers Rehearsal 6 P.M.	3	4	5
6 All Saints Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Honoring Our Veterans	7	8	9 Senior Food Box Delivery 10-12	10	11 Veterans Day	12 B: Dawn Wolak
13 Newcomers Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	14	15 Board Meeting 7 P.M.	16 Game Group 10-12  Boomwhackers Rehearsal 6 P.M.	17	18 B: Ken Cengel	19
20 Thanksgiving Sunday Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. Gratitude Laby- rinth Walk 5 P.M.	21	22	23 Holy Hike 11 A.M.  Prayer Circle 7 P.M. on Zoom	24 Thanksgiving B: Amelia Bridges	25	26
27 1st Sunday of Advent Disciples Café 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	28	29	30 B: Judy Olen			





Soon Thanksgiving will be upon us. The Outreach Department has already started working on plans to help families in need have a bountiful holiday. Details will be coming when they are made available!

#### Wish List:

If you happen to be at the store and can throw some extra hygiene products or cleaning supplies in your cart, our mini food pantry would benefit greatly!

We also are happy to take any old books off your hands for the Book Nook.

All donations are greatly appreciated!

Give thanks with a grateful heart!



## Opportunities to Serve

# TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF



## Kids Helping Kids®, One Door at a Time.

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF is the original Kids Helping Kids campaign! This October, kids can Be Scary Good by collecting donations, big and small, that add up to life-saving change for other children around the world.

### Empowering Kids for Over 67 Years

When kids Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF, they learn the value of helping others and feel empowered to make a difference, shaping the next generation of global citizens.



### Ways to Be Scary Good

- Costume parties
- Facebook fundraisers
- Trunk-or-Treating
- Go Trick-or-Treating!

### Where Donations Go

Kids have raised almost \$180 million to help children in greatest need.

- Healthcare
- Nutrition
- Safe Water
- Education
- Emergency Relief

Any amount can make a difference for children around the world:

**50¢**  
can provide 1 packet of therapeutic food to help save a malnourished child

**\$2**  
can provide 10 bars of soap to keep kids clean and healthy

**\$5**  
can provide 1 UNICEF backpack for a child to go to school

**\$7**  
can provide 1 volleyball for kids to play and learn teamwork

**UNICEF has helped save more children's lives than any other humanitarian organization!**

**VISIT**

**[trickortreatforunicef.org](http://trickortreatforunicef.org)**

all October long and enjoy daily treats. Use #BeScaryGood, #TOT4UNICEF, #KidsHelpingKids to spread the word on social media.

The Outreach Dept is going to continue the tradition of collecting and sending money to UNICEF through their Trick or Treat for UNICEF program. Instead of having the children collect the money it can be placed into the Halloween buckets at our next church luncheon (Sunday, October 30th) voting for your favorite Chili or decorated pumpkin. Giving to UNICEF fits in with our mission since they provide therapeutic food to malnourished children. Every 50 cents provides one packet of food for a child in need. (See the flyers by the buckets for more information about this program.)



## Church Briefs:

### Thanks!

Thank you to all who baked for the Bake Sale or purchased goodies. \$150.75 was made for Homeless Lunches! For a last minute bake sale, we knocked it out of the park!

*Thank You!*

### Prayer Circle

October 26 &  
November 23

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.

### 2 New Facebook Groups for You!

There are two new FB groups to keep you updated as well as to help spread the word. Check out **The Labyrinth at First Christian Church** as well as **Seeds of Hope Farm & Garden**. Help us get the word out about these important ministries by inviting your friends to join!



Find us on:  
**facebook®**

### Got Honey?

There is still honey available from last year's 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! d family to join!



## News From the Pews

### 1st Annual Newcomer Sunday Sunday, November 13th!

#### What is Newcomer Sunday?

While newcomers and visitors are welcome all the time and any-time, it is also not the easiest thing to come to church for the first time. Newcomer Sunday is designed to help others feel some assurance that there will be other newbies there too! This takes some of the pressure off coming for the first time. Newcomers Sunday is a day that we can really show off who we are and how wonderful our congregation is!

#### Order of Events:

Pastors Breakfast for Newcomers at 9:30

Worship at 10:30

Cookie Reception along with tours of the facility and grounds at 11:30

#### How Can You Help?

We need as many people involved as possible!

Can you help greet and welcome newcomers?

Are you willing to make something for the breakfast or cookie reception?

Can you help put together bags of newcomer goodies!

Does being a "tour guide" sound interesting?

Please let Rev. Becky know!

The **BIGGEST** thing you can do is to invite people to join you for worship (especially on that day)!

Word of mouth invitations are the best way for new folks to step into the church for the first time. This is a fact!

Beyond any media or publicity sharing we do, the personal invitation is what makes a difference. Invitations will be forthcoming soon. Please check in with Rev. Becky on ways you can be a part of welcoming new faces to our wonderful church!



FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
9540 FIFTH ST. HIGHLAND, IN  
**2022 Animal Blessing**  
**October 2, 2022**  
**4 P.M.**

WWW.FCCHIGHLAND.NET

ALL ANIMALS AND THEIR OWNERS ARE INVITED TO THIS  
BLESSING!

ALL CRITTERS MUST BE SAFELY SECURED OR ON LEASHES.  
WE ASK THAT BITING ANIMALS USE SPECIAL PRECAUTIONS  
OR BRING A COLLAR OR SPECIAL TOY TO HAVE BLESSED ON  
ITS BEHALF. PICTURES OF YOUR BELOVED PETS MAY BE  
BLESSED AS WELL, ESPECIALLY IF THEY ARE NERVOUS BY  
NATURE.


LET US HONOR THE SACRED WORTH OF ALL  
ANIMALS - FURRY, SPIKY FEATHERY, HAIRY  
SLIMY, FLUFFY, AND SCALY!



### Game Group Fun!

Do you like to play Card games -  
Yahtzee -Dominoes - Bunco?  
Looking for something safe and  
fun to do during the week?  
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 fel-  
lowship. See Debbie Benson for  
details.



 **A VISION OF WHOLENESS**


**WE ARE  
THE BELOVED  
GOD  
IS WAITING FOR**

**ROMANS 8:18-23**

**RECONCILIATION MINISTRY**

**SPECIAL OFFERING**

**SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> - OCTOBER 2<sup>nd</sup>**

 [www.reconciliationministry.org](http://www.reconciliationministry.org)

**Thanksgiving**

**SUNDAY**

**NOVEMBER 20TH**

*Give Thanks With a Grateful Heart*





Higher Education &  
Leadership Ministries  
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

[Disciplesmissionfund.org](http://Disciplesmissionfund.org)

## Thanksgiving Offering 2022



Colleges

Universities

Divinity Houses

Seminaries

11/13  
&  
11/20

Interfaith  
Thanksgiving Service  
Tuesday, November 22  
7 P.M.

Location - TBD

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



CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
| (DISCIPLES of CHRIST) | in INDIANA



*"For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes." 1 Corinthians 11:23-26*

### **Remarks from Rebecca**

Dear FCC Brothers and Sisters,

Recently a colleague asked a group of his peers what the most powerful experience of communion we have had. He was asking this question for a Doctor of Ministry project he was working on. For a few brief moments I thought about my answer and I started to convey my answer in more detail than I thought I could recall. During my first pastorate serving in Springfield, IL, I took a group of people on a mission trip to the Pine Ridge Reservation in Pine Ridge, South Dakota. About midway through the week, we were on our way to our work site, when we stopped at the memorial for the Battle of Wounded Knee. We learned in detail about the massacre of the Lakota people that occurred where we stood. As Rev. Keith, our leader, taught us more than we learned in our history books and made the true story come to life for each of us, we began to feel a myriad of emotions. It was troubling to say the least. There was a very real sense we were standing on sacred and holy ground. There was shame and anger at atrocity of the massacre of over 300 Lakota people. And yet there was some hopefulness because the work we were readying ourselves to do that do could maybe bring hope to the people we sought to serve. As we were navigating the complexities of our emotions, Rev. Keith suggested we share in communion together. He started rummaging through his truck for what would serve as the Body and the Blood of Jesus. He returned to the tailgate and hopped up on the back and said, "welp, all I have is graham crackers and apple juice. I think its ok because God will understand our purpose here. Graham crackers can be the Body and apple juice will be the Blood. " Transformation can and does happen in the most unlikely places and/or with the most unlikely resources. I have never looked at graham crackers the same ever again. That day changed my understanding of the power of God to change simple things into holy things. God managed to take our shame, grief and horror at what we witnessed into a profound understanding that God invites all to the table and how we can be agents of justice and healing. There was so very much that happened in that bit of cracker and juice in that sacred place. I carry that moment with me each time I receive the bread and the cup. What about you? What experience of communion has been transformational for you?

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Becky Sundquist

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



**Psalms 23**—The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He guides me in right paths for His name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil. My cup overflows. Surely goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the House of the Lord my whole life long.



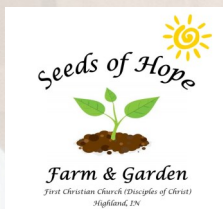
## Farm News

As the Farm continues to produce a hearty crop of vegetables, the season is starting to wind down.

Farm hours will be shared as needed. Days and times will be announced through the end of the season.

The Farm Team for this year did an outstanding job working alongside each other to plant, haul, weed, water, harvest and maintain our beautiful gardens.

The produce harvested this year supported the food pantries of Greater Hammond Community Services and St. James. At the end of September, nearly 1300 pounds of produce were donated which smashes the goal of 1000 pounds anticipated. Will we exceed 1400 pounds? We shall know soon! Good work Team!

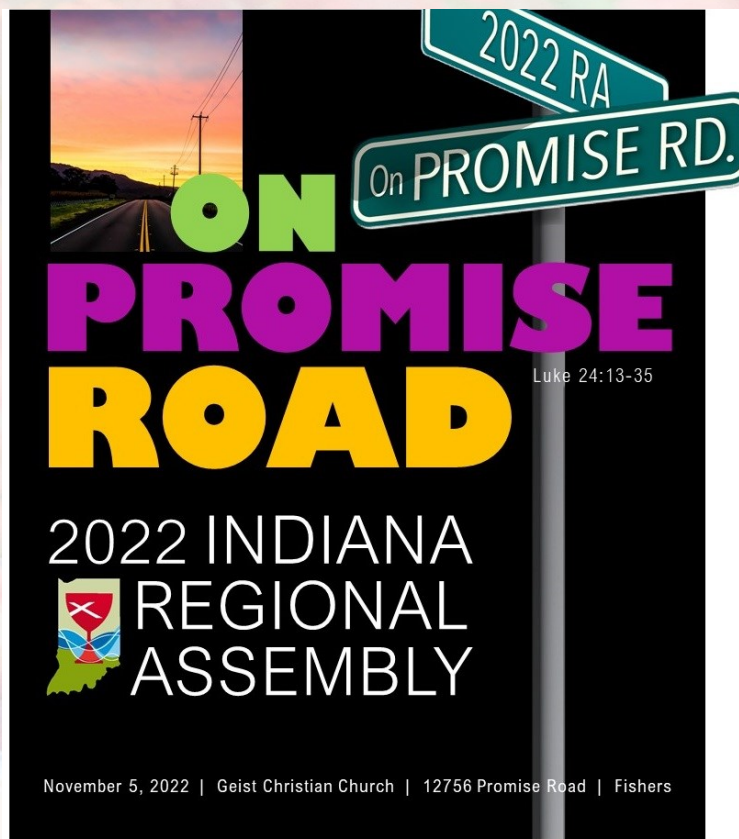


The Gratitude Hike will be November 23rd at 11 A.M.

We will walk the Coffee Creek Preserve in Chesterton.



We also still plan to hike Diana of the Dunes and that date is TBA. Rev. Becky is looking to accomplish this rugged hike in October!



2022 Regional Assembly  
"On Promise Road"

Saturday, November 5, 2022  
Geist Christian Church

Promise Road Campus / 12756 Promise Road,  
Fishers, Indiana

## Keep your Flat Jesus Pics coming!

Rev. Becky has an ongoing file she adds your Flat Jesus pics to. At the end of the year, there will be a video about all the adventures of Flat Jesus in 2022. Where do you experience the presence of Jesus Christ in your life? Take a pic with your and send it to Rev. Becky. Need a Flat Jesus? Let Rev. Becky know!



# World Communion Sunday

## October 2, 2022



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

Phone: 219-924-5400

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PLEASE  
PLACE  
STAMP  
HERE

