

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

fchhighland9540@gmail.com

April 2021

FCC Reopens Church Building on 4/11!

Welcome Home!



Photos courtesy of
Debbie Benson.

Upcoming Church Events

- Coffee Club (4/27, 5/11, 5/25) 11 A.M.;
- Water Into Wine (4/28 & 5/26) 7:30 P.M.;
- Online Devotion (5/5 & 5/19) 11 A.M.;
- Mother's Day (5/9);
- Senior Food Box Distribution (5/14) 10-12;
- Board Meeting (5/18) 7 P.M.;
- Youth Encounter (5/12 & 5/26) 4 P.M.;
- Game Night (5/14) 7:30 P.M.;
- Pentecost Sunday (5/23);
- Holy Hike (5/30) 3:30 EST;
- Memorial Day (5/31);

Sundays @ FCC

Worship—10:30 AM



May 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 A: David & Brenda Michalak Church reopens to "outside" groups
2 Worship 10:30 A.M.	3	4 A: Tom & Sheila Cushing	5 Online Devotion 11 A.M.	6 Martha Circle 1 P.M.	7	8
9 Mother's Day Worship 10:30 A.M.	10	11 Coffee Club 11 A.M. A: Kevin & Tania Messmer	12 Senior Food Box Dist, 10-12 Youth Encounter 4 P.M.	13	14 Game Night 7:30 P.M. B: Jason Thomas	15
16 Worship 10:30 A.M.	17	18 Board Meeting 7 P.M.	19 Online Devotion 11 A.M. B: Leah Helpingstine	20	21	22
23 Pentecost Sunday Worship 10:30 A.M.	24	25 Coffee Club 11 A.M. B: Don Dean	26 Youth Encounter 4 P.M. Water Into Wine 7:30 P.M.	27	28	29
30 Worship 10:30 A.M. Holy Hike Warren Dunes 3:30 P.M. EST	31 Memorial Day (Office Closed)					

Holy Hike
at
Warren Dunes State Park
Sawyer, MI

May 30th at 3:30 P.M. EST
Fingers crossed on weather!

Warren Dunes is easier hiking than Indiana Dunes, but beautiful nonetheless.

Rev. Becky will offer communion and a brief devotion. If you are interested, please let her know so we can carpool. She is also considering following the hike with dinner at one of the great locations in the area. Let her know if you are game for that too!



The Hiker's Prayer

Thank you God for the rising sun.
You've granted me another day.
Your grace is amazing; bless you faithful Lord.
The creation sings your praise, and I join the sound.
Heal my tired soul; restore my aching bones.
Lead each step along my path today.
Ease my burdens as I press forward.
Quench my thirst with your living streams.
Like the cool morning breeze, your peace refreshes me.
Steady me on the slippery slopes.
Release me from the ropes that bind me, that hold me back.
Protect me from the viper that hides.
Lift me up from this shadowy valley.
The peak is almost in sight. I am rising above this world.
Into your country, I long to go.
Bless my companions who travel with me.
The trail is rugged and narrow, but you are right beside me.
Thank you God, my trusted Guide.
Glory to your holy name. Amen.



Perennial Imprints

FCC invites you to donate toward perennials for the labyrinth that will be installed this year. You are encouraged to donate in honor or memory of your loved ones and we will share that information at the dedication of the labyrinth in 2021. Please fill out the form below and send in your money or checks to the church and/or give to Linda Messmer.

Labyrinth Perennials Order Form

Name: _____

Given in Honor/Memory of: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

(Please make checks payable to First Christian Church)

Praying for our Friends & Family

Members:

Celia Newcomb, Jane Ross, Phyllis Frost, Rachelle Dean, Clarence McCoy, Dolores Cave

FCC Friends:

The Yuris Family, The Murphy Family, Madge, Cherie & David Coolidge, The Beres Family, Max Cash & Family, Dennis Chambers, Gary Barber, Cindy Williams, Robert Dean, Terry & Marty Chidalek, Chris Cole, Jeff Meyers, Liz Griffin, Kole Lamb, Melissa Beller, Steve and Lisa Cushing, Mike Cole, Bill Carroll

The Global COVID-19 Pandemic, First Responders and Essential Workers; the deep divides in our nation

Joys:

Reopening the Church Building, The Book Nook Ministry; The expanded Blessing Box, The new Bee hive for the Farm, The Labyrinth Ministry, Vaccine Distribution!!

Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
WORSHIP 3/21/21	\$1559.89
Easter Offering	\$75.00
TOTAL	\$1634.89
WORSHIP 3/28/21	\$813.54
Easter Offering	\$25.00
Labyrinth Flowers	\$20.00
TOTAL	\$858.54
WORSHIP 4/4/21	\$1497.14
Easter Offering	\$80.00
TOTAL	\$1577.14
WORSHIP 4/11/21	\$2838.97
Easter Offering	\$30.00
TOTAL	\$2868.97
WORSHIP 4/18/21	\$2592.94
Initial	\$30.00
Recycling	\$48.85
TOTAL	\$2671.79

Marc Figures

	Income:	Expenditures:
General Budget	\$6,434.00	\$8,315.66
Outreach	\$140.00	\$245.47

FCC Giving

As the church building has reopened, your giving will be welcomed during worship on Sunday mornings during the offertory. We are also grateful for your offerings received through the mail directly to the church (9540 Fifth St. Highland, IN 46322).



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.

Please consider remembering First Christian Church (Highland, IN) in your legacy planning. As your future is assured because of our Risen Lord, you can assure the future of your church with a legacy gift in your estate planning. Thank you for prayerfully considering this blessing to our wonderful church.

FCC 2021 Budget

If you would like a copy of the 2021 Budget, please contact the church office.

Remarks from Rebecca

I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:14

Dear FCC Sisters & Brothers,

I have been participating in a regional book study about “liminal space”. This is the space where something ends and before the unknown new begins. It is this uncertain space that is both hopeful and uncertain, trusting and yet doubting. It is opening up the church after months of being closed!

I am not sure what I expected when we reopened the building, but in my mind I thought it would be joyous. And it was! At the same time, it was strange and new. Likewise grief over so many things that have happened in this past year cast a pall over the celebration of reopening the building. It was an experience of liminal space. It can be hard to put your finger exactly on what feels strange but you just know it does.

And so gingerly we move forward offering kindness, grace and a listening ear to one another. We trust that God has new bounty in store for us (see “The Tale of the 3 B’s on page 8). We allow each other space for healing from what we have been through, we honor our present reality as we see and feel it, and move forward on step at time. We need to remind ourselves that we do not occupy this liminal space alone (though there is space to be alone if you need it). We forge ahead wiser, hopefully kinder, with laughter and joy when we can, and hopeful. This is how the Easter season has spoken to me this year. God’s blessings on you all as we continue onward with courage and faith. Grace and Peace,
Rev. Becky

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(Disciples of Christ)
9540 Fifth St. Highland, IN 46322
(219)924-5400
www.fcchighland.net
email: fcchighland9540@gmail.com
Check us out on Facebook!

Story Time: 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



Ways to Connect Online!

Did you know that our worship service is streamed live and recorded on multiple different venues or platforms? Not only do we use zoom, but we also use Facebook Live and YouTube Live! Join the Facebook group and/or page under First Christian Church Highland IN. You can also subscribe to our YouTube channel under the name First Christian Church Highland IN. Recordings of the service are posted on our Facebook page/group as well as the YouTube channel and website (www.fcchighland.net)!

Spread the word to new folks too!

Even after the church reopens, we will continue to offer digital options for joining us in worship.



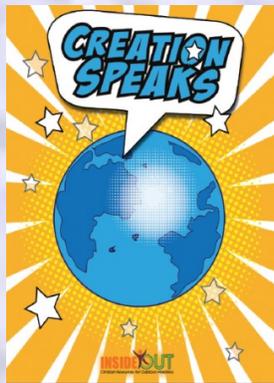
Interested in Baptism?

There is one candidate for baptism this year and we are looking at Pentecost as the possible day to celebrate this beautiful commitment to Christ.

If you have been feeling the Spirit calling you to commit to the life of faith in Jesus, let Rev. Becky know!

Summer Church Camp 2021!

Check out www.indianadisciples.org for a list of camps, dates, COVID-19 precautions and registration. Don't miss the early bird rates!



Flat Jesus Project

As we complete our journey through the Easter season and prepare for Pentecost, let's get out our Flat Jesus friends and see what adventures he goes on with us! Wherever you feel especially close to God, take a moment with Flat Jesus and give thanks. Take a picture of your adventures with Flat Jesus and send them to Pastor Becky!

You can find a pdf of Flat Jesus on the church website.. Color him and put a popsicle stick on the back if you like. You can also cut this one out!

Contact paper will protect him (or Pastor Becky can laminate him!).

Youth Encounter

Days & Times have changed!

FCC youth will meet via zoom twice a month on the 2nd & 4th Wednesdays of the month at 4 P.M.

Each time we gather, we share in lessons for kids that include Bible stories, videos and songs.

Invite your friends!



Digital Coffee Hour Continues!

Digital Coffee Hour will continue to be offered for those who worship online. We look forward to connecting with those of our church family who are worshipping remotely!



Connected by the Spirit: Biweekly Online Devotion!

Connected by the Spirit will meet ONLINE via Zoom the 1st & 3rd Wednesdays of each month. Please make note that this group no longer meets weekly.

(Links will be emailed the Monday prior to that weeks devotion.)

Joins us for devotion, prayer
and conversation!

Church Women United

May Friendship Day

May 7, 2021

Salvation Army

8225 Columbia Ave.

Munster, IN

Registration 10:30 A.M.

Worship 11:00 A.M.

Luncheon to follow.

“Fellowship of Least Coin”

May Game Night!

Join us for our monthly game night
May 14th at 7:30 P.M.

What game would you like to play in May?

Wheel of Fortune

Pictionary

Family Feud

Let Rev. Becky know!

Join us for a night of laughter and fun!

Coffee Club Resumes!

Coffee Club has resumed meeting IN-PERSON every 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month at 11 A.M. in the FCC Lounge. During this time, we will share in study, prayer and conversation. At this time, please do not bring any beverages or food. We will share goodies in the future though! Masks are required.



Water Into Wine

May 26th at 7:30 P.M.

This online fellowship opportunity meets on the 4th Wednesday of each month. All are welcome to grab a glass and have great conversation!



Outreach Opportunities

A Tale of the B's

In recent months and weeks, some additions have been brought to the ministries of First Christian Church. When the snow was still gathering (I am not talking about the snow this week—that was just plain cruel!), David was building a larger Blessing Box that would hold more food for those in need. In the meantime, he was having conversations with Nicky Jones of the Earthling Bee Company (Griffith) regarding a bee hive for the Farm. At the same time, Ray and Debbie were removing the old Blessing Box, giving it a fresh coat of paint and mounting it in its new location right next door the larger Blessing Box.

All in the course of a week, the 3 B's converged onto the church! The bigger Blessing Box was put into place. The Book Nook was mounted. The bees arrived on the farm. What a week with so much activity!

The larger Blessing Box now holds more food. We have noticed more usage of its content since the pandemic has begun. We have also noticed that a lot more folks in the area are filling it with donations to help out.

The Book Nook provides free books for people of all ages. Since it was put up, books have been going and people are being blessed by the written word.

Finally, the new bee hive is a win win for us and for the Earthling Bee Company. The bees will pollenate our farm and help provide a greater yield. The bees having access to our plants will help them make honey. More veggies for us. More honey for EBC. (An aside, honey bees are pretty docile and really just want to eat pollen. The hive is located in the far field and David plans to put a fence around it to keep them safe.)

What a week! What a healing thing to be around all the buzz of activity. Well done, David, Ray and Debbie!

Homeless Lunch 2021

Dates:

June 5, 2021

August 7, 2021

December 4, 2021

See Delia Helpingstine or Sharon Worrell-Schroader if you would like to participate in this important ministry.

Great job Lunch Bunch on serving a wonderful lunch April 3rd!



Thank You:

To all who helped with the reopening of the church building, many thanks! There were many hands that went into the preparations and a lot of thoughtfulness into safely reopening. Well done!

2021 PENTECOST OFFERING BE THE NEW CHURCH

SUNDAYS MAY 16 AND MAY 23

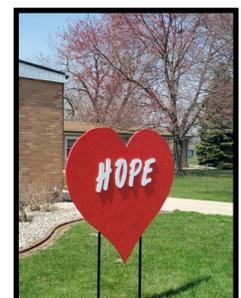




Many Thanks!

Well-deserved thanks to Linda Messmer & Debbie Benson for their wonderful work putting an Easter Egg Hunt on for little ones. It was a fun day for kids and adults alike and brought a lot of joy to all! Many thanks to the Easter Bunny for making a special appearance!

To the Combatting Covid Committee:
Your church is grateful for your hard work this past year in making safe and thoughtful recommendations to the Board during this pandemic. While your work is not yet complete, the congregation would like to say thank you for all you have done throughout the year. It was not an easy committee to serve on as many difficult decisions needed to be made, but with faith, guidance from God, the region, and the CDC, you served the congregation and the community well.



FCC Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 18th @ 7:00 P.M.
Fellowship Hall

If you are unable to attend in-person, a Zoom connection will be available in order that you may attend digitally. Please let Debbie Benson know if you plan to be there or are unavailable. All Elders and Deacons are members of the Board and are encouraged to attend.



Pentecost Sunday
May 23, 2021

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

