

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

fcchighland9540@gmail.com

November 2020

I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus.
1 Corinthians 1:4

Greetings FCC Family and Friends!

As Thanksgiving rapidly approaches, many of us are making plans to celebrate the day, planning menus and preparing our tables for the feast. Many of us are making hard, yet necessary, decisions to remain distanced from extended families this year. Our travel plans may have been squashed months ago or even last week. The holidays seem to be approaching with the excitement that they always do, but with a new kind of stress and uncertainty we haven't faced before. Whether you are excited to celebrate the upcoming holidays because they will bring much needed joy in a world of bad news or if you are feeling a sense of oncoming dread because the bad news has cast a shadow on our traditional festivities, please be intentional about taking the time you need to center on the presence of God in your very midst. Raise your grief to God and allow healing to soothe your soul. Be intentional about practicing gratitude each and every day.

In years past, I have gotten frustrated with the commercialization of the season of peace, hope, love and joy. This year, I have felt the Spirit moving me toward this season in a refreshingly new way. I hope you will find a reconnection to Advent and the birth of Jesus that is deeply meaningful. Remember that Jesus was born in less than savory times. And blessing upon blessing was granted to the entire world. Believe that God will bless our searching and our praise.

As you begin preparing your feasts of Thanksgiving, find the joy and blessing you have been granted in so many ways. May you have a truly wonderful Thanksgiving—one and all.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Becky

Upcoming Church Events

- Thanksgiving Sunday (11/22);
- Thanksgiving (11/26);
- 1st Sunday of Advent (11/29);
- Senior Food Box Distribution (12/9) 10-12;
- Online Christmas Caroling (12/13) 6 P.M.;
- Blue Christmas Service (12/16) 7 P.M.;
- Silent Night Candle Pass Videos Due (12/18);
- Christmas Eve (12/24);
- Christmas (12/25);
- 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



December 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Together for Joy 11 A.M.	3 Youth Encounter 5 P.M. B: Ray Benson	4	5
6 Advent 2 Love	7	8	9 Together for Joy 11 A.M. Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12 B: John Jage	10 Youth Encounter 5 P.M. B: Dolores Cave (turns 95) & Ja- mie Neyhart	11	12
13 Advent 3 Joy Online Christ- mas Caroling 6 P.M.	14	15	16 Together for Joy 11 A.M. Blue Christmas 7 P.M. B: Maxwell Schroader	17 Youth Encounter 5 P.M.	18 Silent Night Candle Pass Videos Due	19 B: Rich Boban
20 Advent 4 Peace	21	22 B: Andrew Bridges	23 Together for Joy 11 A.M.	24 Christmas Eve Service 4 P.M.	25 Christmas	26
27 Christmas Sunday	28 B: Linnea Sundquist	29 B: Tania Mess- mer	30	31 New Year's Eve		

Praying for our Friends & Family

Members:

Celia Newcomb, Woody Messmer, Lida Barker, Jane Ross, Phyllis Frost, Jim Messmer (heart transplant), Rachelle Dean

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, Jeff Meyers, Liz Griffin, Glenn Nagle, family of Shirley Osterhoff, family of Andre Nauta, family of Jim Messmer's donor family

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

Joys:

Bob & Carol Coolidge's 68th Wedding Anniversary
Jim Messmer's new heart
Rachelle Dean is cancer free!

Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
WORSHIP 10/25/20	\$1738.43
WORSHIP 11/1/20	\$2610.77
Pentecost Offering	\$5.00
Reconciliation Offering	\$25.00
Thanksgiving Offering	\$5.00
Christmas Offering	\$5.00
TOTAL	\$2650.77

WORSHIP 11/8/20 \$1568.25

WORSHIP 11/15/20 \$1960.92

October Figures

Income:	Expenditures:
\$6602.55	\$1384.00
\$8616.27	\$1265.00

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 2021 Budget

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

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.

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
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



Blue Christmas Service

Wednesday, December 16
7:00 P.M.

The annual Blue Christmas Service, a service of Hope and Healing for those who find the holidays difficult, will be held online this year via zoom, Facebook and Youtube.

Zoom information will be sent out prior to the worship service in the weekly email and posted on Facebook. In this unprecedented year with so much difficulty and grief, find hope in this time of worship.

(Please have the flat blue glass marble from your worship kit ready for this service.)

Online Christmas Caroling

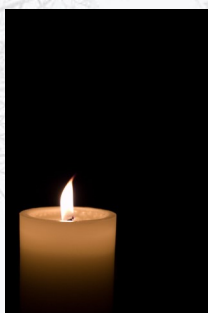
Christmas Caroling will be offered online
by Zoom on
Sunday, December 13th
at 6 P.M.

Grab a cup of hot cocoa and a plate of cookies and sing all the carols of the season with your church family (though we will still be on mute). So Rich can record in advance, please submit all of your carol requests by December 7th. Email, message, text, or call Rev. Becky with your requests!



Christmas Eve Candlelight & Communion
Worship Online
December 24, 2020
4 P.M.

or watch anytime afterward!
Join your church family and
invite your family, friends
and neighbors to celebrate
with us.



Don't forget your Advent Wreaths for
worship beginning November 29th and
throughout the month of December.

The Worship Team hopes your At Home Advent Wreath will add to the meaning and blessing this season will bring. Together, we will prepare for the coming of the Christ Child!



If you are interested in copies of prayers, disciplines and Hanging of the Greens at home, let Rev. Becky know and she will be happy to send you copies and/or PDF's of ideas to help the season be special in this new way.

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!

Every Thursday at
5 P.M.

FCC hosts
Youth Encounters via Zoom!



Throughout Advent, we will explore the Sunday Worship series, "I Believe Even When...." with lessons for kids. This includes Bible stories, videos and song. Invite your friends!

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

Story Time & Sing Along with Pastor Becky!
Each week before worship, she will read a new inspirational story. Zoom links will be posted by Saturday and can be found by email, Facebook, and our website.

Storytime

Fun Challenge!

Dress up as any of the characters in the nativity (animals included) and we will see if we can make a complete nativity with the pictures you send Rev. Becky!

Cut out the picture below and enjoy it as a guided practice for praying in color.



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Homeless Lunch – December 5, 2020

The Lunch Bunch will be providing another meal for the homeless at the Hammond City Rescue Mission on Saturday, December 5, 2020. If you are interested in participating, or have any questions, please contact Sharon Worrell-Schroader.

Staff Love Gift

For the annual Staff Love Gift for Christmas, please send your donations to Debbie Benson (2585 Tulip Lane Hobart, IN 46342). Make checks payable to Debbie Benson.

Many Thanks

Thank you to all who pledged toward the 2021 Budget. Your continued support of FCC ministries is truly important. May you be blessed in your giving! Thank you!

Opportunities to Serve

Christmas Wish List for Our Adopted Families

The food and gift wish lists for the two needy families are attached to the Newsletter (see below and pages 8 & 9). Please select the gifts/food you would like to provide and call, text or email Sharon Morgan with your choice(s). The items listed are suggestions only. You do not have to purchase everything on the list. If you have any questions, please contact Sharon at (219) 845-4230 (home), (219) 688-2124 (cell) or sharonmorgan3019@yahoo.com. Items can be dropped off at the church on Saturday, December 19 from 10:00AM to 11:30AM, or at Delia's house (10045 Delaware Place, Highland). Just call before you come to make sure someone is available.

If you would rather make a monetary donation, please contact Debbie Benson. Someone will shop for you. Thanks for your support.

Christmas Dinner Items for Our Two "Adopted" Families

Ham for 3

Turkey for 4

Sweet Potatoes for 3

Mashed Potatoes for 4

Mac and Cheese for 3

Mac and Cheese for 4

Stuffing for 3

Stuffing for 4

Corn for 3

Corn for 4

Christmas tablecloths and napkins for both families

Disposable baking pans for both families

Aluminum Foil for both families



If you give some of your own food to feed those who are hungry and to satisfy the needs of those who are humble, then your light will rise in the dark, and your darkness will become as bright as the noonday sun. Isaiah 58:10

Card Shower

On December 10th, Dolores Cave will be turning 95! Barbara and Nancy have asked Dolores' church family to shower her with cards for that special milestone. Her address is:

1728 Camellia Dr., B1
Munster, IN 46321

Thank you for spreading the love for Dolores!

Great Job!

Well done to all who participated in this year's drive for the Church World Service Hygiene Kits! This year, we blew our goal of 125 kits out of the water by making 137 complete kits!

With Gratitude

Thank you to those who brought in candy and goodies for our Trick-or-Treat bags for our youth. Thanks also to Dawn Wolak who helped pass out the bags to our cute little ghouls!

If you or someone you know is struggling during this difficult time, help is available.

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

Please do not be afraid to reach out for help. Also, do not hesitate to call Rev. Becky if you just need a listening ear. (219-924-5400)

News From the Socially Distanced Pews

Christmas Eve Candle Pass

The Christmas Eve Service is one of the most meaningful worship services throughout the year. We are all grappling with the stark reality that we will not be able to be together in-person for this year's service. Even so, we can still share in a thoughtful service together. Rev. Becky emailed and shared instructional information on Facebook regarding the Christmas Eve Candle Pass. There is even an instructional video. The worship committee hopes that everyone will create a video (at home or with assistance from the church) of you "passing the candle" during Silent Night.

Please also include a still shot of you individually or as a family holding your candles. Rev. Becky will put these videos and pictures together for a seamless candle pass among all of our church family. We are confident that this will add meaning to Christmas Eve as we see everyone's beautiful faces! If you need to see the instructions and video on how to create

this experience, please contact Rev. Becky asap.

All videos are due to Rev. Becky by Friday, December 18th. We are hoping for 100% participation! Please, help add to the meaning and joy of the season in this unique and special way.



A Lasting Legacy—Poinsettias in 2020

Instead of ordering poinsettias for this Christmas, FCC invites you to donate what you would have spent on a poinsettia and instead donate those funds toward perennials for the labyrinth that will be installed this coming spring. You are encouraged to donate in honor or memory of your loved ones and we will share that information on Christmas Eve, Christmas Sunday, and in the December newsletter. We will also include the honorariums and memorials upon dedication of the labyrinth in late Spring 2021. Please fill out the form below and send in your money or checks to Linda Messmer (314 North Griffith Blvd. Griffith, IN 46319).

Labyrinth Perennials Order Form

Name: _____

Given in Honor/Memory of: _____

Amount Enclosed: _____

(Please make checks payable to First Christian Church)

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Jasmine L
Age 28
Favorite color-Blue

Other Gifts
Pots and pans
Silverware

Jasmine L
Age 28
Favorite color-Blue

Clothing Needs
Shirts (Size 2XL)
Pants (Size 20)

Jordyn L
Age 11 (girl)
Favorite color-Pink

Other Gifts
Glittery unicorn items
Art or craft supplies

Jeremiah L
Age 8
Favorite color-Green

Other Gifts
Cars, Trucks
TicTok robots

Please cut out the gift tag and include with the packaging of your Angel Tree gift.

Jordyn L
Age 11 (girl)
Favorite color-Pink

Clothing Needs
Training Bra (Size 32)
Coat (Size 16)

Jeremiah L
Age 8
Favorite color-Green

Clothing Needs
Coat (Size 12)



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Rudy G
Age 10
Favorite color-Light Blue
Clothing Needs
Underwear (Boys size 8)
Socks (boys)
Sweat Pants (Boys size 12-14)

Rudy G
Age 10
Favorite color-Light Blue
Other Gifts
Sorry game
Big Note book (Honor Roll)

Adalina G
Age 20
Favorite color-Black
Clothing Needs
Sports bra (Women's size 42-44)
Underwear (Women's size 2X)
Socks

Adalina G
Age 20
Favorite color-Black
Other Gifts
Sketch Book and Pencils
Body Wash or Spray

Raul G
Age 9
Favorite color – Bright Green
Other Gifts
Monopoly, Deck of Playing Cards

Raul G
Age 9
Favorite color-Bright Green
Clothing Needs
Underwear (Boy's size 8)
Socks (boys)
PJs (Boy's size 8 to 10)

Please cut out the gift tag and include with the packaging of your Angel Tree gift.

Rebecca S
Age 42
Favorite color-Black
Other Gifts
Body wash or spray
Women's leg razors

Rebecca S
Age 42
Favorite color-Black
Clothing Needs
Dressy Blouse and slacks for church
(Women's size 3X)



*I Believe Even When....
Fill the Night with Music and Light*



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS 2020

First Christian Church

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

Phone: 219-924-5400

E-mail:

fcchighland9540@gmail.com

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

