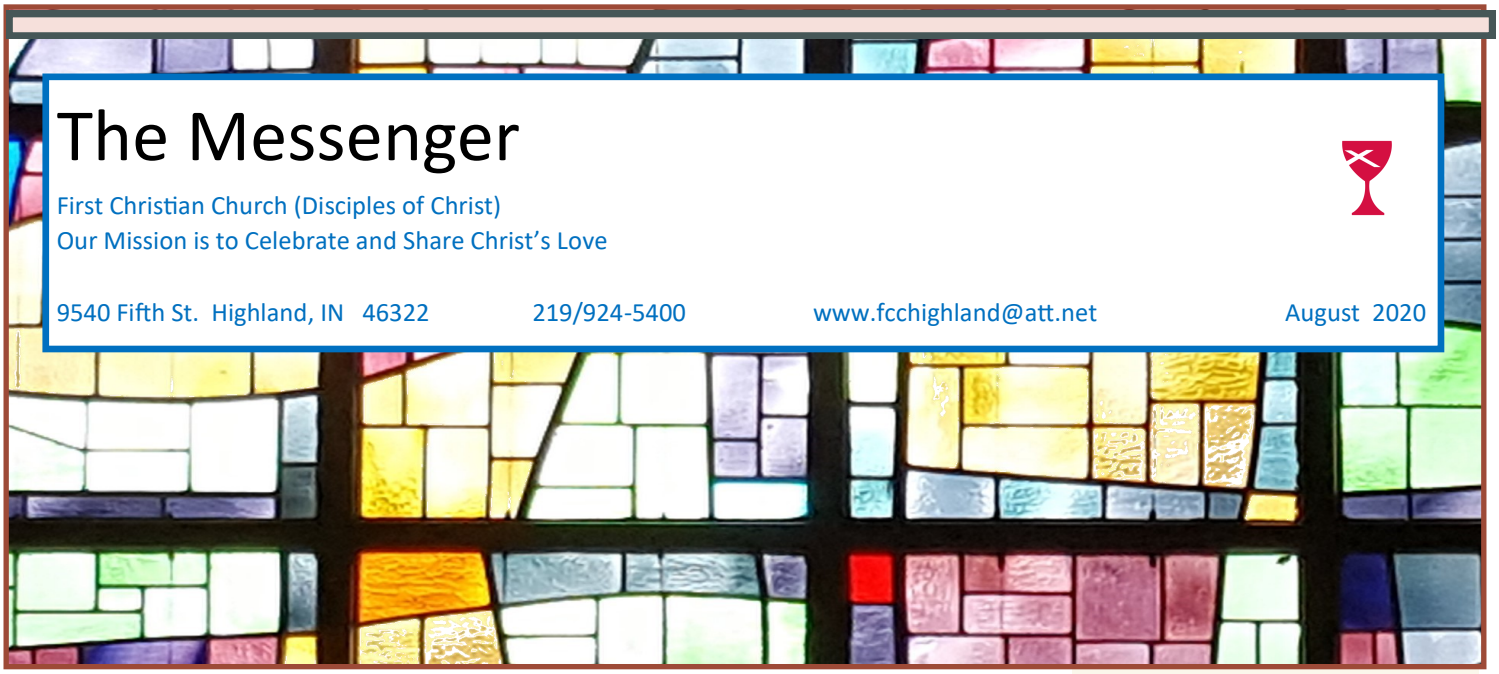

The Messenger

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 August 2020

But whoever is united with the Lord is one with him in spirit.
1 Corinthian 6:17

Greetings FCC Family and Friends!

This month, my family was able to celebrate my parent's 50th wedding anniversary. While the celebration was very different than we had planned, it was still a terrific celebration of two who have found love and meaning together for 5 decades.

I am mindful of how difficult being away from one another is. I had a few tearful moments in recent weeks as I thought about how strange so many celebrations this fall will likely be. I wanted to stay longer with my family. I want to be able to grab lunch with friends and linger in the restaurant a while. I want to be in worship together with all of you. And yet, here we are... still. There are so many difficulties you are all facing. Please know that I hear you. I see you. Talk to me any time. I know I can't fix the bigger picture, but I can lend you an ear (and likely say corny things to make you laugh too). I also hold so much for hope, even in my saddest moments, for the blessings that are to come. I also feel strengthened by our resolve as a community of faith to protect one another, but also to stand in solidarity with our community to remain closed in order to prevent the spread of this terrible virus. As difficult as all of this is, please know as you close your eyes at the end of the day, above all else, you are loved deeply and unconditionally. We WILL get through this. God will continue to bless us as we move forward. Keep trusting. Keep hoping. Much love to all of you dear brothers and sisters.

Grace and Peace,

Rev. Becky

Upcoming Church Events

- Backyard Bible Study (9/2 & 9/16) 11 AM;
- Antiracism Book Study (9/2 & 9/16) 7 PM;
- Labor Day (9/7)
- Senior Food Box Distribution (9/9) 10 AM—12 PM;
- Online Game Night (9/11) 7:30 PM;
- Board Meeting (9/15) 7 P.M.;
- Water Into Wine Check-In (9/23) 7 PM;
- Farm Work Hours Mondays & Thursdays 10 A.M. -12 P.M.
- Online Devotions are every Tuesday at noon;
- Online youth encounters will be every Thursday at 5 PM.

Sundays @ FCC

Storytime with Pastor Becky—9:30 AM

Worship—10:30 AM

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 Devotion & Check-In 12 P.M.	2 Backyard Bible Study 11 A.M. Book Study 7 P.M. B: Clarence McCoy, Steve Sundquist	3 Farm Work 10 A.M.—12 P.M. Youth Encounter 5 P.M. B: Samantha Messmer (turns 1!)	4	5
6 Story Time 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	7 Labor Day	8 Farm Work 10 A.M.—12 P.M. Devotion & Check-In 12 P.M.	9 Senior Food Box Distribution 10 A.M.—12 P.M.	10 Farm Work 10 A.M.—12 P.M. Youth Encounter 5 P.M. B: Bob Coolidge	11 Game Night 7:30 P.M.	12
13 Story Time 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M. B: Linda Messmer	14 Farm Work 10 A.M.—12 P.M.	15 Devotion & Check-In 12 P.M. Board Meeting 7 P.M.	16 Backyard Bible Study 11 A.M. Book Study 7 P.M.	17 Farm Work 10 A.M.—12 P.M. Youth Encounter 5 P.M.	18	19
20 Story Time 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	21 Farm Work 10 A.M.—12 P.M.	22 Devotion & Check-In 12 P.M.	23 Water Into Wine 7 P.M. B: Bob Ross	24 Farm Work 10 A.M.—12 P.M. Youth Encounter 5 P.M. CCC Meeting 7:30 P.M.	25	26
27 Story Time 9:30 A.M. Worship 10:30 A.M.	28 Farm Work 10 A.M.—12 P.M. A: Bob & Andrea Meyers	29 Devotion & Check-In 12 P.M.	30			

Praying for our Friends & Family

Members:
Celia Newcomb, Woody Messmer, Lida Barker, Bob and Jane Ross, Phyllis Frost, Jim Messmer, 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, Bob McGraff, Jeff Meyers, Liz Griffin

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

Joys:
The temporary labyrinth, This year's faming season!

Fifth Street Figures

Description		Offering
WORSHIP 7/19/20	(online worship)	$1868.97
WORSHIP 7/26/20	(online worship)	$1392.12
WORSHIP 8/2/20	(online worship)	$334.16
WORSHIP 8/9/20	(online worship)	$2007.87
WORSHIP 8/16/20	(online worship)	$1581.03

July Figures

	General Fund	Outreach:
Income:	$7393.56	$1195.00
Expenditures:	$7684.84	$1094.00

Thank you
for your gifts to the church!

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 Through the Time of Pandemic

As we continue to shape ministry in this time of the COVID-19 Pandemic, your gifts and offerings are just as important as always. We may be doing ministry from our homes and trying out creative ways to walk in the Light right now, but we are not sitting idle! **We are deployed!** The gardens on the farm are producing. Worship is being planned and live streamed from church. Outreach continues. We are grateful for your consistent and generous financial contributions to the ministries of FCC. **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. Blessings on your giving.

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

First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
9540 Fifth St. Highland, IN 46322
(219)924-5400
www.fcchighland.net
email: 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

2020 Calendar for Prayer and Action | EndHunger.org/ham

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
With your help, The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) nourishes souls, through spiritual life resources like this, and bodies, through nationwide gleaning and feeding ministries. Your donations in response to these daily readings and activities shares healthy, nourishing food with people in greatest need throughout the United States. **Thank you!**						
		September 1	**September 2**	**September 3**	**September 4**	**September 5**
		Genesis 25:29-34	***Genesis 41:25-36***	***Exodus 16***	***Leviticus 19:9-10***	***Exodus 13:1-10***
		Enjoy a meal of beans and rice and donate a package of each to your local food pantry.	Count the number of food items in your kitchen cabinets. Put 2 cents for each in your coin box.	Eat only leftovers today. 49 million hungry Americans would love to have such good food to eat.	Tell a friend how the Society of St. Andrew feeds the hungry utilizing the biblical practice of gleaning.	The Hebrew people ate in a hurry. Put 50 cents in your coin box for every fast food meal you've eaten in the last month.
September 6	**September 7**	**September 8**	**September 9**	**September 10**	**September 11**	**September 12**
Ruth 1-2	***Genesis 1:26-31***	***Psalm 23***	***Psalm 104***	***Proverbs 15:15-17***	***Ecclesiastes 9:7-10a***	***Proverbs 30:7-9***
Food left in fields is forgotten like loose change is forgotten money. Put your loose change in your coin box today.	Pray for those who seek work in order to feed themselves and their families.	"The Lord is my Shepherd. I shall not want." Practice contentment today.	Where in your life do you experience abundance? Money, love, hope, time? Share some of what is overflowing today.	Serve only vegetables and love for dinner tonight.	Enjoy a special meal with family or friends today. Thank God for their presence in your life.	Set aside a "want" today and share a tithe (10%) of what that "want" would cost with your congregation or Society of St. Andrew.
September 13	**September 14**	**September 15**	**September 16**	**September 17**	**September 18**	**September 19**
Isaiah 55	***Isaiah 58:6-11***	***Matthew 4:1-11***	***Matthew 6:7-13***	***Luke 11:5-8***	***Luke 12:13-33***	***Matthew 7:7-11***
For what are you hungering and thirsting for today? Spend time in prayer with today's reading.	How is hunger an issue of justice? Consider the politics of food and hunger. Find your voice and be heard!	They say talk is cheap. Put 1 cent in your coin box for every word you speak to day. (Estimate of course!)	Put an amount in your coin box equivalent to what you spend on a loaf of bread.	Put 1 cent in your coin box for every hour you slept this week.	Put 25 cents in your coin box each time you worry this week.	Pray for agencies in your community that feed the hungry.
September 20	**September 21**	**September 22**	**September 23**	**September 24**	**September 25**	**September 26**
Luke 14:15-24	***John 6:1-14***	***John 6:22-34***	***John 6:35-40***	***Acts 2:43-47***	***Romans 14:1-9***	***1 Corinthians 10:23-31***
Is there an area of your life in which you are refusing God's invitation?	Skip lunch today and give the money you'd have spent to Society of St. Andrew instead.	How are you working for the food that endures for eternal life?	Give thanks today for Jesus, the Bread of Life.	Consider how your faith community could be more like the Acts 2 community.	Try a new food from a different culture today.	Serve a meal at a soup kitchen or shelter today for the glory of God.
September 27	**September 28**	**September 29**	**September 30**			
1 Timothy 6:6-8	***Philippians 4:4-9***	***Kings 17:12-16***	***Genesis 18:1-15***			
Put a gift in your coin box as a thanksgiving for the many blessings you enjoy.	Today, plan one way you will continue fighting hunger in the coming months.	Where in your life are you experiencing scarcity today? Money, love, hope, time? Share some of what seems scarce today.	At your meal table today, set an extra place. To whom is God calling you to show hospitality?			

Hunger Action Month

Society of St. Andrew
GLEANING AMERICA'S FIELDS
FEEDING AMERICA'S HUNGRY

National Office ~ 3383 Sweet Hollow Road • Big Island • VA 24526-3054
434-299-5956 • 800-333-4597 • FAX: 434-299-5949 • Email: church@endhunger.org • www.endhunger.org

FCC Installs Temporary Labyrinth

It has been a long held dream for FCC to install a labyrinth on the grounds of the church property to resource the congregation and community with a special tool for spiritual discipline. Thanks to Steve Sundquist and David Michalak for installing a temporary labyrinth so that we can determine what works, what doesn't and next steps in creating a permanent labyrinth. Thanks also to Ray Benson for keeping the labyrinth trimmed as we make future decisions.

What is a labyrinth?

Labyrinths are pathways, often large enough to walk upon, that are shaped into twisting, turning designs; they have been used as spiritual tools by Christians for at least 1,600 years. Labyrinths come in all shapes and sizes. Some are painted on large sheets of canvas (Pastor Becky has one of this kind!), some are stone pathways laid in a court yard, some are mowed into the grass on a lawn, while others come in a myriad of different shapes and sizes and materials. In today's world, Christians walk the pathways of labyrinths for a variety of purposes including prayer, meditation, for help finding the quiet Center of their living, to facilitate calm and stillness in a hectic world, to find faithful clarity amidst life's challenges and opportunities, to listen for God, as a tool for health and wellness, to get in touch with Spirit, and much more. An ongoing practice of labyrinth walking can be a celebrated discipline for Christians seeking an authentic life of balanced wholeness in which intimate relationship with God is sought and valued.

Please use the labyrinth for a prayer tool! During this time of pandemic and staying away, this is a wonderful opportunity for you to get out in nature, pray and experience God's centering presence in this powerful way. Pastor Becky will be adding prayer tools to guide you on the labyrinth tab of our website. The Labyrinth Committee hopes this will be a meaningful addition to your spiritual life.

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.

(This will be on the same zoom link as Sunday morning worship.)

Every Tuesday
online (via zoom) at
12 P.M.
Devotion & Check-In

As we navigate these uncertain times, centering our lives on the Word and connecting our thoughts and feelings with one another is important!

Please join us in a time of healing and connection. (Zoom links are emailed each Monday as well as posted on Facebook and www.fcchighland.net.)

FCC Online Game Night!
Friday, September 11th
at 7:30 P.M.

FCC Game Nights are a good laugh and lots of fun. This month we played Pictionary! Don't miss out on this great opportunity to enjoy time together. We will keep enjoying Game Night by Zoom once a month!

Be on the lookout for the zoom link posted in email, our website, and on Facebook.

Water Into Wine Online Check-In!

Grab a glass of wine (or whatever beverage you like), join us and connect with folks near and far! Share concerns, laugh hard and catch up and make new friends! This time of gathering will be every 4th Wednesday at 7 P.M. (Please note that we are meeting just once a month!) (Zoom links are emailed out each Monday and posted on our website and Facebook too.)

2020 Homeless Lunch Schedule:

The Lunch Bunch will be serving Homeless Lunches on the following dates:

October 3

December 5

Donations and volunteers are always appreciated. If you will like to participate, please see Delia Helpinstine or Sharon Worrell-Schroader. You will be blessed guaranteed!

Great job to the lunch bunch who served a delicious meal on August 1st!

Blessing Box News

Many thanks to all who continue to stop by and fill the Blessing Box as our country struggles economically from COVID-19. Your generosity reaches far and wide and makes a big impact for those in need in our area.

Opportunities to Serve

Hygiene Kits for Church World Service—Keep Collecting!

We will be collecting the following items for the hygiene kits. Our goal of 125 Hygiene Kits will be needed now more than ever! What a way to make a contribution worldwide!

- One hand towel (15" x 28" to 16" to 32")-no fingertip, bath, dishtowel of micro-fiber
- One washcloth
- One wide-tooth comb
- One finger nail or toe nail clipper
- One bath size bar of soap in the wrapper
- On toothbrush in the package (no tooth-paste)
- Ten standard (1" X 4") Band-Aid

(Please hold onto your items for the Health Kits and bring them to the church when it officially reopens.)

Stuck At Home? Pick up a Phone or a Pen!

It is important that we stay at home as much as possible. This is growing harder to do by the day because we miss the connections we have with those who are dear to us. Remember that a phone call or a note in the mail can completely turn around someone's day. It will point your day in the right direction too! This is a really special way you can share Christ's love and light during these lonely time. #alonetogether

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Senior Food Box Ministry

As many folks are struggling financially during this time, the Senior Food Box Ministry is as important as ever. If you know of anyone over the age of 60 that could benefit from this program, please invite them to apply! Contact Debbie Benson for more information. Precautions are being taken to distribute the boxes as safely as possible through a driveway system. Pray for the volunteers as well as the recipients! Distribution is always the second Wednesday of each month (10 AM—12 PM)

Please share information on this program with any seniors over 60 that may benefit from it.

22 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5: 22-23

Faithful Praise: Many Thanks

Thank you Ray Benson for power washing the church building. Looks great!

Also thanks to the crew who put in the new water line to the gardens! David Michalak, Ray Benson, Brad Chandler, and Jim Messmer

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)

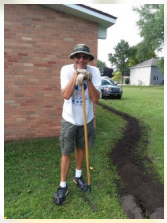
News From the Socially Distanced Pews

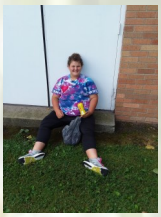
Farm News!

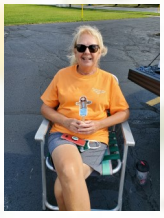
The 2020 Farming Season is in full swing even though a pandemic crisis is happening around us. Here are some important updates on the Farm:

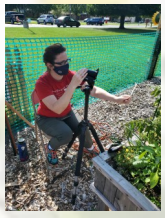
1. Thus far in the season, approximately 150 pounds of produce have been harvested and donated to Greater Hammond Community Services!
2. Many thanks to David Michalak, Ray Benson, Brad Chandler, and Jim Messmer for putting in the new water line out to the gardens that will making watering so much easier. Well done!
3. Be on the lookout for the article in NWI Times on the Farm!
4. The Farm will be featured in several videos with Purdue Extension's Nutrition Education Program as cooking lessons for young people were filmed in the gardens!
5. Farm hours continue to be Mondays and Thursday from 10-12. Please join us to work! If you are working in the garden, please bring your own cleaned tools and wear a mask. (Please note—Farm hours have been moved from Labor Day 9/7 to Tuesday 9/8.)
6. If you need to get out of the house, please stop in and see how our gardens are growing! Take some pictures of the things that catch your eye and send them to Pastor Becky! Take a selfie while you are there too! She is making a special video of the 2020 farming season!

2020 Farm Pictures







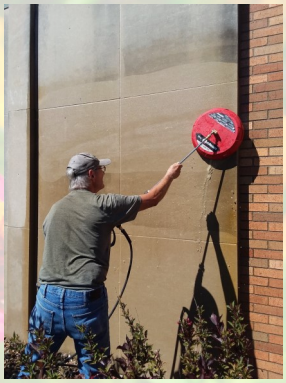


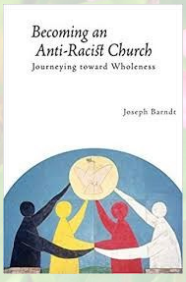
Flat Jesus appears at the Farm often. Keep sharing your pictures of your adventures with Flat Jesus with Pastor Becky! (You can get Flat Jesus on our website!)

Annual Pet Blessing!

Pastor Becky is already making plans for the annual Pet Blessing in October. This year, she will be doing the blessing a bit differently and coming to your home to bless your beloved pets. (If you live out of the Lake County area, she will be happy to do a pet blessing over Zoom, Facebook Messenger or Facetime.) Of course, masks will be required for in-person pet blessings to keep everyone safe. If you are interested in having your pet(s) blessed, please let her know so she can add you to her list!

Thank you Ray Benson for power washing the church! The building looks great!





Becoming An Antiracist Church book study meets every 1st & 3rd Wednesday of each month at 7 P.M.! We are reading the book by the same title by Joseph Barndt.

Join us and learn!

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)!

Youth News

FAITH FORMATION AT HOME - FAMILIES WITH KIDS

BRIEF FAITH ACTIVITIES TO DO AT HOME.

FULL FREE LESSONS CAN BE FOUND ON VIBRANT FAITH CATALYST

vibrantfaith

Starting School

School might look a little different this year, whether you are choosing to send a child to school or homeschool, starting a new grade (or starting school for the first time) is an exciting milestone for children and their families. As children prepare to begin a new routine, they'll hear Jesus' promise to be with them always - where ever they may be.

Together, the family will create a visual reminder of Jesus' great love for children.

MATERIALS NEEDED: Bible, school bag or backpack (or wall-space near where your child may do their school work), crayons or markers, Picture Frame Worksheet

PREPARE IN ADVANCE:
- Print out the Picture Frame Worksheet.
- Cut around the scroll to make the frame.
- Cut out the heart shape so you can attach a picture of your child to the back of the scroll and frame it with the heart shape.

PRAY: *Dear God, we thank you for _____(child's name). Soon she will start school! Be with us as we hear from the Bible how much Jesus loves _____ (child's name). Amen.*

READ SCRIPTURE: Read to your child or invite them to read aloud from Mark 10:13-16.

After the story, teach your child the following hand gestures and tell this simple version of the story while acting it out:
- People were bringing their children to Jesus (move your arms like you're running).
- The disciples said: STOP! (put your hand out, palm forward).
- Jesus said, "Let the children come to me" (motion with your hand moving toward you).
- Jesus picked up the children, hugged them, put his hands on their heads, and blessed them (give your child a big hug).

Say: Jesus loves you just like Jesus loved the children in the Bible story. Jesus sends us love through the love of others.
Point out his school work space or backpack.
Say: You can take Jesus' love with you, just like you take a bag or backpack, to school.
Move to a table or another area for a brief craft. Show your child the Picture Frame activity (already cut out).
Explain that you will take a picture on the first day of school that you can put in the frame and display in your home.
Read the saying at the bottom: "Jesus loves you! Jesus is with you wherever you go!"

Invite the child to color or decorate the frame.
After you have a printed picture from the first day of school, attach it to the back of the frame, review the Bible story, and discuss how Jesus' love has been with your child throughout schooling.

Give your child a blessing. Have each member of the family take turns putting their hands on the child's head, as Jesus did in the Bible story. Say the blessing, "Remember, Jesus is with you wherever you go. Jesus loves you and so do I."

CLOSING PRAYER: *Dear God, be with _____ (child's name) on their first day of school. Be with their teacher _____ (teacher's name) and their friends. Give them all a great start to their school year together. Help _____ (child's name) to remember that Jesus loves them and to share that love with others wherever they go. Amen.*

Every Thursday at
5 P.M.
(PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE IN TIME!)
FCC will host
Youth Encounters via Zoom!
Join us as we discover the Fruit of the Spirit through games, song, object lessons and Bible 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, she will read a new inspirational story. Zoom links will be posted by Saturday and can be found by email, Facebook, and our website.

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

First Christian Church
Highland, IN

Phase 1 Reopening Plan

After 14 Consecutive Days of Decline in Cases of COVID-19

#bethechurch
#keepingourcommunitysafe

Before Coming to Worship:

1. **We STRONGLY urge those who are most at risk, 65 and older, and/or have pre-existing health conditions to continue to worship from home.**
2. **Are you not feeling well?** Have a fever, cough, sore throat, other cold symptoms? Please stay home and/or seek medical attention. If you come to church with any of these symptoms, you will be asked to return home.
3. **The Church will be sanitized every week prior to worship.**

What to Expect When You Arrive at Church:

Doors will be open 30 minutes prior to worship.

1. **Masks will be required at all times.** (If you do not have a mask, one will be provided.)
2. **Temperature will be taken prior to entering the building** (with a touchless thermometer).
3. **You will be asked wellness questions prior to entering the building.**
4. **Hand Sanitizer must be used prior to entering the building.**
5. **While you wait outside to enter, Social Distancing must be observed until you are escorted into the building.**
6. **Only the Sanctuary and Bathrooms will be open for Sunday Morning. The Church Office will be closed.**

If you have been at the church and test positive for COVID-19, please let Rev. Becky know. Your identity will be kept confidential unless you indicate otherwise.

This policy developed by the Combatting Covid Committee was approved by the FCC Board on 7/21/2020.

A Glimpse of Worship:

1. **A bulletin will be provided as you enter.**
2. **There will be no singing.**
3. **There will be no communion.** (Rev. Becky will offer communion via zoom every Sunday at 5 P.M.)
4. **Offering will be received in a basket in the narthex upon entering the building.**
5. **The Nursery will be closed. There will be no Children's Sermon.** (Storytime with Pastor Becky will continue online at 9:30 A.M.) **A craft box will be available to children.**
6. **There will be no Passing of the Peace and no Closing Circle.**
7. **No hymnals or Bibles will be in the pews.**