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 September 2021

Seeds of Hope Farm & Garden Passes 1000 Pounds!

Congratulations to the Seeds of Hope Farm & Garden Team for ALL your hard work in cultivating the 2021 Farm. Because of you, over 1000 pounds of produce were donated to either Greater Hammond Community Services Food Pantry or the St. James Food Pantry of Highland. Because of YOU, so many of our county were given healthy, nourishing produce that is good for the mind, body and spirit. A special shout-out belongs to our Farm Managers, Brenda and David Michalak who begin planning for each season long before the soil is even turned over. Even in the cold and snowy winter months prior to each season, they are drawing up plans, making important decisions, and meeting with the team to plan for each season. Blessings to you and each and every volunteer for digging your hands into the soul, offering some prayers and seeing this vision come to fruition every year. As this ministry grows and seeks to reach more people each year, please continue to hold the Farm in your prayers. Even when it seems like nothing is happening, just like the winter soil, important things are being planned. Congratulations to all on a bountiful 2021! You are the light and love of Jesus Christ through each and every morsel.

Upcoming Church Events

- Homeless Lunch (10/1);
- World Communion Sunday (10/3);
- Animal Blessing (10/3) 4 P.M.;
- Bible Study (10/6 & 10/20) 7 P.M. (Zoom);
- Holy Hike (10/10) 2 P.M.;
- Senior Food Box Distribution (10/13) 10-12;
- Prayer Circle (10/13 & 10/27) 7 P.M. (Zoom);
- Congregational Meeting (10/17);
- Marth a Circle (10/21) 1 P.M.;
- Council Meeting (10/19) 7 P.M.;
- Youth Encounter (10/27) 4 P.M.;

Sundays @ FCC

Worship—10:30 AM

Digital Coffee Hour 2nd & 4th Sundays on Zoom immediately after worship.

October 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 Homeless Lunch
3 World Communion Sunday Animal Blessing 4 P.M.	4 Farm Work 3-5 P.M.	5 B: Bradley Brown, Wells Sundquist	6 Bible Study 7 P.M. on Zoom	7	8	9
10 Worship 10:30 A.M. Digital Coffee Hour (11:30 A.M.) Holy Hike—2 P.M. B: Mia Campbell	11 Farm Work 3-5 P.M. B: Phyllis Frost	12 B: Carole Krisco	13 Senior Food Box Distribution 10-12 Prayer Circle— 12 & 7 P.M.	14	15	16
17 Worship 10:30 A.M. Congregational Meeting 11:30 A.M.	18 Farm Work 3-5 P.M. B: Kathi Jage A: Brad & Carol Chandler	19 Council Meeting 7 P.M.	20 Bible Study 7 P.M. on Zoom B: Bob Meyers	21 Martha Circle 1 P.M.	22	23
24 Worship 10:30 A.M. Digital Coffee Hour 11:30 A.M.	25 Farm Work 3-5 P.M. B: Jeff Messmer	26	27 Youth Encounter 4 P.M. Prayer Circle 7 P.M. (Zoom)	28	29	30
31 Worship 10:30 A.M. Halloween Boo!						

The next Holy Hike will be
Sunday, October 10th at 2 P.M.
at Oak Ridge Prairie

Rich Boban Resigns as Minister of Music

It is with sadness that we announce the resignation of our beloved Rich Boban. He has accepted a full time position at Ridge UMC as their Director of Music. In short, it was an offer he couldn't refuse, but he assures us of his love and well-wishes for our future. Rich will continue to play for us through the end of 2021. He is also assisting us in securing names for potential candidates to replace him. Though these are big shoes to fill, we wish him nothing but the best and are grateful for his time with us. Much love to you, Rich! Best wishes and don't be a stranger! Please hold the worship committee in your prayers as they seek a new Music Director.

Don't forget to grab your coloring pages on Sunday morning along with your Bible Blueprint! Pastor Becky can email them out in PDF format as well. Please contact the church office if you would like one/ them sent to you.

The weekly coloring pages are a wonderful tool for meditation, prayer and focus on the Scriptures. This is a great way to connect with the Scripture throughout the week!

Afghan Refugees

If you are interested in helping our Afghan neighbors as they seek refuge in our country following the Taliban take-over in September, let Rev. Becky know. Plans are underway for assisting those displaced from their homeland. More details will come soon! In the meantime, please pray for those who are struggling in this difficult time.

Digital Coffee Hour

Online Coffee Hour will be every 2nd & 4th Sunday of each month.
Gather online on
10/10 & 10/24
following worship!

Youth Encounter

Wednesday, October 27
4 P.M. via Zoom.

Rev. Becky is working on a "Wild & Wonderful" theme for growing in God this Fall.

Be on the lookout for faithful explorations!

Praying for our Friends & Family

Members of the Congregation:

Celia Newcomb, Jane Ross, Phyllis Frost, Clarence McCoy, Kevin Messmer, Jeff Messmer, Carol Chandler, Grace Kristoff, Family of Rachelle Dean

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, Nicky, Sandy, Robert Dean, Terry & Marty Chidalek, Cole, Jerry Zolmer, Liz Griffin, Mary Jones, Lauren, Chris Dury, Zachary Hare, Al Eckert, Cherie & David Coolidge, Millie, Melissa Belar, Cathhart Family, Mike Cole, Faith, Bill Carroll, Ron Spore, Ed Charbonneau, Samantha Bugno, Cindy Bugno, Beverly Goodson, Rita Worth, The Novak Family, Rosa Casanova, Jackie, Barbara Cushing, Jim Pasour, Ron Straker, Louise Wolak, Nicky Sweeny, Rick Lock, Sharon Lock, Jeremy Lock, Sharon Lock, Phil, Barbara Blaze, Jeremy Lock, Cindy Bugno, Family of Cathy McShane

Joys:

The new Labyrinth installation,
the 2021 Farming Season

Global Concerns:
Haiti, Afghanistan, Continuing rise in the Delta Variant of COVID-19

Fifth Street Figures

Description	Offering
Worship 8/29/21	$1113.50
Plein Aire Painters	$16.00
Total	$1129.50
Worship 9/5/21	$1250.49
Plein Aire Painters	$8.00
Total	$1258.49
Worship 9/12/21	$6745.49
Tax Refund	$5.04
TOPPS	$150.00
Total	$6900.53
Worship 9/19/21	$2105.49
Plein Aire Painters	$16.00
Fellowship Hall Rental	$35.00
Total	$2156.49

Fifth Street Figures Continued…

Worship 9/26/21	$2723.35
Reconciliation Offering	$95.00
Plein Aire Painters	$8.00
Total	$2826.35

August Figures

General
Income: $10,421.00
Expenditures: $11,499.10

Outreach
Income: —
Expenditures: $200.00

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 Grace Kristoff and she will be happy to share that information with you.

We ask for your prayers as the Stewardship Campaign 2021 gets underway in October.
We will look to our future with hope!

I WILL FULFILL TO YOU MY PROMISE AND BRING YOU BACK TO THIS PLACE. FOR SURELY I KNOW THE PLANS I HAVE FOR YOU, SAYS GOD, PLANS FOR YOUR WELFARE AND NOT FOR HARM, TO GIVE YOU A FUTURE WITH HOPE.
+ JEREMIAH 29:10–11

Elder Serving Schedule

October

Grace Kristoff (10/3/21)

Steve Sundquist (10/10/21)

Brenda Michalak (10/17/21)

Sharon Worrell– Shcroader (10/24/21)

Debbie Benson (10/31/21)

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 and Facebook Live. 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** for weekly and daily updates on both platforms.

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email: fcchighland9540@gmail.com
Check us out on Facebook!

Worship: 10:30 A.M.

Pastor Office Hours:
Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday (9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.)

Pastor Rebecca Sundquist
Cell phone: (217)341-4105
Email: becky.sundquist@gmail.com

I can do all this through him who gives me strength. Philippians 4:13

Remarks from Rebecca

On Sunday, September 26th, I completed my second century ride for this year. In fact, I have done two century rides in the span of a month and five days. A century ride is 100 miles in a day. The first ride I did was with Tania Messmer in August. Together we rode for the nonprofit, "Donate Life" and because of you, we raised well over $1000 for this important cause. My second century ride was on 9/26 and I rode in honor of the Lewy Body Dementia Foundation. (This is the form of dementia that claimed my father-in-law's life.) I am grateful for all the support I received along the way.

I will be honest. The second ride was pretty tough. It was beautiful, but tough. (The first one had some interesting happenings, like stings and swollen faces, but it was not as difficult as my second ride.) I knew heading into the ride that the hills are more intense than my previous ride. One of the gambles on these long rides is the weather. While it was a stunning day, the wind was not a joke—especially when you are riding into the wind for the majority of the ride and the hills were most plentiful in miles 50-80 (you know, when your legs are starting to get tired). I had some problems with my cleats and I fell twice. I was glad to be done when I crossed the finish line.

At some point along the journey, I began to think about this ride in comparison to the road mainline churches are on today. It isn't an easy road—this long road to faith formation and transformation in today's world. It surely isn't always fun and sometimes you fall (even when you have been doing this for years). Yet there is beauty along the way. God's unfolding becomes visible and you keep going. You keep going because you know God's love is worth showing to the world. Its worth the journey so others will know this Light and Love deep within their souls. Unlike my ride, there is no finish line. I believe that Christ's Church is continuing to unfold and its future is certain. We just need to go with the wind and not against it. These are some things I think about when I ride my bicycle throughout the countryside.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Becky

2021 Homeless Lunch :
October 2, 2021

Senior Food Box
The Senior Food Box Distribution will be Wednesday, October 13, 2021 10-12!
If you or someone you know (over the age of 60) could use a little food assistance, this program provides excellent staples to your pantry. In the summer months, fresh vegetables are provided too. Help us get the word out about this great opportunity for food security in Lake County!

Labyrinth Memorials
Many thanks to all who have contributed to the Labyrinth Memorial flower fund. Watch your gifts grow year after year in honor of your loved ones!
Delia Helpingstine for Joseph and Mary Szendry; Tom & Sheila Cushing for Patty Cushing & Jack Campbell; Rev. Becky & Steve Sundquist for John Sundquist & Danny Meeker; Jean Morgan for Bob Morgan; Debbie & Ray Benson for Erik Benson; Linda Messmer for Jim, Woody, Janie, & Margaret Messmer; Honorarium given by Don & Rachelle Dean

Opportunities to Serve

Blessing Box Help Needed!

Many thanks to all who have helped with keeping our Blessing Box stocked during these difficult times. We have helped many of our neighbors not only with food - we have shown them love, given them hope, and let them know that they are not alone. We could use personal hygiene products and cleaning products to add to the Blessing Box. While we often think of just helping with food, the need to keep things neat and tidy is important too. **Items that we could use are: Toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, bath soap, body wash, feminine products, razors, shaving cream, lotions, and any type of cleaning product**. The Dollar Tree store has a great selection and everything is just a dollar! You can bring these things to the church and drop them off, there is a bin in the Narthex for your donations.

Used Books Needed!

If you have any used books in good condition, we will gladly take them off of your hands! We can use books for all ages for the Book Nook mini-library. Thank you for all your donations!

Farm Work News

Farm hours will continue on Mondays from 3 to 5 P.M. while growing finishes for the season. Each week, there will be an announcement about possible Farm Hours on Thursdays from 3-5 P.M.
When the season is finished, we will announce the time we need volunteers to close down the farm for the year.

Church Briefs:

Attention Veterans (or Family Members of Veterans)!
Pastor Becky is looking for pictures of you during your time of service. She will be making another video to honor our service men and women for Veterans Day in November. Please include descriptions and/or comments of your photos. Stories and anecdotes are also welcome. We want to acknowledge and how our appreciation for our Veterans who served honorably.

Martha Circle
Will meet 10/21 at 1 P.M. at the church.

Council Meeting
10/19 @ 7 P.M.

Many thanks to Steve Sundquist for filling in for Pastor Becky on 9/26! You are a blessing to our church!

Let's Save a Tree!
As we try to make eco-friendly choices (we are a Green Chalice congregation!) and save a few pennies along the way, hard copies of the newsletter will only be sent out to those who cannot receive digital ones. If you would like a paper copy of the newsletter, please let Rev. Becky know so she can add you to the list.

News From the Pews

Bible Study & Prayer Circle

Pastor Becky is offering two new opportunities to enhance your spiritual life mid-week. Beginning in September, she will offer a bi-weekly Bible Study and on alternate Wednesdays, a Prayer Circle. She will be offering in-person options at noon on Wednesdays (in the sanctuary) and a Zoom option at 7 P.M. on Wednesday evenings. The schedule for Wednesdays in October is as follows:

Wednesday, 10/6:
Bible Study (via Zoom) at 7 P.M.
(links will be emailed each Monday as well as put on Facebook.)

Wednesday, 10/13:
Prayer Circle (in-person) at 12 P.M.
Prayer Circle (via Zoom) at 7 P.M.

Wednesday, 10/20:
Bible Study (via Zoom) at 7 P.M.

Wednesday, 10/27:
Prayer Circle (via Zoom) at 7 P.M.

Please consider enhancing your daily spiritual practice with one or all of these opportunities. Bibles only will be needed for the study!

Save the Date!
Sunday, November 7th is
All Saints Sunday and we will honor our saints during worship and also have a Labyrinth Walk Honoring Our Saints after worship.

Congregational Meeting

There will be a congregational meeting on Sunday, October 17 after worship. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss and vote on the 2022 Budget as well as discuss and vote on proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws (changes that were approved at the September Board meeting). Copies of both the Constitution and Bylaws as well as the proposed budget are being distributed. The Board hopes that all will be present for this important meeting. A Zoom option will be available to those who wish to join online.

Honoring our Saints

As All Saints Sunday is but weeks away, Pastor Becky would like statements regarding our church saints who have gone home to be with God since our last All Saints Sunday. Those saints are:
Lida Barker
Woody Messmer
Jim Messmer
Carol Goralczyk
Rachelle Dean
Please share your comments with Pastor Becky by October 24.

If you have saints not connected with the church, but you would like to honor, please give Pastor Becky that information by October 24 as well.

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PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE