



BFCC e-Caller

Reaching Outward to Connect People with God's Abundance

Doing God's Will

A disciple asked his teacher, "Sir, please tell me how I can know the will of God."

"Come with me," said the guru, "and I shall show you."

He took the disciple to a lake, and both of them got into the water. Suddenly the teacher pressed the disciple's head under the water. After a few moments he released him and the disciple raised his head and stood up.

The guru asked him, "How did you feel?"

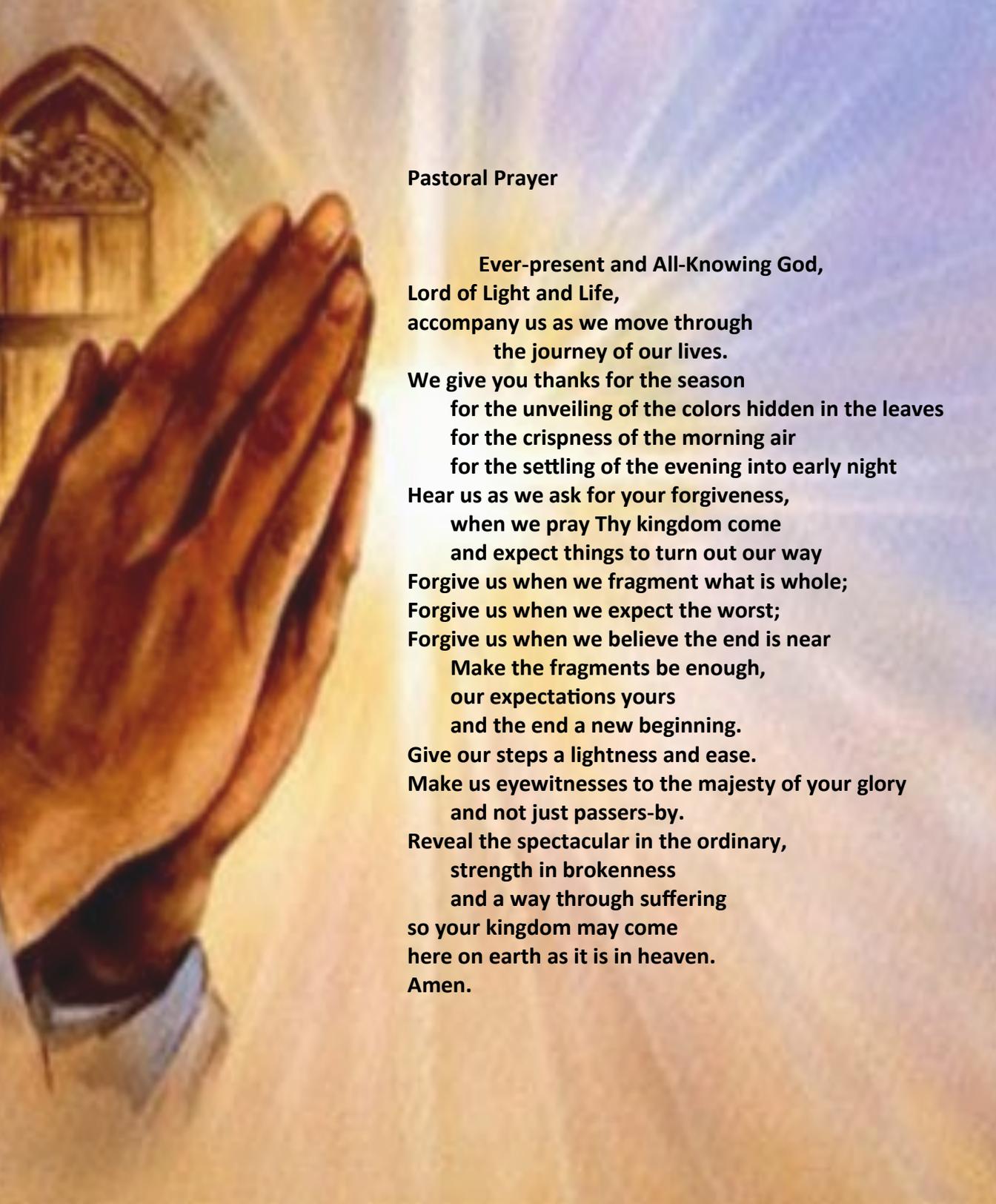
The disciple said, "Oh! I thought I should die; I was panting for breath."

The teacher said, "When you feel like that for God, then you will know you haven't long to wait for God's will."

May God's will be done here on earth as it is in heaven.

Rev. Eric

Looking Ahead				
	<u>10/31/2021</u>	<u>11/7/2021</u>	<u>11/14/2021</u>	<u>11/21/2021</u>
				Thanksgiving Sunday
Scripture	Matthew 7:12-21	John 21:9-17	Matthew 18:23-35	Mark 1:9-15
Sermon	"The Lord's Prayer - Your Will Be Done on Earth"	"The Lord's Prayer - Give Us Our Daily Bread"	"The Lord's Prayer - Forgive Us Our Debts"	"The Lord's Prayer - Lead Us Not into Temptation"



Pastoral Prayer

**Ever-present and All-Knowing God,
Lord of Light and Life,
accompany us as we move through
the journey of our lives.**

**We give you thanks for the season
for the unveiling of the colors hidden in the leaves
for the crispness of the morning air
for the settling of the evening into early night**

**Hear us as we ask for your forgiveness,
when we pray Thy kingdom come
and expect things to turn out our way**

**Forgive us when we fragment what is whole;
Forgive us when we expect the worst;**

**Forgive us when we believe the end is near
Make the fragments be enough,
our expectations yours
and the end a new beginning.**

Give our steps a lightness and ease.

**Make us eyewitnesses to the majesty of your glory
and not just passers-by.**

**Reveal the spectacular in the ordinary,
strength in brokenness
and a way through suffering**

**so your kingdom may come
here on earth as it is in heaven.**

Amen.

THE HOLY BIBLE

Scripture

Luke 17:20-35

New Revised Standard Version

Once Jesus was asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God was coming, and he answered, "The kingdom of God is not coming with things that can be observed; nor will they say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' For, in fact, the kingdom of God is among you."

Then he said to the disciples, "The days are coming when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. They will say to you, 'Look there!' or 'Look here!' Do not go, do not set off in pursuit. For as the lightning flashes and lights up the sky from one side to the other, so will the Son of Man be in his day. But first he must endure much suffering and be rejected by this generation. Just as it was in the days of Noah, so too it will be in the days of the Son of Man. They were eating and drinking, and marrying and being given in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed all of them. Likewise, just as it was in the days of Lot: they were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building, but on the day that Lot left Sodom, it rained fire and sulfur from heaven and destroyed all of them —it will be like that on the day that the Son of Man is revealed. On that day, anyone on the housetop who has belongings in the house must not come down to take them away; and likewise anyone in the field must not turn back. Remember Lot's wife. Those who try to make their life secure will lose it, but those who lose their life will keep it. I tell you, on that night there will be two in one bed; one will be taken and the other left. There will be two women grinding meal together; one will be taken and the other left."

Proclamation

**“The Lord’s Prayer -
Your Kingdom Come”**

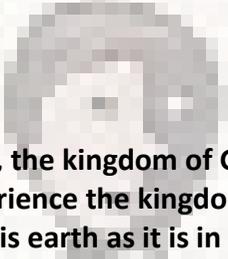
Rev. Eric

“Look there! Look here!” In 1976, when I was thirteen years old and in sixth grade, the kingdom of God was pretty simple. On one particular day the kingdom was about spending one whole day in downtown Chicago. Dad, my brother and I went to a matinee of the Wiz. We shared a great meal. Then we went to a night White Sox game. It wasn’t the Cubs but it was pretty close because Minnie Minoso was playing one game in the decade of the 1970’s so that he could claim to have played major league baseball across three decades. It was a special game. I shook Minoso’s hand. My dad caught a line drive foul ball down the third base line by reaching up with one hand and snaring it out of the air. Walking back to our car after the game I was hit on the head by two bricks that were thrown from the top of the twenty-story Robert Taylor homes. One will be taken and the other left.

“Look there! Look here!” Life was good at the age of thirty-six. The kingdom of God was pretty simple. Happily married. Two beautiful daughters. A wonderful home. Friends. Enjoying my time as a stay-at-home father. I awoke at two in the morning with an incredible pain in my chest. Paramedics arrived. I left in an ambulance. Just as I was wheeled into the emergency room my heart went into ventricle fibrillation. One will be taken and the other left.

"Look there! Look here!" Ten years pass. The kingdom of God surrounds me. Now three beautiful daughters. A life full of friends from the church where I was serving my first pastorate after graduating seminary. But after twenty-one years of marriage something was not right. The hell of divorce unfolded, ripping my heart apart and tearing the familiarity of the family that I had spent so many years loving and shaping into uncertainty. One will be taken and the other left.

"Look there! Look here!" Another ten years pass. A perfect early summer morning. The kingdom of God was pretty simple. My day off. I had just finished a breakfast of Greek yogurt, granola and blueberries and had settled into my favorite chair with a cup of coffee when the phone rang. Half a world away in Tanzania my middle daughter, Sydney Marie, had decided to take her own life, committing suicide. One will be taken and the other left.



Now, at fifty-six years of life, the kingdom of God is pretty simple. Gratefully and gracefully, I live to experience the kingdom of God AND I live for the coming of the kingdom of God on this earth as it is in heaven. Remember last week when I talked about how we are supposed to hallow, to make God's name holy, by doing what God does? God delivers people from suffering and oppression. God's kingdom is among us, is in our midst, is all around us, when people deliver other people from suffering and oppression. I am grateful for those who surrounded me when my skull was cracked open. I am grateful for those who surrounded me when my heart quit beating. I am grateful for those who surrounded me through my divorce. And for the love of parents, friends and family after the death of Syd. And I am grateful for those who surround me now in this kingdom of God.

The spiritual master Father Richard Rohr writes, "The first and most effective [means for realizing the kingdom of God] are circumstances over which you have no control, especially suffering in its many forms. These rearrange your world view and awaken the dead places within. They are not what you want, but they are given to you; they become the teachable moments that can and will change you deeply." It is cliché to say, "Take nothing for granted." Take nothing for granted. And don't go wandering around saying, "Look there! Look here!" Don't even bother asking the question, "Where, Lord?" The kingdom of God, like God's name, just IS. It is what it is. It was what it was. It will be what it will be.

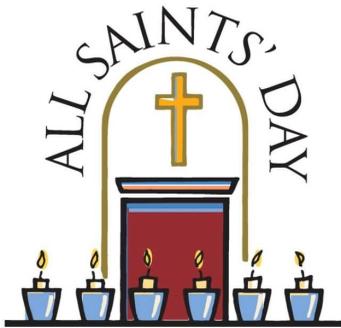
There is, was, and always will be plenty of apocalyptic hysteria. The authors of The Left Behind series took advantage of millions caught up in just such hysteria and made millions. In today's scripture reading, Jesus is saying, "Don't get caught up in the apocalyptic hysteria of when the kingdom is coming." The kingdom is here, now. The kingdom is there, now. Indeed, life presents us with enough hysteria in the here and now that we don't need to make more hysteria.

Living in the moment and praying “Thy kingdom come” as if somehow it will all work out on its own is not what we should do either. Rohr also says, “In addition to freeing us from religious and personal idolatries, the proclamation of the kingdom of God also frees us from social idolatries. We can’t keep saying ‘Thy kingdom come’ when we are actually trusting in our own nations, political parties, militaries, banks and institutions to save us.” Salvation, being delivered, comes from God working through us to deliver the oppressed. While we are busy doing God’s work of deliverance, other people are also being busy doing God’s work of deliverance and delivering us.

Jim Mulholland writes, “Establishing the kingdom of God is not about large financial donations, ministries that look more like corporations, or churches that resemble malls. It will not come with careful observation and with cries of ‘Here it is’ or ‘There it is.’ It will appear in the most unexpected places. It will seem small and insignificant in contrast to the kingdoms of this world. It will be most obvious in those places where men and women are acting in ways counter to the kingdoms of this world. The workers of the Kingdom of God will be recognizable because they always seem odd.”

I like that word “odd” as a description for someone who lives the life of Christ. The kingdoms of this world want success, growth, competitiveness, and progress. Christ calls each of us to pick up our cross to bring about the coming of the kingdom. How odd! We sit here this morning doing, if we’re honest, some pretty odd things in pretty odd ways. It is odd to think that the kingdom of God is in our midst as we nibble on a bit of bread and sip from a cup. It is odd that we pray, Thy kingdom come, together in this sanctuary hoping, perhaps knowing, maybe even participating in the faith that when we exit these doors we will make the kingdom come. How odd.

Look there! Look here! Do not go, do not set off in pursuit. For on that day one will be taken and the other left. How odd? Or, how just like life? Divorce, random violence, health issues, suicide. Others have their own list. Each of you has your own list. Some, perhaps many, will point to times of tribulation, pain and suffering and cry, The end is come! Others, myself included, will say, Yes, the kingdom of God has come, AND this time of my living is just beginning.



ALL SAINTS SUNDAY - November 7

On **Sunday, November 7** we will celebrate All Saints Sunday. This is our annual recognition of those members of our congregation who have died in the past year. We want to remember the deceased and the many ways in which they touched our lives.

Our records indicate that we will read the following members'/Saints' names during the service this year: **Bob Bailey, Delores Crane, Ellie Grissom, Felix Miller, John Williams.**

However, we want to make sure that we do not omit someone's name who should be mentioned. Please leave a message at the church or email firstccbedford@gmail.com

First Christian Church will again provide food one day a week for the Men's Warming Shelter. Due to Covid and other health policies, all food needs to be prepared in the church kitchen.

Rather than asking for prepared food, we will be asking for monetary donations. ALL donations of ANY amount will be greatly appreciated. For \$80.00 you or any organization will be able to sponsor a whole meal. There are donation envelopes in the pews or you can place your donation in your weekly offering envelope.

On your weekly offering envelope write Men's Warming Shelter on the line marked OTHER and the amount. Thanks for your kind donations and prayers. Outreach Ministry



The Outreach Ministry will have the annual Coat Bank from **10:00 am - 1:00 pm** the following Saturday's.

- ⇒ **October 30**
- ⇒ **November 6**
- ⇒ **November 13**
- ⇒ **November 20**
- ⇒ **December 4**

We will NOT be open November 27.

Disciple Women's Fellowship News

Here are the results of the poll that we did at Church Camp in September concerning our options for the upcoming year for Circle.



1. Most of you voted to meet every other month at the church.
2. Refreshments will be served as previously done with a committee preparing, serving and cleaning up.
3. The type of programs was evenly split between speakers and bible study/lessons.
4. Service projects will be mainly the same with the emphasis on some local charities. Also furnishing kitchen at the new camp lodge with necessary items was discussed.

All that being said, I will be contacting all our members to volunteer for hostess committees, to serve on a service project committee, and to help in securing speakers. Our first meeting will be December 13 with a dinner, provided covid doesn't get worse. Our dates this year will be:

December 13, 2021 (Dinner), February 14, 2021, April 11, 2021 and June 13, 2021

As most of you know, our beloved Ellie Grissom died recently and circle is buying a leaf for the endowment tree in her memory. Ellie was a very faithful member of First Christian Church and the Women's Circle.

If you have any ideas for speakers or program presenters, please contact me.

Pat Bell

812-275-6681

Let the study of the Bible begin!

Please join us for the weekly Pastor's Bible Study class each **Sunday at 9:30 am in the library**. We are studying the Gospel of Mark. No reading is required before class; just bring your Bible, a smile, an open mind, a warm heart and a willingness to encounter the Word of God. FYI...the study will be on ZOOM as well. So if you would like to participate in that way you are certainly welcome. Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82317051408?pwd=aEZ4K25ldHVhcWdvdvZ0dnR1YzBVZz09>

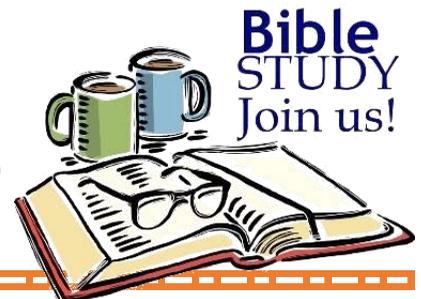
Meeting ID: 823 1705 1408

Passcode: 634534

One tap mobile

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+13126266799,,82317051408#,,,,*634534# US (Chicago)



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy Birthday
to you,
Happy Birthday
to you,
Happy Birthday
dear friends,
Happy Birthday
to you.

October

10/01	<i>Kam Jones</i>
10/05	<i>Rachel Ranjbar</i>
10/11	<i>Tony Ledford</i>
10/14	<i>Becky Wright</i>
10/15	<i>Christie Maxwell</i>
10/27	<i>Ron Bell</i>



**Please let our office know if
we don't have your birthday.**



November

Happy Birthday
to you,
Happy Birthday
to you,
Happy Birthday
dear friends,
Happy Birthday
to you.

11/01	<i>Karen Anderson</i>
11/01	<i>Vivian Fishel</i>
11/01	<i>Carolyn Tumey</i>
11/01	<i>Jim Zimmerman</i>
11/03	<i>George Sorrells</i>
11/03	<i>Sharon Wagoner</i>
11/04	<i>John Dixon</i>
11/07	<i>Erin Blackwell</i>
11/08	<i>Carol Blackwell</i>
11/11	<i>Nick Joyner</i>
11/14	<i>Larry Joyner</i>
11/20	<i>Amy Holbrook</i>
11/26	<i>Helen Merchant</i>

Please let our office
know if we don't
have your birthday.



October 2021



We are collecting **POTATOES (REGULAR AND SWEET), VEGETABLES AND STUFFING** for **L.I.F.E Pantry** during the month of **October**.

Please place all packages in the baskets located in the foyer. Any food or items you wish to donate are welcome any month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 9:30 Bible Study 10:30 Worship	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	11	12	13	14	15	16
17 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	25	26	27	28	29	30  10:00 am Coat Bank
31 Happy Halloween 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship						

NOVEMBER 2021



We are collecting **BAKING SUPPLIES, FLOUR, & SUGAR** for L.I.F.E Pantry during the month of November. Please place all packages in the baskets located in the foyer. Any food or items you wish to donate are welcome any month.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6  10:00 am Coat Bank
7 All Saints Day 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 11:30 Elder's Meeting	8	9	10	11	12	13 10:00 am Coat Bank
14 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	15	16 5:30 pm Board Mtg 	17	18	19	20 10:00 am Coat Bank
21 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship	22	23	24	25	26  Happy Thanksgiving Office Closed	27
28 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Worship 11:30 am Congregational Meeting	29	30				

SERVING SCHEDULE: OCTOBER

Elders

Oct. 3	Susan Maxwell Lewis
Oct. 10	Susan Maxwell Lewis
Oct. 17	Gary Ochs
Oct. 24	Jackie Robbins
Oct. 31	John George

Greeters

15th St	Audra Bunch
K St	Becky Wright
Canopy	Gary Ochs

SERVING SCHEDULE: NOVEMBER

Elders

Nov. 7	Barbara Sorrells
Nov. 14	Barbara Sorrells
Nov. 21	Gary Ochs
Nov. 28	Gary Ochs

Greeters

15th St	Bev McFadden
K St	Sarah Holbrook
Canopy	Helen Merchant

**If you cannot serve
your scheduled
Sunday,
please contact
another Elder or
Deacon or Steward
and arrange to trade
dates.**



Lord, Hear our Praise

Todd Glenn is doing better and can be removed from the prayer list.

Thanks be to God!

Prayer List

We continue to give thanks for blessings and lift-up our concerns in prayer, whether we are together or apart. Please fill out a Pew Card with your Prayer Requests or contact Gary Ochs or one of the Elders. We take your praise and prayer requests very seriously and updates are always appreciated.



In Your Mercy, Lord, Hear Our Prayers

Prayer List: Francena Beasley, Paula Beaton, Charles Bouldin, Bob and June Briscoe, Hannah Brooking, Brandy Busz, J.T. Carter, Levi Chisholm, Marian Cooley, Tina Corum, Dave Cox, Chantell Emberton, Aaron Evans, Ariene Gilbert, James Hackney, Karen Hackney, Liam Harting, Margaret Hathaway, Brent Hutton, Ainsley Jefferies, Rita Jenkins, Lisa Jordan, Emma Joyner, Mike Kern, Nancy Laken, Defne Leonard, Nina Sailor Lowe, Maddie Lynch, Danny Lyons, Don Mains, Victoria & Baby McVicker, William Metz, Carol Mifflin, Kim Mills, Sheila Miskuf, Patricia Morris, Sarah Mullis, Charity Henderson Parker, Shelly Perrson, Betty Robbins, John Robbins, Gregg Romine, Scott Roberts, Nina Saylor, Mary Beth Sieman, Linda Smith, Candy Sykes, Steven Taylor, Greg VanCleave, Harbor Webb, Carol Wieneke, Kristy Williams, Doris Wykoff, Roger Wykoff

Those away from home serving: the church, in military, civil service, education and work.

Those unable to be with us in Worship: Vivian Fishel, Barbara Hall, Jacob Householder, Marilyn Olson, Laverne Speer, Jimmy Waggoner.

**First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)**

1101 15th Street - Bedford, Indiana - 47421 - 812-275-4497

We are Disciples of Christ.

**A movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. As part of the one body of Christ,
we welcome all to the Lord's Table as God has welcomed us.**

***Disciples of Christ Statement of Identity**

Church Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Custodian's Hours: Monday-Wednesday: 8:00 am - 11:00 am, Sunday: 1 hour

Sunday Minister: Rev. Eric Brotheridge

E-mail: fccbedfordpastoreric@gmail.com

Organist: Mary Ruth Yates

Administrative Assistants:

Mitzi Flynn & Dawn Manke

Custodian: Steve Harrell

Camp Manager: Chuck Bair

E-Mail: manager@campbedford.com

Web Page: firstccbedford.org

Camp Bedford Web Page: campbedford.com



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They can
interfere
with our
Live
Stream.
Thank
you.



**Please silence
or turn off all
electronic
devices before
worship.**