Almost as an after thought to the birth of Jesus and his placement in the manger, the author of the gospel of Luke adds “because there was no place for them in the inn.” Presumably the inn is full because of the numerous people crowding into Bethlehem to be counted for the census of Emperor Augustus. Everybody in the nation is obeying the call of the powers-that-be. Not so with God! God does not obey the powers-that-be. Thomas Merton offers a brilliant and refreshing reflection on this theme in an essay titled “A Time of No Room.” Merton writes, “It was therefore impossible that the Word should lose himself by being born into shapeless and passive mass. He had indeed emptied himself, taken the form of God's servant, [hu]man.”

Rather than joining the “mass,” God is born and is placed in a manger, a feeding trough, like manna from heaven, for all to eat their fill!

Pastor Eric

Looking Ahead

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So that we may celebrate the Holiday Season, the office will be closed Friday, December 24 at Noon and Friday, December 31 at Noon. The office will reopen at 9:00 am on Tuesday, January 4. May your holiday be filled with peace and blessings!

Silent Night, Holy Night, All is Calm, All is Bright.

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service **11:00 pm** at FCC Bedford. You've just spent days, weeks and months getting ready for Christmas. This night is all about relaxing, taking a deep breath and enjoying worship with family and friends through music and the Word. Come join our celebration of Christ. Festive Music will start at **10:30 pm**.

For those that cannot make it in person, the service will be live streamed. Click here for the link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08TGUTxhJXU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=08TGUTxhJXU)

Unfortunately the mail is slow and our offering envelopes have been delayed. We hope to have them by mid January.

In the mean time, please use the envelopes in the pews and record your name on the envelope.

Thank you for your understanding

Just a Friendly Reminder

The Church office is closed on Mondays. Linda is in the office on Mondays BUT she is busy doing finances and is not available to answer the door or help with questions, etc.

When you have business with the office, please come when the office is open.

Hours are Tuesday – Friday: 9am-2pm .

Thank you, Mitzi, Dawn and Linda
The Outreach Ministry would like to thank all those who contributed to our missions in 2021. Without the generous and loving members of this church our missions would not have been accomplished. Thanks to those who brought food every week for Life Pantry and those who contributed to the purchase of food during Feed My Sheep. A big thanks to those who helped load and unload the food from Aldi’s.

We would like to thank the people who financially donated in order for us to purchase food for the Men’s Warming Shelter. A big shout out of thanks to those who prepare and deliver the food.

Last, but not least, thanks to those who provided coats, money, and worked the coat bank. Because of you, 69 Lawrence County youth will be warm this winter.

Here is our WISH LIST for 2022.

- continue to bring food for the Life Pantry by filling our baskets every week

- continue to provide financial support to purchase food to feed the men at the Men’s Warming Shelter each week

- help restock our coat bank. We are in need of the following sizes:

  Girls  3-5; 8/10; 16 and larger
  Boys    2 yr; 4 yr; 7 and larger
  Women   medium and large
  Men     medium, large, and extra large

Thanks again,
The Outreach Ministry

“Whatever you did for one of the least of these...you did for me.”
MATTHEW 25:40 (NIV)
https://www.ruralking.com/churchweek

Rural King is supporting Christian organizations by donating 10% of each valid Rural King receipt total after sales tax to the registered organization chosen by the customer.

Bedford First Christian Church is registered!

From December 10 – December 24, 2021, customers can upload their Rural King receipts to www.ruralking.com/churchweek and 10% of their receipt total after sales tax will go to the registered Christian organization of their choice.

Instructions:
- Go to or click on this link: https://www.ruralking.com/churchweek
- Under Church Week Heading, click on Search or Organization Search
- Select State: Indiana
- Select City: Bedford
- Select: our church (You should now see a picture of our church)

All donations will be provided by our local Rural King. All Rural King stores are participating.

Please share with your friends and be sure to say Thank You to Rural King management and associates when you shop.
Please let our office know if we don’t have your birthday.

Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday to you,
Happy Birthday dear friends,
Happy Birthday to you.
**December 2021**

We are collecting **BEANS AND CORNBREAD** for **L.I.F.E Pantry** during the month of December. Please place all packages in the baskets located in the foyer. Any food or items you wish to donate are welcome any month.

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If you cannot serve your scheduled Service, please contact another Elder or Deacon or Steward and arrange to trade dates.
Lift up your Hearts in Praise!

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


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

They can interfere with our Live Stream. Thank you.