



Our mission is "To Glorify God as Disciples of Jesus Christ
by reaching up, reaching in, reaching out."

Prayers Are Being Sent For:

First Christian Church (*Disciples of Christ*)
270 Main Street, Irvine, KY 40336
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED
Matt Hagle - Pastor
PASTOR'S CELL: (865) 207-7258
CHURCH OFFICE: (606) 723-2924
OFFICE HOURS: Tues-Wed-Thurs - 9a - 3p
Church E-Mail: fccirvine@irvineonline.net
Church website: fccirvine.com

The Christian
Messenger

Volume 27, Issue 1
January 2026

WORKERS FOR JANUARY

AUDIO/VIDEO

Tracy Snowden
Jesse Likens
Bryan Whorley

COMMUNION

Deacons are taking
care of this

MUSIC

1/4—Ann S.
1/11 - Praise Tm.
1/18— Becky S.
1/25 - Ann S.

DEACONS

Jackie Adams
Pat Garrett
John Duvall
Marty York

this can be changed if
it needs to

ELDERS

1/4—Phyllis R.
1/11- Phillip W.
1/18- Elmer A.
1/25 - Steve G.

GREETERS

1/4 - Barsha Honchell
Liz Richardson
1/11 - Carolee Robbins
Rebecca Reece
1/18- Heather Ingram
Jayne Crawford
1/25 - Bryan & Donna
Whorley

NURSERY

JANUARYBirthdays

1st

Tennye Ohr

2nd

Rebecca Reece

10th

Sherri Humpert

16th

Drake Ingram

17th

Barsha Honchell

21st

Larry Honchell

Amber Thompson

24th

Savanna Wallace

25th

Rhonda Hardy

30th

Todd Williams

31st

Margaret Lisle

Mike Wilson

JANUARYAnniversaries

4th

Darrell & Pam Ingram

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

SCHEDULE FOR
WEDNESDAY
EVENINGS

5:45p - Bible Study in
Fellowship Hall
7:00p - Choir

I Am A Christian



What does it mean to be a Christian? I think it's an important question to ask because we are living in a world where even church people have lost their identity. We kick off 2026 with a 2-month study on what a Christian is. It's easy to become so consumed in religious things, trying to be a good person, trying to be active in church, that we forget the foundation of who we are. I will be preaching a series of sermons out of scripture on what it means to be a Christian. To aid in the study as a church we will all be reading "I am A Christian" by Thom S. Rainier. The books are provided by the church and they are very easy reading, only 112 pages. What we are doing involves more than just reading a book and gaining knowledge, it's about letting God transform us through what we learn and applying it to our life.

I believe every year churches should remind themselves, reacquaint themselves, with their purpose and God's expectations of them. 1 Peter 2:2 describes Christians in this way "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation." Whether you are new to following Jesus or whether you have been a Christian for many years, God expects us to grow and He expects our church to progress.

The church never stands still, it continues to press on. When a church becomes comfortable, lacking desire to grow, it begins dying. Likewise a Christian is constantly growing, maturing and learning what it means to be like Jesus. Here's the reading schedule and preparation for the messages:

January 4	Who am I? Introduction
January 11	I am a believer pp. 13-26
January 18	I am a church member pp. 27-42
January 25	I am a disciple. pp. 43-56

2025 was a great year for our congregation. Trish and I are blessed beyond measure to be in such a loving Church. We appreciate your kindness and your generosity toward us. We're excited about the new year and what God is doing!

Pastor Matt

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PARTY



On December 13th the church held a children's Christmas party in the fellowship hall. We were blessed to have children involved in games, enjoying food and having fun, with a special invitation that they return to our church. We appreciate all those who helped and especially those who did the planning, Donna Whorley and Kathy Thompson!



CHOIR PRESENTS "REJOICE WITH GREAT JOY"!



The congregation was blessed with the choir's presentation of “Rejoice With Great Joy” Cantata. Becky Snowden led the choir through a beautiful choral presentation which featured both new and old Christmas songs, including a beautiful retelling of the Christmas story with scripture. Thank you to all the choir members for their diligence and practice it was certainly a blessing to the church!

CHRISTIAN WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Wishes for a "Blessed & Happy New Year!!
CWF was busy and blessed in 2025 with our outreach ministries and activities. Thank you to our church family and beyond for helping support our endeavors financially and physically being present to help as needed. Our hope and prayer for the New Year is to seek God's guidance and wisdom as we continue to reach out and minister to our community.

Update on a few of CWF activities:

Estill County Community Food Bank continues to need our church and community support in filling their shelves to help those in need of food assistance. Family needs for food assistance continue to increase and cost of purchasing food has also increased. Monetary support would be greatly appreciated to assist with purchase of needed food items. Our church will continue to collect non-perishable food items to help fill the food bank shelves to bless others in need. Please bring your canned or non-perishable food items to church and place them on the pews in the Fellowship Hall. The Estill County Community Food Bank serves 225-250 households twice a month. Please be prayerful about this need in our community and consider a monetary donation or bringing non-perishable food items to church. If you have questions, please contact Steve Garrett. Pat and Steve will deliver donated items to the Food Bank.

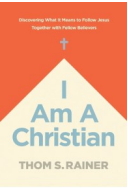
Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes collection was successful for 2025. Total shoeboxes filled and prayed over were 120. **Our church blessed 120 special children with simple gifts but more importantly the "Good News about Jesus".**

CWF Christmas dinner was cancelled due to weather. Needless to say, we were disappointed! We are currently looking at other opportunities and definitely looking forward to CWF Christmas Dinner 2026!!

Parenting and Pregnancy Center donation: We recently received a thank you note for our church contribution of \$1,672.38 for the baby bottle blessing. The Pregnancy Center offers much needed services and programs to young parents in our community.

Ladies Bible Study for 2026 will begin January 13th at 6:30pm. We will meet the second Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. It is always a great time of study, discussion, sharing and laughter. Phyllis is looking forward to seeing all the ladies on January 13th!!!

Next CWF meeting: January 10th at 9:30am at Hardee's. Join us for fellowship, laughter and planning for the new year.



GET YOUR COPY TODAY!

Starting in January our whole congregation, including two of the Sunday School classes will be going through this book.

Here's a review for you to consider:

In this concise book, respected pastor, author, and church consultant Thom Rainer explains how the local church is God's primary plan for reaching the world with his love.

What does it really mean to be a Christian? In a world where everything from sports to politics, social media to podcasts, and movies to television vies for our attention, we need to get back to what is essential. We need to know who we truly are and who we serve.

When people finally grasp who they are in Christ and what their participation means to their local church, everything changes. Life begins to make sense. Their purpose becomes clear. Their mission through their local church is confirmed. Their hearts start longing to cooperate with God in the company of fellow believers. When Christians become committed church members, the church becomes healthy. When the church becomes healthy, communities become healthy. When communities become healthy, the world can be transformed.

The urgent need of our day is for Christians to understand who they are, what they believe, and how that affects what they do. And the best place to answer those crucial life questions is in the context of the local church. It's nothing short of amazing and miraculous what God will do through a group of devoted Christians who become committed and selfless church members. I Am a Christian is your first step on that incredible journey.

All three Sunday School classes will be studying the book.

Electronic Giving Through SQUARE

**Please pull up this website on your smart phone or go to:
<https://irvine-first-christian-church.square.site/> When you go to this website you will see this. There will be a block where you can select the amount you want to send. The block says Tithe/Offerings**



The [Estill County Community Food Bank](#) is an on-going project and is always grateful for donations. Demand continues to grow. **January collection will be anything and everything, as long as it is in cans for the time being. Monetary contributions are also accepted. Please make checks to the Estill County Community Food Bank.** You can give the contributions to Steve Garrett.

Help is available on Sundays to transport you into the church with a scooter or to help you park your car. Look for those wearing safety vests.