



# First Christian Church

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## *The Older Brother*

**March 30, 2025**  
**10:00 A.M. Worship Service**

Welcome

\*Opening Hymn - #588 - In The Garden

\**Passing of the Peace*

### Call To Worship - from Psalm 32

Leader: Blessed are those whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

**People: Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them, and in whose spirit is no deceit.**

Leader: You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble and surround me with songs of deliverance.

**People: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you.**

**ALL: Do not be like the horse or the mule, which have no understanding but must be controlled by bit and bridle or they will not come to you. Rejoice in the Lord and be glad, you righteous; sing, all you who are upright in heart.**

### Opening Prayer

*Creator God, thank you for loving us like you do. Send your Holy Spirit upon us so that we might feel your presence and your peace. Guide us and direct us in the way you have laid out for us. Thank you for the great gift of your Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Teach us the way of service to one another. Help us to take up our cross daily and follow you wherever you lead us. We will give you the thanks and praise in the holy name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Prayer Hymn - #681 – Let There Be Peace On Earth

Prayers of the People

**THE LORD'S PRAYER**

*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.  
Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For Thine is the Kingdom, the power and the glory forever.  
AMEN*

Please continue to remember in prayer...			
- Our Church Family	- Cole Dunlap	- Barbara McVicker	- Sharon Arnold
- Jim Phegley	- Nancy Dunlap Sr.	- Jim Lefler	- Kayln Hall
- Bethel Ford	- Meg Smith	- Marsha Gastineau	- Luke Smith
- Larrinda Wolf	- Kate DeWees	- Jan Merritt	- Mia Berarducci
- Patti Coons	- Vianne Lewis	- Audrey Parmele	- Rick Williams
- Phil Lewis	- Tonya Todd-Barker	- Larry & Betty Lintner	- Sandra Schauer
- Shirley Maxwell	- Dan Wood	- Dawson Ploss	

**The Parable of the Lost Sheep**

**15** Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. **2** And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

**The Parable of the Prodigal and His Brother**

**11** Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. **12** The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So he divided his assets between them. **13** A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. **14** When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. **15** So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. **16** He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. **17** But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! **18** I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; **19** I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.’” **20** So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. **21** Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ **22** But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. **23** And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, **24** for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

**25** “Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. **26** He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. **27** He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ **28** Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. **29** But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. **30** But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ **31** Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. **32** But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

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Scripture Readings - Luke 15: 1 – 2, 11 – 32 (NRSV)

Sermon - ***The Older Brother*** — Pastor Jeff Seger

Invitation to Generosity and Presentation of the Gift

\*Doxology

\*Prayer for the Gifts

Intro to Communion - #30 - Break Thou the Bread of Life

Words of Institution

Prayer for the Bread and the Cup - Distribution of both Bread and Cup

\*Closing Song - #677 - They'll Know We Are Christians By Our Love

\*Benediction

Leader: Our service is ended, go into the world, you are the body of Christ.  
 And may the blessings of Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 be with you now and even forevermore.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

**Today's Meeting:**

10:00 a.m. - Sunday Worship Service - Pastor Jeff Seger

**Weekly Meetings:**

Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>

11:45 p.m. - Lenten Luncheon @ St. Luke's

6:00 p.m. - Wacky Wednesday

Monday, April 7<sup>th</sup>

9:30 a.m. - Balance Exercises and Bible Study

Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

10:00 a.m. - Worship Service

Beginning Balance As Of 3-23-25	11981.73
Expenses/Payroll/TAXES	4670.91
Weekly Offering	1074.00
Difference	-\$3596.91
Ending Balance	8384.82

**Announcements:**

**Week of March 23<sup>rd</sup>** - Attendance: 22 ; Live Stream Views on Facebook

Live: 0, YouTube: 0 Approx. Views: 22

**Youth Group – Wacky Wednesday:** will meet Wednesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

The meal will be provided by Mindy Pettet. Thank you Mindy!

**Lenten Luncheon Schedule:** Serving Times: 11:45-12:45

4/2 — St. Luke's

4/9 — Trinity UMC

4/16 —

**Monday April 7:** we will begin back with Balance exercises followed by a Bible Study. We will start at 9:30 am and take about 15-20 minutes to do a few exercises and then will start Bible Study immediately after in the church basement.

**April is First Christian Church's:** month to volunteer at The Good Samaritan Food Pantry. As you know, the pantry provides a vital service to our community and with the new location, volunteering is easier than ever. The pantry is open each Tuesday morning from 10 a.m. to noon and Thursday afternoons from 1 p.m. to 3.

**Easter Lily:** If you are interested in ordering an Easter Lily In Memory or Honor of a love one this year, there is an order form located in the narthex. This year, the cost of a Lily is \$24.00.

**To The Women of FCC:** Please join us for a See You Later party as we celebrate the journey ahead for our dear friend Abbie Parmele as she heads off to San Diego! Sunday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, from 2pm till 4pm, lower level Carnegie Center. Please RSVP to 219-866-1133.

**Lenten Services:** Maundy Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 pm CT, Trinity United Methodist, with Rev. Sean Johnson. Good Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 pm CT, First Presbyterian, with Rev. Michelle J. Bartel.

**Happy 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday:** Phil Lewis will be celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025. His family invites friends to join in celebrating this special milestone with a "Card Shower". Cards can be sent to Phil Lewis - Room 208, Rensselaer Care Center 1309 East Grace Street, Rensselaer, In 47978.

**March Birthdays**

- 3 - Viana Lewis
- 4 - Kris Bailey
- 5 - Pauline Amsler
- 6 - Matt Beehler, Stephen Nicole
- 7 - Charles Griffin, Kalyn Hall
- 8 - Haylie Newcomb
- 9 - Andy Morris, Ali Phillips
- 10 - Cathy Eldridge, Addie Dobson
- 11 - Josh Eldridge
- 14 - Sandy Todd
- 15 - Regina Sanders
- 18 - Cody Lintner, Heidi Phillips
- 19 - Laura Lefler-Kinnaird,  
Jim Lefler
- 21 - Craig Jackson
- 23 - Casey Boose
- 25 - Travis Mattocks
- 26 - Jeff Phillips



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**March Anniversaries**

- 3 - Dennis & Pam Sayler - 1973
- 6 - Marcia & Ote Wood - 1982
- 26 - Gary & Regina Sanders - 1988



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