



First Christian Church

327 N. Van Rensselaer St.

Rensselaer, IN 47978

Office - (219) 866-7871

Pastor Jeff: (574) 242-8076

Office Hours: Mon, Wed, & Fri 10 am - 3 pm

Office Email: fcc.manageroff@gmail.com

Pastor Jeff email: jlseger2010@hotmail.com

Website: www.fccrensselaer.life



The Passion of Jesus

March 29, 2026

10:00 A.M. Worship Service

Pastor Jeff Seger

Welcome

*Opening Hymn - #292 - Because He Lives

**Passing of the Peace*

Call To Worship: (from Psalm 31)

- Leader: In you, O Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame; deliver me in your righteousness.
- People: **Turn your ear to me, come quickly to my rescue, be my rock of refuge, a strong fortress to save me.**
- Leader: Free me from the trap that is set for me, for you are my refuge.
- People: **Into your hands I commit my spirit; redeem me, O Lord, the God of truth.**
- ALL: **How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you. Be strong and take heart, all you who hope in the Lord.**

Opening Prayer:

Holy God, as we journey with your son to the cross on Calvary, be with us and for us. Help us to imitate your love and his love for us. While we were yet sinners, you sent your son to be born like one of us to save us. The cross is not the final answer. After the cross comes resurrection, the defeat of sin and death once for all time. Guide us here by your Holy Spirit. We lift up our prayer and praise in the name of your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Prayer Hymn - #287 – Were You There?

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	- Kate DeWees
- George Cover	- Nancy Dunlap Sr.	- Jim Lefler	- Kayln Hall
- Bethel Ford	- Meg Smith	- Marsha Gastineau	- Luke Smith
- Larrinda Wolf	- Nancy Justice	- Jan Merritt	- Mia Berarducci
- Patti Coons	- Vianne Lewis	- Audrey Parmele	- Rick Williams
- Phil Lewis	- Tonya Todd-Barker	- Betty Malone-Lintner	- Sandra Schauer
- Shirley Maxwell	- Dan Wood	- Paul Parmele	- Bob Hilton

Scripture Text: Matthew 26: 14 – 75 (NRSV)

Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

14 Then one of the twelve, who was called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests **15** and said, “What will you give me if I betray him to you?” They paid him thirty pieces of silver. **16** And from that moment he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

The Passover with the Disciples

17 On the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where do you want us to make the preparations for you to eat the Passover?” **18** He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is near; I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’ ” **19** So the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover meal.
20 When it was evening, he took his place with the twelve disciples, **21** and while they were eating he said, “Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me.” **22** And they became greatly distressed and began to say to him one after another, “Surely not I, Lord?” **23** He answered, “The one who has dipped his hand into the bowl with me will betray me. **24** The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that one by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that one not to have been born.” **25** Judas, who betrayed him, said, “Surely not I, Rabbi?” He replied, “You have said so.”
The Institution of the Lord’s Supper
26 While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it he broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” **27** Then he took a cup, and after giving thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you, **28** for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for

the forgiveness of sins. **29** I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom."

30 When they had sung the hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

Peter's Denial Foretold

31 Then Jesus said to them, "You will all fall away because of me this night, for it is written,

'I will strike the shepherd,

and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.'

32 "But after I am raised up, I will go ahead of you to Galilee." **33** Peter said to him, "Even if all fall away because of you, I will never fall away." **34** Jesus said to him, "Truly I tell you, this very night, before the cock crows, you will deny me three times." **35** Peter said to him, "Even though I must die with you, I will not deny you." And so said all the disciples.

Jesus Prays in Gethsemane

36 Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." **37** He took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee and began to be grieved and agitated. **38** Then he said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, even to death; remain here, and stay awake with me." **39** And going a little farther, he threw himself on the ground and prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me, yet not what I want but what you want." **40** Then he came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and he said to Peter, "So, could you not stay awake with me one hour? **41** Stay awake and pray that you may not come into the time of trial; the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." **42** Again he went away for the second time and prayed, "My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done." **43** Again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. **44** So leaving them again, he

went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words. **45** Then he came to the disciples and said to them, "Are you still sleeping and taking your rest? Now the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. **46** Get up, let us be going. Look, my betrayer is at hand."

The Betrayal and Arrest of Jesus

47 While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the twelve, arrived; with him was a large crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. **48** Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, "The one I will kiss is the man; arrest him." **49** At once he came up to Jesus and said, "Greetings, Rabbi!" and kissed him. **50** Jesus said to him, "Friend, do what you are here to do." Then they came and laid hands on Jesus and arrested him. **51** Suddenly one of those with Jesus put his hand on his sword, drew it, and struck the slave of the high priest, cutting off his ear. **52** Then Jesus said to him, "Put your sword back into its place, for all who take the sword will die by the sword. **53** Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? **54** But how then would the scriptures be fulfilled, which say it must happen in this way?" **55** At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, "Have you come out with swords and clubs to arrest me as though I were a rebel? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not arrest me. **56** But all this has taken place, so that the scriptures of the prophets may be fulfilled." Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

Jesus before the High Priest

57 Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. **58** But Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards in order to see how this would end. **59** Now the chief priests and the whole council

were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they might put him to death, **60** but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward **61** and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and to build it in three days.’ ” **62** The high priest stood up and said, “Have you no answer? What is it that they testify against you?” **63** But Jesus was silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I put you under oath before the living God, tell us if you are the Messiah, the Son of God.” **64** Jesus said to him, “You have said so. But I tell you, From now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

65 Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, “He has blasphemed! Why do we still need witnesses? You have now heard his blasphemy. **66** What do you think?” They answered, “He deserves death.” **67** Then they spat in his face and struck him, and some slapped him, **68** saying, “Prophecy to us, you Messiah! Who is it that struck you?”

Peter’s Denial of Jesus

69 Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. A female servant came to him and said, “You also were with Jesus the Galilean.” **70** But he denied it before all of them, saying, “I do not know what you are talking about.” **71** When he went out to the porch, another female servant saw him, and she said to the bystanders, “This man was with Jesus the Nazarene.” **72** Again he denied it with an oath, “I do not know the man.” **73** After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, “Certainly you are also one of them, for your accent betrays you.” **74** Then he began to curse, and he swore an oath, “I do not know the man!” At that moment the cock crowed. **75** Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said: “Before the cock crows, you will deny me three times.” And he went out and wept bitterly.

Scripture Readings - Matthew 26: 14 – 75 (NRSV)

Sermon - “*The Passion of Jesus*” — Pastor Jeff Seger

Invitation to Generosity and Presentation of the Gift

*Doxology - #382 - Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen

*Prayer for the Gifts

Intro to Communion - #283 - What Wondrous Love Is This?

Words of Institution

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

OFFERTORY & COMMUNION

*The bread and the cup are distributed together.
Please hold until you are invited to partake together.*

*Hymn of Invitation - #273 - Jesus Paid It All

*Benediction

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

People: Thanks be to God.

Todays Meeting:

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

Weekly Meetings:

Sunday, April 5th

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

Beginning Balance As Of 3-23-26	3501.043646 .90
Expenses/Payroll x3	3358.90
Weekly Offering	10470.00
Difference	+7111.10
Ending Balance	10758.00

Announcements

Week of March 22nd - Attendance: 24; Live Stream Views: - YouTube Live: 8; Approx. Views: 12 - 41

Youth Group – Wacky Wednesday: will NOT meet Wednesday, March 25th due to Spring Break.

Happy 91st Birthday: Phil Lewis will be celebrating his 91st birthday on April 5th, 2026. Let's "shower" him with cards. Address: Phil Lewis Rensselaer Care Center 1309 E Grace St Rensselaer, IN 47978

Good Samaritan Food Pantry Volunteers Needed: April is the month for First Christian Church to volunteer at our Good Samaritan Food Pantry. The food pantry is open on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons. There is a sign up sheet in the back of the church so please sign up to work. It is such a

worthy cause in our community. If you have questions, please call Connie Blackketter at 317-697-2152. Thanks in advance for volunteering.

Lenten Lunch Schedule: RAMA invites the community to join in the fellowship of the 2026 Lenten Lunches. Each luncheon begins at 11:45 a.m. and concludes at 12:45 p.m. The recommended donation for each lunch is \$6.00. All proceeds go to Helping Hand Fund.

Lenten Lunch Schedule

April 1st - Hope Community Seder Dinner

Lenten Services: Maundy Thursday, April 2nd, at 5:30 pm and Good Friday, April 3rd, at 7:00 pm Trinity United Methodist, with Pastor Sean Johnson.