

Speedway Christian Church
5110 West 14th Street
Speedway, Indiana 46224



SPEEDWAY

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

Spirit @ SCC

Newsletter



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Celebrating SCC Members Welcome

JoEllen Dotlich
to Speedway Christian Church.



Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all ye lands - Psalms 100:1

Do you like to sing or ring handbells? If so, it's time to consider joining one of Speedway's choirs as they begin rehearsing again for a new season of music making. This is your opportunity to help bring beauty and meaning to worship through the offering of music each Sunday. Chancel Choir (singing) will begin rehearsing on Thursday, August 21 @ 8:00pm in the Choir Room and Joyful Ringers (ringing) will begin rehearsing on Thursday, September 4 @ 6:00pm in the Handbell Room. New members are welcome in both ensembles!

Paula Nichols, Director of Music

World Outreach

The World Outreach Committee would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone for making the Back to School Drive a huge success. We partnered with the Westside Ministerial Association and Stewardship to provide backpacks and school supplies for students in IPS and Speedway Schools. We were able to give away 200 backpacks filled with needed school supplies this year.

August WOWW project will be Bibles for Wheeler Mission Women and Children Center. Bibles can be any translation. New and gently used Bibles are acceptable. Wheeler Mission has a need for Large Print Bibles. On Friday, August 8th a group of 15 from SCC went to Wheeler Mission Women and Children Center to host a recreation and snack time. We had a lot of fun playing games and socializing with the women and children at the center.

Sunday September 7th Sheltering Wings in Danville Volunteer Opportunity Adults and Youth Group 6:00 to 7:30pm. We will be hosting a recreation and snack time. We will be playing games with approximately 30 women and 30 kids.

~ Amy Ostrander, World Outreach Chair



Camp Chaos Vacation Bible School

What an *amazing* time our 35 preschool through fifth grade campers had at "Camp Chaos," Vacation Bible School, the evenings of June 22, 23 and 24.

Working to create a space where kids could laugh, learn and grow closer to God were 13 youth guides and 15 adult (kids-at-heart) volunteers. Camp Chaos counselors led get-up-and-move songs, told interactive Bible stories, helped everyone create crafts that included glitter bottles, beaded cross necklaces, have snacks and work off energy doing relays and obstacle courses.

"We are so grateful for all the incredible volunteers who gave their time, energy, and hearts to make it a fun and faith-filled experience. They helped create a space where kids could laugh, learn, and grow closer to God. The joy, patience, and love they poured into each night didn't go unnoticed and we're so grateful," said Angie Dinwiddie, Christian Education Chair and VBS director.

Special thank also goes to the families who signed up, showed up, brought their kids, and enthusiastically supported the chaos.



Speedway Christian Pentecost Celebration Sunday, June 8, 2025

Yards of sheer red fabric streamed high across the sanctuary on Pentecost Sunday, June 8, as we celebrated the beginning of the Christian church.

The bright red banners symbolized the flames of the Holy Spirit, that a large group of believers experienced 50 days after the Passover, where Jesus was crucified, resurrected and then ascended into heaven.

Elder Tom Smith read the Pentecost story from the second chapter of Acts that included, "they were together in one place, and suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues of fire, appeared among them and a tongue rested on each of them. All were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak as the Spirit gave them the ability."

During the Children's Moment, Rev. Katie Griffin led a spirited singing of "happy birthday to the church" in honor of the founding of the universal church, with a promise to the children of birthday cupcakes during Worship and Wonder.

Rev. Kyle Hunter's sermon reminded the congregation the Good News of Christ has the capacity to change our lives. Life is often hard, but as at the first Pentecost, it's up to us to decide how we respond. Sharing the Good News of hope and redemption is truly "the rest of our stories."

Directed and accompanied by Paula Nichols, the Chancel Choir continued the spirit theme and sang the traditional American spiritual, "Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit."

Communion was blessed and served, followed by the invitation hymn, "Spirit of God Descend Upon my Heart."

Be inspired by the 2025 Pentecost worship service that celebrates the Holy Spirit being among us each day. Click the following link to see and hear our Pentecost worship video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=drkV1I9grG4>.



Greetings Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We are one week away from the oh so familiar sounds of little voices filling the hallways of the church, and I for one am R E A D Y! There is just something so very uplifting about seeing all of their faces and sounds in the hallways and classrooms, again. I am not sure if it is the return of the routine, or if it is celebrating the trust that our community has with the Opportunity Day program and staff that increases my joy.



There are some new faces for this year and there are some familiar faces returning as well. I have no doubt that their presence will be a blessing to all of their students. It has also been fun to watch as the rooms have come out of their summer hibernation. To top it all off, we FINALLY have new, reliable air conditioning to cool off hot red faces as they return from playing outside.

I have a growing appreciation for routine. It feels like it gets more important the more years I live. However, I still want to make sure that I have plenty of unplanned time as well. To make room for unexpected bike rides or the invitation to go toss a baseball in the yard. To offering sage advice on the latest middle school issue (spoiler alert– I could not offer anything helpful).

What about you? Where do you experience joy? Is it in the familiarity of a routine, or is it in the surprise of not knowing what's next? Maybe the better question to ask is can you experience joy in *both*? Again, my life experience has taught me that the longer I am on this side of heaven, life is made up of *both*.

This is not new information, though. Take for example the passage in Acts about the baptism of the Ethiopian Eunuch. I am sure that Philip thought that it would just be another routine day. I am not even sure he thought anything by the initial request to walk through scripture. But what a joy it must have been to receive the request to be baptized.

This month, may you experience God's joy in expected and unexpected ways. May you find peace in the familiar routines. May you be open to receiving an unexpected blessing. You just never know what might happen or where the conversation might lead.

And maybe, just maybe remember what it was like when you were a child the age of our Opportunity Day kiddos.

See you in church as we continue to serve our congregation, our community and our world.

Shalom,
Rev. Kyle

News and Updates from Reverend Katie

Blessing bags

Many of our neighbors do not have homes. We see these people on the street corner, outside of grocery stores, and other places. We want to do something to help, but it feels overwhelming. Our youth group has made some bags to give to these homeless neighbors. These bags contain many simple pleasures we take for granted – a toothbrush and toothpaste, a pair of socks, fingernail clippers, chapstick, bandaids, snacks, and a bottle of water. We call them Blessing Bags and you will find them in the Hall of Light.

- Grab a bag or two.
- Put it in an accessible place in your car (so you can get to it easily when driving and you see someone).
- Give it to a neighbor in need. This simple effort could make a big difference.

What Is a Prayerground — and Why Do We Have One?

I'm sure you have noticed a special place in our sanctuary that we call a prayerground. A **prayerground** is a designated area within the sanctuary for young children to engage in quiet play, coloring, and listening during worship. It's an intentional invitation for our youngest members to be fully present in the life of the church.

Why a Prayerground?

At Speedway Christian Church, we believe that children are not just the future of the church—they are the church *right now*. Jesus welcomed children with open arms and reminded his followers that the kingdom of God belongs to children as these. The prayerground reflects that same welcome. Here are a few reasons we've created a prayerground:

Inclusion: When sitting in a pew, children often cannot see or hear well. By having a space created just for children, where they can see and experience everything, the prayerground lets them know that they belong here, too.

Engagement: Children learn by seeing, hearing, and doing. When they sit in worship – even with crayons or small toys– they absorb the rhythms of faith and worship life.

Hospitality: It communicates to visitors and members alike that children are valued and celebrated, not tolerated.

Grace: It reminds all of us that worship doesn't have to be silent or perfect to be sacred. A little joyful noise and movement can be signs of life and growth.

Continue in next column

Reverend Katie—Continued

What It's Not

The prayerground isn't a playground. It isn't a place to distract the kids during worship or a substitute for parenting. It's a space for kids to be involved in the life of the church. It is our hope that when you start out knowing that you are a valued part of the church, you will continue to want to be a part of the life of the church long into the future.

How Can You Help?

Even if you don't have little ones, you can be part of making the prayerground successful:

- Offer a smile or word of encouragement to families.
- When you meet new families with young children, mention the prayerground and that their whole family is always welcome in worship.

Model grace and flexibility – remember, the church is supposed to be a little messy and full of life. A church with small voices is a church that is growing. By making room for all ages in our sanctuary, we live more fully into our identity as the body of Christ—diverse, interdependent, and welcoming to all. So next time you see a child scribbling a picture of Jesus, give thanks. The Spirit is at work, with crayons in hand.

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Journey in Faith (JIF) class

Do you have a youth (in grades 6-7) who would like to be in our Journey in Faith (JIF) Baptism Class? Melanie Heaviland will be beginning a new class in September. Please contact Melanie or Rev. Katie with any questions regarding the class.

Youth Group

Youth group is back and we are excited to be together again after the summer. Let Rev. Katie know if you would like to be added to the email list or if you need the schedule. Our meeting times are:  
5:30–6:45pm – Chi-Rho (6-8 grades)  
6:45-7:15pm – Dinner together  
7:15-8:30pm – CYF (9-12 grades)

Youth Group Volunteers

We need some help from our church to make youth group a success, particularly folks who can help out with our youth during our time together and to provide meals. The expectation of volunteers is to simply engage with the kids (participating in activities/discussions, etc.) with the youth. Rev. Katie will plan and lead all of the activities; we just need adults who will be present with the group.

Addresses for College Kids

If you have college kids this year (or you are one of those college kids), please send Katie your address at school (kgriffin@speedwaychristian.org).

Please keep in Prayer

Linda Edwards, Dorothy Webb, Jan Oeth,  
Jerry Bolinger, Gayle Parke, Don Bosma,  
Becky Parke (Bob & Gayle Parke's daughter-in-law)

Dear Church Family,  
I want to thank everyone who prayed for my healing after surgery, and who sent get well cards as well. I'm doing very well in my rehab and am glad to be back in church.

~ Reta Kaiser



Opportunities to Give

August Stewardship

What G.I.F.T. will you bring?

Monetary gifts to help support  
The Storehouse Food Pantry

August WOWW Giving

New and gently used Bibles (any  
translation)

for Wheeler Mission

Women and Children Center.

Large print Bibles are needed.

Stewardship/Finance—July 2025

|                                       |    |        |
|---------------------------------------|----|--------|
| July 2025 Funds Received              | \$ | 35,777 |
| Funds xferred (unbudgeted expenses)   | \$ | 39,435 |
| July 2025 Expenses                    | \$ | 71,383 |
| July 2025 (expenses less than income) | \$ | 3,828  |

2025 Year to Date (January—July)

|                                     |    |         |
|-------------------------------------|----|---------|
| 2025 YTD Funds Received:            | \$ | 234,235 |
| Funds xferred (unbudgeted expenses) | \$ | 83,862  |
| 2025 YTD Expenses:                  | \$ | 322,585 |
| YTD (expenses greater than income)  | \$ | (4,488) |