

DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

JANUARY 2016

MISSION OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

The mission of this Congregation shall be—

To lead people to faith in Jesus Christ.

To encourage their active commitment to His service.

To facilitate their growth in grace and in the knowledge of Christ.

Further, it shall be our mission to work for the unity of all Christians and to participate in the common task of building the Kingdom of God.



PASTOR'S MESSAGE

On multiple occasions now, I have said to Denise in the morning, "I am SO happy."

I think she may be worried that something is wrong with me, because she also knows that I'm struggling with a cold and overwhelmed with all the new people, tasks, and information Denise helps me encounter each day.

AND: I am just SO happy.

Somewhere each morning, usually on the short trip from the parsonage to the office, it hits me: I have a congregation to love. I have a congregation of faithful, hardworking Christians to love. Every day since I arrived I am engaged with fellow Christians who are looking for ways to spread and to BE the Good News of Jesus Christ.

I said it when I preached my first Sunday with you here in Paulding, but it bears repeating: YOU, the congregation and each individual of First Christian Church, are a miracle for me.

You are a miracle for me, AND you are a congregation with a history of miracles we can rediscover, miracles happening right now, and miracles waiting to happen.

I am so excited to be on this journey with you. I am so excited and joyful.

I hope you will feel the fullness of "This is the day that the LORD has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it" as I do while we journey together into our new life-chapters during 2016.

Let's be miraculous together!

Blessings of Joy and Gratitude,

Seth



PRAYER REQUESTS:



*Bill Baxter
 *Rick DeGood
 *Gabbie Stallbaum
 Darlene Knapp
 Paul Eiserle
 Parker Bassett
 Emogene Aquirre
 David Riggerbach
 Jerry Miller

Martha Strahley
 The family of Jo Hoover
 Keven Daniels family
 Janice Merriman
 Jeff Krill
 The Pastor Search Team
Military:
 *Suzanne Reinhart
 Sarah Yoder

Nursing Home Residents..

*Aletha Kadesch (Gardens)
 *Georgiana Wilson (Manor House)
 *John Peeper Jr. (Gardens)
 *Helen Gunderman--
 (St. Anne's Retirement Comm. Apt. 26)
 *Bob Unger (Hickory Creek Nursing Home)
 Charles Baxter (Kingsbury House, Defiance Oh)
 Our homebound

* Denotes FCC members



Thank You

DWM Ladies,

Thank you so much for Gabbie's prayer shawl. It is beautiful. Also thank you for all the cards and prayer during Gabbie's surgery and recovery.

Camie , Ted
 Haleigh and Gabbie

The best things are nearest: light in your eyes,
 flowers at your feet duties at your hand, the
 path of God just before you.

New Interim Pastor

The Pastor Search Committee started out looking for an Interim Pastor. After looking at a few different candidates we were finally given one last profile to look at. The candidate was Seth Stout. After interviewing him on the phone we invited him to the church for a personal interview. Needless to say, we liked what we saw. We took his name to the Church Board and it was agreed that we call him as our Interim Pastor, and he started with us the first of December.

Rev. Seth Stout comes to us from Columbus, Ohio, where he has worked on projects with our Regional Staff. He is a 2000 graduate of Ohio State University. He got a Master of Divinity degree from Methodist Theological Seminary in 2012. Seth has had other specialized training including Interim training from the Region. Seth has also worked as the Youth Pastor for the Karl Road Christian Church in Columbus. He has a great deal of experience working with the youth at Camp Christian as a counselor and co-director and will be a great asset to the youth of our Church.

Rev. Stout enjoys meeting people, has a good grasp of Biblical Knowledge, and is a good speaker who can make his sermons very interesting. We would like to invite you to come and see for yourself on Sunday Mornings at 10 am.

Paul Long on behalf on the committee
 Co-Chair Pastor Search Committee

FLOWERS



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

1/3/2016 Greg & Ann Reinhart (Happy New Year)
 1/10/2016 Darwin & Ursula Riley
 1/17/2016 Darla Smith (24th Wedding Anniversary)
 1/24/2016 Pat Paulus (Memory of Don Paulus)
 1/31/2016 Paul & Helen Long (Memory of Guy & Elsie Long)

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

1/03 Larry & Cindy Grace
 1/17 Clint & Malerie Reinhart



A Good Start

He who fritters away the early morning, its opportunity and freshness, in other pursuits than seeking God will make poor headway seeking him the rest of the day. If God is not first in our thoughts and efforts in the morning, he will be in the last place the remainder of the day

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

1/02 Sandra Bandy
 1/05 Vicki McClure
 1/06 Jan Commers
 1/08 Sharon Kline
 1/09 Lindsey Frey
 1/14 Quentin Vance
 1/16 Sherry Short
 1/18 Skylar Daniels
 1/18 Clint Reinhart
 1/19 Kevin Daniels
 1/19 Brenda Mathy
 1/19 Robert Unger
 1/21 Jennifer Mudel
 1/23 Kelly Ricker
 1/25 Brian Aden
 1/27 Gage Daniels
 1/27 Logan Mudel
 1/28 Jeannine Hoover

DEADLINE FOR THE
 FEBRUARY DIGEST
 JANUARY 15TH.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP:

DATE:	MEMBERS	VISITORS	NON MEMBERS	CHILDREN	TOTAL
11/22/15	61	1	1	5	68
11/29/15	71	6	6	14	97
12/6/15	65	4	5	12	86
12/13/15	74	5	5	15	99



COUNTERS:

1/03/16 John Jelinek, Matt Strayer, Jack Moore
 1/10/16 Gary McClure, Vicki McClure, Sandra Bandy
 1/17/16 Max Hibbard, Sue Simpson, Charles Simpson
 1/24/16 Matt Strayer, Matt Stoller, John Jelinek
 1/31/16 Dan Workman, Bruce, Charlie Simpson



Seeking the Best

I believe that appreciation is a holy thing—that when we look for what's best in a person we happen to be with at the moment, we're doing what God does all the time. So in loving and appreciating our neighbor, we're participating in something sacred.

Fred Rogers

First Christian Church Contributions Fund Summary NOVEMBER 2015

DATES	TITHES & OFFERINGS	SPECIAL -THANKS	BUILDING MAINT.	SIGN FUND	MENS GROUP	TOTAL
11/01/2015	1,678.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	23.65	1,701.65
11/08/2015	1,685.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	1,745.00
11/15/2015	1,803.00	45.00	0.00	0.00	150.00	1,998.00
11/22/2015	4,719.00	60.00	25.00	240.70	28.00	5,072.70
11/23/2015	0.00	0.00	0.00	205.00	0.00	205.00
11/29/2015	1,689.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,689.00
Total	11,574.00	145.00	25.00	445.70	221.65	12,411.35

Susan K. Simpson
 Susan K. Simpson, Financial Secretary

12-1-15
 Date

2016 OFFERING ENVELOPES

Offering envelopes for 2016 are available in the narthex . Please take a minute to pick yours up.

2015 GIVING STATEMENTS

If you would like a giving statement for tax purposes please see Sue Simpson.

ANNUAL REPORT INFORMATION

All Teams and officers should have their annual report information to the office by January 31.

If you have questions please see Denise.

Thank You



Outreach Committee

Thank you for supporting the Christmas projects. We adopted 6 families from Human Services and 5 more families from school and other sources. The extra gloves and scarfs will be given to the school. We also have purchased back packs for next years school projects.

So we will just be filling them when it comes time.

Have a Blessed Christmas.

Hard Times Supper

January 20, 2016

6:30 p.m.

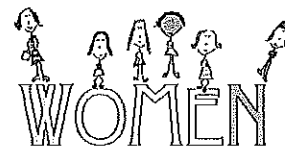


We will be having a Ham and Bean Supper.

This was an annual event back in the day.

Ham and Beans will be provided but if you would like to bring a favorite recipe from the depression or from your grandparents please do.

Wear your hard time clothes. Patches and holes are acceptable. Old time games for the kids. We would love to hear your stories of true hard times.



Disciples Women's Ministry

The Disciples Women's Ministry held their annual Christmas party on Dec. 1st. There were 13 members and 1 guest present.

We had delicious chicken sandwiches prepared by Ellen Riegenbach. The other members brought different goodies.

There was a \$10.00 gift exchange.

We sang the 12 days of Christmas.

Everyone had a good time.

Our new officers will be installed after the first of the year.

Respectively submitted by,
Leah Gunderman

Annual Chicken Pie & Bazaar

The Chicken Pie/Steak Supper profit was \$824.55. The Annual Bazaar profit was \$1616.51. Thank you to everyone for their support. We are so please to be able to continue this tradition.

BIBLE NIGHT

EVERY WEDNESDAY

6:30 P.M.



January 6th Story of Three Kings

January 13th Noah's Ark

January 20th Hard Times Supper-Fellowship

January 27th Feed the Five Thousand

All Committee Night January 12th-6:30 p.m.

January is the beginning of a new year for our teams and committees.

We have scheduled an all committee night for each team to meet and decide their meeting night and time for the rest of the year.

Chair persons will also be decided at this time.

YOUTH NEWS



January 10: Chi-Rho 3-4 at the Parsonage,
CYF 4-6

January 15-17 CYF State Youth Convention at Camp Christian

January 17: CYF 4-6 at the Parsonage

January 22: Chi-Rho and CYF please attend the 5th Quarter Party after the basketball game in the Auditoria and Middle School Gym

January 24: ALL youth are invited to meet at the bowling alley from 2-4 (please sign up on the bulletin board so we can reserve the lanes.) Parents and adults are encouraged to join the fun.

CYF will also meet at the Parsonage from 4-6

January 31 is the deadline to order Soup and Subs for Super Bowl 50.

Volunteers are needed on January 30th to assemble food for the sub and souper bowl fundraiser.

In order to receive summer camp scholarship youth must attend at least 5 events before the end of May 2016, including Sunday worship (10 a.m.), CYF or Chi Rho weekly gatherings, youth fundraisers, and/or board/elder/committee meetings.

To the Youth...

Hey. I'm Seth. I'm your interim pastor.

I've been working with kids, Youth, and Younger Adults for almost two thirds of my life.

That's not because I think I'm good at it. It's because I like you people.

While I am with you here in Paulding, I want to be there and see you do what you love (whether that is basketball, theater, volleyball, choir, football, marching band, chess, painting, wrestling... and so on; you get the picture). I want you to know that you matter to me and to your church family (AND, for that matter, to G*d). I want to make sure you know that G*d is working through you and that your ministry is not in some "tomorrow". It is happening right now. I want to help you feel ownership of our Bible, and for you to know that you have the right to ask questions, and to discern your own answers. I want you to know how to find helpful practices and tools for finding those answers. I also want you to have a personal definition for "discern", because it is at the heart of the best of what the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has to offer at G*d's Table.

So, call me Seth. Say hi when you see me. Ask me questions. Tell me your name. A lot. Tell me when your games, performances, and life events (like graduation) are happening. And even tell me if you'd rather I not come. It's ok. I want to know.

blessings-seth

to the Parents and other sundry caregivers...

Did you read the bit to the Youth? Good. I figured to you would.

I need to know you too. I cannot care for your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and best friends' kids unless I am in relationship with you. I cannot help reinforce the hopes and expectations you have for them unless YOU tell me what those hopes and expectations ARE.

AND I need you to write things down whether or not your kids do. Cause I don't remember words floating in the air. It's a thing.

You matter. I need to know you in order to be your pastor. I need to know you in order to be a pastor to the young people you love.

-seth

Bible Nights (an intergenerational experiment)

Hey, it's Seth again.

Sooooooo, Bible Night is an intentional mixture of things:
part shared storytelling
part spiritual discipline
part childcare
part small group
and it's ALL *optional*.

First we start at 6pm with all the "Hey, how are you?"s and getting settled, because the Shared Storytelling starts AT 6:30 pm. Shared Storytelling will change shape as we go, but here is how it's going to start: I will stand in front and act the part of the narrator-everyone-laughs-at. It's ok, I've been trained for that. The entire group, of all ages, will be called upon to help me fill in and sometimes act out the various parts of the Bible story. We'll put these stories together by memory (no Bibles). This will help all of us, but especially the youngest of us, practice telling and teaching the stories. When we have finished putting the story together we will have a prayer together, and the youngest ones will go off to do activities related to the story and general fun times. The rest of us will take a bathroom break and either go off to other class groups or stay for the Lectio Divina.

Lectio Divina (*Divine Reading*) is a Christian spiritual discipline whose origins are ancient, but the way we will use it is very contemporary. Lectio Divina is often referred to as a form of Bible Study, but I see it more as a listening type of prayer form. If this sounds weird...well, it just does, ok? I get it. It involves a lot of listening for G*d and contemplation. It also involves voluntary sharing. All I am asking is that you try it. I can promise it will taste better than the first time you had to try spinach.

When we have completed our Lectio Divina time together, we'll break up into smaller groups to check-in about our daily lives, maybe talk about the Lectio Divina experience, and, quite possibly, discuss our new favorite weirdo, Seth.

Finally, we'll bring back the youngest ones, say a prayer together, and then say goodnight.

I know that if you try it many or most of you will find that this practice and this time together bears good fruit. I faith that I will see you there.

GUIDING LIGHT

Make this flashlight to remember that God, our light, always shows us the way.



What you need:

- Flashlight with handle strap
- Yarn (6 to 8 inches)
- Colorful pony beads
- Stickers (including foam letters)
- Batteries

What you do:

1. Tie the yarn through the flashlight's handle strap so two equal lengths hang down.
2. String the pony beads onto the two yarn lengths, and secure the ends with knots.
3. Decorate the flashlight with stickers. Use letters to spell "God is light."
4. Keep the flashlight by your bedside as a reminder of God's guidance. Use the flashlight to read a Bible verse before bed each night!



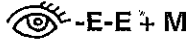
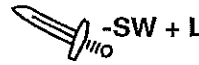
PUZZLE

LET THERE BE LIGHT

In a world of darkness, God guides us so we can walk in his ways.

Directions: Write the name of each picture, subtracting and adding letters as indicated. Then fill in the blanks to complete 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV.

"Y O U , _____ , A R E



_____ ; T H E

_____ M Y



_____ D + _____ + _____ - T + S

I N T O _____ .



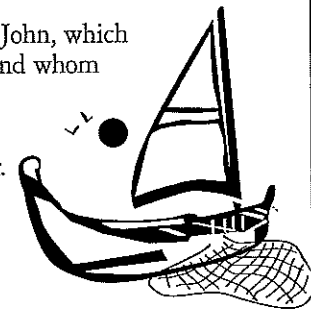
2 SAMUEL 22:29, NIV

Answer: "You, LORD, are my lamp; the LORD turns my darkness into light." 2 Samuel 22:29, NIV

Bible Quiz

According to the Gospel of John, which disciples led others to Jesus, and whom did they lead?

- Matthew led Judas.
- Andrew led Simon-Peter.
- James led John.
- Philip led Nathanael.
- All of the above.
- B and D.



Answer: F (See John 1:40-42, 45ff.)