

DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

DECEMBER 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.



<p>"Christmas is coming, The goose is getting fat, Please to put a penny in the old man's hat. If you haven't got a penny a ha' penny will do. If you haven't got a ha'penny then God bless you! God bless you!" - "Christmas is Coming"</p>	<p>"Then rang the bells more loud and deep God is not dead, nor doth He sleep The wrong shall fail, the right prevail With peace on earth, good will to men!" <i>"I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day"</i></p>
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The Sunday after Thanksgiving is the first Sunday of Advent (and we are Hanging the Greens that Sunday, hint, hint).

Advent is a time of preparation and anticipation for the birth of Christ. I sometimes find this confusing, because, of course, Jesus was born over two-thousand years ago and it feels like we may procrastinated preparing for his arrival just a bit too long.

But serving here helps me understand it better. Thank you First Christian, you keep teaching me by sharing your life with me.

Though Christ has come and we know salvation and grace, there continues to be evil, cruelty, violence, reason for sadness, and temptation to despair. Our Holy Seasons, Advent to Christmas and Lent to Easter, are responses to bolster our hope. They are constructed to help us build up energy and excitement for the faith we practice year round and the God who is always with us.

At the same time, as many of us feel hope and joy growing, others feel the pain of isolation and hunger more acutely. This is not just a problem for the impoverished, the physically hungry, the literally alone, the orphaned, and the widowed. Scarcity hits us all in the anxiety bits and pieces. Instinctively as the cold comes we begin to hoard our resources, circle the wagons, and begin to draw fresh lines between "us"s and "them"s in our hearts.

Those who are literally and physically in need may not be the only ones under attack from the not-enoughs and the me-or-thems, but they might be our best salvation from them. More than they need our charity at this time of year, we need to give, to open ourselves, and to embody a God who willingly breaks through into a hostile and uncertain world.

Without expecting gratitude, I encourage you to make this season about giving rather than the Black-Friday-competitions and status wars. Sparkly decorations are good things as long as we remember what we are trying to draw attention to and don't get caught in the human temptation to focus on the tinsel alone.

Merry Christmas to all followers of Christ and Happy Holidays to ALL our other sisters and brothers- Seth



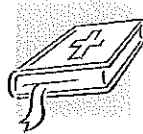
PRAYER REQUESTS:

Comfort in Mourning:

The Family Loretta Stocker
The Family of Kenneth Oyler
The Family of Bill Heringhaus
The Family of Tom Mathers

Healing Prayers:

Dan Clark
Donnie Egnor
*Eleanor Fellers
*Shirley Finnegan
Ronnie Fraley
Dan Ganger
Rob Goshia
John Jelinek
*Sam Levos
Danny Stocker
Linda Varner
Dale Wooten



Continuing Concerns:

Military: *Suzanne Reinhart
Sara Yoder, Tristen Albert

Others Kept in Ongoing Prayer:

FCC Pastor Search Team
Deb Belk
Mark Fraley
Deb Maxey
Deborah Stout
Earl Shepherd
*Denotes Members

Rev. Stout and the family of Paulding FCC:

The Biery and Mazon families thank you for the love, prayers and cards received upon the death of our son-in-law, Filey. God continues to heal the pain of our grief. Your love and concern is a part of the healing.

Love and Peace
Paul & Joan Biery

Advent Season

The first Sunday in Advent is November 27th. We will be preparing the church for the season following worship. Please join us for hanging of the greens.

You may bring poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary for the holiday season..



Nursing Home Residents..

*Georgiana Wilson (Manor House)
*John Peeper Jr. (Gardens)
*Helen Gunderman-
(St. Anne's Retirement Comm. Apt. 26)
*Bob Unger (Hickory Creek Nursing Home)
Our homebound
Gayle Sarver (Gardens)
Rita Hannah-(Gardens)
*Jackie & Paul Eiserle (Millers Merry Manor)
*Bill Baxter (Defiance Hospice)

Manor House: 204 Archer Dr., Antwerp, Ohio 45813
The Gardens: 199 Rd 103, Paulding, Ohio 45879
Hickory creek: 401 Fountain St. Hicksville, OH 43526
Miller's Merry Manor: 13675 S. Randolph St., Garrett, In 46738
St. Anne's : 1900 Randalia, Apt. 26 Ft. Wayne In 46805

In Sympathy

Please keep the families of Loretta Stocker, she is the Mother of Donna Hibbard, Kenneth Oyler, he is the husband of Sandra Oyler. Bill Heringhaus, he is the uncle of Suzy Strayer, and Tom Mathers who is the uncle of Dan Smith in your prayers at this difficult time. May all the families of these loved ones find peace and comfort in God's love.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Eve December 24th at 7 p.m. we will be sharing worship together as we prepare for Christ's coming.

Christmas Sunday, December 25th worship begins at 10:00 a.m.



Merry Christmas

Merry Christmas and a Blessed Holiday Season to our church family.
May the Peace and Joy of the Season Be with you always.

Pastor Seth
Denise Donna Tom



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

**DEADLINE FOR THE
JANUARY DIGEST
DECEMBER 15**



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

WORSHIP:

DATE:	MEMBERS	VISITORS	NON MEMBERS	CHILDREN	TOTAL
10/30/2016	52	4	2	7	65
11/06/2016	54	3	4	10	71
11/13/2016	43	3	5	8	59
11/20/2016	56	2	5	5	68

COUNTERS:

- 12/04/2016 Matt Strayer, Jack Moore, Cindy Grace
- 12/11/2016 Gary McClure, Vicki McClure, Sandra Bandy
- 12/18/2016 Max Hibbard, Sue Simpson, Charles Simpson
- 12/25/2016 Matt Strayer, Matt Stoller, Angela Perchikoff



The amount of contributions needed per month
To meet our yearly budget
Is \$11363.67



FLOWERS



- 12/4/2016 Dennis Vance (In Honor of our Anniversary)
- 12/11/2016 Josh & Carrie Lero (In Honor of Carlie's Birthday)
- 12/18/2016 Ellen Riggerbach (In Memory of Earl & Mabel Riggerbach)
- 12/25/2016 Herm & Jean Guelde (In Memory of Parents)



ANNIVERSARIES

- 12/07 Dennis & Sandi Vance
- 12/08 Dan & Shirley Workman
- 12/24 Barry & Dorrean Vance
- 12/28 Gary & Vicki McClure



Amid this sometimes crazy season, quiet my heart,
Lord. Help me find Christmas peace in you.

BIRTHDAYS

- 12/01 Bruce Gunderman
- 12/03 Emma Hoover
- 12/04 Donna Ellis
- 12/05 Joan Biery
- 12/05 Colton MacDonald
- 12/06 Sandi Vance
- 12/07 Dakkota Clippinger
- 12/07 Amanda Harris
- 12/07 Colton Hunt
- 12/08 Linsey Hormann
- 12/08 Jerry Tope
- 12/08 Peg Yenser
- 12/09 Kyle Green
- 12/12 Carlie Lero
- 12/13 Jackie Eiserle
- 12/13 Donna Flint
- 12/15 Caleb MacDonald
- 12/16 Tammy Boroff
- 12/18 Marsha Adkins
- 12/18 Amanda Boroff
- 12/18 Stephanie Renollet
- 12/19 Emma Townley
- 12/20 Cindy Grace
- 12/20 Matt Stoller
- 12/26 Carter Cook
- 12/26 Aleigha Vance
- 12/28 Barrett Bandy
- 12/28 Janelle Lero
- 12/28 Lance Mawer
- 12/28 Taylor Mawer
- 12/31 Jennifer Lero

**First Christian Church
Fund Summary
October
2016**

	TITHES & OFFERINGS	FALL FESTIVAL	SIGN FUND	MENS GROUP	TOTAL
10/02/2016	2,551.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	2,651.00
10/09/2016	1,981.00	0.00	700.00	0.00	2,681.00
10/11/2016	0.00	70.00	0.00	0.00	70.00
10/16/2016	2,222.00	0.00	0.00	341.00	2,563.00
10/23/2016	2,272.00	100.00	500.00	10.00	2,882.00
10/30/2016	1,959.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	2,059.00
TOTAL	10,985.00	170.00	1,400.00	351.00	12,906.00

Susan K. Simpson
Susan K. Simpson, Financial Secretary

11-8-16
Date



Disciples Women

Thank you

I've been here less than a year, and it would have totally made sense (at least to me) if there were no recognition of Pastor Appreciation Month. If I serve one hundred years in ministry, I may still doubt that my service is sufficient and or sufficiently good. I would not have been offended if it had not been acknowledged.

But instead of letting the month pass by, you overwhelmed me with generosity and thoughtfulness. I won't embarrass anyone with details, but the card and the tangible gifts were amazingly thoughtful and the financial gift floored me. Thank you. Thank you, thank you, thank you. I continue to pray that your next pastor will not only be good at their job, but appreciate the goodness of you. Thank you.- Seth



Sunday November 27th at 5:00 p.m.

We will be playing bingo in the fellowship hall. But before that fun starts we will enjoy hot dogs, chips and cookies. Come share the fun. (Note the time has been moved up one hour from the last digest)



Merry & Bright Parade November 29th 6:30 p.m.

Our youth will be participating in the parade sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. We will meet at the church 5:30 p.m.



Christmas Caroling December 11 6 p.m.

We will be caroling and then returning to the church for snacks. Everyone is asked to bring a snack to share.

The Disciples women met for their regular meeting on November 1st. Devotions and prayer were given.

Candy was made on two different evenings. We had a great time, all ages helped with this project.

The month was filled with lots of planning for the chicken pie supper and the bazaar. The supper was well attended and we would like to thank all the new people who came to help. We have added several men in this project and we can't tell you how much it has helped make things go smoothly and quickly. We had a lot of fun with the dinner this year.

So Thank you so much everyone!!!!

Our Christmas party will be held December 6th at 7 p.m. We will be having a \$5.00 gift exchange and everyone is asked to bring a snack to share. If you have question please see Sharon or Susan.

The Ecumenical Potluck and Program will be held here at First Christian on Thursday December 8th. Dinner will begin at 6:00 p.m. and the program at 7:00 p.m. If you have questions please see Suzy Strayer.

The officers are preparing for next year. If you have suggestions please give them to Helen, Ursula, Suzy or Denise.

Outreach



We have adopted six families to help for Christmas. We are collecting food, cleaning products, personal items mittens and gloves. As soon as we receive the names the tree will have them on. Take a card, buy the gift, wrap the gift and put the card on the gift., put it under the tree.

Since the families are good about coming to pick up the gifts and we are late getting names December 15th will be the deadline. Try to have all the items to the church by then.

We thank you for all your help.
Hope you have a blessed Christmas
Genelta Levos

Prayer chain

If you would like to a member of the prayer chain please let the office or Leah Gunderman know. The prayer chain is activated when we are notified of someone in need of immediate prayer.

Board Officers for 2017

Chair-Matt Strayer

Vice Chair-Genelta Levos

Board Secretary-Tracy Gunderman

Financial Secretary-Sue Simpson

Treasurer-Denise Renollet

Flower Calendar 2017

The 2017 calendar will be out soon. In an effort to make it easier for me to keep track of who has paid for their flowers and the date I have discussed with the worship team and the financial secretary a new plan for the new year. When you sign up for your flowers you will need to pay for them at that time. There will be envelopes for you to put your name the date you signed up for and your money. You can then drop the envelope in the box marked flowers. This will eliminate trying to find me on Sunday morning or worrying about leaving things on my desk or forgetting to pay because you weren't here. I appreciate your help with this new plan.

Denise

Sign Project

The Sign has been installed. It looks great. We have been using it and have received many positive comments. We have collected \$23920.00 toward this project. The cost of the sign is \$30000 plus the electrical hook up of \$641. 13. We paid the balance for the sign from our capital improvement fund. We would like to continue taking donations until the balance it paid back to that fund. The amount is \$7073.87 If you would like to donate toward our goal, it would be appreciated. Thank you for continuing to support this congregation as we move forward in ministry.

THANK YOU

A sincere Thank You to our friends at First Christian for your support of 5th Quarter this year. As dangerous as it is to start naming names, I must thank you, Matt for your volleyball equipment and fire pits, and your physical contribution getting things to the Presbyterian parking lot and back again. Thanks to you, Paul for the bales and coming to planning meetings; to Jan for attending most of the events; to Pastor Seth for his attendance and support; and to the Men's Group for their oversight of your church's participation.

It is our intention to bless our youth and our community through 5th Quarter, and we couldn't do it without all the cooperation we have received from you church.

God Bless...

Barb Searing

First Presbyterian Church

Congregational Life/Outreach Committee

Men's Group

The men's group met for their monthly meeting. They would like to invite the congregation to join them at a Comet Hockey game on January 15, 2017. There will be a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone interested in going. Deadline for the sign up is December 25th. If you have questions please see Dan Workman.

The next meeting will be held on December 10th at 8:30 a.m. at Bob's restaurant in Woodburn, IN. All men of the church at invited to attend the meetings.

Special dates

Second Sunday in Advent, December 4, 2016
Third Sunday in Advent, December 11, 2016
Fourth Sunday in Advent, December 18, 2016
First day of winter, December 21, 2016
Christmas Eve, December 24, 2016
Christmas Day, December 25, 2016
New Year's Eve/Watch Night, December 31, 2016

Sharing Our Giving

When we talk about Stewardship we talk a lot about giving. We talk about the financial needs of the congregation's staff and facilities. We talk about the outreach and mission work that we support and the lives that are changed as a result. I talk, most weeks (to one extent or another), about the great value of both monetary and non-monetary gifts (time, attention, skill, prayer, compassion, labor).

And the part of Stewardship that we maybe don't discuss enough: celebrating the acts of giving.

It is not enough to give; we need to claim that giving.

This is not about bragging or comparing gifts.

This is about owning that we make serving God, often through serving FCC, a priority in our lives and setting an example.

If we do not name it and claim it then others find what our service and sacrifices too easy to dismiss. It needs to be celebrated as gifts received from and willingly given back to God.

To that end, in December you will begin to see new pieces of differently colored paper in the pews. These purple forms will offer the opportunity for folks to write down the ways they are giving to God, and to FCC, during the past week. You will have a choice about whether or not to write your name.

When you see them, I encourage each person, young and old, to fill one out. FCC not only has but gives and shares so many gifts. I want your children and the community of Paulding to be more aware of that and this is a way to start.

-seth

Gift-giving Solutions

Trying to find fits for certain people-or letting others know what you want-can be quite challenging. After all, most of us don't need anything.

Realizing that the best gifts aren't material items offers a new perspective on giving and receiving. Consider these in sights from author Charles Swindoll:

"Some gifts you can give this Christmas are beyond monetary value: Mend a quarrel, dismiss suspicion, tell someone "I love you." Give something away-anonymously. Forgive someone who has treated you wrong. Turn away wrath with a soft answer. Visit someone in a nursing home. Apologize if you were wrong. Be especially kind to someone with whom you work. Give as God gave to you in Christ, without obligation, or announcement, or reservation, or hypocrisy."



Where's your security?

When A Charlie Brown Christmas debuted in 1965, religious references were unheard of on television. Yet the show's climax features the Christmas story verbatim. As Linus begins reciting Luke 2, he's clutching his ever-present blue blanket. Yet, as Pastor Jason Soroski points out, Linus drops it right as he utters the words "fear not" (Luke 2:10).

"Soroski believes the timing is intentional and that "Peanuts" creator Charles M. Schulz sends a simple, brilliant message. "The birth of Jesus separates us from our fears, " Soroski writes, It "frees us from the habits we are unable (or unwilling) to break ourselves. The birth of Jesus allows us to simply drop the false security we have been grasping so tightly, and learn to trust and cling to him instead."



SERVERS—December 2016

ELDERS:

Gary McClure	(bread)
Sue Simpson	(cup)
Charlie Simpson	(shut-in communion)

Reminder: Elders are responsible for doors, lights and making sure fans are off on Sunday Mornings.

DIACONATE (Deacons):

*Leah Gunderman	Helen Long
Gerry Fraley	Cindy Grace
Dee Fraley	Linda Reinhart
Clint Reinhart	Greg Reinhart

*Please contact Leah if you are not able to serve.

Deacons please sit in the back two pews to serve communion. Thank You.

WORSHIP LEADER: Advent Families

PREPARE COMMUNION: Linda Reinhart

(Clean up, pick up empty cups, please put communion in the Sunday Sch Rm for the teacher.)

GREETER: Linda Reinhart

SUNDAY SCHOOL: age 5-3rd gr.— Sharon Cooper
Fourth-sixth grade—Denise Renollet & Paul Long

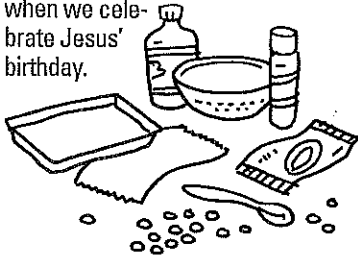
NURSERY: The nursery is available for parents to use during worship.

READ SCRIPTURE: 12/04/2016 Jan Commers—Matthew 1: 18-26
12/11/2016 Bruce Gunderman—Matthew 2: 13-15, 19-23
12/18/2016 Tracy Gunderman—Matthew 3: 1-12
12/25/2016 Darla Smith—Luke 2: 8-20

COUNTERS: 12/04/2016 Matt Strayer, Jack Moore, Cindy Grace
12/11/2016 Gary McClure, Vicki McClure, Sandra Bandy
12/18/2016 Max Hibbard, Sue Simpson, Charlie Simpson
12/25/2016 Matt Strayer, Matt Stoller, Angela Perchikoff

birthday bark

Make this yummy treat to give to family and friends at Christmas, when we celebrate Jesus' birthday.

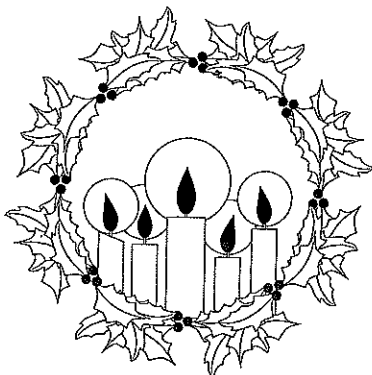


What you need:

- Nonstick cooking spray
- 3 cups chocolate chips
- Microwave-safe bowl
- Spoon or spatula
- 2 Tbsp. shortening
- Baking tray lined with wax paper
- Red and green M&M's (or sprinkles)

What you do:

1. Lightly spray bowl and wax paper.
2. Microwave chocolate chips in bowl for one-minute intervals until chocolate is melted. (Stir after each minute.)
3. Stir in shortening. Heat in 10-second intervals, stirring until smooth.
4. Pour chocolate onto tray and firmly press in M&M's or sprinkles.
5. Refrigerate until firm. Remove bark and break into pieces.



PUZZLE

The greatest gift

Gift-giving is a fun Christmas tradition.
What very special gift has God given to you?

Directions: Write the words from each puzzle piece on the matching blank piece of the gift-shaped puzzle.

life in.

but the

our Lord.

Romans 6:23, NIV

gift of God

For the

of sin is

Christ Jesus

is eternal

wages

death,

Answer: For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6:23, NIV

Bible Quiz

How many wise men followed a star to Bethlehem to worship Jesus?

- A. two
- B. three
- C. four
- D. We don't know because the Bible doesn't say.









Answer: D (See Matthew 2:1-12.)

EVERY SUNDAY 9:00 A.M. ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
 10:00 A.M. WORSHIP SERVICE
 10:00 A. M. CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

December 2016



BELL CHOIR FOLLOWING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		THE ADVENT MYSTERY IS THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF ALL IN US THAT IS NOT YET CHRIST.		1 WORSHIP/MEMBERSHIP—6 P.M. (NOTE DATE CHANGE)	2	3
4 SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT SERMON: WHO G*D TALKS TO SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 1: 18-26 LUKE 1: 26-38	5	6 DISCIPLES WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS PARTY-7:00 P.M.  CHRISTIAN ED-6 P.M.	7 BIBLE STUDY-10 A.M. JOYFUL NOISES-7P.M	8 ECUMENICAL POTLUCK-6 P.M. PROGRAM-7 P.M. 	9	10 MEN'S MEETING-8:30 A.M.—at Bob's in Woodburn
11 THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT SERMON: SETTING EXPECTATIONS SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 2: 13-15, 19-23 LUKE 1: 39-56  CHRISTMAS CAROLING-6 P.M.	12 FINANCE MEETING 6:30 P.M.	13	14 BIBLE STUDY-10 A.M. JOYFUL NOISES-7P.M	15	16	17
18 ELDERS 8:30 A.M.. FOURTH SUNDAY IN ADVENT SERMON: WHO'S WAY DO WE PREPARE SCRIPTURE: MATTHEW 3: 1-12 LUKE 1: 57-80	19	20 PASTORIAL CARE MEETING- 6:30 P.M. BOARD MEETING- 7:00 P.M.	21 FIRST DAY OF WINTER  BIBLE STUDY-10 A.M. JOYFUL NOISES-7P.M	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE-7 P.M. SERMON: EXPECTANT SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2:1-7
25 CHRISTMAS DAY  SERMON: SIGNS, HERALDS, AND THE RESPONSE OF THE WORLD SCRIPTURE: LUKE 2: 8-10 MATTHEW 2: 1-12 MATTHEW 2: 16-18	26	27	28 BIBLE STUDY-10 A.M. JOYFUL NOISES-7P.M	29	30	31 NEW'S YEARS EVE 