

DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

FEBRUARY 2017

MISSION OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

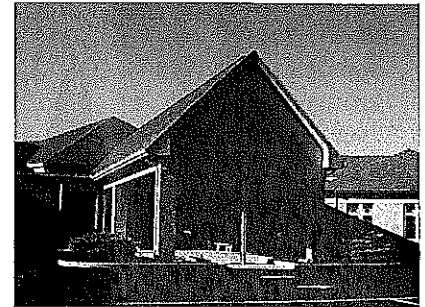
The mission of this Congregation shall be—

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.



I will miss you.

I will miss you collectively and as individuals.

I will miss you a lot.

I will miss worship on Sundays: preaching with you, sharing the Children's Word, praying with you, singing with you, giving thanks with you, and sharing the Lord's table with you.

I will miss working with you in the kitchen. I will miss stitching with you. I will miss private conversations at the church, at community and church fellowship functions, at hospitals, and in your homes.

I will even miss Board and Committee meetings.

We are not easy people, you and me. But being with folks and alongside them in real ways is never easy. It's not about easy. It's about doing what is worth doing.

Being with you has been worth doing.

It has been difficult for me to be in a small town. It has been difficult to be physically distant from my family of origin and my families of choice. It has been hard for me to feel so very, very visible and therefore vulnerable all the dang time. Many things about being here in Paulding have been hard for me.

It has never been hard to love you.

Feeling love for each of you, for your families, and seeing God's light shine through you is as easy as breathing. And having stopped smoking during our time together, breathing is much easier than it used to be. You are SO incredibly loveable, and there is SO MUCH about you to love.

I have learned so much with you about living faithfully: from watching you, and from having to do the living myself.

I need each and every one of you to believe and remember this: you are good and God is working through you. I know this to be true, and if you remember that this is true about yourself AND about each member of FCC Paulding all the time, then finding the flexibility and the strength needed in each other won't be hard at all when times are difficult.

I love you. You have chosen well in Calling your new pastor. You are Children of God and Disciples of Jesus the Christ. Change is not bad. Do not forget these things.

-seth



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Comfort in Mourning:

The family of Betty Eagleson Copsey

Healing Prayers:

Jeanette Anderson
 June Appel
 Jim Boyles
 Theodosia Boyles
 Tammy Clark
 *Jackie Eiserle
 Paul Eiserle
 *Eleanor Fellers
 Chris Ganger
 Pat Marcom
 Mooneen Riggenburg
 Penny Schwimbleman
 Jessica Verfaillie
 Carol Veninga

Continuing Concerns:

Military: *Suzanne Reinhart
 Sara Yoder, Tristen Albert

Others Kept in Ongoing Prayer:

Deb Belk
 Rev. Dr. Paul Biery
 Donnie Egnor
 Mark Fraley
 Ronnie Fraley
 Dan Ganger
 Deb Maxey
 John Stout
 Earl Shepherd
 Danny Stocker
 Dale Wooten

*Denotes Members

In Christian Sympathy

Please keep the family of Betty Eagleson Copsey in your prayers. Betty died January 2nd. She is the mother of Pat Marcom.

*"Patience with others is love,
 patience with self is hope,
 patience with God is faith"*

Adel Bastavros

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)

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

Thank You

Dear FCC,

Thank you so much for all the cards, prayers, and kind words. We are blessed to have such a wonderful church family.

Sincerely,

The Stocker Family

To My Church Family, & Pastor Seth,

My words are not adequate to express how very much Bill & I have been blessed by all of our church family. For all the prayers, cards, notes of encouragement, calls, and visits by Pastor Seth we sincerely thank you. The out pouring of love has been overwhelming and we have been so blessed by all of your. May our loving Lord shine His light on you.

In His Love,

Linda Reinhart

SPECIAL DATES

FEBRUARY 5- BOY SCOUT SUNDAY
 FEBRUARY 14-VALENTINES DAY
 FEBRUARY 19-GIDEON SUNDAY
 FEBRUARY 20-PRESIDENT'S DAY
 FEBRUARY 26-TRANSFIGURATION OF Our Lord



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

**DEADLINE FOR THE
MARCH DIGEST
FEBRUARY 15**



FLOWERS

- 2/05/2017 Jacque Walker (In memory of Sid & My Parents)
- 2/12/2017 Nicole Harris (In Honor of Hailey's Birthday)
- 2/19/2017 Shirley Cramer (In Honor of Christy's Birthday)
- 2/26/2017 Kelly Ricker & Marsha Adkins (In Memory of Shirley Vance's' Birthday)



ANNIVERSARIES

2/26/2017 Kenny & Marsha Adkins



The Gift that Gives

Love ever gives, forgives, outlives and ever stands with open hands..
And while it lives, it gives.
For this is love's prerogative-
To give, and give, and give.

John Oxenham

BIRTHDAYS

- 2/01 Amanda Bok
- 2/01 Briana Townley
- 2/02 Isabelle Ringler
- 2/03 Justin Tope
- 2/04 Bonita Beamer
- 2/04 Greg Reinhart
- 2/05 Russell Flint
- 2/06 Adam Daniels
- 2/08 Hailey Harris
- 2/09 Klair Hoover
- 2/09 Jacque Walker
- 2/10 Eleanor Fellers
- 2/13 Virginia Marshall
- 2/13 Don Stoller
- 2/15 Kynzi Knapp
- 2/16 Gary McClure
- 2/19 Trent Reinhart
- 2/21 Cadence Cook
- 2/21 Christy Cramer
- 2/21 Jeff Hunt
- 2/22 Ron Gunderman
- 2/24 Suzanne Laney
- 2/25 Lois Beamer

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE::

DATE:	MEMBERS	VISITORS	NON MEMBERS	CHILDREN	TOTAL
1/01/2017	41	0	2	3	46
1/08/2017	63	0	6	10	79
1/15/2017	56	1	4	9	69
1/22/2017	54	0	5	9	68

COUNTERS:

- 2/05/2017 Matt Strayer, Jack Moore, Cindy Grace
- 2/12/2017 Gary McClure, Vicki McClure, Saundra Bandy
- 2/19/2017 Max Hibbard, Sue Simpson, Charles Simpson
- 2/26/2017 Matt Strayer, Matt Stoller, Angela Perchikoff



The Spirit
Searches everything,
Even the **depths of God.**
1 Corinthians 2:10

The amount of contributions needed per month
To meet our yearly budget
Is \$11247.83

**First Christian Church
Fund Summary
December 2016**

DATE	TITHES & OFFERING	INITIAL ENVEL. OFFER	HOLIDAY- THANKS	HOLIDAY- CHRISTMAS	SIGN FUND	CAPITAL IMPROVE	MENS GROUP	TOTAL
12/04/2016	1,843.00	0.00	35.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	1,978.00
12/11/2016	1,118.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	61.00	1,199.00
12/18/2016	2,029.00	0.00	0.00	66.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	3,095.00
12/25/2016	2,258.00	5.00	0.00	109.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,372.00
12/31/2016	70.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	70.00
TOTAL	7,318.00	5.00	35.00	195.00	100.00	1,000.00	61.00	8,714.00



Susan K. Simpson
Susan K. Simpson, Financial Secretary

1-9-17
Date



New Pastor Coming to FCC Paulding

Over the past year the Pastor Search Committee interviewed several potential candidates, and then we received the profile for Rev. Merlyn Winters. We talked with her on the phone and then meet with her here at the church. She answered all our questions, and we answered all of hers. We unanimously decided to bring her to our Church Board for consideration. The Board voted to bring her to the congregation, and on Sunday, January 8, the congregation voted to call her to the First Christian Church of Paulding as our new Pastor.

We would like to thank everyone for their prayers and support during the past year. We looked at and interviewed many great candidates throughout the year. Our goal was not to find the first one available, but to find one that God was making ready to serve us, lead us, and help us grow, as we proceed into the future. Pastor Merlyn Winters is that person. She will be starting in March. Her first Sunday here will be March 19, 2017. Please plan to be with us to greet her and make her feel welcome.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Thank you to all who supported the Christmas projects. We supported 10 families with gifts food, cleaning and personal supplies. We were also able to give all the families gloves and hats. We took gloves and hats to Paulding Elementary School and to the Help Me Grow program at Parc Lane.

We have supported a family with needs of everyday living, this is a family that the mother is having serious surgery. She came thru the surgery well. Now we are taking some meals to the home to help with her recovery. It is a 3 month recovery. Thank you to all who are helping.

We would like anyone to make cares for our shut ins. Anyone in the church can do this. We gave money to the Ministerial Association. I put a letter on the bulletin board of a letter Received from Connecting Hands for Hands of Hope. Take time to read it.



Thank You

Outreach



Prayer Chain

As you know the church has an active prayer chain. When prayers are needed the captains of each group are notified and they in turn they call those on their list. If you would like to be added to someone's list please contact the office or Leah Gunderman.

We would like to also add a text or email prayer chain to our current ministry. If you would like text or email when prayers are needed for someone please contact the office with your information.

Thank you for helping to minister to others.





Disciples Women

The Disciples Women met on January 3rd. Devotions were given by Leah Gunderman. The upcoming year was discussed and sign up sheets were passed around. If you would like to help with any of the schedule activities please contact one of the officers. The women will continue providing 15 dozen eggs to the food pantry every month. Valentine plates will be put together at our next meeting. We have decided to hold a spaghetti supper for the church on February 22nd. We will be making noodles on March 13. Orders will be taken for up to 50 bags with a 2 bag limit for each person. There will be an order sheet on the bulletin board. A sign up sheet for flour and egg donations will also be on the bulletin board. The Baked potato lunch has been scheduled for April. Our next meeting will be February 7th at 10 a.m.



FLOWER CALENDAR

There are still 15 open dates on the flower calendar if you would like to provide flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one during worship. Cost is \$20.00 paid to the church.

Spaghetti Supper Benefit for Hands of Hope

Thursday March 23rd at the OSU Extension Center

5:30-7:30 p.m.

A special musical performance will be held
at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are all presale.

Adults \$10.00-Kids under 13 are \$7.00.

Children 2 and under are free.

Mail your money to Hands of Hope.

1030 West Wayne St. Suite A

Paulding, Ohio

SPAGHETTI SUPPER

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

FEBRUARY 22ND

5-7 P.M.

FREE WILL DONATION

Spaghetti

Salad

Garlic Bread

Cookies



Hosted by the Disciples Women

HOMEMADE NOODLES

Orders for homemade noodles will be taken.

Sign up on the bulletin board.

Two bags per person please.

Deadline is February 28th

Delivery will be March 19th



Question should be referred to the Disciples Women

New Sign

As you know we have been raising funds for the new sign in front of the church. The sign was completed last November. We have had many positive comments about the sign and it really increased the attendance at the Chicken pie supper. We continue to explore new ways to use it. To pay the balance on the sign we used monies from our Capital Improvement fund.

We would like to put money back into the capital improvement fund to return it to its original balance. We currently need approximately \$6500.00 to accomplish this goal. If you would like to donate toward this please be sure to specify Capital Improvement on your donation.

Thank You.

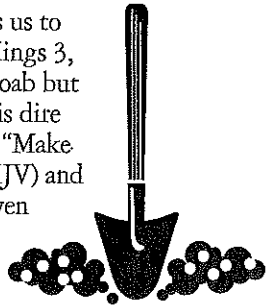
Start digging!

Scripture promises that God has a plan for our lives but also reveals that he wants us to play an active role in that plan. In 2 Kings 3, three kings band together to defeat Moab but end up in an 80-mile desert. Amid this dire situation, God commands the people, "Make this valley full of ditches" (verse 16, KJV) and promises to fill them with water — even though it won't rain.

Before the people's need was supplied, they had to trust God and act. The next morning, water filled every ditch they had dug. Plus, they were victorious in battle.

The takeaway? God will bring the blessing, but we may have to dig first!

[image above: SHOVEL_15152, SHOVEL_15152C]



Extravagant love

The love St. Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 13 is "no mild, tepid thing," writes Mark Buchanan in *Your Church Is Too Safe* (Zondervan). "It is no flight of fancy, no frisson of giddiness, no mere ruffle of sensation. This love is neither nice nor prissy nor fragile nor coy. This love is fierce and wild and dangerous and unbreakable. It is sublime and subversive. It is indefatigable and undefeatable. It is nothing less than the love God has for you, to bind you and to loose you, to take you captive and then set you free. This love is extravagant."

In all his glory

On the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, many Christian churches celebrate the Transfiguration of Our Lord. After telling his shocked, uncomprehending disciples that he would die and rise again, Jesus took Peter, James and John up a mountain. Suddenly Jesus appeared to be glowing! "He was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became white as light" (Matthew 17:2, BSV).

Moses and Elijah appeared, and a voice said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him" (verse 5). Jesus' disciples fell to the ground, overcome by fear. But Jesus touched them, told them not to be afraid and led them down the mountain.

The disciples witnessed firsthand the glory and Godhood of Jesus, who would soon die for the sins of the world and rise again to give us life.

You are cherished

We must understand that God does not "love" us without liking us — through gritted teeth — as "Christian" love is sometimes thought to do. Rather, out of the eternal freshness of his perpetually self-renewed being, the heavenly Father cherishes the earth and each human being upon it. The fondness, the endearment, the unstintingly affectionate regard of God toward all his creatures is the natural outflow of what he is to the core — which we vainly try to capture with our tired but indispensable old word "love."

—Dallas Willard, *The Divine Conspiracy*

Puzzle!

Use the clues to discover these four-letter answers. When read from top to bottom, the first letters reveal a phrase related to the children of Israel's wilderness experience.



.....

1. Camping shelter _____
2. To track wild game _____
3. Home to Adam and Eve _____
4. Middle Eastern tree _____
5. A form of precipitation _____
6. To follow commands _____
7. Martha's sister _____
8. A false god _____
9. Israel's first king _____
10. Valley in 1 Samuel 17 _____
11. Unable to hear _____
12. Smaller than an ocean or sea _____
13. Jezebel's husband _____
14. Mount climbed by Moses _____
15. Morning's light _____

Answers: 1. tent, 2. hunt, 3. Eden, 4. palm, 5. rain, 6. obey, 7. Mary, 8. idol, 9. Saul, 10. Elah, 11. deaf, 12. lake, 13. Ahab, 14. Nebo, 15. dawn.

The Promised Land

[PUZZLE0217]

SERVERS—FEBRUARY 2017

ELDERS:

Bruce Gunderman (bread)
Charlie Simpson (cup)
Sue Simpson (shut-in communion)

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

DIACONATE (Deacons):

* Dee Fraley	Joan Tope
Gerry Fraley	David Boroff
Josh Lero	Helen Long
Susan Knapp	Lily Knapp

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

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

WORSHIP LEADER: Tracy Gunderman

PREPARE COMMUNION: Darwin & Ursula Riley

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

GREETER: Jacque Walker

SUNDAY SCHOOL: age 5-3rd gr.– Feb. 5-Ursula Riley, Feb. 12 & 19 Matt Strayer Feb. 26—No Teacher
Fourth-sixth grade– Paul Long & Denise Renollet

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





READ SCRIPTURE: 2/05/2017 Larry Grace-Psalm 112
2/12/2017 Jan Commers-Psalm 119: 1-4
2/19/2017 Bruce Gunderman-Leviticus 19- 1-18
2/26/2017 Lori Clark—Exodus 24:12-18

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2/19/2017 Max Hibbard, Sue Simpson, Charlie Simpson
2/26/2017 Matt Strayer, Matt Stoller, Angela Perchikoff

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

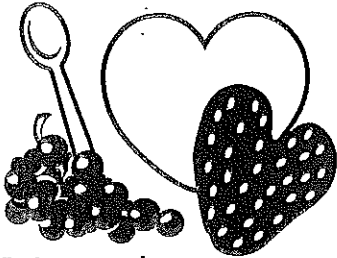
BELL CHOIR EVERY SUNDAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

February 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>"THERE IS NO EXERCISE BETTER FOR THE HEART THAN REACHING DOWN AND LIFTING PEOPLE UP." <i>John Holmes</i></p>		<p>PATIENCE WITH OTHERS IS LOVE, PATIENCE WITH SELF IS HOPE, PATIENCE WITH GOD IS FAITH." <i>Adel Bestavros</i></p>	<p>1 JOYFUL NOISES-7 P.M.</p>	<p>2 GROUND HOG DAY </p>	3	4
<p>5BOY SCOUT SUNDAY SOUP/SUB LUNCHEON-FOLLOWING WORSHIP SERMON:"WHO ARE WE" SCRIPTURE: PSALM 112 ISAIAH 58: 1-12 MATTHEW 5: 13-20</p>	6	<p>7 DISCIPLES WOMENS MEETING- 10 A.M. BRING BLESSING BOXES CHRISTIAN ED-6:30 P.M.</p>	<p>8 THE GARDENS-1:30 P.M. TRUSTEES-7 P.M. JOYFUL NOISES-7 P.M.</p>	<p>9 WORSHIP/ MEMBERSHIP MEETING 6 P.M.</p>	10	11
<p>12 SERMON:"YOU HAVE HEARD IT SAID" SCRIPTURE: PSALM 119 1-4 PSALM 119: 5-8 MATTHEW 5: 21-37</p>	13	14	<p>15 PASTOR CARE MEETING-6:00 P.M. FINANCE-7 P.M. JOYFUL NOISES-7 P.M.</p>	16	17	18 MEN'S GROUP-8:30 A.M.
<p>19 GIDEONS SUNDAY ELDERS-8:30 A.M. WEEK OF COMPASSION SCRIPTURE: LEVITICUS 19: 1-18 PSALM 119: 33-40 FELLOWSHIP HALL-REINHART</p>	<p>20 </p>	<p>21 BOARD MEETING-7 P.M.</p>	<p>22 SPAGHETTI SUPPER 5-7 P.M. JOYFUL NOISES-7P.M.</p>	23	24	25
<p>26 WEEK OF COMPASSION SERMON:"WE HAVE TO COME DOWN" SCRIPTURE: EXODUS 24: 12-18 MATTHEW 17: 1-9</p>	27	28	<p>WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING SUNDAYS ARE FEBRUARY 19TH AND 26TH.</p>			<p>"WE CANNOT PRAY IN LOVE AND LIVE IN HATE AND STILL THINK WE ARE WORSHIPPING GOD" <i>A. W. Tozer</i></p>

Heart FRUIT SALAD

Make this cute, healthy snack for your loved ones on Valentine's Day.



What you need:

- Adult help
- Washed fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, strawberries, grapes)
- Knife and cutting board
- Small heart-shaped cookie cutter
- Bowl and spoon
- Mint leaves (optional)

What you do:

1. Slice the watermelon and use the cookie cutter to make heart shapes.
2. Slice the cantaloupe and cut chunks into heart shapes.
3. Remove strawberry stems and cut berries in half. Cut a small V atop each half to form a heart.
4. Cut grapes in half.
5. Place fruit in bowl and stir. Sprinkle strips on the salad. Enjoy!



Love your neighbor as yourself

Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to live out God's love. How does Jesus say we should treat other people?

Directions: Find a hidden word in each sentence. For example, "the" is hidden here: (12) "It's Harry's hat he stole." The (12) means the hidden word starts on the 12th letter (ignore punctuation). Use the answers to complete Matthew 19:19, NIV.

(1) You really like ice cream! _____

(16) Carly has a really fat hermit crab. _____

(21) My favorite animals are moth, ermine and eels. _____

(4) "Hello, Vera!" called Joseph. _____

(11) When horses neigh, boredom reigns. _____

(17) Their daughter, Kara, sat patiently. _____

(6) "That's yours, elf!" the fairy yelled. _____



"Honor _____ and



_____ and _____ your

_____"

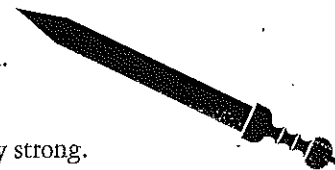
Matthew 19:19, NIV

Answer: "Honor your father and mother, and love your neighbor as yourself." Matthew 19:19, NIV

Bible Quiz

What unique characteristic of the judge Ehud enabled him to outsmart King Eglon of Moab, who had been oppressing ancient Israel?

- A. He was left-handed.
- B. He was blind.
- C. He was very fat.
- D. He was exceedingly strong.



Answer: A (See Judges 3:12-26.)