

DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

MARCH 2017

MISSION OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

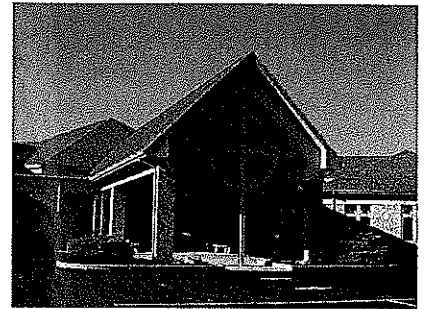
The mission of this Congregation shall be—

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.



Becoming something new takes energy! We're always leaning forward, directing our efforts toward a future we hope for. Infusing this energy with love makes the journey so much more enjoyable. I have read Pastor Seth's final letter to you all and it's easy to see how much he will miss everything; the people, the traditions you hold to; and even the challenges. I can relate to his expression of love. I'm in the same place!

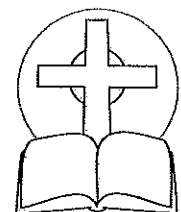
I will miss my people. I will be leaving people who came to know me and trust me after experiencing successive events that hurt them and gave them reason to distrust. They are healthy again and my instincts have urged me to pray for guidance into something new. I have been led to your congregation. I know this is right because mysteriously I can already feel an affection for people I have no way of truly knowing. There has never been any worry or any doubt about this Call. There are many reasons that could convince me to stay close to home: an aging mother, a son who is a single parent, the only grandchild I have (a granddaughter) with whom I have a special relationship. And yet, I know I am supposed to grow in your presence as you become something amazing.

I move forward fully trusting and in anticipation of good things to come.

I hope you will join me in sharing the journey ahead of us with equal trust. My hope is that we all strive to bring out the best in each other; to respect each other's differences; to be patient with each other; to share our time and resources generously; and to remember the greater purpose we all serve—nurturing God's Kingdom on earth wholeheartedly and joyously!

See you soon!

Pastor Merlyn.



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Comfort in Mourning:

The family of Dale Wooten
The family of Polly Robinson

Healing Prayers:

Jeanette Anderson
Marv Boehm
Sam Clippinger
Tammy Clark
Larry Cline
*Kathy Daniels
*Kevin Daniels
*Jackie Eiserle
Paul Eiserle
Chris Ganger
Marilyn Ladd
Janice Merriman
*Paula Riggenschach
Mooneen Riggenschach
Penny Schwimbleman
Mary Walz
Carol Veninga
Jessica Verfaillie



Continuing Concerns:

Military: *Suzanne Laney
Sara Yoder, Tristen Albert

Others Kept in Ongoing Prayer:

Deb Belk
Donnie Egnor
Mark Fraley
Ronnie Fraley
Terry Gagich
Dan Ganger
Deb Maxey
John Stout
Earl Shepherd
Danny Stocker
Our World and our Nation
The Central Christian Church in Marion
*Denotes

In Sympathy



We extend our sympathy to the family of Dale Wooten who died recently. Dale is the brother of Tammy Boroff. Please keep this Family in your prayers at this difficult time.

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



Memories from Camp Service

March 5th the campers will be sharing their memories from past years at camp with the congregation. As you know this is a very special time for the kids who go to camp. We are blessed to have these young people who find camp so important in their lives.

GUEST SPEAKER



March 12th Randy Long will be our guest speaker during worship. You may remember Randy's ministry is through his beautiful music.

PASTOR ARRIVES

Pastor Merlyn Winters will begin her ministry with us on March 16th. Her first service will be **March 19th**. We are so blessed to be welcoming her to our congregation.





First Christian Church

FLOWERS



- 3/05/2017 Velma Albert
- 3/12/2017 Sam & Genelta Levos (In Honor of Family)
- 3/19/2017 In Honor of Pastor Merlyn Winters
- 3/26/2017 Dennis Vance (In Honor of my Birthday)



(Disciples of Christ)

ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH DIGEST FEBRUARY 15

- 3/06 Tony & Sheryl Garza
- 3/13 Robert & Sandy Leslie
- 3/16 David & Dawn Carlisle
- 3/23 Jerry & Joan Tope
- 3/26 Seth & Nicki Smith



- 3/03 Roland Ganger
- 3/03 Memphis Gunderman
- 3/04 Ethan Egnor
- 3/04 Jody Perl
- 3/04 Braxton Ricker
- 3/06 Helen Gunderman
- 3/08 Susan Simpson
- 3/17 Trevor Hibbard
- 3/18 Jack Moore
- 3/19 Eliana Hormann
- 3/20 Wanda Rohlf
- 3/21 Alexandra Cardin
- 3/21 Jared Renollet
- 3/22 Vince Reinhart
- 3/22 Brent Townley
- 3/27 Josh Lero
- 3/27 Rachel Nicelley
- 3/30 Dennis Vance



In the midst of winter's chill, as we grow impatient for spring, fill us with your warmth and new life.

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE::

DATE:	MEMBERS	VISITORS	NON MEMBERS	CHILDREN	TOTAL
1/29/2017	53	1	3	8	66
2/05/2017	60	2	5	16	81
2/12/2017	42	0	1	7	50
2/19/2017	51	3	5	11	70

COUNTERS:

- 3/05/2017 Matt Strayer, Jack Moore, Cindy Grace
- 3/12/2017 Gary McClure, Vicki McClure, Saundra Bandy
- 3/19/2017 Max Hibbard, Sue Simpson, Charles Simpson
- 3/26/2017 Matt Strayer, Matt Stoller, Angela Perchikoff



March 12-Daylight Savings



**First Christian Church
Fund Summary
JANUARY
2017**

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

DATE	TITHES & OFFERINGS	INITIAL ENVEL OFFERING	WK OF COMPASSION	BUILDING MAINT.	YOUTH GROUP	MENS GROUP	TOTAL
01/01/2017	1,710.00	63.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	1,778.00
01/08/2017	1,997.00	48.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,045.00
01/15/2017	3,583.00	12.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	3,670.00
01/22/2017	1,792.00	7.00	0.00	10.00	112.00	55.00	1,976.00
01/29/2017	1,691.00	10.00	50.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	1,801.00
TOTAL	10,773.00	140.00	50.00	90.00	162.00	55.00	11,270.00

NOTE: YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISERS WERE NOODLE MAKING AND GIFT BASKET SALES

Susan K. Simpson
SUSAN K. SIMPSON, FINANCIAL SECRETARY

2-9-17
DATE



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

It is time again to start planning vacation bible school. If you are interested in helping with this ministry please see Ursula or Cindy. The next Christian Education meeting will be March 7th at 6:30 p.m.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE



We are supporting the food bank with eggs at this time. Dee Fraley purchases eggs and takes them to the food bank each week. We thank Gerry & Dee for taking the churches other food donations each week to the food bank.

We will be supporting the Paulding Area Society Ball Marathon. This is playing ball for those that can't. All monies from this stays in the county to help with medical needs for children.

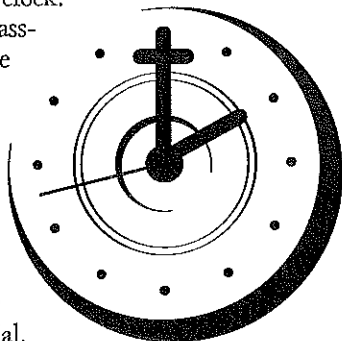
We also encourage the congregation to support week of compassion.

Thank you
For your Support

God's hands

Our life is like the dial of a clock. The hands are God's hands, passing over and over again — the short hand of discipline and the long hand of mercy. Slowly and surely, the hand of discipline must pass, and God speaks at each strike. But over and over passes the hand of mercy, showering down sixtyfold of blessing for each stroke of discipline or trial. And both hands are fastened to one secure point: the great, unchanging heart of a God of love.

—Virginia Brandt Berg



Sign For Sale

The portable sign that is no longer in use is for sale. If you are interested please contact Matt Strayer or Charlie Simpson for details.



The Youth would like to say Thank You to all who purchased noodles and everyone who bought soup and subs and those who stayed for the luncheon.

Puzzle!

Are you getting "antsy" for spring?
Using the clues provided, fill in the spaces to complete these words that end in A-N-T.

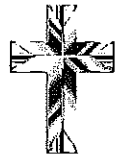
		A	N	T				
			A	N	T			
				A	N	T		
					A	N	T	
						A	N	T

CLUES (from top row to bottom row):

- ▼ An 8-foot man would be one
- ▼ To take back one's testimony
- ▼ Opposite of a master
- ▼ Pertaining to, germane
- ▼ A drug that heightens the senses

Lenten Lunch Schedule

- March 1st— First Presbyterian Church—Host
Leader: Rev. Vinny Koterfield, Family Worship Center
- March 8th— Divine Mercy Host-Host
Leader: Pastor Dwayne Richardson, House of Love-
- March 15th— Paulding Untied Methodist-Host
Leader: Roger Emerson, Paulding United Methodist -
- March 22 – St. Paul's/St. John Lutheran Church-Host
Leader: Rev. Karen Stetins, St. Paul's/St. John Lutheran Church
- March 29- First Christian Church-Host
Leader: Rev. Merlyn Winters
- April 5- Church of Nazarene-Host
Leader: Rev. Jeremy Thompson, Church of Nazarene



All Lunches are held at the First Presbyterian Church at noon. The theme this year is based on Matthew 16: 24-28. TAKE UP YOUR CROSS. The Ministerial Association will again be collecting Items for the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry. We are looking forward to this season of Christian fellowship.



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

The Ash Wednesday Service will be held on March 1st at 6:30 p.m.

As you know the season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. The season of Lent is one of the two most known seasons of the Church year. Advent leads up to the birth of Christ, Lent marks the final days of Jesus' life and ministry. The season last for forty days, from Ash Wednesday until Holy Saturday. (the day before Easter) excluding Sundays.

The placing of ashes on the foreheads of believers on Ash Wednesday is an expression of penitence, humility, or sorrow. Sacrificial choices are emphasized at this time. Lent leads us into a time when Jesus, who died for our sins, is triumphant over sin. God's people are granted a new covenant and Easter is as colorful and full of life as the Lenten season is careful to avoid such celebratory signs.



Prayer Vigil

April 15, 2017
8:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m.



This year the prayer vigil will be a 12 hour vigil. The chart to sign up will be in the narthex March 1st. Please sign up for 30 minutes or more. We would like 2 people in the sanctuary at all times. If you would like to sign up you can do so on Sunday morning or call the church office.

Ecumenical Services

Good Friday Services April 14th at noon will be hosted by the Church of the Nazarene. Pastor Karen Stetins from the St. Paul/St. John Lutheran Churches will be preaching.

Easter Sunrise Services April 16th will be hosted by the St. Paul Lutheran Church. Pastor Jeremy from the Church of the Nazarene will be preaching.





Disciples Women

The Disciples Women met on February 7th. Devotions were given by Ursula Riley. We will be making noodles on March 13. Orders should be ready by March 19th. February we will be preparing for the spaghetti supper. Valentine plates were made and distributed. We will be hosting the Lenten Lunch March 29th. The Baked potato lunch has been scheduled for April. We discussed purchasing new table clothes for the fellowship hall. This will be reported on next meeting. Egg Basket person for March is Leah Gunderman. Our next meeting will be March 7th at 10 a.m.

Family Feud Night

Thanks to everyone who came for pizza and fun. There were 51 people here to enjoy the evening. Eight teams competed with the Vickers (Vance/Rickers) winning the night. We hope to plan another fun evening soon.

Thanks again,
Denise & Jan

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

DEVOTIONAL MATERIAL NEEDED

If you have Devotional Material that you would like to dispose of:

PLEASE, put it in the box in the Conference Room.

It doesn't matter if it is out-dated according to you—it can and will be put to good STUDY use by the recipients.

Now through the end of the Moth is a good time to clean the book shelves.

Tool Donation

A tool box and a variety of tools has been generously donated to the church. The box will be kept with the mower. If you use the tools please return them to the box. We could use a few wrenches to add to the box if anyone has extra. Thanks so much to the donor.



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 it's original balance. We currently need approximately \$6500.00 to accomplish this goal. If you would like to donated toward this please be sure to specify Capital Improvement on your donation.

Thank You.




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



March 2017



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><i>"Prayer should be the key of the day and the lock of the night."</i></p> <p><i>George Herbert</i></p>		 <p>Lent Begins Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>1 Lenten Lunch-noon First Presbyterian Ch</p> <p>Ash Wednesday  Service-6:30 p.m.</p>	2	<p>3 World day of Prayer</p>	4
<p>5 First Sunday in Lent Memories from Camp</p>	<p>6 Pastors Office Being Painted.</p>	<p>7 DISCIPLES WOMENS MEETING- 10 A.M. CHRISTIAN ED-6:30 P.M.</p>	<p>8 Lenten Lunch-noon First Presbyterian Ch THE GARDENS SERVICE-1:30 P.M. JOYFUL NOISES-7 P.M.</p>	9	10	11
<p>12 Second Sunday in Lent Guest Speaker: Randy Long</p> <p>Daylight Savings Time</p>	<p>13 DWM-Noodle Day- 9 a.m.</p>	14	<p>15 Lenten Lunch-noon First Presbyterian Ch</p> <p>FINANCE-7 P.M. JOYFUL NOISES-7 P.M.</p>	<p>16 Worship/Membership Meeting-6:00 p.m. Trustees- 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p>17  Happy St. Patrick's Day</p>	<p>18 MEN'S GROUP-8:30 A.M.</p>
<p>19 Third Sunday in Lent Elders- 8:30 a.m.</p> <p>Pastor Merlyn Winters first Sunday</p>	20	<p>21 BOARD MEETING-7 P.M.</p>	<p>22 Lenten Lunch-noon First Presbyterian Ch</p> <p>JOYFUL NOISES-7 P.M.</p>	23	24	25
<p>26 Fourth Sunday in Lent</p>	27	28	<p>29 Lenten Lunch-noon First Presbyterian Ch</p> <p>JOYFUL NOISES-7 P.M.</p>	30	31	<p><i>"Faith is permitting ourselves to be seized by the things we do not see."</i></p> <p><i>Martin Luther</i></p>

SERVERS—MARCH 2017

ELDERS:

Paul Long	(bread)
Larry Grace	(cup)
Ellen Riggenbach	(shut-in communion)

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

DIACONATE (Deacons):

* Suzanne Strayer	Katie Strayer
Deb Santo	Cindy Grace
Tammy Boroff	Darwin Riley
Helen Long	Klair Hoover

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

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

WORSHIP LEADER: Darla Smith

PREPARE COMMUNION: Denise Renollet

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

GREETER: Corey & Nicole Harris

SUNDAY SCHOOL: age 5-3rd gr.—No Teachers
Fourth-sixth grade— No Classes this month.

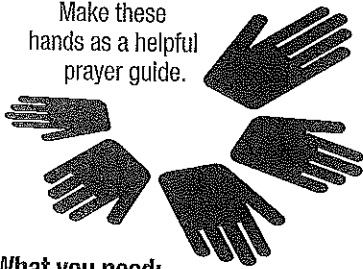
NURSERY: The nursery is available for parents to use during worship.

READ SCRIPTURE: 3/05/2017 Virginia Paulus-Psalm 32
3/12/2017 Max Hibbard-Psalm 121: 1-8
3/19/2017 Tammy Boroff-I will notify you of the scripture.
3/26/2017 Leah Gunderman-I will notify you of the scripture.

COUNTERS: 3/05/2017 Matt Strayer, Jack Moore, Cindy Grace
3/12/2017 Gary McClure, Vicki McClure, Sandra Bandy
3/19/2017 Max Hibbard, Sue Simpson, Charlie Simpson
3/26/2017 Matt Strayer, Matt Stoller, Angela Perchikoff

PRAYER HANDS

Make these hands as a helpful prayer guide.



What you need:

- 7 pieces of construction paper (different colors)
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Stapler
- Colored pens
- Stickers

What you do:

1. Trace your hand (the same one) on each piece of paper.
2. Cut out and stack the hands. Staple together atop the pinky.
3. On the top hand (the front cover), write "Prayer Hands." Decorate with stickers.
4. On the second hand, write "Praise God." On the third, write "Ask for forgiveness." On the fourth, write "Thank God." On the fifth, write "Pray for others." On the sixth, write "Pray for me."
5. Use your book to remember what to pray for every day.



The psalmist's prayer

The Psalms are full of wonderful verses about God's care and protection.

Directions: Find each missing letter in the alphabets below. Use the resulting words to complete Psalm 86:7, NIV.

A B C E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____

A B D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____

B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V X Y Z _____
 A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z _____
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q S T U V W X Y Z _____

When I am in _____, I _____ to you,
 because you _____ me. Psalm 86:7, NIV

Answer: When I am in distress, I call to you, because you answer me. *Psalm 86:7, NIV*

