

DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

APRIL 2015

MISSION OF FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

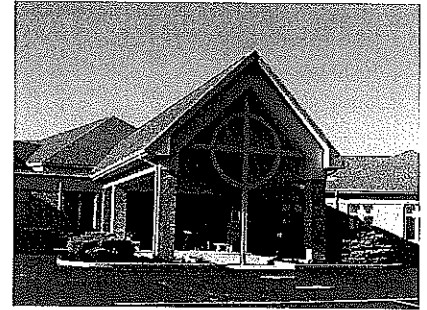
The mission of this Congregation shall be—

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.



Mark's Gospel, chapter 16, verses 1 through 8. (Holy Bible, New Revised Standard Version)

When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome brought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, "Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you." So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.

If the Gospel of Mark had ended there, which some scholars believe to be the case, how would we know about the resurrection? A shorter ending and a longer ending have been added. Let us continue to verse 20...

And all that had been commanded them they told briefly to those around Peter. And afterward Jesus himself sent out through them, from east to west, the sacred and imperishable proclamation of eternal salvation. (Shorter ending of Mark)

Now, after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it. After this he appeared in another form to two of them, as they were walking into the country. And they went back and told the rest, but they did not believe them. Later he appeared to the eleven themselves as they were sitting at the table; and he upbraided them for their lack of faith and stubbornness, because they had not believed those who saw him after he had risen. And he said to them. "Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation. The one who believes and is baptized will be saved; but the one who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will accompany those who believe: by using my name they will cast out demons; they will speak in new tongues; they will pick up snakes in their hands, and if they drink any deadly thing, it will not hurt them; they will lay their hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and proclaimed the good news everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by the signs that accompanied it. (Longer ending of Mark)

Afraid. Are you ever afraid? Could you blame Jesus' closest followers for not believing the women's story? Nobody had ever defeated death and the grave before? Yes, Lazarus was raised from the dead, but he would die again, a natural death. Jesus Christ defeated death once and for all. For you. And for me. In this longer ending of Mark, we keep reading the phrase, but they did not believe them. Still today, we run into the same thing. People will simply not believe the good news. We need to show them, not just tell them. We run to the empty tomb, but the resurrected Jesus Christ is not there. Come and see, now go and tell. See the tomb is empty. Experience the resurrected Jesus Christ in your own life and walk with God. Go and tell the nations. Simple, but not easy. Consider the cost. And then follow the Holy Spirit's leading.

Jesus Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia, alleluia. May you be blessed as you are a blessing to others.

PRAYER REQUESTS:

*Erwin Bandy	The family of Marilyn Yates
*Bettie Eagleson	The family of Babe Price
*Bill Baxter	The family of Fern Merillat
* Phyllis Beamer	Janice Merriman
Lucas Edwards	Robert Ladd
Kim Armstrong	
Judy Wren	
Dave Schumann	
Deb Belk	
Lance Miller	
Derric Brown	
Pam Bauer	
Koby Wistner	
Scott Fredrickson	

Nursing Home Residents..

- *Aletha Kadesch (Gardens)
- *Georgiana Wilson (Manor House)
- *Mildred Bashore (Gardens)
- *John Peeper Jr. (Gardens)
- *Helen Gunderman-
(St. Anne's Retirement Comm. Apt. 26)
Our homebound

In Sympathy

Please keep the family of Marilyn Yates in your prayers.
Marilyn died unexpectedly in February.
Marilyn is the Mother of Kathy Daniels.

Please keep the family of Fern Merillet in your prayers.
Fern died this past month. She is a sister to Velma Alberts.

Babe Price died March 19th at the Gardens. Babe has been a member of the church since June 20th 1930. Please keep her family in your prayers at this difficult time.

* Denotes FCC members



24 HOUR PRAYER VIGIL

Our 24 hour prayer vigil will begin at 6 a.m. on April 4th and end at 6 a.m. on April 5th. We still have half hour time slots available.

Please sign up in the narthex or call the office to help us fill the slots. We would like to have all the time slots filled. Thank you.



Baptisms

Easter Sunday Pastor Jeff will be baptizing five young people during the worship service.

Committing themselves to Christ will be Haylie Lero, Lily Knapp, Haleigh Stallbaum, Gabrielle Stallbaum and Kylie Harris.

Please keep these young people in your prayers as they begin their journey of faith.



April 2nd- Maundy Thursday Service - 7:00 p.m.

April 3rd- Good Friday Service-12:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church

April 4th- Prayer Vigil- 6:00 a.m.

April 5th- Easter Sunrise Service-7:00 a.m. at the Methodist Church

April 5th Easter Service-10:00 a.m.

Thank You

Sorry to be so late to thank you for the valentine goodies. It was very nice of you.
Thanks again. Bless You.

Betty Hamman



FLOWERS

- 4/5 Charles & Sue Simpson (Honor of Wedding Anniversary)
- 4/12 Corey & Nicolle Harris (Memory of Joann Harris)
- 4/19 Darwin & Ursula Riley (Memory of Renee)
- 4/26 Lero's (Honor of Haylie's Birthday)



- 4/1 Matt Strayer
- 4/5 David Fellers
- 4/7 Mick Coak
- 4/7 Sean Holman
- 4/9 Lori Clark
- 4/9 Brett Mawer
- 4/12 Tony Garza
- 4/12 Leah Gunderman
- 4/12 Cindy Lipp
- 4/13 Ridge Hunt
- 4/13 Carolyn Moore
- 4/14 Cassidy Hilkey
- 4/16 Donna Hibbard
- 4/16 Mary Clair Carr
- 4/17 Brianna Estle
- 4/18 Destyne Carlisle
- 4/18 Tucker Stoller
- 4/19 Tabrina Vance
- 4/21 David Bok
- 4/23 Melissa Leslie
- 4/24 Gina Vance
- 4/25 Ross Myers
- 4/25 Ann Reinhart
- 4/25 Darla Smith
- 4/26 Nicki Gunderman
- 4/27 Julie Cook
- 4/29 Kyle Harris
- 4/30 Addyson Hormann



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

**DEADLINE FOR THE
MAY DIGEST
APRIL 15TH.**

- 4/8 Charles & Sue Simpson
- 4/14 Brian & Gina Vance
- 4/19 Brian & Jennifer Aden
- 4/24 Scott & Amanda Fellers



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

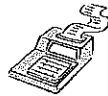


WORSHIP:

DATE:	MEMBERS	VISITORS	NON MEMBERS	CHILDREN	TOTAL
2/22/15	59	2	5	11	77
3/1/15	53	0	7	14	74
3/8/15	63	0	5	19	87
3/15/15	55	3	5	18	81
3/22/15	62	1	9	20	92

COUNTERS:

- 4/6/15 John Jelinek, Matt Strayer, Jack Moore
- 4/12/15 Gary McClure, Vicki McClure, Sandra Bandy
- 4/19/15 Max Hibbard, Sue Simpson, Charles Simpson
- 4/26/15 Matt Strayer, Matt Stoller, John Jelinek



FINANCIAL FACT:

DID YOU KNOW THE PROPANE BUDGET AMOUNT WE PAY EVERY MONTH YEAR ROUND IS \$900.00?

First Christian Church Fund Summary

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	102 INITIAL ENVELOPE OFFERING	103 WEEK OF COMPASSION	300 YOUTH GROUP	Total
02/01/2015	1,279.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,279.00
02/08/2015	2,433.00	5.00	55.00	0.00	2,493.00
02/10/2015	0.00	0.00	0.00	372.00	372.00
02/13/2015	400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	400.00
02/15/2015	1,164.00	0.00	70.00	0.00	1,234.00
02/22/2015	2,373.00	5.00	55.00	0.00	2,433.00
Total	7,649.00	10.00	180.00	372.00	8,211.00

Susan K. Simpson 3-9-15

General Assembly

This year the General Assembly of the church meets in Columbus on July 18-22. This presents an unusually convenient and inexpensive chance to attend. Registration fees are reduced until April 1. Go to www.disciples.org/ga for more information.



Church Website

The church website is firstccpaulding.org

We have been working on the website. The calendar and the digest are now on the website as well as a link to our facebook page.

Thank You

Thank you family and friends for your well wishes and prayers during my recent hospitalization.

Thank you to Pastor Jeff for his visit and prayers.

Dee Renollet

Pastoral Relations Committee

The Pastoral relations committee will be meeting April 8th at 6:00 p.m. If you have issues or thoughts that you would like discussed at the meeting please share them with one of the members. Matt Strayer, Denise Renollet, Susan Knapp, Dan Workman, Amanda Boroff, Josh Lero and Linda Reinhart. Thank You.



PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE. . .

. . . when a member of your family is admitted to the hospital, so that visits can be made and the proper people notified.

...when your team plans to have a meeting, so that it can be cleared and placed on the church calendar.

...when either your home or business phone number is changed, so the church records can be corrected.

...when you are planning to move-out of town or locally.

...when a new baby arrives in your family.

...when a member of your family leaves home for college or to establish a new residence.

...when a new family moves into your neighborhood.

...when you feel the church can assist you in any way.



Disciples Women's Ministry

The disciples women meet the first Tuesday of every month at 10:00 a.m. All women are invited to attend.

A huge thank you to all who helped with the Lenten Lunch in any way. It went so well.

Also thank you to all who helped with the Blood mobile. It was a very busy week with back to back events.

More prayer shawls are being made. If you know of someone who would benefit from the comfort of a shawl please let one of the women know.

The ladies voted to provide new hymnals to The Gardens.

See you at the April 15th Baked Potato Lunch. Chair persons for the lunch are Ursula Riley and Betty Ganger.

ATTENTION GRADUATING SENIORS

There are two scholarships available through the church.

The Medaugh Book Scholarship and The Cloyce Vance Scholarship.

If you are a graduating high school senior and a member of First Christian Church you are eligible to apply for these scholarships. Please see the office for an application.



High School and College Graduates

If you are graduating from High School or College this year please write down where you are graduating from and the date, of your graduation and also include your future plans. Please turn this information in to the office before May 15th. Thank You

Baked Potato Lunch

April 15th

11:00a.m.—1:00p.m.

**Sponsored by the
Disciples Women's Ministry**

Free Will Donation



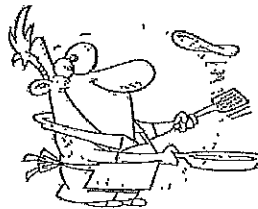
2015 Easter Offering

*Please review the insert concerning the
Disciples Mission Fund Easter Offering.
Envelopes are provided for those who wish to donate.*

Cookin' for Mission

Can you believe it? The men are at it again!

A Pancake and Sausage Breakfast will be held on Saturday, April 18, from 8:00 am to 11:00 am. The Men's Group will be cooking breakfast and there will be a Free Will Offering. The funds raised will go to help hungry children both locally and nationally. Good food, and a good time for all is our guarantee. Mark your calendars and join us for this worthy event: SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 8 – 11 AM, BREAKFAST.



Go the Extra Mile

When we hear this expression we think of doing things for others that goes beyond what is normally expected. Jesus says in Matthew 5:41, "if anyone forces you to go one mile, go also the second mile". Jesus goes on to say, 'Give to everyone... do not refuse anyone'. We can all lend a hand to those in need, say a kind word, and never criticize. We have a great church, and we can do amazing things. It is so easy for us to get lost in our own little world or lose sight of our role as Christians. But we can and should set an example and show the world that we put God First in our lives. When I was growing up I always heard 'charity begins at home'. This church, this community, and this world is our home. May God Bless you all.

Paul Long

TAYLOR RINGERS

IN CONCERT

Wednesday, April 1, 2015 @ 7:00 p.m.

First Presbyterian Church
114 West Caroline Street
Paulding, Ohio 45879

Smiles Express Dentistry

*Smiles Express will be coming to Paulding On March
30th and April 22nd. At the Westwood Behavioral
Health Center.*

*This is a mobile dentist office that serves those on a
limited income.*

*For more information please check the flyer on the
church bulletin board. Contact numbers are also on the
bulletin board.*

easter

Four lessons of Good Friday

The Rev. James Martin, S.J., author of *Jesus: A Pilgrimage* (HarperOne), writes that Jesus' suffering and death almost 2,000 years ago are very relevant to our 21st-century lives. He says Good Friday teaches us that:

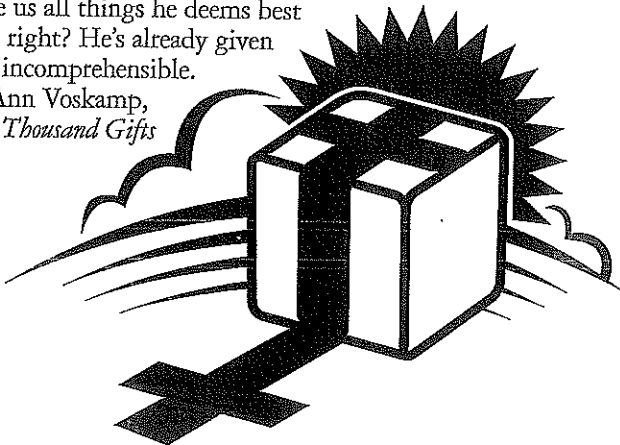
1. physical and emotional suffering are part of life;
2. suffering isn't always the result of sin;
3. Jesus was fully human — and thus understands our humanity; and
4. suffering isn't the last word.

"The message of Good Friday is incomplete without Easter," Martin writes. "The story of the Passion is not simply of a man being brutally tortured, nailed to a cross and executed by the Romans. It's the story of a man who turns himself fully over to the Father's will, trusts that something new will come out of this offering and receives the astonishing gift of new life."

The ultimate gift

If God didn't withhold from us his very own Son, will God withhold *anything* we need? If trust must be earned, hasn't God unequivocally earned our trust with the bark on the raw wounds, the thorns pressed into the brow, your name on the cracked lips? How will he not also graciously give us all things he deems best and right? He's already given the incomprehensible.

—Ann Voskamp,
One Thousand Gifts



Egg-stra facts

- Although Easter eggs were once part of pagan spring festivals, they've become Christian symbols of new life. A cracked-open shell also represents Jesus' empty tomb on Easter morning.
- The early Christians of Mesopotamia began staining eggs red in honor of Jesus' blood shed on the cross. Red eggs remain part of Greek Orthodox celebrations today.
- For Lent, some families used to give up eggs and dairy, so they prepared a pancake feast on Shrove Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday. They solved the egg surplus by hard-boiling them in various broths, which led to colored eggs.
- In medieval times, churches held "egg-throwing" festivals. The priest threw a hard-boiled egg toward the choir boys, who tossed it back and forth. When the clock struck 12, whoever was holding the egg got to keep it.
- In some European countries, children go from house to house to collect Easter eggs.
- Each year, the PAAS Dye Co. sells more than 10 million egg-coloring kits, which consumers use to decorate 180 million eggs.
- The tallest chocolate Easter egg ever produced weighed 16,000 pounds — more than an elephant!

Complete victory

At the cross, evil is conquered as evil ... because God turns it back upon itself. He makes the supreme crime, the murder of the only righteous person, the very operation that abolishes sin. The [maneuver] is utterly unprecedented. No more complete victory could be imagined.

—Henri Blocher, *Evil and the Cross*

SERVERS—APRIL 2015

ELDERS: Max Hibbard (bread)
Jan Commers (cup)
Bruce Gunderman (shut-in communion)

DIACONATE (Deacons): *Tracy Gunderman Kelly Ricker
Tony Garza Harry Ricker
Sheryl Garza Clint Reinhart
Joan Tope Devon Smith

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

WORSHIP LEADER: Bruce Gunderman
PREPARE COMMUNION: Gerry & Dee Fraley

(Clean up, pick up empty cups, please put communion in the nursery for the attendant.)

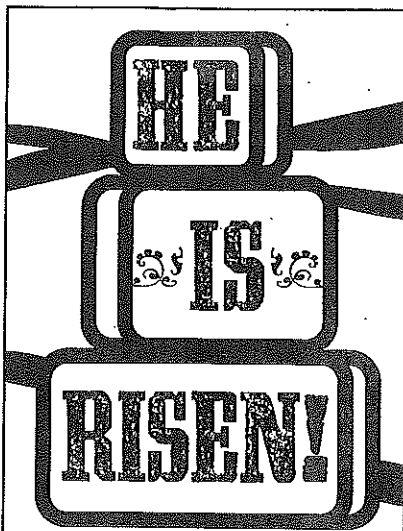
GREETERS: Tony & Sheryl Garza

SUNDAY SCHOOL: 4/5/2015 Ashley Cameron & Olivia Mendez
4/12/2015 Ashley Cameron & Olivia Mendez
4/19/2015 Ashley Cameron & Olivia Mendez
4/26/2015 Ashley Cameron & Olivia Mendez

NURSERY: 4/5/2015 Julie Pack
4/12/2015 Penny Clippinger
4/19/2015 Cindy Grace
4/26/2015 Darla Smith

READ SCRIPTURE: 4/5/2015 Tracy Gunderman-Isaiah 25: 6-9
4/12/2015 Lori Clark-Acts: 32-35
4/19/2015 Darla Smith-Psalm 4
4/26/2015 Max Hibbard-Psalm 23

COUNTERS: 4/5/2015 John Jelinek, Matt Strayer, Jack Moore
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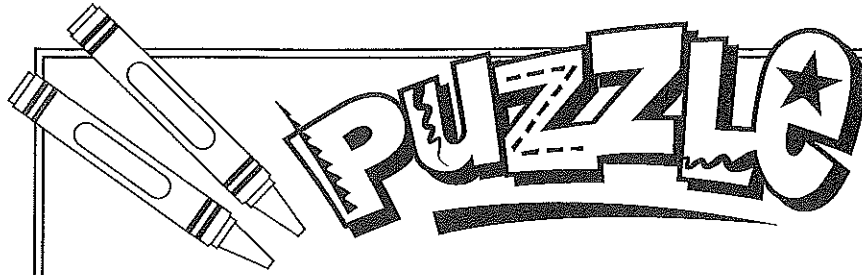
Create a simple yet powerful Easter display.

What you need:

- 3 wood blocks (small, medium, large)
- Acrylic paint (three pastel colors and white)
- Paintbrush
- Water
- Paper towels
- Letter stencils and tape (optional)

What you do:

1. Paint each block of wood a different pastel color. (You can paint the whole block or just one side.)
2. When paint is dry, use white paint to write (or stencil) "He" on the smallest block, "is" on the medium block and "risen!" on the large block.
3. When blocks are dry, stack them from largest to smallest to proclaim "He is risen!"



OUR HOPE

Romans 8:34 tells about our risen Lord, who gives us hope.

Directions: Write the phrases on the correct numbered lines below. Then, on the final row of blanks, write the bold capital letters in order from top to bottom, left to right, to spell the word that sums up this verse.

- | | | |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|
| 5 who was R aised | 8 R ight hand | 6 T o life |
| 3 d iEd | 4 m o R e than that | 7 I s at the |
| 2 J e S us who | 11 i nt E r C eding | 9 O f God |
| 12 f or U s | 1 C hrist | 10 a ND is also |

.....

1 _____ 2 _____ 3 _____

4 _____ , 5 _____

6 _____ 7 _____

8 _____

9 _____ 10 _____

11 _____ 12 _____ *Romans 8:34, NIV*

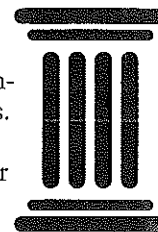
RESURRECTION

Answers: ... Christ Jesus who died — more than that, who was raised to life — is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. Romans 8:34, NIV

Bible Quiz

As Jacob used a rock for a pillow — later to become a pillar honoring God — which of the following did he experience in a dream?

- A. Angels going up and down on a ladder between earth and heaven.
- B. The Lord promising that Jacob's family would be a blessing to all nations.
- C. God's assurance: "Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go."
- D. All of the above.



Answer: D (See Genesis 28:10-19.)