

DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

SEPTEMBER
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.



FROM PASTOR MERLYN

Leaning Forward!

There's a buzz in the air! Children will have begun their new school year by now. We'll soon start preparing for a change in weather. There's excitement in preparing for 'Flat Rock Festival' this month. New Bible Studies will begin in a couple of weeks. Planning for children's Sunday school is almost complete. It feels as if the future is beckoning us, and we're happily leaning forward into it.

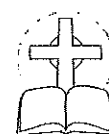
The opportunities before us for growth are plenty. How will we approach all the planning mentioned above? We've all changed in the last year. Whether we wanted to or not here we are: grown-up again, having learned from exposure to new ideas; seeing things a little differently now. Let's show our new perspective in all that we do. Let's embrace the coming cycle of events with a new attitude and allow it to shine in the way we do 'what we've always done.'

Let's do 'what we've always done' with a new twist. Be proud to introduce change in small ways that fit our character. Introduce a new ministry, or change the way you've done your ministry in the past: do it in a more convenient or amusing way; perhaps with more color or style. And be proud of what you're doing. Church life is about rejoicing. Dance into the promised days with delight!

It would be easy to focus on what we do and the way we do things while forgetting our underlying purpose. We exist as a church to bring hope to humanity (all God's people). As children leave for school, send them off with a hug and a blessing; that they may grow into loving and forgiving people. As we harvest the crop, thank God for the bounty harnessed by the earth and for the privilege of bringing it forth. As new teachers select the curriculum for children's Sunday school, keep in mind you make it possible for Jesus to travel with children for the rest of their lives!

Be blessed, feel blessed, and pass on the blessing! God invites you into freshness and hope!

Pastor Merlyn



PRAYER REQUESTS:

Comfort in Mourning:

The family of Earl Fulk
The family of Shawn Suffel
The family of Lance Donat



Healing Prayers:

Patty Fox Johnson

Continuing Concerns:

Military: *Suzanne Laney, Braden Laney
Sara Yoder, Tristen Albert

Others Kept in Ongoing Prayer:

Deb Belk
Ken Bowers
*Jackie Eiserle
*Shirley Finnegan
Mark Fraley
Earl Fulk
Susan Gagich
Terry Gagich
Shirley Guilford
Roseann Hall
Marilyn Ladd
Deb Maxey
Greg Platt



*Denotes Members

UPCOMING REGIONAL EVENTS



Disciples Women's Fall Retreat
September 9-10

Disciples Men's Fall Retreat
September 15-17

At Camp Christian

Thank You



The Paulding Soccer Club would like to thank FCC for letting the kids use the field again this year.

Nursing Home Residents..

Manor House

*Georgiana Wilson
Rita Hannah

The Gardens

*John Peeper Jr.
*Mary Frank

St. Anne's Retirement Comm. Apt. 26

*Helen Gunderman

Hickory Creek Nursing Home

*Bob Unger
Our homebound,

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

In Sympathy

We extend our sympathy to the family of Earl Fulk. Earl died recently in Bryan Ohio. He is the brother of Shirley Cramer. Please keep his family in your prayers at this difficult time.

Thank You

Dear Church Family,

We would like to thank you for thinking of us through Your cards and your prayers with the passing of Harry's Mother. It meant a lot.

Hugs-Harry, Kelly & Braxton

VESPERS SERVICE

The Worship/Membership Team will be holding a Vespers Service on September 10th at 5 p.m. in the Shelter House. Food will be provided, all you need to bring is a chair.

**GOD is
SO GOOD!**

FLOWERS



First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

- 9/03/2017 Darla Smith
- 9/10/2017 Velma Albert (In Memory of Forre)
- 9/17/2017 Delmar Schwab (In Memory of Karen)
- 9/24/2017 Delmar Schwab (In Memory of Orville & Valera Riley)

There are openings on the flower calendar in October, November and December.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 9/01 Jim Ellis
- 9/02 Josiah Dohm
- 9/04 Kathy Daniels
- 9/08 Gabrielle Stallbaum
- 9/09 Scott Fellers
- 9/11 Jennifer Workman
- 9/15 Katelyn Laney
- 9/15 Amber Simpson
- 9/17 Brian Knapp
- 9/18 Dennis Meyer
- 9/22 Ursula Riley
- 9/24 Stella Fellers
- 9/24 Clint Vance
- 9/24 Corbin Vance
- 9/25 Josh Hibbard
- 9/26 Jennifer Aden
- 9/26 Madeline Clippinger
- 9/26 Elliott Gunderman
- 9/28 Harry Ricker
- 9/28 Briggs Stoller
- 9/28 Bristyl Stoller
- 9/30 Sharon Cooper
- 9/30 Nate Reinhart

**DEADLINE FOR THE
OCTOBER DIGEST
SEPTEMBER 15**

Happy Anniversary



- 9/21 Todd & Erika Pease
- 9/25 Wally & Heather Daniels
- 9/25 Matt & Lindsay Hormann
- 9/25 Brent & Leslie Daniels
- 9/27 Dee & Denise Renollet
- 9/28 Matt & Suzy Strayer



WORSHIP ATTENDANCE:

DATE:	MEMBERS	VISITORS	NON MEMBERS	CHILDREN	TOTAL
7/30/2017	61	1	2	8	72
8/06/2017	65	1	8	17	91
8/13/2017	47	1	4	2	54
8/20/2017	56	1	6	6	69

COUNTERS:

- 9/03/2017 Matt Strayer, Jack Moore, Cindy Grace
- 9/10/2017 Gary McClure, Vicki McClure, Saundra Bandy
- 9/17/2017 Max Hibbard, Sue Simpson, Charles Simpson
- 9/24/2017 Matt Strayer, Matt Stoller, Angela Perchikoff



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

First Christian Church
Fund Summary
JUNE 2017



DATES	TITHES & OFFERINGS	INITIAL ENVEL OFFERING	HOLIDAY-PENTECOST	BUILDING/ MAINT.	CAPITAL IMPROVE	MENS GROUP	TOTAL
06/04/2017	2,167.00	3.00	85.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	2,270.00
06/11/2017	1,569.00	0.00	20.00	20.00	15.00	0.00	1,624.00
06/18/2017	2,087.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	15.00	35.00	2,147.00
06/25/2017	1,508.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	35.00	0.00	1,553.00
TOTALS	7,331.00	3.00	105.00	40.00	80.00	35.00	7,594.00

Sue K. Simpson
Financial Secretary

7-10-17
Date

Deacon Meeting

The Deacons will be meeting following worship on October 8th. We asked that all deacons attend this meeting.

Thank You



Another great Vacation Bible School is behind us.

We can't thank you enough for contributing money and food items for the snacks. And for those who donated your time and talents this could not happen without you.

THANK YOU-THANK YOU- THANK YOU!

The kids and adults had a great time.

This years offering of \$100.50 is being donated to the Paulding County D.A. R. E. program.

FIFTH QUARTER



The churches will be hosting Fifth Quarter Party for junior high and high school students following home games on Sept. 1, Sept. 29, Oct 6th.

They will take place at the Presbyterian Church.

All youth are invited to attend.

Mower list

Sept. 3 and Sept 10
Sept. 17 and Sept 24
Oct 1 and Oct 5
Oct 15 and Oct 22

Diane Bakle
Gary McClure
Diane Bakle
Diane Bakle

Thank you to all the mowing volunteers. Your willingness to help with the church property is appreciated very much.

AMERICAN RED CROSS



The Red Cross is in need of volunteers to help prevent and alleviate human suffering in the face of emergencies. However, they are currently in need of more volunteers in our community. If this is something you are able to help with please contact westcentralohio@redcross.org or call 419 905-8302.

DISCIPLES WOMEN



The Disciples Women met on August 8th at 10 a.m.

Ursula Riley gave devotions.

The financial report was reviewed.

We discussed the need to have a kitchen monitor with the kitchen and fellowship hall being used regularly.

We will be making a diagram of the table set up so that each group using the hall can return it to the original set up.

We asked the ladies to think about any item that we may need for the kitchen.

The ladies discussed the Vegetable Soup for the fall festival. Donation list will be put out for needed supplies. We encourage all women to help where they can. Our next meeting will be September 5th at 10 a.m. All women are invited to attend.

FLAT ROCK FALL FESTIVAL



The donation and worker list for Fall Festival are on the table in the narthex. Please consider working at the festival. Proceeds from the festival go to the Building Maintenance Fund. This fund ensures the maintenance of the church is kept up. We need everyone's participation in this project.

We also have the piggy bank for monetary donations in the narthex. This will help purchase the meat. Your help is very much appreciated.



BELL CHOIR



Bell Choir will resume on September 24th following worship. New ringers are always welcome.

If you can count, you can ring. It is a lot of fun and fellowship. Come give it a try.

CHOIR DIRECTOR NEEDED

We are in need of a choir director for Sunday music. If you would like to explore this possibility please talk to Donna Hibbard, Ursula Riley.



FOOD PANTRY NEEDS

As you know the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry is a ministry that we feel is important to our church and our community.

At this time there is a special need for canned fruit. As always any food or hygiene product donation is very much appreciated. Thank you for helping us with this ministry. All items can be brought to the church. We have a wonderful delivery person.



Youth Group Planning

Are you a parent, grandparent, or guardian of a child attending FCC? If so, would you like to have your child participate in Christian youth activities such as service projects, field trips and study opportunities? If so, please let us know. We will need your name, your child/children's names, their ages and grades, and their contact information.

Based on this information our Youth Ministry Advisor, with your help, will plan activities for the coming months. If you are interested in being involved as a helper/planner please call Jan Commers (419) 769-8600 or Pastor Merlyn (614) 596-0268.

An informational meeting is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, September 10th immediately following Sunday worship. Reminders will be issued during Sunday worship in the coming weeks!

The Christian Education Committee invites all interested members of the church to volunteer to teach Sunday School. Your service is needed for two consecutive Sundays every two months. Pick the age group you would like to teach: (1) Preschoolers (under age 5), (2) Elementary (5yr-olds upto 3rd Grade), and (3) Older Children (4th Grade and above). You have the option to select your own teaching materials or you may create lessons from available resources. Meetings to coordinate efforts will be held periodically to support all teachers and to nurture this ministry into its fullness. Please call Ursula Riley (419) 399-2099 if you would like to help our children grow in faith.

Book Club



Ursula Riley is starting a book club in October. The book she is starting with is Blessed Be the Crazy. If you would like to be a part of the group please sign up on the bulletin board so we know how many books we will need.

*Have
Faith
in
GOD*

God's left hand

A 6-year-old and his grandma went for a walk one autumn day. "Look at the gorgeous leaves!" Grandma exclaimed. "Just think, God painted each one of them just for us!"

"Yep," said her grandson, "and he did it left-handed."

Perplexed, Grandma asked, "Why do you think God used his left hand to create all this beauty?"

"Because," said the boy matter-of-factly, "we learned in Sunday school that Jesus sits on God's right one."

Four perspectives

Because different writers penned each Gospel, the four books offer unique angles and insights. Although the overall message is the same, the human authors' backgrounds and perspectives shine through every account.

These verses by an unknown writer remind us of each Gospel's characteristics:

Matthew — Messiah, Israel's King, sets forth, by Israel slain; but God decreed that Israel's loss should be the Gentiles' gain.

Mark tells us how in patient love this earth has once been trod by One Who, in a Servant's form, was yet the Son of God.

Luke, the physician, writes of a more skilled Physician still Who gave himself, as Son of Man, to save us from all ill.

John, the beloved of Jesus, sees in him the Father's Son, the everlasting Word made flesh, yet with the Father One.

A sign of what's to come

When God is about to do something great, he starts with a difficulty.

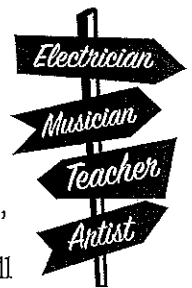
When he is about to do something truly magnificent, he starts with an impossibility.

—Armin Gesswein

What's your calling?

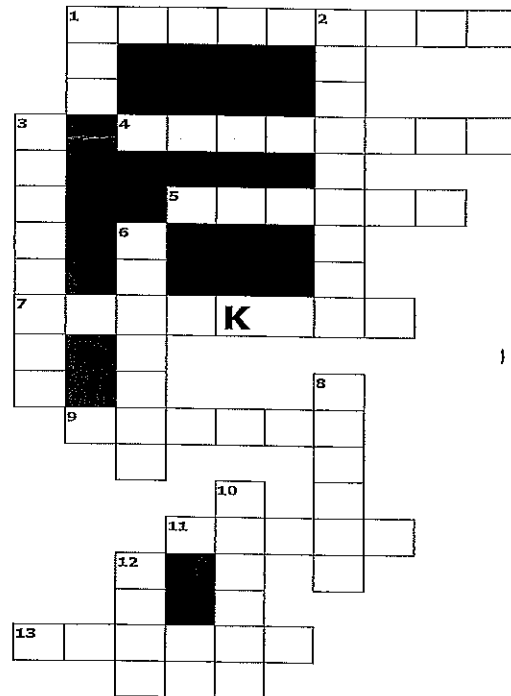
When you have a sense of calling — whether it's to be a musician, soloist, artist, in one of the technical fields or a plumber — there is something deep and enriching when you realize it isn't just a casual choice; it's a divine calling. [That's] not limited to vocational Christian service, by any means.

—Charles R. Swindoll



Puzzle!

Use the clues to complete this crossword about women in the Bible.



1. (across) Cousin of Mary (Luke 1:36)
1. (down) Mother of Abel (Genesis 4:1-2)
2. Mother of Solomon (2 Samuel 12:24)
3. Moses' wife (Exodus 2:21)
4. Lied about her giving to the church (Acts 5:1)
5. Saved her people from destruction in Persia (also a Bible book name)
6. A Judge in Israel (Judges 4)
7. Mother of Esau (Genesis 25:21, 25)
8. The wife Jacob loved (Genesis 29:20)
9. Sister of Mary (John 11:1)
10. Sewed clothes (Acts 9:39)
11. Hosea's wife (Hosea 1:3)
12. Sat at Jesus' feet in conversation (Luke 10:39)
13. Sister of Moses and Aaron (Exodus 15:20)

Answers: 1. (across) Elizabeth, 1. (down) Eve, 2. Bathsheba, 3. Zipporah, 4. Sapphira, 5. Esther, 6. Deborah, 7. Rebekah, 8. Rachel, 9. Martha, 10. Dorcas, 11. Gomer, 12. Mary, 13. Miriam

[PUZZLE0017]

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

September 2017



BELL CHOIR IS BACK!! STARTING SEPTEMBER 24TH -
 FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>"NOTHING GREAT IN THE WORLD HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED WITHOUT PASSION"</p> <p><i>George Hegel</i></p>		<p>LIVE YOUR LIFE IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST.</p> <p>PHILIPPIANS 1: 27</p>		<p>"I WILL SING TO THE LORD FOR HE HAS TRIUMPED GLORIOUSLY"</p> <p>EXODUS 15:1</p>	<p>1 FIFTH QUARTER FOLLOWING THE FOOTBALL GAME @ PRESBY. CHURCH</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>3 SERMON: THE PROMISE OF NEW LIFE SCRIPTURE: JOHN 16: 20-22 REVELATION 21: 1-6, 22: 1-5</p>	<p>4</p> <p>OFFICE CLOSED</p>	<p>5 DISCIPLES WOMENS MINISTRY-10 A.M. CHRISTIAN ED-6:30 P.M</p>	<p>6 FINANCE MEETING- 7 P.M.</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9 DISCIPLES WOMENS RETREAT</p>
<p>10 SERMON: CREATION BY THE WORD SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1: 1-5 GENESIS 1: 1-2; 2:4a VESPER SERVICE-5P.M.</p>	<p>11 FALL FESTIVAL MEETING-7 P.M.</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 THE GARDENS SERVICE-1:30 P.M.</p>	<p>14 WORSHIP/ MEMBERSHIP MEETING-6 P.M.</p>	<p>15 DIGEST DEADLINE FALL FESTIVAL</p>	<p>16 FALL FESTIVAL</p>
<p>17 ELDERS MEETING- 8:30 A.M. SERMON: BINDING OF ISAAC SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1:29 GENESIS 21: 1-3; 22: 1-4</p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 BOARD MEETING-7 P.M.</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22 AUTUMN BEGINS</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 SERMON: JACOB'S DREAM SCRIPTURE: JOHN 1: 50-51 GENESIS 27:1-4,15-23;28:10- BELL CHOIR</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING 7 P.M.</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 WEDDING REHEARSAL FIFTH QUARTER FOLLOWING THE FOOTBALL GAME @ PRESBY. CHURCH</p>	<p>30 REINHART WEDDING</p>

SERVERS—SEPTEMBER 2017

ELDERS:

Matt Strayer (bread)
Bruce Gunderman (cup)
Ellen Riggerbach (shut-in communion)

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

DIACONATE (Deacons):

* Kelly Ricker	Cindy Grace
David Boroff	Susan Knapp
Helen Long	Harry Ricker
Josh Lero	Dennis Vance

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

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

WORSHIP LEADER: Suzy Strayer

PREPARE COMMUNION: Suzy Strayer

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

GREETER: Jack & Marie Moore

SUNDAY SCHOOL: We would like to have Sunday School but we do not have teachers

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

READ SCRIPTURE: 9/03/2017 Tammy Boroff-John 16: 20-22
9/10/2017 Tracy Gunderman-John 1: 1-5
9/17/2017 Deb Santo-John 1:29
9/24/2017 Kyle Harris-John 1: 50-51

COUNTERS: 9/03/2017 Matt Strayer, Jack Moore, Cindy Grace
9/10/2017 Gary McClure, Vicki McClure, Sandra Bandy
9/17/2017 Max Hibbard, Sue Simpson, Charlie Simpson
9/24/2017 Matt Strayer, Matt Stoller, Angela Perchikoff

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**

Each of us is a minister of First Christian Church! Vital ministries provided here could not happen without all of us sharing our talents and time. Please give prayerful thought to how you would like to serve your church in the coming year. Complete this form and place it in the basket provided in the narthex, this morning, or drop it off in the church office. Thank you for serving in the name of Jesus our Lord.

- Greeter/Usher. Sundays
- Prepare/Cleanup Communion one month.
Preferred month _____
- Worship Leader one month per year
- Read Scripture on a given Sunday
- Serve as Nursery Attendant 3/4 times/yr,
- Teach Children's Sunday School
during Worship 1 Or 2 mos. per yr.
Preferred Month (s) _____
- Be a VBS Helper or teacher _____
- Help w/special programs (i.e. Children's
Christmas Musical, costumes, sets, etc.)
- Help assemble Digest & other mailings
as necessary.
- Learn to operate sound system and help
out when needed
- Sanctuary care: Fill candles &
straighten sanctuary

MUSIC

- Be part of ADULT choir
- BE Part of adult BELL choir
- Play a musical instrument
What instrument _____
- Be director of children's BELL Choir
- Would you direct a children's choir?

CARE MINISTRIES

- Provide transportation for elderly.
(Medical appointments, church,
grocery shopping)
- Sit with elderly a few hours to
relieve their caretakers

BE ON A TEAM

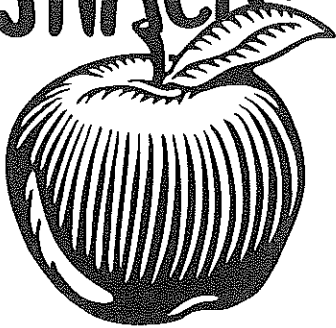
- CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT TEAM - help plan the Christian Education program for our
congregation (SundaySchool, Youth Programs, VBS, etc.)
- STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE TEAM - financial planning of the congregation (church budget,
special offerings, special needs, promote stewardship)
- WORSHIP/MEMBERSHIP/EVANGELISM TEAM - helps with planning worship services, special
music, flowers, help w/baptisms, nurture & support members, win people to Christ,
promote special events.
- MEMORIAL TEAM - receive memorial gifts, maintain records, purchase memorials as
designated.
- OUTREACH MINISTRY TEAM - lift up the mission and outreach of the church through
communication and special outreach projects.
- TRUSTEES/PROPERTY TEAM - maintain physical structure and grounds of the church

Special skills and interest I Have that might benefit First Christian Church:

Be sure to sign your name and give phone number. If there are things you want to do as a couple, so indicate this on the form. Thank you.

NAME _____ PHONE NO. _____

APPLE SNACKS



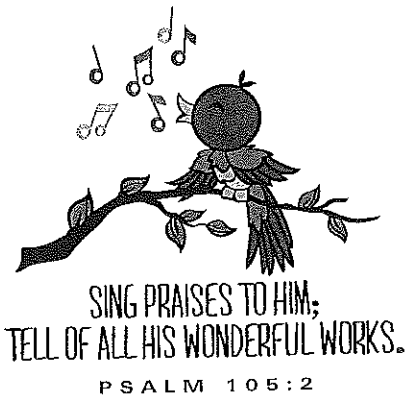
These healthy chips make a yummy back-to-school snack.

What you need:

- 4 apples, cored and cut into 1/8" rings
- Large bowl
- Spoon
- 2 teaspoons cinnamon
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- Baking sheets (sprayed)

What you do:

1. Place apple slices in the bowl. Add cinnamon and sugar. Stir so apples are coated evenly with the mixture.
2. Place apple slices on the sprayed baking sheets in a single layer.
3. Bake at 200 degrees for two to three hours, until chips are dry but still slightly soft.



SING PRAISES TO HIM;
TELL OF ALL HIS WONDERFUL WORKS.

PSALM 105:2



APPLE OF HIS EYE

Start each school day by remembering God's loving care for you.

Directions: Starting at the K by the stem and going clockwise, circle each word. Then place the words in the blanks to complete Psalm 17:8.



" _____ ;
 _____ ;
 _____ ;
 _____ ;"

PSALM 17:8, NIV

Answer: "Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me in the shadow of your wings." Psalm 17:8, NIV

Bible Quiz

In memorable language in Revelation, God tells the church in Laodicea, "I am about to spit you out of my mouth," because it is metaphorically _____ (fill in the blank).

- A. too hot
- B. too cold
- C. tasteless
- D. lukewarm



Answer: D (See Revelation 3:16)