



FIRST CHRISTAIN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)  
1233 Emerald Rd.  
Paulding, Ohio 45879

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
ISSUE NO. X-2024  
MINISTER: PASTOR RIC BEALS

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*Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m.*  
*Worship 10:00 a.m.*

## OCTOBER 2024



# DISCIPLE DIGEST

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



OCTOBER 2024

### **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.*



### **PASTOR'S PAGE**

Fall – to lose the old, to have its proper place. This is just part of the many definitions of what the dictionary says “fall” is. What is crazy is that the dictionary is talking about fall like ‘I fell down’, not fall like ‘the season’ and yet how appropriate the definition is. I love fall!! The color change, the weather change, the smell change.....its about change. But to change means that something must go. You see, for every beginning there is an end and for every ending there is a new beginning. What I find amazing is that trees still stand. Those branches still reach out and upward. There is beauty in the strength of those branches.

This is such a picture of what Jesus does in our lives. We go through all kinds of seasons. Some are seasons of hard times, some loneliness, seasons of loss or other things such as financial hardships. And those seasons change us. We have seasons that are bright and beautiful and rich in life. Then we have seasons that He allows things in our life to enter so that we don't remain the same. But through all those seasons He is telling us let go and let Me. Let go and let me show you what I can do. Let go and let me show you what I can teach you...here is strength in your branches with Me. We have to let go grow a new perspective.

Luke 10: 27 Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind...”

We cannot hold on to parts of us and say we have surrendered. God wants all of us. God wants us to let go of the things that are holding us. When we do and those things fall...and new life comes from it. Change happens in us and through us. He reminds us that He is still there standing strong and He still holding us up, much like the tree and the branches. He says let go of it and I will hold you. We cannot accept the gift of salvation and then do it our way with our limits, holding on to the parts of our life we don't want to let go. Our relationship with Jesus is worth more than just a part of us...let go and let God! And remember, letting go is much like the leaves that will fall this autumn...it is a sign of what is to come. Surrender means to give up oneself into the power of another. So today...whatever part you're still holding on to...surrender it...and allow God to bring newness of life.

God's Grace to You!

Pastor Ric

**Comfort in Mourning:**

**Healing Prayers:**

Chris Bowers  
 Sherri Friend  
 Adam Morhart  
 Joe Philpot  
 Sarah Renollet



**Continuing Concerns:**

Deb Bashore  
 Dave Foltz  
 Jerry Price  
 \*Ursula Riley  
 Nursing Homes  
 Our World  
 \*Denotes Members



**OCTOBER  
 FIRST SCRIPTURES**

10/06 Job 1: 1, 2: 1-10  
 10/13 Job 23: 1-9, 16-17  
 10/20 Job 38: 1-7, 34-41  
 10/27 Psalm 34: 1-8, 19-22

Pray with your eyes on God not  
 on difficulties.



**Flowers For Worship:**

10/06 Jacque Walker-In Honor of Family  
 10/13  
 10/20  
 10/27 Herm Guelde-In Honor of Jean



**ATTENDANCE**

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
8/25	61	38	10	8	4	47
9/01	58	34	8	15	1	55
9/08	69	42	8	14	3	42
9/15	70	46	7	13	2	35
9/22	59	35	9	13	1	

**Nursing Home Residents..**

**The Gardens**

\*Romaine Boundy  
 \*Sandy Leslie

**Van Crest of Payne**

Lorean McCollum  
 \*Ursula Riley

**Fountain Park-Bryan, Oh**

\*Wanda Rohlf

**Military:**

Cameron Cramer

**OCTOBER SERVERS**

**Elders :**

Bruce Gunderman  
 Jan Commers

**Worship Leader:**  
 Sharon Cooper

**Greeter:**

Jan Commers

**First Scripture Reader:**

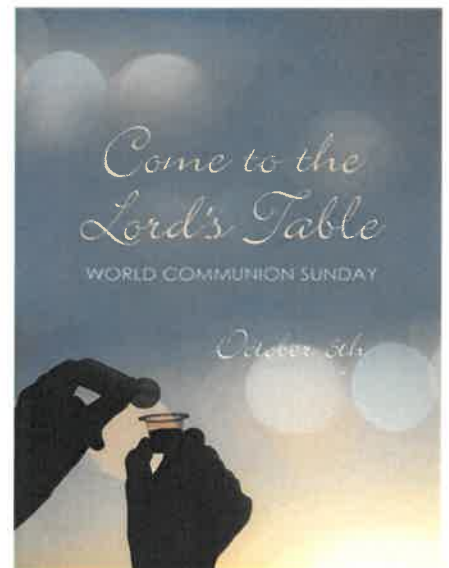
Matt Strayer



10/01 Kenny Adkins  
 10/01 Gabriel Reinhart  
 10/02 Joan Tope  
 10/03 Deb Santo  
 10/04 Dorrean Vance  
 10/04 Waldean Vance  
 10/05 Penny Bashore  
 10/08 Megan Monnier  
 10/08 Derik Vance  
 10/10 Ryan Nicelley  
 10/12 Adrian Daniels  
 10/14 Samatha Cramer  
 10/16 Dee Renollet  
 10/17 Sarah Knapp  
 10/20 Dan Smith  
 10/29 Lily Knapp  
 10/30 Charles Simpson



10/09 Brian & Julie Knapp  
 10/10 Roland & Betty Ganger  
 10/10 Jeannine & Chris Hoover  
 10/16 Deb & Tony Santo  
 10/23 Shane & Julie Pack  
 10/24 Brian & Angela Bowers  
 10/28 Corey & Nicole Harris



## From the Elders

A devotion by Bill Crowder entitled

### Wise Purposes

The United Kingdom brims with history. Everywhere you go, you see plaques honoring historic figures or commemorating sites where important events occurred. But one such sign exemplifies the droll British sense of humor. On a weathered plaque outside a bed and breakfast in Sandwich England, a message reads, "On this site, Sept. 5, 1782, nothing happened."

Sometimes it seems to us that nothing is happening regarding our prayers. We pray and pray, bringing our petitions to our Father with expectation that He'll respond-right now. The psalmist David expressed such frustration when he prayed, "How long, LORD? Will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?" (Psalm 13:1). We can easily echo those same thoughts: How long, Lord, before you respond?

However, our God is not only perfect in His wisdom but also in His timing. David was able to say, "I trust in your unfailing love; my heart rejoices in your salvation" (v.5). Ecclesiastes 3:11 reminds us "(God) has made everything beautiful in its time." The word beautiful means "appropriate" or "a source of delight." God may not always respond to our prayers when we'd like Him to, but he's always working out His wise purposes. We can take heart that when He does answer, it will be right and good and beautiful.

**When have you prayed for something and felt that perhaps God was ignoring your request?  
What lesson might you have learned in that time of waiting?**

Loving God, please help me to learn a patience in prayer borne of trust in You.



### Sunday School

The Children's Sunday School Program is going very well. We are blessed to be growing in numbers of children, so much so that we may divide into two classes. Volunteers to help with this ministry are always welcome and appreciated.



### Children's Christmas Program

We are looking at having a Children's Christmas Program. We need to know how many kids are interested in participating. Please let the office or Kara Thompson know as soon as possible.



The Children's Bell Choir is going great. The kids love it.

The Adult Sunday School class starts at 9:00 a.m.  
Everyone is welcome.



### Thank You

Thank you so much for the kid donation of school supplies for our students!  
Paulding Elementary School

### Thank You

Thank You for the wonderful lunch and taking time out of your day to help.  
The Riley Family

### Looking toward the New Year

Does the church have the correct contact information for you? Would you like to be on the call prayer chain or receive emails concerning prayer request?

Turn your info into the office. Thank you.



### DISCIPLES MEN'S GROUP

The next meeting will be October 19th. See you at 9:00 a.m.





**DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

**Giving Envelopes for 2025**

**Our next meeting is October 1 at 10 a.m.**

We have prayer shawls available if you know of someone who would benefit from the comfort of one.

We are planning a chicken pie supper in November. Watch for future details.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Caring and Sharing Food Pantry**

Items needed are baking items (flour, sugar, oil, cake, mixes, etc.)  
5oz cans of tuna  
Peanut butter



**Thanks for Your Support!**

**Monthly Budget Needs**

In order to meet our monthly budget needs We need an offering of \$10814.67 per month.

**COUNTERS**

- 10/06 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 10/13 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 10/20 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 10/27 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers, Gary McClure



Tracy Gunderman  
Financial Secretary

**Mowing Schedule**

Sept 30- Oct 13-Clint Reinhart  
Oct 14-Oct. 27-Gary McClure



**We appreciate all you do.**

The Annual Congregation Meeting will be held on November 17th.

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH**



**First Christian Church  
Fund Summary**

09/02/2024 10:24 AM

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	Total
08/04/2024	2,932.60	75.00	3,007.60
08/11/2024	1,053.00	10.00	1,063.00
08/18/2024	12,237.67	0.00	12,237.67
08/25/2024	1,017.00	25.00	1,042.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>17,240.27</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>17,350.27</b>



*Tracy Gunderman 9-2-24*

## Pumpkin prayer

In *The Pumpkin Patch Parable*, Liz Curtis Higgs uses kid-friendly analogies for the Christian life. Many parents now use a Pumpkin Prayer while carving jack-o-lanterns in October. What a great reminder about everything God has done for us!

- While cutting off the pumpkin top, pray, "Lord, open my mind so I can learn new things about you." (See Proverbs 1:7.)
- While removing the seeds and pulp, pray, "Remove the things in my life that don't please you. Forgive the wrong things I do and help me forgive others." (See Matthew 6:14-15.)
- While making eyes, pray, "Open my eyes to see the beauty you've made in the world around me." (See Psalm 104:24.)
- While making the nose, pray, "I'm sorry for the times I've turned up my nose at your many gifts." (See James 1:17.)
- While making the mouth, pray, "Let everything I say please you." (See Psalm 19:14.)
- While lighting the candle, pray, "Lord, help me shine your light to others through the things I do." (See Matthew 5:16.)
- Display your carved pumpkins as examples of how God's love transforms us into new creations. (See 2 Corinthians 5:17.)

## TRICK OR TREAT

We will be participating in trick or treat night on  
October 31st from 5-7 p.m..



Please sign up if you would like to pass out candy here at the church so that we may plan accordingly.

If you are not able to be here but would like to donate candy, please bring your donations to the office.  
If you have questions, please contact Denise.



## PULLED PORK OR BRAT MEAL

Includes coleslaw, baked beans, cookie & drink

Cost \$10.00

October 16th, 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Hot Dog Meal (Kids 12 and under)

Includes Applesauce, baked beans, cookie & drink

Cost \$5.00

Carryout available



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL STARTS AT 9:00 A.M.

WORSHIP: SUNDAYS-10 A.M.

CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL FOLLOWING

CHILDRENS MOMENT

BELL CHOIR FOLLOWING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY

PASTORS HOURS: TUES-THUS. 8 a.m. 12 p.m.

SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS: TUES.-FRIDAY 8 a.m.-12 p.m.



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	"The fullness of joy is to behold God in all." <small>Julian of Norwich</small>	1 DISCIPLES WOMEN'S GROUP -10 A.M.	2 WOR./MEM/ TECH-6:30 P.M. TRUSTEES-7 P.M.	3	4	5 BEAMER REUNION -FS HALL
6 	7	8	9 STEWARD/ FINANCE MEET- ING-6:30 P.M.	10	11	12
13	14	15 BOARD MEETING -7:00 P.M.	16 PORK/BRAT MEAL-430-6:30	17	18	19 MEN'S GROUP-9:00 A.M.
20 ELDERS-8:30 A.M.	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31 TRICK OR TREAT 5-7 p.m. FS HALL		

ELDERS: Jan Commers & Bruce Gunderman

WORSHIP LEADER: Sharon Cooper

1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Matt Strayer

GREETERS: Jan Commers

10/06 Sermon: Positive Sentiment Override, Scripture: Mark 10 : 2-16

10/13 Sermon: "Who (or What) Controls Your Life?" Scripture: Mark 10: 17-31

10/20 Sermon: "The Secret of Greatness" Scripture: Mark 10: 35-45

10/27 Sermon: "Don't Hold Back" Scripture: Mark 10: 46-52





## Fact sheet

### **Mission**

The mission of the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry is to engage the local giving community and volunteers to help us serve our neighbors and work against food insecurity in Paulding County.

### **Services**

We provide food to qualifying Paulding County residents, and we are open at 318 N. Walnut Street, Paulding, on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon.

**Who qualifies?** People must live in Paulding County to receive food from us. They must have household earnings that are at or less than 200% of the federal poverty level (based on the number of people living in the household).

**How often?** Qualifying residents can visit the pantry up to twice per month and receive food based on the number of people in their household.

**What is provided?** Clients can “shop” our shelves which typically contain shelf-stable canned and boxed foods, including vegetables, fruit, soup, tomato sauces, pasta/noodles, breakfast food, peanut butter, and more. We also provide frozen and canned meat, possibly eggs, other dairy products and produce. Additionally, we can usually offer personal care and home cleaning products.

### **Why the Pantry Exists**

Food insecurity is a serious problem in our county. According to Feeding America, 12% of Paulding County residents are food insecure, meaning they do not have access to enough food to live healthy and active lives. Evidenced by the number of people directly served by the pantry, our county’s need is great and growing.

In 2023, we served nearly 2,500 households and 6,323 people, and these numbers were 250% higher than in 2021. Through July 2024, we are trending a 33% increase of people served and a 25% increase in households served over 2023.

There are other food pantries in Paulding County — Grover Hill Food Pantry, Auglaize Chapel Church of God, Cecil Community Church and Christian Food Pantry of Antwerp. Periodically, we collaborate with these other pantries to share resources.

### **What It Takes to Operate the Pantry**

A volunteer board and two part-time staff run the pantry with the support of about 90 volunteers each month. Most financial resources are donated by individuals and organizations.

Our stock (food, personal care and home cleaning products) is acquired through individual donations, food drives, West Ohio Food Drive, Feeding American donations from the Van Wert Walmart. We also purchase food as needed to serve our clients. In 2023, we receive more than 46 tons of donated stock.

### **Our History**



The Caring & Sharing Food Pantry is now located at 318 N. Walnut Street in Paulding. The building was planned by a committee of local church leaders and funded by donations from members of the Paulding County community. The groundbreaking was Oct. 24, 2023, and the new pantry opened in April 2024.

The pantry began in 1980 in the basement of the rectory of what was St. Joseph Catholic Church, now Divine Mercy Catholic Parish. In 2003, it was reorganized with the help of United Way, Paulding Ministerial Association and Kiwanis. Before the new building on Walnut Street existed, the pantry was in the basement of what is now the Branch Christian Fellowship and the former doctor's office on Main Street.

The Caring & Sharing Food Pantry is a not-for-profit organization as defined under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. It operates primarily on food and financial donations from our community and with the support of Feeding American and West Ohio Food Bank, of which we are a member. We seek grants from businesses and charities both inside and outside the county and we participate in charitable programs sponsored by Kroger, Walmart and Meijer.

### **Donations**

Food donations can be delivered to the pantry during its open hours of Wednesday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon. Enter in the door on the north side of the building labeled "donations." Alternative drop-off arrangements can be made by contacting the pantry. Please do not leave food items outside the pantry at any time.

Financial donations can be sent directly to the pantry at PO Box 391, Paulding, OH 45879.

### **Contact Information**

For more information about the pantry, volunteering opportunities and fundraising activities, follow the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry on Facebook. You also can contact the pantry, at (419) 399-9562 or [info@caresharepantry.org](mailto:info@caresharepantry.org).

The pantry's Board of Directors consists of Dan Bulau, president; Laurie Barnes, vice president; Rita Diaz, secretary; Marge Schlatter, treasurer; Alice Lawson, Nova Saigo and Brian Gorrell. Its Executive Director is Jodi Schneider and Assistant is Adrienne Rosswurm.

###

# PUZZLE



## SAVED BY GRACE

Leaders of the early church discussed whether newly converted Gentiles must keep the Law of Moses. How did Peter answer?

*Directions: Cross out every third letter. Then write the remaining letters in the blanks below to complete Acts 15:11, NIV.*

NO/WEGBEKLIBEVG~~E~~I~~T~~IYS  
 TUHRCOUJGHRTHOEGPRAH  
 CEIOFXOUKRLHORCDJSESP  
 USGTHWATYWEOAR~~B~~ESPAVLED  
 RJUCSTQASH~~T~~HBEYFAROE



" \_\_\_\_\_!  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_." Acts 15:11, NIV



Answer: "No! We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are." Acts 15:11, NIV

## Bible Quiz

When Jesus asks a Samaritan woman for a drink, at which site related to the ancient Israelites is he resting?

- A. the edge of the Jordan River
- B. beside the Red Sea
- C. Jacob's well
- D. the Pool of Bethesda



Answer: C (See John 4:6.)



Make this craft as a helpful reminder of Jesus' free gift of grace.



### What you need:

- Small cardboard box
- Small stones
- Tape
- Wrapping paper and bow
- Permanent marker

### What you do:

1. Fill the box with small stones to weigh it down. Tape the box securely closed.
2. Wrap the box and add a bow on top.
3. With marker, write a capital letter on each side of the box and the bottom to spell GRACE.
4. Use this as a decoration or paperweight, or give as a gift.
5. Explain GRACE to someone. For help, use Ephesians 2:8-9 and the acrostic God's Riches At Christ's Expense.





RECONCILIATION MINISTRY SPECIAL OFFERING



# REPAIRERS OF THE BREACH

“You shall all be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of the streets to live in.” Isaiah 58:12

**Sunday, September 29th - Sunday, October 6th**



[www.reconciliationministry.org](http://www.reconciliationministry.org)



## **Repairers of the Breach**

***"...you shall be called the repairer of the breach,  
the restorer of streets to live in." Isaiah 58:12 NRSV***

They came ready to work. The group had come to serve a small community on the South Side of Chicago by lending helping hands to remove trash in open spaces. They also came to learn about the convergence of economic, environmental, and racial justice in this area which houses over 50 landfills. Decades of unregulated toxic waste dumping in this community made it the birthplace of the environmental justice movement. On this day, the group sat at the feet of environmental justice advocates, listening to stories of how their activism resulted in successfully ending the practice of toxic waste dumping in their community. Our group was able to participate in this service-learning opportunity through your faithful generosity. As recipients of a grant from Reconciliation Ministry, the group is committed to apply their learnings in their home communities, to become "repairers of the breach"; restorers of the streets where they and their neighbors reside.

This is the work of Reconciliation Ministry as a mission fund on behalf of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Through your generous giving, we support the Church's effort to share the liberating love of Jesus Christ. Reconciliation Ministry partners with each expression of the Church to strengthen our congregations for mission and to restore wholeness in a fragmented world.

Your financial gift to Reconciliation Ministry repairs the breaches that keep us apart. Your gift provides financial, educational, and experiential opportunities to combat the sin of racism and oppression toward restoring God's limitless love. You, too, 'will be called repairers of the breach, restorers of the streets to live in.'

***Will you donate today?***