



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

DISCIPLE DIGEST

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

PHONE 419 399-4576
WEBSITE: firstccpaulding.org
EMAIL: firstccpaulding@gmail.com

Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School for Adults 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Childrens Sunday School during worship

DECEMBER 2024



Silent Night Oh Holy Night.

DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



DECEMBER 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

I possess a decent long-term memory. I might not remember where I put my keys this morning, but I can recall with vivid clarity, when I was just beyond a toddler, walking into our living room and seeing a shiny, new, two-seater sled. To this day I remember that magical moment down to the smells and feels. I was one who had already wholly subscribed to the tradition of gift receiving, and didn't fully understand that Christmas was really about the birth of Jesus.

Are you like me? Because, I find myself battling to keep at the forefront, with all the commercialism that keeps gift receiving at the top of the Christmas Mountain: that the greatest present of all is Christ. It's as if the busyness, buying, giving, and getting of the Christmas season conspire to drown out that particular truth. Perhaps they do. Yet, on Christmas morning I want to remember and cherish that Christ is God's ultimate gift to his people and creation. More than that, I want my children and grandchildren to remember the magnificence of what God has done. "To

us a son is given...and he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace" (Isaiah 9:6). How much more will we savor the time spent with family, the eating, and the giving (and receiving) when our hearts hold fast to the gift of a Savior? "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:11, ESV). This Christmas season, I pray that my family will bask in the goodness of God's great gift. I might not make anyone wait to open gifts on Christmas, but at some appropriate moment, I will gently draw-in everyone's attention and share a brief reflection on what we are truly gathered for. In whatever way you choose to celebrate the coming of our Savior this year, may you and your family have a truly memorable Christmas and may you remember, to celebrate the coming of the Christ Child.

*Christmas Blessings,
Pastor Ric*

Comfort in Mourning:

The Family of John Jelinek
The Family of Delmar Schwab
The Family of Harry Thomas

Healing Prayers:

Joan Luginbuhl
Sarah Renollet
Steve Santo
Sam Smith



Continuing Concerns:

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

**DECEMBER
FIRST SCRIPTURES**

12/01 Jeremiah 33 ; 14-16
12/08 Malachi 3: 1-4
12/15 Isaiah 12: 1-6
12/22 Micah 5: 2-5
12/29 1 Samuel 2: 18-20, 26



Poinsettias

We look forward to the Advent Season .

One of the things that adds to the holiday time is the addition of Poinsettias in the church. If you would like to bring one in please feel free to so.



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

DECEMBER SERVERS

Elders :

Charlie Simpson
Larry Grace

Worship Leader:
Advent Families

Greeter:

Linda Reinhart

First Scripture Reader:

Corey Harris



12/01 Bruce Gunderman
12/03 Emma Hoover
12/05 Joan Biery
12/06 Sandi Vance
12/07 Dokkota Clippinger
12/07 Amanda Harris
12/08 Lindsey Hormann
12/08 Peggy Yenser
12/10 Max Reinhart
12/12 Carlie Lero
12/15 Jessica Trickett
12/16 Tammy Boroff
12/17 Piper Pease
12/18 Marsha Adkins
12/18 Amanda Wilkinson
12/19 Emma Townley
12/20 Cindy Grace
12/26 Carter Cook
12/26 Aleigha Vance
12/28 Barrett Bandy
12/28 Janelle Lero
12/28 Lance Mawer
12/28 Taylor Mawer
12/31 Jennifer Lero



12/07 Dennis & Sandi Vance
12/08 Dan & Shirley Workman
12/28 Gary & Vicki McClure

Flowers For Worship:

12/01 Kathy Reinhart-In Memory of Tom & Shanna
12/08 Herm Guelde -Memory of Jean
12/15
12/22 Christmas Blessings
12/29 In Honor of the coming year.



ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
10/27	55	33	10	12		221
11/03	53	37	4	12		221
11/10	65	41	10	14		200
11/17	66	43	10	12	1	150

Sermons are available to view on firstccpauld.org or our facebook page.

From the Elders

A devotion by Amy Boucher entitled

Gifts from Above

According to an old story, a man named Nicholas (born in AD 270) heard about a father who was so poor that he couldn't feed his three daughters, much less provide for their future marriages. Wanting to assist the father, but hoping to keep his help a secret, Nicholas threw a bag of gold through an open window, which landed in a sock or shoe drying on the hearth. That man was known as St. Nicholas, who later became the inspiration for Santa Claus.

When I heard that story of a gift coming down from above, I thought of God the Father, whose love and compassion sent to earth the greatest gift, His Son, through a miraculous birth. According to Matthew's gospel, Jesus fulfilled the Old Testament prophecy that a virgin would conceive and give birth to a son whom they would call Immanuel, meaning "God with us" (1:23).

As lovely as Nicholas's gift was, how much more amazing is the gift of Jesus. He left heaven to become a man, died and rose again, and is God living with us. He brings us comfort when we're hurting and sad; He encourages us when we feel downhearted; He reveals the truth to us when we might be deceived.

How can you give the gift of Jesus today? How does His presence lead you to share your resources of time, wisdom, and love with others?

Jesus, thank You for the way You left Your Father to be born in humble circumstances. May I never take for granted Your presence in my life.



Sunday School

The Children's Sunday School Program is going very well. We will be dividing the class into 2 groups.

Volunteers to help with this ministry are needed.

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.

2025 Church Officers

Chair-Suzy Strayer

Vice Chair-Clint Reinhart

Board Secretary-Donna Hibbard

Financial Secretary-Tracy Gunderman

Treasurer-Denise Renollet



Children's Christmas Program

December 8th at 6:00 p.m. there will be a Christmas program with a reception following. If you have questions, please contact Kara Thompson or Carrie Lero.

CONSTITUTION COMMITTEE

A committee to update the current constitution is being formed. If you would like to be a part of this group, please let Suzy Strayer know. They will begin meeting in the new year.

DISCIPLES MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will not meet in December.





DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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

Thank you to all who donated and worked at the Chicken pie/Steak Supper. Our profit was \$749.60.

DWM Christmas Tea at the Parsonage will be December 1st at 1 p.m.



The Women's Ecumenical potluck and program will be held at the First Presbyterian Church on December 5th from 6-8 p.m.



Monthly Budget Needs

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

COUNTERS

- 12/01 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 12/08 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 12/15 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 12/22 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers, Gary McClure
- 12/29 Charlie Simpson, Joan Tope, Dan Workman

OUTREACH



We will be adopting 3 families for the Christmas tree this year. We will have cards on the tree, you will pick a card, buy the gift, after wrapping you will put the card on the outside of the package and put it under the tree. Deadline to have gifts here is Dec. 16th. You may also donate food, cleaning supplies or toiletries. We appreciate your support of this ministry.

We will also have a glove, mitten and hat tree if you would like to bring these items in.

Genelta Levos

Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

Items needed are baking items (flour, sugar, oil, cake, mixes, etc.)

Blood Drive

December 11TH

In the Fellowship hall.

Sign up at

<https://www.redcross.org/>



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH



First Christian Church Fund Summary

11/07/2024 03:26 PM

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	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	108 RECONCILIATION	200 BUILDING/MAINT.	201 FALL FESTIVAL	700 MENS GROUP	Total
10/06/2024	2,163.00	80.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	2,263.00
10/13/2024	1,756.98	75.00	10.00	285.01	0.00	2,126.99
10/17/2024	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,110.50	0.00	1,110.50
10/20/2024	1,257.00	0.00	35.00	4.00	45.00	1,341.00
10/27/2024	1,560.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	1,570.00
Total	6,736.98	155.00	75.00	1,399.51	45.00	8,411.49

Tracy Gunderman

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.

December 2024



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

 1 DWM CHRISTMAS TEA AT THE PARSONAGE-1 P.M.	2	3	4 WOR/MEM/TECH -4 P.M. TRUSTEE-7 P.M.	5 ECUMENICAL PROGRAM & POTLUCK-6 P.M.	6	7
8 CHRISTMAS PROGRAM-6:00 P.M. 	9	10	 11 RED CROSS BLOODDRIVE 11:30 A.M.-5 P.M.	12 HELP ME GROW- FS HALL	13	14
15 ELDERS MEETING- 8:30 A.M.	16	17 NO BOARD MEETING	18	19	20	21 NO MEN'S GROUP
22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE-6 P.M.	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS	26	27	28
29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE				

ELDERS: Charlie Simpson & Larry Grace

WORSHIP LEADER: Advent Families

1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Corey Harris

GREETERS: Linda Reinhart

12/01 Sermon: "Signs, Signs, Scripture: Luke 21: 25-36

12/08 Sermon: "God has Come Down , Scripture: Luke 3: 1-6

12/15 Sermon: "Shouldn't We Sing?", Scripture: Luke 3: 7-18

12/22 Sermon: "Committed to Each Other", Scripture: Luke 2: 41-52



The Incarnation

At the center of Christmas is Jesus, both fully God and fully man. "In Bethlehem, humility and glory in their extremes were joined," wrote pastor R.G. Lee (1886-1978). When Jesus came to earth, Lee explained, he descended:

- from the heights of glory to the depths of shame,
- from the wonders of heaven to the wickedness of earth,
- from exaltation to humiliation,
- from the throne to the tree,
- from dignity to debasement,
- from worship to wrath,
- from the halls of heaven to the nails of earth,
- from the coronation to the curse,
- from the glory place to the gory place!

"Born in a stable! Cradled in a cattle trough! Wrapped in swaddling clothes of poverty!" Lee wrote. "No room for him who made all rooms! [No] place for him who made and knows all places! Oh, deep humiliation of the Creator — born of the creature, woman! But in his descent was the dawn of mercy. Because we cannot ascend to him, he descends to us."



A glorious hope

Let us today go down to Bethlehem, and in company with wondering shepherds and adoring Magi, let us see him who was born King of the Jews, for we by faith can claim an interest in him, and can sing, "Unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given." Jesus is Jehovah incarnate, our Lord and our God, and yet our brother and friend; let us adore and admire. ...

Let us reverently bow before the holy Child whose innocence restores to [humankind] its ancient glory; and let us pray that he may be formed in us, the hope of glory.

—C.H. Spurgeon, *Morning and Evening*

The light of life

Most sand comes from coral and rocks that get ground into tiny grains. But in a few places, like some beaches of Japan, the bits of sand are shells or skeletons that once housed single-celled organisms. A magnifying glass reveals their star shape: a rounded middle and five or more spines, like a sea star.

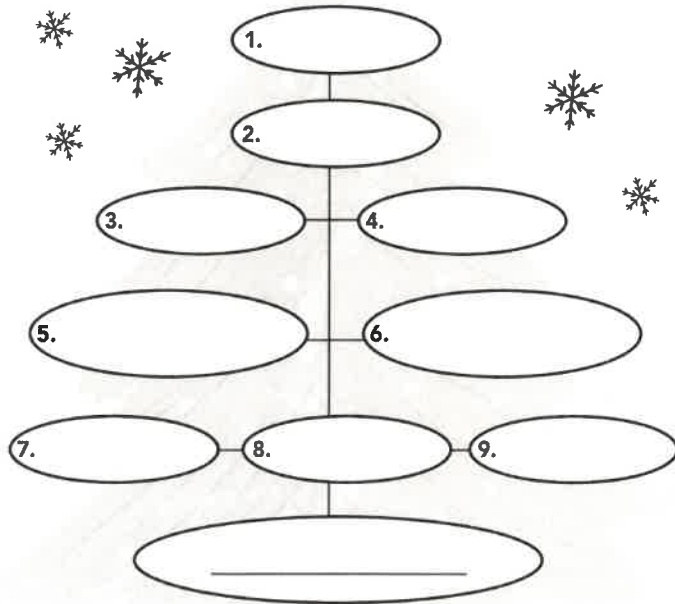
These unique creatures live on undersea reefs and share their interior with algae called diatoms, which convert light into carbohydrates and oxygen through photosynthesis. The star points let light into the exoskeleton; in turn, diatoms produce energy to feed them both. When these organisms die, the star skeletons wash onto beaches, protecting the islands even after their own lives end. Our amazing God designed astounding creatures!

This same Creator made us able to take in light from Christ. Jesus said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me ... will have the light of life" (John 8:12). When we receive his light, it becomes in us the "energy" we need to do good: to love others, care for people in need, appreciate nature — including star sand! — and give glory to the Artist of this entire incredible world.

—Heidi Hyland Mann

Puzzle!

Write the answer to each clue in the correct circle.
Then jot down the first letter of each answer and unscramble those letters to form a word about this season. Write that answer at the bottom of the tree.



CLUES

1. You trim this at Christmas.
2. One who governs
3. The first word of a popular carol, it means "Listen!"
4. You burn this to make the air sweet.
5. "For unto us is born this day a _____..."
6. She was betrothed to Joseph.
7. Shepherds heard them sing.
8. A Christmas song
9. 'Tis the _____ to be jolly!"

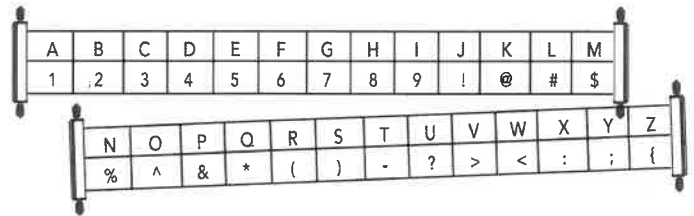
Answers: 1. tree, 2. ruler, 3. hark, 4. incense, 5. Savior, 6. Mary, 7. angels, 8. carol, 9. season; Christmas



CLUES ABOUT CHRISTMAS

The Old Testament contains many details about Jesus' birth.
Can you uncover what Isaiah prophesied?

Directions: Use the code to write the letters and complete Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV.



For to us a _____ is _____, to us a _____
3 8 9 # 4 2 ^ (%) ^ %

is _____, and the government will be on his shoulders.
7 9 > 5 %

And he will be called Wonderful _____'
3 ^ ? %) 5 # ^ (

_____ God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the
\$ 9 7 8 - ;

greatness of his government and _____ there will be no _____.
& 5 1 3 5 5 % 4

He will reign on David's _____ and over his _____,
- 8 (^ % 5 @ 9 % 7 4 ^ \$

establishing and upholding it with _____ and righteousness
! ?) - 9 3 5

from that time on and _____ . Isaiah 9:6-7, NIV
6 ^ () 5 > 5 (

Answers: child, born, son, given, Counselor, Mighty, peace, end, throne, kingdom, justice, forever

Who was governor of Syria when Joseph and Mary traveled to Bethlehem for a mandated registration, or census?

- A. Theophilus
- B. Herod Antipas
- C. Pontius Pilate
- D. Quirinius

