



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

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**ISSUE NO. II-2025**  
**MINISTER: PASTOR RIC BEALS**

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

## *FEBRUARY 2025*



# DISCIPLE DIGEST

## First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



FEBRUARY 2025

### **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 was just talking about my six years in Montana with someone the other day. Winter was very different there. Of course, we had an abundance of snow being 3800 feet above sea level, cold temperatures and gale-force winds. But the other thing that was different, was the fact that we would get a lot of days during the winter with sunshine. Northwest Ohio can be depressingly dreary during the winter. In fact, I remember telling my Montana friends that the sun would disappear in November, not to be seen in Ohio again until May. That's a bit of an exaggeration, but it feels that way, doesn't it?***

***As Christians, in all honesty, we shouldn't struggle with depression. If we are truly in a daily communicative relationship with Christ, we should know and understand, that this is merely a season (as all of our struggles are) and will soon pass on to brighter and better days. So, if you are one of those people who struggle with seasonal depressive disorder, or just occasionally get the winter blahs, the Son is shining! God, through Jesus Christ, stands in our midst in times of struggle, in times of depression, and at times when we feel hopeless. We are never without hope if we are true followers of Christ! We've made it to February, the journey through winter is coming to a close soon, so hang in there. Walk towards the Son, and you will feel the warmth Christ has to offer.***

***Peace,  
Pastor Ric***

**Comfort in Mourning:**

The family of Sarah Renollet  
The family of Joan Luginbuhl  
The family of Herbert Ricker

**Healing Prayers:**

Laura Bash  
Terry Clark  
Carla Morris  
\*Vivi Myers  
\*Kathy Reinhart  
\*Wanda Rohlf  
Steve Santo  
Charlie Simpson

**Continuing Concerns:**

Deb Bashore  
Dave Foltz  
Jerry Price  
Sam Smith  
Our World

**FEBRUARY  
FIRST SCRIPTURES**

2/02 Jeremiah 1: 4-10  
2/09 Psalm 138  
2/16 Jeremiah 17: 5-10  
2/23 Genesis 45: 9-11, 15

**Sermons**

*If you would like to hear a specific sermon a 2nd time they are available on our website at [firstcccpaulding.org](http://firstcccpaulding.org) or our facebook page.*

**Flowers For Worship:**

2/02  
2/09 Herm Guelde-In Honor of Jean  
2/16  
2/23



**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



**FEBRUARY SERVERS**

**Elders :** Paul Long  
Tracy Gunderman

**Worship Leader:**  
Tracy Gunderman

**Greeters:** Jacque Walker  
Shirley Cramer

**First Scripture Reader:**  
Susan Knapp



2/01 Briana Townley  
2/03 Justin Tope  
2/04 Greg Reinhart  
2/06 Adam Daniels  
2/08 Hailey Harris  
2/09 Klair Hoover  
2/09 Jacqueline Walker  
2/13 Maverick Wells  
2/15 Kynzi Knapp  
2/16 Gary McClure  
2/19 Trent Reinhart  
2/21 Cadence Cook  
2/21 Charlotte Smith  
2/22 Ron Gunderman  
2/24 Suzanne Laney  
2/25 Lois Beamer

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY**

2/26 Kenny & Marsha Adkins

**"Time"**

Time is  
too slow for those who wait,  
too swift for those who fear,  
too long for those who grieve,  
too short for those who rejoice.  
But for those who love,  
time is eternity.



*"Try to be a rainbow in someone's cloud."  
—Maya Angelou*

**Flowers for 2025**

The flower calendar for 2025 is posted on the bulletin board for anyone who would like to sign up in honor or in memory of a loved one. Donations may be placed in the offering plate.

**ATTENDANCE**

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
12/24	95					
12/29	56	37	7	11	1	149
01/05	62	35	10	16	1	199
01/12	65	39	9	16	1	178
01/19	56	34	9	13	0	137

## From the Elders

A devotion by Jenny Rae Armstrong

### Entitled Speaking to Encourage

Abraham Lincoln tops the polls as the most popular US president of all time. His troubled presidency came at the culmination of a life long struggle with depression, a nervous breakdown, and neighbors who were known to set suicide watches over him in his youth.

So how did he do it? The night he was assassinated, Lincoln's pockets were stuffed with newspaper clippings that praised him, his leadership, and the positive impact he was having.

We all need encouragement. The author of Hebrews says in 10: 24-25, "Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another- and all the more as you see the Day approaching."

Ephesians 4:29 says, "Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen." Imagine what could happen if we were able to live up to that in our homes, churches, and communities?

Don't go it alone. Hebrews 10:25 warns us not to give up meeting together. Jesus didn't go it alone. He gathered a group of people to share life and ministry with, and he asked His closest friends to watch and pray with Him when He needed it most. If Jesus sought out that kind of support, we should as well!

Let's be intentional about encouraging one another as we walk this journey together, so one has to go it alone.

## BAPTISM AND CHURCH MEMBERSHIP



In Christianity, baptism is a significant ritual that symbolizes a person's public declaration of faith in Jesus Christ, signifying their commitment to follow him, their identification with Christ's death and resurrection, and the beginning of a new life cleansed from sin, essentially marking their entrance into the Christian community as a member of the church; it is often understood as a symbolic washing away of past sins and a rebirth into a life dedicated to God. If you have a desire to become a member of First Christian Church, baptism and a membership class is an integral part of that process. If you haven't been baptized, we can baptize you and accept you into our membership. If you're currently a member in another church, and have been baptized, we can accept you into membership by transfer of your membership to this congregation. If you are interested in becoming a member at First Christian Church, just communicate that to Pastor Ric or the church office, and we can set up a membership class and baptism.

*Baptism*  
All things have  
*become new.*  
2 Corinthians 5:17, NKJV



## DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY

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

We made stockings for the adults of the Christmas families as one of our service projects.

We were able to provide a funeral lunch for a grieving family in January. Thank you to those who donated or helped with this.

We are still collecting personal care items for the care totes. There will be a box in the narthex.

As always we will be paying for the property taxes on the parsonage.

Join us for the meeting on **February 4th** at 10:00 a.m. as we continue to plan for our future ministries.



## OUTREACH

### Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

Please continue to bring in items for the food pantry. Food items, health items and cleaning products are always needed.

**We need someone to take the collected items to the pantry when the box is full. Can you help with this ministry?**

### Website Update

Have you visited our website at [firstccpauling.org](http://firstccpauling.org)? Something new has been added. You can now donate to the church on the website. We also have a QR code posted around the church and on our facebook page that directs you to the donation page.



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



**Thanks for Your Support!**

### Monthly Budget Needs

In order to meet our monthly budget needs We need an offering of \$11263.75 per month.

### COUNTERS

- 2/02 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 2/09 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 2/16 Max Hibbard, Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 2/23 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers, Gary McClure



### First Christian Church Fund Summary

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	107 SPECIAL HOLIDAY-CHR ISTMAS	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	Total
12/01/2024	3,060.00	0.00	30.00	3,090.00
12/08/2024	1,300.00	0.00	0.00	1,300.00
12/15/2024	1,135.00	50.00	0.00	1,185.00
12/22/2024	1,482.00	30.00	10.00	1,522.00
12/26/2024	1.00	0.00	0.00	1.00
12/29/2024	1,415.00	80.00	10.00	1,505.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,393.00</b>	<b>160.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>8,603.00</b>

*Tracy Gunderman 1-4-2025*



## DISCIPLES MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet in February on the 15th at 9:00 a.m.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children continue to meet following children's moment during worship. They practice bells one Sunday a month. Both programs continue to grow.

The class for adults meets at 9 a.m. Everyone is invited to participate.

## Thank You

I would like to thank my church family for the generous Christmas gift. Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.



Denise



## Tacos and Bingo



The Worship/Membership Committee will be Hosting a fellowship night on February 16th At 5:00 p.m. Tacos are on the menu with bingo to follow and fabulous prizes available to win.

If you would like to assist with this evening please contact Denise.



## THANK YOU

We can't thank Pastor Ric enough for his kind words, support and prayers during the difficult loss of our Mother. And a special thank you to the Disciples Women for the wonderful lunch. What an amazing church this is.

The Family of Sarah Renollet

## Love makes us worthy

Unlike God, who loves unconditionally, humans often make choices and set limits when doling out affection. But Thomas Merton reminds us, "Our job is to love others without stopping to inquire whether or not they are worthy. That is not our business and, in fact, it is nobody's business. What we are asked to do is to love, and this love itself will render both ourselves and our neighbors worthy."

As for how to develop and maintain that type of love? Merton shares, "It is in deep solitude that I find the gentleness with which I can truly love my [neighbors]."

## Leave it to God

Fourth-century theologian Augustine urged again and again that we focus on practicing love in the here and now, not on worrying about our lives in the hereafter.

In *Beautiful Bodies*, Margaret Miles writes that especially regarding complicated doctrines like predestination and challenges like "The one who endures to the end will be saved" (Matthew 24:13), we can't do anything *but* leave those to God. It's impossible for humans to take responsibility for ourselves in such matters. If we could determine our afterlife destiny by means of effort, persuasion or bribery, self-pride would surely be the accompanying sinful result.

"In fact," Miles writes, "preoccupation with one's eternal destiny distracts from a Christian's present business. 'Leave it to God,' St. Augustine said, and place your attention on living lovingly in the body of Christ here and now."

# 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.

God is  
**LOVE.**  
1 JOHN 4:19



# February 2025

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

						1
2 BOY SCOUT SUNDAY 	3	4 DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MEETING-10 A.M.	5 WOR/MEM/TECH MEETING-4:30 P.M. TRUSTEES -7 P.M.	6	7	8
9	10 PASTORAL RELATIONS MEETING-6:30 P.M.	11	12	13	14	15 MEN'S GROUP-9 A.M.
16 ELDERS MEETING-8:30 A.M. TACOS & BINGO-5 P.M.	17	18 BOARD MEETING -7 P.M.	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

ELDERS: Paul Long & Tracy Gunderman

WORSHIP LEADER: Tracy Gunderman

1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Susan Knapp

GREETERS: Jacque Walker & Shirley Cramer

2/02 Sermon: " Rejection Hurts" Scripture: Luke 4: 21-30

2/09 Sermon: "Keep the Basit Warm" Scripture: Luke 5: 1-11

2/16 Sermon: "Where lis Your Happiness?" Scripture: Luke 6: 17-26

2/23 Sermon: "Love is the Answer", Scripture: Luke 6: 27-38

# Puzzle!

Use the clues to fill in the boxes. Then write those letters on the correct numbered lines below to complete 1 John 4:16 (NIV).

A place to live

1	2	3	4	5

Opposite of dark

6	7	8	9	10	

Companion

11	12	13	14	15	16	

Hand greeting

17	18	19	20

Male adult

21	22	23



8	2	16	13	4	6	2	19	5			
17	9	2	5	19	5	12	6	7	19	5	4
13	15	6	2	19	20	6	7	19	14	4	
13	15	8	2	16	18	15	16				
8	2	16	13	23	10	1	14	21			

1 John 4:16, NIV

Answers: house, light, friend, wave, man; God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. 1 John 4:16, NIV



a lovely  
*aroma*

Make this sweet-smelling gift for a friend or valentine.

**What you need:**

- Colored felt
- Scrap paper
- Permanent marker
- Scissors
- String
- Essential oils (rose, lavender, etc.)

**What you do:**

1. Draw a flower shape on paper and cut it out.
2. Place the flower template on felt and draw around it with the marker.
3. Cut out the felt flower. Then cut a small slit or hole through it.
4. Cut 8 inches of string. Thread it through the felt flower and tie to form a loop for hanging.
5. To the felt, add 3 to 5 drops of essential oil. This air freshener will last about 2 weeks.
6. Revive the scent, as needed, by adding a few drops of essential oil.





hope and peace – things that are true, honorable, and just. We eagerly share stories of hope, telling of what we have HEARD AND SEEN: that gifts of compassion matter, to people in crisis, and as people of faith. Week of Compassion makes an impact around the world, ensuring that the stories, needs, and celebrations of vulnerable communities are heard and seen – and that we respond.

With long-standing partnerships around ecumenical tables, especially in times of conflict and division, Week of Compassion is committed to the long-term, long-lasting, steady and deliberate work of peace, justice, and hope. We invite people of faith to be part of hopeful outcomes, where giving is a heartfelt response as we follow a compassionate Christ.



## WEEK OF COMPASSION OFFERING 2025 February 16-23

Week of Compassion is a special offering, and development mission fund of the Christian Church in America (part of the Christian Church of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to bring hope throughout the world, with a vision of a world where we transform suffering into hope.



## HEARD AND SEEN: HOPE IN A NEW HOMETOWN

Since the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022, Week of Compassion has continued to accompany individuals and families affected by the war. Three years into this conflict with no clear end in sight, accompanying Ukrainian refugees is less focused on temporary arrangements while waiting to return home, and has redirected to helping them more fully integrate into neighboring regions, in addition to supporting the communities that are actively welcoming them.

Children and the elderly are especially vulnerable when adjusting to new environments. To enable integration into the wider community, programs are established as survivor- and community-led responses (SCLR). Week of Compassion's partner, Hungarian Reformed Church Aid, has distributed micro-grants to refugee communities and in their host communities in both Hungary

and Ukraine. This SCLR program's goal is to embrace community-led initiatives that foster lasting integration, empowerment, social cohesion, and resilience building. What does this look like in real, everyday life?

In Budapest, the Ukrainian Space offers after-school programs for primary and secondary students, from arts and crafts to Hungarian language courses, from mathematics to cookie-decorating! As their young lives have been disrupted by war, these programs provide an important place for children to simply be together, for them to paint and play and talk about their home, their family, life in the place they left and in the place they live now. In fact, when some observant students noticed

*Thank you to Reformed Church in Hungary for these story details following a recent Week of Compassion partner visit.*