



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

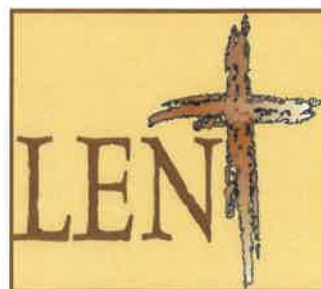
# DISCIPLE DIGEST

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

PHONE 419 399-4576  
WEBSITE: [firstccpaulding.org](http://firstccpaulding.org)  
EMAIL: [firstccpaulding@gmail.com](mailto: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*

## MARCH 2025



# DISCIPLE DIGEST

## First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



MARCH 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**

***Signs of new life are all around us as days slowly lengthen, and as March and April come, winter branches form buds and flowers. God is always doing some new thing, in our hearts, in the world, in our church. Like seeds waiting for spring to come, the Spirit works in us, Easter and resurrection life await.***

***Perhaps those pandemic years felt pretty winter-y, but my Jesus tells me that time is on the side of new life, of Easter. Time is on the side of new growth and spring. How can First Christian Church help YOU grow as a disciple of Jesus this spring? Let's stay together and continue to get to know one another. It's time to reconnect with God and with one another. It's time for the snow to melt. It's time to grow—grow in connection, grow in community, grow as disciples, grow in service.***

***If First Christian has been a blessing to you, won't you invite a friend to join you for worship or at one of the events we have? If worship blesses you, invite a friend to worship too. If the bell choir blesses you, invite a musical person you know to join you. If you love coffee and conversation or Sunday School, bring a friend. Together, we can grow as disciples and grow into the people God is calling each of us to be!***

***I'm so grateful to be your pastor, and I'm excited to see what God will do as we continue our ministry together!***

***See You in Church!***

***Pastor Ric***

**Comfort in Mourning:**  
The Family of Galen Hibbard  
The Family of Mike Coughlin

**Healing Prayers:**  
Barbara Beaverson  
Ron Etzler  
Rich & Cyndie English  
Scherry Friend  
Garry & Janice Pack

**Continuing Concerns:**  
Deb Bashore  
Dave Foltz  
Jerry Price  
\*Charlie Simpson  
Sam Smith  
Our World  
\*Denotes Members

**MARCH  
FIRST SCRIPTURES**

3/02 Exodus 34: 29-35  
3/09 Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16  
3/16 Psalm 27  
3/23 Isaiah 55: 1-9  
3/30 Joshua 5: 9-12

**Sermons**

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

**Flowers For Worship:**

3/02  
3/09 Herm Guelde-In Memory of Jean  
3/16  
3/23  
3/30

**ATTENDANCE**

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
1/26	56	37	8	11	0	133
2/02	62	41	6	12	3	164
2/09	38	23	10	5	0	179
2/16	39	23	6	10	0	129



**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

**MARCH SERVERS**

**Elders :**  
Max Hibbard  
Bruce Gunderman

**Worship Leader:**  
Larry Grace

**Greeters:**  
Corey & Nicole Harris

**First Scripture Reader:**  
Matt Strayer



3/03 Memphis Gunderman  
3/04 Braxton Ricker  
3/08 Susan Simpson  
3/17 Trevor Hibbard  
3/18 Jack Moore  
3/19 Eliana Hormann  
3/20 Dan Bulau  
3/20 Wanda Rohlf  
3/21 Jared Renollet  
3/22 Vince Reinhart  
3/22 Brent Townley  
3/27 Josh Lero  
3/27 Rachael Nicelley  
3/30 Dennis Vance



3/06 Tony & Sheryl Garza  
3/16 Dave & Dawn Carlisle  
3/26 Seth & Nicki Smith

*Ash Wednesday*



*Remember that you are dust,  
and to dust you shall return.*

ECCLESIASTES 3:20

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE  
MARCH 5TH @ 6:00 P.M.**

**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.

## From the Elders

A devotion by Mike Wittmer entitled He's Got This

Pastor Watson Jones remembers learning to ride a bike. His father was walking alongside when little Watson saw some girls sitting on a porch. "Daddy, I got this!" he said. He didn't. He realized too late he hadn't learned to balance without his father's steadying grip. He wasn't as grown up as he thought.

Our heavenly Father longs for us to grow up and "become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ" (Ephesians 4:13). But spiritual maturity is different from natural maturity. Parents raise their children to become independent, to no longer need them. Our divine Father raises us to daily depend on Him more.

Peter begins his letter by promising "grace and peace...through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord," and he ends by urging us to "grow in" that same "grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" (2Peter 1:2, 3:18). Mature Christians never outgrow their need for Jesus.

Watson warns, "Some of us are busy slapping Jesus's hands off the handlebars of our life." As if we didn't need His strong hands to hold us, to pick us up, and to hug us when we wobble and flop. We can't grow beyond our dependence on Christ. We only grow by sinking our roots deeper in the grace and knowledge of Him.

**Jesus, thank You for walking alongside me as I grow in my relationship with You.**

### 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 MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will meet in March 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



A heartfelt thank you to the loving congregation for all of the support, meals, visits, texts, cards and most of all to the team who helped me with my clothes and immobilizer. I love you all.

*Kathy Reinhart*

## Baby Shower

Our church family is invited to a baby shower on March 22nd from 1-4 p.m. in the fellowship hall to honor Angela Bowers and the new arrival.



## SCOUT RECOGNITION

**March 9th**

We will be recognizing boy & girl scouts during the worship service.



## Youth Group Kick Off Church Family Night March 9th from 5 p.m.-7 p.m.

All Youth (all ages) and all our church family are invited to this Event to jump start our youth groups.

Please bring a side dish to share: chips, fruit, etc... If you have questions, please contact Kara Thompson.



## Lenten Lunch Schedule

All Lenten Lunches will be held at the First Presbyterian Church each Wednesday during lent from noon until 1 p.m.

### Host Churches Schedule:

- March 5th-First Presbyterian Church
- March 12-First Christian Church
- March 19th Divine Mercy Catholic Church
- March 26 St. Paul Lutheran Church
- April 2nd-Paulding Nazarene Church
- April 9th United Methodist Church

The Ministerial Association will again be collecting items for the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry in Paulding. Cash donations for lunches help fund the Ministerial Association's work with those from our community who are in need.

## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

March 7th is World Day of Prayer. The church will be open all day for silent prayer.

Please will free to come in anytime.





## DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY

We will be hosting the Lenten Lunch at the First Presbyterian Church on March 12th at noon.

We continue to meet the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 at the church. All women of the church are invited to attend the meetings.

We are still collecting items for the care tote bags that are given to comfort people in times of health issues or stress. There is a bag in the narthex. Thank you for support the ministries chosen by the women's group.



## OUTREACH

### Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

Thank you for your continued donations to the food pantry. The box is in the narthex for any donations. Food items, cleaning items personal care items etc...



### Website Update

Have you visited our website at [firstccpauld.org](http://firstccpauld.org)? 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. We are pleased with the use of this method to donate, it is going well.



**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

- 3/02 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 3/09 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 3/16 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 3/23 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers, Gary McClure
- 3/30 Dan Workman, Joan Tope, Charlie Simpson



### First Christian Church Fund Summary

02/17/2025 11:17 AM

Page:

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	105 SPECIAL HOLIDAY-PEN TECOST	107 SPECIAL HOLIDAY-CHR ISTMAS	115 Pass-Through	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	205 New Church Roof	300 YOUTH GROUP	701 Men's Group- Special Pass	Total
01/05/2025	1,735.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	505.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	2,750.00
01/12/2025	1,635.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	1,760.00
01/19/2025	1,565.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	1,675.00
01/25/2025	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00
01/26/2025	1,450.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,455.00
Total	6,385.00	5.00	10.00	25.00	2,515.00	500.00	100.00	100.00	9,640.00

# 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.



# March 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

						1
2	3	4 DISCIPLES WOM- ENS MEETING- 10:00 A.M.	5 LENTEN LUNCH-NOON- PRESBY CH  ASH WEDNES- DAY SERVICE – 6:00 P.M. 	6	7 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER-  CHURCH OPEN ALL DAY FOR PRAYER	8
9 DAYLIGHT SAV- INGS TIME  BOY/GIRL SCOUT RECOGNITION  YOUTH KICKOFF FOR AGES-5-7	10	11	12 LENTEN LUNCH-NOON- PRESBY CH  WOR/MEM/TECH MEETING- 4:30P.M.  FIN/STEWARD- 6:30 P.M.	13	14	15 MEN'S GROUP- 9:00 A.M.
16 ELDERS MEET- ING-8:30 A.M.	17	18 BOARD MEETING -7:00 P.M.	19 LENTEN LUNCH-NOON- PRESBY CH	20	21	22 FS HALL-SANTO
23	24	25	26 LENTEN LUNCH-NOON- PRESBY CH	27	28	29
30	31					

- ELDERS: Max Hibbard & Bruce Gunderman    3/02    Sermon: " Silence is Always an Option" Scripture: Luke 9: 28-43
- WORSHIP LEADER: Larry Grace    3/09    Sermon: "The Ice Cream Truck" Scripture: Luke 4: 1-13
- 1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Matt Strayer    3/16    Sermon: "Love that Adopts" Scripture: Luke 13: 31-35
- GREETERS: Corey & Nicole Harris    3/23    Sermon: "Yes, but How?" Scripture: Luke 13: 1-9
- 3/31    Sermon: "Your Father is Waiting" Scripture: Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

# Puzzle!



Fill in the blanks with the tiny creatures mentioned in each verse (all NIV). Then search for those words in the puzzle below.

- Proverbs 6:6 \_\_\_\_\_
- Psalm 78:45 \_\_\_\_\_
- Matthew 23:24 \_\_\_\_\_
- Judges 14:8b \_\_\_\_\_
- Acts 12:23 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Deuteronomy 7:20 \_\_\_\_\_
- Exodus 16:20 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1 Samuel 24:14 \_\_\_\_\_
- Isaiah 50:9 \_\_\_\_\_
- Isaiah 59:5 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_
- Leviticus 11:22 \_\_\_\_\_



M	O	T	H	S	G	N	A	T	B	H
A	N	T	A	L	L	C	H	P	E	O
G	R	A	S	S	H	O	P	P	E	R
G	F	C	R	I	C	K	E	T	S	N
O	L	S	P	I	D	E	R	S	B	E
T	E	C	L	O	C	U	S	T	D	T
S	A	E	F	K	A	T	Y	D	I	D
G	F	L	I	E	S	W	O	R	M	S



Answers: ant, flies, gnat, bees, worms, locust, grasshopper, hornet, maggots, flea, moths, spider, katydid, cricket



## FROM WORD TO WORLD

Words are important! God spoke and created all things.  
What does the psalmist declare about creation?

Directions: Using the word clues, unscramble the letters to complete Psalm 102:25, NIV.

- A preposition NI \_\_\_\_\_
- An article HTE \_\_\_\_\_
- Genesis means this NINBGEIGN \_\_\_\_\_
- A second-person pronoun OUY \_\_\_\_\_
- Past tense of to lay IDAL \_\_\_\_\_
- An article HET \_\_\_\_\_
- A plural noun meaning base SODTAINFONU \_\_\_\_\_
- A preposition showing possession FO \_\_\_\_\_
- An article TEH \_\_\_\_\_
- A concrete noun meaning world HRTEA \_\_\_\_\_



Psalm 102:25, NIV

Answer: In the beginning you laid the foundations of the earth. (Psalm 102:25, NIV)

## Bible Quiz

Complete this sentence which introduces a well-known Bible story: "The hand of the Lord was on me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the Lord and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. flowers
- B. sheep
- C. rocks
- D. bones



Answer: D (See Ezekiel 37:1, NIV.)

