



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

DISCIPLE DIGEST

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ISSUE NO. IV-2025
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

APRIL 2025



DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



APRIL 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

What is your first thought when you hear the word “Easter”? Is it the bunny and candy and the ham (or whatever your preference is) dinner on Easter Sunday? Is it the local Easter egg hunts? Is it the feel of spring in the air? In all honesty, there are many people who have those thoughts. There are few, when hearing the word “Easter” who think of death and resurrection. The truth is death can mean many things.

According to Webster, death is the action or fact of dying or being killed; the end of the life of a person or organism. However, other meanings are; the destruction or permanent end of something (the death of her hopes). And “a damaging or destructive state of affairs” (to be driven to a dance by one’s father would be social death). In the same way, resurrection has a couple of different meanings. There is the resurrection of the dead at the last judgement and “the revitalization or revival of something.”

Winter can be the death of flowers and leaves from trees, but it can also be the death of good weather until spring. Spring can be a form of resurrection of those things. We can put to death the candy, the ham, the Easter eggs until next year (when they will be resurrected). And we lose loved ones to death some years, believing in the resurrection of the dead, which is a permanent thing. That death and resurrection, however, is where our hope lies.

We know of the death and resurrection of Christ and believe in the creations of heaven and earth and that, my friends, is where our hope lies. This Easter, enjoy the bunny, the candy, the ham, the egg hunts, and the feel of spring. But cast your hope in the death and resurrection of Jesus, which gives eternal hope to all believers.

Peace,

Pastor Ric



Nursing Home Residents..

Comfort in Mourning:
The Family of Merrill Eagleson Miller

The Gardens
*Romaine Boundy
*Sandy Leslie

Healing Prayers:

Barry Belscheer
Tammy Boroff
Ron Garity
Tim Pennington
Woodruff Family



Van Crest of Payne
Lorean McCollum
*Ursula Riley

Fountain Park-Bryan, Oh
*Wanda Rohlf

Military:
Cameron Cramer
Miranda E. Iler

Continuing Concerns:
*Charlie Simpson
Sam Smith
Our World

APRIL SERVERS

Elders :
Larry Grace & Gary McClure

Worship Leader:
Deb Santo

Greeters:
Shirley Cramer
Jacquie Walker

First Scripture Reader:
Leah Gunderman

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- 4/01 Matthew Strayer
- 4/07 Mick Coak
- 4/09 Lori Clark
- 4/09 Brett Mawer
- 4/12 Tony Garza
- 4/12 Leah Gunderman
- 4/16 Donna Hibbard
- 4/18 Destyne Carlisle
- 4/19 Tabina Vance
- 4/23 Mellisa Leslie
- 4/24 Gina Vance
- 4/25 Ann Reinhart
- 4/25 Darla Smith
- 4/26 Elise Laney
- 4/26 Nicki Smith
- 4/27 Julie Cook
- 4/29 Kyle Harris
- 4/30 Addyson Hormann
- 4/30 Grayson Thompson
- 4/30 Scarlet Thompson



APRIL

FIRST SCRIPTURES

- 4/06 Isaiah -43: 16-21
- 4/13 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
- 4/17 Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19
- 4/20 Isaiah 65:17-25
- 4/27 Guest Speaker



- 4/08 Charles & Susan Simpson
- 4/14 Brian & Gina Vance
- 4/19 Brian & Jennifer Aden

Sermons

If you would like to hear a specific sermon a 2nd time they are available on our website at firstccpauld.org or our facebook page.



Easter Blessings

Easter Flowers

If you would like to bring in flowers for Easter, please have them to the church by April 13th.



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.



All are Welcome

ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
2/23	65	43	8	13	1	185
3/02	66	42	8	15	1	155
Ash Wed.	19					154
3/09	43	30	5	8	0	100
3/16	55	36	8	10	1	93

From the Elders

A devotion by entitled A King On A Donkey by K.T. Sim

It was Sunday-the day we now call Palm Sunday. Without a doubt, this wasn't Jesus' first visit to Jerusalem. As a devout Jew, He would've gone to the city every year for the three great feasts (Luke 2: 41-42, John 2: 13, 5:1). In the past three years, Christ had also ministered and taught in Jerusalem. But this Sunday His coming into the city was radically different.

By riding a young donkey into Jerusalem at a time when thousands of worshipers were coming into the city, Jesus was the center of attention (Matthew 21: 9-11). Why would He take the place of prominence before thousands of people when for the past three years He'd deliberately kept a low profile? Why would He accept the people's proclamation that He was King Just five days before His death?

Matthew says that this took place to fulfill a five-hundred-year-old prophecy (Matthew 21: 4-5) that God's chosen king would come into Jerusalem "righteous and victorious, (yet) lowly and riding on a donkey" (Zechariah ("), also Genesis 49: 10-11).

This was a truly unusual way for a triumphant king to enter a city. Conquering kings normally rode on mighty stallions. But Jesus didn't come riding a warhorse. This reveals what kind of King Jesus is. He came in meekness and lowliness. Jesus came not for war, but for peace, establishing peace between God and us (Acts 10:36; Colossians 1:20).

**What kind of king is Jesus to you today?
How can you honor Him as your King?**

Jesus, thank You for coming into Jerusalem to reveal Your mighty and humble ways.
Fill my heart with Your peace.



Palm Sunday Service-April 13th at 10:00 a.m.



Maundy Thursday Service-April 17th -7: 00 p.m.



Community Good Friday Service-April 18th-noon at First Christian Church, Speaker: Reverend George Reed from the Methodist Church

Stations of the Cross will be available from Good Friday through Easter Sunday in the sanctuary for you to view at your convenience.

Community Sunrise Service-April 20th at 7:00 a.m. United Methodist Church, Speaker: Pastor Ric Beals

Easter Service-April 20th at 10:00 at First Christian Church



MAUNDY THURSDAY

On Maundy Thursday (April 17th) we will be having a short service in the sanctuary, followed by a simple meal in the fellowship hall.

The menu is more of the foods of today, representing the foods of the original seder meal.

We will have bread w/spinach dip available – representing the Matzoh.

Green beans – representing the parsley, the green vegetable to welcome spring.

Vegetable tray with a horseradish dip available – representing the bitter herbs.

Scalloped Chicken – representing the leg of lamb.

Salad w/ Italian dressing – just because.

Apple Crisp – representing the haroshes.

If you would like to make a dish, here are the recipes for the scalloped chicken and apple crisp (or feel free to make your own version):

Scalloped Chicken Ingredients

1/2 loaf white bread, cubed

1-1/2 cups cracker crumbs, divided

2 cups chicken broth

3 large eggs, lightly beaten

1 teaspoon salt

3/4 cup diced celery

2 tablespoons chopped onion

3 cups cubed cooked chicken

1 tablespoon butter

Directions

In a bowl, combine bread cubes and 1 cup cracker crumbs. Stir in broth, eggs, salt, celery, onion, and chicken. Spoon into a greased 2-qt. casserole. In a saucepan, melt butter; brown remaining cracker crumbs. Sprinkle over casserole. Bake at 350° for 1 hour.

Apple Crisp Ingredients

10 to 11 cups sliced peeled tart apples

1/2 cup sugar

1 teaspoon ground cinnamon, divided

1 cup all-purpose flour

1 cup packed brown sugar

1/2 cup quick-cooking oats

1 teaspoon baking powder

1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg

1/2 cup cold butter, cubed

Vanilla ice cream, optional

Directions Preheat oven to 375°. Place apples in a large bowl. Combine sugar and 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon; sprinkle over apples and toss to coat. Transfer to a greased 13x9-in. baking dish. Combine flour, brown sugar, oats, baking powder, nutmeg and remaining 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon; cut in butter until mixture resembles coarse crumbs. Sprinkle over apples. Bake until apples are tender, 50-60 minutes. Serve warm, with vanilla ice cream if desired.



DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY

We continue to meet the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m. 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.

The Lenten Lunch went very well. Thank you to those who planned and helped.



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. They are currently in need of canned veggies other than green beans, baking supplies and condiments.

Thank you to Susan Knapp for delivering all donations.

Website Update

Have you visited our website at firstccpauling.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

- 4/06 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 4/13 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 4/20 Max Hibbard, Corey Harris, Tracy Gunderman
- 4/27 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers, Gary McClure



First Christian Church Fund Summary

03/08/2025 12:45 PM

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	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	103 WEEK OF COMPASSION	107 SPECIAL HOLIDAY-CHR ISTMAS	118 Elavon Tithes/Offering s	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	700 MENS GROUP	Total
02/02/2025	2,448.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,448.00
02/03/2025	0.00	0.00	0.00	700.00	0.00	0.00	700.00
02/09/2025	754.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	754.00
02/14/2025	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
02/16/2025	290.00	20.00	50.00	265.00	0.00	15.00	640.00
02/19/2025	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
02/22/2025	0.00	0.00	0.00	220.00	0.00	0.00	220.00
02/23/2025	1,694.00	177.63	0.00	15.00	50.00	0.00	1,936.63
Total	5,286.00	197.63	50.00	1,300.00	50.00	15.00	6,898.63

Tracy Gunderman



DISCIPLES MEN'S GROUP

The Men's Group will not meet in April.



Youth Group Egg Hunt- April 13th 5 p.m.

Hot Dogs will be served. If you would like to donate hot dogs or buns there is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board. Please bring something to share. **Candy is needed**, if you would like to bring in candy there will be a box in the narthex. Activities and an egg hunt will add to the fellowship and fun.

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.

All Church Fellowship Night April 13th -5 p.m.

Let's join the fun. We all love hotdogs. Bring a dish to share. We will enjoy Easter Activities and watch the kids hunt for eggs.

Worship/Membership Committee

Mowing Schedule

April 14- April 27-Corey Harris
April 28-May 11-Mick Coak
May 12-May 25
May 26-June 8
June 9- June 22
June 23-July 6
July 7- July 20
July 21- August 3
August 4- August 17
August 18- August 31
Sept 1- Sept 14
Sept 15- Sept 28
Sept 29-Oct. 12-Mick Coak
Oct 13- Oct 26



It's time to mow again. Please sign up for a two week spot to help keep the church property looking good. If you are not able to mow but would like to help by paying for someone to mow for you, please sign your name and let Corey know. Thank You. Your help is much appreciated.



"My Easter Dove"

There came a dove, an Easter dove,
when morning stars grew dim;
It fluttered round my lattice bars,
to chant a matin hymn.

It brought a lily in its beak,
aglow with dewy sheen;
I caught the strain, the incense breathed,
and uttered praise between.

It brought a shrine of holy thoughts
to calm my soul that day;
I caught the meaning of the note,
why did it fly away?

Come peaceful dove, sweet Easter dove!
Above earth's storm and strife,
sing of the joy of Easter-tide,
of light and hope and life.



Hope for Holy Week

As you travel with Jesus through Holy Week, don't lose heart. He is your Palm Sunday King. He will always come to you and give you the best of what he has to offer because of his humble attitude and his devotion to his mission.

When you see this Savior who personally cares for you, you can't help but join the believers of old to give to the Lord your best and most precious treasures of your heart and life, and then to join with all believers saying, "Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord! Peace in heaven and glory in the highest!"

Easter insights

Did you know the word *Easter* never appears in the Bible? It may be a variant of the name Eostre, a pagan fertility goddess who symbolized rebirth and spring. *Eostre* stems from the Proto-Germanic word for *dawn*, which Christians connect to Jesus' victory over darkness.

The ancient tradition of Easter baskets also has ties to Eostre, whose symbol was a rabbit. Christians likely adapted the practice of bringing eggs and seeds as an offering to Eostre. Some Orthodox Christians continue a tradition of having a priest bless baskets of Easter food on Holy Saturday. Items usually hold special symbolism, such as Paska bread, cured meats, colored eggs, salt, horse-radish and lamb-shaped butter.

It has been a tradition for many years for people to have a lily bloom placed on the lily cross in honor or in memory of loved ones for a donation. Please fill out the form below and return it to the office. Deadline is April 13th

LILY BLOOM FORM

NAME _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

DEADLINE TO TURN IN FORMS IS April 13th.

Holy Week



Palm Sunday Triumphant Entry

- Reading: Matthew 21:1-11
- Activity: Make palm crosses or a palm-themed craft.



Monday Cleansing the Temple

- Reading: Mark 11:15-18
- Activity: Take a reflective walk, silently praying about what you wish to eliminate from your life or discussing obstacles that hinder your time with God.



Tuesday Speaking in Parables

- Reading: Matthew 22:1-14
- Activity: Choose a Gospel and count how many parables Jesus uses. For a challenge, identify which parables are in each Gospel book.

Wednesday Silent Wednesday

- Reading: Psalm 46
- Activity: Engage in a quiet challenge, focusing on prayer, Scripture or silent activities with minimal speaking.



Thursday The Last Supper

- Reading: John 13:1-20
- Activity: Re-create a foot washing ceremony by washing each other's feet.



Good Friday The Crucifixion

- Reading: Isaiah 53
- Activity: Draw, paint or write about the theme of sacrifice or caring.



Holy Saturday Day of Preparation

- Reading: Luke 23:50-56
- Activity: Prepare for Easter by decorating or cooking traditional foods like bread.



Easter Sunday Jesus Is Risen!

- Reading: John 20:1-18
- Activity: Celebrate the Resurrection with joy and fellowship by singing worship songs or sharing a meal.



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.

April 2025



Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

 "AS SURELY AS THE SUN RISES, HE WILL APPEAR..." <small>HOSEA 6:3, NIV</small>		 1 DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MEETING-10 A.M.	2 WOR/MEM/TECH MEETING- 4:30 P.M. TRUSTEES-7 P.M.	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 STEWARDSHIP/ FINANCE MEETING-6:30 P.M.	10	11	12
 13 EGG HUNT-5 P.M. FELLOWSHIP NIGHT-5 P.M.	14	15 BOARD MEETING -7 p.m. 	16	17 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE-7 P.M.	18 COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE-NOON AT FCC	19 GANGER-FS HALL NO MEN'S GROUP
20 COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE -7 A.M.-METHODIST CH NO ELDERS MEETING	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

PASTORS: Larry Grace & Gary McClure

WORSHIP LEADER: Deb Santo

SCRIPTURE READER: Leah Gunderman

SECRETARIES: Shirley Cramer & Jacque Walker

4/06 Sermon: " Good Morning. I'm Gald to See You" Scripture: John12:1-8

4/13 Sermon: "Donkeys Have a Reputation" Scripture: Luke 19 :28-40

4/17 Sermon: "You are What You Wear" Scripture: Luke 13: 31-35

4/20 Sermon: "Do You Have Your Key" Scripture: John 20:1-18

4/27 Guest Speaker-Eileen Kochensparger

Plan NOW for 2025 Summer Programs at Camp Christian!!



Help us prepare for Summer!

- Saturday, May 10th – **Camp Christian Work Day**
Tasks suited for a wide range of ages and abilities

Summer Programs – Camps, Conferences, & Retreats

- Friday, May 23rd – Sunday, May 25th – **Disciples Fellowship Retreat** – For All Ages
- Sunday, June 8th – Tuesday, June 10th – **Grandparents & Me Camp (Concurrent Camp)**
For children completing Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade AND their Grandparent
- Sunday, June 8th – Saturday, June 14th – **Otter Camp** – Elementary (Concurrent Camp)
For children completing 5th grade & those completing 3rd & 4th grades ready for a full-week of camp
- Wednesday, June 11th – Saturday, June 14th – **Grands, Me & Family (Concurrent Camp)**
For children ages 4-13 with grandparent or parent
- Sunday, June 15th – Saturday, June 21st – **Music, Mime, Art, Dance, Drama / OUT (Concurrent Camp)**
Both Camps – For Children and Youth ages 8 to 18
- Sunday, June 22nd – Saturday, June 28th – **SportsCamp**
For Children and Youth ages 7 to 18
- Sunday, June 29th – Wednesday, July 2nd – **Rabbit Camp** – Elementary (Concurrent Camp)
For children completing 2nd grade and/or 3rd and 4th graders whose parents want a shorter camp experience for their children
- Sunday, June 29th – Saturday, July 5th – **Chi Rho Camp Emmaus** – Junior High (Concurrent Camp)
For youth completing 6th, 7th & 8th grades
- Sunday, July 6th – Saturday, July 12th – **CYF Conference** – High School (Concurrent Camp)
For youth completing 9th, 10th, 11th & 12th grades
- Sunday, July 6th – Saturday, July 12th – **Created to Be Me Camp** – Junior High (Concurrent Camp)
For youth completing 8th grade
- Sunday, July 13th – Saturday, July 19th – **Chi Rho Camp Corinth** – Junior High
For youth completing 6th, 7th & 8th grades
- Sunday, July 20th – Sunday, July 27th – **Advance Conference** – Young Adults
For all adults ages 19 to 30 (out of high school)
- Friday, August 29th – Sunday, August 31st – **Disciples Fellowship Retreat** – For All Ages

More information about all of these programs, plus summer events not at Camp Christian, will be available soon at www.ccamp4.com

