



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

DISCIPLE DIGEST

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ISSUE NO. XI-2022
MINISTER: REV. DR. SANDRA JENKINS

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WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.

Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m

NOVEMBER 2022



DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



NOVEMBER 2022

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: CHAPLAINCY AND PASTORING

Six Rules of Thumb for Prison Ministry: Advice for Pastors and Ministry Leaders

Some years back, a group of individuals from a church decided to form a prison ministry team. With heartfelt good intentions, they created a list of the members' skills and ran it by their pastor. Next, they took it to a chaplain at the nearby prison where they were hoping to serve. The list focused on the *special gifts* they could contribute to inmate well-being, such as Bible study, exercises, arts and crafts related to the studies, and so on. In addition, this group offered to donate crosses, religious books, Bibles, workbooks on how to read the Bible, and handouts for inmates to color or decorate.

What is wrong with this picture? This type of planning might work well for a ministry within a congregation, but when approaching a prison – or other institution, for that matter – leaders must first find out what is actually needed.

FIRST RULE OF THUMB: NEVER ASSUME

One of the worst things well-intended churches can do is to presume that their own agenda of *services* will work in a prison without first asking *what the prison actually needs*. After all, prison ministry assumes service to God foremost. The first task of the ministry group is to build trust, both with the prison administration and with the inmates to whom they are assigned. As the chaplain and administrators observe the work of your team enriching the lives of inmates and developing relationships, they can ascertain what other projects are best suited for your group and decide the best direction for your ministry as a whole.

Suppose one of you wants to build a tower. Won't you first sit down and estimate the cost to see if you have enough money to complete it? For if you lay the foundation and are not able to finish it, everyone who sees it will ridicule you saying, this person began to build and wasn't able to finish. (Luke 14: 28-30, New International Version).¹

SECOND RULE OF THUMB: CONSIDER YOUR ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Take time for personal reflection on prison ministry, especially if you are not accustomed to setting aside your own agendas. Consider the following questions carefully, both individually and with your group, BEFORE starting to form a prison ministry:

1. How well do I really understand prison systems and culture? Have I already made assumptions and judgments that I may need to question?
 1. Do I understand how important it is to be covered appropriately in prayer before entering a prison?
 2. How willing am I to ask for help and power from the Holy Spirit to avoid the pitfalls of flaunting my own agenda?
 3. When was the last time I truly confessed my own sins to God and others?
 4. Am I willing and able to ask for forgiveness for those sins, thoughts, and past judgments; and am I humble and teachable enough to allow God to remove my defects?
 5. How well do I *let go and let God* in most situations?
 6. Can I truly listen to and love all inmates unconditionally — even child molesters, murderers, or rapists?
 7. Will I have difficulty refraining from asking details about an inmate's particular crimes, especially when driven by assumptions about him/her or negative feelings?
 8. Am I able to help a rapist, murderer or any other type of sinner (in prison or not) feel as special as my other church brothers and sisters?
 9. Can I look a prisoner in the eye and truly smile at him or her?
 10. When speaking one-on-one with an inmate, can I listen to him or her as if s/he is the most important one in the room?
 11. How willing am I to allow an inmate to pray God's will over me?
 12. Am I truly ready to love the prisoner through God's love in me?
 13. In what ways am I unprepared for this ministry, and how will I get ready?

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:16-17, English Standard Version)²

THIRD RULE OF THUMB: FOCUS ON THE BIGGER PICTURE

Sometimes ministry teams become frustrated, feel inadequate, and may even get a false sense that they are unwanted just because their suggestions and donations are not accepted. At this point, take a step back and look at the bigger picture. Here are just a few of the reasons why it may not be suitable to bring certain materials into a prison:

1. *Crosses* – Inmates generally must select one cross (in some prisons two) as part of their personal property. If the inmate truly enjoys your program, she /he may have to sacrifice a cross (perhaps a special sentimental one gifted by a relative) in order to keep yours. In fact, an inmate may choose to sacrifice his or her special cross because s/he is afraid you will not accept him or her, or may even sense she/he could offend you somehow because she/he cannot accept your gift. The worst part is that the inmate will never tell you any of this.

2. *Religious materials* – Religious materials are also analogous to personal property. That is, having too many books or materials can stir up jealousy among inmates or even raise concern that the inmate's personal property (including the religious possessions) could be confiscated permanently. At that point, the inmate would have to choose between a number of items very carefully and surrender property *that may be very personal to him or her*.

For example, an inmate had to surrender a personal family Bible to receive another Bible from a ministering group. He was afraid that if he did not take the Bible offered him, the ministry might reject him, and that group had become very important to him. He sent the personal Bible home to his family. Unfortunately, the family took offense, and the inmate endured about two months without visits from his loved ones. Later, after much help from the chaplain, the conflict was resolved; and the family resumed visiting him.

You can avoid causing incidents like these simply by trying to see another side of the decision-making process in prisons. I don't mean to imply that the prison staff are always correct, or that the inmate is being mistreated; rather, it is best for all persons to follow the recommendations set forth by the particular prison for ministry. When you feel unsure, ask. Most prison staff members are eager to answer volunteers' questions.

3. *Clearances* – Religious books must meet the requisites of prison clearances, perhaps being purchased through an approved vendor, book distributor, or publishing house. Further, the materials *must specifically align with the intended purposes of the program* and be accompanied by the proper paperwork signed by a warden. All items must pass through intake to ensure security and safety for all.

4. *Arts and crafts* – Most prisons possess art materials, including paints, canvasses, yarn, thread, and so on, and acquire these items through specific procedures (as briefly alluded to above). That is not to suggest they are necessarily of superior quality. Inventory of all types – and art materials as well – must pass safety requirements set forth by the particular prison and its programs. For instance, paints can cause serious safety violations if not inventoried properly and stored in a secure location, or if they contain noxious materials.

Bottom line, understand that there may be good reasons for decisions you did not anticipate. When a ministry team becomes disgruntled with prison staff, rules, and programs, they may be *trying to control rather than to serve*. As a result, the team loses its spiritual impact on behalf of God's work for God's kingdom. The prison may also terminate your ministry in the prison. Follow your prison leaders, therefore, and pray for them. *You are the body of Christ in reality to most inmates as well as to the prison staff.* Being disagreeable because you cannot conduct your program as you want reflects badly on you, especially since your intention is to serve as an example of and servant to Christ. Remember that your job is to follow the system rules while leading, encouraging, and shepherding both your own team and the inmates assigned to your particular ministry.

First pride, then the crash – the bigger the ego, the harder the fall! (Proverbs 16:18, The Message)³

(To Be Continued next month)

Comfort in Mourning:

Healing Prayers:

Abbie English
Christa Gonzales
Les Guelde
George Hardesty
Jim McCullough
*Jack Moore
*Bonnie Parker
Sarah Renollet
David Santo
Steve Santo
*Chris Walker
Nate Whitlock



Continuing Concerns:

Thaniel Bulau
Dave Foltz
Veronica Kromer
*Helen & Paul Long
Kenny Santo
Nursing Homes
Ukraine

*Denotes Members

Advent

The season of Advent begins
November 27th.

Advent families will be
November 27-Elders
December 4-Men's Group
December 11-DWM
December 18 - Youth
Christmas Eve- 70 yrs. & over



May my prayers to you, O God, begin from a place of thanksgiving, recognizing your countless gifts.

Flowers For Worship:

11/06 Genelta Levos-In Honor of Family
11/13 Herm Guelde-In Memory of Jean
11/20 Tracy Gunderman-In Honor of Grands
11/27

ATTENDANCE

09/25 57
10/02 38
10/09 37
10/16 41
10/23



Nursing Home Residents..

The Gardens

*Romaine Boundy
*Betty Hamman

Van Crest of Payne

*Velma Albert

Military:

Cameron Cramer

NOVEMBER SERVERS

Elders

Tracy Gunderman
Gary McClure

Worship Leader

Suzy Strayer

Greeters

Charlie & Sue Simpson

First Scripture Reader

Tracy Gunderman

First Scripture Selections

11/06 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-12
11/13 Isaiah 65: 17-25
11/20 Jeremiah 23: 1-4
11/27 Psalm 122



11/03 Dan Workman
11/05 Betty Hamman
11/05 Zoey Hibbard
11/06 Jodi Perl
11/07 Dennis Knapp
11/11 Roger Nicelley
11/11 Bill Smith
11/12 Preslee Cline
11/12 Denise Smith
11/18 Dawn Carlisle
11/19 Tracy Gunderman
11/21 Jenifer Nicelley
11/22 Shawn Santo
11/24 Joe Nicelley
11/24 Haleigh Stallbaum
11/25 Nicolas Clippinger
11/25 Matt Hormann
11/28 Jason Bandy



All Saints Sunday

On Sunday November 6th we will be recognizing the Saints of the church who have passed since last November 1st 2021.



We will be recognizing Veterans in November. We would like pictures of Veterans to be displayed the entire month of November but we will recognize Veterans on November 13th during worship. Please bring your pictures into the office or give them to Leah.



FROM THE ELDERS

Here is a devotion by Bill Crowder entitled Building The House

In 1889, the most ambitious private home construction project in the United States began.. On-site manufacturing produced some 32,000 bricks a day. The work continued until the completion of George Vanderbilts II's "summer house"-six years later. The result was the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina. To this day, it remains the largest private residence in America, with 250 rooms (including 35 bedrooms and 43 bathrooms) consuming a staggering 178,926 square feet (16,226 square meters) of floor space.

This project, ambitious as it was, was nothing compared to the "building" intentions Jesus proclaimed to His disciples in Matthew 16. After Peter had confirmed that Jesus is "the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (v.16), Jesus declared, "I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it" (v.18) While theologians debate the identity of the "rock". There's no debate about Jesus' intentions. He would build His church to stretch to the ends of the earth (Matthew 28: 19-20), including people from every nation and ethnic group from around the globe (Revelation 5:9)

The cost of this building project? The sacrifice of Jesus' own blood on the cross (Acts 20:28). As members of His "building" (Ephesians 2:21), purchased at so great a price, may we celebrate His loving sacrifice and join Him in this great mission.

**Lamb of God, thank You for Your sacrifice. Enable me to celebrate
You in my heart as well as with others in the family of faith.**



Hangings of the Greens

We will be decorating the sanctuary on November 20th following the congregational meeting. Please plan to help get the church ready for the Advent season. We will be enjoying pizza following our decorating.

Dear Church Friends,

I have enjoyed the Disciple Digest for many years. I have so enjoyed to hear the many things our friends were doing.

Now that I am 107 years old I find I am reading less and remembering more. I get a warm feeling when I am in thoughts of our Paulding church. Our family grew up in the church and I feel strongly that I am a part of the members and past friends.

Now, living with my daughter Marilyn, I have blessed joy. Blessings too all.

Much love,
DeLean Dotterer



Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

Dan Bulau is keeping us informed on the needs of the food pantry. For the month of November we will need canned fruit and canned corn.



Outreach

The Outreach Committee will be adopting 12 kids for Christmas. Tags will be on the tree around Thanksgiving. It will be the same as always. You will take a tag, buy the gift, wrap the gift and return it under the tree with the tag on the outside of the gift.

We will also have the hat and mitten tree, we will be collecting cleaning products and food items for each family. If you have questions, please contact Genelta, Vicki or Sue Simpson



Ministry Opportunity Forms

Please fill out and return the ministry opportunity form to the office. They are also available on the table in the narthex. These forms are used to plan for the upcoming year. Your participation in the church is a blessing to everyone so please prayerfully consider your ministry into the next year.



Thank you
The Worship/Membership
Committee

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

Thank you

Annual Congregational Meeting

November 20, 2022

The Annual Congregational Meeting to vote on the 2023 officers and budget will be held immediately following worship. All FCC members are encouraged to attend.



Monthly Budget Needs

In order to meet our monthly budget needs We need an offering of \$10270.42 per month.



COUNTERS

- 11/06 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 11/13 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 11/20 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 11/27 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers



First Christian Church Fund Summary

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Page: 1

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	102 INITIAL ENVELOPE OFFERING	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	201 FALL FESTIVAL	Total
09/02/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	160.00	160.00
09/04/2022	4,957.00	0.00	10.00	90.00	5,057.00
09/07/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	685.00	685.00
09/11/2022	1,010.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,010.00
09/13/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	100.00
09/17/2022	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,120.00	4,120.00
09/18/2022	2,565.00	0.00	0.00	1,475.25	4,040.25
09/25/2022	1,326.00	5.00	60.00	190.00	1,581.00
Total	9,858.00	5.00	70.00	6,820.25	16,753.25

Susan K. Simpson 10-8-22

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP: SUNDAYS-10 A.M.

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

BELL CHOIR EVERY SUNDAY FOLLOWING

Pastor Sandra Jenkins #814-403-8659.

November 2022

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1 DWM-10 a.m.	2 Worship/ Membership-	3	4	5
6 ALL SAINTS DAY	7	8 ELECTION DAY	9 STEWARDSHIP/ FINANCE MEET- ING-6:30 P.M.	10	11 VETERANS DAY	12
13 VETERANS RECOGNITION	14	15 BOARD MEETING-7 P.M.	16	17	18	19 MEN'S GROUP- 9 A.M.
20 ELDERS-8:30 A.M. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING FOLLOWING WORSHIP HANGING OF THE GREENS	21	22	23	24 THANKSGIVING 	25	26
27 FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT	28	29	30			

REV. DR. SANDRA JENKINS HAS BEEN APPOINTED TO SPEAK AT A PAULDING COMMUNITY SERVICE ON NOVEMBER 20TH. AT 6 P.M. LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED.

SERMONS

ELDERS: Tracy Gunderman & Gary McClure
 WORSHIP LEADER: Suzy Strayer
 1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Tracy Gunderman
 GREETERS: Charlie & Sue Simpson

11/06 People of Faith
 11/13 God's New Creation
 11/20 Restoration
 11/27 Wake Up

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

1 Peter 4:10

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Please give prayerful thought to how you would like to serve your church in the coming year. Complete this form and place it in the basket provided in the narthex, this morning, or drop it off in the church office. Thank You for serving in the name of Jesus our Lord. It would be a blessing to the church if you are able to use your gifts to benefit the church in at least 2 different ways.

- Greeter/Usher Sundays
- Prepare/Cleanup Communion on month.
Preferred Month _____
- Worship Leader
- Read Scripture
- Teach Children's Sunday School
- Organize/participate in VBS
- Help with Special or Children's Programs
- Sanctuary Care
- Help with Special Services
- Serve as Song Leader
- Be part of Adult choral Or Bell choir
- Provide Special Music
- Direct Adult Choir
- Provide assistance to members

AVAILABLE COMMITTEES

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Christian Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Memorial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship/Finance | <input type="checkbox"/> Outreach |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Worship/Membership | <input type="checkbox"/> Trustees/Property |

_____**Special skills and interest I have that might benefit First Christian Church:**

Name _____ Phone # _____

Links of GRATITUDE

Make this meaningful decoration for your Thanksgiving table.



What you need:

- Construction paper (in fall colors)
- Scissors
- Pen
- Jar
- Stapler
- Adult help



What you do:

1. Cut the paper into strips about 2 inches wide.
2. Place the strips and pen in the jar. Then set it in a prominent place in your home.
3. Throughout November, have family discussions about what you're thankful to God for. Write or draw each item on a paper strip.
4. Make a paper chain by linking and carefully stapling the strips.
5. Keep adding to your decoration and display it during your Thanksgiving meal.

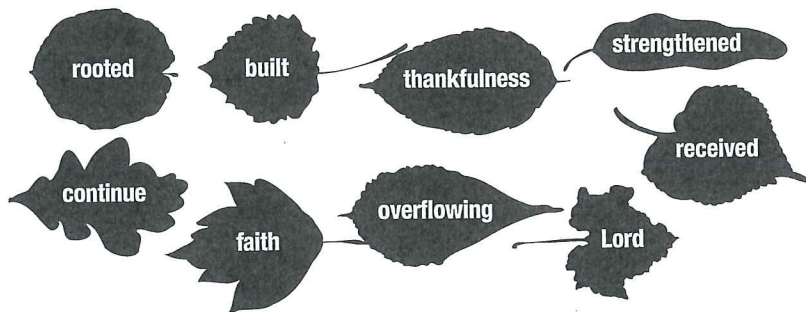


Puzzles

Piles of praise

Every autumn, the ground is overflowing with leaves. What does Paul encourage us to overflow with?

Directions: Use the key to match the leaves and complete the Bible passage.



So then, just as you _____ Christ Jesus as _____,
 _____ to live your lives in him, _____ and
 _____ up in him, _____ in the _____ as you
 were taught, and _____ with _____.

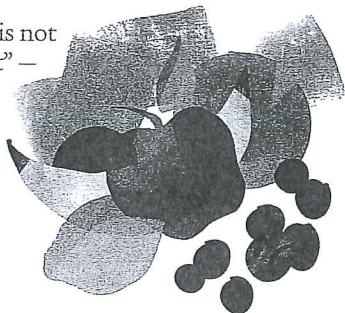
COLOSSIANS 2:6-7, NIV

Answer: received, Lord, continue, rooted, built, strengthened, faith, overflowing, thankfulness

Bible Quiz

Which of the following is not called a "fruit of the Spirit" — but probably could be?

- A. love
- B. faithfulness
- C. self-control
- D. gratitude
- E. gentleness



2022 Thanksgiving Offering

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) institutions of high learning have a long history of nurturing the faith life of students and developing Christian leaders who will further the work of transforming the church, society, and the world.

Students involved in Disciples on Campus (DOC) programs speak often about the warmth and support they receive and are grateful for opportunities to growth in their faith through worship, fellowship, Bible study, and service projects.

Those who go on to further study in our theological institutions are prepared for a wide range of Christian ministry including pastoral ministry, mission, ecumenicism, issues of justice, teaching, and beyond.

Thank you for your generous support of this year's Thanksgiving Offering. It allows our schools to continue shaping the lives of many, all to the glory of God.