



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

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

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

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**WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.**

*Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m*



# *DECEMBER 2022*



# DISCIPLE DIGEST

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



DECEMBER 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**

#### **FOURTH RULE OF THUMB: BE A LEADERSHIP MODEL FOR ALL...INCLUDING THE PASTOR**

A ministry leader, wherever he or she is serving, *first surrenders to God*, becoming primarily a servant. In prison ministries, as elsewhere, the litmus test for servanthood lies not in how much the leaders and team *accomplish*, but in *how much they surrender control*. Relying heavily on the Holy Spirit's guidance, the team grounds itself in prayer and willingly responds to needs by beautifully reflecting God's grace, mercy and love. As Robert Greenleaf states (1977/2002): "*The best test is: do those served grow as persons: do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? And, what is the effect on the least privileged in society; will they benefit, or, at least, not be further deprived?*"

Thus it is not about what a prison team can do; rather, it is all about remaining in service to assist the chaplain in ministering to and with the inmates. Listen to the prison chaplain first, and as God prompts you with ideas for improvements, wait patiently, watch for ways you can serve, and listen for the Lord's direction as he molds your prison ministry through each step! Leave your agenda at home, seek wisdom and guidance behind the prison walls, and ask for help. You will soon discover you have more to learn than teach, at least initially.

*Be still and know [recognize, understand] that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations! I will be exalted in the earth.* (Psalm 46:10, Amplified Bible)<sup>4</sup>

#### **FIFTH RULE OF THUMB: DYSFUNCTIONAL TEAMS CAN KILL THEIR OWN MINISTRIES**

When I coach ministry teams, one of my first questions is: "How specifically have you prayed regarding the formation of your prison ministry team?" *Prayer is the heartbeat for any ministry*. Remove prayer, and I promise you a dysfunctional team built on arrogance, self-importance, pride, and competitiveness. I watched one team struggle over who would be in charge. Picking up on the conflict, the inmates suggested beginning each meeting with prayer focused on *asking God to remove the discord*. Not long after, the attitude of the ministry team changed, and they became an example of unity for the whole prison.

Through prayer, God naturally weeds out people with self-serving *instead of God-serving intentions*. When servants empty themselves and rely solely on the Holy Spirit, God can use them powerfully.

*Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be slave of all.* (Mark 10:43-44, NIV)<sup>5</sup>



*So, if Jesus were standing in front of you, how would you treat him? Can you treat any inmate the same way? What is your real heart attitude before you attend and when you leave worship? Can you treat inmates the same way you would treat the Lord?*

*If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen. (1 John 4:20, ESV)<sup>2</sup>*

## REFERENCES

- Greenleaf, R. K. (2002). The servant as leader, in Spears, L., & Lawrence, M. (Eds.). *Focus on Leadership: Servant Leadership for the 21st Century*. New York, NY: John Wiley and Sons.
- Greenleaf, R. K. (1977/2002). *Servant-Leadership: A Journey into the Nature of Legitimate Power and Greatness*. Mahwah, NJ: Paulist Press.
- Laub, J. A. (1999). Assessing the servant organization: development of the organizational leadership assessment (OLA) instrument. [Unpublished Dissertation,]. Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL.
- Drury, S. L. (2004). Servant Leadership and Organizational Commitment: Empirical Findings and Workplace Implications. [https://www.regent.edu/acad/global/publications/sl\\_proceedings/2004/drury\\_servant\\_leadership.pdf](https://www.regent.edu/acad/global/publications/sl_proceedings/2004/drury_servant_leadership.pdf)
- Spears, L.C. (2002). Tracing the past, present, and future of servant-leadership. In Spears, L., & Lawrence, M. (Eds.). *Focus on Leadership: Servant Leadership for the 21st Century*. New York, NY: John Wiley and Sons.

## NOTES

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<sup>2</sup> **English Standard Version** (ESV)

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<sup>3</sup> **The Message** (MSG)

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<sup>4</sup> **Amplified Bible** (AMP)

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Please also see:

**When I was in prison...**

**When a Loved One Goes to Prison: Daunting Questions Families Want to Ask**

By Rev. Dr. Sandra S. Jenkins, PhD, M.Div., CPC

Professor of psychology, sociology, and professional writing

Prison Liaison for the state of Pennsylvania

[www.coachingcorner.com](http://www.coachingcorner.com), [drj1753@gmail.com](mailto:drj1753@gmail.com)

## SIXTH RULE OF THUMB: AVOID JUDGING

If Jesus were standing in front of you, how would you treat him? Are you willing to treat inmates the same way, that is, by mirroring Jesus to them? What is your real heart attitude before you serve in prison ministry, and what is it when you leave? Here are some ideas for developing a nonjudgmental attitude:

1. **Talking with God** – You may discover that an inmate has committed acts you can hardly imagine, such as murdering someone or harming a child. Before setting foot into a prison, spend serious time in conversation with God. Journal your thoughts and feelings and then share and pray over them with a close friend or pastor. These materials may help you get started:

Books written by or about prison workers and former inmates:

*Fallen, Felon, and Finally Faith* – Dr. Ralph Reagan  
*Life After Hell: Reflections of a Bag Lady* – Dr. Sandra Jenkins

*Prison Ministry: Understanding Prison Culture Inside and Out* – Lennie Spitale

Devotionals that include true experiences of prison life

*Prisoner to Prisoner* – Kairos Prison Ministry International (KPMI)

*Jesus Calling* – Sarah Young

*A Table in the Wilderness* – Watchman Nee

2. *Examining Your Call* – A call to prison ministry can be exciting, but also very daunting or even confusing. Sometimes a person experiences a number of concerns all at once: what others might think, whether she/he is doing the right thing, if the “vocation” is based on someone else’s expectations, or even if one is mistaken about a call. A very passionate personal desire, for instance, can seem to be the voice of God. In other words, the call is a serious consideration that can be easily misunderstood without some clear guidance and focus. Here are a few tips:

- Carefully meditate on what you learned through prayer and journaling above.
- Consult with someone serving in prison ministry. Learn more about some of its joys and challenges.
- Visit or meet with a prison chaplain to gain more clarity about prison ministry.

3. *No Judging or Talking Down* – I have served well over 5,000 incarcerated men, women, and youth over the past 25 years. The longing I hear inmates express most often is for a genuine spiritual home where others do not judge or talk down to them. One inmate reported hearing a preacher say, “I am delighted to assist with ex-cons just so long as they are neither sex addicts nor violent offenders.” The inmate responded, “Well, that counted me out...I committed murder. I just don’t think I can be accepted in a church – too hoity-toity for me.”

So, if Jesus were standing in front of you, how would you treat him? Can you treat any inmate the same way? What is your real heart attitude before you attend and when you leave worship? Can you treat inmates the same way you would treat the Lord?

#### REFERENCES

- Greenleaf, R. K. (2002). The servant as leader, in Spears, L., & Lawrence, M. (Eds.). [\*Focus on Leadership: Servant Leadership for the 21st Century\*](#). New York, NY: John Wiley and Sons.
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- Spears, L.C. (2002). Tracing the past, present, and future of servant-leadership. In Spears, L., & Lawrence, M. (Eds.). [\*Focus on Leadership: Servant Leadership for the 21st Century\*](#). New York, NY: John Wiley and Sons.

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[When I was in prison...](#)

[When a Loved One Goes to Prison: Daunting Questions Families Want to Ask](#)

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## FROM THE ELDERS

Here is a devotion from James Banks entitled The Safest Place

As Hurricane Florence was bearing down on Wilmington, North Carolina, with devastation force, my daughter prepared to leave her home. She'd waited until the last moment, hoping the storm would veer away. But now she was hurriedly sorting through important papers, pictures, and belongings, trying to decide what to take with her. "I didn't know if anything would be there when I got back."

Life's storms come in many forms: hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, floods, unexpected problems in marriage or with children, the sudden loss of health or finances. So much we value can be swept away in a moment.

Amid the storms, scripture points us to the safest place: "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give away" (Psalm 46:1-2).

The writers of this psalm were descendants of a man who generations earlier served God but then rebelled against Him and perished in an earthquake (see Numbers 26: 9-11). The outlook they share shows humility and a profound understanding of God's greatness, compassion, and redeeming love.

Troubles come, but God outlast them all. Those who run to the Savior discover that He can't be shaken. In the arms of His eternal love we find our place of peace.

Amid life's unpredictable storms, how does God give you peace?

How do you intend to run to Him today?

**O God, the One who is greater than the storm, help me to place every fear in  
Your hands today and to rest in Your unfailing love.**

### Poinsettias for Christmas

If you would like to bring a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary please have it to the church by December 18th.

### Disciples Women's Ecumenical

December 1st at 6 p.m. the annual potluck will be hosted by the Methodist Women at the First Presbyterian Church. The Program will be held at 7 p.m. If will be attending please let the office or the Methodist Church know .



### Honoring the Saints

The Saints that were honored on November 6th during worship were:

Susan Eagleson  
John Peeper Jr.  
Jean Guelde  
Bonita Beamer  
Patricia Paulus  
Helen Long

**Comfort in Mourning:**

The Family of Frank Bandy  
The Family of Helen Long  
The Family of Bob Leslie



**Healing Prayers:**

The Dugan Family  
Deloris Fox  
Les Guelde  
\*Bonnie Parker  
Lina Reinhart  
\*Wanda Rohlf  
Pat Strayer



**Continuing Concerns:**

Thaniel Bulau  
Dave Foltz  
Veronica Kromer  
Jim McClullough  
Kenny Santo  
Nursing Homes



Please join us at 6 p.m. on  
Christmas Eve for This  
special service as we await  
the birth of our savior.



**Flowers For Worship:**

12/04 Leah Gunderman-Bruce Gunderman & Kevin Burnetts Birthday  
12/11 Tracy Gunderman-In Honor of Family  
12/18 Herm Guelde-In Memory of Jean  
12/25 Max & Donna Hibbard

**ATTENDANCE**

10/30 35  
11/06 49  
11/13 35  
11/20 37



**Nursing Home Residents..**

**The Gardens**

\*Romaine Boundy  
\*Betty Hamman

**Van Crest of Payne**

\*Velma Albert

**Military:**

Cameron Cramer

**DECEMBER SERVERS**

**Elders**

Jan Commers  
Larry Grace

**Worship Leaders**

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

**Greeters**

Linda Reinhart

**First Scripture Reader**

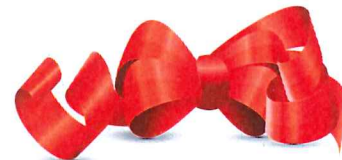
Larry Grace

The Savior comes... Let every heart prepare a throne and every voice a song" ("Hark, the Glad Sound!"). Help me prepare to receive you, Lord Jesus.



12/01 Bruce Gunderman  
12/03 Emma Hoover  
12/05 Joan Biery  
12/06 Sandi Vance  
12/07 Dokkota Clippinger  
12/08 Lindsey Hormann  
12/08 Peggy Yenser  
12/10 Max Reinhart  
12/12 Carlie Lero  
12/15 Jessica Trickett  
12/16 Tammy Boroff  
12/18 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

*Happy Anniversary*



12/07 Dennis & Sandi Vance  
12/08 Dan & Shirley Workman



**2023 Flower Calendar**

The Flower calendar for the upcoming year is posted on the bulletin board. If you would like to sponsor the flowers for a Sunday worship, please sign up on the bulletin board. Cost is \$20.00 paid to the office.







## Outreach

We are working on our Christmas list. Giving money to the Paulding County Area Foundation for play ground equipment for the ball field. We are giving money to Lifewise and planning on picking up stockings for Service Men. Food Pantry donations needed for December are instant potatoes and eggs.

"The Lord is coming, always coming....Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord" -Henry Nouwen

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



### Monthly Budget Needs

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



### COUNTERS

- 12/04 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 12/11 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 12/18 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 12/25 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers

## Accounting Funds

The church board established a New Roof Fund in June of 2019. It continues to accept donations as it slowly grows. Just like home the church needs replacements from time to time.

In April of this year the church board also established a technology fund. This fund is to upgrade anything from sound, lighting or computers. The world of tech moves quickly. If you would like to contribute to either of these funds please use the envelopes in the pews or make a note on your donation.

Thank you

### Disciples Women's Ministry

The DWM will be having a Christmas gathering on December 6th at 6 p.m.

Please bring an appetizer to share.

We will be having a \$10.00 gift exchange, games and an ugly sweater/shirt contest.

We hope to see you there.



### First Christian Church Fund Summary

09/02/2022 05:25 PM

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	201 FALL FESTIVAL	700 MENS GROUP	Total
08/07/2022	2,503.00	15.00	0.00	0.00	2,518.00
08/14/2022	830.00	25.00	175.00	0.00	1,030.00
08/18/2022	10,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10,000.00
08/21/2022	1,600.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	1,625.00
08/28/2022	1,052.00	130.00	0.00	0.00	1,182.00
Total	15,985.00	170.00	175.00	25.00	16,355.00

*Susan K. Simpson*

9/2/22

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP: SUNDAYS-10 A.M.

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

Pastor Sandra Jenkins #814-403-8659.

BELL CHOIR EVERY SUNDAY FOLLOWING

# December 2022



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

				1 ECUMENICAL POTLUCK-6 P.M.FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH	2	3
4 PEACE SUNDAY	5	6 DISCIPLES WOMENS CHRISTMAS GATHERING-6 P.M.	7 TRUSTEES-7 P.M.	8 RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE-11:30 A.M.- 5 P.M.	9	10
11 COAK FS HALL 2-4P.M.	12	13	14	15	16	17 MEN'S GROUP-9 A.M.
18 ELDERS MEETING-8:30 A.M.	19	20 BOARD MEETING-7 P.M.	21	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE-6 P.M.
25 CHRISTMAS DAY	26	27	28	29	30	31 NEW YEARS'S EVE

"CHRISTMAS IS A BOX OF TREE ORNAMENTS THAT HAVE BECOME PART OF THE FAMILY"

ELDERS: Jan Commers & Larry Grace  
 WORSHIP LEADER: Advent Families  
 1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Larry Grace  
 GREETERS: Linda Reinhart



## SERMONS

December 4th Finding Faith in Restoration  
 December 11th Mary's Song  
 December 18th The Righteous Savior  
 December 24th  
 December 25th





God came to earth in the Christmas birth of a tiny baby boy,  
Whose life and death are redeeming us yet with blessings, grace and joy.

Our minds may know this history but stand in awe at mystery.  
So faith becomes the way to make our hearts like "manger hearts"  
where Christ can dwell and God imparts his wondrous love each day.

## A prayer for Christmas

**The internet reveals little about Wilda English — only that she lived from 1916 to 1997 and once resided in California. No details exist about her family, work or interests. Just this prayer, widely shared online. And it is no small thing. Indeed, the prayer tells much about her faith.**

**God bless Wilda English for sharing these words with the world. May they continue to inspire many!**

**God grant you the light in Christmas, which is faith;  
the warmth of Christmas, which is love;  
the radiance of Christmas, which is purity;  
the righteousness of Christmas, which is justice;  
the belief in Christmas, which is truth;  
the all of Christmas, which is Christ..**

## At home in our hearts

"All hearts come home for Christmas," according to popular sentiment. But what if your heart (and/or home) is hurting or troubled? Does this season have room for people who are struggling? Does the holiday still have meaning?

Yes, God's word tells us. In fact, that's why God sent Jesus, the Word, from his heavenly home to make "his dwelling among us" (John 1:14, NIV). As fully human, Jesus experienced loneliness and betrayal, loss and physical pain. He was rejected by loved ones, angered by corruption, and abandoned to die. But as fully God, Jesus provides answers, healing and hope. Through his resurrection (which first required an earthly birth), Jesus offers salvation to all who believe in him.

As we await the heavenly home that God's Son is now preparing, we can welcome him and his comforting promises, even into our hurting hearts.

# Story stones



Share the good news of Jesus' birth in a creative way.



### What you need:

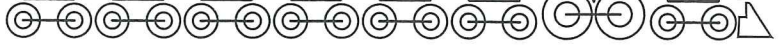
- Newspaper
- Bible
- Smooth, clean stones
- Pencil
- Oil paint pens
- Adult help



### What you do:

1. In a well-ventilated area, cover a work surface with newspaper.
2. Read Luke 2:1-20 and choose key people and places to draw.
3. In pencil, sketch one drawing on each stone.
4. Follow directions on paint pens to fill drawings with color. Let dry.
5. Hide stones for younger siblings to find, set out a new stone each day or order them in a row and tell the Nativity story.

# PUZZLE



## Seeking the story

Angels joyfully announced a special arrival in Bethlehem at Christmas.

*Directions: Find the words listed below. Then unscramble the intersecting letters to complete Luke 2:11, NIV.*



### WORD BANK

- Shepherds
- Child
- Nazareth
- Census
- Baby
- David
- Mary
- Travel
- Town
- Register
- Born
- Night

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

"Today in the town of David a \_\_\_\_\_ has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord."

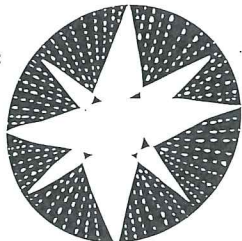
LUKE 2:11, NIV

Answer: Savior

## Bible Quiz

Complete this Bible verse: "The (1) \_\_\_\_\_ (2) \_\_\_\_\_ in the (3) \_\_\_\_\_, and the (3) \_\_\_\_\_ has not overcome it."

- A. (1) Word; (2) speaks; (3) silence
- B. (1) light; (2) shines; (3) darkness
- C. (1) kingdom of God; (2) reigns; (3) world
- D. (1) Spirit of God; (2) shines; (3) world
- E. None of the above



Answer: B (See John 1:5.)





REPEAT  
the sounding

JOY

2022 Christmas  
OFFERING

A SPECIAL DAY OFFERING OF DISCIPLES MISSION  
FUND SUPPORTING THE MINISTRIES OF OUR REGION

### ***Celebrating the Joy of our Camp Ministry***

The ministry at Camp Walter Scott has had a joyful year. The Camp Ministry held two in-person family camps, along with five other youth camps this summer. Campers assisted in maintaining, harvesting, and planting in the new garden at Walter Scott. They learned to care for creation by composting food back into the earth.

There have been many updates to the camp over the year; a refurbished campfire ring, restored dock, roofing and siding repairs and wi-fi will reach all the camp buildings. There is also excitement for the Prairie Restoration Project in the Fall. With the conversion of some of the land to a Prairie, the camp is increasing the overall biological diversity of the area. Once fully established the Prairie will be beautiful, with wildflowers blooming throughout the year.

***“Camp Walter Scott continues to be a place for everyone who comes to experience the divine flowing around and through them in both the serious moments and in full bellied laughter... We will plant our feet firmly in the rich soil of the past so we may have the nutrients, connected networks, and energy to grow from what we have been given. Come grow with us.”***

***- Clayton Summers***

Thank you for your joyful contribution to the Christmas Offering to support the ministries we share through The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin. Your offerings make a difference! 100% of your gifts to the Christmas Offering support CCIW.



***“Together Making Disciples of Christ”***



REPEAT  
the sounding

JOY

Christmas  
Offering  
2022

A Special Day offering of  
Disciples Mission Fund supporting  
the ministries of our Region

