



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

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
ISSUE NO. II-2023  
MINISTER: REV. DR. SANDRA JENKINS

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

*Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m*

# *FEBRUARY 2023*



**JESUS  
♥ YOU**

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



FEBRUARY 2023

### 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

#### MAUNDY THURSDAY: LOVE ONE ANOTHER AS I HAVE LOVED YOU

As we enter the Lenten Season, beginning with Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes, just around the corner is Maundy Thursday. Maundy Thursday is not a misspelling. The types of holy services during this time are considered among the most meaningful as well! It is the time that commemorates at least two things:

1. The Washing of Feet – hospitality, welcome, and humility
2. The Last Supper – the final gathering of Jesus' Disciples

Generally, these two celebrations follow the resurrection *after* Christ's Crucifixion. Keep in mind, however, actual dates vary. The Good News is that Jesus, and his miraculous works, have been celebrated century after century by many Churches.

#### WHAT DOES MAUNDY MEAN?

On its own, the word *Maundy* means the **washing of feet**, especially for the poor and a sort of commemoration of Jesus washing His disciples' feet during the Upper Room devotion. In addition, recorded first around 1250–1300 ADE, the word *Maundy* comes from the Old French *mande*, in turn from Latin *mandātum*, which means "mandate or command." As you may have guessed, this Latin word is the source of the English meaning, *mandate*. It stands to reason, therefore, Christian Communities embrace it as a viable time as well as special ritual to celebrate.

In fact, the amazing part of this custom is that researchers and pastors believe it would be prodigious to have a foot washing on a regular basis, or perhaps even to lift up a ritual or sacrament each year. Think of it: groups like the Emmaus Walk already practice Maundy during training sessions. They often, too, **serve each other in love creatively** during Easter time celebration.

The specific mandate or command refers to the words Jesus inferred *after washing the feet of his disciples during the Last Supper* (that is, the last time he met with them before returning to the Father). In the New King James Version of the Gospel of John, chapter 13, verse 34, Jesus said: "A new commandment I give you that you **love one another; even as I have loved you.**" The *New commandment*, in the Latin of the Vulgate is *novum mandātum*. It makes sense, then, some scholars therefore, attached it as a type of sacrament recommended during the Easter Season and even at other special designated services.

## MORE SPECIFICALLY...

### THE LAST SUPPER: LOVE ONE ANOTHER

Maundy Thursday, also known as *Holy Thursday* and *Sheer Thursday*, among other names - is a Christian holy day that commemorates the **Washing of Feet and the last Supper**. These two celebrations lead us into Easter. *Maundy Thursday* tends to follow after Holy Wednesday (the imposition of the ashes as mentioned), and is followed immediately by a Good Friday, or in some traditions, a Holy Saturday, and then followed by Easter. Bottom line, this particular week might be busy but it is among the *holiest of times* for every Christian as well.

In terms of the Last Supper, Jesus washed his Disciples' feet as they shared their final meal together (before Jesus resurrected). The meaning of washing feet is layered:

1. It is said in the ancient world, guests that visited would be provided fresh water to **clean their feet after a dusty trip**. After all, most everyone wore sandals. Often, the host or servants would wash the feet of guests.

2. It was a **sign of welcome and care to guests**. In the ancient days, some cities were not as welcoming but Hebrew people, indeed, were. Review how Abraham, as a meaningful example, came to the care of his guests! (Genesis 18:4: Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree). Imagine how dusty those trails were, too, and how refreshing cleaning one's feet could be! In today's culture, when we travel many hours, a refreshing shower (as part of freshening up) comforts us.

3. It is also **an act of humility**. That is, servants frequently washed the feet of guests. The son of God, as Christians believe, meant that Jesus was performing a lowly position duty! Christians have come to interpret Jesus' washing of feet as an illustration of a humble mission of service to God. The act has also come to symbolize the cleansing of sin from fellow Christians - and so Jesus' new commandment was urging his disciples to show forgiveness to all as depicted in the painting of The Last Supper by Leonardo Da Vinci. It was this act that led to the shaping of the Eucharist – Jesus Body (the Bread) and Jesus' Blood (salvation of humanity).

As Disciples, may we experience this glory of God's richest blessings during the Easter Season with our signs of hospitality, love and humility, and welcome to all.

\*Dr. Sandra S. Jenkins, MDiv, CPC\*

\*Counselor and Educator of Psychology, Trauma, and Leadership \*

\*Heb. 11 1 - Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.\*

\*Website: <https://drjcoachingwriter.com>\*

**Comfort in Mourning:**  
The family of Betty Hamman

**Healing Prayers:**  
\*Sharon Cooper  
\*Gerry Fraley  
Sherry Hitt  
Tonya  
Noah Johnson & family  
Joe Philpot  
\*Jack Moore  
\*Virginia Paulus  
Sarah Renollet  
\*Charlie Simpson

**Continuing Concerns:**  
Thaniel Bulau  
Dave Foltz  
Veronica Kromer  
Jim McClullough  
Kenny Santo  
Nursing Homes  
Ukraine

\*Denotes Members



**Ash Wednesday**  
— Lent Begins

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

February 22nd  
6:30 p.m.

**Flowers For Worship:**

- 02/05 Jacque Walker-In Memory of Sid
- 02/12 Corey & Nicole Harris-In Honor of Hailey's Birthday
- 02/19 Shirley Cramer-In Memory of Paul & Christy
- 02/26

**ATTENDANCE**

<b>12/25</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>01/01</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>01/08</b>	<b>58</b>
<b>01/15</b>	<b>55</b>
<b>01/22</b>	<b>41</b>



**Nursing Home Residents..**

**The Gardens**  
\*Romaine Boundy

**Van Crest of Payne**  
\*Velma Albert

**Military:**  
Cameron Cramer

**FEBRUARY SERVERS**

**Elders**  
Paul Long  
Tracy Gunderman

**Worship Leaders**  
Tracy Gunderman

**Greeters**  
Shirley Cramer  
Jacque Walker

**First Scripture Reader**  
Susan Knapp



- 2/01 Brianna Townley
- 2/03 Justin Tope
- 2/04 Greg Reinhart
- 2/06 Adam Daniels
- 2/08 Hailey Harris
- 2/09 Klair Hoover
- 2/09 Jacque Walker
- 2/13 Don Stoller
- 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



02/26 Kenny & Marsha Adkins

**Pastor's Bible Study**

Starting February 16th from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Pastor Jenkins will be holding a bible study at Holly, Wood Café. All are invited to come and share this time of study, please bring your Bibles; pencils will be provided.



**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 Committee**

The committee gave undies, socks, hats, gloves and long pants for both boys & girls to the Paulding School. They also assisted someone with utilities that needed help.



## FROM THE ELDERS

### A Devotion by Alyson Kieda Entitled Family Matters

Every evening at 7:00, no matter where she is or how tired or busy she may be, Jo calls her elderly mother. If for some reason Jo isn't able to talk at that time, she makes sure to text her mom to let her know. Even though it can be challenging to do this every day, Jo does it gladly because she loves her mother and doesn't want her to worry.

When our children were young, my husband and I bought a home a distance away. But we needed to wait to move, and school was about to start. Knowing it would be stressful for our children to switch schools twice, for two weeks I made the long trek from home to their new schools and to my office and back because I wanted to minimize their stress.

Whether we're married or single, have children or not we have opportunities to show love to those God has placed in our lives-grandparents, parents, siblings, nephews, and nieces. Because God first loved us, He enables and empowers us through His Spirit to love our families and others (1 John 4: 7-21). First Corinthians 13: 4-7 offers us some guidelines:

- Love is patient
  - Love is not self-seeking
  - Love is kind
- Love does not dishonor others
  - Love is not easily angered
  - Love keeps no record of wrongs

Loving our family by providing for their needs is also a God-given responsibility (1 Timothy 5:8)—and that includes physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

How can you pour God's love into others He's put in your path? Think about the ways you can encourage them and then take action.

Alyson Kieda, Our Daily Bread

*Thank  
You*

*Thank  
You*

Thank You everyone for the Christmas Cards and thinking of me. I pray you have all had a blessed Christmas. God Bless You All.

Velma

\*\*\*\*\*

Thank you so much for the kind donation of clothing to our students. We always appreciate it.

Paulding Elementary School

First Christian Church,

To all my friends at FCC. Thank you for my 90th Birthday greetings. I received 44 cards on my special day and 12 since. And it was a special day.

I am living in an apartment #203 at the Garden's of Paulding. Since Mick has passed I just couldn't go home to stay. Here I have people around me and I don't have to cook or wash dishes. (Ha) And it is very nice.

So "thank you" and love to all of you.

Romaine Boundy  
The Gardens #203  
199 Co. Rd. 103  
Paulding, Ohio 45879

## VALENTINE LUNCH

SUNDAY February 12th

Following Worship

Cavatina

Alfredo

Salad & Garlic Bread

Dessert

Everyone Welcome!

*This is an appreciation lunch for our church family who supports the DWM.*

*If you would like to donate to the DWM it is appreciate but not expected.*



### Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Disciples Women made prayer shawls several years ago and have been distributing them to those in need of comfort. We are getting low on prayer shawls so it is time to make more. The fleece shawls require 2 yards of 60 inch fleece. This will make 2 shawls. There is no special skill required, this involves cutting and tying.

Please plan to join us

February 5th at 5 p.m. for sandwiches and crafting. Bring your scissors and 2 yds of fleece.

Please let Denise know if you are coming.

## Love aces the test

Author Adele Calhoun describes life as "our 'open-book' test on love." How can we ace it? In *Invitations From God*, she points out that daily decisions are the make-or-break factors: "Day in and day out as we plan, work, produce, commute and relate, we make life-altering choices to either love or neglect others."

For another study guide, reflect on St. Augustine's timeless words: "What does love look like? It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has the ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of [people]. That is what love looks like."

## Disciples Women's Ministry



### Back in full swing!!

The next Disciples Women's Meeting is February 7th at 10 a.m. All women of the church are encouraged to attend. Plans are being made for the new year. We encourage everyone to help to keep the DWM an active group.

On February 5th at 5 p.m. we will be making prayer shawls. Sandwiches will be provided.

On **February 12th we will be having a lunch** following worship. We want to thank the congregation for supporting our ministry.

On March 6th and 13th we will be making noodles and hosting the Lenten Lunch at the First Presbyterian Church on March 22nd. Please watch for further details.



### **CYF HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT**

Winter Retreat at Camp Christian  
February 17-19  
Registration forms available at  
[www.ccinoh.com](http://www.ccinoh.com)

**"Who God Thinks You are"**

## BOY SCOUT SUNDAY

Boy Scout Sunday is February 5th, we will be honoring scouts past and present during the worship service.

### Week of Compassion Special Offering 2023

Please read the enclosed flyer. February 19-26 has been designed as the time to give your Week of Compassion offerings

**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 \$10385.50 per month.



### COUNTERS

- 02/05 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 02/12 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 02/19 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 02/26 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers

## Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

The Caring and Sharing Food Pantry appreciates the support of the church members so much. Dan Bulau has been working closely with the food pantry and is keeping us informed of their current needs. Food for Feb: potato products (canned, bagged/boxed instant potatoes), small cans of tuna or chicken and jam . You may bring them to the church or take them to the pantry on Wednesday or Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon. Thank you for supporting this ministry.



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

SUNDAY SCHOOL starts again Starting on the first Sunday of February, we will be having Sunday School for the younger people in our congregation during Church time. There will be two classes; 3 year old to 4 th grade, and 5 th grade to 8 th grade. High School students are encouraged to be in the worship service at this time. Melanie Bandy and Paul Long will be teaching, and others are encouraged to volunteer. If you are interested in helping, please see Paul Long.

### Board officers 2023

Jan Commers-Chair  
Tracy Gunderman-Vice Chair  
Suzy Strayer-Secretary



### First Christian Church Fund Summary

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	107 SPECIAL HOLIDAY-CHR ISTMAS	115 Pass-Through	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	700 MENS GROUP	Total
12/04/2022	3,050.75	110.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,160.75
12/11/2022	1,371.88	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,471.88
12/18/2022	1,796.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,846.00
12/25/2022	1,445.00	100.00	700.00	25.00	300.00	2,570.00
12/28/2022	0.00	0.00	15,000.00	0.00	0.00	15,000.00
Total	7,663.63	360.00	15,700.00	25.00	300.00	24,048.63

*Susan Simpson*

1-4-23

## Marked by love



Through the centuries [people] have displayed many different symbols to show that they are Christians. They have worn crosses in the lapels of their coats, hung chains about their necks, even had special haircuts. Of course, there is nothing intrinsically wrong with any of this, if one feels it is [one's] calling. But there is a much better sign, a universal mark that is to last through all the ages of the church until Jesus comes back. ...

Love — and the unity it attests to — is the mark Christ gave Christians to wear before the world. Only with this mark may the world know that Christians are indeed Christians and that Jesus was sent by the Father.

—Francis Schaeffer

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## Lenten signals



Why should we observe Lent? This 40-day season of repentance and reflection that begins on Ash Wednesday has three important purposes. Lent helps us STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

We observe Lent because it tells us to STOP and rest awhile — and to stop sinning. Lent tells us to LOOK inward for an honest self-examination, to look upward to see the cross of Jesus with healing and love, and to look forward to the hope of the Resurrection. And we observe Lent because it tells us to LISTEN — to the voice of God, the words of Christ and the movement of the Holy Spirit.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN! These commands that are so crucial for travel safety are also important for our journey through Lent.

## What's in it for me?

Communion takes on new meaning for me when Jesus calls himself the bread of life. The day after feeding the 5,000, Jesus explains, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life" (John 6:54, NIV). Many people stop following him after that, finding the teaching too difficult. Maybe Jesus is challenging people who claim to be his disciples but are in it just for the miracles.

When I hear the Words of Institution, I ask myself if I'm a "What's in it for me?" follower. Do I expect Jesus to merely impress me with answered prayers? Or do I trust him completely and serve him wholeheartedly? Am I like Peter, who, when asked whether I'll leave too, replies, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life" (v. 68).

—Julie Lee



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP: SUNDAYS-10 A.M.

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

BELL CHOIR EVERY SUNDAY FOLLOWING WORSHIP

Pastor Sandra Jenkins # 814-403-8659.



# February 2023

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

			<p>1</p> <p>WORSHIP/ MEMBER/TECH MEETING-6:30 P.M.</p> <p>TRUSTEES-7 P.M.</p>	2	3	4
<p>5</p> <p>PRAYER SHAWLS-5 P.M.</p>	6	<p>7</p> <p>DISCIPLES WOMEN-10 A.M.</p>	<p>8</p>	9	10	11
<p>12</p> <p>VALENTINE LUNCH AFTER WORSHIP</p>	13	<p>14</p> <p> Be My Valentine</p>	<p>15</p> <p>STEWARDSHIP/ FINANCE MEET- ING-6:30 P.M.</p>	16	17	<p>18</p> <p>MEN'S GROUP-9 A.M.</p>
<p>19</p> <p>ELDERS MEET- ING-8:30 A.M.</p>	20	<p>21</p> <p>BOARD MEET- ING-7P.M.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE-6:30 P.M.</p>	23	24	25
<p>26</p> <p>FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT</p>	27	28				

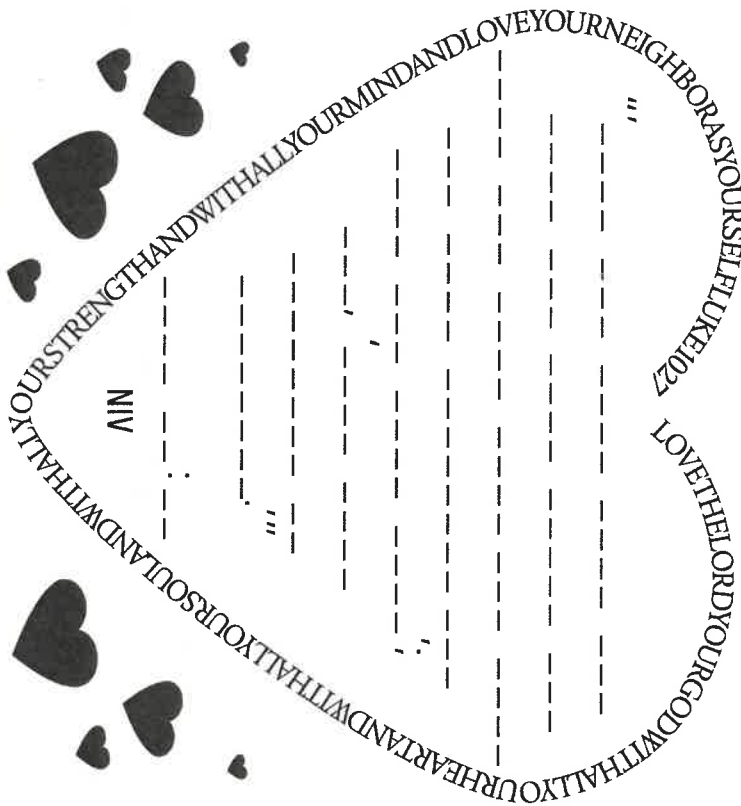
ELDERS: Paul Long & Tracy Gunderman  
 WORSHIP LEADER: Tracy Gunderman  
 1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Susan Knapp  
 GREETERS: Jacque Walker & Shirley Cramer

## SERMONS & 2ND SCRIPTURE

2/05 Sermon: Faith & the Young ; Scripture: Isaiah 58: 1-9a  
 2/12 Sermon: God's Fidelity Chooses Life; Scripture:1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
 2/19 Sermon: Faith is Real; Scripture: 2 Peter 1: 16-21  
 2/26 Sermon: Creation Scripture: Genesis 2: 15-17, 3: 1-7

# Puzzle!

Draw lines to separate the words in the heart outline. Then, starting with "Love," write the words in order inside the heart to complete the two greatest commandments.



Answer: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind; and, Love your neighbor as yourself." Luke 10:27, NIV



Fill in the blanks for three qualities Paul, in 1 Corinthians 13,

attributes to love: "Love is \_\_\_\_\_; love is \_\_\_\_\_. ... it keeps no record of \_\_\_\_\_."

- A. challenging, important, the past
- B. childlike, innocent, injustice
- C. self-sacrificing, generous, finances
- D. patient, kind, wrongs

Answer: D (See 1 Corinthians 13:4-5, NIV.)

# Children of the LIGHT

This craft celebrates that now we are light in the Lord (see Ephesians 5:8).

## What you need:

- A gallon zip-top plastic bag
- Permanent markers (dark colors)
- Black construction paper
- White cardstock
- Scissors

## What you do:

1. Draw a self-portrait on the outside of the bag. Add details.
2. Insert the black paper and set the bag flat on a table. It should be tough to see your picture now.
3. On the white cardstock, draw a picture of a flashlight with a long beam of light coming out. Color the flashlight but leave the beam white.
4. Cut out the flashlight and light beam. Place them in the bag, over the black paper. When the white beam covers the black background under your picture, you can see your self-portrait clearly.

# RISE UP ANEW: SUNNY DAY CAMP



On a dark night in early December 2021, entirely out of season, tornadoes tore across eight states, killing more than 80 people and devastating many communities. Just eight months later, on a warm Saturday in July, two Disciples churches and several community organizations made sure that dozens of children impacted by those winter storms in western Kentucky spent time outside with friends and caregivers, reveling in a bright and sunny day.

As their churches were recovering from the storms, caring for their members and communities, and even hosting long-term recovery volunteers, pastors at First Christian Church of Madisonville and First Christian Church of Princeton dreamed of a way to connect with the region's youngest survivors—children from kindergarten to fifth grade who were affected by the tornadoes.

How could they care for children who had been through so much, so little of it they could understand? In the season after such fear, how could these children feel loved and have access to the care they needed? How could the church help them blossom and flourish—how could they, in the words of Lamentations, rise up anew?

With the support of Week of Compassion; gifts and volunteers from both congregations; and the expertise of Children's Disaster Services (a Week of Compassion partner), a medical team at Baptist Health Deaconess Madisonville, and Child Life Disaster Services (a local network of specialists with expertise in trauma, positive coping, and resilience), the Sunny Day Camp was born.

Children spent an entire day, at no cost to their families, going about perfectly typical day camp fare at the Western Kentucky 4-H Camp: canoeing, crafts, swimming, meals and snacks. And alongside these gifts of normalcy, trained professionals provided age-appropriate opportunities for processing grief and trauma. Children connected with therapy animals, worked with disaster relief counselors, and had a local physician available for care onsite.

A living witness to God's constant mercies, and committed to healing and wholeness especially among the youngest and most vulnerable, these churches and their local partners put your Week of Compassion gifts to work, transforming suffering into hope, so that churches, communities, and children can rise up anew, together.



Our hope is rooted and nourished by God's steadfast, abundant, enduring, ever-in-supply and in season compassion. Remembering the compassion of God can ease the pain of what seems like a never-ending news cycle of devastation.

*Yet it is because I remember all this that I have hope. YHWH's favor is not exhausted, nor has God's compassion failed. They rise up anew each morning, so great is God's faithfulness. (Lamentations 3:21-23, The Inclusive Bible)*

Singing this promise can give us the strength of heart to **RISE UP ANEW** when our hearts are weary from the work of caring about and for all those in need in this beautiful and broken world.

When rains come and waters rise, generosity follows close behind.

When fires rage and destruction looms, support and help are stirred up too.

When war and disease and drought are too close for too long, compassion comes closer, and God's mercies are made known through the gifts of God's people.

Through domestic disaster response in familiar communities; preparedness training



Photo Credits: First CC Princeton KY

for congregations and individuals; refugee response in the aftermath of national conflicts; and ecumenical partnerships that engage international disaster response and support basic human needs for shelter, food, education, and livelihoods Week of Compassion proclaims this truth: God's mercies **RISE UP ANEW** each day.

Because of your generosity, Week of Compassion meets people and communities in the midst of grief and lament, in the deepest moments of 'How could this happen?', as the very real presence of God's unfailing compassion.



## SPECIAL OFFERING 2023 FEBRUARY 19-26

As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, with a vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

