



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

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

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

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

*Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m*

## MARCH 2023



# DISCIPLE DIGEST

## First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



MARCH 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**

#### **A LITMUS TEST OF LOVE**

When I was a kid I remember a time when my caregiver, Betty, decided to make fudge. She had all these wonderful ingredients assembled on the kitchen table. And, in the double boiler, she placed squares of chocolate. Lovely smells wafted around the room, as she busily stirred and bustled!

I checked out the double-boiler and asked Betty for a taste. She told me I could have some when it was ready - but I just insisted with little, begging puppy eyes. Betty warned me I wouldn't like it, but I didn't listen much less believe her. My nose told me a different story.

As if to teach me the grand scheme of patience, Betty relented and gave me a taste. It was **horrible** and so bitter! It wasn't like chocolate at all. Yet it looked and smelled like chocolate. Betty just giggled at my sour face - it was chocolate alright...just chocolate. YUCK!

And, that was the problem... it was nothing BUT chocolate. It lacked the ingredients most essential toward making it taste really good - it lacked flavoring and a sort of sweetness to it. After that moment, I had not the slightest bit of interest in chocolate until years later when I discovered dark chocolate (but, that is another story!).

This lack of sweetness was much like the Corinth church 2,000 years ago. Most of the believers were extremely excited about their faith, and they were a people with tremendous gifts in the community, like exceptional teachers and professionals, healers and those who could even speak in tongues. There were those who could lead worship and preachers who possessed the ministry of prophecy. The word of God was proclaimed daily...the gospel message rang out the word that Jesus had raised from the dead; all who believed in him could receive forgiveness for their sins, and would have eternal life. Everything you ever wanted in a vital church was happening right in their midst -

But one thing!

*The church failed the love test. It didn't have enough sweetness or love in it to go around as the church tended toward creating a superiority (idolatry) of themselves instead of just worshipping Jesus.*



Stated another way, the thirteenth chapter of Corinthians is probably a favorite of many, and especially at weddings. But, this chapter is all about agape (unconditional love of community) not the love of a couple! I think many weddings in the Christian community read it for the wedding ceremony because of its beauty. But, when Paul wrote it he wasn't thinking about weddings or that kind of love at all - though he does do some of that in other passages. It was love (agape) in a body of believers. So, instead, he was trying to show this church that, in the end, nothing mattered more than: are you living out the love (agape) of Christ?

Love - *the kind of love that God has for all of us* – that is the yardstick measure: a litmus test of our faith.

The Corinth church possessed wonderful spiritual gifts - people were healed at their meetings, and the word of God was proclaimed. In addition, people were clothed, fed and prayed for – yet, in the spirit of unkindness, it sometimes left a bad taste in the community, such as a sense of arrogance and false piety because of the church's abundances. The lesson for us, then, as we enter the Easter Season is to be humble. It doesn't matter if you have faith enough to say to a mountain MOVE! And, it does. But, more importantly if you have not love - *you and those mountains, as well as power, are a big heap of nothing.*

Bottom line, *love is the true litmus test of our faith.* How do they know us? They will know we are Christians by our love. Do we come together as individuals, at work, in families, and even as a church? Should we be concerned about taking this agape (brotherly and sisterly love) lightly? I think not. I repeat: *Love is the test of our faith – and, it is the test of each one of our lives...*so, let us examine ourselves at this Lenten time. Let's take the litmus test! We can use these questions for guidance:

- Am I focused on Christ or on myself?
- Do I ever think others are better and others worse?
- Do I treat some people with impatience or less reverence?
- Am I showing the love of God to others - doing what Jesus would do?
- Do I allow Jesus to work through me or am I trying to control results (which is really God's job, not mine)?
- Am I allowing my feelings, my frustrations, *my needs, my pride, my talent*, to dominate my interactions with others?

Prayer:

There is always more growing in faith for me to do. AGAPE is a great measure of just how much growing in the faith I need. Dear Jesus, abide in my love...one minute, one hour, or one day at time. Help me, O God to receive it and to turn to you for help to pass the love test. May you and I abide in each other always. Amen

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

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

**THANK YOU  
TO  
MY BELOVED FIRST CHRISTIAN FAMILY**



My Grocery Shopper and the one who did my laundry. My driver who took me to: the hospital for X-rays, Cardio, and Doctors. All these necessary things I have not been able to do since January 3, 2023,

DWM: The Prayer Shawl filled with PRAYERS. THE DELICIOUS FOOD AND BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS—ALL BROUGHT WITH SMILES, LOVE AND THANKS. "Ye ole ankle" is still in the boot, but I am told-healing.

I really appreciate your kindness and MY PRAYERS ARE WITH ALL OF YOU.

Blessings,  
Virginia

### Comfort in Mourning:

### Healing Prayers:

Amanda Bok  
 Betty Clark  
 Don & Joann Brockhause  
 \*Sharon Cooper  
 Kelly Kochensparger  
 Steven Osbourne  
 \*Charlie & Sue Simpson  
 Nicholas Schlueter



### Continuing Concerns:

Thaniel Bulau  
 Dave Foltz  
 Veronica Kromer  
 Kenny Santo  
 Nursing Homes  
 Ukraine

\*Denotes Members



## Lenten Lunch Schedule

All Lunches are held at the First Presbyterian Church  
 at noon

March 1st-United Methodist Church  
 March 8th-Divine Mercy Catholic Church  
 March 15th-St. Paul Lutheran Church  
 March 22nd-Host First Christian Church  
 March 29th-Nazarene Church

### Flowers For Worship:

03/05  
 03/12 Joan Tope-In Memory of Jerry  
 03/19 Jack Moore-In Memory of Marie  
 03/26

### ATTENDANCE

1/29 54  
 2/05 50  
 2/12 60  
 2/19 48



### Nursing Home Residents..

#### The Gardens

\*Romaine Boundy

#### Van Crest of Payne

\*Velma Albert

#### Military:

Cameron Cramer

### MARCH SERVERS

#### Elders

Max Hibbard  
 Bruce Gunderman

#### Worship Leaders

Larry Grace

#### Greeters

Corey Harris  
 Nicole Harris

#### First Scripture Reader

Matt Strayer



03/03 Memphis Gunderman  
 03/03 Mark Wooten  
 03/04 Ethan Egnor  
 03/04 Braxton Ricker  
 03/08 Susan Simpson  
 03/17 Trevor Hibbard  
 03/18 Jack Moore  
 03/19 Eliana Hormann  
 03/20 Wanda Rohlf  
 03/21 Alexandra Cardin  
 03/22 Vince Reinhart  
 03/22 Brent Townley  
 03/27 Josh Lero  
 03/27 Rachel Nicelley  
 03/30 Dennis Vance



03/06 Tony & Sheryl Garza  
 03/16 Dave & Dawn Carlisle  
 03/26 Seth & Nicki Smith

### Easter Flowers

If you would like to bring in flowers for the Easter Season the Worship Committee welcomes your thoughtfulness. All flowers may be taken home after the Easter Service.



### Child Dedication



If you are interested in having your child dedicated during a worship service, please contact the office.



### 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.

If you are interested in baptism, we would like you to work with the Pastor, please contact the office and the Pastor will get back with you.



## FROM THE ELDERS

A devotion by Dave Branon entitled The Loneliest Man

On July 20, 1969, Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin stepped out of their lunar landing module and became the first humans to walk on the surface of the moon. But we don't often think about the third person on their team, Michael Collins, who was flying the command module for Apollo 11.

After his teammates clambered down the ladder to test the lunar surface, Collins waited alone on the far side of the moon. He was out of touch with Neil, Buzz, and everyone on earth. NASA's mission control commented, "Not since Adam has any human known such solitude as Mike Collins."

There are times when we feel completely alone. Imagine, for instance, how Joseph, Jacob's son, felt when he was taken from Israel to Egypt after his brothers sold him (Genesis 37: 23-28). Then he was thrust into further isolation by being thrown in prison on false charges (39: 19-20).

How did Joseph survive in prison in a foreign land with no family anywhere nearby? Listen to this: "While Joseph was there in the prison, the Lord was with him" (39: 20-21). Four times we're reminded of this comforting truth in Genesis 39.

Do you feel alone or isolated from others? Hold on to the truth of God's presence, promised by Jesus Himself: "Surely I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). With Jesus as your Savior, you're never alone.

**When do you feel most alone? How does God remind you that He's with you in your times of isolation?**

Dear Heavenly Father, please help me know, as You've promised in the Scriptures, that You're with me as You were with Joseph.

### **Children's Sunday School**

*Children's Sunday School continues to be held during worship following children's time. We have two classes, one for younger children and one for the older kids. If you would like to help at anytime, please contact Paul Long.*



### **Men's Group**

The Men's Group continues to meet the third Saturday of the month at 9 a.m. at the church.

All men are invited to attend. If you have questions, please contact Paul Long.



### **Disciples Women's Ministry**

The next DWM meeting is March 7th at 10 a.m. All women of the church are invited to attend.

We had a great time making Prayer shawls. Those who were unable to come to the church to make theirs are working at home. We will be blessing the shawls on March 5th during worship.

The Valentine lunch was well attended. We would like to thank everyone who donated supplies and who donated at the lunch. You are very much appreciated.

A special Thank You to those who responded to our letter. Your generous donations will help the DWM get back on track with our ministry.

We will be making noodles on March 6th and March 13th at 6 p.m. If you would like to bring supplies for this, please sign up on the bulletin board. If you have not been available to join us for noodle making in the past we would love for you to come in March. Noodles will be ready for purchase on March 19th.

We are very excited to be working together again as women of faith.





# Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

Caring & Sharing Food Pantry serves people in Paulding County who experience food insecurity – that’s 12.0% of the local population according to 2020 Feeding America data. Eligible people can visit the pantry two times per month and receive three days of food during each visit.

During 2022 C&S served an average of 145 households and 345 individuals per month. Stated another way, in 2022 C&S provided 12,426 days of food to the food insecure people of Paulding County. That is an increase of 65% over the total number of households served in 2021 and an increase of 40% of households served over pre-Covid 2019. Of those individuals served in 2022, 20% were children ages between 0 and 17 years, and 34% were seniors over age 60.

Most of the food C&S shares with our neighbors is donated. Thank you. For March we the pantry is in need of canned veggies such as corn, peas, mixed veggies, spinach, and pork-n-beans. (we have lots of green beans right now)

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

## Attention Graduates

If you are going to be a high school or a college graduate and would like to be recognized on graduation Sunday, please contact the office.

### Monthly Budget Needs

In order to meet our monthly budget needs We need an offering of \$10385.50 per month.



### COUNTERS

- 03/05 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 03/12 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 03/19 Max Hibbard, Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 03/26 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers



## First Christian Church Fund Summary Jan. 2023

01/30/2023 06:52 PM

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<i>Dates</i>	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	102 INITIAL ENVELOPE OFFERING	103 WEEK OF COMPASSION	115 Pass-Through	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	700 MENS GROUP	Total
01/01/2023	4,297.02	80.00	0.00	0.00	55.00	0.00	4,432.02
01/08/2023	2,030.75	10.00	0.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	2,055.75
01/15/2023	1,438.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,448.00
01/22/2023	762.75	0.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	50.00	837.75
01/29/2023	1,723.00	0.00	100.00	50.00	15.00	0.00	1,888.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,251.52</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>110.00</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>10,661.52</b>

*Susan K. Simpson, Financial Sec.*

## OUTREACH

Week of Compassion is the relief of refugees and development of mission funds of the Christian Church. (Disciples of Christ) in the US and Canada. We can support the people of Turkey & Syria giving to the Week of Compassion. We have helped build a hospital there, the hospital received little damage. There has been thousands killed, and the after socks are expected for weeks. I have hope God's compassion has never failed, God's presences has never failed, we pray we can help to see them through this.

Week of Compassion is responding in Ukraine and neighboring county's where people are fleeing for their safety.

Week of Compassion is supporting Ukrainians along their journey, welcoming and hosting refugees as they flee, getting them to safety, as they rebuild their lives.

Give to Week of Compassion. You can put your donation in an envelope and mark it Week of Compassion. We would like these donations the first and second weeks of March.

Thank You

The Outreach Committee

## Surrender



What a privilege and opportunity it is to utterly come to the end of one's hope — not only to run out of answers but to run out of questions. To be beyond fighting, to come to that suspended animation where we are so confused and so weak that we can neither fight [nor] run.

When you come to the end of yourself, you find the beginning of God. And there and nowhere else, you find the answers you seek. You find fulfillment for the longings of your soul.

—Max Anders

## Come be energized



After some time away from the church, author Donald E. Miller returned to the fold. He writes: "One thing that brought me back ... was asking simply: What are the alternatives to the church? Where are the communities that sanction the pursuit of meaning and truth as a legitimate enterprise? that have material and personal resources to assist in this search? that provide regular occasions for confession of failures? that renew and inspire? that provide a setting where children are nurtured? where family members can be buried? where births can be celebrated? where social issues can be debated?"

Miller concludes: "There are a number of institutions that deal with one or several of these questions, but historically the church has demonstrated its ability to energize all of these activities."

# 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.

May good luck be your friend in whatever you do, and  
may trouble be always a stranger to you



# March 2023

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

			<b>1</b> LENTEN LUNCH NOON First Presby Ch. WORSHIP/MEMB MEETING-6:30 P.M. TRUSTEES-7 P.M.	<b>2</b> BIBLE STUDY @ HOLLYWOOD CAFÉ-2:30 P.M.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> NOODLE MAKING- 6 P.M.	<b>7</b> DISCIPLES WOMENS MEETING-10 A.M.	<b>8</b> LENTEN LUNCH NOON First Presby Ch.	<b>9</b> BIBLE STUDY @ HOLLYWOOD CAFÉ-2:30 P.M.	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> DAYLIGHT SAVINGS	<b>13</b> NOODLE MAKING- 6 P.M.	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> LENTEN LUNCH NOON First Presby Ch.	<b>16</b> BIBLE STUDY @ HOLLYWOOD CAFÉ-2:30 P.M.		<b>18</b> MEN'S GROUP-9 A.M.
<b>19</b> ELDERS MEET- ING-8:30 A.M.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> LENTEN LUNCH NOON First Presby Ch.	<b>23</b> BIBLE STUDY @ HOLLYWOOD CAFÉ-2:30 P.M.	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> LENTEN LUNCH NOON First Presby Ch.	<b>30</b> BIBLE STUDY @ HOLLYWOOD CAFÉ-2:30 P.M.	<b>31</b>	

ELDERS: Max Hibbard & Bruce Gunderman  
WORSHIP LEADER: Larry Grace  
1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Matt Strayer  
GREETERS: Corey & Nicole Harris

## SERMONS & SCRIPTURE

3/05 Sermon: Make a Great Nation. Scripture: Genesis 12: 1-4a  
3/12 Sermon: Worship for the Disabled, Scripture Psalm 95 & John 4: 5-42  
3/19 Sermon: Wake "O" Sleeper, Scripture: 1 Samuel 16: 1-13  
3/26 Sermon: Messages of Hope, Scripture: Romans 8: 6-1

It's still winter ... but spring is near. It's Lent ... but we're pointed toward Easter. Keep us hopeful, Lord.



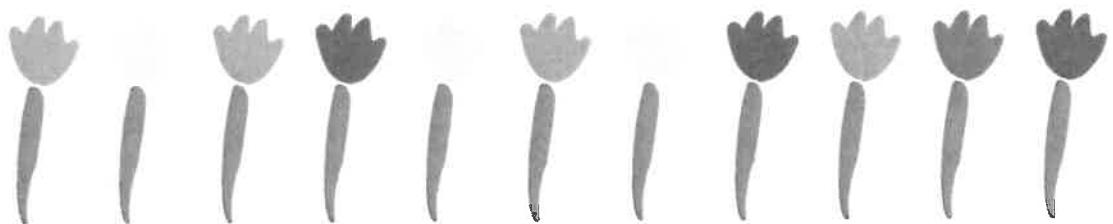
  
**Caring & Sharing**  
FOOD PANTRY

**SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023**

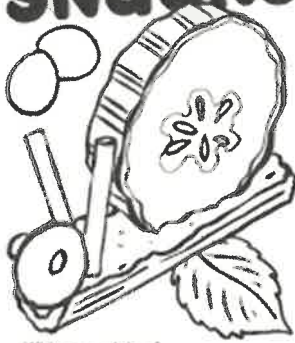
**Sing into  
Spring**  
COMMUNITY  
CONCERT

A musical  
celebration to benefit  
**Caring & Sharing  
Food Pantry  
Building Fund**

**St. Paul Lutheran Church, Paulding**  
**Dessert Bar 4:30 pm | Concert 6:00 pm**



# SPRINGTIME SNACKS



Whip up a plate of these cute, healthy treats!

### What you need:

- Celery sticks
- Cherry tomatoes
- Cucumber circles
- Olives
- Cream cheese spread
- Fresh basil leaves (optional)
- Adult help

### What you do:

1. Have an adult help you wash and cut the veggies.
2. Spread cream cheese inside the celery rods.
3. Place a cucumber circle upright in the cream cheese to make a bug body.
4. Add the tomato as a head.
5. Arrange basil leaves on a plate and place the veggie bugs on them.
6. Making different shaped bugs with your favorite veggies. Enjoy!



# A seasonal reminder

Signs of spring remind us of God's promises.

Directions: Use the picture code and clues to complete Isaiah 61:11, NIV.

plants grow here

to coil and jump  
(also a season of the year)

to expand and get bigger

seeds are planted in this

when watered, these make plants

another word for seedling

For as the \_\_\_\_\_ makes the \_\_\_\_\_

come up and a \_\_\_\_\_ causes

\_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_, so the

Sovereign LORD will make righteousness

and praise \_\_\_\_\_ up before all nations.



ISAIAH 61:11, NIV

Answer: sprout, garden, seeds, grow, spring

## Christian symbol



**SHAMROCK** — St. Patrick used the shamrock to teach people about the Godhead. Holding up a shamrock, he challenged them, "Is this one leaf, or three?" Inevitably, people replied that it was both, prompting St. Patrick to draw the analogy that so, too, is God: one God in three Persons — the Holy Trinity.

## Bible Quiz



In the Gospels, Jesus raised several people from death. Which of the following was not one of them?

- Tabitha
- Jairus's daughter
- A widow's son
- Lazarus

Answer: A (See Acts 9, Mark 5, Luke 7, John 11.)