



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

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

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

PHONE 419 399-4576  
WEBSITE: [firstccpaulding.org](http://firstccpaulding.org)  
EMAIL: [firstccpaulding@gmail.com](mailto:firstccpaulding@gmail.com)

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

*Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m*

## APRIL 2023



# DISCIPLE DIGEST

## First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



APRIL 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**

#### **STRUGGLES TO SACREDNESS**

By, Rev. Dr. Sandra S. Jenkins, CPC  
Pastor, First Christian (Disciples of Christ), Paulding, OH

Once, a man told me that I was “pretty enough.” The impression of that phrase sounded paltry – as if I was not good enough to compete with a more glamorous woman’s looks, or that somehow I was flawed in the beauty department. Nonetheless, I would do in a relationship. The locution conjured up all kinds of ideas, including not ever experiencing the sensation of being special long enough to be the apple of someone’s eye beyond my own father’s.

Leah (meaning languor and weakness), likewise, possessed a similar struggle. According to some Biblical Scholars, Leah possessed blurriness and weakness in her eyes, or at the least, lacked the kind of beauty her sister, Rachel, did. In short, competing in a day and time when a woman’s beauty and child bearing were the only two things that could probably save her life, Leah had to simply be more than better.

Beauty became the scintillating influences for a man to choose a wife. Plus, a woman without children, especially male children, equaled zero retirement guarantees: that is, a woman without a male heir could end up divorced in a society where such a practice could put her on the street, forcing her into prostitution. Leah, therefore, writhed ardently to earn affection from Jacob all the while competing with Rachel, who was both beautiful in appearance and body (Gen 29:17), and the only way Leah could do well was to provide Jacob with children.

Despite tensions between the sisterhood of Leah and Rachel, Leah became the leading matriarch of the twelve sons of Jacob because her womb was abundantly fertile whereas Rachel’s was not. It provided her an inspiration in life: she could birth sons, increasing wealth because males could own property whereas females were more burdensome as they had to be married. Further, she could make her position sturdier and undisputable having numerous children. In this way, even the beautiful Rachel could not compete.

Many women today probably won't win beauty contests, gain lofty recognitions, become very famous, necessarily make overt gestures of success to the general public, and may even contain several of life's scars to remind them of the pitiful struggle that the lack of beauty accompanies in their lives. Still, their plain goodness par excellence (as opposed to great external beauty) emerges from the depth of a *spark in their strength*. Such a spark contains more than its share of pain, similar to Leah's burden for wanting her husband's affections. That spark, regardless, bursts forth light in mesmerizing lessons to others, providing ingenious ways for women to become courageous, wise and strong pillars of their communities.

Garrison Keillor, a well-known storyteller and entertainer, articulated it another way, and with a bit more pounce. That is, Lake Wobegon, a fictional yet realistic setting of a regular hometown, possessed special characteristics, especially in its people, including that the *women were strong, men were good-looking, and all the children were above average*. In short, folks from this invented Lake Wobegon community tale encourage concepts of plain ol' good folks that emerge with a bit more veracity than the mere physical attributes. Specifically, mediocrity in this case means that beauty is not all that important or required!

Janis Ian's album, *Between the Lines*, clearly captures the lunacy of mere beauty and how the unlovely become the stronger, wiser vessels:

*I learned the truth at seventeen  
That love was meant for beauty queens  
And high school girls with clear-skinned smiles  
Who married young and then retired...*

Stated another way, clear-skinned beauty queens who marry young and retire may seem more sacred than others; however, they are not alone in the struggle for success in life. That is, anyone, fair or plain may struggle with independence, decision-making, leadership, etc.: it has little to do with looks. After all, a Proverbs 31 Woman who is filled to the brim with important decision-making duties (see Proverbs 31) may easily equate to today's busy women, working outside the home or not.

Struggles, in short, come in all shapes, sizes, and colors with no respecter of persons, male or female. Even in the animal kingdom, think of the caterpillar for instance. It forces its way out of a cocoon at birth, becoming a beautiful symbol of new life and formidability. But a butterfly without such a struggle dies. In short, sacredness is available to all, and is accompanied with a myriad of special gifts. So, onward with such Godly Gifts!



### Stations of the Cross/Silent Meditation

April 8th-10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The church will be open for the community to view a narration of the final hours in the life of Jesus Christ on earth. Or you may wish to pray in silence.

\*\*\*\*\*



*Thank you for all the Birthday Wishes.  
I appreciate it very much.*

Jack Moore



We are so truly grateful for all the prayers, cards, calls, helping hands, and well wishes that have been given to us during Charlie's ankle surgeries and recovery. Also, so thankful for ALL those that have been covering our church duties while we have been gone (counters, committees, Financial Sec.). Knowing others are there to help has allowed us to concentrate on getting Charlie "back on his feet" hopefully soon! It has been a struggle for us and Charlie still has a long way to go but the days are getting a little brighter every day. We feel so blessed to have such a loving, supportive church family!

God Bless,

Charlie & Susan Simpson



## FROM THE ELDERS

Here is a devotion by Sheridan Voysey entitled Be Humble Day

### Be Humble Day

I'm often amused by the unofficial holidays people come up with. February alone has a Sticky Bun Day, a Sword Swallowers Day, even a dog Biscuit Appreciation Day! Today has been labeled Be Humble Day. Universally recognized as a virtue, humility is certainly worth celebrating. But interesting, this hasn't always been the case.

Humility was considered a weakness, not a virtue, in the ancient world, which prized *honor* instead. Boasting about one's achievements was expected, and you sought to raise your status, never lower it. Humility meant inferiority, like a servant to a master. But all this changed, historians say, at Jesus' crucifixion. There, the One who was "in very nature God" gave up His divine status to become "a servant" and "humbled himself" to die for others (Philippians 2: 6-8). Such a praiseworthy act forced humility to be redefined. By the end of the first century, even secular writers were calling humility a virtue because of what Christ had done.

Every time someone is praised for being humble today, the gospel is being subtly preached. For without Jesus, humility wouldn't be "good," or a Be Humble Day even thinkable. Christ relinquished His status for us, revealing through all history the humble nature of God.

**What would the world be like if humility was still a weakness?  
In what relationships can you imitate Jesus' humility today?**

I praise You, Jesus, for being the Humble One. And I desire to humble myself to You today as my only fitting response!

### 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 April 4th at 10 a.m. All women of the church are invited to attend. We have had very good attendance in the New Year. There is a survey available to help determine the best day and time to have our meetings. Please let your preference be known.

We made 23 Prayer shawls. Please remember if you know of someone who could benefit from the comfort of a shawl they are available.

The noodle making was well attended. Thank you to everyone who came and helped. Thank you to those who donated supplies. We made 61 lbs of noodles. Thank you for all the donations to make the noodles and thank you to all the women and men who helped make them.

Thank you to those who donated and worked at the Lenten Lunch. Everything went very well.

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

**Comfort in Mourning:**

The family of Jack Wiswell  
The family of Michelle Schasier

**Healing Prayers:**

Velma Albert  
Amanda & David Bok  
Don & Joann Brockhaus  
Mr. & Mrs. Kennedy  
Sue Paulus  
Deanna Schroeder

**Continuing Concerns:**

Brian Bennett  
Thaniel Bulau  
Dave Foltz  
Veronica Kromer  
Kenny Santo  
Charlie & Susan Simpson  
Nursing Homes  
Ukraine

\*Denotes Members



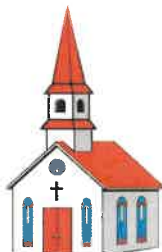
Palm Sunday-April 2nd at FCC at 10 a.m.  
Maundy Thursday Service At FCC-April 6th at 7 p.m.  
Community Good Friday Service-April 7th at noon at The United Methodist Church  
Stations of the Cross -April 8th at FCC from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Community Easter Sunrise Service-April 9th at 7 a.m. at the First Presbyterian Church  
Easter Service-April 9th-10 a.m. at FCC

**Flowers For Worship:**

04/02 Dee & Denise Renollet-In Honor of Sarah's 95th Birthday  
04/09 Charlie & Sue Simpson-In Honor of our 35th Anniversary  
04/16 Max & Donna Hibbard  
04/23  
04/30 Corey & Nicole Harris-In Honor of Kyle's Birthday

**ATTENDANCE**

2/26 41  
3/05 54  
3/12 43  
3/19 41



**Nursing Home Residents..**

**The Gardens**  
\*Romaine Boundy

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

**Military:**  
Cameron Cramer

**APRIL SERVERS**

**Elders**  
Larry Grace  
Gary McClure

**Worship Leaders**  
Deb Santo

**Greeters**  
Tracy Gunderman

**First Scripture Reader**  
Leah Gunderman



04/01 Matthew Strayer  
04/07 Mick Coak  
04/09 Lori Clark  
04/09 Brett Mawer  
04/12 Tony Garza  
04/12 Leah Gunderman  
04/13 Carol Moore  
04/16 Donna Hibbard  
04/18 Destyne Carlisle  
04/19 Tabrina Vance  
04/23 Melissa Leslie  
04/24 Gina Vance  
04/25 Ross Myers  
04/25 Ann Reinhart  
04/25 Darla Smith  
04/26 Elise Laney  
04/26 Nicki Smith  
04/27 Julie Cook  
04/29 Kyle Harris  
04/30 Addyson Hormann  
04/30 Grayson Thompson  
04/30 Scarlet Thompson



04/08 Charlie & Sue Simpson  
04/14 Brian & Gina Vance  
04/19 Brian & Jennifer Aden



**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.



**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.



## Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

As you may know, in 2022 Caring & Sharing Food Pantry served 65% more households than we did in 2021. That trend is continuing. During January and February of this year we have helped 30% more households and 32% more people than during the same months in 2022. Thank you for helping serve our neighbors.

People can sign up for C&S emails using this link: <http://eepurl.com/ighENZ>

Most of the food C&S shares with our neighbors is donated. Thank you. For April 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)



I PLEASE GOD WHEN I RELATE TO  
OTHERS WITH LOVE



### 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.

**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.



WHY DO YOU SEEK THE  
LIVING ONE AMONG THE  
DEAD? HE IS NOT HERE.

*He has risen.*



### COUNTERS

- 04/02 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 04/09 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 04/16 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 04/23 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers
- 04/30 Charlie Simpson, Joan Tope, Dan Workman

### First Christian Church Fund Summary

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	102 INITIAL ENVELOPE OFFERING	103 WEEK OF COMPASSION	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	205 New Church Roof	300 YOUTH GROUP	500 CAPITAL IMPROVEMEN T	700 MENS GROUP	Total
02/05/2023	2,987.33	5.00	145.00	55.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,192.33
02/12/2023	1,928.75	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	1,953.75
02/19/2023	1,341.00	0.00	10.00	10.00	200.00	0.00	105.63	105.00	1,771.63
02/26/2023	1,370.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,370.00
Total	7,627.08	5.00	155.00	70.00	200.00	20.00	105.63	105.00	8,287.71

# 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.

You are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it. 1 Corinthians 12:27



# April 2023

Sun

Mon




Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

							1
2  PALM SUNDAY <small>PhotoStock - 374692254</small>	3	4 DISCIPLES WOM- ENS MINISTRY-10 A.M. 	5 WORSHIP/ MEMBERSHIP/ TECH MEETING- 6:30 P.M.	6 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE 7 P.M. AT FCC	7 COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE-NOON AT THE UNITED METHODIST	8 STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT FCC-- 10 A.M. TO 3 P.M.	
9 COMMUNITY EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE-7 A.M. FIRST PRESBY- TERIAN CHURCH  EASTER SERVICE AT FCC-- 10 A.M.	10	11	12 STEWARDSHIP/ FINANCE MEET- ING-6:30 P.M.	13	14	15 MEN'S GROUP-9 A.M. 	
16	17	18 BOARD MEETING -7 P.M.	19	20	21	22	
23 GIDEON MOMENT FOR MISSIONS	24	25	26	27	28	29 PASTOR PANCAKE BRUNCH 11 A.M.-1P.M. AT THE PARSON- AGE	
30							

ELDERS: Larry Grace & Gary McClure  
 WORSHIP LEADER: Deb Santo  
 1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Leah Gunderman  
 GREETERS: Tracy Gunderman

## SERMONS & SCRIPTURE

4/02 Sermon: Triumphal Entry of Jesus, Psalm 118: 1-9 & Matthew 21: 1-11  
 4/09 Sermon: Glorious Resurrection, Jeremiah 31: 1-6 & Colossians 3: 1-4  
 4/16 Sermon: Boundaries, Acts: 24: 13-25 & 1 Peter 1: 3-11  
 4/23 Sermon: Holly Spirit Power, Acts 2: 4-12, Luke 24: 13-35  
 4/30 Sermon: God's Comfort, John 10: 1-10 & Psalm 23



## Regional Opportunities

Please visit [ccinoh.com](http://ccinoh.com) webpage for more details or come to the church office.

Spring  
Retreat  
April 28-30, 2023

Join us at Camp Christian  
as we reunite in:

- Shalom/Peace
- Gentleness
- Generosity
- Patience
- Love
- Self-Control/Awareness
- Joy/ Gratitude
- Faithfulness/Discernment
- Kindness

We hope to return to this sacred ground where we will further hone our understanding of spiritual gifts, what they mean to us and where we can use them in the world

Save  
the Date

DISCIPLES FELLOWSHIP RETREAT  
MAY 26-28, 2023 AT CAMP CHRISTIAN

**KINDOM  
OF GOD  
WITHIN US  
AMONG US**

GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

*July 29 - August 1, 2023 - Louisville*

\*\*\*\*\*

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. This years donations will be sent to the Paulding Dog Kennel. We do love our animals and they operate mainly on donations. Please fill out the form below and return it to the office.

### LILY BLOOM FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_

DEADLINE TO TURN IN FORMS IS APRIL 2nd.



## How Jesus says your name

It's been said that when someone loves you, they say your name differently. Your name is "safe" coming from their mouth.

Mary Magdalene found this to be true. Walking alone in the dark to Jesus' tomb, she wanted nothing less than for a concerned loved one to interrupt her private grief, crooning her name in pity: "Oh, Mary, there, there." Or worse, someone from her old life who would spit her name like a curse, not knowing that Jesus had cast out her demons. But then Mary saw the tomb open and panicked, ran to get Simon, hurried back to the garden. Angels addressed her — not by name, just "Woman ..." — and then a gardener: "Woman ..."

Except then — "Mary" — this man knew her after all, speaking her name so knowingly, tenderly, lovingly that she recognized him. "Mary." Her name was safe in his mouth, her life safe in his care. He wasn't the gardener. He was her teacher, her friend, her Savior.

Friend, your name also is safe in Jesus' mouth, your life safe in his care, for he loves you deeply.

## The God who hides

Isaiah declares, "Truly, you are a God who hides himself, O God of Israel, the Savior" (45:15, ESV). But why would God hide? Isn't our knowing God the point? Martin Luther explained that God hides in unexpected places so as not to be found where the world assumes a god would be — in power, status, fame, wealth — but to be found in weakness, humility and places of suffering.

"Those who have found God in the cross of Jesus Christ," said 20<sup>th</sup>-century theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, "know how wonderfully God hides himself in this world and how he is closest precisely when we believe him to be most distant." So God assures us of his presence in the humble manger, among the poor and outcast during his ministry, in the excruciating suffering of the cross, and with us in every struggle.

God hides not to avoid us but so we will discover him precisely where we need him most, and where others need us most.

## Complete trust, even amid suffering

In a Good Friday column written during the pandemic, Michael Gerson said anguish is warranted in the face of death. As Jesus suffers on the cross, he asks why his Father has forsaken him. To Gerson, this proves that "anguish and questioning are not sins or weaknesses. They are the proper responses to the horrors of death. In the ninth hour, God gave permission for confusion. He dignified doubt."

But Christ's final words — committing himself into his Father's hands — "ring a different note," adds Gerson. "This was more than resignation; it was trust. In the end, [Jesus] found, not an answer, but a person — someone capable of reversing the verdict of Good Friday. That is all we are promised, and it is more than enough."

## Vibrant belief

The disciples did not bother to try to understand the resurrection body. They doubted, and then they believed. They believed something so wonderful that it changed this broken, fragmented, beaten-down little group of men and women in a moment from depression to enthusiasm, from despair to new life, vibrant and unafraid.

# PUZZLE

## SEEING AND BELIEVING

Until Thomas saw Jesus' nail scars with his own eyes, he doubted the resurrection. What did Jesus tell Thomas?

Directions:  
Use the code to fill in the vowels and complete John 20:29, NIV.



"B \_ c \_ \_ s \_ y \_ \_ h \_ v \_ s \_ \_ n m \_ ,  
 y \_ \_ h \_ v \_ b \_ l \_ \_ v \_ d ;  
 bl \_ ss \_ d \_ r \_ th \_ s \_ wh \_ h \_ v \_ n \_ t  
 s \_ \_ n \_ nd y \_ t h \_ v \_ b \_ l \_ \_ v \_ d ."

JOHN 20:29, NIV

Answer: "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." John 20:29, NIV

## Bible Quiz



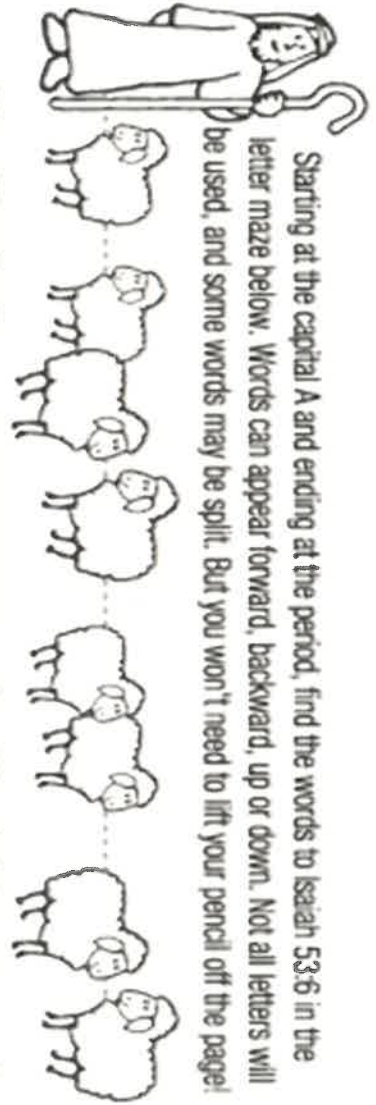
The night before Jesus' crucifixion, he demonstrates humble service by washing his disciples' \_\_\_\_\_.

- A. hands
- B. feet
- C. hair
- D. supper dishes

## Puzzle!

Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to Isaiah 53:6 in the letter maze below. Words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!

# Puzzle!



Starting at the capital A and ending at the period, find the words to Isaiah 53:6 in the letter maze below. Words can appear forward, backward, up or down. Not all letters will be used, and some words may be split. But you won't need to lift your pencil off the page!

Allwelikesbelievewaywecommandsotherighteousnessof  
 gospeltorevealstarttestimonyofrighteousnessof  
 rightaspraisedwillofaputownwayapohumcornersto  
 heavenourisagoneadogivscaruotgercorlaidoireasonsus  
 returncaphavent rustedeaallturnedrespossesnruths.lla

Answer: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have all turned to our own way, and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all. Isaiah 53:6, NRSV



**We Are**  
*Witnesses*

Acts 10:39

**SUNDAY**  
**April 2**  
**and 9, 2023**

Supporting general ministries of the  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
received in most congregations



# We Are Witnesses

Acts 10:39

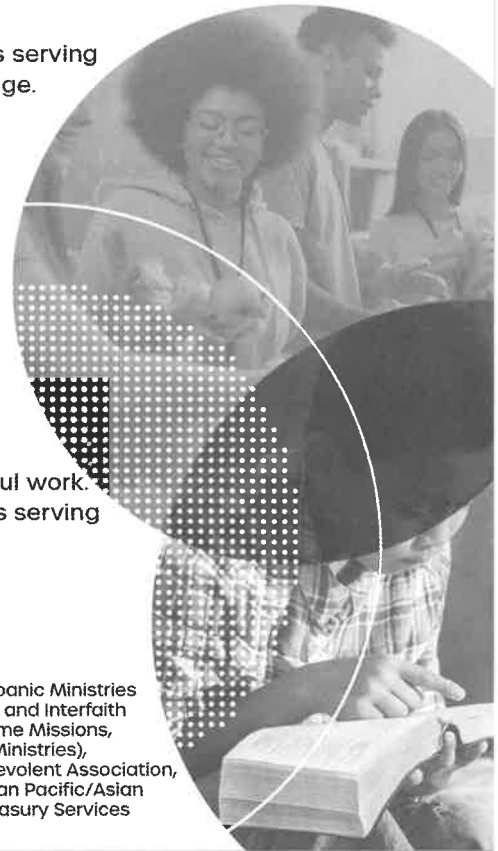
Supporting general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
received in most congregations

## Sunday April 2 and 9, 2023

On Easter, we rejoice in the good news that God's love is more powerful even than death itself. Gifts to the Easter Special Offering support ministries that help Disciples witness to that good news.

General ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) witness to God's love through:

- Relationships with global mission partners serving in communities impacted by climate change.
- Health and social service ministries that meet basic needs for neighbors.
- Mental health resources for pastors and congregations.
- New congregations worshiping in a variety of languages and worship styles.
- Leadership development programs that nurture new leaders in the church and the world.
- Stewardship education for congregations to grow in their practice of generosity.
- Opportunities like the General Assembly, where the church can gather for worshipful work.
- Support for hospital and military chaplains serving around the world.
- And so much more...



**The Easter Offering supports these general ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)**

Center for Faith and Giving, Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries (Obra Hispana), Communication Ministries, Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women, Division of Overseas Ministries (Global Ministries), Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, National Benevolent Association, National Convocation, New Church Ministry, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples, Office of the General Minister and President, Treasury Services

**We are witnesses to the power of God's love, from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth. Please give generously in your congregation on April 2 and 9, or make a gift at [disciplesmissionfund.org/give](https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give).**