



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

DISCIPLE DIGEST

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

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WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.

Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m

MAY 2023



DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



MAY 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

COINCI-GODLY

The Pursuit of Wisdom Brings Stability in Jesus

1 My son [child], if you will receive my words

And treasure my commandments within you,

2 So that your ear is attentive to [skillful and godly] wisdom,

And apply your heart to understanding [seeking it conscientiously and striving for it eagerly];

3 Yes, if you cry out for insight,

And lift up your voice for understanding;

4 If you seek skillful and godly wisdom as you would silver

And search for her as you would hidden treasures;

5 Then you will understand the [reverent] fear of the LORD [that is, worshiping Him and regarding Him as truly awesome]

And discover the knowledge of God. 1 Proverbs 2: 1-5.

This passage is the one that teaches how difficult it would be to look away from wisdom. We can pray for this understanding as it is a profound critical component toward securing joy permanently. That is, by seeking wisdom as much as possible at all times! It seems to appear as another side of that joy, even in negativity, as it explains that one can seek wisdom above all else. Stated another way, the negativity appears at will, and is rarely received by some as a passage of time that is meant to be. Yet, actually, seeing it that way requires faith to manage it since it rarely goes away quickly. As such, the term Coinci-Godly was born.

The words jumped out as if I was watching the Superman Movie, with letters and music, complete with the da...da...da...DA! Who could look away from that? This awesome knowledge of God can bring some refreshing breaths of real understanding to one's soul, and not only from this passage. Think about times that we run late. Could it be that God's Divine Coinci-Godly simply keeps us from being in an accident? So, keeping our eyes focused on any wisdom from the Lord just might be the ticket! The idea of those precious wisdoms (Coinci-Godlies) can bring peace and joy, becoming new perspectives on life. Some may say that is merely maturity, and perhaps so. Still, much more, too, might be going on at the same time, like a Coinci-Godly, too?

As a trilingual person, I discovered that the simplest of meanings pertaining to the Word of God in one language does not always translate clearly from one country or culture to another. For instance, in one culture a form of food, such as rice, is defined as a seedling, planted, still in the ground, growing, cooked, in a banana leaf, and so on. 2 So, meaning makes its way by whatever language, setting, or place, and seems to harbor into one's soul within one's culture to enlighten and help the person understand. But, we may not wish to run with that cultural understanding alone lest we skip over another important wisdom that God

might teach us, such as the Coinci-Godly. For that reason, the Amplified Bible is a very impressive concordance of poetry gently blended with a bottomless pit of understanding God, often using many expressive words in multiple languages and transposed into our own (English). For example, one of the meanings of turn the other cheek in Matt 5:39 is not as many think - about a person acting as a sort of martyr or someone who simply gave the other cheek for the offender to slap once more, releasing additional rage. Rather, it might be learning that anyone who tries to violate your rights could not do so because it was of little alarm to argue about. In other words, turning the other cheek could be more about letting the issue pass when someone simply tries to offend you by calling you out or insulting you 3 . Stated another way, a retaliation (if someone tries to harm or insult) is not worth the extra effort.. What a revelation! It provides a whole new meaning on the idea of when and why someone gets angry about anything, and that anger could be more a choice rather than some normal way to behave. Out of that idea birthed new truths that one can share with others. I call it:

A COINCI-GODLY!

Coinci-Godlies (CG) occur when one refuses to look away, yet regardless of the situation, continues to love all the people involved in the situation, all the while, confident that invariably the invisible, immortal

GREAT God of the Universe shows up in the most unexpected places and times. I suppose that a desire to acquire wisdom has something to do with that, as Scripture states in Proverbs 4:7, with all you can, acquire wisdom and understanding.

Onward to that wisdom!

1 Amplified Bible, <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Proverbs+2%3A1-5&version=AMP>

2 See: <https://www.a-ibs.com/en/blog/article/six-japanese-words-that-describe-rice.html>

3 Amplified Bible, Matthew 5:39.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew%205:39&version=AMP>



LILY CROSS BLOOMS

Sharon Cooper	In Honor of My Family In Memory of Rollin & John, Raymond & Mildred Grimes.
Betty Ganger	In Honor of Family In Memory of John & Gene Commers
Herm Guelde	In Memory of Jean Guelde
The Harris Family	In Memory of Jim & Joann Harris & Bob Leslie
Donna Hibbard	In Honor of Joshua Hibbard & family and Aaron & Alesha Hibbard & family In Memory of Max & Norma Hibbard Sr. and Don & Loretta Stocker.
Rev. Dr. Sandra Jenkins	In Memory of Rev. Dr. George & June Megill
Genelta Levos	In Honor of Family In Memory of Sam
Nana & Papa	In Honor of Cady, Clark, Caia & Carter.
Dee & Denise Renollet	In Honor of Family In Memory of Loved Ones
Joan Tope	In Honor of Family In Memory of Jerry Tope
Jacqueline Walker	In Honor of Family. In Memory of Sidney Walker.

Comfort in Mourning:

Healing Prayers:

*Velma Albert

Bill

*Jean Bulau

*Sharon Cooper

*Stacey Friend

Joe Philpot

Jerry Price

Continuing Concerns:

Brian Bennett

Don & Joann Brockhaus

Thaniel Bulau

Dave Foltz

Mr & Mrs. Kennedy

Sharon Kline

Veronica Kromer

Kenny Santo

Deanna Schroeder

Charlie & Susan Simpson

Raegan Wonderly

Nursing Homes

Ukraine



Nursing Home Residents..

The Gardens

*Romaine Boundy

Van Crest of Payne

*Velma Albert

Military:

Cameron Cramer



MAY SERVERS

Elders

Matt Strayer

Jan Commers

Worship Leaders

Jan Commers

Greeters

Deb Santo

Angela Bowers

First Scripture Reader

Max Hibbard

Ross Myers



5/05 Kelcie Pack

5/06 Haylie Lero

5/11 Angela Bowers

5/13 Shirley Workman

5/16 Susan Knapp

5/16 Jessica McDonald

5/18 Julie Pack

5/23 Mike Mudel

5/25 Aaron Hibbard

5/27 Devon Smith

5/28 Ben Gunderman



5/14 Bruce & Anna Gunderman

5/15 Gary & Tammy Boroff

5/16 Ted & Camie Stallbaum

5/21 Harry & Kelly Ricker

5/30 Greg & Ann Reinhart



Pentecost Sunday

May 28th

Please wear red and bring a red geranium to decorate the sanctuary that will be planted outside so we will be able to enjoy them all summer. Cupcakes and beverages will be served following worship.

Happy Mother's Day!



May Sundays

May 7th-DWM hosting lunch following the service.

May 14th Mother's Day

May 21st-Graduation Sunday

May 28th- Pentecost Sunday,

Cupcakes following worship

Flowers For Worship:

05/07 Josh & Carrie Lero-In Honor of Haylie's Birthday

05/14

05/21

05/28 Griffith Family-In Honor of Genelta & Leonard's Anniversary

ATTENDANCE

3/26 57

4/02 58

4/06 18 Maundy Thursday

4/09 59 Easter

4/16 36

4/23 52



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 signup on the bulletin board. Cost is \$20.00 paid to the office.





FROM THE ELDERS

Here is a devotion by Mike Wittmer
Entitled Love Like Mom

Juanita told her nephew about growing up during the Great Depression. Her poor family only had apples to eat, plus whatever wild game her dad might provide. Whenever he bagged a squirrel for dinner, her mom would say, "Give me that squirrel head. That's all I want to eat. It's the best piece of meat." Years later Juanita realized there wasn't any meat on a squirrel's head. Her mom didn't eat it. She only pretended it was a delicacy "so us kids could get more to eat and we wouldn't worry about her."

As we celebrate Mother's Day tomorrow, may we also recount stories of our mothers' devotion. We thank God for them and strive to love more like them.

Paul served the Thessalonian church "as a nursing mother cares for her children" (1Thessalonians 2:7). He "worked night and day in order not to be a burden to anyone while (he) preached the gospel of God to (them)" (v9). Just like Mom.

Few can resist a mother's love, and Paul modestly said his efforts were "not without results" (v.1). We can't control how others respond, but we can choose to show up, day after day., to serve them in a sacrificial way. Mom would be proud, and so will our heavenly Father.

Who has loved you sacrificially? Who are you loving as your heavenly Father loves you?

Father, no one could love me more than You.

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 May 2nd at 10 a.m. All women of the church are invited to attend.

Three Prayer Shawls were given out this past month. Please remember these are available.

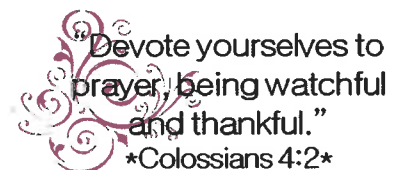
If you are interested in helping shut ins who might need supplies picked up, driven to an appointment or a meal we will be starting a list of helpers. Please contact Suzy Strayer or Denise to be on the list.

Profit from the noodles was \$315.00. YAH!! Sadly one of the older mixers did not survive the process. The DWM voted at the April meeting to replace the mixer.

We will be hosting a congregational meal on May 7th following worship to honor all women.

The next women's meeting (May 2nd) we will be having a relaxation demonstration during the meeting. Please join us.

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





Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

The pantry could use these items this month: Dry or canned beans and pasta of all kinds, except spaghetti and mac-and-cheese.

The new building project is progressing. After re-quoting the project, we are now at 91% of the project goal. The contractor is working on finalizing architect drawing and getting state building permits.

The need for food continues to increase. The first three months of this year we have helped 35% more of our neighbors than during the same months in 2022.

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

Thanks
Dan Bulau

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH



Attention Graduates

We will be recognizing our graduates during worship on May 21st. If you have not notified the office, that you will be in attendance, please call as soon as you can.



Thanks for Your Support!

Monthly Budget Needs

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



Outreach

The committee gave to Paulding Area Support Society \$400.00. Funds support 125 or more people with assisting for medical & medication, for physical challenges & Speech. We gave \$200.00 to Hospice, \$400.00 to the Cancer Society and \$100.00 to a family who is battling cancer.

COUNTERS

- 05/07 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 05/14 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 05/21 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 05/28 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers

First Christian Church Fund Summary

03/29/2023 01:40 PM

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	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	104 SPECIAL HOLIDAY-EAS TER	115 Pass-Through	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	Total
03/05/2023	2,652.50	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,652.50
03/12/2023	950.15	0.00	20.00	10.00	980.15
03/15/2023	1,035.99	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,035.99
03/19/2023	2,327.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	2,342.00
03/26/2023	1,545.75	50.00	65.00	0.00	1,660.75
Total	8,511.39	50.00	100.00	10.00	8,671.39



2023 Graduates



Eternity Bassler will be graduating from Paulding High School. She is currently working part time at The Gardens and will be pursuing a career in nursing. She is the daughter of Jodi Perl and Jay Bassler.

Braxton Ricker will be graduating from Paulding High School. He plans to attend the BF Goodrich Tech-Scholar Program at Ivy Tech, Fort Wayne, In. He plans to be an electrical apprentice at BF Goodrich. This summer he will be working some and taking it easy as he prepares to start the program in the fall. He would like to thank the members of the church for guiding him and teaching him as he was growing up. Especially Pastor Biery and Pastor Seth. Braxton is the son of Harry & Kelly Ricker.

Briana Townley will be graduating from Defiance College. She will have a degree in education. She is the daughter of Brent & Leslie Townley.

Honor your mother

Anna Jarvis, the woman who first suggested a national day to honor mothers, had an incredible mother to honor. Her mom, Ann Reeves Jarvis (1832-1905), was a Sunday school teacher and activist who helped lower infant-mortality rates in Appalachia and promoted friendship among families of Civil War soldiers.

At a memorial service for her mother, Anna Jarvis distributed carnations — her mom's favorite flower — to attendees. Her idea to set apart one day each year for moms gained traction, and in 1914, President Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday of May Mother's Day. It was customary by then to wear white carnations in honor of departed mothers and red carnations to honor the living.

Of the white flowers, Jarvis said they "symbolize the truth, purity and broad-charity of mother love; its fragrance, her memory, and her prayers. The carnation does not drop its petals, but hugs them to its heart as it dies, and so, too, mothers hug their children to their hearts, their mother love never dying."

Life immortal

At the end of May, Americans honor those who've died for our country — and remember all deceased loved ones. These times of reflection, often in cemeteries, can make us ponder our own mortality. Even some Christians may fear the unknown of death.

Yet because of our faith, followers of Jesus can aim to make productive use of whatever earthly time we have left. We know the grave isn't the end. Consider this poetic description of life everlasting from Henry Wadsworth Longfellow: "Dust thou art, to dust returnest / was not spoken of the soul."

To our death-defying, death-defeating God we pray: Eternal God, empower us to take hold of the eternal life to which Christ calls us, and to boldly testify of it to anyone who asks the reason for our hope. To the immortal King of the ages, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel, to him be honor, glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

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 # 419 466-2005.

We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.
Romans 8:28

May 2023



Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1	2 DWM-10 a.m. Relaxation Demo During Meeting	3 Worship/ Membership/Tech- 6:30 p.m. Trustees-7 p.m.	4	5	6
7 Congregational Lunch to honor women follow- ing worship	8	9	10 Stewardship/ Finance Meeting- 6:30 p.m.	11	12	13 Ricker -Graduation -FS Hall
14 	15	16 Board Meeting 7 p.m.	17	18	19	20 Manz-FS Hall Mens Meeting- 9a.m.
21 Elders Meeting-8:30 a.m. Graduation Recognition	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 Pentecost Cupcakes following worship	29 MEMORIAL DAY MAY 29, 2023	30	31			

SERMONS & SCRIPTURE

ELDERS: Matt Strayer & Jan Commers

WORSHIP LEADER: Jan Commers

1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Max Hibbard & Ross Myers

GREETERS: Deb Santo & Angela Bowers

5/07 SERMON: The Royal Cornerstone, SCRIPTURES: Psalm 31: 1-5, 15-16 & 1 Peter 2: 2-10

5/14 SERMON: Joyful Noises, SCRIPTURES: Psalm 68: 8-20 & John 14: 15-21

5/21 SERMON: Well Being SCRIPTURES: Psalm 68: 1-10, 32-35 & John 17: 1-11

5/28 SERMON: Unknown Meditative Language SCRIPTURES: Psalm 104 24-35 & Acts 2: 1-21

Regional Opportunities

Please visit ccinoh.com webpage for more details or come to the church office.



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

THE 2023 ADULT CONFERENCE - JUNE 19 - 23 -

"ALL THINGS IN COMMON"
ACTS 2:42-47

Vespers



Rev. Loey Powel

Bible Study



Rev. Dr.
Donald K. Gillett, II

This year we are excited to expand The 2023 Adult Conference by welcoming members from The Heartland Conference United Church of Christ to join us in the week's festivities. Adult Conference is the "Camp" experience for those 30 and older. Each summer, we gather for a week-long conference of fellowship, worship, and opportunities to hear magnificent speakers, attend educational classes, and share the week with the amazing people.

Keynote Speakers you Can't Miss!



Rev. Allen Harris

Always Better Together The UCC/DOC Ecumenical Partnership

These two prestigious gentlemen will lead conferees in understanding and exploring the ecumenical partnership between these two faithful denominations.



Rev. David Long-Higgins

We Are One

This presentation will focus on the vital work of inclusion for the church to aspire to tell and exemplify God's love for every human being, including all who are LGBTQIA.



Rev. Dr. Judy A. Alston, Ph.D.

Facebook



<https://www.facebook.com/groups/246903652130>

Visit our website for registration and more detailed information, including teachers, classes, and other events.

Also, check out our Facebook page for the latest updates.

WE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU!

NORTHWEST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
COLUMBUS, OHIO, 43221 - 614-457-6290

Website



<https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/adult/adult-conference.aspx>

Spirit SPINNER

For Pentecost, make a thaumatrope, a spinning toy that creates an optical illusion of motion.

What you need:

- White paper
- Cup
- Scissors
- Pencil and markers
- Plastic drinking straw
- Glue



What you do:

1. Using the cup's circular shape, trace two identical circles on the paper. Carefully cut them out.
2. In pencil, draw a person's head on one circle. Then place the blank circle on top and use the image beneath to guide you in drawing a flame above the head.
3. Color the two images with markers.
4. Apply glue to the backs of the circles and sandwich the top of the straw between them so it looks like a lollipop. Let dry.
5. Roll the straw quickly between your hands to view a mini motion picture.



PUZZLE

Wind, fire & spirit

Acts 2 describes the amazing events of Pentecost, when the apostles received the Holy Spirit.

Directions: The last letter(s) of each word is the beginning letter of the next. Fill in the missing words to complete Acts 2:1-4, NIV.

1. HEAV []
2. [] ABLE
3. [] AY OF PENTECOS []
4. [] ONGUE
5. [] PIRI []
6. [] OGETHE []
7. [] ES
8. [] ONGUE
9. [] A
10. [] IND



"When the _____ came, they were all _____ in one place. Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent _____ came from _____ and filled the whole house where they were sitting. They _____ what seemed to be _____ of fire that separated and came to _____ on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy _____ and began to speak in other _____ as the Spirit _____ them."

ACTS 2:1-4, NIV

Answer: 1. heaven, 2. enabled, 3. day of Pentecost, 4. tongues, 5. Spirit, 6. together, 7. rest, 8. tongues, 9. saw, 10. wind

Bible Quiz



According to Peter, at what time of day did the Holy Spirit come upon the disciples on

Pentecost?

- A. 9 a.m.
- B. Noon
- C. 3:30 p.m.
- D. 9 p.m.

Answer: A (See Acts 2:15.)



WE ARE A MOVEMENT FOR *wholeness* IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD.

In the beginning, every church was new! It's right there in the Book of Acts. Early disciples came together, sharing all things in common, breaking bread with glad and generous hearts. **God was doing a new thing: creating a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.**

In the beginning, Jesus sent out disciples, two by two, not to "plant" churches, but to proclaim good news, to experience the hospitality and wisdom of neighbors all around. **God was doing a new thing: creating a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.**

At New Church Ministry, we believe God is calling the whole Church back to becoming new, back to becoming who we already are: a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.

Your gifts to the 2023 Pentecost Offering, received this year in most congregations on Sundays, May 21 and 28, help ensure our movement continues to embody the Disciples of Christ vision:

To be and to share the good news, witnessing, loving, and serving from our doorsteps to the ends of the earth.



Half of your gift supports the local new church movement through your region's ministry. The other half supports **New Church Ministry** efforts across the United States and Canada to equip, train, and empower new leaders.

Thank you for participating in the new thing God is STILL doing yesterday, today, and tomorrow!