



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

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

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

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**WEBSITE: [firstccpaulding.org](http://firstccpaulding.org)**  
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**WORSHIP SERVICE 10:00 A.M.**

*Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m*

# JUNE 2023



# DISCIPLE DIGEST

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



JUNE 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***

#### ***Family Systems and Groups in A Number of Settings, Part 1***

Given our brief and upcoming family week, I thought it might be interesting to take a look at expert and Psychiatrist Murray Bowen with his development of the family systems theory (FST) in 1978. The idea, briefly, is a concept of looking at a family as one, cohesive unit, regardless of how distant or close it is. Specifically, nearly 40 years ago it was Bowen (1978) suggested family members are *intensely* emotionally connected, impacting the lives and emotions of each family member in rather predictable ways given situations. In addition, each family member plays a specific role and is compelled to follow certain rules within the family system. Here are a few basic roles within a system that parallels with Bowen's descriptions:

**Hero** – often described as a perfectionist that brings a lot of positive ideals to the family, tweaking out the severity and intensity of the realities that truly exist as a result.

**Scapegoat** – frequently acts out, bringing negative attention while also overlooking the person who may be more co-dependent behavior, or blaming him or her as the one with the real issue.

**Lost Child** – will generally pull away, not wishing to be part of the family, bringing no attention to him or herself, finding comfort with others from outside the family system.

**Clown** – tends to use humor to mask the woundedness by acting out and experiencing it as at

**Enabler** – is the family member that keeps the addiction going. A classic example is a spouse calling into work for the alcoholic saying he or she is sick instead of hung over.

Essentially, the family is a group. Based on the characters within the system, people are expected to interact with and respond to one another in a certain way given their specific roles, often referred to as the merry-go-round since the same patterns emerge. To explain a bit more, over a long period of time and family development, each person settles into his or her role with relative comfort. Though often far from comfortable, the roles themselves become more and more familiar (yet sometimes dysfunctional) over time.

While this model is hardly mutually exclusive, patterns develop within most family systems, and each member's behaviors impact other members in predictable ways. Depending on the specific situation, these behavioral patterns can lead to either balance or dysfunction – or both – in the family at various points in time. Counselors frequently use either talk therapy (psychotherapy) or CBT (cognitive –based therapy) to interrupt a dysfunctional cycle.

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What one finds is that an uncle, brother, sister, or family member, can create a brief calm or even a steady familiarity or discomfort in the family *regardless of the acting out or confusion*. After sort of practicing these behaviors within family relationships or others within the person's social realm, therefore, it can work to help heal a person's family structure. That is, family members get hung up on how to disengage from a dysfunctional family system, but enacting roles for short periods of time can create similarly. I am not suggesting this approach is the healthiest way to live. But, depending on a person's environment or family system, it creates a badly needed calm long enough to get an individual to work through what could be a very challenging situation. What follows is an example of such a situation, using what I refer to as a LAPSE model:

- Listen to each one fully without judgment.
- Ask how Christ is comes to the person/s in question.
- Permit new ideas to germinate
- Seek deeper understanding.
- Evoke new perspectives.

*First, LISTEN.* Clear your mind as a person speaks, taking in what the speaker is trying to communicate, using kind attentiveness and patient understanding. Doing so creates a potential for open and healthier communication in the future. Further, listening can also reduce assumptions along the way.

*Second, ASK about CHRIST* and how one's faith might appear in the question. Instead of asking question after question, therefore, you might consider using restatements (without the urgency of questioning too much). In that way, the speaker can provide examples to help clarify his or her position.

*Third, open your mind to PERMIT new ideas.* The idea here is not necessarily to agree or disagree; rather, to simply marry some of the new ideas evolving in steps one and two. In that way, a clearer understanding may be allowed to grow.

*Fourth, SEEK additional understanding.* It could be you encountered a good point in the discussion such that going to research the topic more deeply could help bring about greater clarity. Remember: it is not about conflict; rather, it is about *learning more about each other* and a topic you both wish to share.

*EVOKE new perspectives.* While the goal is not always compromise, you may discover a conversation is more easily understood as both persons engage in the discussion with differing opinions. In so doing, you may even start moving people closer together. Many organizations use similar strategies like LAPSE to start TEAM BUILDING. The idea is to allow ideas to flow about so that they can be incorporated into current policies or procedures. Same with the church – continue improving strategies to gather folks in to assist. In that way, slowly but surely, people can bring new ideas forward.

As one can tell, the LAPSE model is hardly psychological per se, but it does make a good deal of sense and may prove a useful tool to share when tensions tend to get strained. The next articles will cover some examples. So, stay tuned!

Footnotes:

Bowen, M. (1978). *Family therapy in clinical practice*. New York: Jason Aronson.

Schwartzman, J. (1985). Alcoholics Anonymous and the family: A systemic perspective. <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/3904412/> (one does not have to be in an alcoholic home; however, many families, regardless of addictions or not, tend to take on roles in the family as Bowen outlined).

Similar circumstances occur in work teams, like forming, storming, and norming. That is, Tuckman (1965) stated that all these phases are necessary and inevitable in order for a team to grow, face up to challenges, tackle problems, find solutions, plan work, and deliver results. The same can be said for families, although the personal closeness is much more challenging. In fact, Bowen argued that the emotions possesses profound impact on the way family members act and feel.

Jenkins, S. (2017). When a loved one goes to prison: Daunting questions families want to ask. *Discipleship Ministries Leadership Resources of the UMC*. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/when-a-loved-one-goes-to-prison-daunting-questions-families-want-to-ask>

Jenkins, S. (2017). When I was in prison: Resources for communicating compassion for people in prison and their families. *Discipleship Ministries Leadership Resources of the UMC*. <https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/when-i-was-in-prison>



**Nursing Home Residents..**

**Comfort in Mourning:**

The Family of Dora Mae Laney  
The Family of Jerry Lytle  
The Family of Joann Brockhaus

**The Gardens**

\*Romaine Boundy

**Van Crest of Payne**

\*Velma Albert



**Healing Prayers:**

\*Velma Albert  
Bill & Steph  
\*Jean Bulau  
Joe Philpot  
Jerry Price  
Tim Santo  
Steve Santo



**Military:**

Cameron Cramer

- 6/01 Lucas Grace
- 6/02 Emily Thielbar
- 6/03 Karen Dotterer
- 6/04 Gail Stoller
- 6/09 Velma Albert
- 6/13 Dee Fraley
- 6/14 Angie Coak
- 6/15 Darwin Riley
- 6/17 Nicole Harris
- 6/18 Lindsay Metzger
- 6/19 Lisa Cline
- 6/19 Randy Short
- 6/24 Michael Workman
- 6/28 Bonnie Sherland
- 6/29 Gerry Fraley
- 6/30 Larry Grace

**Continuing Concerns:**

Brian Bennett  
Thaniel Bulau  
Dave Foltz  
Mr & Mrs. Kennedy  
Sharon Kline  
Veronica Kromer  
Kenny Santo  
Deanna Schroeder  
Charlie & Susan Simpson  
Raegan Wonderly  
Nursing Homes  
Ukraine

**JUNE SERVERS**

**Elders**

Paul Long  
Susan Simpson

**Worship Leader**

Matt Strayer

**Greeters**

Marsha & Kenny Adkins

**First Scripture Reader**

Larry Grace

\*Denotes Members

*Happy Anniversary!*



Please pray for our campers.

- 6/02 Cory & Olivia Mendez
- 6/11 Pete & Lisa Cline
- 6/13 Brett & Michelle Mawer
- 6/21 Gerry & Dee Fraley

Carlie Lero and Haylie Lero will be attending camp from June 11- June 17.  
Zane Daniels, Aden Lero and Kyle Wilkerson will be attending June 18-24  
Haylie Lero will be attending adult conference from July 30-Aug.6.  
Jan Commers will be at camp most of June and July.

**Camp Address: 10335 Maple Dell Rd., Marysville, Ohio 43040**

Campers love to receive mail! Send it early in the week.



**Flowers For Worship:**

6/04 Herm Guelde-In Memory of Jean  
6/11 Linda Reinhart-In Memory of my Mother  
6/18 Jacque Walker-In Honor of my Parents  
6/25

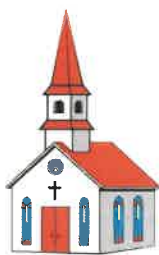


**Special dates**

- Trinity Sunday, June 4, 2023
- Flag Day, June 14, 2023
- Father's Day, June 18, 2023
- Juneteenth, June 19, 2023
- First day of summer, June 21, 2023

**ATTENDANCE**

4/30 49  
5/07 52  
5/14 53  
5/21 61



**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.



## FROM THE ELDERS

Here is a devotion by Glenn Packiam  
Entitled Praying In Difficult Times

Author and theologian Russell Moore described noticing the eerie silence in the Russian orphanage where he adopted his boys. Someone later explained that babies had stopped crying because they learned that no one would respond to their cries.

When we face difficult times, we too can feel that no one hears. And worst of all, we can feel that God Himself doesn't listen to our cries or see our tears. But He does! And that's why we need the language of petition and protest found especially in the book of Psalms. The psalmists petition for God's help and also protest the situation to Him. In Psalm 61, David brings his petitions and protest before his Creator, stating, "I call to you, I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I" (v. 2). David cries out to God because he knows that only He is his "refuge" and "strong tower." (v. 3).

Praying the petitions and protests of the psalms is a way of affirming God's sovereignty and appealing to His goodness and faithfulness. They're proof of the intimate relationship we can experience with God. In difficult moments, we can all be tempted to believe the lie that He doesn't care. But He does. He hears us and is with us.

**How does it encourage you to know that God hears your desperate prayers?  
What petitions and protest will you share with Him today?**

Dear Jesus, help me to offer You my petitions, protest, and praise.



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

*We will not be having children's Sunday school during the summer months. It will resume again in the fall. Thank you to those who taught and thank you parents for sharing your children with us.*

### **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.

### **Summer Music**



*The bell choir will not be practicing this summer but will be back in the fall.*

*We have Sundays open for special music. If you or someone you know would like to share your musical talent with the congregation, there is a signup sheet on the bulletin board. Please pick a Sunday. Questions should be referred to Donna.*

### **Thank You**

*With heartfelt thanks,*

*Thank you for the calls, messages, cards prayers and  
The beautiful prayer shawl.*

*Rocky & Sherri Good*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Thank you**

*First Christian Church,*

*Thank you for your generous donation from your Easter lily promotion to the Paulding County Dog Kennel. Your support and thoughtfulness are appreciated!*

*Sincerely,*

*David Bash*

*Paulding County Dog Warden*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Thank you**

Thank you very much for the donation to Relay for Life of Paulding. We truly appreciate all of your support. I hope you all are able to join us on Friday June 2nd at Paulding Fairgrounds at 6 p.m. for the event.

Thanks,  
Cheryl Eddy





# Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

Needs this month are pasta items and canned beans.

Usage at the pantry continues to increase. This April the pantry helped 55% more people than we did in April of last year.

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  
Dan Bulau

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



## Mowing Schedule

There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for mowing the church property. It is for 2 weeks at a time and starts on Mondays. If you would like to sign up but pay someone to mow for you, please indicate that on the sign up sheet.

- May 29-June-11-
- June 12-June 25- Gary McClure
- June 26- July 9 -
- July 10-July 17 - Darwin Riley
- July 18- July 23 -
- July 24- August 6-Gary McClure
- August 7-August 20-
- August 21-Sept. 3-Hailey Harris
- Sept. 4-Sept 17 Darwin Riley
- Sept. 18- Oct 1 Gary McClure
- Oct. 2-Oct. 15- Corey Harris

## Monthly Budget Needs

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



## COUNTERS

- 06/04 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 06/11 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 06/18 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 06/25 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers

## First Christian Church Fund Summary

05/08/2023 06:59 PM

Page: 1

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	102 INITIAL ENVELOPE OFFERING	104 SPECIAL HOLIDAY-EAS TER	109 GIDEONS	115 Pass-Through	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	205 New Church Roof	700 MENS GROUP	Total
04/02/2023	2,945.33	0.00	30.00	0.00	25.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	3,075.33
04/09/2023	1,765.36	0.00	45.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,810.36
04/16/2023	1,505.00	0.00	105.00	0.00	30.00	0.00	0.00	45.00	1,685.00
04/23/2023	1,237.00	0.00	0.00	79.00	0.00	0.00	938.00	0.00	2,254.00
04/30/2023	1,675.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	90.00	0.00	0.00	1,775.00
Total	9,127.69	10.00	180.00	79.00	55.00	165.00	938.00	45.00	10,599.69

# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP: SUNDAYS-10 A.M.

Pastor Sandra Jenkins # 419 466-2005.

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

EVERY DAY I CAN GRASP THE GUIDING  
HAND OF JESUS

# June 2023



Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

				1	2	3
4 TRINITY SUNDAY	5	6 DISCIPLES WOMENS MINIS- TRY-10 A.M.	7 WORSHIP/ MEMBERSHIP/ TECH-6:30 P.M. TRUSTEES-7 P.M.	8	9	10
11 OTTER CAMP	12 OTTER CAMP	13 OTTER CAMP	14 STEWARDSHIP/ FINANCE-7 P.M. OTTER CAMP	15 OTTER CAMP	16 OTTER CAMP	17 MEN'S GROUP-9 AM.
18 FATHER'S DAY ELDERS MEETING- 8:30 A.M. CYF CAMP	19 CYF CAMP	20 BOARD MEETING -7 P.M. CYF CAMP	21 CYF CAMP	22 MENTAL HEALTH & FAITH INFO MEETING 11A.M.- 11:30 A.M. CYF CAMP	23 CYF CAMP	24  Jesus Christ went About doing <i>Good.</i>
25	26	27	28	29	30	

## SERMONS & SCRIPTURE

ELDERS: Paul Long & Sue Simpson  
 WORSHIP LEADER: Matt Strayer  
 1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Larry Grace  
 GREETERS: Kenny & Marsha Adkins

6/04 SERMON: Agape! SCRIPTURES: Psalm 8 & 1 Corinthians 12  
 6/11 SERMON: Environmental Day, SCRIPTURES: Romans 4: 13-25  
 6/18 SERMON: Father's Day Thoughts, SCRIPTURES: Psalm 116  
 6/25 SERMON: Alive for Christ, SCRIPTURES: Psalm 86: 1-17



## Disciples Women's Ministry

The next DWM meeting is June 6th at 10 a.m. All women of the church are invited to attend.

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

The next women's meeting (June 6th) we will be having a relaxation demonstration by Kathy Daniels during the meeting. Please join us.

The lunch following worship on May 7th was well attended and very much appreciated.

The kitchen and fellowship hall were cleaned however a good spring cleaning is needed. We will be working on getting that done. If you can help let us know.

In July we will be planning a night out. Watch for more details.

We were happy to be able to assist with camp fees this year.

## Thank you



Dear DWM,

*I want to say Thank you for the lovely prayer shawl. It was so appreciated and has gotten much use already.*

*Thank you again for thinking of me.*

God Bless

Jean Bulau



THANK YOU DISCIPLES  
WOMEN'S MINISTRY FOR  
THE WONDERFUL LUNCH  
ON MAY 7TH



GODS BLESSINGS TO  
HIGH SCHOOL  
GRADUATES ETERNITY  
BASSLER AND  
BRAXTON RICKER AND  
TO COLLEGE  
GRADUATE BRIANA  
TOWNLEY





## Just like Dad

At the beginning of his ministry career, Jerry Steen supplemented his income by mixing animal feed. When his two young boys greeted him at home, they laughed at his dusty appearance before he headed to the shower.

"I didn't think too much of this until I was washing my car and saw my older son doing something very strange," Steen recalls. "He was picking up the gravel and stones in our drive and rubbing them into his pants." Curious, the father asked what the boy was doing. "I want to be dusty like you, Dad!" his son replied.

For Steen, that was an eye-opener. "I realized that if a child would look up to his father for being dusty and want to copy his father," he says, "a child could look up to his father and follow him for anything." What traits and qualities are you modeling and passing on — to your own kids and to anyone else who looks up to you?

## Being good sports

When gestures of sportsmanship go viral, they often feature young athletes. In 2022, a Little League baseball player who took a pitch to the head later hugged the distraught opposing pitcher. Evangelist Ken Weliever says pro athletes, politicians, media personalities and everyday Americans should follow that example rather than focusing on revenge.

"Sadder still is when entire churches are disrupted by petty squabbles, partisan politics and overzealous opinions," he writes. "Relationships have been ruptured, marriages dissolved and families torn apart due to a harsh response to hurts instead of a spirit of forgiveness and an attitude of reconciliation."

Christians may sometimes feel tempted to seek payback, but Jesus calls us to live differently. "We need to be reminded that we are to be a transformed people, not conformed to the attitudes and actions of this world (Romans 12:1-2)," says Weliever. "To be light in a world of darkness. And to be the pure, preserving salt in a society that's become corrupted and impure (Matthew 5:13-16)."

## Come glorify God together

Don't use summer as an excuse to skip church! By gathering in corporate worship, we obey God's command, become equipped for Christian living, and minister to our fellow pilgrims. Consider these tips for engaging in corporate worship.

First, show up — in person if you can. Examine your heart and your motivation for attending church. Lift up your eyes from earthly matters to focus on God.

Come prepared. Do you need to confess anything or remove any hindrance? As you worship, consider how each part of the service displays the gospel: greeting, singing, confessing, reading Scripture, hearing Bible-based teaching, praying, giving and communing.

Be careful not to compartmentalize corporate worship as separate from the rest of life. Instead, consider how you'll carry the experience into the coming week. Come ready to receive; then let that overflow fuel you for the days ahead. Come prepared to participate, knowing that worshipping together is a rehearsal for heaven. But most importantly? Just come.

—Monica L. Wilkinson

# A timeless timeline

Explore your history while compiling this family timeline.



## What you need:

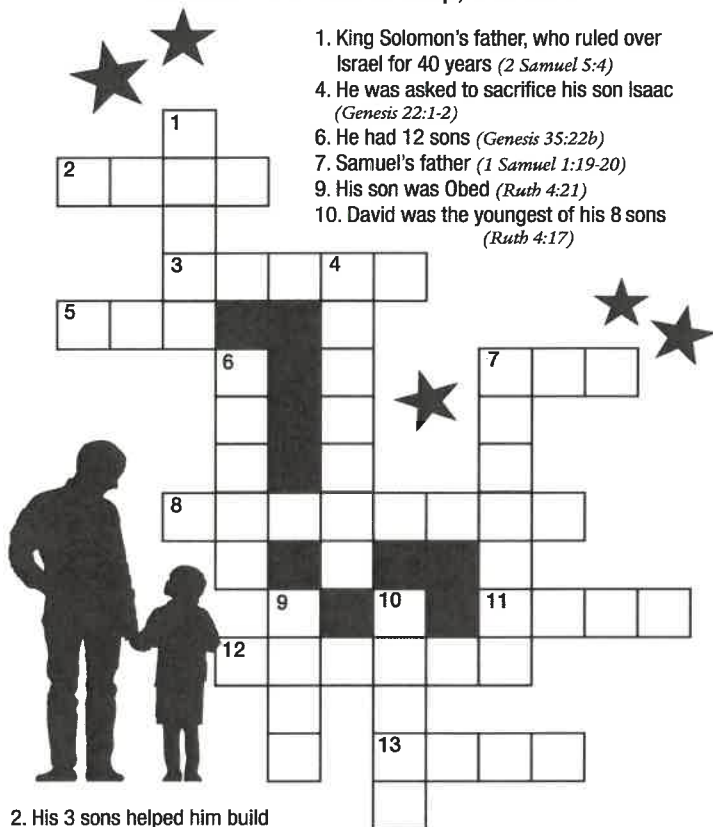
- Paper
- Clear tape
- Ruler
- Pencil

## What you do:

1. Tape together at least 3 sheets of paper horizontally.
2. Draw a straight line across the center of the long paper. Label dates at regular intervals to keep the information organized. For example, each page you add could represent 10 years.
3. Gather information for the timeline. Start with your birth year and memorable events in your life. Interview family members to learn what year they were born and when key things in their life happened. Include notes and photos.
4. Add pages as needed. Carefully roll up the timeline to keep for generations to come.

# Puzzle!

Complete this crossword with names of biblical fathers. Use the references for help, if needed.



1. King Solomon's father, who ruled over Israel for 40 years (2 Samuel 5:4)
4. He was asked to sacrifice his son Isaac (Genesis 22:1-2)
6. He had 12 sons (Genesis 35:22b)
7. Samuel's father (1 Samuel 1:19-20)
9. His son was Obed (Ruth 4:21)
10. David was the youngest of his 8 sons (Ruth 4:17)

2. His 3 sons helped him build an ark (Genesis 6:10)
3. His youngest son, Jacob, tricked him into giving away a birthright (Genesis 27:30)
5. The Father of our Lord (Ephesians 1:3)
7. His sons were not like Samuel; they were wicked (1 Samuel 2:12)
8. David's best friend and the father of Mephibosheth (2 Samuel 9:6)
11. Father of Cain, Abel and Seth (Genesis 4:25)
12. He was married to Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 1:20-21)
13. Father of Jonathan; Israel chose him as their first king (2 Samuel 9:6)

Answer: DOWN 1. David, 4. Abraham, 6. Jacob, 7. Elkanah, 9. Boaz, 10. Jesse, ACROSS 2. Noah, 3. Isaac, 5. God, 7. Eli, 8. Jonathan, 11. Adam, 12. Joseph, 13. Saul

## Bible Quiz

What does God compare to rain "watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater"?

- A. The justice of the nations
- B. The work of God's people
- C. The message of Isaiah the prophet
- D. God's word



Answer: D (See Isaiah 55:10-11, NIV.)