



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

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
ISSUE NO. XI-2023

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

*Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m.*  
*Adult Sunday School Class 9:00 a.m.*

## NOVEMBER 2023



# DISCIPLE DIGEST

## First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



NOVEMBER 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.*



**From the Elders**

**A devotion from Lisa M. Semra**

### **A Thanksgiving Blessing**

In 2016, Wanda Dench sent a text inviting her grandson to Thanksgiving dinner, not knowing he'd recently changed his phone number. The text instead went to a stranger, Jamal. Jamal didn't have plans, and so, after clarifying who he was, asked if he could still come to dinner. Wanda said, "Of course you can." Jamal joined the family dinner in what has since become a yearly tradition for him. A mistaken invitation became an annual blessing.

Wanda's kindness in inviting a stranger to dinner reminds me of Jesus' encouragement in Luke's gospel. During a dinner party at a "prominent" Pharisee's house (Luke 14:1), Jesus noticed who was invited and how the guest jostled for the best seats (v. 7). Jesus told his host that inviting people based on what they could do for him in return (v. 12) meant the blessing would be limited. Instead, Jesus told the host that extending hospitality to people without the resources to repay him would bring even greater blessing. (v. 14)

For Wanda, inviting Jamal to join her family for Thanksgiving dinner resulted in the unexpected blessing of a lasting friendship that was a great encouragement to her after her husband's death. When we reach out to others, not because of what we might receive, but because of God's love flowing through us, we receive far greater blessing and encouragement.

**When has an unexpected invitation encouraged you?  
What blessings did you experience?**

Heavenly Father, may my invitations reflect a heart that wants to bless others as You lead me.



**Nursing Home Residents..**

**The Gardens**

\*Romaine Boundy

**Van Crest of Payne**

\*Velma Albert

**Military:**

Cameron Cramer

**NOVEMBER SERVERS**

**Elders**

Tracy Gunderman

Gary McClure

**Worship Leader**

Suzu Strayer

**Greeter**

Charlie & Sue Simpson

**First Scripture Reader**

Larry Grace

**NOVEMBER SPEAKERS**

11/05 Pastor DeWayne Richardson

11/12 Chris Bowers

11/19 Pastor Eileen Kochensparger

11/26 Traci Koenig

# Happy Birthday

- 11/03 Dan Workman
- 11/05 Zoey Hibbard
- 11/06 Jodi Perl
- 11/07 Dennis Knapp
- 11/11 Roger Nicelley
- 11/11 Bill Smith
- 11/12 Preslee Cline
- 11/12 Denise Smith
- 11/18 Dawn Carlisle
- 11/19 Tracy Gunderman
- 11/21 Jenifer Nicelley
- 11/22 Shawn Santo
- 11/24 Joe Nicelley
- 11/24 Haleigh Stallbaum
- 11/25 Nicholas Clippinger
- 11/25 Matt Hormann
- 11/28 Jason Bandy

## All Saints Sunday

November 5th we will be honoring the Saints during worship.

## Honoring Veterans



We will be having a display to honor our Veterans during the month of November. Please bring in your pictures and if you have questions please contact Leah.

## Comfort in Mourning: The Family of Les Guelde

### Healing Prayers:

- Dan Bulau
- Sharon Cooper
- Ron Etzler
- Floyd Furrow
- Sharon Kline
- Renee Celie
- Virginia Paulus
- Linda Reinhart
- Deanna Schroeder

### Continuing Concerns:

- Deb Bashore
- Thaniel Bulau
- Dave Foltz
- Lorean McCollum
- Jerry Price
- Leslie Santo
- Raegan Wonderly
- Nursing Homes
- Israel
- Ukraine

\*Denotes Members

Paul & Joan Biery  
Brookdale Assisted Living  
725 Fox Run Road  
Findlay, Ohio 45840

## First Scriptures

- 11/05 Psalm 107: 1-7, 33-37
- 11/12 Psalm 78: 1-7
- 11/19 Psalm 123
- 11/26 Psalm 100

## Flowers For Worship:

- 11/05 Darwin & Ursula Riley-In Memory of Cloyce & Elizabeth Vance
- 11/12 Herm Guelde-In Memory of Jean
- 11/19 Jacque Walker-In Honor of Tracy's Birthday
- 11/26 Dan & Jean Bulau



## ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor
09/24	58	44	6	5	3
10/01	52	31	6	9	6
10/08	48	35	8	1	3
10/15	43	32	5	4	2
10/22	49	34	5	6	4

## 2024 Flowers



Starting in 2024 the worship committee would like to start using silk flower arrangements in the vases on the alter instead of purchasing flowers. The silk flowers will remain at the church for future use and will be rotated. If you would like to make a donation to the church in honor or in memory of your loved ones you may still sign up on a given Sunday and your request will be printed in the bulletin and the digest.

## General Endowment Fund

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Of Paulding, Ohio Fund

There has been an endowment fund established through the Paulding County Area Foundation for First Christian Church of Paulding.

Anyone can put money in this fund for the benefit of our church. Only the interest from the fund will be paid to our church annually with the board determining when the money will be spent. If you have any questions contact Matt Strayer or Charlie Simpson trustees for our church.



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School for children is going well.

- If you would like to help teach for a Sunday or two please contact Paul Long.

Sunday School for adults begins at 9:00 a.m. If you have questions, please contact Gary McClure.

*Proverbs 22:6 ESV Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.*



### 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.

## Congregational Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting to elect officers of the board and to approve a budget for next year will be held on November 19th following worship. All members of the church are encouraged to attend.

## Thank You

We greatly appreciate your donation to Life Wise, Paulding Ex. In memory of Ross Myers. What an incredible young man, and it was an honor to know him. We will continue to teach God's word to our community's youth with support like yours.

Leadership Board  
Paulding Ex.



## DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Group will be hosting a **Chicken Pie Supper** on November 2nd from 4:30-7:00 p.m. Questions should be referred to Susan Knapp.

**Noodle Making** will be November 6th at 6:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. A list of needed supplies is on the bulletin board. They will be for sale on November 12 following worship.

The Women's group will be meeting November 7 at 10 a.m.

We are the host of the Ecumenical Dinner on December 7th.

### SPEAKERS

We have scheduled speakers for Sunday Worship through January of next year. If you know of someone you would like to have come on a Sunday please contact the Pulpit Fill Committee with contact information. The board appointed committee is Denise Renollet, Tracy Gunderman and Paul Long.

### December Speakers

12/03 Larry Grace  
12/10 Pastor DeWayne Richardson  
12/17 Paul Long  
12/24 Gary McClure  
Christmas Eve-Max Hibbard  
12/31 Pastor DeWayne Richardson

### January Speaker

1/07/2024 Pastor Eileen Kochensparger  
1/14/2024 Patti Stoller  
1/21/2024 Cody Etter  
1/28/2024 Randy Long



### Childrens Moment

We are looking for people to provide children's moment during worship. If you feel you would like to help please contact Paul Long or the office.  
Thank You!



### Looking toward the New Year

Does the church have the correct contact information for you? Would you like to be on the call prayer chain or receive emails concerning prayer request? Turn your info into the office.

# Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

## Shop at Kroger?

### It's Easy to Have Kroger Give Money to C&S

All you have to do is sign up for the **Kroger Community Rewards Program**, and tell Kroger you want it to support Caring & Sharing Food Pantry. Kroger looks at the total purchases for all the supporters of C&S and donates funds to us quarterly. This is done at no cost to you.

To sign up, visit <http://www.kroger.com>. Log in to your Kroger account or create one. Go to "Community Rewards" in the "My Accounts" section. Then search for "CARING & SHARING FOOD PANTRY INC" either by name or by code "JQ541" Then click "Enroll." You must have a Kroger Rewards Card to participate. If you don't have one, go to the customer service desk at any Kroger.

This month the pantry needs canned veggies and fruit, eggs and baking items.



Please consider asking people who shop at Kroger to support Caring & Sharing Food Pantry through their Kroger shopping card. We currently have only 7 families enrolled and last quarter Kroger donated \$35.56 to C&S at no cost to the 7 families.

People can sign up for C&S emails using this link:

<http://eepurl.com/ighENz>

Thank You  
Dan Bulau



Thanks for Your Support!

## Monthly Budget Needs

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



## Thank You

Thank you for your donation to Community Health Professions, Inc. Your contribution helps us make a difference in the quality of life of our patients and their families.

## COUNTERS

- 11/05 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 11/12 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 11/19 Max Hibbard, Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 11/26 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers

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

## First Christian Church Fund Summary

10/06/2023 05:25 PM

Page: 1

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	115 Pass-Through	200 BUILDING/MAINT.	Total
09/01/2023	10,385.50	0.00	0.00	10,385.50
09/03/2023	2,036.48	0.00	10.00	2,046.48
09/10/2023	1,388.00	0.00	0.00	1,388.00
09/17/2023	1,953.00	50.00	210.00	2,213.00
09/24/2023	857.00	0.00	5.00	862.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,619.98</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>225.00</b>	<b>16,894.98</b>

*Susan K. Simpson, Financial Sec.*  
10-6-23





# CHICKEN PIE SUPPER

NOVEMBER 2ND  
4:30 P.M.-7:00 P.M.

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
(Disciples of Christ)

1233 EMERALD ROAD, PAULDING, OHIO 45879



SERVING: CHICKEN PIE AND SCALLOPED CHICKEN  
MASHED POTATOES AND GRAVY  
GREEN BEANS, COLESLAW, CRANBERRY SAUCE  
DESSERTS AND DRINKS

PUBLIC WELCOME  
CARRY OUTS AVAILABLE

FREEWILL DONATION



# FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



**WORSHIP: SUNDAYS-10 A.M. CHILDRENS SUNDAY**  
**SCHOOL FOLLOWING CHILDRENS MOMENT**  
**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS AT 9 A.M.**  
**BELL CHOIR FOLLOWING WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY**  
**SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS: TUES.-FRIDAY 8 a.m.-12 p.m.**



# November 2023

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

I AM THANKFUL FOR THE EVERYDAY MIRICLES GOD SENS MY WAY			 <b>1</b> WORSHIP/ MEMBER/TECH- 6:30 P.M.  TRUSTEES-7 P.M.	<b>2</b>  CHICKEN PIE SUPPER-4:30 P.M. -7 P.M.	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>  ALL SAINTS SUNDAY	<b>6</b>  NOODLES MAK- ING-6 P.M.	<b>7</b>  DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MEET- ING-10 A.M	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>  
<b>12</b>  VETERANS SUNDAY	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  STEWARDSHIP/ FNANCE-6:30 P.M.	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>  MEN'S GROUP-9 A.M.
<b>19</b>  ELDERS-8:30 A.M.	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>  BOARD MEETING- 7 P.M.	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>  	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>		

**ELDERS: Tracy Gunderman & Gary McClure**  
**WORSHIP LEADER: Suzy Strayer**  
**1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Tracy Gunderman**  
**GREETERS: Charlie Simpson & Sue Simpson**  
**CHILDREN'S MOMENT: Nov 5 & 12-Paul Long**  
**Nov. 19-We need someone**  
**Nov. 26-Sue Simpson**

**SPEAKERS**  
**11/05 Pastor DeWayne Richardson**  
**11/12 Chris Bowers**  
**11/19 Pastor Eileen Kochensparger**  
**11/26 Traci Koenig**





**CHILI COOK OFF  
AND BINGO  
NIGHT  
THANK YOU FOR  
COMING  
WINNERS  
SUSAN KNAPP  
&  
KATHY REINHART**





## Take time to recharge

"Then Jesus said, 'Let's go off by ourselves to a quiet place and rest awhile.' He said this because there were so many people coming and going that Jesus and his apostles didn't even have time to eat" (Mark 6:31, NLT). Can you relate? Especially during the holidays, we're "coming and going" so much that we often run out of steam.

As an introvert, I learned an important lesson while navigating a busy graduation season for my son. I was happy to host a celebration for family and friends, but about 20 minutes into the party, fatigue clouded my spirit. My social battery was empty and desperately needed charging.

I sought out my cousin — who "gets" me — and admitted I needed a break. He kindly replied, "Then go into another room and just be. We've got things covered." I was heard and assured that it was okay to press pause. Even Jesus and his disciples sought privacy and rest.

In what ways do you need a break today? Even if you're an extrovert, how can you care for your whole self during the holiday rush? Pay attention and give yourself permission to proactively recharge your battery.

—Janna Firestone



## Bounty of thanks

We thank thee, Lord, for the glory of the late days and the excellent face of thy sun. We thank thee for good news received. We thank thee for the pleasures we have enjoyed and for those we have been able to confer.

And now, when the clouds gather and the rain impends over the forest and our house, permit us not to be cast down; let us not lose the savor of past mercies and past pleasures; but, like the voice of a bird singing in the rain, let grateful memory survive in the hour of darkness. If there be in front of us any painful duty, strengthen us with the grace of courage; if any act of mercy, teach us tenderness and patience.

—Robert Louis Stevenson

## Three Thanksgiving prayers

Dear Lord, we beg but one boon more: peace in the hearts of all men living, peace in the whole world this Thanksgiving.

—Joseph Auslander

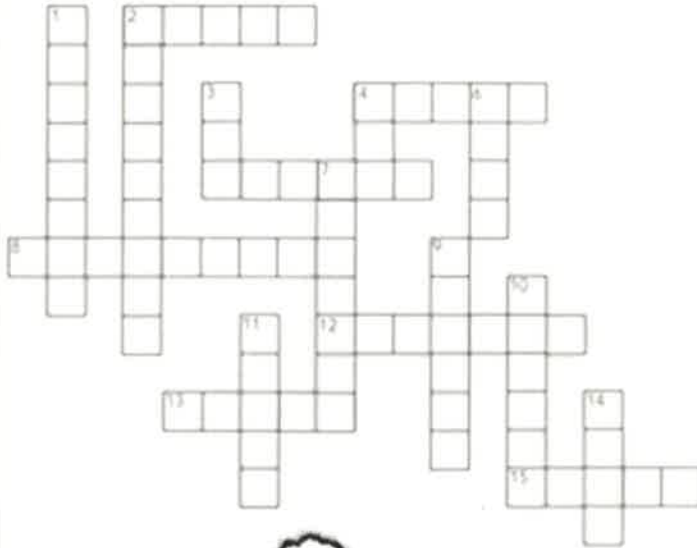
For what I have received may the Lord make me truly thankful. And more truly for what I have not received.

—Storm Jameson

O Lord that lends me life, lend me a heart replete with thankfulness.

—William Shakespeare

# Puzzle!



### ACROSS

- 2. cause of Job's trouble
- 4. twinkling, heavenly lights
- 6. the Shuhite, a friend (2:11)
- 8. creature of the deep (41:1)
- 12. the Tamarite, a friend (2:11)
- 13. sons
- 15. Job had 7,000

### DOWN

- 1. the One who ever lives (19:25)
- 2. affliction
- 3. had seven sons
- 4. ocean
- 5. precipitation
- 7. Job had 500
- 9. the Naamathite, a friend (2:11)
- 10. Job had 3,000
- 11. Job's fourth friend (32:2)
- 12. Job had 500 yoke



## THANKS-FILLED GIVING

The virtues of gratefulness and generosity are connected. When we're truly thankful for all God provides, we want to sow generous seeds in other people's lives. What will be the harvest?

Directions: Solve the clues associated with each picture. Then write the words in the correct spaces to complete 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV

This becomes a plant 

 Willing to give \_\_\_\_\_

The result of planting seeds 

 The act of gratitude \_\_\_\_\_

Food made from wheat 

Now he who supplies \_\_\_\_\_ to the sower and \_\_\_\_\_ for food will also

supply and increase your store of \_\_\_\_\_ and will enlarge the \_\_\_\_\_

of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be

\_\_\_\_\_ on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result

in \_\_\_\_\_ to God. 2 Corinthians 9:10-11, NIV

Answers: seed, bread, harvest, generous, thanksgiving

## Bible Quiz

fill in the blank: "Rejoice always, pray continually, give \_\_\_\_\_ in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

- A. alms
- B. praise
- C. thanks
- D. offerings



**IN ALL  
CIRCUMSTANCES**

# Faith. Education. Leadership Development.



**15 Colleges & Universities**

**7 Seminaries &  
Divinity Houses**

**Your Thanksgiving Offering will be Part  
of a 129 Year Legacy of Educational Support**



## *Thanksgiving Offering*

For 129 years, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has made a commitment to nurturing and supporting higher education through the general ministry of HELM (Higher Education & Leadership Ministries), formerly the Division of Higher Education. Through relationships with the 15 Colleges/Universities and 7 Seminaries/Divinity Houses connected to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), HELM is able to continue its mission of developing and nurturing Christian leaders who are transforming church, society and world.

Every November the Church dedicates its General Offering to support these institutions. The collection goes straight to the institutions and enables them to offer scholarships, expand programs, and offer assistance through faith-based services. Support through this annual offering is a critical part of our ongoing collaborative work between the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and higher education.

Please consider a generous donation as we come together to help make a difference in the lives of thousands of students, giving them a strong foundation to build upon as they prepare to go out and do great things in the world.

**DONATE HERE!**



## *Thank You!*



For more information about HELM and a list of the institutions we support, please visit [helmdisciples.org](http://helmdisciples.org).