



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

DISCIPLE DIGEST

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ISSUE NO. XII-2023

PHONE 419 399-4576
WEBSITE: firstccpaulding.org
EMAIL: firstccpaulding@gmail.com

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

DECEMBER 2023



DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



DECEMBER 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 by David McCasland entitled Good News

World news bombards us from the Internet, television, radio, and mobile devices. The majority seems to describe what's wrong—crime, terrorism, war, and economic problems. Yet there are times when good news invades the darkest hours of sadness and despair—stories of unselfish acts, a medical breakthrough, or steps toward peace in war-scarred places.

The words of two men recorded in the Old Testament of the Bible brought great hope to people weary of conflict.

While describing God's coming judgment on a ruthless and powerful nation, Nahum said, "Look, there on the mountains, the feet of one who brings good news, who proclaims peace!" (Nahum 1:15). That news brought hope to all those oppressed by cruelty. A similar phrase occurs in the book of Isaiah: "How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation" (Isaiah 52: 7).

Nahum and Isaiah's prophetic words of hope found their ultimate fulfillment at the first Christmas when the angel told the shepherds, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Messiah, the Lord" (Luke 2: 10-11).

The most important headline in our lives every day is the very best news ever spoken—Christ the Savior is born!

The birth of Jesus is the best news the world has ever received!

In this Advent Season, may the God Lord bless and keep you, may His face shine upon you and give you peace.

Amen



Nursing Home Residents..

Comfort in Mourning:

The Family of Kenny Santo
The Family of Shelby Eagleson Shisler
Tusky Valley Community
The John Lee Family

The Gardens

*Romaine Boundy

Van Crest of Payne

*Velma Albert

Healing Prayers:

*Velma Albert
Bulau Family
Orman Goings
*Charlie Simpson
Patti Stoller
Dan Sutton

Military:

Cameron Cramer

Continuing Concerns:

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

DECEMBER SERVERS

Elders

Charlie Simpson
Larry Grace

Worship Leader

Advent Families

Greeter

Linda Reinhart

First Scripture Reader

Larry Grace

Happy Birthday

- 12/01 Bruce Gunderman
- 12/03 Emma Hoover
- 12/05 Joan Biery
- 12/06 Sandi Vance
- 12/07 Dokkota Clippinger
- 12/07 Amanda Harris
- 12/08 Lindsey Hormann
- 12/08 Peg Yenser
- 12/10 Max Reinhart
- 12/12 Carlie Lero
- 12/15 Jessica Trickett
- 12/16 Tammy Boroff
- 12/18 Marsha Adkins
- 12/18 Amanda Wilkerson
- 12/19 Emma Townley
- 12/20 Cindy Grace
- 12/26 Carter Cook
- 12/26 Aleigha Vance
- 12/28 Barrett Bandy
- 12/28 Janelle Lero
- 12/28 Lance Mawer
- 12/28 Taylor Mawer
- 12/31 Jennifer Lero

Happy Anniversary

- 12/07 Dennis & Sandi Vance
- 12/08 Dan & Shirley Workman
- 12/28 Gary & Vicki McClure

*Denotes Members

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

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

First Scriptures

- 12/03 Psalm 80: 1-7, 17-19
- 12/10 Psalm 85: 1-2, 8-13
- 12/17 Psalm 126
- 12/24 Psalm 89: 1-4, 19-26
- 12/31 Psalm 148



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.

Flowers For Worship:

- 12/03 Herm Guelde-In Honor of Jean's Family
- 12/10 Lero's-In Honor of Carlie's Birthday
- 12/17 Darwin & Ursula Riley-In Memory of Orville & Valera Riley
- 12/24 Genelta Levos
- 12/31 Dee & Denise Renollet



ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
10/29	54	40	7	6	1	
11/05	73	43	9	3	16	40
11/12	52	39	5	6	2	33
11/19	60	39	9	5	3	

Hanging of the Greens

November 26th following worship we would everyone to stay and help to prepare the church for advent. After all our preparations are finished we will enjoy pizza in the fellowship hall.



Poinsettias

We look forward to the Advent Season . One of the things that adds to the holiday time is the addition of Poinsettias in the church. I you would like to bring one in please feel free to so.



Christmas Eve Service

December 24 at 6 p.m.

© christmas.365greetings.com

The Meaning Of Christmas

Far away in Bethlehem, a Baby Boy was born;
Born with neither riches nor with fame,
Yet Wise Men came from all around to
bring to Him their gifts,
And peace was felt by all who heard His name.

Angels watched Him as He slept,
and gently rocked His bed;
Their voices singing softly in His ear;
His Mother and His Father both gave thanks to God above
For the greatest gift of all, their Son, so dear

They knew His life upon this earth
would not be filled with wealth,
They also knew He would encounter strife;
But most of all, they knew that He would be a loving Child,
And teach the love of God throughout His life.

At Christmas, as we celebrate
this Birth of Jesus Christ,
Let's keep in mind the truth of Christmas Day:
For it's not the Christmas wrappings,
nor the gifts that lie within,
But our gift of love to others in every way...

Advent Devotionals

Devotions during Advent are a way of **celebrating and anticipating the coming of Christ**. Advent is a season of hope, faith, and love. Advent reminds us of God's presence and promises, and invites us to wait and prepare for the Savior. Advent is a time to sing, pray, and rejoice in the good news of Emmanuel, God with us . Devotional books are available in the narthex. Please help yourself.

Advent Candle Lighting

During the **Advent season**, many churches and families light **Advent candles** to mark the progression toward the birth of Christ. Each week during Advent, a new candle is lit until all the candles burn on Christmas or Christmas Eve. The four candles lit during Advent are traditionally blue or purple. The final candle, known as the **Christ candle**, is traditionally white.

Some churches and families place the candles in an **Advent wreath**, with the Christ candle in the center. The Advent wreath's circular shape symbolizes God's constant and unchanging nature. On Christmas Eve or Christmas day, the full wreath of Advent candles is lit to symbolize that Christ, the light of the world, has arrived.

Our Advent Candle Lighters:

12/03 The Grace Family
12/10 The Leah Gunderman Family
12/17 Paul Long
12/24 Tracy Gunderman
Christmas Eve



Nourish the Soul

DAILY READING PLAN

Reading Scripture and meditating in our quiet time is a way to hear God's Voice. The verses listed below serve as a guide for the Advent season and help us prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas

Day 1 Isaiah 7:14
Day 2 Matthew 1:18-24
Day 3 Luke 2:1-5
Day 4 Luke 2:6-7
Day 5 Luke 2:8-9
Day 6 Luke 2:10-12
Day 7 Luke 2:13-14
Day 8 Luke 2:15-16
Day 9 Luke 2:17-18
Day 10 Luke 2:19
Day 11 Luke 2:20
Day 12 Luke 2:21
Day 13 Matthew 2:1-2
Day 14 Matthew 2:3-6
Day 15 Matthew 2:7-8
Day 16 Matthew 2:9
Day 17 Matthew 2:10-11
Day 18 Matthew 2:12-15
Day 19 Galatians 4:4-5
Day 20 Ephesians 2:8-9
Day 21 1 John 4:7-16
Day 22 Ephesians 2:12-22
Day 23 John 14:6

Luke 2:9-10

An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. (NIV)"

Day 24 Matthew 28:19-20
Day 25 John 8:12
Day 26 John 9:4-5
Day 27 Matthew 5:14-16
Day 28 Psalm 98:1-6
Day 29 John 1:1-3
Day 30 Romans 6:23

Note to Self

You can remember the meaning of Christmas until you can look up into the Father's face and tell him you have received His Christmas gift.

© John W. Rice



With a Prayer
Blessings for a Christlike Life
www.godshouseofprayer.com

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.



American Red Cross

Blood Drive

December 13th

In the Fellowship hall.

Sign up at

<https://www.redcross.org/>



DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The Women's group will be enjoying a night out for Christmas on December 5th. We will be going to Sauder's Barn Restaurant in Archbold. We will leave from the church at 5:00 p.m. Sign up on the bulletin board if you plan to attend.

We are the host of the Ecumenical Potluck and Program on December 7th. At 6 p.m. Ham, drinks and table service will be provided by us.

The Chicken Pie Supper went very well. We made \$ 1054.08. Thank You Everyone!!

We made 60 lbs of noodles in November. Thank you For helping and donating.

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.

January Speakers

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

February Speakers

2/04/2024 Mike Jackson
2/11/2024 Cheri Estle
2/18/2024
2/25/2024 Gideons

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.

Outreach

We are adopting 2 families and buying games for the Opportunity School. We will have the tree up next week and cards on the tree then. Gifts should be back to the church by the 17th of December.



Monthly Budget Needs

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



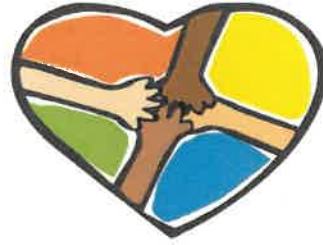
COUNTERS

- 12/03 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 12/10 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 12/17 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 12/24 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers
- 12/31 Charlie Simpson, Joan Tope, Dan Workman

Caring and Sharing Food Pantry



Our Donation box is located in the narthex. All donations are appreciated. Thank You.



NEIGHBORS
HELPING
 NEIGHBORS

Officers for 2024

- Chairman-Paul Long**
- Vice Chair-Suzy Strayer**
- Board Secretary-Donna Hibbard**
- Financial Secretary-Tracy Gunderman**
- Treasurer-Denise Renollet**

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH

First Christian Church Fund Summary

10/06/2023 05:25 PM

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	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	115 Pass-Through <i>Memorial</i>	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	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
Total	16,619.98	50.00	225.00	16,894.98

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

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.



December 2023

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
		DWM NIGHT OUT-5 p.m.	WOR/MEM/ TECH-6:30 P.M. TRUSTEE- 7 P.M	ECUMENICAL POTLUCK/ PROGRAM-6 P.M.		
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE			MEN'S GROUP- 9 A.M.
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
ELDERS-8:30 A.M.		BOARD MEET- ING-7 P.M.				
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE-6 P.M.	CHRISTMAS DAY					
31		WHEN I TURN TO SCRIPTURE GOD WILL MEET ME THERE		THIS CHRISTMAS I WILL SHOW CHRISTLIKE LOVE TO OTHERS.		
NEW YEARS EVE						

ELDERS: Charlie Simpson & Larry Grace

WORSHIP LEADER: Advent Families

1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Larry Grace

GREETERS: Linda Reinhart

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: Tracy Gunderman

SPEAKERS

12/03 Larry Grace

12/10 Pastor DeWayne Richardson

12/17 Paul Long

12/24 Chris Bowers

12/31 Pastor DeWayne Richardson





***Children's Moment with
Jan Commers***



***Guest Speaker
Rev. Bruce Bowerman-Jett***

***Guest Speaker
Pastor DeWayne
Richardson***

***Veterans Display
In November***



***Noodle Making
60 lbs in 2 1/2
hours.
Thank you
Donators,
Workers
And
Customers***



Your Light has come



In the introduction to his book *For All God's Worth*, theologian N.T. Wright says, "Christmas is God lighting a candle, and you don't light a candle in a room that's already full of sunlight. You light a candle in a room that's so murky that the candle, when lit, reveals just how bad things really are. The light shines in the darkness, says St. John, and the darkness has not overcome it."

For that reason, Wright explains, Christmas isn't a dream or a momentary escape but reality. And the same is true for Christianity. "Either Jesus is the Lord of the world and all reality makes sense in his life, or he is dangerously irrelevant to the problems and possibilities of today's world," he adds. "There is no middle ground. Either Jesus was, and is, the Word of God, or he, and the stories Christians tell about him, are lies."

A season of relationship

For his Christmas album *Milk & Cookies*, worship leader David Crowder wanted to focus on the relationship aspect of the holidays and the mixed emotions involved. Deaths of loved ones, absence from home or having "no home to get back to," he says, can wrap sadness into what's supposed to be a joyful season.

Yet pain and separation perfectly mirror the meaning of Christmas, according to Crowder. "It's about the created being at a distance from their Maker and ... God making a way back into communion with [them]." He adds, "I feel like most of the stuff that we experience around the season points to what is the miraculous — that there was the best gift ever given, and it was to make a way back into relationship with our Creator."

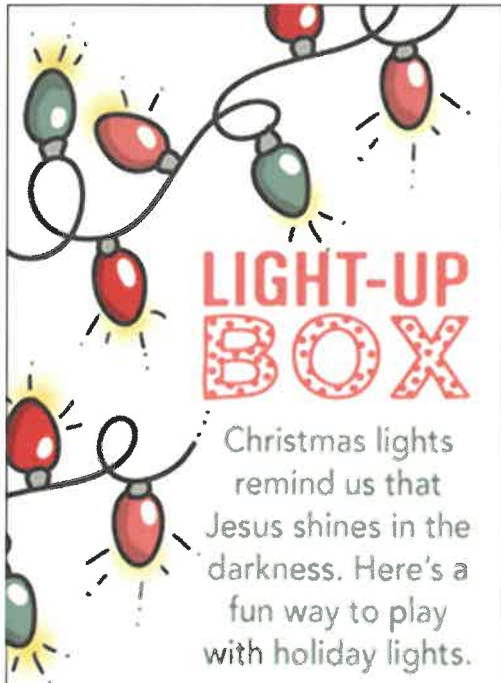
Holiday humor

Much planning and preparation goes into worship during December. But that doesn't mean Christmas services and pageants are always picture-perfect. For anyone who's experienced holiday chaos (who hasn't?!), take comfort in knowing you're not alone.

Church leaders who shared stories with Outreach magazine describe an alarming number of Christmas candle vs. hair incidents. Here's what else has transpired:

- One pastor was sharing the Nativity story when he bumped the button on his singing Christmas tie, which didn't have a mute button. So congregants had to listen to the entire verse and chorus of "Jingle Bells."
- A child discovered a live mouse in his chocolate-filled gift bag on Christmas Eve. Although the creature jumped out and scurried out the door, worshipers saw it return for the next service.
- After flames were distributed for the candlelight service, a pastor said, "Now that we're all good and lit ...," causing laughter throughout the pews.

Children tend to go off-script during Christmas plays, as evidenced by all the bloopers available online. (Check out the YouTube clip titled "Sheep, Mary tussle over baby Jesus in children's pageant gone hilariously awry.")



LIGHT-UP BOX

Christmas lights remind us that Jesus shines in the darkness. Here's a fun way to play with holiday lights.

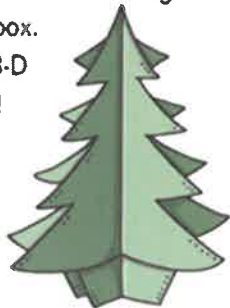
What you need:

- A strand of Christmas lights
- A large clear plastic container and lid
- Green tissue paper
- Colorful beads



What you do:

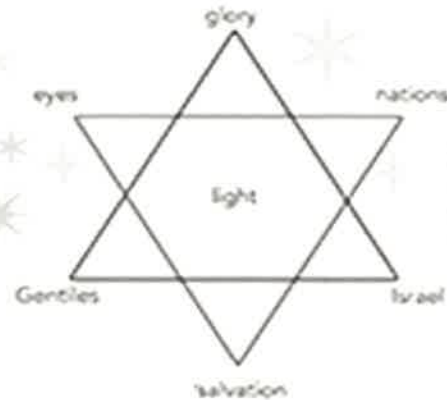
1. Plug in the lights and place them in the container.
 2. Put on the lid. (If the lid isn't transparent, flip the box over.)
 3. Play with your light box, using these ideas as starters:
 - Cut tissue paper into triangles and arrange them in a tree shape. Decorate the tree with colorful beads.
 - Use the light box for tracing. Place a picture on it, with a clean sheet of paper on top. Then trace the drawing.
 - Use magnet tiles to build designs atop the light box.
- Try building a 3-D Christmas tree!



SIMEON'S SIGHT

When Joseph and Mary brought baby Jesus to the temple, they heard a special prophecy from Simeon.

Directions: Using the star key, write the words in the correct spaces to complete Luke 2:30-32, NIV.



"For my _____ have seen your _____, which you have prepared in the sight of all _____: a _____ for revelation to the _____ and the _____ of your people _____"

Luke 2:30-32, NIV

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Bible Quiz

Elizabeth, an older relative of Mary the mother of Jesus, was miraculously pregnant at the same time as Mary. What was the name of Elizabeth's husband?

- A. Aaron
- B. Zechariah
- C. Joseph
- D. Simeon