



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

DISCIPLE DIGEST

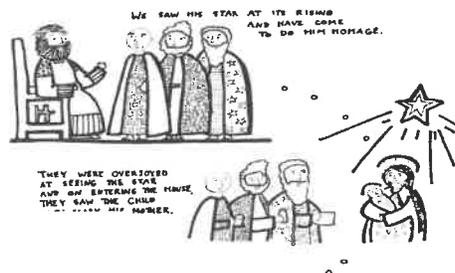
FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ISSUE NO. I-2024

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.
Worship 10:00 a.m.

JANUARY 2024

*The Epiphany of Our Lord
(Gospel Reading: Matthew 2:1-12)*



DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



JANUARY 2024

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 Dennis Fisher entitled **On the Wing**.

As we head into a New Year, let's remember that God is all wise, loves us and is in control.

In his book *On the Wing*, Alan Tennant chronicles his efforts to track the migration of the peregrine falcon. Valued for their beauty, swiftness, and power, these amazing birds of prey were favorite hunting companions of emperors and nobility. Sadly, the wide use of the pesticide DDT in the 1950s interfered with their reproductive cycle and placed them on the endangered species list.

Interested in the recovery of this species, Tennant attached transmitters to a select number of falcons to track their migration patterns. But when he and his pilot flew their Cessna behind the birds, they repeatedly lost signal from the transmitters. Despite their advanced technology, they were not always able to track the birds they wanted to help.

It's good to know that the God who cares for us never loses track of us. In fact, Jesus said that not even one sparrow "will fall to the ground outside your Father's care...So don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows" (Matthew 10:29-31).

When we face difficult circumstances, fear may cause us to wonder if God is aware of our situation. Jesus' teaching assures us that God is aware of our situation. Jesus' teaching assures us that God cares deeply and is in control. His tracking of our lives will never fail.

Father, I'm putting my longings and burdens on You as we begin this New Year because I know You care for me and can work powerfully. Thank You that I and my loved ones are in Your care.



Comfort in Mourning:
The Family of Bill Rothenbuler
The Family of Kenneth Schooley

Healing Prayers:

*Velma Albert
Renee Celie
Roland Ganger
GiGi & Family
John Henry Kauser
Danny Knapp
John Kromer
*Charlie Simpson
Bristol Smith

Continuing Concerns:

Deb Bashore
Thaniel Bulau
Dave Foltz
Jerry Price
Leslie Santo
Raegan Wonderly
Nursing Homes
Israel
Ukraine
*Denotes Members

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.”
Colossians 4:2

First Scriptures

1/07 Psalm 29
1/14 Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18
1/21 Psalm 62: 5-12
1/28 Psalm 111

Flowers For Worship:

01/07 Herm Guelde-In Memory of Jean
01/14 Darwin & Ursula Riley-In Memory of Renee Marie
01/21
01/28



ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
11/26	49	33	9	6	1	42
12/03	48	39	5	4	0	33
12/10	80	40	8	11	21	33
12/17	73	44	10	14	5	49
12/24	67	42	7	12	6	
Christmas Eve	63					

Nursing Home Residents..

The Gardens
*Romaine Boundy

Van Crest of Payne

*Velma Albert
Lorean McCollum

Military:

Cameron Cramer

JANUARY SERVERS

Elders
Sandy Bandy & Sue Simpson

Worship Leader
Deb Santo

Greeter
Joan Tope

First Scripture Reader
Sharon Cooper

JANUARY SPEAKERS

01/07 Pastor Eileen Kochensparger
01/14 Patti Stoller
01/21 Cody Etter
01/28 Randy Long

My Faith grows stronger when I make time for God and scripture.

Happy Birthday

01/02 Sandy Bandy
01/05 Vicki McClure
01/06 Jan Commers
01/08 Sharon Kline
01/10 Paula Riggerbach
01/14 Quentin Vance
01/15 Bonnie Parker
01/16 Sherry Short
01/18 Clint Reinhart
01/19 Kevin Daniels
01/19 Brenda Mathy
01/23 Kelly Ricker
01/27 Logan Mudel
01/28 Jeannine Hoover

Happy Anniversary

01/03 Larry & Cindy Grace
01/17 Clint & Malerie Reinhart
01/17 Dan & Darla Smith



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 continues following children's moment. New teachers and helpers are appreciated. If you can help to teach Gods love to the children please contact Paul Long or Melanie Bandy.

Sunday School for adults begins at 9:00 a.m. Please feel free to join us. If you have questions, please contact Gary McClure.



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.



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!

Words of Wisdom

- 1. Trust the Process**
 - 2. Have Faith**
 - 3. If it's not yours, don't touch it.**
- Nurse Banks, Macon Georgia



DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The next meeting of the DWM is January 2nd at 10 a.m. This will be an organizational meeting for the upcoming year. All the help to make the women's group a success has been greatly appreciated. New ideas are welcome. We hope you can make the next meeting.

Pastor Search Committee

The Board appointed a Pastor Search Committee at the December Board meeting. Members are: Jan Commers, Tracy Gunderman, Gary McClure, Denise Renollet and Matt Strayer. After the committee begins the process updates will be given to the congregation on a regular basis but keep in mind confidentiality by the committee is a must. No specific information can be shared during the search.

SPEAKERS

We have scheduled speakers for Sunday Worship into March in the new 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.

February Speakers

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

March Speakers

03/03/2024 David McMaster
03/10/2024 Patti Stoller



All Annual Reports should be to the office by January 31st. Who needs to do a report? Board Chair, Elders, Trustees, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, All committees, DWM and Men's Group. A list of all members on your committee also needs to be turned in.
Thank you.

Outreach

We purchased various food items including a ham, canned goods, milk and more. We also purchased socks, hats and gloves for families. Tree gifts included: Games that were give to the Opportunity School of Paulding County were on the tags on the tree. Also clothing items for families were on the tree tags and given by the congregation. Additional hats, gloves & mittens will be given to school for kids needing them. Thanks to everyone who generously gave to this Outreach Project!



The Outreach Committee



Monthly Budget Needs

In order to meet our monthly budget needs We need an offering of \$10814.67 per month.



COUNTERS

- 1/07 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 1/14 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 1/21 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 1/28 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers

Caring and Sharing Food Pantry



Our Donation box is located in the narthex. The pantry could use instant potatoes, condiments, and any baking items. All donations are appreciated. Thank You for supporting Caring and Sharing Food Pantry.



Family Fellowship Night

January 28th
5 p.m.



Sandwiches will be provided, please bring something to share. We will be playing bingo following our meal. If you have **fabulous bingo prizes** at home and would like to bring them in there is a box in the narthex.

Contribution Statements

If you have received a contribution statement in the past, you will be given one automatically. If you have not received one in the past and would like one please let Tracy Gunderman know.



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH

First Christian Church Fund Summary

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	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	106 SPECIAL HOLIDAY-THA NKSGIV	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	700 MENS GROUP	Total
11/05/2023	2,912.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	2,917.00
11/12/2023	2,652.00	45.00	15.00	0.00	2,712.00
11/19/2023	1,717.00	100.00	0.00	15.00	1,832.00
11/26/2023	945.00	56.00	5.00	0.00	1,006.00
Total	8,226.00	201.00	25.00	15.00	8,467.00

Susan K. Simpson
Financial Sec.

12/6/23

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.

"Although no one can go back and make a brand new start, anyone can start from now and make a brand new ending."

—Carl Bard



January 2024

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

	1 	2 DISCIPLES WOMENS MEET- ING-10 A.M.	3 WOR/MEM/ TECH-6:30 P.M. TRUSTEES-7 P.M.	4	5	6  EPIPHANY
7	8	9	10 STEWARDSHIP/ FINANCE-6:30 P.M.	11	12	13
14	15	16 BOARD MEETING- 7 P.M.	17	18	19	20 MEN'S GROUP- 9 A.M. SIMPSON -FS HALL
21 ELDERS MEET- ING-8:30 A.M.	22 ONE STORY AT A TIME GROUP -6:00 P.M.	23	24	25	26	27
28 FAMILY FELLOWSHIP NIGHT-5P.M.	29	30	31 EACH OF US HAS GIFTS THAT CAN BENEFIT OTHERS			

ELDERS: Sue Simpson & Sandy Bandy

WORSHIP LEADER: Deb Santo

1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Sharon Cooper

GREETERS: Joan Tope

CHILDREN'S MOMENT: Melanie Bandy & Vivi Myers

SPEAKERS

01/07 Pastor Eileen Kochensparger

01/14 Patti Stoller

01/21 Cody Etter

01/28 Randy Long



Predictions for the new year

Author Ronald Wilson, in *Stretching the Soul*, describes being certain that four things will occur in the days ahead.

- Trouble will come. Life is difficult. I must mourn as well as dance.
- In this long journey [of life], I'm not in control. God has reminded us of this.
- Many times I will fail.
- I will find forgiveness and get up and go on. God will wipe up the mess I've made of things, take me by the hand and set me back on the right path.

Praise God for his sure presence during the joys and challenges the new year brings

Making the most of ordinary time

In liturgical churches, more than half of the church-year calendar is labeled as Ordinary Time. Although that merely means the weeks are designated by ordinal numbers (*First Sunday after the Epiphany*, etc.), people may assume that "ordinary" means not special, or not a church holiday.

Ordinary gets a bad rap, but it represents the bulk of daily life. Not all days contain mountaintop experiences that warrant Facebook posts. Yet "simple, consistent, sometimes boring faithfulness" can lead to out-of-the-ordinary results, according to blogger Karl Vaters. "When you're following God's will for your life and you string a bunch of ordinary but necessary actions together, extraordinary things can happen," he writes at ChristianityToday.com.

Likewise, although Christians may strive to be radical, out-of-the-ordinary followers of Jesus, everyday discipleship leaves a powerful legacy. In *The Ordinary Christian Life*, pastor Michael Horton extols the value of "the regular preaching of Christ from all of the Scriptures, baptism, the Supper, the prayers of confession and praise, and all of the other aspects of ordinary Christian fellowship." He says the result of participating in "the ordinary life of the covenant community" is quite extraordinary: "steady maturation in Christ."

—adapted from *The Wired Word*

Two ships

The year like a ship in the distance
comes over life's mystical sea.
We know not what change of existence
'tis bringing to you or to me.
But we wave out the ship that is leaving
and we welcome the ship coming in,
although it be loaded with grieving,
with trouble, or losses, or sin. ...

The new ship comes nearer and nearer,
we know not what freight she may hold.
Hope stands at the helm there to steer her;
our hearts are courageous and bold.
Sail in with new joys and new sorrows.
Sail in with new banners unfurled.
Sail in with unwritten tomorrows.
Sail in with new tasks for the world.

—from "New Year," Ella Wheeler Wilcox

ONE STORY AT TIME GROUP

January 22 nd
6:00 p.m.

We will be meeting to discuss excerpts from different books with lively discussion of faith, grace and fellowship. Sandwiches will be provided, bring something to share if you would like. If you have questions, please contact Denise. It would be helpful to know how many to expect.





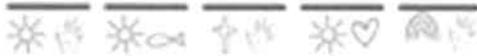


Puzzle!

Use the grid to discover what James 5:13-18 advises when challenges loom.

	A	F	L	P	T
	C	H	N	R	W
	E	I	O	S	Y
					

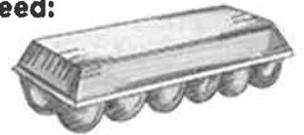
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Geodes look plain on the outside but contain beautiful crystals. Create these "rocks" to show how God makes us new on the inside.

What you need:

- Clean cardboard egg carton
- Scissors (and adult help)
- Epsom salt
- Plastic zippered bags (one per color of dye)
- Food coloring
- Glue
- Paintbrush



What you do:

1. Cut out the tops and bottoms of all the egg compartments so you can make 6 ball shapes.
2. In each bag, put 3 tablespoons of Epsom salt and a drop or two of food coloring. Seal and shake to mix.
3. With the paintbrush, spread glue inside two egg-carton halves. Sprinkle a spoonful of Epsom salt into those halves. Then close and shake.
4. Open your homemade geode and shake out excess salt.
5. Optional: Preserve the crystals with a coat of clear-drying glue.

