



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

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH**  
**ISSUE NO. II-2024**

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*Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m.*  
*Adult Sunday School Class 9:00 a.m.*  
*Worship 10:00 a.m.*

## *FEBRUARY 2024*

He offers peace beyond our circumstances,  
joy beyond our expressions, wisdom  
beyond our understanding, and  
accomplishments beyond our abilities.

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

## First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



FEBRUARY 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 Xochilt Dixon entitled Love Won't Stop

After I turned nineteen, and years before I owned a pager or a cell phone, I moved more than seven hundred miles away from my mom. One morning, I left early to run errands, forgetting our scheduled call. Later that night, two policemen came to my door. Mom had been worried because I'd never missed one of our chats. After calling repeatedly and getting a busy signal, she reached out to the authorities and insisted they check on me. One of the police officers turned to me and said, "It's a blessing to know love won't stop looking for you."

When I picked up the phone to call my mom, I realized I had accidentally left the receiver off its base. After I apologized, she said she needed to spread the good news to the family and friends she had informed that I'd been *missing*. I hung up thinking she'd overreacted a bit, though it felt good to be loved that much.

Scripture paints a beautiful picture of God, who is Love, relentlessly beckoning His wandering children. Like a good shepherd, He cares about and seeks out every lost sheep, affirming the priceless value of every beloved child of God (Luke 15: 1-7)

Love never stops looking for us. He will pursue us until we've returned to Him. We can pray for others who need to know that Love-God-never stops looking for them either.

**Heavenly Father, thank You for pursuing us with persistence and providing a safe place when we return to Your loving arms.**



**Comfort in Mourning:**  
The Family of Mooneen Ringenberg

**Healing Prayers:**

\*Velma Albert  
Betty Clark  
Renee Celie  
Roland Ganger  
GiGi & Family  
Gary Harpster  
Jill Hatcher  
Kathy Reinhart  
Dave Santo  
Jessica Trickett  
The Brodie Family

**Continuing Concerns:**

Deb Bashore /  
Dave Foltz  
Jerry Price  
Leslie Santo  
Nursing Homes  
Israel  
Ukraine  
\*Denotes Members

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



**Flowers For Worship:**

02/04 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.  
02/11  
02/18  
02/25 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.

**Nursing Home Residents..**

**The Gardens**  
\*Romaine Boundy

**Van Crest of Payne**  
\*Velma Albert  
Lorean McCollum

**Military:**  
Cameron Cramer

**FEBRUARY SERVERS**

**Elders**  
Paul Long & Tracy Gunderman

**Worship Leader**  
Tracy Gunderman

**Greeter**  
Jacque Walker & Shirley Cramer

**First Scripture Reader**  
Susan Knapp

**FEBRUARY SPEAKERS**

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



2/01 Briana Townley  
2/03 Justin Tope  
2/04 Greg Reinhart  
2/06 Adam Daniels  
2/08 Hailey Harris  
2/09 Klair Hoover  
2/09 Jacque Walker  
2/13 Don Stoller  
2/13 Maverick Wells  
2/15 Kynzi Knapp  
2/16 Gary McClure  
2/19 Trent Reinhart  
2/21 Cadence Cook  
2/21 Charlotte Smith  
2/22 Ron Gunderman  
2/24 Suzanne Laney  
2/25 Lois Beamer

**Happy Anniversary**

2/26 Kenny & Marsha Adkins



**First Scriptures**

2/04 Psalm 147: 1-11  
2/11 Psalm 50: 1-6  
2/18 Psalm 25: 1-10  
2/25 Psalm 22: 23-31



**Ash Wednesday**  
— Lent Begins

The Church will be open for the imposition of ash from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. On February 14th.



**ATTENDANCE**

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
12/31	80	37	6	12	25	32
01/07	54	36	5	11	2	41
01/14	36	24	5	5	2	34
01/21	53	33	5	12	3	



## First Christian Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member of First Christian Church, please contact the office for further information. We will be starting a baptism class soon. We will be holding baptism on Easter Sunday.

Dear Bell Choir,

*Thank you so much for the generous Christmas Gift!! You are all truly amazing and talented. I look forward to rehearsal each week because we have a good time making "joyful noises." Thank you again for everything you do.*

Sincerely,



Donna

### Thank You

Thank you for the cards and well wishes and DWM for the beautiful basket of all things I can use. I hope you all had a happy Christmas and are doing well. I continue to improve daily.

Love to All,  
Velma



Thank You for the generous Christmas gift. I am blessed to have such a wonderful church family. I appreciate your kindness.

Denise

### Thank You

The Paulding Opportunity School would like to say a big thank you for all the games for classrooms. They made a card and it is on bulletin board.



## DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The DWM will be hosting an Italian Lunch following worship on February 11th . Jan Commers & Kathy Daniels are the chairs. Please see them if you have questions. We are hosting the Lenten Lunch February 21st. We continue to make plans for the year. If you would like to help with the DWM outreach projects, please come to the next meeting. The next meeting will be is February 6th at 10 a.m. We hope to see you there.

## Pastor Search Committee

The Pastor Search Committee met to review and update the required paper work. Members are: Jan Commers, Tracy Gunderman, Gary McClure, Denise Renollet and Matt Strayer. Denise was voted chair of the committee. Updates have been made and the information sent to the region. If anyone locally is interested in Applying for the job they must contact Allen Harris at AHarris@CCinOH.org.

## 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.

### March Speakers

03/03/2024 David McMaster  
03/10/2024 Patti Stoller  
03/17/2024  
03/24/2024 Chris Bowers  
03/31/2024 Pastor Eileen Kochensparger



## One Story at a Time Group

February 26th, 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.

## Lenten Lunch Host Schedule

All Lunches are held at the First Presbyterian Church at noon.

February 14th –First Presbyterian Ch  
 February 21st-First Christian Church  
 February 28th– Divine Mercy Catholic  
 March 6th– St. Paul Lutheran Church  
 March 13th-The Nazarene Church  
 March 20th-United Methodist Church



### Monthly Budget Needs

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



### COUNTERS

2/04 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace  
 2/11 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy  
 2/18 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson  
 2/25 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers

## Caring and Sharing Food Pantry



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

**ITALIAN LUNCH**

**FEBRUARY 11TH**

**FOLLOWING WORSHIP**

**HOSTED BY THE DISCIPLES**

**WOMEN'S MINISTRY**



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

### First Christian Church Fund Summary



	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	107 SPECIAL HOLIDAY-CHR ISTMAS	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	Total
12/03/2023	2,807.00	0.00	55.00	2,862.00
12/10/2023	2,110.00	20.00	0.00	2,130.00
12/17/2023	1,827.00	200.00	50.00	2,077.00
12/24/2023	1,086.08	10.00	50.00	1,146.08
12/31/2023	887.75	0.00	70.00	957.75
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,717.83</b>	<b>230.00</b>	<b>225.00</b>	<b>9,172.83</b>

*Susan K. Simpson, Financial Sec. 1-3-24*

# 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.**



## February 2024

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

	Reminders of God's enduring Love are all around me.			1	2	3
4	5	6 DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY-10 A.M.	7 WOR/MEM/ TECH-6:30 P.M. TRUSTEES- 7:00.M.	8	9	10
11 ITALIAN LUNCH FOLLOWING WORSHIP	12	13 STEWARD- SHIP/FINANCE- 6:30 P.M.	14 ASH WEDNESDAY Ashes-5-6 p.m. LENTEN LUNCH-NOON	15	16	17 MEN'S GROUP- 9:00 A.M.
18 ELDERS MEET- ING-8:30 A.M.	19	20 BOARD MEET- ING-7:00 P.M.	21 LENTEN LUNCH-NOON	22	23	24
25 GIDEON SUNDAY	26 ONE STORY AT A TIME GROUP- 6:00 P.M.	27	28 LENTEN LUNCH-NOON	29		

**ELDERS: Paul Long & Tracy Gunderman**

**WORSHIP LEADER: Tracy Gunderman**

**1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Susan Knapp**

**GREETERS: Jacque Walker & Shirley Cramer**

**CHILDREN'S MOMENT: Jan Commers**

**SPEAKERS**

2/04 Mike Jackson

2/11 Cheri Estle

2/18 Pastor DeWayne Richardson

2/25 Gideon Sunday





## The realm of the impossible

The wonderful thing about praying is that you leave a world of not being able to do something and enter God's realm, where everything is possible. He specializes in the impossible. Nothing is too great for his almighty power. Nothing is too small for his love.

—Corrie ten Boom

## Spring training for Christians

The word Lent comes from Middle English and German words for springtime. In light of the start of baseball season, some people call the pre-Easter season "spring training for Christians." This fresh perspective moves away from the flawed understanding that Lent must be somber, or that giving something up for Lent is punishment for sin or a way to earn God's favor.

As people of faith, we should never take a season off. But every so often — at least once a year! — we do well to examine where we need to get back in shape spiritually. Perhaps we will indeed opt to give something up: that swearing habit, sleeping in on Sundays, or the cost of a weekly treat so we can donate the money instead. Or maybe we'll take on something new for Lent: a Bible study, prayer routine or service project.

Hebrews describes spiritual discipline as challenging in the moment but yielding righteousness later. The writer urges us, "Lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees ... so that what is lame may not be put out of joint but rather be healed" (12:11-13, ESV). May the spring training of Lent strengthen and heal us all.



## God-shaped hole

Have you ever neared the completion of a jigsaw puzzle, only to discover that a piece or two is missing? That's an apt visual for what it's like to live without God. Blaise Pascal, a 17<sup>th</sup>-century philosopher, observed: "There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of each man which cannot be satisfied by any created thing but only by God the Creator, made known through Jesus Christ."

Centuries earlier, St. Augustine proclaimed "Thou hast made us for thyself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee." And in the Old Testament, the writer of Ecclesiastes expounded on the meaninglessness of earthly striving and material pursuits. Only God's Spirit can fill our emptiness and satisfy our eternal longings.

"I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full," says Jesus in John 10:10 (NIV). He alone provides the solution for emptiness. What comfort to be filled with — and to find our fulfillment in — our Savior!

# HEART strings

Make this heartfelt craft as a decoration or gift.

## What you need:

- Yarn
- Scissors
- Parchment paper
- Baking sheet
- Heart-shaped cookie cutters
- ¼ cup cornstarch
- ½ cup water
- Adult help



## What you do:

1. Cut yarn into 12-inch pieces.
2. Place cookie cutters atop a baking sheet lined with parchment paper.
3. Combine cornstarch and water in a saucepan. Heat mixture over medium heat, stirring until thick and smooth. Remove from heat and cool to form a "glue."
4. Dip each piece of yarn into the mixture to coat completely. Squeeze off any excess.
5. Place yarn in the cookie cutters, allowing pieces to cross and loop within the heart. Add more until the cookie cutter is filled and the yarn looks like a heart.
6. Remove cookie cutters and bake the sheet for two hours at 150°F, or until hearts are dry and hard.

# PUZZLE



## CONNECTED BY LOVE

God's Word is filled with messages about love, which connects us to God and to one another.

Directions: Draw a line from the beginning of each Bible verse (on the left side) through the heart to the rest of the verse (on the right side). Use the Scripture references for help.

- a. We
- b. Above all,
- c. My command is this:
- d. And over all these virtues put on
- e. Greater
- f. See what great
- g. There is no fear in

1. each other as I have loved you. John 15:12
2. has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. John 15:13
3. But perfect love drives out fear. 1 John 4:18
4. each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins. 1 Peter 4:8
5. the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! 1 John 3:1
6. because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19
7. which binds them all together in perfect unity. Colossians 3:14



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## Christian symbol

**CROSS OF ASHES**— On Ash Wednesday, as Lent begins, worshipers' foreheads are often marked with ashes in the sign of the cross. The ashes traditionally come from burning palm branches from the previous Palm Sunday. In the Old Testament, ashes were a sign of mourning and repentance. Today, some worshipers wipe off the ashes before leaving church, to symbolize being cleansed from sin by Jesus' death; others wear the ashes the rest of the day, carrying the cross of Christ into the world. Reciting Genesis 3:19 often accompanies the placement of ashes: "You are dust, and to dust you shall return."