



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

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

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

**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.*  
*Worship 10:00 a.m.*

## MARCH 2024

 Happy Easter

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



MARCH 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 Amy Boucher Pye entitled Jesus Christ Is Risen Today!**

Before Charles Simeon attended university in Cambridge, England, he loved horses and clothes, spending a great sum on his attire yearly. But because his college required him to attend regular Communion services, he started to explore what he believed. After reading books written by believers in Jesus, he experienced a dramatic conversion on Easter Sunday. Awakening early on April 4, 1779, he cried out, "Jesus Christ is risen today! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!" As he grew in his faith in God, he devoted himself to bible study, prayer and attending chapel services.

On the first Easter, life changed for the two women who arrived at Jesus' tomb. There they witnessed a violent earthquake as an angel rolled back the stone. He said to them, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said" (Matthew 28: 5-6). Overjoyed, the women worshiped Jesus and ran back to tell their friends the good news.

Encountering the risen Christ isn't something reserved for ancient times—He promises to meet us here and now. We might experience a dramatic encounter, such as the women at the tomb or as Charles Simeon did, we might not. In whatever way Jesus reveals Himself to us, we can trust that He loves us.

**How has God shown Himself to you?  
How have you changed because of your encounter with Him?**

Risen Jesus, thank You for coming and dying on the cross that I might have life eternal. I worship you.



### Nursing Home Residents..

**The Gardens**  
\*Romaine Boundy

**Van Crest of Payne**  
Lorean McCollum

**Military:**  
Cameron Cramer  
Eric Erford

### MARCH SERVERS

**Elders**  
Max Hibbard & Bruce Gunderman

**Worship Leader**  
Larry Grace

**Greeter**  
Corey & Nicole Harris

**First Scripture Reader**  
Matt Strayer

# Happy Birthday

- 04/01 Matthew Strayer
- 04/07 Mick Coak
- 04/09 Lori Clark
- 04/09 Brett Mawer
- 04/12 Tony Garza
- 04/12 Leah Gunderman
- 04/13 Carol Moore
- 04/16 Donna Hibbard
- 04/18 Destyne Carlisle
- 04/19 Tabrina Vance
- 04/23 Melissa Leslie
- 04/24 Gina Vance
- 04/25 Ann Reinhart
- 04/25 Darla Smith
- 04/26 Elise Laney
- 04/26 Nicki Smith
- 04/27 Julie Cook
- 04/29 Kyle Harris
- 04/30 Addyson Hormann
- 04/30 Grayson Thompson
- 04/30 Scarlet Thompson

**Comfort in Mourning:**  
The Family of Randy Short  
The Family of Velma Albert  
The Family of Ben Rodriquez

**Healing Prayers:**  
Michael Kline  
Pat Marshall  
Kathy Reinhart

**Continuing Concerns:**  
Deb Bashore  
Dave Foltz  
Gary Harpster  
Cheresa Hoesell  
Jerry Price  
Leslie Santo  
Nursing Homes  
Israel  
Ukraine  
The Pastor Search Committee  
\*Denotes Members

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

### MARCH SPEAKERS

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

### First Scriptures

- 03/03 Psalm 19
- 03/10 Psalm 107: 1-3, 17-22
- 03/17 Psalm 51: 1-12
- 03/24 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29
- 03/31 Psalm 118: 1-2, 14-24

### Happy Anniversary

- 04/08 Charlie & Sue Simpson
- 04/14 Brian & Gina Vance
- 04/19 Brian & Jennifer Aden



### Flowers For Worship:

- 03/03 Joan Tope-In Memory of Jerry
- 03/10 Max & Donna Hibbard-In Memory of Loretta Stocker
- 03/17
- 03/24 Herm Guelde-In Memory of Jean's Family
- 03/31

### In Sympathy

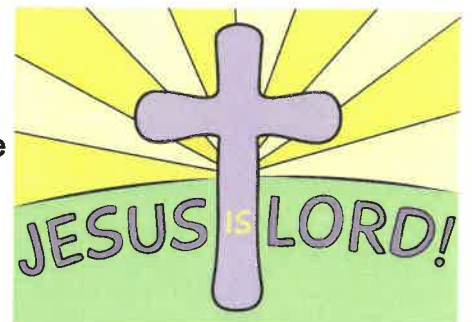


*Please keep the families of Randy Short and Velma Albert in your prayers. May our Lord bless and comfort these families during this time of grief.*



### ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
01/28	59	41	6	10	2	52
02/04	59	38	7	11	3	37
02/11	61	41	6	8	6	46
02/18	79	40	11	14	14	21





**Palm Sunday-March 24th-Worship begins at 10:00 a.m.**

**Maundy Thursday Service-March 28th 7:00 P.M.**

Join us at First Christian Church for this inspirational evening service.

**Good Friday Community Service-March 29th at St. Paul Lutheran Church-12:00 p.m.**

**Stations of the Cross -March 29th-From 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.** The church will be open for the community to view a narration of the final hours in the life of Jesus Christ on earth.

**Community Easter Sunrise Service March 31st-7:00 a.m. at First Christian Church**

**Easter Service-March 31st at 10:00 a.m. at First Christian Church**

### **Lenten Lunch Host Schedule**

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

March 6th– St. Paul Lutheran Church

March 13th-The Nazarene Church

March 20th-United Methodist Church

### **Easter Flowers**

If you would like to bring in flowers for the Easter Season the Worship Committee welcomes your thoughtfulness. All flowers may be taken home after the Easter Service. Please have them to the church by March 24.



### **DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY**

The next meeting will be March 5th at 10 a.m. If you would like to help with the DWM outreach projects, please come to the next meeting.

Our Italian Lunch went very well. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped.

We were honored to serve a funeral lunch for the family of our long time member Velma Albert.

We were the host of the Lenten Lunch on February 21st. Thank you to the soup makers and everyone who brought breads and desserts.

Come and help us decide what's next. We hope to see you at the upcoming meeting.



### **SPEAKERS**

We have scheduled speakers for Sunday Worship into April. 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.

### **April Speakers**

04/07/2024 Mike Jackson

04/14/2024 Cheri Estle

04/21/2024 Patti Stoller

04/28/2024 Mike Waldron



### **One Story at a Time Group**

March 25th 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.

## Outreach Committee

The Outreach Committee will be supporting a team for the Paulding Area Support Society. They will be donating \$300.00 to this event.



### Trustees

The trustees are busy as always handling the issues that come up within the church property. Recently the heat exchanger had to be replaced on the north heating unit. A rather costly but necessary repair. The shed roof has been replaced, again much needed. It has been brought to the Boards attention that the Parsonage is in need of the last "phase" of improvements to the bathroom, ceilings and walls upstairs. They are gathering estimates at this time so hopefully we will get the repairs and updates taken care of soon.



Thanks for Your Support!

### Monthly Budget Needs

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



### COUNTERS

- 3/03 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 3/10 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 3/17 Max Hibbard. Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 3/24 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers
- 3/31 Dan Workman, Charlie Simpson, Joan Tope

## 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.

### Special Thanks.....

THANK You to our friends at First Christian Church-Paulding for your continued prayers for our son Eric who is deployed in Africa.

We are now praying for his safe return home to us , perhaps late March.

Thank you again and

WISHING YOU MANY BLESSINGS

Jeff & Jill Erford



NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH



### First Christian Church Fund Summary

01/29/2024 12:02 PM

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	102 INITIAL ENVELOPE OFFERING	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	Total
01/07/2024	3,109.30	55.00	50.00	3,214.30
01/14/2024	1,000.31	5.00	100.00	1,105.31
01/21/2024	1,286.00	5.00	50.00	1,341.00
01/28/2024	1,147.92	0.00	50.00	1,197.92
Total	6,543.53	65.00	250.00	6,858.53

*Tracy Gunderman*



2 corinthians 9:7

It has been a tradition for many years for people to have a lily bloom placed on the lily cross in honor or in memory of loved ones for a donation. Please fill out the form below and return it to the office. Deadline is March 24th.

### LILY BLOOM FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

IN HONOR OF \_\_\_\_\_

IN MEMORY OF \_\_\_\_\_



## Be the donkey

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" she replied. "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor."

Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or "take up") their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?

## Pressed

*Gethsemane*, the name of the place where Jesus prayed before his betrayal, is an Aramaic word for "olive press." During Bible times, olives were pressed three times to remove all the valuable oil. Before being arrested in the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus felt the full pressing weight of our sins on his shoulders. Surrounded by olive trees, praying fervently while sweating drops of blood, the perfect Son of God asked his heavenly Father three times to remove the cup of suffering.

Instead of removing that trial, God used it to redeem and save humankind. Likewise, God uses our hardships to refine and strengthen our faith.

In *The Rock, the Road and the Rabbi*, TV host Kathie Lee Gifford and Messianic Rabbi Jason Sobel speculate that if Peter, along with James and John, hadn't fallen asleep in Gethsemane, he may have had the strength to not deny Jesus later that night.

"All of us must be vigilant to watch and pray so that we don't succumb to the temptation to deny the Lord when we go through the olive presses of life and feel like we are being crushed by our situation and circumstances," the authors write. "We must remember that it is the crushing that brings out the true inner value and worth of the olive."



## Summer Camp, Conference & Retreat Schedule 2024

*Note, all grades listed are grades completing Spring/Summer 2024*

- ❖ Disciples Fellowship Retreat
  - Friday, May 24<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>
  - For all ages
  
- ❖ Grandparents Camp - Elementary
  - Thursday, June 6<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>
  - For children completing Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> grade AND their Grandparent
    - *Child may be accompanied by another related adult (not Mom or Dad) if Grandparent is unavailable*
  
- ❖ Otter Camp - Elementary
  - Sunday, June 9<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, June 15<sup>th</sup>
  - For children completing 5<sup>th</sup> grade & those completing 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades ready for a full-week of camp.
  
- ❖ Chi Rho & CYF Week 1 Concurrent Camp – Junior High & High School
  - Sunday, June 16<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>
  - Chi Rho is for youth completing 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades
  - CYF is for youth completing 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades
  
- ❖ Adult Conference
  - Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> – Friday, June 21<sup>st</sup>
  - For adults of all ages
  - Held at Northwest Christian Church in Columbus
  
- ❖ Just Say Know Camp – Junior High
  - Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> – Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>
  - For youth completing 8<sup>th</sup> grade
  
- ❖ Ribbit Camp – Elementary
  - Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> – Wednesday, July 3<sup>rd</sup>
  - For children completing 2<sup>nd</sup> grade and/or 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> graders whose parents want a shorter camp experience for their children
  
- ❖ Camp Encore – Junior High & High School
  - Sunday, June 30<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, July 6<sup>th</sup>
  - For youth completing 6<sup>th</sup>- 12<sup>th</sup> grades
  
- ❖ Chi Rho Week #2 – Junior High
  - Sunday, July 7<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>
  - For youth completing 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades
  
- ❖ CYF Week #2 – High School
  - Sunday, July 14<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, July 20<sup>th</sup>
  - For youth completing 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> grades
  
- ❖ Advance Conference
  - Sunday, July 21<sup>st</sup> – Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup>
  - For all adults ages 19 to 30 (out of high school.)
  
- ❖ Disciples Fellowship Retreat
  - Friday, August, 30<sup>th</sup> – Sunday, September 1<sup>st</sup>
  - For all ages

# 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.**



# March 2024

**Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat**

					1	2
3	4	5 DWM-10 A.M.	6 WOR/MEM/ TECH MEETING -6:30 P.M.	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 STEWARDSHIP/ FINANCE- 6:30 P.M.	14	15	16 MEN'S GROUP- 9:00 A.M.
17 ELDERS MEETING- 8:30 A.M.	18	19 BOARD MEETING- 7 P.M.	20	21	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 	25	26	27	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE-7 P.M.	29 COMMUNITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE-NOON ST PAUL LUTHERAN CH. STATIONS OF THE CROSS-10-11:30 A.M. & 5-7 P.M.	30
31 COMMUNITY SUNRISE- SERVICE -7 A.M.			WE WALK BY FAITH NOT BY SIGHT 2 CORINTHIANS 5:7			

**ELDERS: Max Hibbard & Bruce Gunderman**  
**WORSHIP LEADER: Larry Grace**  
**1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Matt Strayer**  
**GREETERS: Corey & Nicole Harris**  
**CHILDREN'S MOMENT: Tracy Gunderman**

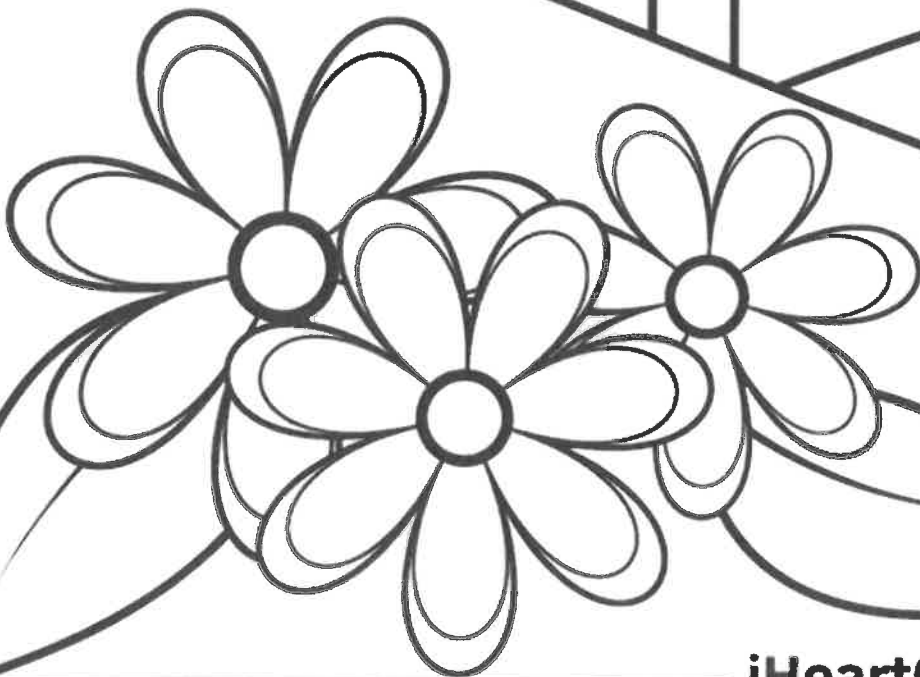
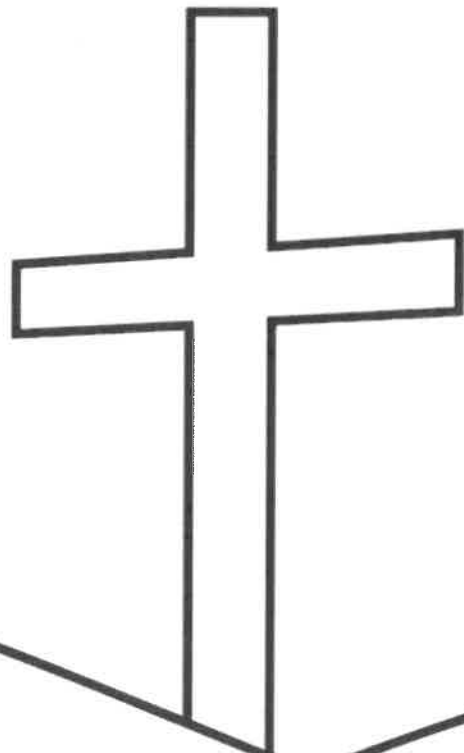
**SPEAKERS-**  
 03/03/2024 David McMaster  
 03/10/2024 Patti Stoller  
 03/17/2024 Cody Etter  
 03/24/2024 Chris Bowers  
 03/31/2024 Pastor Eileen Kochensparger





HAPPY

EASTER



# PUZZLE

## A LASTING LESSON

Before dying on the cross, Jesus teaches the disciples an important lesson.

Directions: Use the clues to unscramble the letters in each grape cluster. Then write the circled letters in order below to complete John 15:5, NIV.



- A branch that was wined ---
- How Jesus was put to death ---
- A stick attached to the vine ---
- People shouted this to Jesus ---
- Jesus washed these  ---
- This was broken and eaten ---
- The Messiah ---
- A drink from grapes  ---
- Jesus drove the money changers from here ---

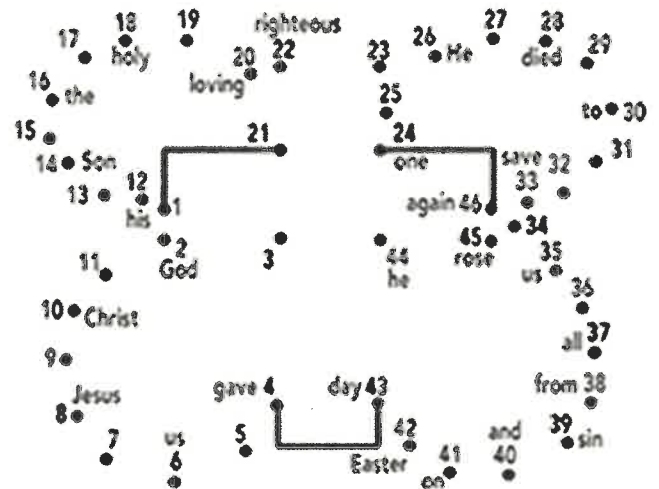
"I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear \_\_\_\_\_  
 apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5, NIV

Illustration by: [unreadable]

# Puzzle!

Connect the dots to find two symbols of Easter. Then write the words in the correct blanks to complete an Easter poem.



2	4	6	8	10	12	14
16	18	20	22	24		
26	28	30	33	35	37	38
40	41	42	43	44	45	46

Illustration by: [unreadable]



## Bible Quiz

The "Christ hymn" in Philippians 2 proclaims that after Jesus humbled himself even to the point of death, God exalted him, and that eventually all will worship him. What two body parts are named as part of that worship?

- A. knee; tongue
- B. hands; feet
- C. arms; lips
- D. heart; mouth

Answer: A (See Philippians 2:10-11.)

**BUTTERFLY** — The butterfly symbolizes resurrection, Easter and the new life we have in Christ Jesus. As a caterpillar disappears into a chrysalis, so Jesus' lifeless body was hidden in a tomb. The emergence of the butterfly, rising into the sky in its beautiful new body, reminds us of Christ's resurrection — and ours.

