



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

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
ISSUE NO. IV-2024

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



## APRIL 2024

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)



APRIL 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 Jennifer Benson Schuldt

Entitled Flourish Again

Given enough sunlight and water, vibrant wildflowers carpet areas of California such as Antelope Valley and Figueroa Mountain. But what happens when drought strikes? Scientists have discovered that certain wildflowers store large quantities of their seeds underground instead of allowing them to push through the soil and bloom. After the drought the plants use the seeds they've saved to begin to flourish again.

The ancient Israelites thrived in the land of Egypt, despite harsh conditions. Slave masters forced them to work in fields and make bricks. Ruthless overseers required them to build entire cities for Pharaoh. The king of Egypt even tried to use infanticide to reduce their numbers. However, because God sustained them, "the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread" (Exodus 1: 12). Many Bible scholars estimate that the population of Israelite men, women, and children grew to two million (or more) during their time in Egypt.

God, who preserved His people then, is upholding us today as well. He can help us in any environment. We may worry about enduring through another season. But the Bible assures us that God, who "cares so wonderfully for wildflowers that are here today and (are gone) tomorrow," can provide for our needs (Matthew 6:30).

**Why is it so hard to trust God during life's "dry" seasons? How has God provided for you in the past, and how might the story of His faithfulness encourage someone you know?**

Father, sometimes it's so hard to keep going. Please meet my needs today,  
and help me to persevere through the power of Your Holy Spirit.

# Happy Birthday



## Nursing Home Residents..

**Comfort in Mourning:**  
The Family of Gary Harpster  
The Family of Krista Gonzales

**The Gardens**  
\*Romaine Boundy

**Healing Prayers:**  
Sherri Friend  
Michael Kline  
Pat Marshall  
Kevin Nickell  
Stan Searing  
Tammie Shrider

**Van Crest of Payne**  
Lorean McCollum

**Fountain Park-Bryan, Oh**  
\*Wanda Rohlf

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

**Military:**  
Cameron Cramer  
Eric Erford

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

## APRIL SERVERS

**Elders**  
Larry Grace & Gary McClure

**Worship Leader**  
Deb Santo

**Greeter**  
Shirley Cramer & Jacque Walker

**First Scripture Reader**  
Leah Gunderman

04/01 Matthew Strayer  
04/07 Mick Cook  
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

## APRIL SPEAKERS

4/07 Mike Jackson  
4/14 Pastor Ric Beals  
4/21 Patti Stoller  
4/28 Mike Waldron

## First Scriptures

04/07 Psalm 133  
04/14 Psalm 4  
04/21 Psalm 23  
04/28 Psalm 22: 25-31

## Happy Anniversary

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



## Thank You

Thank You to my church family for the prayers for my niece Cheresa. Nearly 3 months at Cleveland Clinic she now will take treatments at Union Hospital of Michigan, Ann Arbor. Good news, her bone marrow transplant is successful so far. Please continue to pray for her again, Thank You.

Wishing you all many blessings,

Virginia



## Flowers For Worship:

04/07  
04/14 In Honor of Donna Hibbard's Birthday on the 16th  
04/21 Herm Guelde in Memory of Jean  
04/28

## ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
02/25	43	29	4	7	3	38
03/03	57	37	7	12	1	24
03/10	57	37	7	10	2	32
03/17	61	37	6	12	6	31
03/24	72	46	9	13	4	

## Pastor Search Committee

The Pastor Search Committee was pleased to bring Pastor Ric Beals to the March 19th Board meeting for consideration as our new Pastor. After meeting and talking with Pastor Beals the Board voted to bring him to the congregation on April 14th for a trial sermon. Before the service there will be a meet and greet at 9:00 a.m. All are welcome. After the service a congregational meeting will be held to vote on whether to extend a call to Pastor Beals to be our new Pastor. All members of First Christian Church are voting members. The Committee urges everyone to attend the service on the 14th. If you have questions, please contact one of the committee. Thank you all for your prayers and continued positive thoughts in this process.

Denise Renollet, Chair  
Jan Commers  
Tracy Gunderman  
Gary McClure  
Matt Strayer



## Attention Graduates

If you are going to be a high school or a college graduate and would like to be recognized on graduation Sunday, please contact the office.



## DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The next meeting will be March 5th at 10 a.m. All women are invited to attend. See you there.

## DISIPCLES MEN'S GROUP

The Men meet the third Saturday of every month at 9:00 a.m. All men are invited.



## Parsonage

The Parsonage is in need of attention The bathroom needs reworked. It t has not had work done in a long time, The ceilings and walls also need repaired upstairs. The Board voted to go with an estimate that totaled \$11500.00. Work will be done as soon as it can be scheduled. If you would like to donate toward this project it would be greatly appreciated.



## Campers

If you are planning to attend camp the early fee deadline is the first of May. In order to receive funds from the youth fund it must be approved by the finance committee. Please contact the office by April 10th so the finance committee can determine how much money is available.



## One Story at a Time Group

April 22, 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.

# Caring and Sharing Food Pantry



Our Thanks for your support of Caring & Sharing Food Pantry.

For April we need peanut butter and potatoes.

The pantry building is complete and we are planning the move. Our current schedule has us opening on April 10th. As part of the opening, we want to welcome our neighbors who use the pantry by giving them a welcoming bag. Part of that will be a chicken rice casserole kit, including the pan and all the ingredients. We are asking for special donation per the attached flyer which you may duplicate. If you have any questions, please call Laurie Barnes, (312) 520-8786. We are also planning an Open House in May for the public - more information to follow.

Dan Bulau



Outreach



The Outreach committee donated \$500.00 to the Caring and Sharing Food Pantry for their welcome bags.



## Monthly Budget Needs

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



## COUNTERS

- 4/07 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 4/14 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 4/21 Max Hibbard, Susan Simpson, Charlie Simpson
- 4/28 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers

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



## First Christian Church Fund Summary

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	103 WEEK OF COMPASSION	109 GIDEONS	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	700 MENS GROUP	Total
02/04/2024	3,045.00	70.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	3,315.00
02/11/2024	1,216.52	155.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	1,381.52
02/18/2024	1,133.00	30.00	0.00	10.00	30.00	1,203.00
02/25/2024	943.50	20.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	1,003.50
Total	6,338.02	275.00	40.00	220.00	30.00	6,903.02

*Tracy Gunderman*

# 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.**



# April 2024

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

	1	2 DISCIPLES WOMEN MEET- ING-10 A.M.	3 WORSHIP/ MEMBERSHIP/ TECH-6:30 P.M. P.M.	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 FINANCE MEET- ING-6:30 P.M.	11	12	13
14 MEET AND GREET- 9:00 A.M. CONGREGATIONAL MEETING	15	16 BOARD MEETING -7 P.M.	17	18	19	20 MEN'S GROUP-9 A.M.
21 ELDERS MEETING- 8:30 A.M.	22 ONE STORY AT A TIME-6 P.M.	23	24	25	26	27 
28	29	30 				

**ELDERS: Larry Grace & Gary McClure**  
**WORSHIP LEADER: Deb Santo**  
**1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Leah Gunderman**  
**GREETERS: Shirley Cramer & Jacque Walker**  
**CHILDREN'S MOMENT: Paul Long**

**SPEAKERS:**  
 04/07/2024 Mike Jackson  
 04/14/2024 Pastor Ric Beals  
 04/21/2024 Patti Stoller  
 04/28/2024 Mike Waldron



*Kindness  
STARTS WITH  
you.*

## 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

## Trustworthy stewards

After making people in his own image, God entrusted them with the rest of his creation. He wants us to manage well our bodies, our minds and our earthly home. Consider these stewardship quotes from Christian thinkers:

“We ourselves are not masters of our own ability and knowledge. They, like our talents and health, are a loan presented for our use. We must live as people who know that such temporary possessions are not true belongings and that we must give account for our management of them.”

—Albert Schweitzer



## The joy of Jesus

The joy that Jesus offers his disciples is his own joy, which flows from his intimate communion with the One who sent him. It is a joy that does not separate happy days from sad days, successful moments from moments of failure, experiences of honor from experiences of dishonor, passion from resurrection.

This joy is a divine gift that does not leave us during times of illness, poverty, oppression or persecution. It is present even when the world laughs or tortures, robs or maims, fights or kills. It is truly ecstatic, always moving us away from the house of fear into the house of love, and always proclaiming that death no longer has the final say, though its noise remains loud and its devastation visible. The joy of Jesus lifts up life to be celebrated.

—Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Lifesigns*

## When it rains

The skeleton flower, a perennial native to Japan, has delicate petals that change from opaque white to almost transparent when wet. After it rains, only the flower's intricate, skeleton-like veins are visible.

When the rains come (and they will!) in our lives, the same can be said. Amid difficulty and struggle, our true selves often become more transparent. During a parenting challenge, criticism might emerge. Or while we tackle a tough work project, impatience might rear its ugly head.

Hosea 6:3 (NLT) proclaims: “Oh, that we might know the Lord! Let us press on to know him. He will respond to us as surely as the arrival of dawn or the coming of rains in early spring.” The rains will come. Whether you're experiencing light rain or a downpour, ponder what the water reveals. Then ask God how you can be more open to his work in that area.

—Janna Firestone



# Adult Conference June 17-21, 2024

Northwest Christian Church,  
Upper Arlington, Ohio



*Jointly sponsored by the Heartland  
Conference of the United Church of  
Christ and the Christian Church in  
Ohio (Disciples of Christ)*

**Re-member,  
Re-new,  
Re-vitalize,  
Rejoice!**



**Romans 12: 2**

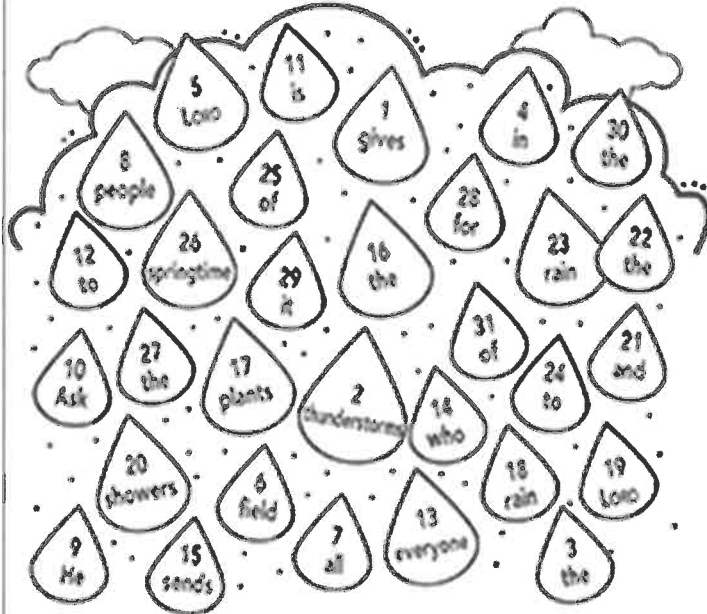
***"Do not conform to the pattern of this  
world, but be transformed by the  
renewing of your mind"***

1950's  
Community  
Choir



# Puzzle!

Complete a Bible verse about spring by writing the word from each raindrop on the correct numbered line below.



10 \_\_\_\_\_ 16 \_\_\_\_\_ 5 \_\_\_\_\_ 28 \_\_\_\_\_ 18 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ 22 \_\_\_\_\_ 26 \_\_\_\_\_ :

29 \_\_\_\_\_ 11 \_\_\_\_\_ 3 \_\_\_\_\_ 19 \_\_\_\_\_ 14 \_\_\_\_\_ 13 \_\_\_\_\_

27 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

9 \_\_\_\_\_ 1 \_\_\_\_\_ 20 \_\_\_\_\_ 31 \_\_\_\_\_ 22 \_\_\_\_\_

12 \_\_\_\_\_ 7 \_\_\_\_\_ 8 \_\_\_\_\_ 21 \_\_\_\_\_ 17 \_\_\_\_\_ 25 \_\_\_\_\_

30 \_\_\_\_\_ 6 \_\_\_\_\_ 24 \_\_\_\_\_ 13 \_\_\_\_\_

Zedariah 101, NV

Answer: The puzzle is a word search. The words are: Lolo, is, Slives, in, the, people, of, for, rain, the, to, springtime, it, the, of, and, Ask, the, plants, clunderstones, who, to, showers, field, rain, Lolo, He, sends, all, everyone, the.

# PUZZLE

## PLANT, WATER, GROW

Building a faith community takes work. How did the church in Corinth come to be?

Directions: Use the code to fill in the words and complete a teaching of the apostle Paul.

KEY



I \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_ Apolos \_\_\_\_\_ it.

but \_\_\_\_\_ has been making it \_\_\_\_\_

So neither the \_\_\_\_\_ who plants nor the \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ who waters is \_\_\_\_\_

but \_\_\_\_\_ who makes things \_\_\_\_\_

1 Corinthians 3:6-7, NIV

Answer: planted, watered, seed, grow, one, anything, only, God, grow

## Bible Quiz

What does the newly risen Jesus tell his disciples — twice — when he appears in the locked room where they are hiding?

- A. "Love one another as I have loved you."
- B. "Peace be with you."
- C. "The last shall be first and the first shall be last."
- D. "I am risen!"

Answer: B (See John 20:19, 21.)

