



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

DISCIPLE DIGEST

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ISSUE NO. VII-2025
MINISTER: PASTOR RIC BEALS

PHONE 419 399-4576
WEBSITE: firstccpaulding.org
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Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m.
Worship 10:00 a.m.
Childrens Sunday School during worship



DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



JULY 2025

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.



PASTOR'S PAGE

Proverbs 4:25-27 says this: Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil. We are in the days where the temperature is influenced by the heat-index. We look forward to tall glasses of iced tea in the shade of the willow tree, and storm watching has been on the forefront of our thoughts lately. As we long for waves to lap at our feet and a trip inside the cooled grocery store, convenience store, restaurant or shopping mall, we lose focus on the eternal because our humid bodies seek instant relief. The problem is, we're seeking relief in all the wrong places. Where does true relief come from, you might ask? Maybe we should think of relief this way, what is more refreshing than the living water that Jesus pours out? What is more renewing than the Word of God, full of truth, for the weary body trudging through hot, damp air? What can we do to find relief from the dog days of summer? What can we do to become as excited as children chasing those fireflies in the dusk? We can do this; connect to the true source of relief, the relief for all that challenges us; we can dive into the Word of God that never gets weary, never changes, and the Word that can help us to overcome any storm that comes our way. God is here for you, no matter the temperature, no matter the season, and no matter the storm. As you enjoy this time in the midst of summer, don't forget that God still seeks your time with Him.

Peace,

Pastor Ric

Comfort in Mourning:

The family of Roland Ganger
The family of Marilyn Buehler
The family of Sandra Oyler

Healing Prayers:

Kara & Karen
Jill Breedlove
Tony Buchman
Leah Leslie
Patrick Okuley
*Kathy Reinhart
*Paula Riggerbach
Tiffany

Continuing Concerns:

Dave Foltz
Tim Pennington
*Charlie Simpson
Susan Sitton
Sam Smith

FIRST SCRIPTURES

7/06 Psalm 30
7/13 Psalm 82
7/20 Amos 8: 1-12
7/27 Psalm 85

Sermons

If you would like to hear a specific sermon a 2nd time they are available on our website at firstccpaulding.org or our facebook page.

Flowers For Worship:

7/06 Herm Guelde-In Memory of Jean
7/13
7/20
7/27

ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	
Online						
5/25	71	39	11	14	7	175
6/01	66	40	10	15	1	303
6/08	77	43	16	17	1	117
6/15	67	40	11	15	1	110
6/22	59	35	10	13	1	87



Nursing Home Residents..

The Gardens

*Romaine Boundy
*Sandy Leslie-Hospice

Van Crest of Payne

Lorean McCollum

Military:

Cameron Cramer
Miranda E. Iler
Morgan R. Iler



JULY SERVERS

Elders :

Charlie Simpson
Paul Long

Worship Leader:

Max Hibbard

Greeters:

Sharon Cooper
Susan Knapp

First Scripture Reader:

Tracy Gunderman



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

7/02 Carrie Lero
7/02 Milo Workman
7/07 Branden Pease
7/08 Zach Good
7/08 Sandra Leslie
7/09 Lillie Hibbard
7/10 Anna Gunderman
7/12 Shirley Cramer
7/13 Corey Harris
7/14 Aden Lero
7/17 Denise Renollet
7/18 Kara Thompson
7/23 Michelle Mawer
7/26 Eternity Bassler
7/31 Sheryl Garza



7/04 Josh & Carrie Lero
7/08 Roger & Jenifer Nicelley
7/10 Dave & Lori Clark

In Sympathy

Please pray for the family of Roland Ganger. Roland passed on May 22nd. Services were held May 29th.

Please pray for the family of Marilyn Buehler. Marilyn went to be with our Lord and Savior on June 5th. Marilyn was a long time member of First Christian before moving to Alabama. Her service was held June 14th.

Please pray for the family of Sandra Oyler. Sandra passed away on June 17.



From the Elders

A devotion by Stephanie Thompson

I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

I sat on the edge of my seat as a retreat speaker shared her quiet-time ritual. Each morning, she poured two cups of coffee. She placed one in front of the empty chair at the head of her kitchen table. She sat down in a chair to the right, the other cup in hand. Sipping the warm brew, she envisioned Christ seated beside her. Chatting with Jesus like she would a trusted friend, she visualized Him in a relaxed pair of jeans, a comfy sweatshirt, and running shoes as she talked about her worries and her hopes. Like any companion offering sage advice, she listened too.

I couldn't help but giggle at her unorthodox habit. My relationship with Jesus has always been more formal and reverent. I see Jesus as my Savior. He is Emmanuel, Redeemer, Messiah, Lord, and Master to Me.

A few days later I had trouble focusing on my Bible text. After I finished reading and got ready to pray, I thought of the retreat speaker. The Jesus I see in my mind wears a tan robe and sandals, like He did in biblical times. But isn't Jesus also here in the twenty-first century?

Today, I imagined Jesus sitting beside me wearing modern-day clothing. I tried talking to Him casually, like He was my best friend. I may have poured an extra cup of coffee too.

Dear Jesus, my Savior, You are Emmanuel, Redeemer, Messiah, Lord, and Master.

Help me to also embrace You as my intimate Friend. Amen.

THE CORNER STONES FROM OUR PREVIOUS CHURCH



A.D. stands for the Latin phrase *anno domini*, which means in the year of our Lord.



DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY

On July 8th we will be going to the Beer Barrel in Van Wert. We will be leaving the church at 5 p.m. Please sign up on the bulletin board so we can make sure we can be accommodated.

We are still collecting items for the care tote bags that are given to comfort people in times of health issues or stress. There is a bag in the narthex. Thank you for support the ministries chosen by the women's group.

Prayer Shawls are available in the office for anyone who is in need of comfort.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE IS THE 15TH OF THE MONTH



Thanks for Your Support!

Monthly Budget Needs
In order to meet our monthly budget needs We need an offering of \$11263.75 per month.

COUNTERS

- 7/06 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 7/13 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 7/20 Max Hibbard, Corey Harris, Clint Reinhart
- 7/27 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers, Gary McClure



OUTREACH

Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

Thank you for your continued donations to the food pantry. The box is in the narthex for any donations. They also need 46-64 oz clean clear plastic bottles and egg cartons.



QR Code Donation

The QR code has made it convenient for donations to the church to be made.

This is working very well. It is always available on the facebook page and the firstccpauding.org webpage. Your donations make continuing our ministry possible. Thank You!



First Christian Church Fund Summary

06/08/2025 12:00 PM

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	105 SPECIAL HOLIDAY-PEN TECOST	115 Pass-Through	118 Elavon Tithes/Offerings	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	205 New Church Roof	700 MENS GROUP	Total
05/03/2025	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
05/04/2025	2,080.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,697.00	0.00	0.00	3,777.00
05/07/2025	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00
05/10/2025	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
05/11/2025	1,476.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,476.00
05/14/2025	0.00	0.00	122.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	- 122.05
05/18/2025	1,683.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	155.00	0.00	15.00	1,853.00
05/25/2025	1,042.00	50.00	0.00	100.00	5.00	0.00	0.00	1,197.00
05/29/2025	0.00	0.00	0.00	220.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	220.00
Total	6,281.00	50.00	122.05	820.00	1,857.00	0.00	15.00	9,145.05



DISCIPLES MEN'S GROUP

The Disciples Men will be meeting July 19 at 9 a.m.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

The children continue to meet following children's moment during worship.

The children's

bells will not practice this summer.

Help is needed with the children's program. Please contact Suzy Strayer if you can assist her.

The class for adults will be not meeting for the summer.

Mowing Schedule

June 23-July 6-Charlie & Sue Simpson

July 7- July 20-Gary McClure

July 21- August 3-Todd Pease

August 4- August 17-Pastor Ric

August 18- August 31-Gary McClure

Sept 1- Sept 14-Pastor Ric

Sept 15- Sept 28-Gary McClure

Sept 29-Oct. 12-Mick Coak

Oct 13- Oct 26-Gary McClure

Mowing is going well. Thank You. Your help is much appreciated.



When on vacation

When on vacation, be with us in spirit.

The rest of the summer, be with us in person.

Independence Day

As we celebrate Independence Day, we thank God for the blessings of freedom—and the hope we have in Christ, who sets us truly free. "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." —John 8:36



SUMMER MUSIC

If you would like to provide special music during a worship service this summer please sign up on the bulletin board.



BLANKET SUNDAY

July 27th

Church World Service Blanket Ministry has been a long time tradition at First Christian Church. Enclosed in this

newsletter is information and a donation envelope if you would like to contribute. There are also envelopes in the narthex for those who read the newsletter online or email.



Thank You for supporting The Sweet Shop fundraiser benefiting the Caring & Sharing Food Pantry!

Thank you for all you do to help us serve neighbors.



Thank You for all of your thoughts and prayers during Roland's illness and passing. We greatly appreciate your hard work for the luncheon you prepared.

Betty



April 24, 1948

First Christian 3rd Circle

Printed on the back: Morsony, Cadwallader, Gorman, Paulus, Carr, Pio, Unger, Richhart, Ludwig, Rumbaugh, Moore, Nicelley, Crystal, White, Staley, Bauman, Clark

25 YEAR CELEBRATION

This Year marks 25 years since we moved to this building. If you would like to help in the planning of the celebration we need volunteers to organize catering, activities and historical information.

Please see Board Chair Suzy Strayer or Pastor Ric to help.



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.

*SO VERY
thankful
INCREDIBLY
grateful
UNBELIEVABLY
blessed.*

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP: SUNDAYS-10 A.M.
 CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL FOLLOWING
 CHILDRENS MOMENT

PASTORS HOURS: TUES-THUS. 8 a.m. 12 p.m.
 SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS: TUES.-FRIDAY 8 a.m.-12 p.m.



July 2025

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

		1	2 TRUSTEE MEETING-7 P.M. NO WOR/MEM/TECH MEETING	3	4 OFFICE CLOSED 	5
6	7	8 DWM NIGHT OUT-MEET AT 5 P.M. AT THE CHURCH	9 NO STEWARDSHIP/FINANCE MEETING	10	11	12
13	14	15 NO BOARD MEETING	16	17	18	19 MEN'S MEETING-9 A.M.
20 ELDERS MEETING-8:30 A.M.	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

ELDERS: Charlie Simpson & Paul Long

WORSHIP LEADER: Max Hibbard

1ST SCRIPTURE READER: Tracy Gunderman

GREETERS: Sharon Cooper & Susan Knapp

7/06 SERMON: "Run Your Best" SCRIPTURE: Galatians 6: 1-16

7/13 SERMON: "What can I do to Help?" "SCRIPTURE: Luke 10: 25-37

7/20 SERMON: "From Darkness into Light", SCRIPTURE: Colossians 1: 15-28

7/27 SERMON: "Love Makes all the Difference" SCRIPTURE: Colossians 2: 6-1

Perspectives on patriotism



While pondering differences between patriotism and nationalism, Ryan Hamm looks to Jesus' example in Luke 19:41-44. "Jesus, it seems, loved his people, his city, his nation — so much so that he cried over it," he writes in Christianity Today. "He didn't despise his country or wish ill upon it — instead, he wanted nothing but the best for it, and it grieved him to see how his people had rejected his teachings."

This example of "patriotism perfected" can serve as a guide for modern-day Christians, according to Hamm. "It's an example that's both pragmatic and romantic, shot through with justice, truth and love. It's not a nationalistic patriotism — it's a love for nation that doesn't pit it against other nations. Instead, it's a recognition of love followed by a mournful recognition of shortcomings."

Put another way, God doesn't love America more than any other nation. And he doesn't want us to worship our nation alongside him, because that is idolatry. Instead, we are to love and proclaim God above any earthly realm.

Holy ground

For me, there's nothing quite like taking off my sandals in the summer and walking through the grass. But when our sons were infants, neither shared that love of going barefoot. When we'd attempt to lower them to play outside, they'd raise their legs, trying not to touch the tickly, prickly, green ground.

"Do not come any closer," the Lord warned Moses through the burning bush. "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground" (Exodus 3:5, NIV). In God's presence, Moses faced a turning point: either resist God's instructions or obey, leading the Israelites out of Egypt.

Maybe taking off my sandals this summer can remind me that I'm standing in God's presence. I may not hear a booming voice, and I might just be standing at the kitchen sink doing chores. Or I might be at a barbecue, with the opportunity to truly listen to my neighbors. God's presence permeates life's big moments as well as the mundane.

How can you "take off your sandals" and enter what God has for you?

—Janna Firestone

Complete joy

Because Jesus came to do such serious work, we often imagine him straight-faced. Yet Jesus also enjoyed fun times, such as the wedding celebration at Cana. When the wine ran out, Jesus miraculously produced more.

Jesus also warmly welcomed children. Picture him lifting an infant into the air or tickling a giggling youngster while another child, grinning, climbs on his back.

Summer usually allows more time for fun and play. So use these months to teach the kids in your life — and to remind yourself — that Jesus came so our "joy may be complete" (John 15:11). Laughing, playing, having fun, relaxing and enjoying life are part of living and loving as faithful disciples.



Join Others in Sharing *Love and Hope*

"Seeing families' faces light up as we hand them CWS Blankets and Hygiene Kits was unforgettable. These blankets and kits are more than supplies—they're gifts of hope."

—Tamara Skillern, Rise & Shine, Rosenberg Library, Galveston, TX

When you support CWS Blankets you:



Provide Immediate Solutions



Connect with Other People of Faith



Follow Christ's Example

God of hope and promises, we pray by sharing these blankets and kits that God's love will be spread far and wide.

Donate today! Give cash, write a check payable to CWS Blankets or visit cwsblankets.org/donate

"And when we take your gifts to those who need them, they will thank God."

-2 Corinthians 9:11

BP 2539A



CWS

cwsblankets.org

CWS BLANKETS

Blanket the World in Love

Blanketing the world in love is easy when people of faith unite through the Church World Service (CWS) Blankets and Kits ministry. Together, we can offer comfort, hope and warmth to our neighbors during their most challenging times.



Imagine the impact of your compassion. Each blanket and kit serves as a tangible expression of God's love—sharing warmth on a chilly night, relief in a crisis and a reminder that someone truly cares.

Join other generous donors and share tangible expressions of love with our neighbors in need:

- \$10** Provides a CWS Blanket to someone in need.
- \$25** Provides a CWS Blanket and a CWS Hygiene Kit, offering warmth and essential supplies.
- \$60** Family Bundle! Provides blankets and hygiene kits for an entire family, ensuring that they have what they need during challenging times.



*Be the hands and feet of Christ in the world.
Donate to CWS Blankets today! Scan this QR code to get started*



Scan Me! →



CWS

cwsblankets.org