



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

DISCIPLE DIGEST

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

PHONE 419 399-4576
WEBSITE:firstccpaulding.org
EMAIL: firstccpaulding@gmail.com

Coffee & Conversation 9:00 a.m.

Worship 10:00 a.m.

Adult Sunday School 9:00 a.m.

Childrens Sunday School during worship



2025

DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



OCTOBER 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

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Moses risked his life by confronting Pharaoh and leading the Israelites out of slavery, demonstrating faith and obedience to God's call. Esther risked her life by approaching the king to plead for her people, showcasing courage and compassion. Jesus, through his willingness to suffer and die for the sake of humanity, exemplified the ultimate risk taken for love and redemption. It's easy for us to stay in our comfort zone. We have an established home, an established job, an established family, and an established daily routine. That's comfortable, and that's easy to negotiate. The truth is---God wants more from us. God wants us to risk our comfortable existence like Moses, Esther, and Jesus. I believe we stay in our comfort lane, because we are afraid to leave it. If we risk getting into a new relationship, a new commitment, or a new way of life---we could mess up what we've established, and that makes us uncomfortable. That is exactly what God wants from us---to be uncomfortable sometimes. If we are willing to risk ourselves, we may find a better life, we may find a new way to serve, and we may find a new way to live for the glory of God. Do not be frightened to step out of your comfort zone!

Peace,

Pastor Ric

Comfort in Mourning:

The family of *Kathy Reinhart
The family of Cindy Edwards
The family of Steve Santo

Healing Prayers:

James
Amanda Wilkinson
Shirley Workman

Continuing Concerns:

Tony Buchman
Dave Foltz
Elizabeth Miller
*Charlie Simpson
Hollie Simpson
Susan Sitton
Sam Smith

*Denotes Members

First Scriptures

10/05 Lamentations 1: 1-6
10/12 Psalm 66: 1-12
10/19 Jeremiah 31: 27-34
10/26 Psalm 84: 1-7

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:

10/05 Herm Guelde In Memory of Jean
10/12 Jack Moore in Memory of Marie
10/19 In Honor of Sam Smith
10/26

ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
8/31	73	39	14	19	1	132
9/07	60	40	11	9	1	109
9/14	72	45	12	14	1	133
9/21	74	45	10	16	3	141

Nursing Home Residents..

The Gardens

*Romaine Boundy
Rich English

Van Crest of Payne

Lorean McCollum
Veronica "Ronnie" Kromer

Military:

Cameron Cramer
Miranda E. Iler
Morgan R. Iler



10/01 Kenny Adkins
10/01 Gabriel Reinhart
10/02 Chris Hoover
10/02 Joan Tope
10/03 Deb Santo
10/04 Dorrean Vance
10/04 Waldean Webber
10/05 Penny Bashore
10/08 Megan Monnier
10/08 Derik Vance
10/10 Ryan Nicelley
10/12 Adrian Daniels
10/14 Samantha Cramer
10/16 Duane Renollet
10/17 Sarah Knapp
10/20 Dan Smith
10/29 Lily Knapp
10/29 Marilyn Stevenson
10/30 Charles Simpson

In Sympathy

Please keep the family of Kathy Reinhart in your prayers at this time.
A Graveside service will be held Oct. 2nd at 11 a.m. at Live Oak Cemetery.

October Servers

Elders: Bruce Gunderman & Jan Commers

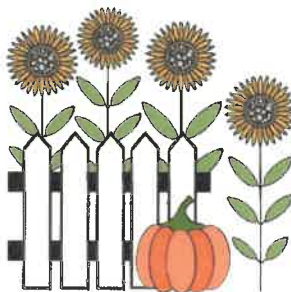
Worship Leader: Sharon Cooper

First Scripture: Matt Strayer

Greeters: Jan Commers



10/09 Brian & Julie Knapp
10/10 Jeaninne & Chris Hoover
10/10 Chris & Babar Walker
10/16 Deb & Tony Santo
10/23 Shane & Julie Pack
10/24 Brian & Angela Bowers
10/28 Corey & Nicole Harris



25th Anniversary

October 5th we will celebrate the anniversary of moving into this building with a special worship service and catered meal.

From the Elders
A devotion by Leslie Koh entitled
Clinging To God's Promises

Wendy was feeling a little left out. During lunch break, her boss had left chocolates on everyone's desk-except hers. Puzzled, she lamented to a friend, "Why did he leave me out?" When asked, their boss explained: "Those chocolates are still good,, but they've been around for some time. Wendy's pregnant, so I just wanted to play it extra safe." Then he laughed. "As for the rest of you..."

The little incident became a running joke in the office, but it got me thing about how we sometimes misread God's intentions because of our limited understanding and perception. We may even believe ourselves to be victims of unfair treatment, forgetting that God always has our best interest at heart. Always.

Isaiah 55: 8-9 reminds us that while we may not fully understand God's thoughts and ways, we can be sure that they're "higher than (our) ways" (v.9) Ours are often influenced by selfish desires; His perfect, compassionate, and righteous. So even when things don't look good for now, trust that God will provide what we truly need (vv. 1-2), for He's loving and faithful to His ow everlasting promise (v. 3). Let's "call on him while he is near" (v.6), knowing that He'll never leave us.

Which promises of God can you hold on to when life seems unfair?
Which aspects of His character give you comfort and assurance?

Faithful God, You know I sometimes feel left out of Your blessings and doubt Your love for me. Please help me to trust in You and to hold on tightly to Your everlasting promises.

Thank you to Our Church Family,

Thank you for the support and all of the love we have been shown-during the benefit on September 13th and all along this journey. We appreciate each of you so much.

Smith Family

Thank You

Thank You for all the thoughts and prayers expressed for my 2nd heart procedure.
It is much appreciated.

Shirley Workman

NOT QUITE 10 QUESTIONS BIBLE STUDY

(A Journey through Luke)

(Wednesday evenings @ 6:30)



10/1 - Luke 17:5-10

10/8 - Luke 17:11-19

10/15 - Luke 18:1-8

10/22 - Luke 18:9-14

10/29 - Luke 19:1-10

*Everyone is welcome. If you have questions,
please talk to the Pastor .*

Mowing Schedule

Sept 29—Oct. 12- Gary McClure

Oct 13– Oct 26- Mick Coak

Thank You to those who have kept up the mowing.
You've done a great job.

Outreach

We are giving \$500.00 to the Sam Smith benefit, \$200.00 to the Veterans Park, and \$500.00 to the Blessings in a bag program that provides food for children on the weekends. We are planning to collect mittens and gloves for the Christmas tree along with adopting 3 families. If you know of someone in need please contact us so we can help.

Outreach Committee

Genelta, Vicki and Sue Simpson

Thank You



Dear First Christian Church:

Thank you so much for your generous support of our Blessings in a Bag program. Your support will truly bless so many families from our community.

Sincerely,
Mrs. M. Harder
Mrs. A. Wolford

Ministry Opportunities Form

There is a form enclosed for everyone to fill out to share your time and talents with the church for the 2026 year. Please prayerfully consider what you can do to enrich the church and your church family. Forms may be turned into the office at any time. They are also available in the narthex.

DISCIPLES MEN'S GROUP



The Men's group meets the third Saturday of the month at 9:00 a.m. All men of the church are invited to come. Thank you to everyone who attended the picnic. We have a great time.

SUNDAY SCHOOL



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

Children's Bell Choir is meeting the 3rd Sunday of each month following children's moment.

The Sunday School class for Adults meets every Sunday at 9:00 a.m. Everyone is invited to attend.

Youth Group

The cookout will be rescheduled soon.
Watch the bulletin for details.



Halloween

If you are interested in participating in trick or treat on Oct. 25th, please let Denise know asap. We currently do not have enough people willing to do this.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Tabrina Vance and Zack Miller on their recent marriage. May God bless your union.

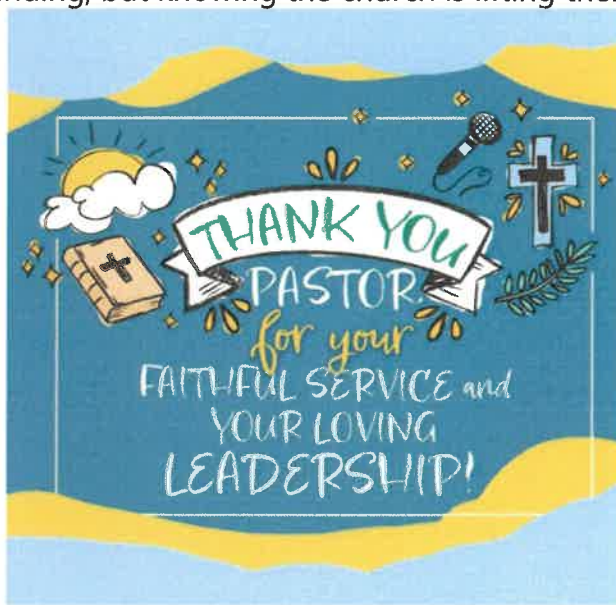


The Best Gift for Your Pastor

October is Pastor Appreciation Month—a time to recognize and encourage those who faithfully shepherd our churches. But if you've ever asked a pastor how to show your gratitude, the answer probably isn't a plaque or applause. More often than not, it's simple: "Pray for me."

Even the Apostle Paul didn't ask for much personally, except for the prayers of fellow believers. In his letter to the Romans, he wrote: "Now I urge you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to strive together with me in your prayers to God for me, that I may be rescued from those who are disobedient in Judea, and that my service for Jerusalem may prove acceptable to the saints; so that I may come to you in joy by the will of God and relax in your company" (Romans 15:30–32, NASB).

This October—and every month—encourage your pastor by offering your prayers, support, and kind words. Ministry can be demanding, but knowing the church is lifting them up makes all the difference.



Just show up!

In *A Million Little Ways* (Revell), Emily Freeman says in order for Christians to "show up as you are with what you've been given," we must confront these statements:

- I'm not cut out for this.
- Someone else can do it better.
- People might not like it.
- I have nothing to offer.
- I hate my calling.
- It's a waste of time.
- It's too much work.
- Who do you think you are?

"A million loud voices ... keep us from the million little ways [Jesus] wants to show up through us to the world," Freeman writes.

Veterans Recognition

November, the month that not only do we celebrate family on Thanksgiving, but we also celebrate those who gave their all, Veteran's Day.

For the month of November there will be a couple of tables set up in the entry way full of photos of our Veterans, our family. So, if possible start looking for your Veteran. If you are aware of the war or conflict attach a small note to let us know.

Give photos to either Deb or Leah with your name on them so we can get them back to you. Thanks.



COUNTERS

10/05 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace

10/12 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy

10/19/21 Max Hibbard. Corey Harris, Clint Reinhart

10/26 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers, Gary McClure

Contact information changes

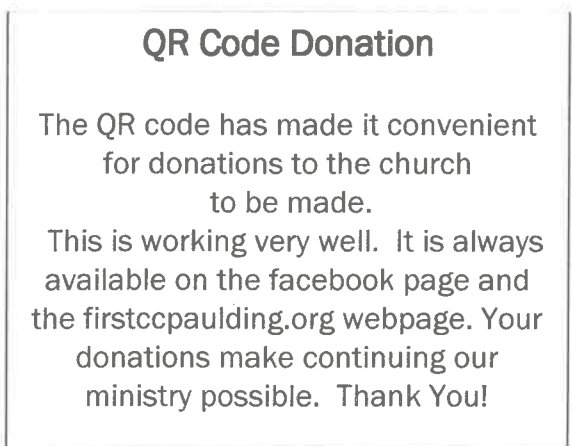
Does the office have your current phone number or address? If not, please turn your correct info into the office.



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 firstccpauling.org webpage. Your donations make continuing our ministry possible. Thank You!



First Christian Church Fund Summary

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Page: 1

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	111 CWS-BLANKE TS	118 Elavon Tithes/Offering s	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	205 New Church Roof	700 MENS GROUP	Total
08/02/2025	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
08/03/2025	1,645.00	0.00	470.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,115.00
08/09/2025	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
08/10/2025	2,133.00	5.00	350.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	2,508.00
08/16/2025	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
08/17/2025	1,020.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	57.00	1,077.00
08/18/2025	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	0.00	1,000.00
08/23/2025	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
08/24/2025	1,280.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	1,290.00
08/28/2025	1,000.00	0.00	220.00	0.00	20,000.00	0.00	21,220.00
08/30/2025	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Total	7,078.00	5.00	1,290.00	1,030.00	20,000.00	57.00	29,460.00

Tracy Gunderman

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL-9 .AM.

WORSHIP: SUNDAYS-10 A.M.

CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL

FOLLOWING CHILDRENS MOMENT

BELL CHOIR EVERY SUNDAY FOLLOWING
WORSHIP

PASTORS HOURS: TUES-THUS. 8 A.M. 12 P.M.
+SECRETARY OFFICE HOURS: TUES.-FRIDAY 8 A.M.-12 P.M.



OCTOBER 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 TRUSTEES 7P.M PASTORS BIBLE STUDY- 6:30 P.M.	2 YOUNG ATHLETES-FS HALL 6-7	3	4
5 25 TH CELEBRATION	6	7 DISCIPLES WOMEN-10 A.M. WOR/MEM/ TECH- NOON	8 STEWARD/ FINANCE- 6:30 P.M. PASTORS BIBLE STUDY- 6:30 P.M.	9 YOUNG ATHLETES- FS HALL 6-7	10	11
12 	13 Columbus Day	14	15 PASTORS BIBLE STUDY- 6:30 P.M.	16 YOUNG ATHLETES- FS HALL 6-7	17	18 MEN'S GROUP-9 A.M.
19 ELDERS-8:30 A.M.	20	21 BOARD MEETING-7 P M	22 PASTORS BIBLE STUDY- 6:30 P.M.	23 YOUNG ATHLETES- FS HALL 6-7	24	25 POSSIBLE TRICK OR TREAT??
26	27	28	29 PASTORS BIBLE STUDY- 6:30 P.M.	30 YOUNG ATHLETES-FS HALL 6-7	31 Halloween 	

Download & Print Free Calendars From [Wiki Calendar](#)

OCTOBER SERMONS

10/5 - All Shook Up, Luke 17:5-10

10/12 - God's Gift, Luke 17:11-19

10/19 - And Justice for All, Luke 18:1-8

10/26 - Oh Lord, it's Hard to be Humble, Luke 18:9-14

SERVERS:

ELDERS: Bruce Gunderman & Jan Commers

WORSHIP LEADER: Sharon Cooper

FIRST SCRIPTURE: Matt Strayer

GREETER: Jan Commers

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

(Disciples of Christ)

MINISTRY OPPORTUNITIES

1 Peter 4:10

Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Please give prayerful thought to how you would like to serve your church in the coming year. Complete this form and place it in the basket proved in the narthex, this morning, or drop it off in the church office. Thank You for serving in the name of Jesus our Lord. It would be a blessing to the church if you are able to use your gifts to benefit the church in at least 2 different ways. You do not need to be a member of the church to volunteer.

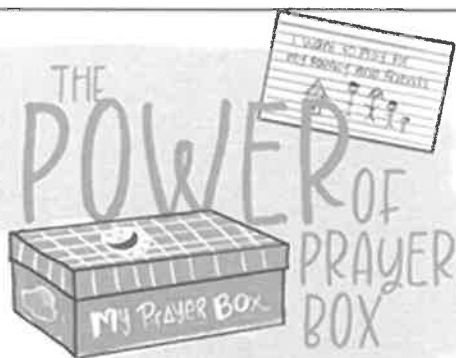
- ☐ Greeter/Usher Sundays
- ☐ Prepare/Cleanup Communion on month.
Preferred Month _____
- ☐ Worship Leader
- ☐ Read Scripture
- ☐ Teach Children's Sunday School
- ☐ Organize/participate in VBS
- ☐ Help with Special or Children's Programs
- ☐ Sanctuary Care
- ☐ Help with Special Services
- ☐ Serve as Song Leader
- ☐ Be part of Adult choral Or Bell choir
- ☐ Provide Special Music
- ☐ Direct Adult Choir
- ☐ Provide assistance to members

AVAILABLE COMMITTEES

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Christian Education | ☐ Memorial |
| ☐ Stewardship/Finance | ☐ Outreach |
| ☐ Worship/Membership | ☐ Trustees/Property |

☐ **Special skills and interest I have that might benefit First Christian Church:**

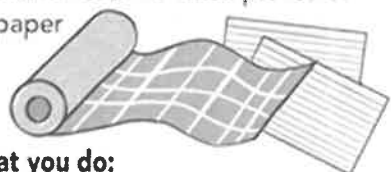
Name _____ Phone # _____



Create a simple and meaningful prayer box your family can use to share requests and pray together all week long.

What you need:

- Shoebox with lid
- Wrapping paper or decorative paper
- Scissors & tape
- Markers or crayons
- Stickers and other craft material (optional)
- Pens or pencils
- Index cards or small pieces of paper



What you do:

1. Wrap the shoebox like a gift, wrapping the lid separately so it can be opened.
2. As a family, decorate the box with drawings, favorite Bible verses, photos, or stickers.
3. Place the box somewhere central, like the kitchen or living room.
4. Keep index cards and pens nearby. When someone has a prayer request, they can write or draw it and drop it in.
5. Throughout the week, take turns praying over the requests as a family, or have a parent lead prayer time.

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.
—Colossians 4:2, NIV

Puzzle!

Who made the following statements in the Bible?

1. "Am I my brother's keeper?"
Samuel, John, Cain, Andrew
2. "I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you."
Peter, James, John, Paul
3. "What is truth?"
Herod, Pilate, Simon Magus, Cornelius
4. "Choose you this day whom you will serve ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"
Abraham, Jacob, Moses, Joshua
5. "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
Nathaniel, John, Peter, Paul
6. "In a short time would you persuade me to be a Christian?"
Herod Agrippa, Pilate, Caiaphas, Annas
7. "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go."
Rebekah, Rachel, Ruth, Rahab
8. "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."
Paul, Peter, James, Barnabas

Bible Quiz

The book of Jonah tells the story of a prophet who ran from God, faced a storm and learned about God's mercy. Which of the following statements is true?

- A. Jonah told the sailors he was running from God, and they threw him overboard.
- B. The fish that swallowed Jonah washed up on the shores of Joppa.
- C. Jonah preached in Nineveh for forty days and forty nights.
- D. After the city repented, Jonah rejoiced and built an altar to the Lord.



2025 Reconciliation Ministry

SPECIAL OFFERING

Sunday, September 28th - Sunday, October 5th



Beyond Brokenness - Building Beloved Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he committed to us the message of reconciliation.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us.

*We implore you on Christ's behalf:
Be reconciled to God."*

2 Corinthians 5:17-20



www.reconciliationministry.org



Beyond Brokenness - Building Beloved Community

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Paul's words in 2 Corinthians 5 are nothing short of revolutionary. He invites us to see the world no longer "from a human point of view," but through the lens of God's new creation. In Christ, the old order—built on rivalry, suspicion, and estrangement—has been decisively overturned. This is not a private, inward experience alone; it is the launching of a new social reality in which divisions are healed and relationships restored. God's reconciling work is about transforming the way we live together here and now. To belong to Christ is to belong to this ministry—a vocation in which our every word, every action, is shaped by the message that God has already made peace with the world through Jesus.

And because God has entrusted to us this ministry of reconciliation, the Church becomes the main organization of God's new creation in a fragmented world. We are living signs that a different way is possible, and indeed, is already underway. In a culture built on lines and labels, we step beyond boundaries to form alliances built on the teachings of Jesus Christ. Our special offering today is not just a donation—it is a declaration that we stand with God's reconciling mission, confident that the same love that raised Jesus from the dead can raise up a new creation among us.

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Half of each gift remains in the region from which it is sent.

Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide education, programming, and service through grants to:

- 1) to General Ministries working across the whole church to move beyond brokenness.*
- 2) to congregations, camps, and conferences that receive a grant from their region that are actively developing and implementing programs that dismantle racism and build beloved community.*

*This year, you're invited to make a gift to the 2025 Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering and to also consider making a gift to the **April Johnson named fund** in tribute to her recently culminated 17 years of faithful service as Executive Director of Reconciliation Ministry. With your vital support, leaders and congregations are being equipped to witness to God's reconciling love in this time and this season.*

Thank you for being an ambassador of reconciliation through your generosity.



www.reconciliationministry.org

