



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

DISCIPLE DIGEST

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ISSUE NO. III-2026
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



DISCIPLE DIGEST

First Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)



MARCH 2026

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.



A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR RIC

By most standards, this has been an unusually harsh winter; we had very cold temps and more than normal snow patterns and accumulations. But we've almost made it, because spring is on the horizon. As buds begin to bloom, this is a great time to consider how God is growing in your own personal life. And just as the rain and the sun contribute to the blooming of buds into beautiful flowers and leaves, what is it that we can contribute to assisting in our own spiritual growth? The go to is usually; study my Bible more, get to church on Sunday, pray more, etc.

I want to challenge you to move beyond that, into acts of love and service. Who do you know that may be struggling with life events? We trust that God can bring beauty out of the "barrenness of winter" but what can we do to help? Maybe we can help with chores or be listeners or any number of things. All we need to do is step out of the box and show love to the people who are struggling. You see spring is a vivid, yearly reminder of the life-changing power of Easter, so take time this spring to foster new growth in your relationships by serving others in love.

***Spring Blessings,
Pastor Ric***

Comfort in Mourning:

Healing Prayers:

- *Tammy Boroff
- Larry Carrington
- *Betty Ganger
- *Megan & Camron Monnier
- Marlee Pease
- Cyndi Rhea

Continuing Concerns:

- Tony Buchman
- Renee Celie
- Dave Foltz
- Elizabeth Miller
- *Charlie Simpson
- George Strayer
- *Denotes Members

Nursing Home Residents..

The Gardens

- *Romaine Boundy
- Rich English

Van Crest of Payne

- Lorean McCollum

Country Inn

- *Jack Moore-Rm 21

Military:

- Cameron Cramer
- Miranda E. Iler
- Morgan R. Iler



- 3/03 Memphis Gunderman
- 3/03 Mark Wooten
- 3/04 Braxton Ricker
- 3/08 Susan Simpson
- 3/17 Trevor Hibbard
- 3/18 Jack Moore
- 3/19 Eliana Hormann
- 3/20 Dan Bulau
- 3/21 Alexandra Rhonehouse
- 3/21 Jared Renollet
- 3/22 Vince Reinhart
- 3/22 Brent Townley
- 3/27 Josh Lero
- 3/27 Rachel Nicelley
- 3/30 Dennis Vance

March Servers

Elders: Max Hibbard & Bruce Gunderman

Worship Leader: Larry Grace

First Scripture: Matt Strayer

Greeter: The Corey Harris Family

First Scriptures

- 3/01 Genesis 12: 1-4
- 3/08 Exodus 17: 1-7
- 3/15 Psalm 23
- 3/22 Psalm 130
- 3/29 Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29

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:

- 3/01
- 3/08 Herm Guelde-In Memory of Jean
- 3/15
- 3/22 Eileen Kochensparger-In Memory of Max
- 3/29

ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
01/25	13	9	4			354
02/01	72	40	15	17		191
02/08	84	40	17	18	5	255
02/15	90	51	23	15	11	153
02/18	33	22	3	6	2	97



- 3/06 Sheryl & Tony Garza
- 3/16 Dawn & David Carlisle



March 29-Palm Sunday, Worship 10:00 a.m. at First Christian Church

Maundy Thursday Service, April 2nd-6:00 p.m. at First Christian Church

Good Friday Community Service, April 3rd-noon at St. Paul Lutheran Church

Easter Sunrise Community Service, April 5th-7:00 a.m. Paulding Nazarene Ch

Easter Worship, April 5th-10:00 a.m. at First Christian Church

From the Elders
A devotion by Nancy Gavilanes entitled
Bearing With One Another

I stopped behind a car at a red light the other day and noticed a bright sticker that said “New Driver. Please Be Patient.” Given all the road rage we hear about (or be patient with other drivers.

As I looked at the sticker, I wondered what would happen if people carried around signs that alerted us that they’re a “New Parent “or “New Christian.” If we know what our neighbors, coworkers, or others we encounter throughout our day were going through, would we be more patient and even help them deal with their struggles?

We may be rushing through our days, trying to avoid being interrupted by others, but let’s consider how Jesus treated people. He wasn’t in a hurry. He had compassion on people and took the time to comfort and teach and show love to those He encountered.

As believers in Jesus, we’re called to “live a life worthy of the calling (we) have received” (Ephesians 4:1). The apostle Paul says that includes being “completely humble and gentle; (being) patient, bearing with one another in love” (v.2); and making every effort to love in peace and unity with each other (v. 3).

We may not know what challenges people are facing, but we can be patient with them. Let’s be an expression of Jesus’ love to everyone we encounter on our daily path.

How can you be more patient with others?
Who can you be a blessing to today?

Dear God, please help me to be more loving and patient with those You place in my path.

Easter Flowers

We will be asking for people to bring in Easter flowers in the coming weeks. It is so nice to have the flowers decorate the sanctuary.



THE NOT QUITE TEN QUESTION BIBLE STUDY

We will begin again in March with the dates as follows:

3/04/26	No class 4/1 (Holy Week)
3/11/26	4/8/26
3/18/26	4/15/26
3/25/26	4/22/26

All Sessions will begin at 6:30 p.m. See you there!

LENTEN LUNCH SCHEDULE

March 4th-Divine Mercy

March 11th-St. Paul Lutheran

March 18th-Paulding Nazarene

March 25th- United Methodist

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



Disciples Women Ministry

We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m.

Noodles are being made on March 1st at 5 p.m. They will be for sale March 8th following worship. They are 1 lb. bags for \$5.00 per bag.

The DWM has also scheduled a soup and salad lunch for April 22nd from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

We have been working to clean and reorganize the kitchen on Monday mornings. Thank you for your hard work.



GRADUATING SENIORS

If you are graduating from high school or college this spring, please let the office know. We would like to recognize all graduating seniors in May.

What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson



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.



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.

Lifewise

The lifewise program is going strong in the County. They are currently looking for Classroom volunteers, either on a weekly or substitute schedule, specifically on Fridays. They need a few people to join our Advisory Board. They meet every other month on Thursdays evenings. Please contact Traci Koenig, Program Director at 419 670 3159.

LILY CROSS

If you would like to make a donation to the lily cross in honor or in memory of a loved one, please fill out this form and turn it into the office. Please turn it into the office by March 22nd.

YOUR NAME _____

IN HONOR OF _____

IN MEMORY OF _____

Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

The Disciples Women's Ministry would like **March to be spring cleaning supplies month.** Thanks for helping us help neighbors!



Who is this?
←

The Ladies Aid Society

November 11, 1891
Plans for the first Thanksgiving dinner was made. Tickets were sold. Children under 10-15Cents. All others .25 cents. 200 tickets & napkins procured. Thanksgiving dinner, November 26, 1891-Net profit \$29.50.

March 10, 1892
Work was in full swing. A new quilt was started, a new communion basket must be purchased (\$1.25) & each one of the society is to furnish a ball of carpet rags.
Three dozen plates & three dozen cups have been ordered, the first dishes purchased.
Church was papered & the ladies paid the bill \$23.00. They were very encouraged on their treads. repot as far as amount of money was concerned-No amount ever mentioned but they had a collections of \$5.00 and over at the meeting.

(to be continued)

COUNTERS

- 3/01 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 3/08 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 3/15 Max Hibbard. Corey Harris, Clint Reinhart
- 3/22 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers, Gary McClure
- 3/29 Bruce Gunderman, Joan Tope, Dan Workman



QR Code Donation

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



First Christian Church Fund Summary

02/04/2026 03:56 PM

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	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	102 INITIAL ENVELOPE OFFERING	118 Elavon Tithes/Offering s	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	500 CAPITAL IMPROVEMEN T	700 MENS GROUP	Total
01/03/2026	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
01/04/2026	2,540.75	55.00	0.00	55.00	50.00	0.00	2,700.75
01/10/2026	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
01/11/2026	1,410.00	17.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,427.00
01/16/2026	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00
01/17/2026	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
01/18/2026	1,714.00	0.00	0.00	5.00	0.00	50.00	1,769.00
01/24/2026	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
01/25/2026	330.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	330.00
01/31/2026	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Total	5,994.75	72.00	600.00	60.00	50.00	50.00	6,826.75

Tracy Gunderman

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



PASTORS HOURS: TUES-THRU. 8 A.M. 12 P.M.

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

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL-9 A.M.

WORSHIP: SUNDAYS-10 A.M.

CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL FOLLOWING

CHILDRENS MOMENT

BELL CHOIR EVERY SUNDAY FOLLOWING

WORSHIP

Special Dates for March 2026

- World Day of Prayer, *March 6, 2026*
- Daylight saving time begins, *March 8, 2026*
- St. Patrick's Day, *March 17, 2026*
- First day of spring, *March 20, 2026*
- Holy Week, *March 29-April 5, 2026*
- Palm/Passion Sunday, *March 29, 2026*

MARCH 2026

Faith is to believe what we do not see; and the reward of this faith is to see what we believe.

—St. Augustine

1 NOODLE MAKING-5 P.M.	2	3 DISICPLES WOMEN-10 A.M. WOR/MEM/TECH- NOON	4 LENTEN LUNCH- NOON TRUSTEES-7P.M.	5	6 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER	7
8  DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS	9	10	11 LENTEN LUNCH- NOON STEWARD/FINANCE- 6:30 P.M.	12	13	14
15 ELDERS-8:30 A.M.	16	17  BOARD MEETING-7 P.M.	18 LENTEN LUNCH- NOON	19	20	21 MEN'S GROUP- 9 A.M.
22	23	24	25 LENTEN LUNCH- NOON	26	27	28
29 PALM SUNDAY HOLY WEEK BEGINS				MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE-6 P.M.	GOOD FRIDAY COMMUNITY SERVICE-NOON ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CH.	

SERMONS:

3/1 "Unearned, Undeserved, Freely Given", John3: 14-17

3/8 "Sink the Putt", John 4: 5-26

3/15 "Start Making Waves", John 9: 1-12

3/22 "Take Away the Stone", John 11: 1-16

3/29 "It is Finished", Matthew 21: 1-11

SERVERS:

ELDERS: Max Hibbard & Bruce
Gunderman

WORSHIP LEADER: Larry Grace

FIRST SCRIPTURE: Matt Strayer

GREETERS: Corey Harris Family

The King No One Expected



Sometimes we speak—or even shout—the truth without realizing just how right we are. That’s exactly what happened on the first Palm Sunday.

Jesus entered Jerusalem not on a prize-worthy stallion, but on a young, humble donkey. The crowd erupted in joy, shouting, *“Hosanna! Blessed is the King who comes in the name of the Lord!”* They waved palm branches, symbols of peace, and hailed Jesus as their king.

Was He a king? Jesus didn’t deny it. When the Pharisees told him to silence the crowd, he replied, *“I tell you, if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out.”*

Later, Pilate—the Roman governor—mocked the religious leaders by saying, *“Here is your king.”* The chief priests bristled with anger, shouting, *“We have no king but Caesar!”*

When Pilate handed Jesus over to be crucified, he made one last jab at the furious crowd. John 19:19 tells us he ordered a sign to be placed above the cross. Written in Hebrew, Latin, and Greek, it declared:

“Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews.”

The chief priests demanded the sign be changed, but Pilate refused. *“What I have written, I have written,”* he said.

Was Jesus a king? The witnesses of His resurrection knew the answer. In Acts 17:7, the early believers were accused of “saying there is another king, Jesus.” And the book of Revelation looks ahead to the day when all creation will know the truth:

“The Lamb will triumph ... for He is Lord of lords and King of kings.” — Revelation 17:14

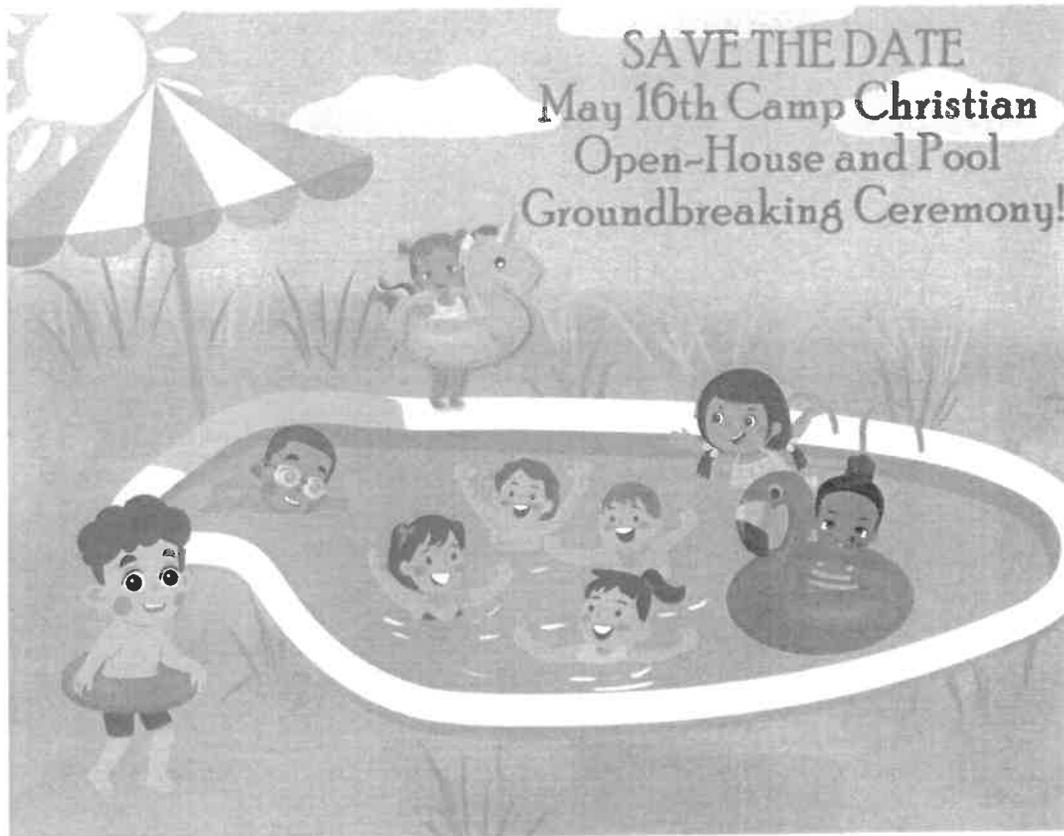
When Life Needs a Little Wind

Botanists say that trees need the powerful March winds to flex their trunks and main branches, so that the sap is drawn up to nourish the budding leaves.

Perhaps we need the gales of life in the same way, though we dislike enduring them. A blustery period in our fortunes is often the prelude to a new spring of life and health, success and happiness, when we keep steadfast in faith and look to the good in spite of appearances.

—Jane Truax





Lantern Fellowship Women's Retreat



**The Sound of the Future:
Making Space For the Wisdom of
Young Leaders**
Rev. Allen V. Harris

April 17-19, 2026

Camp Christian

10299 Maple Dell Rd., Marysville, OH 43040

<https://heartlanducc.org/storycontinues/>



When Jesus entered Jerusalem, a large crowd cheered for him. Complete this puzzle to discover what they used (also see John 12:13).

Directions: In the number grid below, draw lines by starting with the first number in each list and stopping at the last.

122-112-116-102-112	92-97-82-92	42-19-52-18-62-17-72
112-68-102	92-37-82	82-27-72-87-82
102-107-92-102	22-42-44-32-9-42	82-42
102-47-92	42-55-52-66-62-77-72	

●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	121
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
122	123	124	125	126	127	128	129	130	131	132



HOSANNA BANNER

Offer Jesus our King praises by making this banner for Palm Sunday.

What you need:

- 6 sheets of green construction paper (8" x 11")
- Pencil
- Scissors
- 7 sheets of pastel-colored paper
- Rubber cement or glue
- 7 sheets of white cardstock (8" x 8")
- Hole punch
- Thin ribbon



What you do:

1. Fold the stack of green paper in half. Draw a palm branch on one of the folded sides and cut out all 12 branches.
2. On the pastel-colored paper, draw and cut out block letters to spell the word *Hosanna* — one letter per sheet. Then glue each letter onto a sheet of white paper.
3. Punch one hole in the top of each palm branch and two holes in each letter square (top left and top right corners).
4. Thread the ribbon through a palm branch, letter, palm branch, letter, etc. Tie a knot after each hole to keep the pieces from sliding.