



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

DISCIPLE DIGEST

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ISSUE NO. IV-2026
MINISTER: PASTOR RIC BEALS

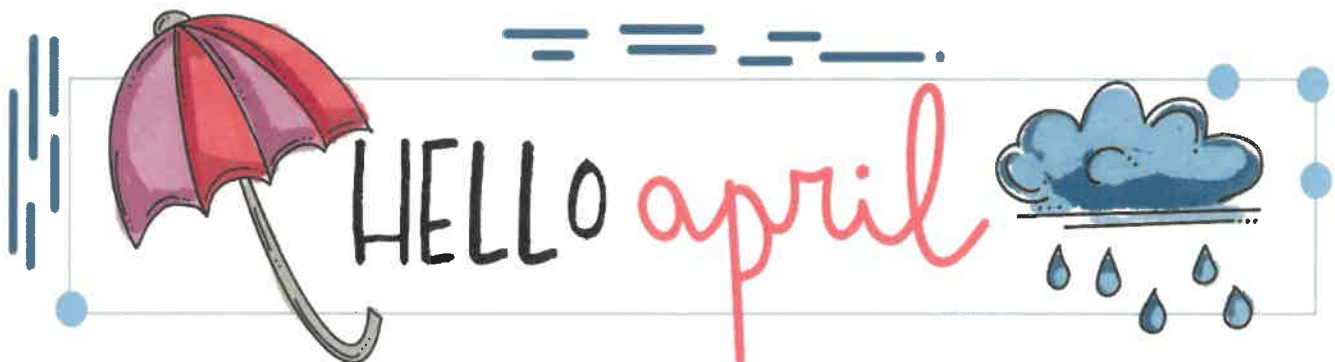
PHONE 419 399-4576
WEBSITE: firstccpaulding.org
EMAIL: firstccpaulding@gmail.com

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)



APRIL 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

I pray that this message finds you still clinging to the hope of Christ in light of his resurrection. With no intention to remove this joy, today continues to forecast what scholars believe is the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. “They will dash you to the ground, you and the children within your walls. They will not leave one stone on another” (Luke 19:44). This was not an empty prediction, the temple in Jerusalem was indeed destroyed in A.D. 70. Titus, burnt the Temple, destroyed the city of Jerusalem and crucified thousands of Jews. Indeed, it was the end of the world as they (the Jews in Jerusalem) knew it. Jesus wept for this event 40 years before it occurred.

He weeps for all whose worlds as they know them are coming to an end. He calls us to join in the grief. There’s a song I’ve heard that has a lyric, “Keep me in the holy land of a wounded heart.” Truly, truly, we are very near the heart of Jesus when we have wounded hearts. Still, there is more to the story. The truth is, the fall of the Temple made way for a new missional focus that includes not only the chosen Jewish people, but the rest of the world’s people as well. For God “has made a way of salvation for all – has done through Jesus what the Temple should have stood for but had instead opposed” (Wright).

The good news has a wide invitation. And even if you are in a season of trial and your world, as you know it is under attack, because of the resurrection, there is always hope in the forecast. Because of the resurrection we have a savior and a guide back to hope. Boy, am I glad about that! May everlasting hope be yours in abundance!

Peace!

Pastor Ric

Comfort in Mourning:

The family of Julie Gutierrez
The family of Rick Williamson
The family of Amber Miller Brown

Healing Prayers:

*Tammy Boroff
Margaret Cox
Betty Daniels
*Betty Ganger
*Cindy Grace
Leon Goyings
Steve Grunden
Kristen Karhoff
Rich Keirns
Juliana & Dillon Lambert
Lois Kromer
Lisa McMichael
Amy Young
April Adams Wasserman

Continuing Concerns:

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

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



- 4/01 Matt Strayer
- 4/07 Mick Coak
- 4/09 Lori Clark
- 4/09 Brett Mawer
- 4/12 Tony Garza
- 4/12 Leah Gunderman
- 4/13 Carol Moore
- 4/16 Donna Hibbard
- 4/18 Destyne Carlisle
- 4/19 Tabrina Miller
- 4/23 Melissa Leslie
- 4/24 Gina Vance
- 4/25 Ann Reinhart
- 4/25 Darla Smith
- 4/26 Elise Laney
- 4/26 Nicki Smith
- 4/27 Julie Cook
- 4/29 Kyle Harris
- 4/30 Addyson Hormann
- 4/30 Grayson Thompson
- 4/30 Scarlet Thompson

April Servers

Elders: Larry Grace & Gary McClure

Worship Leader: Deb Santo

First Scripture: Larry Grace

Greeter: Kelly Ricker

First Scriptures

- 4/05 Jeremiah 31: 1-6
- 4/12 Psalm 16
- 4/19 Psalm 116: 1-4, 12-19
- 4/26 Psalm 23

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:

- 4/05 Happy Easter
- 4/12 In Honor of Leah Gunderman's Birthday
- 4/19 Herm Guelde-In Memory of Jean
- 4/26



Holy Week

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

ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
02/22	82	45	15	16	6	219
03/01	94	44	19	21	10	142
03/08	87	37	19	18	13	164
03/15	69	40	8	13	8	149
03/22	84	44	11	20	9	101

From the Elders

A devotion by Dave Branon entitled

The Torn Veil

It was a dark and somber day in the outskirts of Jerusalem. On a hill just outside the city walls, a Man who'd been attracting crowds of eager followers for the past three years hung in and wailed in sorrow. The light of the sun no longer brightened the afternoon sky. And the intense suffering of the Man on the cross ended when He cried out in a loud voice, "It is finished" (Matthew 27:50, John 19:30).

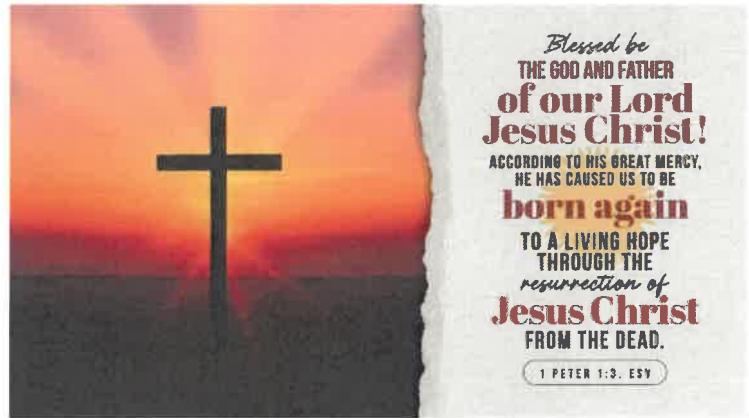
At the very moment, another sound came from the great temple across town-the sound of ripping fabric. Miraculously, without human intervention, the huge, thick veil that separated the outer temple from the holy of holies tore in two from top to bottom (Matthew 27:51).

That torn curtain symbolized the reality of the cross: a new way was now open to God! Jesus, the Man on the cross, had shed His blood as the last sacrifice-the one true and sufficient sacrifice (Hebrews 10: 10)-which allows all who believe in Him to enjoy forgiveness and enter into a relationship with God (Romans 5 6-11).

Amidst the darkness of that original Good Friday, we received the best news ever-Jesus opened a way for us to be saved from our sins and to experience fellowship with God forever (Hebrews 10: 19-22). Thank God for the message of the torn veil!

Easter Flowers

If you are bringing in Easter Flowers, please
have them to the church by April 1st



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!



Thank you for the many uplifting prayers. Today, March 11, we received a report Cyndi Rheas is in remission and doesn't have to return to the oncologist for three months.

Cyndi and Family

Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

The Disciples Women's Ministry would like **April to be shower gels and personal hygiene supplies month.**

Thanks for helping us help neighbors!
The Caring and Sharing Food Pantry always welcomes new volunteers if you have time to spare.



Charitable Contributions

According to IRS.gov. beginning with tax year 2026, if you do not itemize, you may deduct up to \$1000.00 (\$2000.00 if filing jointly) of your cash contributions to certain qualified organizations.
(Churches qualify)

For your contributions of cash, check or other monetary gift, you must maintain a record of the contribution.

A written communication from the qualified organization containing the name of the organization, the amount and the date of the contribution must be submitted. You may find the complete information at irs.gov., publication 526.

QR Code Donation

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



COUNTERS

- 4/05 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 4/12 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 4/19 Max Hibbard. Corey Harris, Clint Reinhart
- 4/26 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers, Gary McClure

First Christian Church Fund Summary

03/07/2026 12:51 PM

Page:

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	102 INITIAL ENVELOPE OFFERING	103 WEEK OF COMPASSION	118 Elavon Tithes/Offering s	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	500 CAPITAL IMPROVEMEN T	700 MENS GROUP	Total
02/01/2026	3,073.00	5.00	70.00	0.00	100.00	50.00	0.00	3,298.00
02/07/2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
02/08/2026	1,871.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	10.00	0.00	0.00	1,891.00
02/14/2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
02/15/2026	3,025.00	50.00	87.03	0.00	130.00	0.00	0.00	3,292.03
02/17/2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00
02/18/2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	165.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	165.00
02/21/2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
02/22/2026	894.00	0.00	29.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	35.00	958.71
02/28/2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
Total	8,863.00	65.00	186.74	715.00	240.00	50.00	35.00	10,154.74

Tracy Gunderman



LILY CROSS BLOOMS

Melanie Bandy

In Memory of My Son, Ross Myers

Sharon Cooper

In Memory of Rollin, John, Mildred & Raymond Grimes

Herm Guelde

In Honor of Jean Guelde. In Memory of John & Jewel Webb

Max & Donna Hibbard

In Memory of Max & Norma Hibbard Sr. and
In Memory of Don & Loretta Stocker.

Dennis & Susan Knapp

In Honor of Sharon Cooper, In Memory of Dad, John,
Jerry Knapp, Donna & Bill McNeil & Sarah Beverly

Eileen Kochensparger

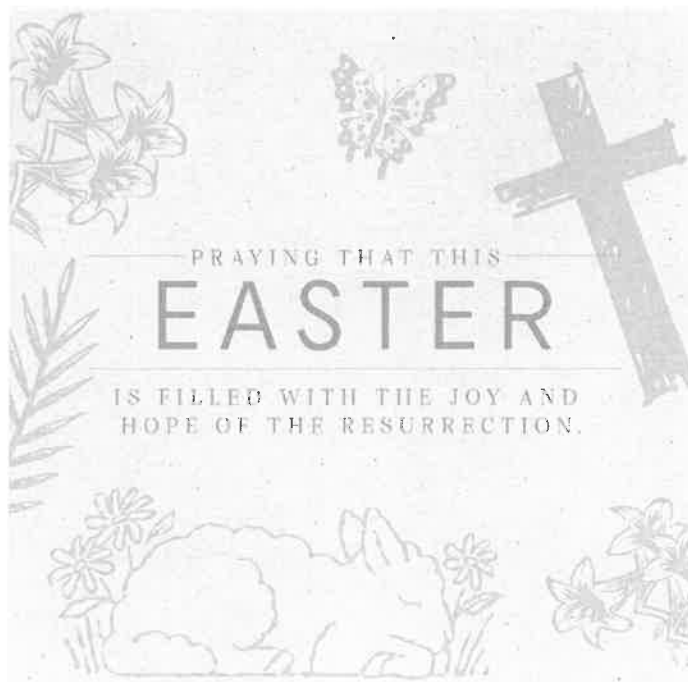
In Honor of Children, Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren.
In Memory of Max Kochensparger

Nana & Papa

In Honor of Cady, Clark, Caia & Carter.

Jacqueline Walker

In Honor of Family.
In Memory of Sidney Ben.



SOUP AND SALAD LUNCH

Wednesday, April 22nd

11:30 – 1p.m.



First Christian Church
1233 Emerald Road



Free will donation



NOODLES, NOODLES,
NOODLES.

THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO HELPED
DONATED AND
PURCHASED.



For those with special needs who are ages 7 and up with an adult companion

CAMP OUR WAY "THE GOOD SAMARITAN"



Jesus teaches us to help

Activities

- Games
- Crafts
- Nature Activities
- Campfire
- Ho Down
- and More!



There are limited spaces available so register now!

All campers and their companions will be in the Monroe Lodge. Each camper and companion will have their own private dorm style room. Handicap accessible showers are available. We will do all we can to accommodate all special needs.

May 1st-3rd

\$180 per Camper & Companion

\$200 after April 20, 2026

\$140 for Extra Companion

Camp
Christian

REGISTRATION AT CCINOH.ORG

You're invited to

Dive into Tomorrow

Camp Open House & Pool Construction Blessing Day

Saturday, May 16, 2026

Camp Christian

1:00-8:00 PM

Use QR Code on back to RSVP by May 7th

Made possible by the generous support of those giving to the "If Not Now... When? If Not You... Who?" financial campaign.

Event Schedule:

- 1:00-3:15 PM – Open House Fun
 - Welcome, camp tours, scavenger hunt, wagon rides, snacks, fellowship, and more!
- 4:00 PM – Pool Construction Blessing Ceremony
 - Liturgy, music, prayer, and lots of group photos (churches, counselors, staff alumni, and more)
- 5:30 PM – Appetizers & Dinner
- 6:30 PM – Talent Show

Dive in for the whole event or jump in for a quick splash!

Use QR Code on back to RSVP by May 7th

Questions? Contact ccio@ccinoh.org



IF NOT NOW,
WHEN
IF NOT YOU,
WHO



Ohio Regional Ministry
Center Financial Campaign

CAMPAIGN BUDGET BREAKDOWN

At this crossroads of both the Christian Church in Ohio and Camp Christian, a bold vision is called for! A Financial Campaign of \$2.5 million will fund:

- A new accessible pool at Camp Christian (\$1.6 million)
- Facilities and accessibility improvements for camp and regional church office (\$100,000)
- Full-time conference center director for 3 years (\$200,000 with benefits)
- Three to four half-time program positions for regional ministries for 3 years (\$300,000)
 - » New church and church renewal
 - » Search and call assistant
 - » Bookkeeper/technology innovation
 - » Associate for nurture (education, continuing ed, children, youth, young adults)
- Mission projects outside the regional church (\$150,000)
 - » Cleveland Christian Home
 - » Hiram Farm
 - » Disciples Overseas Ministries (\$50,000 each)
- Campaign expenses (Consultant, Director, Travel, Promotional, Additional Expenses) (\$150,000)

Dates, Prices and Deadlines – Summer 2026 at Camp Christian

Note, this is the list for the Camps/Conferences sponsored by the Christian Church in Ohio. All Camps and Conferences sponsored by the Heartland Conference have their own deadline and fee structures.

NOTE: All grades listed are grades **completed** May/June 2026

Grandparents Camp			
For children completing Kindergarten, 1 st or 2 nd grade and their Grandparent			
Grandparents Camp	Early Bird - \$170.00	Regular - \$180.00	Late/Onsite - \$200.00
June 7 - 9, 2026 <i>Cost = One Child & One Adult Additional adult = \$140.00</i>	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 1, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 2 – 28, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full May 29, 2026 and after
Rabbit - Junior Camp			
For children completing 2 nd – 5 th grades who would like a half-week Camp experience.			
Rabbit	Early Bird - \$270.00	Regular - \$285.00	Late/Onsite - \$310.00
July 8 - 11, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 1, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 2 – June 28, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full June 29, 2026 and after
Otter - Junior Camp			
For children completing 5 th grade & those in 3 rd & 4 th grades ready for a full-week of camp			
Otter	Early Bird - \$470.00	Regular - \$485.00	Late/Onsite - \$525.00
June 7 – 13, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 1, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 2 – 28, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full May 29, 2026 and after
Chi Rho Camps			
For youth completing grades 6 th , 7 th , or 8 th this Spring.			
Chi Rho Camp Emmaus	Early Bird - \$470.00	Regular - \$485.00	Late/Onsite - \$525.00
June 14 - 20, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 1, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 2 – June 4, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full June 5, 2026 and after
Chi Rho Camp Corinth	Early Bird - \$470.00	Regular - \$485.00	Late/Onsite - \$525.00
July 12 - 18, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 1, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 2 – July 2, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full July 3, 2026 and after
CYF Conferences			
For youth completing grades 9 th , 10 th , 11 th , or 12 th this Spring			
CYF Conference Week #1	Early Bird - \$470.00	Regular - \$485.00	Late/Onsite - \$525.00
June 14 - 20, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 1, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 2 – June 4, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full June 5, 2026 and after
CYF Conference Week #2	Early Bird - \$470.00	Regular - \$485.00	Late/Onsite - \$525.00
July 19 - 25, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 1, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by May 2 – July 9, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full July 10, 2026 and after
Advance Ministries Summer Conference			
For anyone ages 19 – 30 (at least one year out of high school).			
Advance – Full Week	Early Bird - \$390.00	Regular - \$410.00	Late/Onsite - \$445.00
July 26 - August 2, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by June 1, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full by June 2 – July 16, 2026	Postmarked/ Paid in Full July 17, 2026 and after
Please Note: There are partial attendance rates for Advance Ministries Summer Conference. See the complete summer registration form for details.			

Following Christ's Example of Humble Service



On the night before his crucifixion, Jesus gathered with his friends to celebrate the Passover. During the supper, Jesus rose from the table, poured water into a basin, and went from man to man washing the disciples' feet and drying them with a towel. Peter protested, "You shall never wash my feet!" Jesus answered, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with Me." Peter relented and asked Christ to wash his hands and head as well (see John 13:1-16).

Afterward, Jesus said to his friends, "If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that you should do as I have done to you" (John 13:14-15, NKJV).

On Maundy Thursday, let us remember Christ's command and his example of humility, service and love.

Dispelling the darkness

On Good Friday, many churches hold a Tenebrae worship service. Tenebrae (Latin for "darkness" or "shadows") is an ancient Christian tradition that re-creates the emotions of Jesus' Passion and death. The sanctuary gradually grows darker. A strepitus (Latin for "loud noise") may signify the closing of Jesus' tomb. As the service concludes, a Christ candle stands alone on the altar, reminding worshipers that victory is coming on Easter morning.

When Scottish missionary Peter Milne died in 1924, the thankful people he'd served in the South Pacific inscribed this message on his headstone: "When he came, there was no light; when he died, there was no darkness."

Death's darkness couldn't conquer Jesus, the light of the world, so it does not conquer us. "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it" (John 1:5, ESV).

Easter is timeless

Easter is a moveable feast, falling any time between March 22 and April 25 on the Gregorian calendar. At a meeting of bishops in 325 A.D., Easter Sunday was set as the first Sunday after the first full moon following the northern hemisphere's vernal equinox. (Though the equinox can fall on March 19, 20 or 21, the church fixed March 21 as this date.)

Over the years, branches of the church differed on the precise date for Easter, finally reaching agreement in the late 700s. Since 1582, however, when the Western Church adopted the Gregorian calendar while the Eastern Church retained the Julian one, the timing of Easter has sometimes varied between the two.

Such computations are interesting but pale in light of the ultimate assurance that for Christians, every day is truly Easter. Christ's tomb is empty! Jesus defeated death! Whenever we worship, we celebrate resurrection. Date-bound by earthly calendars, the Feast of the Resurrection, by heaven's rendering, is eternal.

PUZZLE

FIX YOUR EYES ON JESUS

Remembering Jesus' life, death and resurrection helps us live with gratitude every day.

Use the picture and number code to fill in the blanks for Hebrews 12:2-3, NIV


























- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. cross |
| 2. weary | 6. endured |
| 3. endured | 7. scorning |
| 4. opposition | 8. shame |



- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Jesus | 5. perfecter |
| 2. lose | 6. him |
| 3. pioneer | 7. faith |
| 4. sinners | 8. hand |



- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. eyes | 5. right |
| 2. us | 6. grow |
| 3. joy | 7. God |
| 4. heart | 8. throne |

"... fixing our  1 on  1, the  3 and  5 of  7. For the  3 set before  6 he  3 the  5,  7 its  8, and sat down at the  5  8 of the  8 of  7. Consider  6 who  6 such  4 from  4, so that you will not  6 and  2  2  4"

Hebrews 12:2-3 NIV

According to Matthew's account, something remarkable happened to the earth on the day Jesus was crucified and again on the morning when Mary Magdalene and the other Mary visited the tomb. What occurred on both days?



- There was a flood on both days.
- There was an earthquake on both days.
- There was a huge fire on each day.
- There was complete darkness on both days.

Answer: B (Matthew 27:51; Matthew 28:2)



HANDPRINT BUTTERFLY OF NEW LIFE

The butterfly reminds us of new life and the Resurrection. After three days, Jesus rose from the dead and brings us the hope of new beginnings. This simple craft helps children celebrate that joyful truth.

What you need:

- Light-colored construction paper
- Card stock
- Glue
- Paint
- Paintbrush
- Paper towel or baby wipe



What you do:

- Cut out a butterfly body from the construction paper.
- Glue the butterfly body onto the card stock.
- Use a paintbrush to coat the palm of one hand with paint.
- Press your painted hand beside the butterfly body to create a wing.
- Repeat with your other hand to make the second wing.
- Clean your hands with a paper towel or baby wipe.
- Optional: Add Luke 24:5-6 (NIV) around the butterfly or on its body:

"Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen!"



THIS DAY: WHEN LOVE ANSWERS

"Mary Magdalene went, telling
the news to the disciples:
"I saw the Master!" And she
told them everything he said
to her." **(John 20:18)**

Supporting general ministries
of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ).

Received in most congregations

Sunday, March 29

& April 5, 2026

or two alternative Sundays in
your congregation

THIS DAY: WHEN LOVE ANSWERS



**“Mary Magdalene went, telling
the news to the disciples: “I saw
the Master!” And she told them
everything he said to her.”**

(John 20:18)

This day, was unlike any other day.

This day, on the first day of the week, the grief, expectations, and questions of Mary Magdalene and Simon Peter were disrupted by resurrection.

This day, the followers of Jesus discovered that Jesus was risen. At the tomb they found a teacher and a teaching that changed the world.

This day, love provided limitless answers and a new world became possible.

This is the day that the Lord has made.

Peter and the other Disciple ran to the tomb looking for Jesus, and love answered. Mary Magdalene went looking for Jesus in the midst of her sorrow, uncertainty, and longing, and love answered.

First, in ways they could not comprehend, and then by giving them an encounter and an answer to share. Through the Easter Offering, the church responds to God's love made known in the resurrection by sharing in God's answers to the needs of the world.

Love answers congregations and communities in the midst of transition through our gifts:

- On days and seasons when Congregations and Regions raise up new leaders, our gifts provide education, mentors, and support.
- On days and seasons when health and social service ministries are needed most, our gifts provide housing, medical, and mental health resources.
- On days and seasons when conflict is present internationally and climate challenges compound our concerns, our gifts enable global mission partners to respond with care.

Love provides more than one answer and an encounter with the risen Christ through our gifts:

- To support chaplains serving hospitals, schools, and in the military
- To equip ministers and elders, and to multiply new worshipping communities gathering in diverse languages and styles
- To sustain the church and our witness in the world through stewardship education

Your gift supports ministries that embody resurrection hope and God's limitless love **on this day and every day** throughout the year.

The Easter Offering supports these general ministries of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ):

Center for Faith and Giving, Obra Hispana, Communication Ministries, Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry, Disciples of Christ Historical Society, Disciples Home Missions, Disciples Women, Disciples Overseas Ministries (Global Ministries), Higher Education and Leadership Ministries, National Benevolent Association, National Convocation, New Church Ministry, North American Pacific/Asian Disciples, Office of the General Minister and President, and Treasury Services.

Please give generously to the Easter Offering on Sunday, **March 29** and **April 5** or two alternative Sundays in your congregation using the giving envelopes or online at disciplesmissionfund.org/give.