



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

# DISCIPLE DIGEST

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

**PHONE 419 399-4576**  
**WEBSITE: [firstccpaulding.org](http://firstccpaulding.org)**  
**EMAIL: [firstccpaulding@gmail.com](mailto: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)



MAY 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

**Seasons are marked by change. The spring rains and the signs of new life are a reminder to us all that time is passing. And while we love some seasons more than others, God uses every season in life to bring us closer to Himself. He is the One who transcends it all – eternal, immutable God. I don't know what season you are living through right now, but I do know that while it may be bright and sunny outside, it can be dark and gloomy within. When some are rejoicing, others are walking through their most difficult days. I also know that "He has made everything beautiful in his time..." (Ecclesiastes 3:11). How can you make the most of whatever season you find yourself in? 1. Remember the lessons and blessings of yesterday. LOOK BACK...not with regret but with gratitude. Have you seen the Lord come through? He who was – is! He who did – will!**

**2. Consider your goals and prayers for tomorrow. LOOK AHEAD. What are you asking God to do in the days ahead? Have faith in God and keep your hope rooted in Him.**

**3. Concentrate on the opportunities and the divine appointments of today. LOOK AROUND. In the most challenging times, the Lord accomplishes His greatest work. God is with you and for you.**

**Someone once wrote, "Two men behind prison bars – one looked at the mud, the other the stars." Which way are you looking? This time of year, we have plenty of mud, but don't forget to look at the stars! At all times, LOOK UP! Keep your eyes on "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever"**

**(Hebrews 13:8). Soon this season will pass, but He will not. Every season provides something you need, and every season prepares you for the season that is ahead. Make the most of it.**

**Spring Blessings to You!**

**Pastor Ric**

**Comfort in Mourning:**

\*The family of Romaine Boundy  
The family of Lorean McCollum  
The Family of George Strayer

**Healing Prayers:**

Betty Daniels  
Steve Grunden  
Braden Hormann  
\*Genelta Levos  
Stanley Pratt  
JaNahn Sinn  
\*Sandi Vance  
Amy Young

**Continuing Concerns:**

Renee Celie  
Elizabeth Miller  
\*Charlie Simpson  
\*Denotes Members



**Sermons**

*If you would like to hear a specific sermon a 2nd time they are available on our website at [firstccpaulding.org](http://firstccpaulding.org) or our facebook page.*

**Flowers For Worship:**

5/03 Herm Guelde-In Memory of Jean  
5/10  
5/17 Don Brockhaus-In Memory of JoAnn  
5/24  
5/31

**ATTENDANCE**

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
3/29	102	44	14	28	16	169
4/02	26	19	2	1	4	150
4/05	111	53	27	22	9	148
4/12	94	49	22	17		108
4/19	81	38	21	17	5	111

**Nursing Home Residents..**

**The Paulding Care Community**  
Rich English

**Country Inn**  
\*Jack Moore-Rm 12

**Military:**  
Cameron Cramer  
Miranda E. Iler  
Morgan R. Iler



**April Servers**

**Elders:** Matt Strayer & Corey Harris  
**Worship Leader:** Jan Commers  
**First Scripture:** Max Hibbard  
**Greeter:** Deb Santo & Angela Bowers

**First Scriptures:**

5/3 - Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16  
5/10 - Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19  
5/17 - Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35  
5/24 - Psalm 104:24-35  
5/31 - Psalm 113



From the Elders



5/02 Rowan Bowers  
5/05 Kelcie Pack  
5/06 Haylie Lero  
5/11 Angela Bowes  
5/13 Shirley Workman  
5/16 Susan Knapp  
5/16 Jessica McDonald  
5/18 Julie Pack  
5/23 Michael Mudel  
5/25 Lucas Grace  
5/25 Aaron Hibbard  
5/27 Devon Smith  
5/28 Ben Gunderman



5/02 Kevin & Holly Vance  
5/14 Bruce & Anna Gunderman  
5/15 Gary & Tammy Boroff  
5/16 Ted & Camie Stallbaum  
5/21 Harry & Kelly Ricker  
5/30 Greg & Ann Reinhart

**In Sympathy**

Please keep the family of Romaine Boundy in your prayers. Romaine went to be with the Lord on March 24<sup>th</sup>. She has been a faithful member of First Christian Church for many years.

Please remember the family of George Strayer in your prayers . George went to be with the Lord on March 27<sup>th</sup>.

Lorean McCollum also joined the Lord on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please keep the Workman family in your prayers at this difficult time.

From the Elders

A devotion by Marvin Williams entitled

### **God Fights For Us**

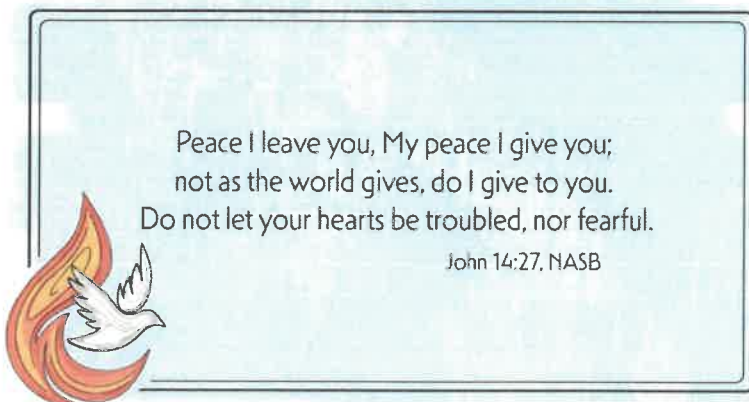
A Colorado mother proved she would stop at nothing to protect her child. Her five-year-old son was playing outside when she heard him screaming. She rushed outside and, to her horror, saw that her son had an unexpected “playmate”- a mountain lion. The large cat was on top of her son, with his head in its mouth. The mother summoned her inner mamma grizzly to fight off the lion and pry open its jaws to rescue her son. This mother’s heroic actions remind us of how motherhood is used in Scripture to illustrate God’s tenacious love and protection for His children.

God tenderly cared for and comforted His people as a mother eagle cares for her young (Deuteronomy 32: 10-11; Isaiah 66: 13). Also, like a mother who could never forget a nursing child with whom she had built an inseparable bond, God would never forget His people nor forever withhold compassion from them (Isaiah 54: 7-8). Finally, like a mother bird offering protective cover under her wings for baby birds, God would “cover (His people) with his feathers” and “his faithfulness (would) be (their) shield and rampart” (psalm 91:4).

Sometimes we feel alone, forgotten, and trapped in the grip of all kinds of spiritual predators. May God help us remember that He compassionately cares, comforts, and fights for us.

**How have you seen the image of God as a parent illustrated in your life? In what ways have you experienced His care, comfort, and protection?**

Heavenly Father, as baby birds find protection under their mother’s wings,  
may I find refuge under the shield of Your faithfulness.



### **Pentecost Sunday**

May 24<sup>th</sup> is Pentecost. We are asking everyone to wear red and bring in a red geranium to decorate the sanctuary. There will be a pin wheel parade by the children at the beginning of the service. Following worship, we will enjoy cake and homemade ice cream in the fellowship hall.

**Happy Birthday Church!!**

Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the prayers, cards and all who stopped & visited with my Mother. Pastor Ric, and making sure she did get communion. And to whoever stopped that I did not hear about.

Thank You

Michele Boundy



### Disciples Women Ministry

We meet the first Tuesday of the month at 10:00 a.m. All women of the church are invited to attend.

We recently served a funeral dinner for the family of Peg Wolfe.

The April Soup and Salad lunch went very well. Thank You to everyone who donated and helped.

### Mowers needed

We need volunteers to keep the church property mowed. We have a mower, we need people to sign up for a 2 week period. If you can't mow but would like to help, you may sign your name and designate that you would like to pay for someone to mow for you. Thank you for your help.

April 27-May 10 – Ric Beals  
May 11- May 24-Matt Strayer  
May 25- June 7-Gary McClure  
June 8- June 21-  
June 22-July 5-Matt Strayer  
July 6- July 19-Gary McClure  
July 20-August 2-  
Aug.3-Aug 16-Mick Coak  
Aug 17-Aug 30-Gary McClure  
Aug 31-Sept 13-  
Sept. 14-Sept.27 Gary McClure  
Sept28-Oct. 13-Ric Beals  
Oct.14-Oct 25 - Mick Coak



### 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. Teachers are needed May through August. Please see Suzy Strayer to help.

Children's Bell Choir will not meet during the summer.

The Sunday School class for adults will be taking the summer off at the end of May.



### Summer Camp

Summer Camp Registration Forms are available in the office.

### GRADUATING SENIORS

We will be recognizing Seniors on May 17<sup>th</sup> during worship.



### SPRING CLEANING

It's time to think about spring cleaning.

There is a list on the hallway bulletin board that has specific areas that need a deep cleaning. You may sign up and clean when it's convenient for you or come May 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m. to clean with a group.

### Summer Music


If you would like to share your musical talent during worship this summer, please sign up on the bulletin board. If you have questions, please contact Donna.



## Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

The Disciples Women's Ministry would like to promote **May is Flour and baking Supplies (because April showers bring May flours)**  
 Thanks for helping us help neighbors!  
 The Caring and Sharing Food Pantry always welcomes new volunteers if you have time to spare.



Who is this?  


### 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

- 5/03 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 5/10 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 5/17 Max Hibbard. Corey Harris, Clint Reinhart
- 5/24 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers, Gary McClure
- 5/31 Bruce Gunderman, Joan Tope, Dan Workman

First Christian Church  
 Fund Summary

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	103 WEEK OF COMPASSION	104 SPECIAL HOLIDAY-EAS TER	118 Elavon Tithes/Offering s	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	500 CAPITAL IMPROVEMEN T	700 MENS GROUP	Total
03/01/2026	2,720.00	105.92	0.00	300.00	20.00	50.00	0.00	3,195.92
03/05/2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	500.00
03/07/2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
03/08/2026	1,522.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,522.00
03/14/2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
03/15/2026	1,166.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	1,216.00
03/19/2026	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00
03/22/2026	1,134.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	1,204.00
03/29/2026	1,115.00	0.00	100.00	65.00	0.00	0.00	20.00	1,300.00
Total	7,657.00	105.92	100.00	1,365.00	90.00	50.00	20.00	9,387.92

*Gracy Gunderman*

## New Roof

The Board voted at the April 21<sup>st</sup> Meeting to proceed with the roof project. Bids for the project were given to the trustees; they had reviewed the bids and recommended Buckeye Roofing. The cost of the roof will be \$89900.00. The board chair will contact the company to be put on their schedule. We currently have around \$46000.00 in the New Roof/Capital Improvement fund. The remainder of the balance will need to come from donations or the interest on our current Endowment fund held at Paulding Area Foundation. If you would like to contribute please mark your donation New Roof. God has blessed us with this wonderful building that must be maintained. Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this project.

## General Endowment Fund

There was an endowment fund established in 2022 at the Paulding Area Foundation for First Christian Church. The original donation cannot be spent, however the interest accrued may be used at the board's determination. Anyone can contribute to the fund which will ensure the church has an income source for the future.





## **A Prayer for Open Hearts and Minds**

O Lord, our heavenly Father, in you is the fullness of light and wisdom. We ask that you enlighten our minds through the work of your Holy Spirit. Clear away distraction and doubt, and help us turn our full attention to you.

Give us grace to receive your Word with reverence and humility. Shape our hearts so we may listen not only with our ears, but with willing spirits, ready to be taught and transformed. Remind us that true understanding does not come from our own insight or effort, but from your truth revealed to us in love.

As we hear and reflect on Scripture today, draw us closer to you. Strengthen our faith, deepen our trust and guide us in the way we should go. May your Word take root within us and bear fruit in our lives, bringing honor to your name.

We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, through whom all wisdom and grace are given. Amen.

## **Commencing a Lifetime of Learning**



What would you tell a young man or woman about to graduate? One of the most common messages commencement speakers share is that graduates are indeed commencing. They are only just beginning to learn.

While they may rightly feel proud of finishing school, a few months in the working world often reveal how much they still do not know.

Christians who love God with their minds understand that truth frees us from ignorance and superstition. They also know that the joy of learning brings deep satisfaction and, in time, wisdom. That wisdom helps us evaluate what we have learned and use it well, so that knowledge becomes a tool for growth and faithful living.

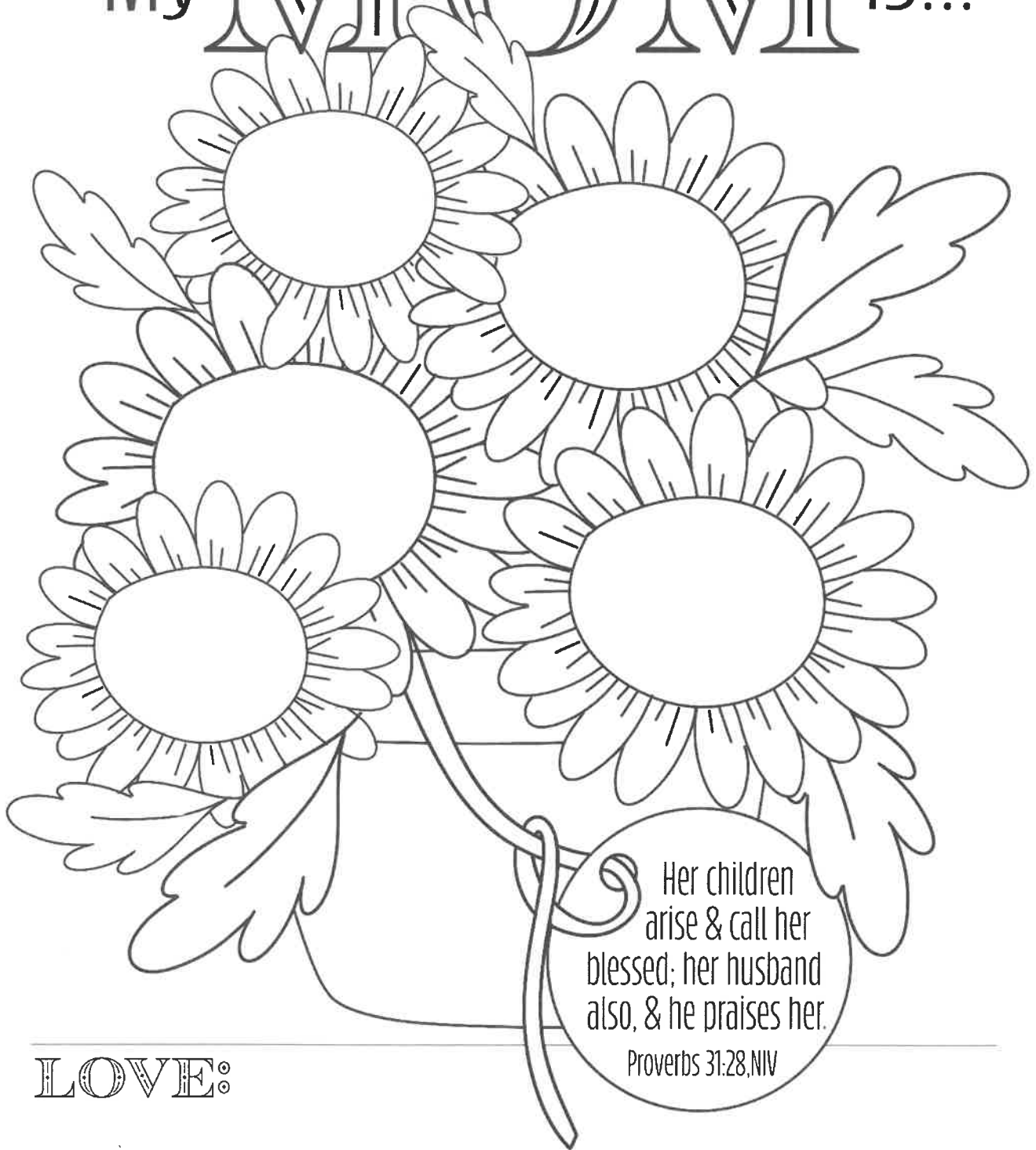
## **Grateful for Those Who Gave All**



We remember, O Lord, the men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Help us never to breathe the air of freedom, claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without deep gratitude for those who gave "the last full measure of devotion" for our sake.

May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

My MOM is...



LOVE:

# Puzzle!

In spring and summer, we remember mothers and fathers with special days. Find the parents of these Biblical children. Check the verse given for help.



Joash (2 Kings 11:2)	A _____
Obed (Matthew 1:5)	B _____
Joseph (Genesis 35: 22-24)	_____ C _____
John the disciple (Matthew 4:21)	_____ D _____
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)	_____ E _____
Lo-Ruhamah (Hosea 1:6)	G _____
Jezreel (Hosea 1:4)	H _____
Esau (Genesis 25:28)	I _____
David (1 Samuel 16:19)	J _____
Jacob (Genesis 25:28)	_____ K _____
Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)	_____ L _____
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	M _____
Samuel (1 Samuel 1:19-20)	_____ N _____
Jesse (Matthew 1:5)	O _____
Gershom (Exodus 2:21-22)	_____ P _____
Joseph (Genesis 35: 22-24)	R _____
Isaac (Genesis 21:3)	S _____
John the Baptist (Luke 1:13)	_____ T _____
Jonathan (1 Samuel 14:1)	_____ U _____
Solomon (1 Kings 2:1)	_____ V _____
Jesus (Matthew 1:18)	_____ Y _____
James (Matthew 4:21)	Z _____



## A LEGACY OF FAITH

You're blessed when you have a mother, a grandmother or any relative or friend who passes down a strong faith to you. In the Bible, Timothy learned about faith from his mother and grandmother.

Complete the verse below by filling in the blanks with the correct vowels.

VOWELS: 1 = a 2 = e 3 = i 4 = o 5 = u

" \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> m \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> m \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> n d \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> d \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub> f  
 y \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub> r \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> n c \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> r \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> f \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> th, wh \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> ch  
 f \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> r s t l \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> v \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> d \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> n y \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub> r gr \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> n d m \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub> th \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> r  
 L \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> s \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> n d \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> n y \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub> r m \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub> th \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> r  
 \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub> n \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> c \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> n d, \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> m p \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> r s \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> d \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> d,  
 n \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub> w l \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> v \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> s \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub> n y \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>5</sub> \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> l s \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub>."

2 Timothy 1:5, NIV

Answer: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

Although the apostle Paul is credited with writing the letter to the Romans, he dictated the message while another believer served as the scribe. Near the end of the letter, that writer briefly identifies himself. Who was it?

- A. Tertius
- B. Timothy
- C. Lucius
- D. Aquila

Answer: A (Romans 16:22)



**TO DO JUSTICE, LOVE  
KINDNESS, AND WALK  
HUMBLY WITH YOUR  
GOD. -MICAH 6:8**



**BECAUSE FAITH  
WITHOUT  
JUSTICE IS  
EMPTY,  
AND JUSTICE, AT  
ITS HEART, IS  
LOVE IN ACTION.**

**2026 PENTECOST OFFERING SUNDAYS  
MAY 17 AND MAY 24**



**THE 2026 PENTECOST OFFERING IS A SPECIAL  
OFFERING IN SUPPORT OF THE NEW CHURCH  
MOVEMENT IN YOUR REGION AND ACROSS THE  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST).**

On Pentecost, the Spirit did not stay in one place. It moved outward — across languages, cultures, and every barrier people believed separated them. In that moment, a new kind of community was born, shaped by courage, generosity, and love.

**That same Spirit is still moving today.**

In a world where many people feel uncertain, divided, or disconnected from one another, the Church is called to be a different kind of presence — one that reflects Christ's compassion, humility, and grace.

The Prophet Micah reminds us what God asks of us:  
**"To do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with your God." — Micah 6:8**

Not just believe.

Not just gather.

But to live in ways that bring healing and hope.

**Because faith without justice is empty — and justice, at its heart, is love in action.**

The Pentecost Offering helps support New Church Ministry and your Region to nurture emerging and affiliating faith communities. Through these ministries, new spaces are created where people can encounter God, build meaningful relationships, and serve their neighbors with compassion.

Your gift helps these communities grow in neighborhoods seeking connection and hope.

Thank you for giving, praying, and helping the Spirit continue its work among us.

**For Times Such as These**