



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

DISCIPLE DIGEST

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ISSUE NO. VII-2026
WEBSITE: firstccpaulding.org

PHONE 419 399-4576
MINISTER: PASTOR RIC BEALS
EMAIL: firstccpaulding@gmail.com

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 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

During the summer, I must constantly remind myself to stay hydrated, especially if I'm outdoors. It's the same for my spiritual life. When prayer is dry, hydrate! Just as water is crucial for providing the body with fluids, so is prayer crucial for providing our inner space with what keeps it alive. Prayer keeps my inner being attentive to God's presence in and around me. When I have difficulty praying, I don't give up. I refresh my prayer by changing my space or method of praying. When it's an especially long, hot day, I hunker down inside, accommodating my activities to the weather.

Being removed from the heat takes my focus off the weather, making me think more clearly and boosting my spirits. Adding something to my prayer routine helps get me out of the doldrums. I might call someone and offer to pray with that friend. Or I might visit with someone with whom I've been out of touch. Maybe I'll prepare an extra meal for a homebound friend. Doing something kind for others takes the focus off myself and puts it on what's important: helping others. Being of service is one of the main ways to snap myself out of the spiritual blahs.

The dog days of summer are real and guaranteed to be around in years to come. (It's the reason God made cold watermelon and snow cones!) The same is true of the dog days of the spiritual life. But with a little planning and creativity, we can get through unscathed. Just remember to persevere, hydrate with prayer, and serve!

Summer Blessings!

Pastor Ric

Comfort in Mourning:
*The family of Charlie Simpson

Nursing Home Residents..



Healing Prayers:

**The Paulding Care
Community**

Rich English
Carrie Longardner
Country Inn
*Jack Moore-Rm 34



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

- 7/02 Carrie Lero
- 7/02 Milo Workman
- 7/07 Branden Pease
- 7/09 Lillie Hibbard
- 7/10 Anna Gunderman
- 7/10 Natalie Vance
- 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

- Denny Knapp
- Pam Haviland
- Janet Henricks
- Bob Iler
- Pam Long Piazza
- Erika Pease
- Linda Snodgrass Reinhart
- Amy Young

Continuing Concerns:

July Servers

- Renee Celie
- Elizabeth Miller
- JaNahn Sinn
- *Denotes Members

- Elders:** 7/05 Bruce Gunderman & Corey Harris
7/12 Bruce Gunderman & Gary McClure
7/19 Bruce Gunderman & Matt Strayer
7/26 Bruce Gunderman & Max Hibbard

Worship Leader: Max Hibbard

First Scripture: Bruce Gunderman

Greeters: Susan Knapp & Sharon Cooper



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

Sermons

First Scriptures:

- 7/05 Song of Solomon 2: 8-13
- 7/12 Isaiah 55: 10-13
- 7/19 Isaiah 44: 6-8
- 7/26 1 Kings 3: 5-12

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:

- 7/05 Eileen Kochensparger-Thank you for the gift of a great Country to live in
- 7/12
- 7/19 Herm Guelde-In Memory of Jean
- 7/26



ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
5/31	93	45	19	21	8	107
6/07	66	43	10	12	1	109
6/14	80	42	19	15	4	84
6/21	72	44	9	15	4	78

In Sympathy

Please keep the family of Charlie Simpson in your prayers at this difficult time. Charlie joined the Lord on May 30th.

Charlie was an Elder, Trustee and past Board Chair of the Church for many years. He is greatly missed by his church family.

From the Elders

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

Money is one of those topics that can be tough to talk about, because we all handle it differently. We have different backgrounds and opportunities, priorities about spending it, and beliefs about how it's being handled in the world. There's a reason the Bible has a lot to say about money—we can't get away from it! And it represents a lot more than we often realize. We see this most clearly when there seems to be a money shortage. Whether it's on a notional level or something we're dealing with personally, there can be a sense of panic that arises when finances are tight. It can be scary for people who suddenly don't have enough, especially those who don't know where their next meal will come from or how they will be able to provide for their family. Even if we aren't in a desperate situation, we can still feel the stress of having to let go of the comforts and conveniences we've come to depend on or pare down whether we want to admit it or not, we just can't know what will happen tomorrow even if we're financially comfortable today. Like everything else in life, it's ultimately not in our hands.

It's impossible for us to live in a money bubble. We are connected with the rest of the planet in ways we don't fully realize, and what happens out there affects what happens here—in our homes, our wallets, and every other part of our lives. That's not something for us to fear, though. It's an opportunity for us to draw even closer to our Maker and Provider, especially during those times that feel uncertain. God's Word reminds us that “no one can serve two masters” (Matthew 6:24), and one way we can protect ourselves from losing our peace in times of financial challenge is to remember which Master we serve.

The hymn “What a Friend We Have in Jesus” is filled with reminders to trust in God's provision during the changing, challenging times. The first and greatest step we can take when we feel the ground shifting beneath us is to call on Him:

*What a friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer.*

One message we discover in many old hymns is this reminder: *who God has been in the past is who He will always be*. Those who have gone before us know what it was to live with a lot or with a little. They've felt exactly what we feel during times of uncertainty, and they knew the comfort that comes from turning toward our Friend and Savior to carry us through. When we face financial insecurity—pr anything that causes us to fear tomorrow—we can draw close to the One who holds it all. We can confess our fear, rest in His assurance, listen for His guidance, and watch for ways. He provides, just as He promised.

*Lord God, all that I have belongs to You.
I am trusting You as my Provider for everything,
and my finances are in Your Hands. Help me to be generous,
to make wise decisions, and to be grateful for all I have.
Help me to loosen my grip on those things I depend upon
For my security. I want to hold tightly to You,
Trusting that You see the bigger picture
And know exactly what I need and when.*

To our church family-

Thank you for all the prayers, food, cards and unwavering support during Charlie's long illness. There were many dark days but you helped us bring some light into our lives at the same time. Your kindness now, during our time of loss, has brought us much comfort. Our church has been a true blessing to our family, and we felt the love and support. We also know it takes many extra hands to host a funeral service and luncheon and we are deeply grateful to all of you!

In faith,

Susan Simpson & family

Disciples Women Ministry



July 23 will be our DWM summer night out. We will be leaving the church at 5 p.m. and going to the Fat Pig in Hicksville. There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board for those who will be going.

Our next regular meeting will be August 4th at 10 a.m.

We will be reorganizing our Women's call list of donations for dinners. If you don't want to be on the list, please let the office know by the end of July. We will also continue with sign up sheets when time permits for supplies.

Constitution Review

All committees and officers are asked to review the current constitution and submit any suggested changes to the office by July 31st. Copies are available in the rack next to the secretary's office.



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 July & August. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help.

Blanket Sunday



July 26th is Blanket Sunday

Supporting Church World Service is a tradition of First Christian Church. There are special envelopes included for this.

Checks may be made out to Church World Service or First Christian and will be forwarded to CWS.

Thank You

Dear Church Members,

I am extremely grateful to receive both the Cloyce and Elizabeth Vance Memorial Scholarship and also the Memorial Book Scholarship.

Thank you for your generosity & for making opportunities like this possible for students like me. And thank you so much for the prayer book!

With Sincere Gratitude,
Addison Pease

Mowers

Thank you for your help.

June 22-July 5-Matt Strayer
July 6- July 19-Gary McClure
July 20-August 2-Clint Reinhart
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



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. Thanks for your help.

Summer Music

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

July 5th-Eileen Kochensparger
July 12th-Deb Santo, Bruce Gunderman, Paul Long
July 19
July 26

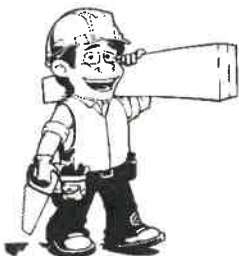


Campers

Attending Camp July 19th-July 25th are
Eliana Hormann, Weston Rhonehouse
Landen Rhonehouse, Jack Roddy and Jan
Commers.
The address is Camp Christian
10335 Maple Dell Rd.
Marysville, OH 43040

New Roof

The new roof will be started soon. The board voted at the June meeting to withdraw \$35,000. From the Endowment Fund Interest that has accrued in the last four years. These funds will complete the payment cost of the roof and the sanctuary painting. Thank you trustees for your hard work at making sure the church property is maintained.



General Endowment Fund

There was 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.

SO VERY
thankful
INCREDIBLY
grateful.
UNBELIEVABLY
blessed.

Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

The Disciples Women's Ministry would like to promote **July is Kids Foods**. 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

- 7/05 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
- 7/12 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
- 7/19 Max Hibbard. Corey Harris, Clint Reinhart
- 7/26 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers, Gary McClure



First Christian Church Fund Summary

06/04/2026 06:58 PM

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	105 SPECIAL HOLIDAY-PEN TECOST	118 Elavon Tithes/Offerings	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	300 YOUTH GROUP	500 CAPITAL IMPROVEMEN T	700 MENS GROUP	Total
05/02/2026	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00
05/03/2026	2,902.00	45.00	0.00	20.00	0.00	10,100.00	0.00	13,067.00
05/10/2026	1,572.00	50.00	50.00	220.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	1,892.00
05/16/2026	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
05/17/2026	975.00	0.00	25.00	20.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	1,070.00
05/23/2026	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
05/24/2026	1,151.00	50.00	15.00	20.00	0.00	1,000.00	0.00	2,236.00
05/26/2026	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	350.00
05/30/2026	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
05/31/2026	1,334.00	0.00	5.00	70.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	1,459.00
Total	7,934.00	145.00	695.00	350.00	50.00	11,100.00	50.00	20,324.00

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



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

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



Creativity is so delicate a flower, that praise tends to make it bloom, while discouragement often nips it in the bud. Any of us will [have] more and better ideas if our efforts are truly appreciated.
 —Alexander Osborn

JULY 2026

			1 NO WOR/MEMB/TECH MEETING NO TRUSTEES	2	3	4 4 TH OF JULY
5	6	7 NO REGULAR DWM	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17 Wedding Rehearsal	18 Men's Meeting- 9 a.m. Laney/Babel Wedding
19 NO ELDERS MEETING	20	21 NO BOARD MEETING	22	23 DWM NIGHT OUT-5 P.M.	24	25
26 TIN CAPS OUTING	27	28	29	30	31	

SERVERS:
 ELDERS: 7/05 Bruce Gunderman & Corey Harris
 7/12 Bruce Gunderman & Gary McClure
 7/19 Bruce Gunderman & Matt Strayer
 7/26 Bruce Gunderman & Max Hibbard
 WORSHIP LEADER: Max Hibbard
 FIRST SCRIPTURE: Bruce Gunderman
 GREETERS: Susan Knapp/Sharon Cooper

Sermon
 7/05 "The Battle With Temptation, Scripture: Romans 7: 15-25
 7/12 "Spirit of Christ", Scripture: Romans 8:1-11
 Laynee Wilson- Guest Speaker
 7/19 "joy-Love-Peace" Scripture: Romans 8: 12-25
 7/26 "Life is Hard-But God is Good" Scripture: Romans 8: 26-39

Still Worth More Than You Know



A speaker opened his seminar by holding up a \$20 bill and asking a crowd of 200 people, “Who would like this?”

Nearly every hand went up.

“I’ll give it to one of you,” he said. “But first…” He crumpled the bill tightly in his fist. “Who still wants it?”

Hands remained in the air.

He dropped it to the floor and ground it under his shoe. Then he picked up the wrinkled, dirty bill. “How about now?”

The hands rose again.

“My friends,” he said, “you’ve just learned an important lesson. No matter what I did to the money, it never lost its value. It was still worth \$20.” Life can feel the same way. We are dropped, crumpled and ground down by our choices and by circumstances beyond our control. At times, we may even feel worthless. But our value does
God’s Bonus Days



An author writing in *Guideposts* magazine calls those nostalgic moments of memory “God’s bonus days.” LaVerne Sexton recalled that in her family, life’s unexpected dividends — a summer rainbow, a blazing sunset, a gentle spring thaw — were invitations to set aside ordinary tasks and celebrate something special.

She remembered one breathtaking day from her childhood when the sky stretched wide and impossibly blue, as if it had no edges at all. Her father grabbed the fishing poles and called out, “Let’s play hooky, hon. It’s one of God’s bonus days.”

— Marion R. Vuilleumier, *Meditations by the Sea*

Puzzle!

One of a Kind

The scrambled words and phrases below are all drawn from Scripture. Unscramble each one to reveal the correct biblical term or phrase. After solving them, transfer the circled letters in order to the lines at the bottom of the page to uncover the final message.

1) eiVn _ _ _ () _ _

2) ilLy fo teh elaVly

_ _ _ _ _ () _ _ _ _ _

3) abLm fo dGo _ _ _ () _

4) estMar _ _ _ _ _ () _

5) eJuss _ _ _ () _ _

6) okRc _ _ _ () _ _

7) rdBea fo eiLf _ _ _ _ _ () _ _

8) higLt fo hte dorWl _ _ _ () _ _ _

9) voaSir _ _ _ _ _ () _ _

10) doLr _ _ _ _ _ () _ _

11) ishCrt _ _ _ _ _ () _ _

12) ehSprhed () _ _ _ _ _

13) hTe doWr _ _ _ _ _ () _ _

14) rncPie fo cePae _ _ _ _ _ () _ _

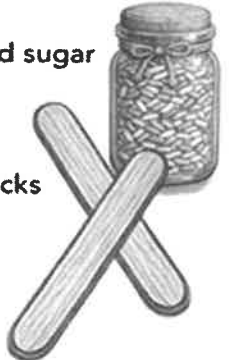
What do all these words have in common?



Transform slice-and-bake cookies into cheerful lollipop treats and share a few edible smiles.

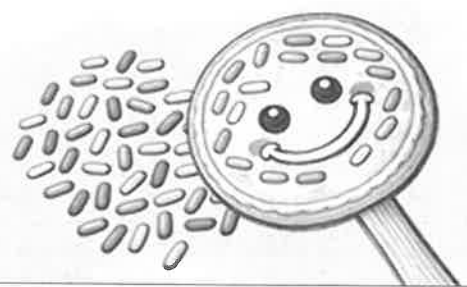
What you need:

- 1 roll refrigerated sugar cookie dough
- Knife
- Baking sheet
- Wooden craft sticks
- Frosting
- Sprinkles
- Clear treat bags
- Ribbon



What you do:

1. Freeze the cookie dough for 15 to 20 minutes to firm it up, then slice into ¼-inch rounds.
2. Place cookies on a baking sheet about 2 inches apart.
3. Bake at 350 degrees for 5 minutes.
4. Remove from the oven and gently press a wooden stick halfway into the bottom of each cookie.
5. Return to the oven and bake 3 to 5 more minutes, until lightly golden.
6. Let cookies cool completely.
7. Decorate with frosting to create smiling faces and add sprinkles.
8. Slip each cookie pop into a treat bag and tie with ribbon.



Answers: Vine; Lily of the Valley; Lamb of God; Master; Jesus; Rock; Bread of Life; Light of the World; Savior; Lord; Christ; Shepherd; The Word; Prince of Peace; Names of God's Son

CWS BLANKETS

Wrapped in God's Love. Called to Share.

"These blankets will help keep my children warm through the coldest nights. I see God's love in the kindness of those who gave."

—A CWS Blanket recipient, The Nehemiah Mission, Cleveland, OH

Your gift today helps keep someone warm tonight.

Because of generous donors like you, families near and far have found comfort when they needed it most—like a single mother who received four CWS Blankets to keep her children warm.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to love our neighbors—especially in their time of need. A simple blanket becomes a holy offering: warmth on a cold night, peace after disaster and a reminder that no one is forgotten by God.

Why Your Gift Matters: When disaster strikes or a cold night sets in, your gift means everything.

\$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.



Give today—Scan the QR code to donate and share warmth with someone in need.



 **CWS** | cwsblankets.org



Join Others in Sharing *Love* and *Hope*

"These blankets and kits are more than just supplies—they offer real hope when families need it most. Each one brings comfort and reminds someone they're wrapped in God's love."

—Christen, Gladden Community House Food Pantry

Your Gift Does More Than You Know



**Provide Immediate
Solutions**



**Reflect Christ's
Compassion**



**Share God's
Love Boldly**

Loving God, bless these blankets. May they carry warmth, peace and your love to every person who receives one. Through these simple gifts, let your compassion be known. Amen.

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