



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

DISCIPLE DIGEST

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH
ISSUE NO. VIII-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)



AUGUST 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

Oswald Chambers' classic devotional, *My Utmost for His Highest*, has been treasured by millions since it was first published by his widow in 1924. In one particular devotional, Chambers wrote a simple sentence that has inspired many to live for Christ: "Remember whose you are and whom you serve." As we enter August and with a new school year on the horizon, many a parent has sent a young adult child off to college, or out into the world, with a similar thought. When the road gets rough or the waves get strong, remembering whom we belong to, and whom we serve, can be a compass to keeping us on the right path. The New Testament says something similar to us Christians. We belong to Christ and serve Him as Lord; therefore, we have all the motivation we should need for living in a way that honors Him. Paul put it simply: "Walk worthy of the calling with which you were called" (Ephesians 4:1). Christ gave His life for us; walking worthy of Him means living our life for Him every day. If you are in Christ today, let every thought, word, and deed be worthy of Him.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Blessings,

Pastor Ric

Comfort in Mourning:

*The family of Jan White
The family of JaNahn Sinn

Healing Prayers:

Lindsey Arend
*Tammy Boroff
Daton Combs
Janet Henricks
Pam Long Piazza
Ed Thrasher
Arthur Stoller family

Continuing Concerns:

Renee Celie
Jason Koenn
Linda Snodgrass Reinhart
Amy Young
*Denotes Members

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:

8/02 In Memory of Jean Guelde
8/09 In Honor of Virginia Paulus
8/16 In Memory of Leanord Levos Sr
8/23 In Honor of Genelta Levos's Birthday
8/30 In Honor of Dennis & Susan Knapp's Anniversary

Nursing Home Residents..**The Paulding Care
Community**

Rich English
Carrie Longardner
Country Inn
*Jack Moore-Rm 34
*Virginia Paulus
Military:
Miranda E. Iler
Morgan R. Iler
Jamie B. Gamble

August Servers**Elders:** Matt Strayer & Larry Grace**Worship Leader:** Larry Grace**First Scripture:** Suzy Strayer**Greeters:** Andrea Pease Family**First Scriptures:****8/02 Isaiah 55: 1-5****8/09 Psalm 105:1-6,16-22****8/16 Isaiah 56: 1, 6-8****8/23 Psalm 124****8/30 Jeremiah 15: 15-21**

8/04 Owen Workman
8/05 Tony Santo
8/06 Jamie Clemens
8/08 Suzanne Strayer
8/10 Jean Bulau
8/10 Paul Long
8/10 Olivia Mendez
8/10 Steven Strayer
8/12 Melanie Bandy
8/12 Brian Vance
8/14 Reese Lero
8/15 Virginia Paulus
8/18 Linda Reinhart
8/21 Michael Coak
8/22 Ric Beals
8/23 Katie Strayer
8/24 Zane Daniels
8/24 Genelta Levos
8/24 Leslie Townley
8/28 Vada Bandy
8/28 Betty Ganger
8/29 Max Hibbard
8/29 Vivienne Myers
8/30 Lydia Reinhart



8/07 Mike & Jennifer Workman
8/09 Max & Donna Hibbard
8/16 Gary & Linda Kadesch
8/17 Don & Gail Stoller
8/26 Denny & Susan Knapp

ATTENDANCE

	Total	Member	Non Member	Child	Visitor	Online
6/28	61	41	11	8	1	130
7/05	84	48	20	14	2	115
7/12	80	39	20	15	6	130
7/19	67	42	11	10	4	70



From the Elders

NOT I, BUT CHRIST

Jesus Looked at Him and loved Him.

Mark 10:21

If we could somehow interview the people who encountered Jesus during His time on earth, it might surprise us to hear the things they remembered about Him. Of Course, they'd speak of the big miracles, the long-awaited healings, and the large crowds that gathered just to see Him pass by. But it's very likely that we would hear about "smaller" things too, details that seem more insignificant compared to some of those epic events that leap off the pages of history. Perhaps people would recall His warm smile and kind eyes or that moment He took to kneel next to a person who'd been discarded by society, speaking their name as if they were the most precious soul on earth. We might hear about the way He listened intently to others or touched their hand in a gesture of comfort and assurance. All very simple actions, to be sure, but they were powerful enough to ripple throughout history because of the divine love they carried within them.

Now think about our world today. Consider the changes we've faced on a global level. Some folks feel confused and frustrated; others are looking for a "new normal"; and still others are seeking opportunities to help bring big changes for the better. That may be where our work as Christ followers is most needed today—bringing His light to people who are searching more than ever. But we don't have to make some epic attempt to impact the world all at once. Just as Jesus changed lives by the simple gift of His presence, we can too. This is surely one of the most powerful ways to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world today. That's the beautiful message of the hymn "Not I, but Christ."

*Not I, but Christ, be honored, loved, exalted;
Not I, but Christ, be seen, be known, be heard;
Not I, but Christ, in every look and action,
Not I, but Christ, in every thought and word.*

While the challenges and issues of our day are different than in Jesus's time, human beings are still the same: the same needs, the same inner struggles, and the same desire to be truly seen, loved, and understood. Simply offering our presence to others in uncertain times can be a priceless gift, and it doesn't take much to do that in our day-to-day lives. Some of us grew up watching a television show called *Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood*. It was hosted by Fred Rogers, a puppeteer and pastor with a deep love for children. One of the things people remember most about Mr. Rogers is his willingness to slow down and be present with each person he came into contact with. Some described his presence as a 'sanctuary' because he made them feel safe and surrounded by love. He made a huge impact on his audience and generations to follow not because he took the time to be fully present with people, just as Jesus did. He allowed his kind words and simple, loving actions to flow out into the world, trusting that the biggest difference was made on person at a time.

Jesus, slow me down and make me aware of the simple needs of the people around me today. May I offer Your presence to those who feel fearful, discouraged, or insignificant. I want to share Your love in some small way with everyone I meet.

AMEN



Disciples Women Ministry

Next meeting August 4th at 10:00 a.m. We will be making plans for fall. All women of the church are invited to attend.



Congratulations

Best Wishes to Elijah Babel and Lilyann Lane who were married July 18th. May God bless you always.

Special 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.

Aug 2nd-Eileen Kochensparger

Aug 9th-Deb Santo

Aug 16th-Donna Vacation

Aug 23rd-Donna Vacation

Mowers

Thank you for your help.

July 20-August 2-Clint Reinhart

Aug.3-Aug 16-Mick Coak

Aug 17-Aug 30-Gary McClure

Aug 31-Sept 13-Rob Thompson

Sept. 14-Sept.27 Gary McClure

Sept28-Oct. 13-Ric Beals

Oct.14-Oct 25- Mick Coak



THANK YOU

Thank you to those who just do the things that need to be done. Windows washed, weeds pulled, candles filled, straightening, extra cleaning etc. It is all important and we appreciate your time and effort.



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 in August. Please sign up on the bulletin board to help.

Bingo Prizes

We have such good attendance for bingo nights, we are again looking for fabulous bingo prizes. If you have "stuff" you're not using bring it in. Someone would love to win it.



Budget Request for 2027

Attention committees with a line-item amount in the budget. Please review your annual budget amount, if your committee would like to make changes in the new year, please contact the office so the finance committee can be notified. Budgeting starts in September for 2027.



Caring and Sharing Food Pantry

The Disciples Women's Ministry would like to promote **August is hygiene product 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.

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.

*thankful
incredibly
grateful.
blessed.*

QR Code Donation

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



COUNTERS

8/02 Matt Strayer, Tracy Gunderman, Cindy Grace
8/09 Jan Commers, Paul Long, Sandy Bandy
8/16 Max Hibbard. Corey Harris, Clint Reinhart
8/23 Nicole Harris, Angela Bowers, Gary McClure
8/29 Bruce Gunderman, Joan Tope, Dan Workman

First Christian Church Fund Summary

07/06/2026 01:09 PM

Page: 1

	100 TITHES AND OFFERINGS	111 CWS-BLANKE TS	118 Elavon Tithes/Offering s	200 BUILDING/MAI NT.	500 CAPITAL IMPROVEMEN T	700 MENS GROUP	Total
06/07/2026	1,924.00	0.00	50.00	250.00	150.00	0.00	2,374.00
06/13/2026	0.00	0.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	50.00
06/14/2026	1,883.00	0.00	15.00	0.00	160.00	0.00	2,058.00
06/21/2026	1,094.00	0.00	270.00	225.00	3,120.00	60.00	4,769.00
06/24/2026	0.00	0.00	350.00	0.00	35,100.00	0.00	35,450.00
06/28/2026	1,073.00	60.00	0.00	100.00	20.00	0.00	1,253.00
Total	5,974.00	60.00	735.00	575.00	38,550.00	60.00	45,954.00

Tracy Gunderman

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH



WORSHIP: SUNDAYS-10 A.M.

CHILDRENS SUNDAY SCHOOL FOLLOWING
CHILDRENS MOMENT



AUGUST 2026

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

Why Me?

When we're faced with unexpected hardship, our first impulse is often to ask, "Why me, O God? Why me?" Yet when a blessing comes our way, we receive it with gratitude and rarely ask the same question: "Why me, O God? Why me?"

		If you find it in your heart to care for somebody else, you will have succeeded. —Maya Angelou				1
2	3	4 DISCIPLES WOMEN- 10 A.M. WOR/MEM/TECH- NOON	5 TRUSTEES-10 A.M.	6	7	8 DEMERATH-FS HALL
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 MEN'S GROUP- 9 A.M.
16 ELDERS-8:30 A.M.	17	18 BOARD MEETING-7 P.M. 	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	Belief is truth held in the mind; faith is a fire in the heart. —Joseph Fort Newton				

Sermons

8/02 Sermon: "I Can't, God Can, I'll Let Him" Matthew 14: 13-21
8/09 Sermon: "Stubbing Toes", Matthew 14: 22-33
8/16 Sermon: "Love is Freely Given", Matthew 15: 21-28
8/23 Sermon: "A Living Sacrifice", Romans 12: 1-8
8/30 Sermon: "It's Worth the Price", Matthew 16: 21-28

SERVERS:

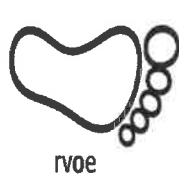
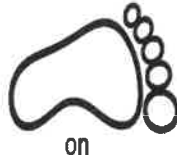
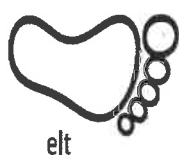
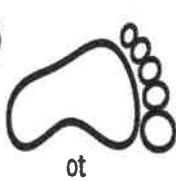
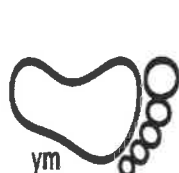
ELDERS: Matt Strayer & Larry Grace
WORSHIP LEADER: Larry grace
FIRST SCRIPTURE: Suzy Strayer
GREETERS: Andrea Pease Family



Footsteps with God

Have you ever walked along the shore and noticed footprints in the sand? The poem *Footprints in the Sand* reminds us that God is always with us.

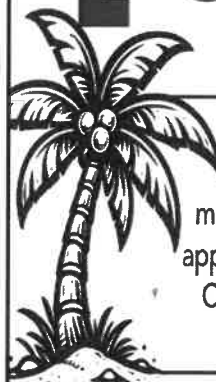
Unscramble each word and write it inside the footprints to see what Psalm 119:133 (NIV) says about our steps. (Hint: the bold letters show the first letter of each word.)



Psalm 119:133 (NIV)

Answer: "Direct my footsteps according to your word; let no sin rule over me."

Puzzle!



Use the Scripture verses below to locate the places in the puzzle. (If a verse mentions more than one place, only one appears in the puzzle, so choose carefully.) Circle each place as you find it.

Answers go: → ↓ ↘

Genesis 2:15	Isaiah 23:1	Luke 24:13
Genesis 11:9	Isaiah 23:2	John 2:1
Genesis 35:1	Isaiah 23:3	Acts 8:5
Exodus 13:18	Jonah 1:2	Acts 11:22
Ruth 1:1	Matthew 3:6	Acts 17:16
1 Kings 18:19	Matthew 4:18	Romans 1:15
1 Chronicles 11:4	Matthew 26:36	

S I D O N G N I L E S O
J J O R D A N R I V E R
E S G A A R C A N A A M
R A E T B D C D B E O O
U M T H B E T H E L F U
S A H E T N E A T N G N
A R S N Y O M N H I A T
L I E S R F M T L N L C
E A M D E E A I E E I A
M F A R S D U O H V L R
G H N O A E S C E E E M
I J E M B N A H M H E E
T O W E R O F B A B E L

Answers: Garden of Eden, Tower of Babel, Bethel, Red Sea, Bethlehem, Mount Carmel, Jerusalem, Tyre, Sidon, Nile, Nineveh, Jordan River, Sea of Galilee, Gethsemane, Emmaus, Cana, Samaria, Antioch, Athens, Rome