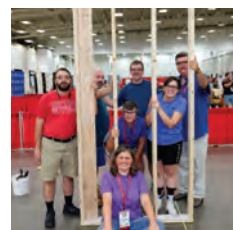
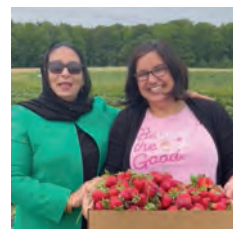
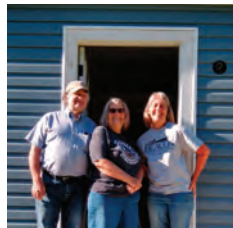
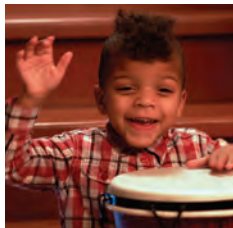


# the Kentucky Christian

February 2024



## GIFTS TO LIVE ON



Week of **Compassion**  
weekofcompassion.org  
FOR 80 YEARS

“...they contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”

+ LUKE 21:4

Week of Compassion Special Offering  
Received in many congregations February 18 & 25, 2024

Learn more at [www.weekofcompassion.org/2024](http://www.weekofcompassion.org/2024)

# WE SHALL OVERCOME



*Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, Regional Minister*

**A**fter celebrating a modern-day prophet, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January and entering a month in which we celebrate Black History, I know deep down in my heart and through the Word of God, **“We Shall Overcome.”**

The words of this hopeful protest song do not begin or end with Black Americans. They echo the cries of indigenous people, immigrants, people locked into generational poverty, the incarcerated, and all those who feel left out, locked out, and looked over. **Yes. We shall overcome. We don’t have to wait to get to the “Glory Land”; we shall overcome today.** If we heed the words of Dr. King quoting the prophet Amos, we will band together in love and live out the ideals of the Beloved Community. We must work together in God’s love, until justice runs down like water and righteousness like a mighty stream. James Cone says “To sing about freedom and to pray for its coming is not enough. Freedom must be actualized in history by oppressed peoples who accept the intellectual challenge to analyze the world for the purpose of changing it.”

*We shall overcome, We shall overcome, We shall overcome, someday*

*Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe*

*We shall overcome, someday.*

*We shall live in Peace... We’ll walk Hand in Hand...*

*Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe*

*We shall overcome today.*

I continue to be honored and privileged to serve the clergy, laity, and nearly 200 congregations that make up the Christian Church in Kentucky. In such a time as this, when the world seems more fragmented than ever, **“We Shall Overcome.”**

I pray you join me in testimony and prayer. Let us Pray:

Give us grace, O God, to dare to do the deed which we well know cries to be done. Let us not hesitate because of ease, or the words of men’s mouths, or our own lives.



*Dr. Gillett bringing the message to South Elkhorn Christian Church in Lexington.*

Mighty causes are calling us – the freeing of women, the training of children, the putting down of hate, murder, and poverty – all these and more. But they call with voices that mean work, sacrifice, and death. Mercifully grant us, O God, the spirit of Esther, that we say: I will go unto the King and if I perish, I perish. Amen. (William Edward Burghardt DuBois, “Give us Grace (1909-1910),” in *Conversations with God: Two Centuries of Prayers by African Americans*, ed. James Melvin Washington (HarperCollins:1994), 105.)

**“We Shall Overcome,” as we continue being a movement toward wholeness in our fragmented world.**



*Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II at Broadway Christian Church in Winchester with Rev. Raymond H. Smith, Jr.*



*The 34th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Worship Service took place on January 14th at Central Christian Church in Lexington. Pictured here are Rev. Winterbourne LaPucelle Harrison-Jones, Dr. Donald K. Gillett, Rev. Brandon Gilvin, Rev. Willeek Blanchard, Rev. Dikiea Elery, and Minister Christian Smith.*



*Dr. Gillett worshiped at First Christian Church, Berea with Rev. Mark Caldwell-Reiss and Rev. Lisa Caldwell-Reiss.*



Dr. Gillett attended the installation of Rev. Rachele Holmes on December 10th at First Christian Church, Paris. Pictured here are Dr. Gillett, Rev. Rachele Holmes, Rev. Henry Hanna, Rev. Sharon Fields, and Rev. Sue McCracken.



Dr. Gillett worshiped at First Christian Church, Versailles on Christmas Eve. Pictured are Rev. Dr. Charisse Gillett, Rev. Dr. Loida Martell, and Rev. Dr. Donald Gillett.



Pastor Marcus Lynn leading worship at First Christian Church, Versailles on December 24.



Dr. Gillett and Rev. Tracy Siegman at First Christian Church, Covington.



Dr. Gillett and Rev. Jerry Johns in worship at First Christian Church, Winchester.



Dr. Gillett with Elder Carol Muzny at Runyan Memorial Christian Church in Covington.



On Sunday, January 21 Rev. Jiaan Burford was ordained at Lancaster Christian Church. Pictured here are Rev. Josh Snyder, Rev. Dr. Donald Gillett, Rev. Jiaan Burford, Rev. Dave Carr, and Rev. Molly Smothers.



Dr. Gillett and Minister Jeremy Gillett at Stamping Ground Christian Church.



Rev. Chloe Specht, our Staff Consultant to New Church Ministry, was ordained at Woodland Christian Church on December 17. Pictured here are Rev. Josh Snyder, Rev. Dr. Donald Gillett, Rev. Chloe Specht, Rev. Christy Jo Harber, Rev. Dave Carr, and Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler.

## Week of Compassion Special Offering 2024

### Week of Compassion Special Offering 2024

Excerpts From the Week of Compassion 2024 Resource Guide [www.weekofcompassion.org/2024](http://www.weekofcompassion.org/2024)

### The Week of Compassion Special Offering 2024 will be accepted in many congregations February 18 and 25.

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada. In 2024, Week of Compassion marks 80 years of a single mission: working with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world, toward the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope.

In the early 1940s, as World War II created humanitarian crises around the globe, the International Convention (now the General Assembly) of the Christian Church made recommendations for multiple aid and relief projects. Partnering with ecumenical colleagues, the church designated a Day of Compassion special offering. Soon after, the Wartime Service Fund was approved and churches designated a Week of Compassion, a focused time for prayer and giving to support the ongoing war response. Expanded to include humanitarian aid as well as disaster response and refugee resettlement, a new ministry took shape.

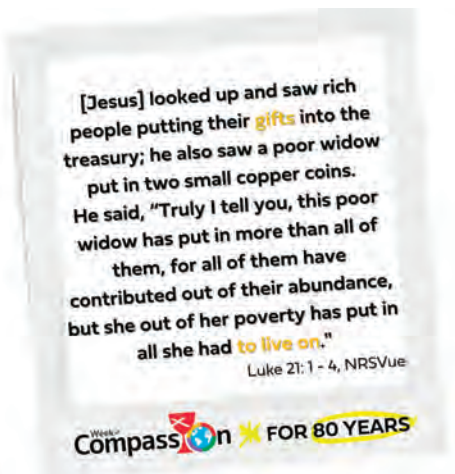
**Then and now, Disciples have been clear: When needs arise, we need to respond ... we need to be moved, we need to be generous, we need to be faithful, we need to be transformed.**

**We need to take on the role of the generous widow.**

Jesus sees the widow and her gift, and rejoices in her generosity. Others were giving from what they could spare - but this woman, Jesus said, was giving everything she had to live on. Such generosity upends expectation. She brings two small coins, the merest contribution, but she is the giver Jesus praises most highly. It is not only the coins themselves that matter. It is the way she gives - it is the story of her generosity that outlasts her.

That's what Week of Compassion does - what Disciples do. We bring what we have to live on, which becomes a resource for others to live on - and that mutual giving is how our story lives on too. When we give, we know that our gifts are not the only ones that matter - the true gift of compassion and connection lies in the resilience of the communities we serve. The mutual contribution of those most affected, combined with dedicated partnerships rooted in connection, integrity, and accompaniment, puts flesh on God's grace for everyone involved.

**To learn more about the work of this vital ministry, visit [www.weekofcompassion.org/2024](http://www.weekofcompassion.org/2024).**



## Black History Within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Black History is a fundamental part of not only our nation's history - but our church's history. The month of February is a designated time to honor both struggles and victories of the African-American community, throughout history and into modern day. As we enter Black History Month, let us reflect on the history of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and how Black Disciples have shaped our church.

Monique Crain Spells, Director of Christian Education and Faith Formation for Disciples Home Missions wrote the following in her article History of African American Disciples:

Raymond Brown, former DHM interim president, reports "black membership in practically all of the first churches where the Disciples movement began." (An African-American History) Today African American Disciples represent 10 percent of the denomination's membership and boast some of the fastest-growing congregations in the United States.

Here's a look at how it all began:

The African American Convention movement was established as early as 1830 in "free" states as the secular adjunct of African American congregations as a means of coordinating opposition to slavery, forced relocation of free African Americans in Africa and a multitude of social ills. **The development of collective strategies to effect the well-being of "freed" African Americans after the close of the Civil War (1865) was so great that most of the present organized work of the African American congregations within the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) was developed by that first generation of former slaves.**

Read the full article at [www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/african-american-congregational-nurture/resources/disciples-african-american-history](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/african-american-congregational-nurture/resources/disciples-african-american-history).

Today, Black Disciples are faith leaders throughout our denomination, across the United States and Canada. In 2017, our General Minister and President Rev. Terri Hord Owens was elected as the first woman of color to lead a mainline Christian organization in the United States. In an interview with Mashaun D. Simon of NBC, Owens said, "Justice must be visible. There is no magic gavel or magic wand that I have to wave that eliminates the vestiges of racism and white privilege from our church. We cannot fight racism if we still see difference and Blackness as being deficient. I must be seen as a Black woman. I cannot just be the token. I cannot be expected to turn away from my particular cultural expressions. Being a Black woman has to be just part of who I am and it has to be part of my term as general minister and president." Read the full article at [www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/teresa-hord-owens-first-black-woman-lead-disciples-christ-church-n782981](http://www.nbcnews.com/news/nbcblk/teresa-hord-owens-first-black-woman-lead-disciples-christ-church-n782981)

**Let us use the month of February and beyond to prayerfully reflect on the richness of Black History, and to uplift Black voices in our churches and communities.**



# AROUND THE REGION



## Go... Grow... Inspire...

*Rev. Molly Smothers  
Associate Regional Minister  
for Congregational Development*



**T**he 2024 Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky will gather in Mount Sterling, August 1-3. Our hosts are the congregations

of First Christian Church, Mount Sterling, High Street Christian Church, and Somerset Christian Church - they are all working hard to provide us with a time of worship, fellowship, and opportunities for growth.

Our guest minister for the Friday worship is Rev. David Emery, Lead Minister at Harvard Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he has served since the Spring of 2020. Previously he served for 17 years as Senior Minister at Middletown Christian Church in Louisville, and also worked as an Associate at First Christian Church, Mount Sterling. Rev. Emery is a dynamic speaker and you will be blessed by his message.

For updated information on the upcoming Assembly, keep an eye on the bi-monthly CCK News. To join our digital mailing list, head to <https://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/XP1FVQ8/ccknews>

Registration will start soon. We cannot wait to see you on August 1st!



*Rev. David Emery*



## New Church Ministry

*Rev. Chloe Specht  
Staff Consultant to New Church Ministry*



**H**appy New Year from New Church Ministry! This year is still just getting started, and 2024 is bound to be an exciting time for all of our New Church congregations as our dreams grow bigger and brighter.

Our faith communities across Kentucky are continuing to thrive and find their next steps, and Pentecost Offering is not too far away! Pentecost Offering supports New Church Ministry both regionally and nationally. Last year, giving to Pentecost Offering in Kentucky increased by 38% - thank you for your generous support!

**Pentecost Offering is on May 12th and 19th, so mark your calendars! We pray that you will continue to support the work of New Church Ministry this year. Our ministry isn't possible without you!**

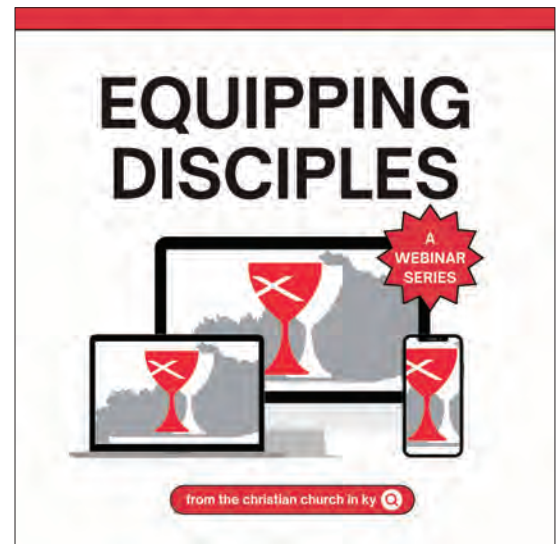
Next month, we'll be kicking off our first quarterly meeting of 2024. If you are interested in joining our New Church Ministry Team, send me an email at [chloe@ccinky.net](mailto:chloe@ccinky.net) and let's talk! We're happy to have folks on our team who are interested in creating a new faith community and those who just want to support our New Church pastors. There's room for all at the New Church table!

## Equipping Disciples

### A Congregational Development Webinar Series

#### Upcoming offerings:

- **February 10 – Creating New Streams of Income for your Congregation led by Rev. Randy Johnson:** Can you imagine if your congregation had an additional \$20,000-\$50,000 a year to spend on mission and ministry? This dream can easily become a reality through teaching, inviting, encouraging and mentoring a new spirit of generosity in your congregation. Come learn how many other churches have successfully done this, in ways that are non-threatening, energizing and even fun! This webinar will be led by Randy Johnson, a former local church pastor who is now in his 23rd year of encouraging generosity through the Christian Church Foundation. In this session, you will learn how to prepare for and encourage end-of-life gifts in a stress-free and life-giving way. Participants will also learn how to lower the anxiety both of encouraging those gifts and putting their own plans in place.
- **February 24 - Retirement Made Possible led by Rev. Sarah Renfro:** Recent trends suggest 60% of non-retirees have little or no comfort in managing their investments. Fortunately, Pension Fund invests on their members' behalf and provides the expertise, resources, and support necessary to make retirement possible for you. Join Rev. Sarah Renfro, Assistant Vice President of Client Relations at Pension Fund, for an in-depth presentation on preparing for retirement. She will walk you through challenges you might face when considering retirement at any age and offer solutions and insight on how to prepare for retirement now. She will provide an overview of Pension Fund's competitive retirement and savings products, free financial and mental wellness programs, Ministerial Relief and Assistance programs, The Gathering, and more.
- **March 16 - Generational Trauma: Getting Real About How we Heal led by Dr. Irie Lynne Session:** Join the Kentucky Region and Dr. Irie Lynne Session for the workshop "Generational Trauma: Getting Real About How We Heal," where we will explore the impact of generational trauma, magnified by COVID-19, within our region, church and communities. This session focuses on understanding generational trauma, exploring biblical insights on trauma, offering strategies for healing, and creating supportive spaces for collective and individual recovery.
- **April 13 - Thriving Congregations led by Dr. Erin Cash:** Thriving Congregations have at least ten things in common. In this 90-minute Zoom workshop, Erin Cash will lead you through exercises in discovering the traits you already have and discovering those you want to develop. The workshop is designed to be attended by teams from congregations – each pastor should bring at least 2 lay leaders from their congregation.



Head to [www.ccinky.net/2024-congregational-webinar-offerings](http://www.ccinky.net/2024-congregational-webinar-offerings) to find registration information and read about the rest of our upcoming webinar offerings.

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY



## The Miracle in the Mirror and Beyond

*Marsha Thornton, Jr.*

*Director of Women's Ministries*

**K**entucky Disciples Women - 2024 marks 150 years of Disciples Women's Ministry, and I am so excited for all that this year will bring. I would love to visit and worship with your congregations and women's groups. If you would like to schedule a visit, please reach out to me at [marsha@ccinky.net](mailto:marsha@ccinky.net). I cannot wait to witness the work that you are doing in your communities, and to celebrate this amazing 150 year milestone.

God's love knows no boundaries; I encourage you all to collaborate with other women's groups in your community, and to expand your ministries to include those of all generations. There are so many gifts and talents among the women of Kentucky - sometimes our sisters in Christ simply need an invitation.

As you're accomplishing amazing work in your own communities, please join the women from across the Region in our upcoming events.

### Thursdays in Black

Join the World Council of Churches in wearing black every Thursday to show support and partnership in the fight against gender-based violence. Post a picture in your black clothing with #ThursdaysinBlack to keep the conversation alive online.

To learn more, visit [www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black](http://www.oikoumene.org/what-we-do/thursdays-in-black).



## Kentucky Disciples Women Events for 2024

- February 23 – 25: Choral Retreat (Register at [www.ccinky.net/ministries/disciples-women/](http://www.ccinky.net/ministries/disciples-women/))
- April 13: Central Kentucky Spring Conference, Danville
- April 27: Western Kentucky Spring Conference, Owensboro
- June 24 – 27: Quilters & Knitters Retreat, Berea
- August 1 – 3: Regional Assembly, Mount Sterling
- October 18 – 20: Fall Retreat, Barren River State Park
- November 15 – 17: Silent Retreat, Loretto

*For details about each of these events, keep an eye on [www.ccinky.net/ministries/disciples-women/](http://www.ccinky.net/ministries/disciples-women/), subscribe to the bi-monthly CCK News at [lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/XPIFVQ8/ccknews](http://lp.constantcontactpages.com/su/XPIFVQ8/ccknews), or contact me at [marsha@ccinky.net](mailto:marsha@ccinky.net)!*



Ladies of Kentucky, I'm coming to you with a grateful heart and praise to my Lord and Savior for allowing us to start another year together. 2024 will be a year full of promise, opportunity, and surprises. I thank you for allowing me to represent you at the International Disciples Women's Ministries annual meeting, which was held in Indianapolis, Indiana, January 18 – 22, 2024. This meeting was full of promise and hope for our future as a ministry.

This meeting was also full of truth. I joined with women of all ethnicities, shapes, sizes and ages. We took time to discuss the hypocrisy of what we say versus what we do, examining statements like "all are welcome" and "come as you are." Are we practicing these? Do we truly mean what we say? Does it just sound good? This discussion left me to pause and reflect on all that takes place in my mind and my heart.

Rev. Monique Crain Spells asked us to "recognize the miracle in the mirror." I have never looked at myself as a miracle. Have you? It almost seems vain and arrogant to consider that for ourselves, but shouldn't we look at all the work that God produces as a miracle? God produced us; our parents were merely conduits. We often look at our children as miracles, and we always discuss the "miracle of childbirth," so, doesn't that include us?

Perhaps if we saw ourselves as miracles, then we could see each other as miracles. Do you think that would help us be more open to the differences and the gifts of others? Would that help the earlier statements not be so hypocritical?



*Crafters at work at the 2023 Quilter's Retreat in Berea.*



Ladies, you may think that this isn't our problem, or we can't fix this by ourselves; and I agree with you in that - we need help! Disciples Women have historically been on the forefront of combating obstacles and initiating change. For 150 years now, this work has been part of our mission. Have you met with a women's ministry group that doesn't look like you? Have you invited them to do service with you? Fellowship with you?

Disciples women, as we celebrate 150 years in 2024, we still have so much to do. Contact me and share your visions for the future. Where do you see the future of Disciples Women? How can you contribute?

I love you and appreciate you.

*Director of Women's Ministries Marsha Thornton, Jr. gathers with the Women of Kentucky at the 2023 Fall Retreat at Barren River State Park.*



## Mark Your Calendar!

*Rev. Dave Carr*

*Camp Wakon' Da-Ho Executive Director*

**B**elieve it or not, camp season is quickly approaching. It is not too early to begin planning your family's summer schedule. Event dates for both of our campgrounds can be found below.



## Camp Wakon' Da-Ho Spring Work Weekend and Retreat - April 12-14, 2024

Adults and youth, middle school aged and older, are welcome to join us for our annual Spring Retreat. Arrival for the event is Friday evening after supper and departure is Sunday morning following closing worship. The cost is \$25.00 per person and includes three meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday. Individuals and groups may come and go at your convenience. On Saturday, beginning at 9:00 a.m., we will work together getting the campus ready for the summer season. Please feel free to bring your tools, including chainsaws and tree trimmers, boots, and gloves. There will be group activities and worship on Friday and Saturday evenings. To register, visit [www.ccinky.net/ministries/camp/wakonda-ho/](http://www.ccinky.net/ministries/camp/wakonda-ho/).

## KBY Spring Work Day – April 20, 2024

Join us for our Spring Work Day on Saturday, April 20, at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya (4943 Barge Island Road, Benton). Gate opens at 7:30 a.m., and work will begin at 8:00 a.m. Central. We'll be cleaning, repairing, organizing, prepping, and splitting wood for the summer campfires. If you have work gloves and shoes, a weed eater, leaf blower, a toolbox, a truck, and/or friends and family who would love to join you in this fun and meaningful work, please bring them with you. Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

## Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Wishlist

Did you know that Camp Kum-Ba-Ya has a wish list? If you'd like to give a gift to the camp as we prepare for summer, you'll find some of our wishes on our Amazon wish list. And if you'd like to honor someone with your gift, send us an email to let us know their address so that we can send them notification of your thoughtfulness.

[www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/XBOO8E561ONH?ref\\_=wl\\_share](http://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/l/XBOO8E561ONH?ref_=wl_share)

## Adult Volunteers Needed

Our camps are blessed with adults, of several generations, who give of themselves to make summer church camp possible. However, our directors have to work hard to recruit enough volunteers to allow us to maximize youth attendance. Our policies require one adult for every six campers. Nothing is more heartbreaking for the camping community than having to turn away a youth when we have empty bunks because there are not enough counselors. Please consider spending a week or weekend at one of our camps. You will make friends with our regions' young leaders, and they will remember you fondly for the rest of their lives. If you have questions contact the CCK regional office at [cck@ccinky.net](mailto:cck@ccinky.net).

*Barney Bishop and Mark Dycus buck a dead tree on Fall Work Day at KBY.*



## Summer Camp 2024 Dates

\*Grades indicated are what the camper completed in 2024.\*

### Camp Wakon' Da-Ho

- May 31-June 2 Mini Camp (grades 2-3)
- June 3-8 CYF Camp 1 (grades 9-12)
- June 9-15 Eighters Camp (grade 8)
- June 17-21 Junior Camp (grades 4-5)
- June 21-23 Camp 101 A (grades K-2 with an adult)\*
- June 24-29 CYF Camp 2 (grades 9-12)
- July 1-6 Chi Rho Camp 1 (grades 6-8)
- July 8-13 Chi Rho Camp 2 (grades 6-8)
- July 20 Camp 101 B (grades K-2 with an adult)\*
- August 30-Sept.1 Y'all Camp (all ages, youth under 18 must be accompanied by an adult)

\*Parents or guardians of youth completing grade 2 may choose to attend Camp 101 A and/or B.



### Camp Kum-Ba-Ya

- June 3-8 CYF Camp (grades 9-12)
- June 10-14 Junior Camp (grades 3-5)
- June 17-22 Chi Rho Camp (grades 6-8)
- June 24-28 Sailing Camp (grades 6-12)
- June 28-30 Discovery Camp (grades K-2 with an adult)
- July 1-5 Camp Agape (grades 6-8 in foster care)

Invite someone to summer camp using our promotional postcard, graphics, flier, or video!

Visit <http://www.campkumbaya.org/promote-the-camping-program/>



Registration forms for both camps are now available.

Visit [www.ccinky.net/ministries/camp/](http://www.ccinky.net/ministries/camp/)



## Gathering Together Again

Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler  
West Area Regional Minister

“You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory. Because your love is better than life, my lips will glorify you. I will praise you as long as I live, and in your name I will lift up my hands. I will be fully satisfied as with the richest of foods; with singing lips my mouth will praise you. On my bed I remember you; I think of you

through the watches of the night. Because you are my help, I sing in the shadow of your wings. I cling to you; your right hand upholds me.” - Psalm 63: 1-8 NIV

The last time that the traditional All-Disciples Sing took place before the pandemic was in 2019. We wondered if we would ever sing together again. So in November 2023, for our West Area choirs and soloists to come back together and fill a sanctuary with praise to God was such an inspiration. I still get chills thinking about that special night.

In addition to the offerings shared by the various churches, the full congregation sang a collection of hymns in honor of All Saints Day. At the communion table we named aloud the saints we have known, and we reflected on how our music that night might be practice for the day when we will gather with all of those saints — the great cloud of witnesses — and rejoice and sing “Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty!”



*Congregants came together to praise God through the gift of music during All Disciples Sing 2023.*



*The First Christian Church, Hopkinsville Choir raised their voices at All Disciples Sing. They were led and conducted by Director of Music, Ward Carver.*

We give thanks to God for Teri Arp, Rev. Jamie Eubanks, Patt Lynch, and Rev. Jeff Mandrell for serving on the All Disciples Sing planning team and creating and leading our worship from start to finish. We give thanks for all who made the meal such a special time of fellowship and relationship building. We give thanks for all of the choirs, instrumentalists, soloists, and worship leaders who led a meaningful worship and broadcast it on Facebook for all to experience.

This spring the West Area will gather in full again — this time for the **West Area Workshops on March 9 in Cadiz**. We’ll share our ministry challenges, discover new ideas, be inspired by our neighboring congregations, give thanks to God for this ministry that we share, and find refreshment for weary souls.

**The Leadership Development Team has selected the theme “Seeking God in a Weary World” with Psalm 63:1-8 as the inspiration.** As we

gathered to discern our theme, the word weary kept coming to our lips. Our church leaders have been weary, our youth have been weary, and our communities have been weary from all that we have been through these last few years, and yet we know that there is more need around us and more work to be done. Come to West Area Workshops and find rejuvenation. **Read about our amazing, prophetic speakers and register at [www.westareadisciples.org](http://www.westareadisciples.org).**





## On Earth as it is in Heaven

*Rev. Josh Snyder*

*Associate Regional Minister for Faith Formation & Treasurer*

**I**n a perfect world, there would be no disasters; no earthquakes or tsunamis, no hurricanes or tornados. In a perfect world, everyone would have the food they need. In a perfect world, all would have clothing, shelter, and safety. In a perfect world, there would be no suffering. Sadly, as we know all too well, this is not a perfect world.

It is worth mentioning that this is the world we made. To borrow the title of the aptly named series by James Howard Kuntsler, it is a “world made by hand.” There is no denying that climate change, which we are causing, has led to a higher frequency and intensity of natural disasters. In truth, there is plenty of food to go around, but the problem is sharing. In truth, space and finances abound to create shelter for everyone, but greed gets in the way.

Beyond that, bigotry and hatred have become hallmarks of 21st century society. February is Black History Month. As I write this, it is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This day and the month of February are set aside to honor the contributions of the African American community, and Dr. King in particular, to our society, but they also serve as a reminder that we have much work yet to do. Racism, discrimination, and intolerance are still all too common in our world - all stemming from decisions we have made over and over again.

**God saw at the end of each day of creation, that the world was good. God has given this world to us, but we have made it something other than good.**

As we approach the Week of Compassion Special Offering, this is a time for us to reflect on our call to build God’s Kindom here on earth. What kind of kindom do we inhabit right now? One that needs a little work. The key pillar of that kindom building is compassion: sympathetic pity and concern for the suffering and misfortune of others, and of the planet we call home.



*Rev. Josh with Rev. Chuck Kemp at Clintonville Christian Church on January 14.*



*Rev. Josh Snyder worshiped at Antioch Christian Church in Lexington on January 7. He is pictured here with Rev. Vicki Ray.*

We may have made this world something other than what God intended, but that also means we can do better - we can build better. We can do so by finding our compassion and our concern for the world we live in, and ALL those who live in it with us.

### **Where is your compassion? How are you putting it to work?**

Your act of compassion may be making a special donation to Week of Compassion. Your act of compassion may be offering a welcoming space to someone who has faced rejection for who they are. Your act of compassion may be recycling more, driving less, or participating in a community clean-up. Whenever and wherever you feel God moving you, act on that call to compassion.

Thy kindom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

The pillar on which we build God’s kindom, is compassion. **My prayer for you, and for all of us, is that we find that compassion, and live it out every day.**

**God bless you.**

## Kentucky Regional Ministry Team

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**2022-2023**

## CCK Moderators

### SYVOSKIA BRAY POPE

Moderator

### LEAH EUBANKS

1st Vice Moderator

### SCOTT HOLLEY

2nd Vice Moderator

a publication of The Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky  
1125 Red Mile Road

Lexington, KY 40504

Return Service Requested

## Regional Ministerial Changes

- **First Christian Church, Hopkinsville** welcomed **REV. CATHERINE DEMOSS** as a Bridge Minister while they search for an interim minister. She began on November 1.
- **REV. JACQUE COMPTON** began serving as Pastor of **First Christian Church, Ashland** on November 27.
- **First Christian Church, Princeton** welcomed **REV. ADAM BRIDGMAN** as their new minister on January 7. Adam is a candidate seeking recognition of ordination.
- **REV. STAN MCDUGAL** began as the Interim Minister of **Dry Ridge Christian Church** on January 7.
- **First Christian Church, Dawson Springs** welcomed **REV. DR. MILTON WEST** to serve as their Interim Minister on January 7. **PAULA WEST** joins him in ministry, serving as their organist and pianist.

