

the Kentucky Christian

February 2023



Week of Compassion Special Offering

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LIFT EVERY VOICE



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

I grew up in Chicago; one of the most geographically segregated cities in the country. I recall that at every graduation or civic event, we would sing what is often referred to as the Black National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” This powerful poem was written in 1900 by James Weldon Johnson and set to music by J. Rosamond Johnson. According to the NAACP, “Johnson’s lyrics eloquently captured the solemn yet hopeful appeal for the liberty of Black Americans... [the song is] set against the religious invocation of God and the promise of freedom.”

*Lift every voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring,
Ring with the harmonies of liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the listening skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun
Let us march on till victory is won.*



Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) with Rev. Dr. Don Gillett at the Disciples for a Dream service - January 15th, 2023.

As I sat in Central Christian Church during the service that honored the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and witnessed people from every walk of life and varying religious traditions belt out the lyrics to this song, my heart was overjoyed. I was reminded that there is still hope and that we can strive for the highest ideals of justice, love, and mercy. There is something about “heaven and earth ringing” that gives me hope. Our General Minister and President, Terri Hord Owens, reminded us that evening of the words of scripture: How can you love God and not love fellow humanity? How can we love God if we have muted voices, crying voices, and imprisoned voices unable to join in the chorus “ringing with harmonies of liberty”? ***God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, Thou who has brought us thus far on the way; Thou who has by Thy might Led us into the light, Keep us forever in the path, we pray.*** I continue to be honored and privileged to serve clergy, laity, and our nearly 200 congregations in such a time as this. Lift every voice and sing as I close with this prayer from Dr. King:

Our loving Father, from Thy hand have come all the days of the past. To Thee we look for whatever good the future holds. We are not satisfied with the world as we have found it. It is too little the kingdom of God as yet. Grant us the privilege of a part in its regeneration. We are looking for a new earth in which dwells righteousness. It is our prayer that we may be children of light, the kind of people for whose coming and ministry the world is waiting. Amen. (1953, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.)

Lift Every Voice as we work toward being a movement of wholeness.

AROUND THE REGION



Boston Christian Church, Boston – Justin Hibbs and Rebecca Parish



Hurstbourne CC–Hurstbourne Christian Church, Louisville – Pastor Ben Reece, Miranda and Augustus Reece



Florence CC–Florence Christian Church, Florence – Pastor Susan Ward Diamond and Pastor Diana Hodges-Batzka



FCC Princeton–First Christian Church, Princeton



Lafayette CC–Lafayette Christian Church, Lexington – Pastor Stan McDougal, Linda McDougal and Dr. Charisse Gillett



FCC Madisonville–First Christian Church, Madisonville – Pastor Kara Foster

CONGREGATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2023 Workshops and Webinars

*By Rev. Molly Smothers, Associate Regional Minister
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky*



I need your help. One of my new ministry responsibilities is to guide and provide congregational development. I would love YOUR input on areas and subjects that could aid your church. Chances are, if it would be of interest to one congregation it would be of interest to several.

Current subjects being worked on include:

- IT help for churches who are dealing with small budgets, small bandwidth, and limited experience.
- Help with updating necessary documents and paperwork such as constitutions, boards, trustees, etc.
- Conflict management
- Guidelines for Pastor Parish Relation committees and why they are so important to both your minister and your congregation.
- Options for small churches who are not always able to find musicians.

The hope is to put two or three of these projects together this first year. Some of these will be webinars offered through our website, some may be available as events in churches across the Region, and some may be zoom meetings. The best way to hear about these is to be subscribed to *The Kentucky Christian*, both the print and digital editions, as well as our bi-weekly newsletter. To join one of these lists, email us at cck@ccinky.net. Please make sure your ministers and your congregational leaders are connected with us!

I look forward to hearing your ideas. We are a church that constantly seeks to follow Jesus, and Jesus goes ahead of us.

How exciting to be on the journey together!



Associate Regional Minister Molly Smothers brought the message on Advent 4 at Harrodsburg Christian Church. She is seen here with Kourtney Shewmaker, past Board President and deacon. Rev. Micki McHugh is the lead minister.



Rev. Smothers preached at Boston Christian on October 30. She is pictured here with Rebecca Parish, Worship Chair, and Terry Troutman, worship leader.



Rev. Smothers worshipped with the congregation of Botland Christian on 1 January. Seen here is their minister, Joe Brown, and Pastor Joe's wife Phyllis. Pastor Joe has been in the ministry for 65 years and this church is so glad to have him.

Rooting and Grounding

*Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler, West Area Regional Minister,
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky*



I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in Love. –Ephesians 3:16-17, NRSVUE

Each year, our family plants narcissus bulbs in an indoor pot. For the first few days, we wonder if the bulbs we've purchased are, in fact, dead. Nothing seems to be happening. They just sort of sit there in the dirt looking sad and...well, dead. Just as we are about to give up hope, one green sprout will peak through the dirt. And the next day there will be another, and then another. Very quickly, it seems like the plants are growing so fast, that one might just sit and watch them grow taller in real time. While we were wondering if anything was going on in that dirt, the roots below the surface were growing like crazy. So it is with the West Area's ministries.

In winter, things seem to be quiet and still, but this is the season for us to root deeper in God's call and vision:

- In December, we welcomed our new Office Manager, Teri Arp, and grew the West Area staff. (See page 3, <http://www.westareadisciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/December-West-Area-Coordinator-2022-2.pdf>)
- In January, our Leadership Development Team began planning our "West Area Workshops" event for March 11 at FCC Madisonville. (<http://www.westareadisciples.org>)
- Our Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Furnishing Task Force and West Area Finance Team are preparing to launch a "Furnishings Fundraiser" for new beds and furniture in Camp Kum-Ba-Ya's newest cabins. We are so grateful to witness our camp's growth into a year-round ministry. (see page 1, <http://www.westareadisciples.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/December-West-Area-Coordinator-2022-2.pdf>)
- Our West Area Youth Council is planning and promoting the Ski Thing for February 10-12 at Camp Bedford and Perfect North. (<http://www.westareadisciples.org/youth-ministries-wayc/>)



*Teri Arp signing her contract as
West Area Office Manager.*

Winter is a time of growth and development for our ministries. In due season, each of these will flourish and show their vitality, so that those who encounter these ministries may be rooted and grounded in Christ's love.



*From Ski Thing 2021 (Zach
Hardy speaks to West Area
Youth in the lodge at Bedford
Christian Camp)*



Campground Updates and Improvements

By Rev. Dave Carr

We are in an unprecedented era of improving our two campgrounds. Through the generosity of Kentucky Disciples and friends, we have been able to upgrade our facilities in a major way. It is our goal to establish a culture in this region of keeping our camps well-maintained and competitive in their markets. Part of our strategy involves keeping our churches and camping community up-to-date with our plans. We are seeking your suggestions on how Camp Kum-Ba-Ya and Camp Wakon' Da-Ho may become more sought-out destinations.



Camp Kum-Ba-Ya's "Furnishings Fundraiser"

Through a gift from the Issac Sterett Adventure Foundation (ISAF), we have received eight new buildings. Six are being converted into duplex cabins, able to house 11 campers on each side. ISAF also plans to renovate two additional retreat cabins with living areas, kitchenettes, restrooms, and a separate bedroom. All eight buildings are heated and cooled. These new accommodations are a substantial improvement to KBY and will turn our campground into a year-round ministry.

The KBY Furnishing Task Group now seeks your help to purchase bunkable beds, mattresses, cleaning-supply cabinets, storage, shelves, hooks, blinds, vacuums, brooms, and more for our camper cabins. Our fundraising goal also covers the acquisition of items that will make our retreat cabins feel more like home - lamps, microwaves, tables and chairs, beds, mattresses and couches. The projected cost to fully furnish our new dwellings is \$90,000.00. We are excited to offer these upgrades and appreciate your help in providing the furnishings.

TO GIVE BY CHECK: Checks may be written out to Camp Kum- Ba-Ya, P.O. Box 1332, Madisonville, KY 42431 with "Furnishings Fundraiser" in the memo line.

TO GIVE ONLINE: Online donations may be received through Givelify. Go to <https://www.givelify.com> (search "Camp Kum-Ba-Ya") or [CLICK HERE](#).

TO GIVE WITH INVESTMENTS: Contact the West Area Office Manager, Teri Arp, at WestArea@twc.com about contributing through stock investments.

Camp Wakon' Da-Ho Improvement Projects

Camp Wakon' Da-Ho has recently added a swimming pool, and a new bathhouse is under construction. Both projects were funded through individual gifts. These new amenities are completely accessible. However, getting to them is a challenge for individuals that require ambulatory assistance. Unfortunately, this is the case of practically all the facilities at Wakon' Da-Ho.

We plan to create paved walkways to our cabins, dining hall, bathhouse, pool, small group shelters, campfire pit, worship space, and pavilion. We acknowledge that this is a moral, ethical and justice issue that has been neglected for far too long. The cost for this project is estimated to be \$50,000.00. Several gifts have already been received and we are researching the availability of grants. So many of you participated in building the pool and bathhouse, that we are confident this next phase of development can be achieved soon.

TO GIVE BY CHECK: Checks may be written to CCK, 1125 Red Mile Road, Lexington KY 40504 with "WKDHI Improvements" on the memo line.

TO GIVE ONLINE: [CLICK HERE](#) or go to the CCK website ccinky.net. On the homepage select the "Donate" tab. On the Donate page Select the "Give Online", then click on Wakon' Da-Ho Improvements.

Christ's Blessings From the Cross: A Reflection on Jesus' Last Words

*Rev. Josh Snyder, Associate Regional Minister - Faith Formation,
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky*



Allow me to take a moment and introduce myself. My name is Josh Snyder, your Associate Regional Minister for Faith Formation. I have been a Disciples pastor for 15 years, serving Mt. Lebanon Christian Church (Pittsburgh, PA), Burgin Christian Church (Burgin, KY), and First Christian Church (Liberty, KY). I was ordained at First Christian Church in Dawson Springs shortly after graduating from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary in 2007. My wife, Crimson, and I share a blended family of 6 children. Daughters Kaydance (14), Eliah (14), Kendyl (12), Willow (9) and Avery (3), and a son, Malachi (12). We live in Burgin, KY where Crimson runs a non-profit - Kendyl and Friends Foundation - through which we raise money to build inclusive playgrounds for schools and communities. I am so blessed to be serving God at the Christian Church in Kentucky and I look forward to meeting and working with you to expand God's kingdom.

The forty-day journey of Lent is beginning soon. Walking to the cross, with Christ, renews our faith and reminds us again of the good news of our salvation. Lent is a deeply spiritual time, one in which we walk with Jesus in order to get closer to Jesus. However, as a pastor, I am usually working during Lent. I find myself planning services, agonizing over my sermons to make sure I am faithfully leading the members of my church, or perhaps offering a class for any members of my church who wish to be baptized on Easter. And while all of that is a blessing, those things can collectively make my own Lenten journey less fulfilling than it otherwise could be.



Part of my calling as Associate Regional Minister is Faith Formation - something we all practice as pastors. I have been praying about how to practice that aspect of my ministry at a regional level. Born out of those thoughts and prayers, I will be offering a webinar. It will be available in time for Lent, and in this webinar we will explore together the last seven words of Jesus. We will discuss each of those seven words from two angles: What do we learn about Jesus and his ministry? And what do we do with what Jesus says? In other words, how do we live out Jesus' words as Christians and pastors?

My prayer is that whoever watches and uses this video will find their Lenten journey blessed; especially those for whom Lent can be a busy and challenging time. I hope, in hearing these words of Jesus from the cross, you will draw closer to Jesus and be empowered to live out your faith.

These forty days are a blessing. I hope you will be blessed by them, and in them.

God bless you.

*Rev. Snyder with wife
Crimson and six children.*

Women's Ministries

By Marsha Thornton, Jr., Director of Women's Ministries Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky



Happy New Year my sisters in Christ! I hope that you have had a glorious Advent and Christmas season. I pray that the new year has brought you hope, joy, and love through the promises of Christ. This year will be filled with amazing opportunities to educate ourselves in the word of God and share the love for our sisters in fellowship.

Please don't hesitate to invite a neighbor to our upcoming events. We never know what is on a sister's heart or mind, so be open to offering an ear and a smile; it could make all the difference in her day.

We are off to an exciting and active new year:

- Choral Retreat is quickly approaching - taking place February 24-26, 2023 at Crestwood Christian Church in Lexington. Please register ASAP if you plan to attend.
- Your cabinet will soon be meeting to plan our Spring Conferences (back & in person)! The West Area's event will be held at Sinking Fork Christian Church on Saturday, April 1, 2023. Keep an eye out for the date and location for Central Kentucky's event. Registration will open March 1.
- We will be back at Barren River State Park for our Fall Retreat, October 20-22, 2023. Stay on the lookout for details. Registration will open in August.
- Our Silent Retreat will take place November 10-12, 2023 in Loretto. Fees will range from \$116-\$153. Registration will open in August.
- Quilter's Retreat will return this summer - keep an eye out for details!

If you are interested in becoming more involved with our Women's Ministries, or have questions about events, contact me at marsha@ccinky.net.

General Assembly 2023

Louisville, Kentucky - July 29-August 1, 2023

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada is excited to announce the 2023 General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky, July 29-August 1! It will be the first time in four years the church as a whole has gathered.

Save the date to join Disciples across the church as we gather in person and digitally.

To learn more and register, visit <https://ga.disciples.org/>

Want to help introduce our Church family to our state? Join our General Assembly Planning Committee to receive a discounted registration rate! Learn more and get signed up at bit.ly/KyGA2023.

**KINDOM
OF GOD
WITHIN US
AMONG US**

GENESIS 11:1-9 • LUKE 17:20-21 • 2 PETER 1:3

July 29 - August 1, 2023 · Louisville

New Church Ministry

By Pastor Chloe Specht | chloe@ccinky.net



The New Church Ministry in the bluegrass state has embarked on an exciting new chapter! Less than two months ago, I joined the regional staff as The Christian Church in Kentucky's consultant for New Church Ministry. It's a privilege to work with such a dynamic, dedicated team whose diverse ministries are so crucial to the life of the region.

In early February, I'm looking forward to the New Church Ministry Team's first meeting of the year. We'll get to catch up and discuss our needs and dreams for 2023. Together, we will consider the ways we can build on the work that's already been accomplished, and envision what might come next!

In 2023, we are looking forward to growing the New Church Ministry Team. We're eager to work with disciples who believe in and support the work that New Church Ministry is doing in Kentucky. If you are dreaming of new ways to be the Church and want to partner with us, please consider joining the New Church Ministry Team! Email me at chloe@ccinky.net for more information.

Rural Church Ministry

By Rev. Dr. Lon Oliver



Rural congregations have long informed and nurtured my understanding of the Good News of Christ and the Reign of God. From the Willamette Valley in Oregon to the mountains of Eastern Kentucky, I have seen Christ in the multiplicity of rural people and their faith. I celebrate that by God's design, rural congregations are given the variety of gifts and graces that are needed for building up the church.

I am taken aback by those who would reduce rural congregations to a monolith of similar theologies, value systems, and political viewpoints. In fact, rural congregations represent a variety of cultures, creeds, gifts, geographies, and politics. Moreover, rural churches have provided a home for generations of disciples of Christ—people who embody the Holy Spirit and love of God. In rural congregations, The secret is simply this: Christ in you! Yes, Christ in you bringing with him the hope of all glorious things to come (Colossians 1:27—Phillips).



There is no one rural church—no stereotypic layperson, no single race, no distinct sexual orientation, or monolithic faith. Rather, when we enter the world of the rural church, we find a thriving panoply of Spirit filled, Gospel believing, people of faith seeking to announce the Reign of God in their time and place.

Ministerial Changes

- **GEORGE IRVIN** is serving as Interim Minister at LaGrange Christian Church in LaGrange. He began on November 20.
- **CHLOE SPECHT** is serving as a Student Associate at Woodland Christian Church in Lexington. She began on November 27.
- **JOHN OPSATA** is serving as Interim Minister at Carrollton Christian Church in Carrollton. He began on December 1.
- **NANCY JO KEMPER** is serving as Interim Minister at First Christian Church in Paris. She began on January 1.
- **BILL KINCAID** is serving as the Senior Minister at First Christian Church in Frankfort. He began on January 1.



Deanna Bradley was Commissioned into Christian Ministry at First Christian Church, Ashland on January 14, 2023. Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II and Rev. David Carr represented the region. Rev. Dr. Roberta Mosier-Peterson and Bishop Jason Caudill also pictured.



Chloe Spect was licensed into Christian Ministry and Installed as Associate Minister at Woodland Christian Church, Lexington on November 27, 2022. Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II and Rev. David Carr represented the region. Rev. Christy Jo Harber, Senior Minister also pictured.



Darren Longar was commissioned into Christian Ministry at Sinking Fork Christian Church on January 22, 2023. Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II and Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler represented the region. Crystal Longar also pictured.



Greg McClellan was ordained into Christian Ministry at First Christian Church, Barbourville on November 27, 2022. Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II and Rev. David Carr represented the region. Rev. Greg Humpert also pictured.



Kelly Hale was ordained into Christian Ministry at Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington on November 20, 2022. Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II represented the region.

Join in the Recovery

In 2023, three West Area churches invite you to join in the long-term recovery efforts to rebuild our communities after the December 2021 tornadoes:

- First Christian Church, Madisonville is hosting a long-term recovery site operated by the Fuller Center. <https://fullercenter.org/disaster-rebuilders/>
- First Christian Church, Paducah will be partnering with two organizations in 2023 to assist with community recovery in Mayfield:
 - Join an International Orthodox Christian Charities home build team as a group or on your own. Come for a week (Sunday - Saturday), or choose as many days as work for you. To register go to <https://bit.ly/3HwWRns>
 - FCC Paducah will also be partnering with Week of Compassion and Be The Neighbor this summer to host youth groups for disaster recovery and education. Mayfield is intentionally rebuilding in ways that make home-ownership and safe, affordable housing more available. You will work on construction re-building projects, build relationships with neighbors and learn about housing justice and best practices for making housing more accessible for all people. To register go to <https://bit.ly/3wzoWEa>
- First Christian Church, Princeton is in partnership with CrossRoads Missions of Louisville to tackle tornado relief projects in western Kentucky. There are opportunities for skilled and unskilled volunteers, families and youth groups. <https://www.crossroadsmissions.com/multi-day-opportunities/wky/>





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

CCK Outdoor Ministries - 2023

Camp Wakon' Da-Ho Summer 2023

Yosemite, Kentucky

March 17 - 19: Youth Retreat/Work Weekend

June 2 - 4: Mini Camp (2-3)

June 5 - 10: CYF 1 (9-12)

June 11 - 17: Eighter's Camp (8)

June 19 - 23: Junior 1 (4-5)

June 23 - 25: Camp 101A (K-1)

June 26 - July 1: CYF 2 (9-12)

July 3 - 8: Chi Rho 1 (6-8)

July 10 - 15: Chi Rho 2 (6-8)

July 17 - 21: Junior 2 (4-5)

July 22: Camp 101B (K-1, Day Only)

September 1 - 3: Y'all Camp

October 6 - 8: Fall Family Fest



Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Summer 2023

Benton, Kentucky

June 5 - 10: Chi Rho (6-8)

June 11 - 17: CYF (9-12)

June 19 - 23: Spirit Sailing (6-12)

June 23 - 25: Discovery (K-2)

June 26 - 30: Junior (3-5)

July 3-7: Camp Agape (6-8)

**For further information, including age limits for each camp, visit
<https://www.westareadisciples.org> or www.ccinky.net or call
the regional office at 859-233-1391.**

**Subscribe to the CCK Email List and Receive Up-to-Date Notifications on
Regional Information at ccinky.net.**

The Kentucky Christian Subscription Rates

Individual: \$3 per year

Every Family Plan: \$1.50 per family (Annual payment is made by the congregation for all resident families.)