

Congregational Pastors, please pass this information on to the women in your congregations.

The Table and Beyond: Lavish Hospitality



Photo by Sterling Staggs

***You Won't Want to Miss This Informative,
Inspiring, and Worshipful Conference!***

***Kentucky Disciples Women's Ministries
Spring Conference***

Submit your registration form today!

Saturday, April 16, 2016

Crestwood Christian Church

1882 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington, KY 40503

9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Rev. Erin Wathen, Senior Pastor of St. Andrew Christian Church in the Kansas City area, is our day's preacher.

Andra Moran, Disciples songwriter and recording artist, will serve as our featured musician of the day,

accompanied by popular Nashville singer/songwriter and recording artist Sarah Williams.

Kentucky's own, Deborah Garr from Seventh Christian Church, Paris, also will lend her musical talents to the day's worship.

There will be copies of the Bible Study, books from Chalice Press, Peace Craft products, and the Bhutanese Charka Circle yarn and hand knitted items for sale. Please bring cash or checks. Not all vendors accept credit cards.

Please bring Blessing Box offerings and a check or cash for the Woman-to-Woman and scholarship fund.

Workshop Leaders for the Day



The women of the **Bhutanese Charka Circle** will be with us to display their skills using the charka spinning wheel and tell of their experiences as refugees. These women from Bhutan were resettled in the US through Kentucky Refugee Ministries. Soon after their arrival to the US, it was discovered that these women had a great talent that needed to be shared and an industry that needed to be replicated. Luella Pavey, a KRM job developer and local artist, will accompany the spinners and tell her story of how she came to work with this group to develop this

cottage industry after she was told about their spinning jobs in Nepal. They will also bring their yarn and hand made items to sell. Kentucky Refugee Ministries shows hospitality at its best!



Rev. Erin Wathen is our preacher for the day. Erin's workshop is entitled *Progressive Family Values*. If you cringe when you hear the words "family values," you aren't alone. In the past few decades, those words have become synonymous with judgment, exclusion, and moral superiority. Which is unfortunate...because values are important. We all have values, and we let those values shape our decisions, in one way or another. And, shared values are an important part of life in family, church and community. So maybe it's time to reclaim and redeem the language around family values, and help shape the conversation for a new generation.

In this workshop, we will identify our own primary values and talk about how we can let those values move to the center of everything--renewing our spirits, our families, and even the world around us.

Rev. Wathen is the Senior Pastor at Saint Andrew Christian Church in the Kansas City area. She also has a blog on the interfaith website Patheos, on the Progressive Christian Channel. Erin is a previous

Bethany Fellow, a graduate of Transylvania University and Lexington Theological Seminary, and a past recipient of the Fred Craddock Award for Excellence in Preaching. She lives in Olathe, Kansas with her family-- husband Jeremy and their two kids, ages 5 and 7.



Dia Davidson-Smith has been a News Anchor for WLEX-TV (LEX18/NBC) in Lexington, Kentucky for more than 15 years. She has appeared on newscasts from early morning to early evening hours. She is an Emmy nominated journalist. Dia has covered a variety of news events, served on numerous community boards, teaches Sunday School and is also an Adjunct Instructor at the University of Kentucky in the Department of journalism. Dia is married to Rev. Raymond H. Smith, Jr., Senior Pastor, Broadway Christian Church, Winchester, Kentucky. They are the proud parents of Rania De Vane Smith.

Dia's workshop, *Guess Who's Coming To Dinner*, will explore the role of women in both Old and New Testaments - from Eve to Mary - and how hospitality of providing an abundant table was used to help bring people together, change hearts and fulfill the word of God.



Andra Moran, Disciples song writer and recording artist from Nashville, will lead a song-writing workshop. The workshop will focus on how music can serve as a powerful tool for inviting the Holy into our worship, our everyday lives, and our preparations to extend hospitality. The participants in the workshop will perform their original song in the closing session of the conference of saying our goodbyes, benediction, and traveling music.

Andra studied music formally at Belmont University in Nashville, all the while apprenticing in a variety of settings, swapping songs and stories. Her honest, passionate writing won her the respect of her colleagues, musical friendships and regular work on stage and in the studio. Andra works actively in ecumenical settings, and in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ, providing music at the local, regional and national levels for a variety of gatherings, as well as offering both concerts, workshops and consulting services on worship design, music and leadership in local churches across the country.

Andra's music expresses both a deep faith and a mature sense of self. Her recordings include the Instarock Records 2012 release *Harmony Grove*, 2011's *Little Miracles*, 2009's *In Small Things*, 2005's *Listening*, 2003's acoustic EP, *The Someday Sessions* and 2001's *If Not for This* with Josh Elson. In addition to her English language recordings, Andra's bilingual album *Chant*

Spontané was released by the Reform Church of France in 2011. Andra's songs have also been published in contemporary song and hymnal collections and are sung in churches, summer camps and dorm rooms around the world. In 2012, Andra added "author" to her resume, writing for One Great Hour of Sharing's leader devotional guide and a children's collection of devotionals for Capitol Records/Brentwood Benson. In 2013, Andra's book *Brim: Creative Overflow in Worship Design* was published with coauthor Rev. Dr. Suzanne Castle by Chalice Press. *Brim* received the Editor's Choice Award in 2014 from *Worship Leader Magazine*.

Currently, Andra serves Woodmont Christian Church in Nashville as the Creative Director at The Bridge alongside her husband, musician Stephen Daniel King, and is brand a brand new mommy to Calla Marie.



Rev. Sharon Fields, workshop leader, keynoter and preacher from Paris, Kentucky, will lead a workshop on *The Table and Beyond: Lavish Hospitality*. This workshop features *Just Women!* magazine's spring issue, the Office of Disciples Women annual Bible Study.

Sharon's workshop is entitled *21st Century Hospitality*, and participants will compare and contrast biblical hospitality texts with today's big issues. We will explore the texts and discuss their modern day relevancy. We will ask "Are these text still relevant?" and discuss why or why not they are or aren't? We will speak to how we can breath new life into the biblical examples of hospitality,

sharing, giving, and receiving. Participants will need to bring their Bibles.

Sharon is an educator, politician, and a minister. She was also the first African American woman to become a city commissioner in Paris, KY. In 1990, she was a teacher at Paris High School and a city commissioner. She was a commissioner, off and on, for 10 years. Today, Sharon is a member of the Paris Independent School Board of Education. She has also served as pastor of the Eminence Christian Church in Eminence. Sharon earned her undergraduate degree in education at Eastern Kentucky University, a master's degree in education at Georgetown College, a Master's degree in public affairs at Kentucky State University, and a Master of Divinity at Lexington Theological Seminary.

She was the first African American woman vice moderator and moderator for the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky. Sharon is also an author. She has written numerous articles for religious magazines such as *Just Women!*, articles for the *Bourbon Times* and *The Bourbon Citizen*, and an article for *Essence Magazine* on social security benefits for out-of-wedlock children. She is the co-author of *In Other Words*, stories of African American involvement in the early years of the Stone-Campbell movement in Kentucky.

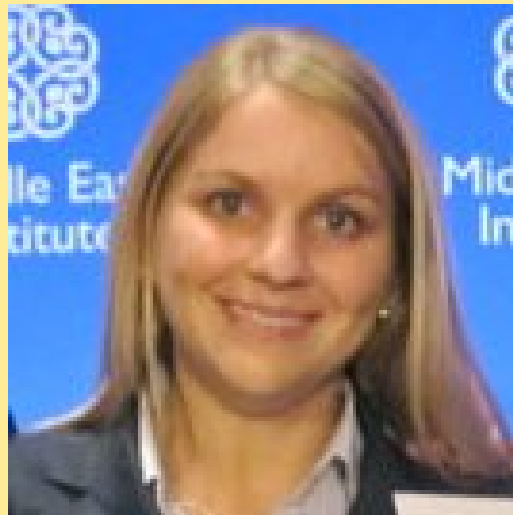
Sharon is currently serving in a shared ministry experience with First Christian Church, Carlisle, KY.



Rev. Shayanna Hutchinson will be leading workshop *I Tell You: Accepting the Vulnerable at the Lord's Table*" Most Disciples are familiar with Jesus' famous words spoken at what would be his last Passover meal, "Take, eat: this is my body...", "Drink from the cup all of you," and, of course, "...for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." But what about this: "I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom." Jesus is vulnerable around the table with the Disciples! So, why are we so afraid of vulnerability around the communion table in our churches today? If you've ever been afraid of messing up your prayer for the bread or crying during your prayer for the wine because your life's a mess or forgetting the words of the Lord's prayer because you're being pulled in 40 different directions all in the opposite direction of the promised land, come join us to talk in a safe place with kind church folks about learning to authentically come around the Lord's Table and accept vulnerability as Jesus did with His Disciples.

Rev. Hutchinson is currently serving as Senior Minister for First Christian Church in Georgetown, KY. She also is serving as a program associate of the Incubate Initiative of the National Benevolent Association. Rev. Hutchinson grew up in Pikeville, KY and is very proud of her Appalachian roots. She earned a B.A. in Drama from

Transylvania University and an M.Div. from Emory University at Candler School of Theology. She's also currently taking classes in the Masters of Arts Administration Program at the University of Kentucky. After completing seminary, Rev. Hutchinson joined the Bethany Fellows, a ministry of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) that supports newly ordained young pastors in their ongoing growth towards sustainable practices in ministry. Being a Bethany Fellow has come with many blessings and just one of those blessings has been the opportunity for Rev. Hutchinson to help edit and contribute to a book of Advent devotions called *Partners in Prayer* published by Chalice Press in 2014 to benefit the Bethany Fellows Program. Her spirit animal is the sloth and she can often be found crying of too much joy from watching videos of them on the internet.



Robyn Diez d'Aux is a graduate of the University of Kentucky's Patterson School of Diplomacy. Robyn works as a Human Trafficking Advocate for the Rescue and Restore Program of Catholic Charities of Louisville. She provides training on human trafficking throughout Kentucky, assists in developing and maintaining statewide human trafficking coalitions and task forces, and works directly with identified victims of human trafficking throughout Kentucky. Robyn and others work to ensure that human trafficking is being identified in our communities and that the survivors are provided with the resources they need to rebuild their lives.

Robyn will lead a workshop on the subject of the 2010-2018 International Disciples Women's Ministries Social Action Emphasis. She will provide updates on efforts to eradicate Human Trafficking, both locally and globally, and will speak to the resources and practical applications that your group can be involved with to educate the public and help victims of this modern day slavery.



Rev. Tanya Tyler's workshop is *Oh, the Women You'll Meet! Using Just Women! Magazine as a Resource for Your Women's Group.*

Just Women! magazine is a resource that can help your DMW groups find women to admire and ministries to support. Tanya J. Tyler has written numerous articles for the magazine, that features amazing women doing amazing things. Come hear some of their stories and learn how you can make a difference in the world through their examples.

Tanya's workshop deals specifically with the chapter she wrote for the *Just Women!* Bible Study, *The Table and Beyond: Lavish Hospitality in the Bible*. This portion of her workshop is *Loaves and Fishes: Compare. Contrast. Contemplate.*

Each of the four Gospels has a version of the story of Jesus feeding the multitudes with loaves and fishes.

Together, you will explore the different accounts, looking for similarities and differences and other nuances that will make the stories come alive for us. Then we'll look at some of the ways biblical scholars seek to explain what the stories mean and find their meanings for our lives as Disciples women today. It's a lot to cover and a lot to learn!

Tanya serves as Minister with Chalice Christian Church in London, KY. She was Kentucky's representative on the 2012 Woman-to-Woman journey to China and is a former Moderator of the CCK Board. Tanya has long been a leader in the local, regional and general manifestations of the church. An accomplished writer, having retired from the Lexington Herald Leader several years ago, Tanya still works as a freelance writer for many publications. She also serves as the Director of the Clergy Mentor Program at Lexington Theological Seminary. Tanya is a graduate of Lexington Theological Seminary, a proud UK fan, and the mother of one son, Dan. She is also a former Jeopardy champion!



Lisa Gammel Maas is a trained spiritual director and small group facilitator. A long time member of Central Christian Church, Lexington, KY, she served as a lay leader in many capacities before completing a three year training program to work as a spiritual director. Her intention in her work is to help others notice, savor and respond to the presence of the Sacred in their ordinary, everyday lives. In addition to her companioning work with individuals, Lisa often works with small groups in her home, in churches and in work places. These groups share contemplative experiences and bear witness to the

Divine Presence in the lives of one another. She also feels a strong call to provide creative, contemplative retreat opportunities. Creating a beautiful and sacred environment is an important part of Lisa's work as a spiritual director as well.

Lisa is a student of the healing arts and enjoys gardening, photography, writing, and needlework. She lives and loves and experiences the Every Day Sacred with her husband, two children, two dogs, two cats and three backyard chickens. She maintains a website and blog at www.readinclover.com.

Lisa's workshop, *Holding Space For What Is: The Lavish Hospitality of Spiritual Direction*, will incorporate prayer, meditation and contemplative small group engagement to invite reflection upon and spiritual connectedness to the Divine Presence.



Dr. Emily Askew is Lexington Theological Seminary's Associate Professor of Systematic Theology. Emily has been on the faculty of Lexington Theological since 2007. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy from Smith College in 1983, graduating cum laude. She received the Master of Arts degree from the University of Northern Iowa in 1991 with a specialty in Mental Health

Counseling. After working as a mental health professional for several years, Emily was captivated by the theological dimensions of the human experience and returned to school, receiving her Ph.D. in theology from Vanderbilt University in 2004. As a Fulbright scholar, in the summer of 2006, she studied the challenges of Muslim immigration in France and Germany.

As a full-time faculty member at LTS and adjunct instructor at Vanderbilt Divinity School, she teaches courses that explore the intersections of theology and immigration, disability, race and the environment.

Dr. Askew's workshop *Lavish Hospitality: Who are We Missing?* speaks to the all important question of "Are there people in our midst who do not feel our welcome?" Approximately 1 in 5 adults and 1 in 5 youth in our country experience some form of mental illness in a year. Many are too ashamed to name that they live with this kind of 'invisible disability' to really feel a part of the lavish hospitality we want to extend.

How can we make sure that we reach those who may desperately need to feel God's warm embrace through us? The church should not be a place where the world's stigma against people with mental illnesses is allowed to stand. In this workshop we will look at ways that the church can overcome some of the stigma of mental illness and understand it as a brain disease in order to make sure that we have made a place at the table where all feel welcome and accepted just as they are.



Rev. Dr. Olivia Bryan Updegrave is Minister of Family & Children's Ministries at Disciples Home Mission and new Part-Time Pastor at Independence Christian Church. Olivia is an ordained minister in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). She attended seminary at Lexington Theological Seminary and completed her doctoral work at Claremont School of Theology with an emphasis in preaching. She has worked with kids, youth, and young adults at various stages of her ministry, and has a deep passion for biblical education for all ages as a foundation for deeper spiritual growth. She has two children's books published, *What is God?* and *Who is Jesus?*

Olivia's workshop is entitled *Intergenerate - Bringing All Ages Together in Worship and at Home*. One out of every 10 teenagers will still be in the church in their twenties. Why? What happened? What didn't happen? What can we do to change this trend? Who stayed? Why did they stay? Over the past 15 years lots of research and study has been done to help explain the reasons behind those leaving the church building and those leaving their faith entirely. Come and learn and see ways to faith as a lifelong journey in an intentionally intergenerational community.



Jackie Perman, Kentucky's 2015 Woman-to-Woman representative to the Middle East, will present her workshop on her travel experience visiting refugee camps in Lebanon, Jordan, Palestine and Israel.

Woman-to-Woman Worldwide is an opportunity to personalize mission in the life of congregations and regions. Woman-to-Woman Worldwide (W2WW) is sponsored by the International Disciples Women's Ministries and administered by the staff of Disciples Women in conjunction with Global Ministries.

Each year, Kentucky sends one Kentucky Disciples woman on this travel and learning experience. Information about the trip to the Middle East will be presented in *Just Women!* magazine as the Middle East the geographical study for the year. The winter issue begins the story with blog entries for the first four days in Lebanon and Jordan. All issues include more stories and beautiful pictures of the group and some of the wonderful women they met. Jackie is available to visit your congregation to share the stories of the women she met. See the Spring Conference Resource booklet for ways to contact Jackie to set up a visit.

[Download Registration Form](#)

or contact the regional office at 859-233-1391 for further information. Scholarships are available. Contact Linda Jones , CCK Associate Minister, at linda@ccinky.net for scholarship information.

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