

## Kentucky Talking Points for 2018 Pentecost Offering

The Pentecost Offering (<http://www.hopepmt.org/2018-pentecost-offering/>) will be received in churches across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) on May 20 and 27. “God’s Abundance” is the theme for this year’s offering. Please give.

Half of our gifts are designated to the local region/area to start and sustain new churches; the other half of our Pentecost Offering gifts pays for recruitment, assessment, training and coaching of leaders of new Disciples churches.

In Kentucky, new Disciples churches include Louisville’s New Century Fellowship (<https://www.NewCenturyDoC.org>) and New Life in Christ Christian Church (<https://missionbehindbarsandbeyond.org>), Lexington’s Co-Heirs With Christ Missions (<https://www.facebook.com/CoheirsCM>) and Madisonville’s Potluck Church (<http://www.potluckchurch.com>):

- Louisville’s New Century Fellowship Christian Church (<https://www.NewCenturyDoC.org>) celebrated its third anniversary in September 2017. It launched as an African-American congregation worshipping at 2 p.m. Sundays in a small office space, but “God had a greater vision,” says its planter, the Rev. Syvoskia Bray Pope. In August 2015, New Century moved into a larger space at St. Stephen United Church of Christ at 1875 Farnsley Road in Louisville. It now worships there at noon Sundays and 6 p.m. Thursdays. Plus, last summer, New Century launched a 6 p.m. Monday service at Louisville’s Kristy Love Foundation, a non-profit organization providing shelter and case management to victims of prostitution and human trafficking. New Century Fellowship today numbers 35 members, “and we are becoming culturally diversified,” Syvoskia says. There have been 18 baptisms. The church is starting to grow out of its spaces and structure again. It is looking at a home-group meeting on Thursday nights—and expanding a monthly Friday-night youth and young-adults program. “We are patient,” Syvoskia says. “God is speaking to us.”
- New Life in Christ Christian Church (<https://missionbehindbarsandbeyond.org>), led by Rev Carol Wieger, is located inside Dismas Charities - Diersen House, a detention center, in Louisville. Most of the women in this congregation, which was founded in August 2013, are serving out the last six months of their incarceration due to drug or alcohol-related offenses. “Because of the compassion shown by visiting congregations and the support given by so many in our community and across the state, our congregation continues to grow in strength and numbers,” Carol says. Dismas - Diersen houses up to 85 women at maximum capacity and New Life in Christ consistently averages 35 to 40 in worship at 7 p.m. Tuesdays—that’s approximately 44 percent of the women regularly attending worship. In fact, in 2017, 42 women attending New Life in Christ’s services were either baptized or rededicated their lives to Christ. Additionally, under the umbrella of Mission Behind Bars and Beyond and their Executive Director, Rev Dean Bucalos, Pastor Carol continuously offers the women of her congregation numerous Life Skills classes throughout the year, focusing on areas such as Finance/Budgeting, Cooking/Nutrition, Basic Business Skills, Self Esteem Building and Relationship

Building. Carol says, “New Life in Christ has been blessed so much over what will soon be FIVE years, and we are very much looking forward to our future.”

- Co-Heirs with Christ Missions is a mission-oriented church, focused primarily on spreading the Gospel of the Kingdom of God in Lexington and beyond. Co-Heirs with Christ Missions was launched as an international family house with the primary call to provide a place of worship and fellowship for immigrants and refugees. The congregation is predominantly Africans who live in Lexington. “Our vision is to reach out to every household with the Gospel of Salvation in Jesus Christ, to make disciples and to provide a place of worship and fellowship for all,” says the pastor, Foster Frimpong, who is a Ghanaian studying for his masters of divinity at Lexington Theological Seminary. Foster and the rest of the congregation would love to have you come visit. Co-Heirs with Christ Missions ([coheirscm@gmail.com](mailto:coheirscm@gmail.com) or [ccmlex@hotmail.com](mailto:ccmlex@hotmail.com)) gathers for worship at 10 a.m. Eastern Sundays and prayer service 10 a.m. Fridays at 2350 Woodhill Drive, Suite 68, in Lexington. Prayer vigils are scheduled for 10 p.m. the last Friday of every month.
- Madisonville’s Potluck Church ([www.facebook.com/MadisonvillePotluck/](http://www.facebook.com/MadisonvillePotluck/)) practices an informal worship centered around a potluck fellowship meal and culminating in the Lord's Supper. Each Wednesday at 6, Potluck Church reads scripture in conversation, shares each other’s prayers, and support one another's servant ministries and callings. “We eat together to draw closer to Christ and to love one another,” says the church’s Facebook page. Adds its planter, the Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler: “Our model of worship is simply a riff on what Jesus did with his disciples, what the apostle did in Acts 2, and what the Roman churches and the Corinthian church struggled to faithfully practice.” Rachel and the other co-conveners of Potluck Church reach out especially to individuals who, for whatever reason, do not attend a traditional worship service on Sunday mornings. Since 2013, the church has gathered for its potluck meal, potluck conversation and communion most frequently in the fellowship hall at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), but it has gathered in homes, the Madisonville city park, the local bowling alley, a coffee shop and the town’s former downtown train station, as well.

Are you feeling called to start a church in Kentucky—or to help other church planters start new churches? Do you have a passion for exploring new ways of being church? Do you feel the need for new Disciples of Christ churches in our region? You can get connected with the New Church team for the Christian Church in Kentucky by visiting [www.ccinky.net/ministries/newchurch/](http://www.ccinky.net/ministries/newchurch/).

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