

★ *the* Kentucky Christian

December 2020

2020 Christmas Offering

REJOICE

A special day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund

Our gifts support the work of
regional ministries this Christmas.
Your regional ministry works to:

- Connect congregations to each other
- Foster faith development
- Gather Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies
- Nurture the development of a new generation of pastors
- Assist churches in calling new ministers
- Interpret the global mission of the Church
- Represent the Church in ecumenical gatherings
- Counsel and pray with those who are troubled of spirit
- Lead the Church to address racism
- Inspire leaders to experiment and create
- Witness to the power of God to make things new

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and
many other ministries of our regions.

Received in many congregations on Dec. 13 and 20, 2020, or donate online at Disciples Mission Fund
webpage <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings>.

Gifts That Change Lives

Dean Phelps, Interim Regional Minister



I was 12 years old that Christmas. Under the tree, I found an envelope with my name on it. When the time came, I opened the envelope to find only an index card with an instruction on it. Too many years have passed for me to recall the exact instructions or sequence, but they were simple instructions like, “Look under the milk.” Under the milk carton, then, was another index card with another instruction.

As best I recall, I followed four or five index cards, leading me around the house until the final card instructed me to look in the closet in mom and dad’s bedroom. There I found a guitar case.

That Christmas, the gift from my parents was my own guitar. I had started playing three or four years earlier, borrowing my dad’s instrument. Now I had an instrument of my own.

Ever since, I have played. Through all the seasons of my life, my guitar and my voice have been companions on the journey. They have helped me make friends. They have opened doors to relationships. They have dismantled barriers and created trust. They have rekindled precious memories, brought tears and smiles, and eased the burdens of the day. I cannot imagine my life without music and especially without the guitar.

That gift changed my life.

As we enter into Advent and look ahead to Christmas, we remember a gift that changed our lives, God’s gift of Jesus, given because God so loved the world. As Christ’s church, we bear witness to that gift. We share the difference that Jesus has made in our lives, and we pray that our affirmation might make a difference in the life of another, in our community, or even in the world.

The Christian Church in Kentucky gathers congregations from across the state in a shared witness to God’s gift of Jesus. Together, we encourage one another. We share the load by sharing ideas and resources. We share tasks that we can do better together.

We give gifts that change lives.

Through summer programs at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya and Camp Wakon’Da-Ho, Kentucky Disciples work together to teach the faith to children and youth. There they find faith and friendship for a lifetime. At camp, many discover their unique gifts and call to ministry.

The gift of camp changes lives.

The regional Committee on the Ministry shepherds those who are following their call into ministry. Working with congregations, seminaries, and others, candidates prepare for the work of ministry, for building up the Body of Christ, both inside and outside the local congregation.

The gift of ministry changes lives.

The Christian Church in Kentucky comprises 205 congregations that stretch from Bardwell to Pikeville. Each congregation grew from a movement that claimed Christian unity as its polar star. We have forged that unity by sharing ministry together, enhancing our ability to make a difference in the communities where we are called to serve. We feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the ones who are sick or in prison, all the while bearing witness to the greatest gift of God’s love.

The gift of unity changes lives.

I consider it a gift to serve with all the congregations and clergy of the Christian Church in Kentucky. I value every opportunity to share a song or a word with you. You have received my transitional ministry graciously. I am honored to walk with you in an unprecedented season of change. Through the joy and the heartache, we share the gifts that change lives.

The gift of the church changes lives.

THE PULSE

Rejoice!

Rev. Linda J. Jones

“When they saw the star...”

Oh, to see that star, so that we may rejoice again!

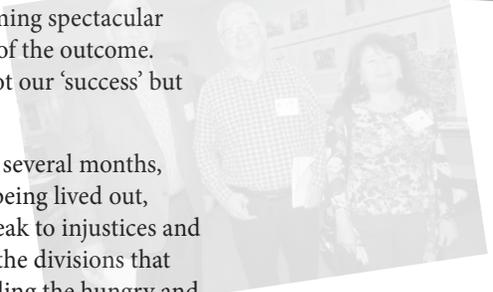
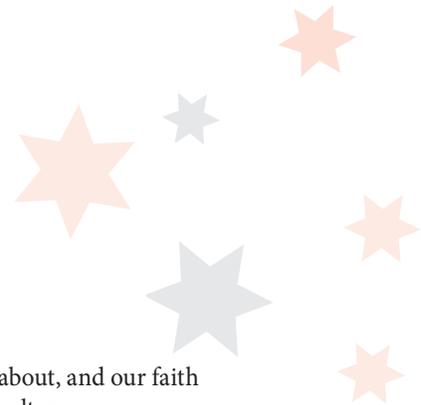
During the past 10 months, it has been a bit difficult at times to find much to rejoice about, and our faith has been tested during what we have gotten used to calling “uncertain times,” “tumultuous times,” and “times of deep divisions.” However, there is still cause to rejoice, to believe, to have great faith...as we await once again the coming of the Christ Child!

As we continue through these trying times and this waiting time together, we often may find ourselves much as the Disciples in Luke 17, asking for more faith. We may feel like we don't have enough faith to believe we can get through this together or to trust in God enough to know that God will help us through this. That's fine, folks...there would be something wrong if we didn't entertain these thoughts from time to time. I recently read a few ideas on the matter of faith from Presbyterian (PCUSA) blogger, Rev. Dr. Alan Brehm, who wrote, “It would seem that from time to time we can all get discouraged about our faith. When that happens, I think we need to remember the lesson Jesus tried to teach his disciples. They came to him asking for ‘more faith’ to be able to live up to the challenging demands of Christian discipleship, and he answered that they didn't need more faith but rather a sense of what faith is all about. Faith is not a matter of performing spectacular feats; rather it is about continuing to speak the Gospel and live it out every day, regardless of the outcome. When we struggle with discouragement in our day and time, we can remember that it is not our ‘success’ but rather our perseverance that demonstrates God's powerful and loving presence among us.”

Kentucky Disciples, I am here to tell you that with each difficulty we have faced in the past several months, we have demonstrated God's powerful and loving presence among us. Our faith is indeed being lived out, whether we realize it or not. Disciples throughout Kentucky have taken to the streets to speak to injustices and to promote God's love of the “least of these,” “of those oppressed, in an attempt to counter the divisions that have plagued us. Disciples throughout Kentucky have found ways to care for others by feeding the hungry and meeting the needs of our neighbors. In our context as church, in many ways, this pandemic brought out the best in us. While we may not have performed those “spectacular feats of greatness,” we have continued “to speak the Gospel and live it out every day.” We have not given into discouragement. We are beginning to understand again what faith is all about. Congregations found new ways to worship and serve together. We managed to draw on our collective faith, our mustard seed sized faith, with the constancy of God, to do things that, last March, we thought insurmountable. That alone is one reason to rejoice!

Regionally, online camp options were created and offered. Clergy still gather in districts and fellowship groups. Eight congregations have extended new calls since March. Over 200 people registered for a Regional Assembly like we've never experienced before. We will take our learnings, and, in the coming months, we will raise up new denominational leaders and provide gatherings to address issues of the day to change hearts and build up the reign of God here on earth. We will continue to live in community and faithfulness as congregations despite the distances between us because that is what our faith in God and through God has shown us that we must do. And, we will rejoice. Yes, we will rejoice exceedingly when we once again see the star and recognize that the Savior is with us still.

Continued next page...



KENTUCKY DISCIPLES

While many congregations have continued their support of Disciples Mission Funding this season of uncertainty, please know that the Christian Church in Kentucky depends on donors like you in both good times and troubled times. Through your generosity, we can continue to persevere and demonstrate, alongside you, God's presence among us by creating opportunities for children and youth to find faith and friendship at camp; helping congregations and pastors find ministry together; equipping those called to ministry for service in the church and beyond; providing programs that connect Disciples across Kentucky and develop leaders for the days ahead; and, demonstrating care for congregations and clergy in their celebrations and challenges.

We all play a vital role in this ministry and provide blessings and cause for others to rejoice through our faithfulness. As you prepare for the coming of the Christ Child anew and await the star to tell us of that coming, we ask that you remember and give generously to the Christmas Special Offering in support of the work of this our mutual ministry through the Christian Church in Kentucky.

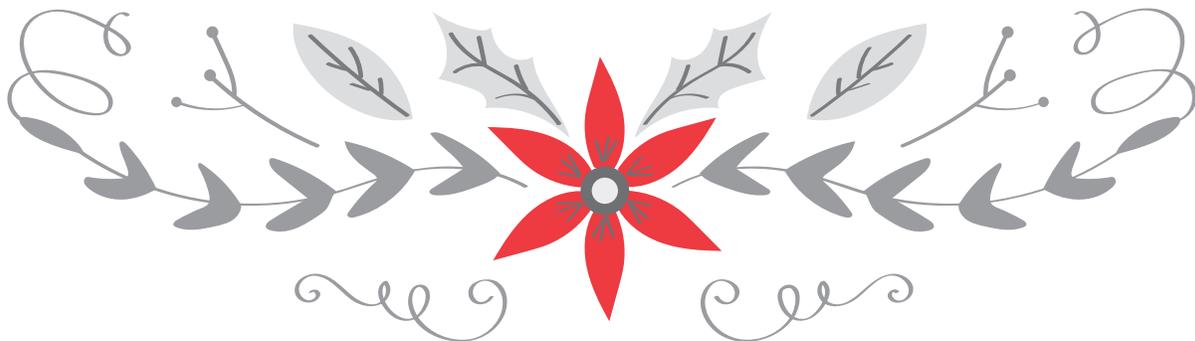


A silent night, a star above, a blessed gift of hope and love.

A Merry Christmas to you and yours,

Merry Christmas!

Dean, Linda, Rachel, Dave, Barbara, Terry, and Carol



2020 Regional Assembly Report

The 2020 Virtual Biennial Regional Assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky was held on Saturday, October 17, 2020. This was definitely a different way of holding Assembly, but it was an outstanding one with good attendance and a sense of connectedness that defied not being able to gather physically.

A renewing and restorative spirit among the Assembly goers and the presence of the Holy Spirit were evident among the “gathered” Kentucky Disciples.

The theme of “Come to the Water” was brought to life in the Assembly worship with Rev. Terri Hord Owens, Disciples General Minister and President, bringing the message, and with music provided by Andra Moran, Disciples Singer Songwriter from Nashville, and Deborah Garr, Minister of Music at Seventh Street Christian Church in Paris. Chris Teesdale of Central Christian Church in Lexington served as the production manager for the Assembly and brought all components of the Assembly workshops, worship, and business together beautifully with relevant and inspiring graphics, videos, and music. The region is forever indebted to Chris for his hard work and to the Assembly Planning Committee working with the direction of Jeff Bruce, the regional Second Vice Moderator.

The Saturday Assembly wasn’t all that was offered as a part of this unique virtual weeklong gathering. There were 5 nights of pre-Assembly workshops with two workshops per night! All workshops and the worship service can be found on the Christian Church in Kentucky’s YouTube Channel and are available to be shared with congregations.

New Moderators and Members at-Large were elected and installed during the business session of the Assembly. Syvoskia Bray Pope, Minister at New Century Fellowship Christian Church in Louisville, was named Moderator; Milton West, Pastor of First Christian Church in Mayfield, will be the new First Vice Moderator, and Disciples minister Tracy Parker will serve as Second Vice Moderator.

Kory Wilcoxson gave an update on the search for a new Regional Minister, and the resolution regarding mandated anti-racism/pro reconciliation training for clergy was approved.

The first iteration of the new board was adopted. The bylaws state that the Board shall be composed of the three elected officers of the Region, 10 at-large members, one representative from the Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention (KCMC), and one ecumenical representative. There shall be no more than one Board member from a congregation at the time of their election. The slate of nominations was approved. The list of the new board members and all other business items may be found in the Assembly Business Document which is posted on the region’s website at ccinky.net.

The 2022 Assembly of the Christian Church in Kentucky be held November 4-5 at First Christian Church in Georgetown.



Have you heard about Alex?

This new tool will help your congregation track your attendance and giving. You will be able to make notes for each week right in the program. When it’s time to fill out your yearbook report, Alex will help you organize your numbers.

And there’s more!

You can update your staff and contact info in real time, so the directory is always up to date. And you can easily get in touch with other congregations through the congregational directory

When January 1 rolls around, the other yearbook reporting tabs in Alex will be unlocked so you can add your in-depth information, like participant numbers, mission projects, demographics and more. You’ll have until March 15 to get that updated. This will take the place of the old yearbook paper forms and online form.

Find out more about Alex on disciples.org/alex. You’ll find a short video introduction, FAQs and more.



Beargrass Christian Church, Louisville

Dr. Leigh Bond retired as Senior Minister of Beargrass Christian Church after almost 24 years of serving in that position. There was a small, socially distanced service to close out Leigh's ministry on Sunday, October 25, 2020, and a "Bond Voyage" drive by goodbye for church members on October 18. Dean Phelps was at the October 25 service to present Leigh with an honored minister's pin in recognition of his many years of service. Governor Andy Beshear, a member of the congregation, was there to award Leigh a Kentucky Colonel membership. Well done, good and faithful servant!



Transitional Regional Minister, Dean Phelps, gave his well wishes to Leigh and presented him with an honored minister's pin. Leigh is shown on the right with spouse, Ellen.



Beargrass celebrates Leigh and Ellen Bond with a "Bond Voyage" drive by on Sunday, October 18, at the church for the congregation's members to say their goodbyes to their much beloved pastor of almost 24 years.

Amanda Groves elected

Congratulations to Amanda Groves, the Associate/ Music Minister at Millbrooke Christian Church in Hopkinsville, who has been elected as the President of the Executive Board of the Kentucky Council of Churches. Wade Miller, Senior Minister at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Hopkinsville, was recently elected to serve on the Executive Board alongside Perry Bentley and Sally McClain as Disciples of Christ representatives to the Council.



Dry Ridge Christian Church

Pastor Tim Polley during the congregation's October 18 celebration of the church building mortgage burning.



Sara Don Bailey was installed as Pastor of Newburg Christian Church in Louisville on October 25, 2020. Linda Jones, Associate Regional Minister, led the installation service and was there to represent the region.

Meet Your New Moderators



Rev. Syvoskia Bray Pope is the new regional Moderator for the 2021-2022 Biennium. She serves as Pastor of New Century Fellowship Christian Church in Louisville. Syvoskia serves on several boards and committees of the Christian Church in Kentucky. She is the Co-Convenor of the region's New Church Ministry Team and a board member of one of the region's affiliate organizations, Mission Behind Bars and Beyond. Syvoskia also is an anti-racism/pro-reconciliation trainer for the region and serves as a member of the Reconciliation Ministries Team.

Rev. Bray Pope is a leader in the financial empowerment industry, specializing in financial wellness and coaching through her small business. As a certified community and economic development professional, she directs social service programming in the New Century Fellowship Empower Hope Center.

Syvoskia is a graduate of Sullivan University with a BS degree in Business Management and graduated with a Pastoral Ministry Leadership degree from Lexington Theological Seminary. She is certified in Community and Economic Development. In addition, she has authored her 1st book, *It's in You! 12 Power Principles for Becoming the Woman God Called You to Be*, and is currently finishing her financial credit book guide for 2020.

Syvoskia is the proud mother of 2 adult children, 4 grandchildren, and 1 great grandchild Ja'Quon, who has become her bundle of joy.



Rev. Dr. Milton West was named First Vice Moderator for the 2021-2022 biennium. Milton began serving as Senior Minister with First Christian Church in Mayfield on July 1, 2019. He was ordained in 1978, and he has served as a minister in Kentucky churches in Dawson Springs, Wickliffe, Bardwell, and Fulton. He also has held ministerial positions in Tennessee, Alabama, and Georgia. Milton holds degrees from Murray State University and the University of Memphis.



Rev. Tracy Parker graduated from Lexington Theological Seminary in 2010 and spent several years exploring ministry with children & youth at First Christian Church, Paris, Kentucky. In 2017, she transitioned to pastoral ministry, feeling led by the Spirit, most recently serving as pastor of Flemingsburg Christian Church. She is a strong advocate to integrate every age and stage in all the vital ministries of the local, regional, and denominational levels of the church. Tracy is a regional anti-racism/pro-reconciliation Trainer and a Children Worship & Wonder Storyteller Trainer for the denomination. She actively engages in regional camp ministries, serving at Camp Wakon-Da Ho each summer. She looks forward to serving the region as part of an incredible team of moderators and as part of the regional board. Tracy believes her most important roll is "being 'Grommy' to six incredibly beautiful & brilliant grandchildren."

Ministerial Changes

PHIL MILLER

to Interim Pastor, First Christian Church, Richmond

JOHN POWELL

to Pastor, Burgin Christian Church

PETER HARPER

to Pastor, Providence Christian Church, Nicholasville

SARA DON BAILEY

to Pastor, Newburg Christian Church, Louisville

BOB MALLORY

to Interim Pastor, Antioch Christian Church, Lexington

MICKI MCHUGH

to Pastor, Harrodsburg Christian Church, Harrodsburg

JEFF SAMES

to Pastor, First Christian Church, Maysville

Christian Church in Kentucky Board Slate Approved at the Region's Biennial Assembly

AT-LARGE MEMBERS

Class of 2021

Sue Gray, Mayfield
Jerry Johns, Winchester
Petie McLean, Bowling Green

Class of 2022

Mike Harrison, Pikeville
Christian Kalb, Mays Lick
Betty Sivis, Owensboro

Class of 2023

Gene Caston, Mt. Sterling
Josh Crabtree, Florence
Madalynn Orr, Elkton
Deke Rigor, LaGrange

Kentucky Christian Missionary

Convention Representative
Anthony Gaines, Covington

Ecumenical Representative
Lisa Balboa, Hopkinsville

Kentucky Regional Ministry Team

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2021-2022 CCK Moderators

SYVOSKIA BRAY POPE

Moderator

MILTON WEST

1st Vice Moderator

TRACY PARKER

2nd Vice Moderator

The Kentucky Christian Subscription Rates

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the congregation for all
resident families.)

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Lexington, KY 40504-2660

Return Service Requested

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES 2021 CAMP DATES



Kum-Ba-Ya

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Discovery | July 16-18 |
| Young Disciples | July 12-14 |
| Junior | June 7-11* |
| Chi Rho..... | July 5-10 |
| Chi Rho Sailing | June 21-25 |
| CYF Sailing | June 28-July 2 |
| CYF | June 13-19 |
| Junior | July 19-23* |
| Adult Sailing | TBA |
| All Y'all..... | TBA |

Snow Date: change to date if school year changes due to school closings. Dates for Junior Camp will change to July 19-23.

Camp's site committees released the following dates for camp for 2021. These are tentative only, of course, given the pandemic. Camps will not happen unless it is absolutely safe to do so. Information will be forthcoming on all these dates on a regular basis.

Camp Wakon'Da-Ho

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| Spring Work Weekend..... | March 19-21 |
| Mini Camp | June 4-6 |
| CYF 1 | June 7-12 |
| Eighter's Camp..... | June 13-19 |
| Junior 1 | June 21-25 |
| Camp 101A | June 25-27 |
| CYF 2 | June 28-July 3 |
| Chi Rho 1..... | July 5-10 |
| Chi Rho 2..... | July 12-17 |
| Junior 2 | July 19-23 |
| Camp 101 B | July 23-25 |
| Y'All Camp..... | September 3-5 |
| Fall Family Fest..... | October 1-3 |

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.