

the Kentucky Christian

May 2021



Your Gifts to Disciples Mission Fund Special Pentecost Offering go to New Church Ministries

Be the New Church

For the past thirteen months, many Disciples living across the United States and Canada have been struggling with social isolation. They've stayed away from their various places of worship to protect the health and safety of themselves and others. It has been hard. How have new church leaders responded? By launching communities of faith in creative and innovative ways. It's looked like spreading the word about the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through Door Dash food deliveries, meeting with folks every week on Zoom to discuss anxiety, and making sure that the spiritual needs of transitioning out of correctional facilities are met. From hospital and prison chaplains to tri-vocational pastors, courageous new church leaders have answered the call to be the new church.

To support them and their efforts to continue the new church movement, please contribute to the 2021 Pentecost Offering, collected in most congregations on Sundays, May 16 and May 23. Each year, half of the gifts made go to your own Region to support local new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders. Through programs such as Leadership Academy, New Church Hacks, and Water the Plants, your gifts make a difference across the life of the Church. By participating in this Special Day Offering, you ensure the viability, vitality and sustainability of unique new church plants in your area and in states, provinces, and territories far away. Please give generously. Let's all be the new church, together. To access additional Pentecost Offering resources, including images, videos, and stories to share, you can visit: <http://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/pentecost>.

2021 PENTECOST OFFERING **BE THE NEW CHURCH**

SUNDAYS MAY 16 AND MAY 23



SPECIAL DAY PENTECOST OFFERING

Your Gift is a Statement of Faith

By Eric Nance Woehler

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. –Jeremiah 29:11

You and I, flipping through this issue of the *Kentucky Christian*, we love the existing church. Obviously, that is true. We're here. We wouldn't come to our congregations and consume our newsletters ... wouldn't give and serve ... wouldn't invite and welcome ... if we didn't love our beautiful church as it already is.

But this article isn't about us. It's about the next ones.

There are people who would be fed in our beloved existing congregations. God is sending them, and we must be ready for them.

There are also people who live in places or are in places in their lives where they struggle to connect with one of the beautiful existing congregations that you and I so love. God is sending them, too, and we must be ready for them.

That's why the New Church movement of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is so important to who we are and what we do as God's church. New Church is one of the key ways for us to Be the Church for people we don't yet know and, otherwise, likely never would.

A gift to the annual Pentecost Offering—to be received May 16 and 23 in congregations across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)—is a statement of faith that God is still planning for the welfare and future with hope for us all. Still sending and calling. Still charging us to Be the Church.

Half of our gifts to the Pentecost Offering pays for recruitment, assessment, training and coaching of leaders of new Disciples churches throughout the United States and Canada; the other half stays in the region where they are given. Those Pentecost Offering gifts over the years from our established Kentucky congregations have helped pay to start and sustain fledgling congregations like the five currently under care of Kentucky's New Church Ministry:

- Kentucky Islanders Christian Church in Walton, which ministers to and with the Chuukese community in Kentucky and beyond through weekly worships at 3 p.m. Sundays at Walton Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), at 50 S. Main Street in Walton
- Louisville's New Century Fellowship Christian Church, a multi-cultural church which worships at noon Eastern Sundays and 6 p.m. Thursdays at St. Stephen United Church of Christ at 1875 Farnsley Road in Louisville
- New Life in Christ Christian Church, a congregation located inside Dismas Charities - Diersen House, a detention center for women, most of whom are serving out the last six months of their incarceration due to drug or alcohol-related offenses
- Co-Heirs with Christ Missions, a congregation mostly of African immigrants who worship at 10 a.m. Eastern Sundays at 2350 Woodhill Drive, Suite 68, in Lexington
- Madisonville's Potluck Church, a virtual-for-now table fellowship at 6 p.m. Tuesdays that is targeted primarily for people who typically do not attend a Sunday traditional worship

In every instance, these new churches have been called to serve in ways that their founders surely could never have foreseen. That's the way of discipleship and being the church. The Pentecost Offering gives all of us in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky the opportunity to participate in beautiful future with hope that God has planned for us. Please give.

*New Church
is one of the
key ways for
us to Be the
Church.*

TWO COPPER COINS

TKC 3

Long Division

Dean Phelps, CCK Transitional Regional Minister

When he was in third grade, my older brother learned long division. I would have been three or four years old, so I don't have direct memory of these events. I only know the stories I was told.

We had a chalkboard in our house for as long as I can remember. My brother was enthusiastic about the wonderful things he was learning. He wanted to share. He practiced by teaching me. I guess long division proved especially challenging, though. As it was told to me, he went to our mom at one point and said, "That kid will never amount to anything; he can't even do long division."

Eventually, though, I did learn long division. I studied enough algebra to understand that division is the inverse of multiplication, that dividing by two is the same as multiplying by one-half. If I multiply two and one-half, I get one. The two numbers are inverses of each other.

Division, most of the time, produces a smaller number. It makes things smaller. When I divide ten by two, I get five. It's smaller.

I read article after article that talk about how divided we are as a nation, and that permeates our communities and churches. It appears we can find difference in anything, which is not bad until we fixate on difference in ways that make us suspicious and even fearful. When we set our attention only on things that divide us, our circles get smaller. Groups get smaller. Communities get smaller. Families get smaller.

However, remember that I said, "most of the time division produces a smaller number?" Sometimes it doesn't. Grab a calculator, pick a number, and divide it by a number less than one. The result is a bigger number. If you divide five by one-half (0.5), you get ten. Division and multiplication are inverses. Dividing by one-half is the same as multiplying by two.

The inverse of focusing on difference is attention to what we share. Whenever I greet a congregation on behalf of Kentucky's Disciples, I talk about how we are different as congregations. I lightly explain how we are different as people, and I conclude by saying, "But we are one church."

We are one church when we focus on the things we share, the things that unite us. We are one church when we remember some of what it means when we put a chalice on the church sign and use those parentheses. We recall things like the rejection of creeds as tests of fellowship and the importance of scripture. We affirm that we are congregational yet connectional.

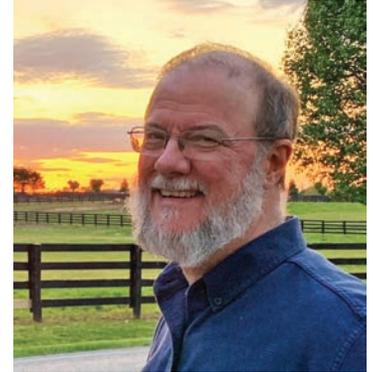
We value an educated clergy. Still, we lift the leadership of laity in all aspects of church: worship and teaching, administration, spiritual and pastoral care. When we worship together, laity lead at the table, consecrating with their prayers the elements that we share.

These values and characteristics serve as our inverse of division. They draw us together, making us larger, stronger, better, more complete.

Kentucky's Disciples are also made stronger, better, and more complete by the presence of five congregations in formation. Like the other 200 Kentucky congregations, these communities are different, but they are united to one another and to us by those same values.

These new congregations are making new Disciples and new disciples. They learn the values that unite us, the inverse of division, through the mentoring and support of the Christian Church in Kentucky's new church team, led by Rachel Nance Woehler and Syvoskia Bray Pope.

Your gifts and your congregation's gifts to the Pentecost Offering bless, support, and encourage these congregations. Your generosity provides Spark, Ignite, and Sustain grants. Your sharing is reflected in the new church team and its work. You, Kentucky Disciples, make this inverse of division possible.



When we set our attention only on things that divide us, our circles get smaller.

Ashland's First Christian Church Opens its Doors to Help Community

From Stacia Carwell, Office Manager, FCC, Ashland

As the world has been struggling to cope with the Coronavirus, churches have been struggling with how to help. Difficulties for the church family to meet because of infection possibilities, the new world of social distancing and masks all added up to empty church spaces. A LOT of empty spaces.

First Christian Church (FCC) in Ashland, KY, however, was blessed with a way to help (and fill some space). The local hospital, King's Daughters Medical Center (KDMC), had an immediate need for a significant, single floor space to provide Covid vaccines to the community. When KDMC approached FCC seeking a location for vaccinations for a weekend, the church was happy to help. Being on a single level and having a sprawling floor plan, FCC was perfect to keep people separated, comfortable and reassured.

The first clinic was set to begin on a Friday, and the KDMC staff arrived the evening before to set up tables, computers and ready themselves for the next full day. That Friday, the hospital vaccinated nearly 800 individuals and followed with an even higher number on Saturday. It was evident that the space worked.

The clinics worked so well that the state asked the hospital to continue its service, and First Christian Church was happy to be a part of that process. For the month of January, KDMC held vaccination clinics on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays and vaccinated more than 10,000 individuals. Patients entered the building and followed a single path for their vaccination journey. Because of the church layout, there was never any crossover and the flow was kept at a comfortable pace. Church staff and volunteers were available to serve lunch to medical staff and assist those that might need spiritual support.

Both the church and KDMC staff believe this was a wonderful endeavor. The church was able to reach its community in crisis and show its doors as open and inviting. The hospital was able to utilize the skills and abilities of its staff at their highest levels because of the space provided. Both teams feel that the entire process could not have gone more smoothly.

KDMC has moved the vaccine clinics into its new space and is continuing with top-notch service. FCC is back to 'Covid Normal' and is looking to a future in a different world but where service and community are still vital, and the meaning of worship has never changed.

Ministerial Changes

CATHERINE DEMOSS TO ASSOCIATE MINISTER

First Christian Church, Danville

BEN REECE TO PASTOR

Hurstbourne Christian Church, Louisville

MOLLY SMOTHERS TO INTERIM

Flemingsburg Christian Church

LINDA CREASON TO INTERIM

Bardwell Christian Church, Bardwell

TREY FLOWERS TO PASTOR

Beargrass Christian Church, Louisville

BRIAN GERARD TO PASTOR

Middletown Christian Church, Louisville

DANIEL LYVERS TO ASSOCIATE

First Christian Church, Bowling Green

TRACY PARKER TO SHORT TERM INTERIM

Florence Christian Church

KIM GIBSON-PIERCE TO PASTOR

Oxford Christian Church, Georgetown

BILL ROBERTS TO INTERIM

Republican Christian Church, Cynthiana

MIKE GATTON TO INTERIM

Newburg Christian Church, Louisville

TERRY MINTON TO INTERIM

First Christian Church, Louisville



Rev. Foster Frimpong, Pastor of Co-Heirs with Christ Missions in Lexington, was ordained into the order of Christian Ministry at Central Christian Church on December 6, 2020.



On this Palm Sunday, Liberty Christian Church, near Hopkinsville, celebrated the installation of their co-pastors, the Reverends Paul and Rachel Ganther. Pictured are Paul Ganther, Rachel Nance Woehler, West Area Minister, and Rachel Ganther.



The Christian Church in Tennessee, First Christian Church of Madisonville, and First Christian Church of Paris, Tennessee, his home congregation, jointly celebrated the ordination of Rev. Zach Hardy with Rev. Dr. Christal Williams, Regional Minister and President of the Tennessee region, presiding in a virtually held worship on January 17. Rev. Hardy began serving as the Associate Minister of Children and Youth at First Christian Church of Madisonville in 2018. He also serves as the leader of the West Area Youth Council and as a member of the West Area. Pictured are, from left to right, Kara Kleinschmidt Foster, Pastor of First Christian in Madisonville; Rev. Hardy; Rachel Nance Woehler, West Area Minister; and Bill Thomas, Associate Pastor/Minister of Music of FCC.

West Area News

Pembroke Christian Church celebrated the interim ministry of the **Rev. Theta Miller**. Theta has been called to serve as the new Senior Minister at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Clarksville, Tennessee.

Bardwell and Morris Valley Christian Churches celebrated the ministry of their shared pastor, the **Rev. Bill Roberts**, at the end of December, after a combined 42 years of ministry in western Kentucky. Bill and Susan moved across the state to be closer to family as they welcomed their first grandchild.

Rev. Daniel Lyvers has returned to the ministry team at First Christian Church of Bowling Green as their new Associate Minister of Youth & Christian Education.

Glori Cope, West Area Office Manager and Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Program Manager, retired on January 25 after 29 1/2 years of ministry. Her husband, James, who was serving as interim Camp Caretaker, joined her in her retirement.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Covington

Kentucky congregations have certainly been creative in using their resources to meet the needs of the community and the context in which they find themselves. Kentucky churches have risen to the challenges the pandemic has placed before them and some in very unique ways.

First Christian Church in Covington has responded to the needs of their community with a new ministry called the “Relief Ministry.” During the pandemic, people experiencing homelessness have had fewer places to use the restroom. The congregation’s houseless friends have resorted to using places that do not offer privacy. This creates health hazards.

The church has added a portable restroom named “Porta John 3:16” to their parking lot for community friends to use. Those friends now have a place to relieve themselves in privacy. Everyone deserves a place to go to the restroom with dignity.

In addition to the church’s “Relief Ministry,” they are also intentional about being involved in a variety of other community ministries as they are a downtown church located in a neighborhood of working poor and houseless people. “God’s Cafe” is one of their outreach ministries, providing breakfast Tuesday through Friday for anyone who is hungry. And, working with three other area congregations, they provide Saturday Suppers.

Pre-pandemic, they hosted three recovery groups a week, provided a Bible study class at a local senior center, and held services at an assisted living center. They are planning to pick these ministries back up once it is safe to do so.

Way to be Church, FCC, Covington!





Kentucky Disciples Women's Ministries

Virtual Gathering - June 19, 2021
10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Eastern Time

Yes, Spring has sprung, and while we are all enjoying the beautiful weather and blooms all around us, we know that things continue to be different and difficult for many of us. I don't know what our new normal will be, but I do know that as Easter People, we should expect new beginnings, expecting God to continue to do great things through us.

It has been a long year for us all while we all have attempted to navigate our way through this pandemic. I miss you all terribly and the usual opportunities that we have enjoyed throughout the years that have brought us together for fellowship, education, worship, and the many other ways we have been able to work together to help build up the Body of Christ.

With the pandemic, so much has been out of our control. While it looks like we are seeing some relief, we still have a long way to go. It is not, however, time for us to come together in person for our usual spring and fall events. Things are just too precarious now for us to do anything other than what we have been doing for the past 13 months. And, that is trying to stay safe and show love for our neighbors by being intentional in trying to help others stay safe as well.

Our churches have just started opening up with limited capacity and stringent safety measures. It is neither feasible nor safe for us to try to bring numbers of women together from across the region at this time no matter how badly we may want to see one another and experience one of our life affirming, spirit-filled conferences or retreats.

Some good news is that I have met with the women's cabinet a few times over the course of this pandemic, and we are looking to have a virtual gathering for Kentucky Disciples Women on Saturday, June 19, 2021, from 10:00 a.m.-12:20 p.m. Eastern Time. I'll be sending out information on this virtual gathering soon as plans are settled. So stayed tuned!

- Linda J. Jones, Associate Regional Minister

Camp Schedules 2021

Camp Kum-Ba-Ya and Camp Wakon'Da-Ho will welcome children and youth from across the Commonwealth to develop faith and friendship this summer! The schedules for each campground are shown below with links to registration for each. It will be a different kind of camp experience, but we look forward to being back at camp this summer. For further information visit the region's website at ccinky.net.



Camp Wakon' Da-Ho

- June 4-6 Mini Camp
- June 7-12 CYF Camp 1
- June 13-19 Eighters Camp
- June 21-25 Junior Camp 1
- June 25-27 Camp 101-A
- June 28-July 3 CYF Camp 2
- July 5-10 Chi Rho Camp 1
- July 12-17 Chi Rho Camp 2
- July 19-23 Junior Camp 2
- July 23-25 Camp 101-B

Camp Kum-Ba-Ya

- June 7-11 Junior Camp
- June 13-19 CYF Camp
- June 21-25 Sailing Camp
- July 5-10 Chi Rho Camp
- July 12-14 Young Disciples
- July 16-18 Discovery Camp

Disciples Virtual Gathering

SATURDAY, AUGUST 7, 2021

An opportunity for Disciples to connect, learn, worship, and imagine new ways of gathering as church.

Through Bible study, workshops, and worship, the event will focus on the covenant we share as Disciples and the promise of Romans 8:38-39 that nothing can separate us from the love of God.

Visit the Disciples Webpage a www.disciples.org for further information and to sign up.



Seeing the Face of God in Each Other

The 2020 Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Kentucky passed a resolution that Kentucky clergy are to attend Seeing the Face of God in Each Other sessions to maintain ministerial standing. This meets the region's anti-racism/pro-reconciliation training mandate.

Seeing the Face of God in Each Other is an online conversation about race, racism, and reconciliation. The region looks forward to the day when these conversations can be held in person. For now, however, they will be held on Zoom.

These intentional conversations take place over the course of two days, meeting each day from 9:00 a.m. until noon, Eastern time. Seating for each conversation is limited to 22, so choose your date and use the Register link on the region's website at ccinky.net.

And, please, again, be reminded that this is a requirement for clergy ministerial standing. Please contact Terry Royster at terry@ccinky.net should you need further information on the dates or registration. For information about ministerial standing, contact Dave Carr at dave@ccinky.net.

2021 INTENTIONAL CONVERSATION DATES

- MAY 18-19, 2021
- JUNE 18-19, 2021
- JULY 20-21, 2021
- AUGUST 18-19, 2021
- SEPTEMBER 21-22, 2021
- OCTOBER 22-23, 2021
- NOVEMBER 16-17, 2021

Shelbyville Remembrance Project Coalition

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH, SHELBYVILLE, KY

Doug Welch, a local Shelbyville farmer, read the book *Just Mercy*, by Bryan Stevenson, the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative. He was so moved by the story that he felt called to take some kind of action. Doug approached the local chapter of the NAACP and spoke with them about the possibility of erecting historical markers to lynching victims. The NAACP decided to pursue the idea and a task force was formed.

Eight community organizations, congregations, and agencies joined together to serve on this task force. Among them was First Christian Church, Shelbyville. Pastor Dave Charlton received a call and was asked if he would like to participate. He said “Yes,” without hesitation, and he and the congregation became involved with the project.

The work began two years ago with the local task force working with the Equal Justice Initiative. The Equal Justice Initiative guided them through the process and worked closely with them each step of the way.

Part of the process was to hold six “listening sessions,” where members of the community were invited the community to offer share input and to ask questions. One of the sessions was held at First Christian.

The Equal Justice Initiative project has dedicated more than 35 historical markers in more than 15 states throughout the country to victims of racial terror violence. Four of those markers are now in Shelbyville.

The markers in Shelbyville remember six Black men who were killed by lynch mobs from 1878 to 1911 in Shelby County: Reuben Dennis, Sam Pulliam, Clarence Garnett, Jimbo Fields, Wade Patterson and Eugene Marshall.

“We’re happy to make this happen in Kentucky. We should never forget. We had some that said, ‘Why do you want to bring this up? Just let it die.’ But we thought it was so important we could not let this die. We have to tell these stories. They have to be a part of our history,” said Janice Harris, president of the local NAACP chapter and chair for the Shelbyville Community Remembrance Project Coalition.



Shelby County farmer Doug Welch, left, NAACP chapter president Janice Harris, center, and First Christian Church senior minister Dave Charlton, right, stand near the train trestle bridge over Clear Creek in Shelbyville where three black inmates were dragged out of the city’s old jail and lynched in 1911. The city unveiled three markers outside of the old jail downtown to note the city’s 6 lynchings from 1878-1911.

–Marcus Dorsey, Lexington Herald Leader

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TRACY PARKER

2nd Vice Moderator

The Kentucky Christian Subscription Rates

Individual: \$3 per year
Every Year Plan: \$1.50 per family
(Annual payment is made by
the congregation for all
resident families.)

A publication of The Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) In Kentucky
1125 Red Mile Road
Lexington, KY 40504-2660

Prayer Initiative

Water the Plants (WtP) is a church-wide initiative that brings together 1000 intercessors to pray for the leaders and congregations of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) New Church Movement. The challenges of starting a church are unique. Prayer is a vital component in congregation and community development.

Water the Plants 

This program gathers a team of dedicated supporters of new worship expressions to prioritize the spiritual discipline of prayer. Based on 1 Corinthians 3:6, "I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow," we will take a proactive approach to "watering" DOC church "plants" with prayer (Living Water).

If you are interested in participating, we ask that you commit to praying for the ministries and leaders of the New Church Movement. You will receive a Prayer Calendar that will guide daily and weekly prayers during your own personal prayer times as well as during our Group Prayer times led by a New Church Ministry Prayer Leader on the phone. In addition, you will receive regular communication prayer reminders as well as a physical prayer reminder of your choice.

For further information visit the Disciples New Church Start page at newchurchministry.org.

Subscribe to the CCK Email List and Receive Up-to-Date Notifications on Regional Information

More and more often, we are sending up-to-date information on the happenings throughout the region electronically. If you have not yet signed up to receive regional electronic communications, you may enter your email address to subscribe by visiting the regional webpage at ccinky.net.