the Kentucky Christian

May 2023

Pentecost Special Offering

Received in many congregations May 21 & 28.





Learn more or give online at disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/pentecost.

IT ONLY TAKES A SPARK

Donald K. Gillett, II, Regional Minister -Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky

When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place. And suddenly a noise like a violent rushing wind came from heaven, and it filled the whole house where they were sitting. And tongues that looked like fire appeared to them, distributing themselves, and a tongue rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with different tongues, as the Spirit was giving them the ability to speak out. Acts 2:1-4 NASB.

Prior to being called as the Senior Minister at East Second Street CC, I counseled and later directed an ecumenical High School Camp in Illinois: Ecumania. This camp was very special to me as we would welcome youth from different socio-political backgrounds, economic realities, and various faith traditions. On the last night of camp each year, we would gather in the chapel for a service of healing, and then inevitably we would sing the song "Pass It On."



It only takes a spark, to get a fire going And soon all those around, can warm up in its glowing That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it You spread God's love to everyone You want to pass it on.

This scripture never grows old for me, because I believe we are touched by the presence of the Holy Spirit, time and time again. As a matter of fact, it is because of the Holy Spirit that the church exists. It only took a spark to begin "The Way" - the movement that became the Christian Movement. It only took a spark to begin the Second Great Awakening - that produced what has become the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Our New Church Ministry in Kentucky lists "Spark" and "Ignite" as two of the three movements in a church's sustainability. It is my belief that every time we call a new minister, welcome a convert to Christ, dedicate a child, or even as we move to a post-Covid reality, these are all sparks ready to be ignited into flames for the Lord.

I would remind you of these two very important thoughts:

- The church of the Living Savior is not dead it may be hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. Because Jesus Lives!
- When the Disciples all got together, there was a violent wind with tongues of fire coming to rest on them and they received **Dunamis/Power.** The Region of Kentucky is full of sparks:
 - Maybe you joined the Men's Chorus Retreat and felt the Spirit of God.
 - Maybe you joined with the Women's Chorus Retreat and felt the Spirit of God.
 - Maybe you joined one of the three Women's Spring Conferences and felt the Spirit of God.
 - Maybe you attended a work weekend at one of our two camping locations.
 - Maybe you have knitted and quilted and felt the spirit of God.
 - Maybe you are preparing to recognize God at camp this summer.

As we prepare for the General Assembly in Louisville, Kentucky July 29 - August 1, I invite you to catch on to the sparks that are taking place in Kentucky. I invite you to be in prayer for the next Great Awakening. I invite you to share your gifts from the Holy Spirit, and finally, I invite you to allow the Spirit of God to have her way.

It remains an honor and a privilege to have been called to serve clergy, laity, and the nearly 200 congregations that make up the Christian Church in Kentucky during a very challenging, yet exciting period in our history.



Rev. Gillett with Marsha Driscoll at 3rd Central United Christian Church.



Rev. Gillett with Rev. Jeff Bruce and Rev. Anne Bruce, First Christian Church, Glasgow.



Rev. Gillett with Rev. Elizabeth King, Central Christian Church.



Rev. Gillett with Kim Mullikin and Retired Pastor Rev. Carl Rucker at Campbellsburg Christian Church.



Rev. Gillett with Brian Adams and Ewell Adams, Butler Christian Church.



Rev. Gillett with Rev. Larry Childress and Janice Leedy, Crestwood Christian Church in Crestwood.



Rev. Gillett with Dr. Charisse L. Gillett, Rev. Darrell Hayden, Minister Jeremy Gillett, Caren Garrard, Amaya Roberts, Liyah Gillett, First Lady Hayden, and Autumn Grace at High Street Christian Church.

New Church Ministry

Pastor Chloe Specht Staff Consultant to New Church Ministry

entecost is upon us, friends! This season of the year is always an exciting time for the New Church Ministry. Pentecost Offering, which will be received on May 21st and 28th this year, directly supports New Church Ministry, both in Kentucky and across the United States and Canada.

On Pentecost, we celebrate the Holy Spirit being poured out on all of God's children — in all cultures, all nations, and all languages! We remember the early church's mission to bring the Gospel to everyone. That's still our dream on Pentecost now! When we give to Pentecost Offering, we help the Gospel reach more communities in Kentucky and beyond.

Every time you contribute to Pentecost Offering, you are making the dream of new congregations become reality. Each year, half of the gifts given to Pentecost Offering go to the general ministry of New Church, and the other half stays right here in Kentucky to support our budding congregations!

Pentecost Offering supports the love of God being shared at Potluck Church in Madisonville, at Open Table Christian Church in Danville, at Co-Heirs with Christ Missions in Lexington, at New Century Fellowship Christian Church in Louisville, at Kentucky Islanders Christian Church in Northern Kentucky, and more! And as we are dreaming of even more new churches springing up in our region, your gifts are received with abundant gratitude and hope for the future.



Thank you for your faithful giving to Pentecost Offering and for your prayers for our new churches. We are eager to see what the Holy Spirit is stirring up for the New Church Ministry in Kentucky next!

Pentecost Offering will be collected in many congregations May 21 & 28, 2023. You can also give online at disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/pentecost/



Boundaries training is now available. To register, visit ccinky.net



Seeing the Face of God in Each Other

Regional conversations on race, racism, and reconciliation

Meets the anti-racism training requirement for ministerial standing in Kentucky. To learn more, visit ccinky.net

Laundromat Pentecost

Rev. Molly Smothers Associate Regional Minister

hen I was in seminary, I had to do my laundry at a laundromat for a couple of weeks. I would bring my homework and try to get some studying done while I was there. One Saturday in particular, I was focusing my time on the New Testament - a test would be given that following Monday. I sat alone, concentrating on my Bible, and trying to ignore all the people around me (there is such irony in even typing that...).

Suddenly a woman holding a young child sat down beside me. I looked up to smile quickly, hoping that would be the end of my interaction. But the second my eyes met hers, she started asking questions in Spanish rapidly, and pointing to the Bible in my lap.

I could not understand her. I spoke maybe 9 words of Spanish. But I tried. She realized I did not understand her, and she tried. The gist of the conversation was that she saw I was reading the Bible and wondered why. I tried to explain – with my 9 words – that I was studying to become a minister, a pastor. Pastore! She knew that word, immediately got excited, and held her little one out to me.

I could not understand. What was she asking? I quit thinking like a seminarian (who needed to study) and looked at her with the eyes of a mother. I reached out my hand to the baby, and made the sign of the cross. She understood me and smiled from ear to ear. I knew what she wanted.

I put the Bible down, she handed me that sweet little one, and what came to me was a language that neither the woman or I spoke daily – but we both understood:

In nomine Patris, et Filii, et Spiritus Sancti. Amen.

The baby looked at me the entire time with that eternal wisdom only little eyes hold. They smiled at me. Patted my mouth. I kissed their little hand. The woman smiled. I smiled. She thanked me and took her baby back, then went back to her washing machine.

It wasn't Pentecost – but it was. For the essentials, often language doesn't matter. When we truly stop and listen, we can all speak God's mighty words together.



Associate Regional Minister Rev. Molly Smothers brought the message at Simpsonville Christian Church on February 26th. She is seen here with Youth Director Laura Mauzy and Music Director Carolyn Hensley.





Associate Regional Minister Rev. Molly Smothers brought the message to the good people of Lancaster Christian on 29 January. She is seen here with their minister, Pastor Jiaan Burford.

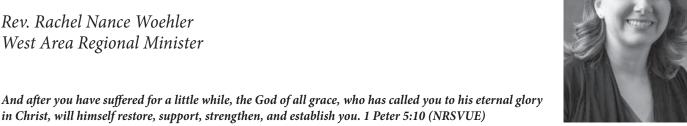


Associate Regional Minister Rev. Molly Smothers brought the message on 5 March at Highland Christian Church in Frankfort. She is seen here with the interim minister, Rev. Mark Anderson.

WEST AREA NEWS

"Faithful to Restore" at the 2023 West Area Workshops

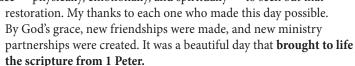
Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler West Area Regional Minister



Over 110 people gathered at First Christian of Madisonville on March 11 for the second "West Area Workshops" event. After the pandemic that stretched across our globe; after the tornadoes that swept through the West Area in December 2021; after so much grief and disruption, the Leadership Development Team heard God inviting us to consider the word "restore." Rev. David Clifford of First Christian, Henderson suggested the scripture above from 1 Peter 5:10, which reminds us that God is able to not only restore us, but also support, strengthen, and establish us.

Rev. Dr. Donald Gillett gave a meditation on the scripture and theme ("Faithful to Restore") in our opening worship, and Rev. Antonio Sherrill closed our worship in the afternoon with his testimony of God's presence in his church, community, and life of ministry. Second Christian of Mayfield is not only recovering from the tornado, but it also serves as Christ's hands and feet to help others find restoration. Dr. Charisse Gillett and Dr. Stephanie Moon represented Lexington Theological Seminary and challenged us to seek out new people to enter into ministry. Dr. Bill Thomas of First Christian, Madisonville not only welcomed the choir, but also invited spontaneous volunteers from the congregation to lead us in "Ring & Sing" hymns, using handchimes.

It was a reminder that sometimes God restores us by challenging us to step forward and do something we've never done before. In between the opening and closing worship, we did worshipful work through eight workshops, and fellowship around the table over lunch. First Christian, Madisonville provided a wonderful space — physically, emotionally, and spiritually — to seek out that



Thanks be to God for this wonderful day. Let's do it again next year!





OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

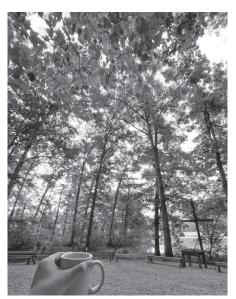
Holy Ground

Rev. Dave Carr, Sandy Hendry, and Brandon Cook

ver the past several months you have read about our camps, the upgrades we are hoping to put in place, and some areas of need at both of our facilities. Today we want you to know a little about our greatest asset and our biggest need: the dedicated adults who give of themselves to make camp possible. Without directors, counselors, nursing caregivers, camp managers, and caretakers, our camps would be nothing more than acres of unused and unkempt real estate. Therefore, we want to introduce you to some of the wonderful volunteers that make our church camps the favorite place on earth to so many of our youth.



Sandy Hendry directs Junior Camp at Wakon' Da-Ho. She is a member of First Christian Church, Lawrenceburg. She also serves our region on the Committee on the Ministry. Here's her story:



I began my camp experience at Wakon' Da-Ho when I attended Camp 101 with my youngest daughter in 2000. She and I both made wonderful friends that weekend, and we continued to meet at camp every year after that. I stopped counseling her camps when she was in middle school, but continued to counsel Junior Camps on and off from then on.

I am a retired middle school teacher, and I counseled Chi Rho camp for a few years, but I enjoy counseling and directing Junior Camp - which serves grades 4-5 - to get to work with a different age group in the summer. These campers are so very excited, and since it is their first chance to attend a week-long experience, many have never stayed away from home that long at one time. It is a joy to help make that new adventure a rewarding one.

When I think of the thousands of memories I have made over the years, I get flashes of so many special places: Campfire, Vespers, the Pavilion... my favorite time of the day is early morning drinking coffee on the front porch, waiting for the campers to come to breakfast. One of my favorite recent memories is our counselor meeting the night before camp started last year. We read about God telling Moses to "take off his shoes, for he was standing on Holy Ground." Then we proceeded to the Closing Triangle, took off our shoes, and prayed for the coming week. I know that many Wakon' Da-Ho alumni feel as I do: that when you are at camp, you are indeed standing on Holy Ground.

Our camping program welcomes children from different backgrounds with different experiences. They come together to play, learn, and grow in their faith for a week. It is an intensive, immersive experience of living in God's presence. It is truly a blessing that they get the time to "unplug" and get away from the business of their lives, even at that young age. The relationships that are formed often last for the rest of their lives.

Brandon Cook grew up going to both of our camps. He now serves as a hospice chaplain in Nashville, yet he still comes back to Kentucky every summer to direct Spirit Sailing Camp at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya. This is what Brandon wants you to know about why he chooses to serve our youth through this ministry:

The first time that I set foot on a sailboat was when I attended Spirit Sailing Camp in high school. Twenty years have passed since then, and I find myself making the pilgrimage to Kum-Ba-Ya each summer. For me, directing camp is about helping to carry on a tradition that brought joy to my life, and still does. It is a joy to see the ways that God's Spirit is moving in our lives.

One of my favorite moments of directing was the year that Jim McLean counseled with us. Jim had been the co-director when I was a student, and it was wonderful to be able to learn from him in action. The final day of sailing, the wind was perfect, but it was lightly raining. After checking the weather and seeing that there were no storms predicted, we gave the campers the choice between staying indoors or sailing

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

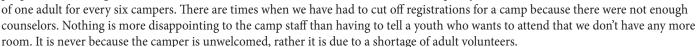
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out in the rain. Like good sailors, they didn't want to miss an opportunity on the boat. Normally, we take things relatively easy, but since it was the final day, Jim and I took the helms of the two boats and raced each other. I loved watching the campers' faces light up as we danced in the wind as the rain fell around us.

For more than twenty years our closing worship has begun with the same words, an echo of all the voices that have gathered in that same spot for that same purpose: to praise God. I am honored as a director to lift my voice along with all of those who have come before me:

"We, in the mercy and in the true love of God, breathe the wind of God and are filled with the breath of God: God's Ruah. Therefore, we are children of God. We have come this week to play in the wind and water, to work with boat and crew. We have come this week to deepen our souls in God."

In the next Issue of The Kentucky Christian, we will feature the camp stories of more of our volunteers. Every one of them are wonderful Christians who love our camps and our young people. **All our camps need more adult volunteers to serve as counselors.** We have a policy



If you are interested in participating in this ministry, contact Rachel Nance Woehler for Kum-Ba-Ya: WestAreaMinister@twc.com or Dave Carr for Wakon' Da-Ho: dave@ccinky.net and they can answer any questions. No one is too old, too inexperienced, or too introverted to be a camp counselor. Try it once; the worst thing that could happen is you spend a week in a beautiful community surrounded by nature, with young people exploring their faith and other adults living theirs.



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, Madisonville** is hosting a long-term recovery site operated by the Fuller Center. Visit fullercenter.org/disaster-rebuilders to get involved.
- First Christian, Paducah and the International Orthodox Christian Charities are helping to rebuild homes in Mayfield and surrounding areas. Come as a group or on your own. Come for a week (Sunday - Saturday), or choose as many days as work for you. Visit fccpaducah.org/home-builds-in-mayfield to register.
- First Christian, 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. Visit www.crossroadsmissions.com/multi-day-%20opportunities/wky/ to register.



Don't Let Your Fire Go Out

Rev. Josh Snyder Associate Regional Minister - Faith Formation

ach year, my grandfather, father, brother and I take a week-long fishing trip to Northwestern Pennsylvania. We have been doing this my whole life and I have countless memories of what my family and I lovingly refer to as "Camp." As we approach Pentecost, though, one memory stands out. We were done fishing for the day, and as we were all too tired to go out and get food, we decided to have a cookout.

We dropped the coals in the grill, put on a little lighter fluid, lit a match, and let the fire do its work. That work, though, was moving too slow for Grandpap, who after a few minutes brought a large cup of kerosene to throw on the fire. While doing so, he said, "watch out, boys, this fire is going to jump a little." The fire did indeed jump. Next, we threw on the burgers, which

burned on the outside, due to the large fire, but failed to cook the food all the way through (they also had the taste of kerosene). It was a disappointing meal.

Fire is cool. Please pardon the oxymoronic expression. What I mean to say is, fire is good. It is useful for all sorts of things: heat, light, and even cooking. But there needs to be more than just a flash of fire. There needs to be a smoldering heat in the coals beneath the fire. A heat that lasts. A fire that lasts.

Pentecost is a wonderful day, and season, for the church year. We deck our sanctuaries out in red, to symbolize the Spirit of God delivered as fire. But usually, by the next Sunday, the red is gone. Folded and tucked away until next Pentecost. We let the flash of fire disappear without letting our coals get nice and hot. So, the fire dies out.

Part of faith formation is keeping the fire alive in our hearts; keeping our passion for faith and ministry well-tended. My calling is to help with that. Through webinars I will be leading, visits to congregations, and reflections such as these, it is my blessing to fan the flame burning in the Christian Church in Kentucky and in all the hearts that make up this blessed gathering of God.

May the God who breathed life into creation be your delight. May Christ Jesus give hope to your dreaming, And may the Holy Spirit, your advocate and supporter, Set your hearts ablaze with a passion for faith, peace, and justice.



Associate Regional Minister Rev. Josh Snyder with Rev. Diana Hodges-Batzka & Rev. Susan Diamond at Florence Christian Church



Rev. Snyder with Interim Pastor Sheri Jackson at Erlanger Christian Church



Rev. Snyder with Rev. Stephanie Rolfe at Eminence Christian Church



Rev. Snyder with Rev. Ron Sinclair at First Christian Church. Fort Thomas



Rev. Snyder with Rev. Denny Gosney at Crittenden Christian Church

Women's Quilter's Retreat is Back!

Marsha Thornton, Ir. Director of Women's Ministries

hat-ya doin' June 12-15, 2023? How about attending the Kentucky Quilt-Knit-Etc. Retreat in Berea, Ky? Circumstances like Covid lockdown and the changes at our previous lodge put this event on hold, but NOW is the time to move forward!



Things that will be different this year: new location in Berea; Lodging at Boone Tavern; Catered dinners subsidized by a DWM grant; Breakfast and lunch on your own; New work space in First Christian Church, Berea.

Things that will be familiar this year: Worship in the light and presence of God; Lots of time to work on the projects you bring; Spiritual practice and crafting (Just Breathe); Story time to share your beautiful artifacts; Old friends, new friends and time to learn from each other!

The retreat has a capacity of 35 participants, so be sure to register right away!

Head to ccinky.net/ministries/disciples-women or email marsha@ccinky.net for more info.

Men's and Women's Chorus Retreats

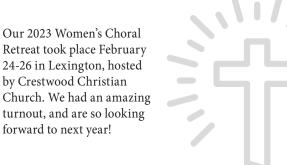
The 2023 Kentucky Regional Men's Chorus Retreat was held January 27-29 in Covington and was hosted by Madison Avenue Christian Church. We had an amazing experience. In addition to the excellence of accompanist Michael Rintamaa, we were joined by an instrumental quintet of John Avent (Alto Saxophone), Rick Jouett and Jimmy Leach (trumpets), Bill Gemmer (trombone) and Andrew Jones (tuba).

Our 2024 Retreat will be held January 26 – 28 in Lexington and will hosted by Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington.



Photo by Sterling Staggs

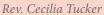




Ministerial Changes

- On November 13, First Christian, Princeton celebrated the ministries of Dr. Jonathan Webster and Rev. Donna Webster. Donna received a call to serve as Senior Minister at Perseverance Christian Church in Virginia.
- In November, Rev. Kim Hudson, minister at First Christian, Earlington, added First Christian, Providence to his call, yoking the two churches together in ministry.
- On January 1, Dr. Chris Owens began serving as the Interim Minister of First Christian in Murray.
- On January 22, Rev. Darren Longar was commissioned into ministry at Sinking Fork Christian Church near Cerulean. The church family presented Rev. Longar with a white stole and celebrated the occasion with a potluck lunch. Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II and Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler represented the region.
- Rev. Jeff Mandrell began serving as pastor of Crofton Christian Church on January 30. He previously served as pastor of First Christian, Providence and continues in his second term as the Chair of the West Area Board. Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II and Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler represented the region.
- Rev. Dr. Bill Kincaid was installed as Pastor of First Christian Church, Frankfort on February 12. Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II represented the region. Rev. Meredith Siler, Associate Pastor, also pictured.
- Rev. Cecilia Tucker was commissioned into ministry as a Disciples of Christ pastor at Pembroke Christian Church on March 26. The church family presented Rev. Tucker with a new white stole with a red chalice to mark the occasion. Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler represented the region.







Rev. Dr. Bill Kincaid



Rev. Jeff Mandrell



Rev. Darren Longar

General Assembly 2023

Louisville, Kentucky - July 29-August 1, 2023

he 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.



July 29 - August 1, 2023 . Louisville

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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

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 Camp (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 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.)