

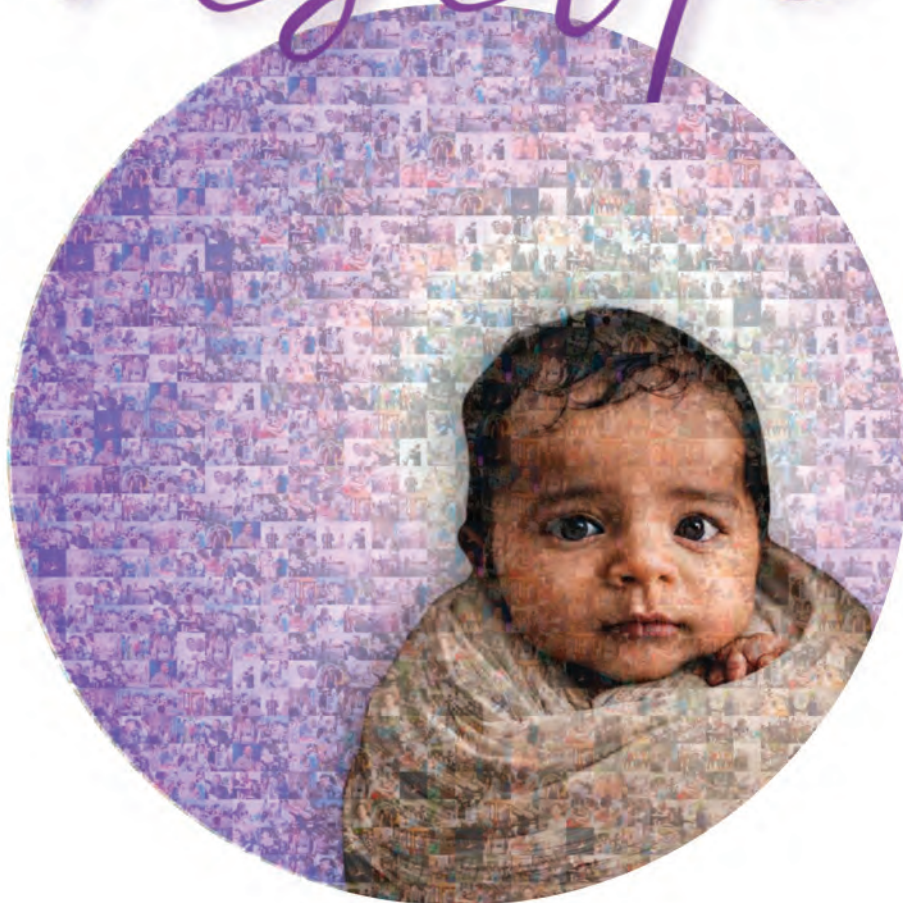
the Kentucky Christian

December 2024



Disciples Mission Fund Christmas Offering -
Received in Many Congregations December 15 & 22, 2024

God's love
visible



2024 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Learn more at disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/christmas/

A WORD FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, Regional Minister

The Light of Christ

"Hark! the herald angels sing. Jesus, the light of the world. Glory to the newborn King, Jesus, the light of the world. We'll walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright. Oh, shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the light of the world."

This Advent Season we are reminded that God is with us! The Light of Christ has come and all darkness and every shadow is chased away. The light of Christ floods every corner and midnight is turned to day. Praise be to God! This is the great news that we share during this season. We are reminded by Deitrich Bonhoeffer that "God is always with us wherever we may be...We are no longer alone...we can rejoice deeply within our hearts. Under the Christmas tree...We know that God's goodness will once again draw near."

Let us hold fast to the presence and promise of Christ who is our Hope in the darkest places; Peace in a world filled with violence and hatred; Joy that extends beyond our physical pleasure; Love that lifts us up beyond our finite imaginations; and the Light of the World.

The Christian Church in Kentucky is a witness to the Light of Christ:

- Our Regional Staff was blessed to travel to over 160 congregations.
- Summer camp programs at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya & Camp Wakon' Da-Ho nurtured the faith of nearly 650 youth.
- We experienced a historic Regional Assembly in Mount Sterling, co-hosted by three congregations.
- We gathered across the state encouraging one another - easing the load through the sharing of ideas, resources, tasks, workshops, seminars, and worship.
- The Regional Committee on the Ministry (RCOM) has been building up the body of Christ, shepherding those who are following their call into ministry.
- Youth, women, and men from across the state have joined together in faith and fellowship at our annual retreats.

These moments of being a witness - sharing and walking in the Light of Christ - are undergirded by your stewardship. I believe financial accountability and stewardship is an important example of spiritual accountability. This is why we partnered with the Center for Faith and Giving, and why we remain good stewards of your gifts. Financial accountability requires us to give thanks to God for our abundance. Financial accountability requires us to prayerfully practice principles of faithful giving. Financial accountability requires us to be good stewards.

This Advent Season as you consider your Christmas Offering to the Christian Church in Kentucky, reflect upon the many ways financial gifts to the church help us share and walk in the Light of Christ with each other. Financial gifts help us to care for and strengthen the ministries of CCK, as well as support the ministries of the general church. In this Season of Advent, I thank you for your support and ask for your gifts to further the excellent ministries of the CCK.

*We'll walk in the light, beautiful light. Come where the dewdrops of mercy shine bright.
Oh, shine all around us by day and by night. Jesus, the light of the world.*

"His life is the light that shines through the darkness—and the darkness can never extinguish it" (John 1:5 LB)

"For Unto Us a Child in Born"



Rev. Dr. Don visited LaGrange Christian Church on September 22, celebrating Rev. George Irvin's anniversary.



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II visited Berea Christian Church in Russellville on September 8. Pictured with him here are Rev. Dr. Dan Lovell, Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler, and Rev. Dr. Larry Baker.



On October 13, Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II worshiped with First Christian Church, Louisville. He is seen here with Rev. Tommy Cook and Rev. Meredith Sprigler.



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II visited Warsaw Christian Church on September 15. He is pictured here with Tony Carlton.



On October 27, Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II attended the Installation of Rev. Tina Glosson at First Christian Church, Owenton.



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II visited Shepherdsville Christian Church on October 20, pictured here with Bonnie Abell.



On August 4, Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II attended Somerset Christian Church, and is pictured here with Rev. Carl Wagoner.



The Commissioning and Installation of Rev. Jeremy Gillett took place at Stamping Ground Christian Church on August 25. Pictured are Rev. Darrell Hayden, Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, Rev. Jeremy Gillett, and Rev. Dr. Charisse L. Gillett.



On August 11, Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II attended the Ordination of Rev. Sara Don Bailey at South Elkhorn Christian Church. Pictured are Rev. Molly Smothers, Rev. Michael Swartzentruber, Rev. Sara Don Bailey, Rev. Holly Fuqua, and Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II.

Disciples Mission Fund Christmas Offering 2024

The Disciples Mission Fund Christmas Offering supports regional ministries. In 31 regions across the United States and Canada, ministers are nurtured and congregations are provided opportunities for work and worship. Often recognized for the ministries of camps and conferences, regions also play a critical role in the preparation and authorization of ministerial ordination. Both are key to church leadership and development. Regions partner with congregations to support the work required to call a new minister.

The DMF Christmas Special Offering will be accepted in many congregations on December 15 & 22, 2024, or you may give online at any time at disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/christmas/.

Please consider giving to the Christmas Offering this Advent Season, and supporting the year-round work we do as a Region. To learn more about the ministries of the Region of Kentucky, visit our website at www.ccinky.net.



New Church Ministry

Rev. Chloe Specht

Admin Support & Minister to New Church Ministry



Christmas is a time that invites us to take stock of the last year and remember all of our blessings. New Church Ministry has been blessed so many times this year. At the Regional Assembly in Mount Sterling, we celebrated with New Century Fellowship Christian Church (Louisville, KY) and Co-Heirs With Christ Missions Christian Church (Lexington, KY) as they became officially chartered congregations. What a year, indeed!

Our other congregations in the New Church process are working hard and we celebrate the milestones in their journeys too! As we all work to be “a movement of wholeness in a fragmented world,” we can all draw inspiration from DisciplesNEXT, the methodology recently set forth by the general church’s office of New Church Ministry. DisciplesNEXT emphasizes three core competencies: Contemplative Action, Prophetic Advocacy, and Faith-Rooted Organizing. This recipe for transformation isn’t just for new churches. It’s for all of us! We are all called to dig deep into our faith, to advocate for the good of ourselves and our neighbors, and to build strong communities together.



If you are interested in joining our team or if you are feeling a holy nudge to start a new church, send me an email at chloe@ccinky.net. There’s always room at the New Church table!

Co-Heirs with Christ Missions Christian Church became an officially chartered congregation at this year’s Regional Assembly in August. Pictured here (in no particular order) are Rev. Chloe Specht, Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler, Rev. Wesley King, Rev. Syvoskia Bray Pope, Rev. Foster Frimpong, and members of both New Century Fellowship Christian Church and Co-Heirs with Christ Missions Christian Church.



150 Years of Disciples Women's Ministries!

*Marsha Thornton, Jr.
Director of Women's Ministries*

This has been an exciting, emotional year filled with passion and service. We started this year with our Choral retreat, ending with our Fall retreat, all the while celebrating 150 years of the work of Disciples Women! We explored the theme "Through the Looking Glass: Seeing the World through Eyes of Faith" (Matthew 13:16-17) all year, for every event. For 150 years we've learned this is the only way to see the world and continue our work through the pain, the disappointment, and the stress. The world we live in is full of all of these things, but the work that we do, and particularly do together, is the work of our loving Savior, filling us with peace, love, and joy.



Throughout the year, at every Kentucky Disciples Women's conference and event, we celebrated 150 years of Disciples Women's Ministry.

This year we've been reminded to see the love of Jesus in our faces when we look at each other, and when we look in the mirror. Ignore all the negativity that the world gives us, and the incorrect descriptions that people give of us. Every morning, go to the mirror, look at your reflection and see the face of God smiling back at you; then go out and share it with someone! Remember Genesis 1:26-31 and 2:7 - **God intentionally created you and gave you breath!**

Quilt...Knit...Craft Retreat

Rev. Petie Mclean

The Kentucky Quilt/Knit/Craft Retreat sponsored by the Christian Church in Kentucky's Women's Ministries was held at First Christian Church, Berea on June 24-27. 41 delightful, spirit-filled people gathered to spend time honing their craft and remembering how their creativity is a part of their spiritual journey. The group is always ecumenical in nature. There were quilters, knitters, a weaver, crocheters, and crafters. The group began and ended the day with prayers and focus. During the retreat, several tours of the area were offered. This retreat has been held for 18 years. Traditionally, we ask participants to count how many items they have made for charity over the past year. This year they listed 1,149 items. The group does a silent auction, with proceeds going to Week of Compassion, and this year's total was \$800. A trunk full of yarn was donated to New Life of Christ Christian Church in Louisville. We made five comfort quilts to be donated to a police unit for use with children in crises. We look forward to planning another amazing retreat next year. Dates will be announced soon, and all are welcome. Even Regional Minister Don Gillett completed a Baby Quilt and got a sewing machine!



SAVE THE DATE for our Spring 2025 Events!

2025 Spring Conferences:

- Central Kentucky - March 22, 2025 - Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington
- Eastern Kentucky - March 29, 2025 - Location TBD
- Western Kentucky - April 12, 2025 - First Christian Church, Paducah

West Area Church Receives Grant to Offer Respite Care



*Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler
West Area Regional Minister*

This fall, First Christian Church, Madisonville has expanded its care for their community, bolstered by a \$10,000 grant from the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). The Friends Place Respite Care ministry launched on November 12 - providing a safe and nurturing environment for individuals who require supervision during the day, allowing their caregivers and families a much-needed break. This ministry not only supports the well-being of caregivers but also enriches the lives of those with mild to moderate memory loss and/or medical impairments.



“We hope this new ministry will provide purpose, meaning, and hope for our friends living with dementia,” said Rev. Kara Foster, Senior Pastor of FCC, Madisonville. “Friends Place is a ministry born out of a deep commitment to supporting both individuals with memory loss and their caregivers. This program will help them continue to live joy-filled, meaningful lives.”

Friends Place is part of a national initiative through Respite For All, a network that brings respite care services to 40 local communities across the country. The program in Madisonville is the first site in Kentucky. It operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am to 2pm. Structured activities include brain-stimulating games, purposeful movement, dance, chair yoga, art and music therapy, bowling, chair volleyball, pet therapy, service projects, and intergenerational connection with preschooler visits. The cost is \$40 per day and includes a hot lunch.

As Respite for All describes the program, “Friends Place provides a safe, welcoming environment for older adults to participate in engaging activities, build social connections, and experience moments of joy and meaning in their daily lives. The program also serves as a crucial lifeline for caregivers, giving them time to rest, rejuvenate, and address their personal needs—knowing their loved ones are in trusted hands.”



The NBA's support underscores the importance of community-based initiatives that address mental and emotional health, recognizing the pressures caregivers often face and the essential service respite care provides. Friends Place can serve as a model for more congregations discerning similar ministries across our Area and Region.

Twenty-five volunteers attended the first training to serve with Friends Place at First Christian Church, Madisonville.

An Update from our Campgrounds



Rev. Dave Carr
Camp Wakon' Da-Ho Executive Director



The 2024 camping season in Kentucky was a great success. Camps Kum-Ba-Ya and Wakon' Da-Ho combined to host over 640 children and youth at our 9 summer camp sessions. This was the highest attendance in a decade and put us back on par with our pre-COVID numbers. What is most encouraging is that our largest camps were elementary and middle school age groups, which bodes well for the future of our outdoor ministries, as these campers continue through high school.

Both camp sites are enjoying an era of facilities being upgraded. Kum-Ba-Ya has new air-conditioned and heated cabins with modern furniture. New boats and canoes have been added. New kitchen appliances were installed in the Billy Williams Lodge this year. Other projects are planned for the coming years. These improvements are attracting other churches and organizations to use KBY for their events, creating new revenue streams for this scenic property.

Wakon' Da-Ho has also recently added recreational opportunities to its campus. Most notably is the swimming pool, along with a gaga ball pit and a human foosball pitch. The construction of a new bathhouse will be completed soon, and the 2025 camps are looking forward to using this long awaited and sorely needed facility.

Planning for the 2025 camping season is well underway. We are very excited about the curriculum entitled *Another Way*:

Jesus often confronted the world around him with **another way of being**, and by his example, we are reminded that God always invites us to **reimagine who we are and how we do things**. Being at camp, we are already finding another way, away from worldly distractions of home. In the peace of this space, we will explore what would change if we lived as our authentic selves and respected the truths of others. In this humility, we will imagine how our growth changes the way we live. In this potential for transformation, we will imagine how our personal change meets the change we seek in the world. Whether we are addressing unfair rules or dreaming of a time when all people belong, we know that **God calls us to do a new thing and faithfully forge another way**.

Our senior camp staff persons, Becca Teckenbrock at KBY and Linda Lee

CAMP KBY & RETREAT CENTER

- Junior Camp (gr. 3-5) June 2-6
- Sailing Camp (gr. 6-12) June 9-13
- Discovery Camp (gr. K-2) June 20-22
- Chi Rho Camp (gr. 6-8) June 23-28
- CYF Camp (gr. 9-12) June 30-July 5

FEB 1
REGISTRATION BEGINS

SAVE THE DATES www.campkumbaya.org 4943 Barge Island Rd., Benton

Continued next page...

OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

...from page 7.

at WKDH, do excellent work, as do our camp directors and counselors. Every year they work very hard to staff each of our camps with volunteers from our churches. We would like you to consider joining the team for a week or weekend this coming season. Even if you do not feel confident that you have the skills to provide leadership, being there is the most important quality required. We can assure you that it will be one of the best experiences of your summer. If you are interested, please contact the regional office at cck@ccinky.net.

Thank you for an amazing year. We hope to see you at camp in 2025.



**CAMP
WAKON'DA-HO
2025 DATES**

YOSEMITE, KY | REGISTER AT CCINKY.NET

SPRING WORK WEEKEND	TBD
MINI CAMP (2-3)	MAY 30-JUNE 1
CYF 1 (9-12)	JUNE 2-7
EIGHTER'S CAMP (8)	JUNE 8-14
JUNIOR CAMP (4-5)	JUNE 16-20
CAMP 101A (K-2*)	JUNE 20-22
CYF 2 (9-12)	JUNE 23-28
CHI RHO 1 (6-8)	JUNE 30-JULY 5
CHI RHO 2 (6-8)	JULY 7-12
CAMP 101B (K-2*)	JULY 19
Y'ALL CAMP (ALL AGES*)	AUGUST 29-SEPT 1

*FIND DETAILS REGARDING AGE RESTRICTIONS, CHAPERONE REQUIREMENTS, AND PRICING AT CCINKY.NET/MINISTRIES/CAMP/WAKONDA-HO

Go Tell It on the Mountain

Rev. Josh Snyder

Associate Regional Minister, Treasurer



An often-overlooked theme in the first couple chapters of Luke's gospel is "proclamation." While much of the focus is on the impending birth of the Messiah, many of the people we meet leading up to Jesus' birth have something to share.

- Mary sings of the goodness of God.
- Zechariah prophesies God's promise of salvation.
- The shepherds, after seeing Jesus, "returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them."

Mary, Zechariah, and the Shepherds have a story to tell. A story of God's grace and love made known through Jesus. And what a beautiful story it is.



As we approach the season of Advent, our hearts fill with joy and peace as we await, yet again, the birth of Christ. Advent is a season of waiting - a season of preparation. The season of Advent is a season for us each to actively participate in God's redeeming work through Jesus. First, by remembering the ways God has enriched and blessed our lives through Jesus. Second, by proclaiming the good news of Christ's birth.

Paul writes, in Romans 10: 14, **"How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching?"**

Advent is a season in which we help others believe in Jesus by sharing the good news of his coming.

In these holy days, I invite you to remember, and share widely, the story of the incarnation. This is good news. The exact good news the world needs to hear right now. **So, go. Tell it on the mountain. Over the hills and everywhere. Go tell it on the mountain. That Jesus Christ is born.**

God bless you.



Rev. Josh Snyder hosted the annual Men's Spiritual Life Retreat in St. Meinrad, Indiana, July 26-28. He is pictured here with retreat participants.

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2024-2026

CCK Moderators

LEAH EUBANKS

Moderator

ROB SHRADER

1st Vice Moderator

DEBORAH GARR

2nd Vice Moderator

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Return Service Requested

Regional Ministerial Changes

- **Rev. Jim Abernathy** began interim ministry at **Cynthiana Christian Church**.
- **Rev. Dr. Kris Bentley** began as Interim Minister of **Dry Ridge Christian Church**.
- **Rev. Dr. Ron Buck** began as the transitional Interim Minister at **Cadiz Christian Church**.
- **Rev. Leah Eubanks** began as Interim Minister of **First Christian Church, Dawson Springs**
- **Rev. Tina Glosson** began ministry at **First Christian Church, Owenton**.
- **Jinny McCormick** began as the Children and Youth Director of **First Christian Church, Paducah**
- **Steven Osborne** began interim ministry at **Ewing Christian Church**.
- **Rev. Tracy Parker** completed interim ministry at **Shepherdsville Christian Church** and began interim ministry at **Shelbyville Christian Church**.
- **Rev. Molly Smothers** completed her ministry with the **Christian Church in Kentucky** as Associate Regional Minister - we wish her a happy and peaceful retirement.
- **Rev. Chloe Specht** completed ministry at **Woodland Christian Church** and is continuing their call with the **Regional Office**.
- **Brenton Yadon** began interim ministry at **Waddy Christian Church**.

**Wishing you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
from the Regional Staff of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky.**

