

the Kentucky Christian

September 2026



Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering –
Received in Many Congregations
September 27 & October 4, 2026

2026 Reconciliation Ministry

SPECIAL OFFERING

Sunday, September 27th - Sunday, October 4th



Beyond Restoration: Hope in Action



www.reconciliationministry.org



Learn more at reconciliationministry.org

A WORD FROM THE REGIONAL MINISTER



Reconciliation Connections

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

¹¹ Since, then, we know what it is to fear the Lord, we try to persuade others. What we are is plain to God, and I hope it is also plain to your conscience....¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come!¹⁴ The old has gone, the new is here!

¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of

reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. 2 Corinthians 5:11, 17-20 NIV

Words carry significance and are often connected. Our world has needed, and continues to need, reconciliation, forgiveness, and healing. These words lead us toward a deeper understanding of God's grace and mercy through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who reconciled us to God. Reconciliation is a difficult concept because it moves us beyond ourselves and draws us into both healing and forgiveness.

Reconciliation heals. To be reconciled to God through Christ is to be healed in spirit. This is the healing of the spiritual distance that exists when we are not in alignment with God.

Reconciliation forgives. To be reconciled to God is to seek forgiveness and to offer forgiveness. Forgiveness releases us from those who may deposit the residue of their hurt and judgment in our lives. It does not call us into relationships that bind us to emotional, physical, or spiritual deadness; rather, forgiveness frees us to live more fully into God's reconciliation.

Reconciliation brings shalom. To be reconciled to God is to receive and embody God's shalom.

As the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky, we continue to move in our call as ministers of reconciliation, becoming an anti-racist, pro-reconciling region that shares our stories and truths while seeing the face of God in one another. We continue to show the love of God **BEYOND** ourselves.

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. Together, we continue this sacred calling as Christ's ambassadors and ministers of reconciliation.



The Kentucky Christian Missionary Convention (KCMC) met at East Second Street Christian Church in Lexington, July 16-19.



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II visited Perryville Christian Church on May 3. He is seen here with Board Chair Paul Cook and Pastor Wendy Hood.



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II was blessed to worship with Warsaw Christian Church at the Cane Ridge Meeting House on May 17.



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II visited Beargrass Christian Church in Louisville on June 28. He is pictured here with Rev. Dr. Susan Lowe.



Rev. Dan Kovaly was Installed as Senior Minister of First Christian Church, Covington on June 21. Pictured here celebrating are Rev. Anna Hope Grace, Tommy Thompson, Rev. Josh Snyder, Rev. Karakay Kovaly, Rev. Dan Kovaly, Rev. Donald K. Gillett, II, Rev. Sherri Jackson, and Rev. Larry Smith.



Pastor Brenton Yadon was Installed as Senior Minister of Twin Pines Christian Church on July 5. Pictured here are Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, Pastor Brenton Yadon, Dr. Rache'le Yadon, and the Yadon daughters.



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II and Rev. Dr. Charisse Gillett visited Camp Wakon' Da-Ho in Casey County on July 2.



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II paid a visit to Camp Kum-Ba-Ya in Benton on June 29. He is seen here with West Area Minister, Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler.



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II spent some time this summer at the Chautauqua Institution. He is pictured here on "Disciples Day," August 2.



Rev. Stephanie Wallace was Installed as Senior Minister of Cadiz Christian Church on May 31. Pictured here are Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler, Rev. Dr. Ron Buck, Rev. Stephanie Wallace, and Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II.



Rev. Leah Eubanks was Installed as Pastor of First Christian Church, Dawson Springs on April 26. Pictured are Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler, Rev. Josh Snyder, Rev. Leah Eubanks, and Rev. Jamie Eubanks.



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II stopped by the Quilt/Knit/Craft Retreat at First Christian Church, Berea on June 30."



Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II worshipped with First Christian Church, Berea on July 12. Pictured here are Rev. Mark Caldwell Reiss and the Choir.



What It Means to See the Face of God in Each Other

Rev. Josh Snyder

Associate Regional Minister

Saturday night is “pizza night” in the Snyder household. Normally, I order the pizza and then stop by a store or gas station to get drinks for the kids. While my son varies from week to week, my daughters make the same request each time: one prefers Coke, and the other prefers Pepsi. Occasionally, a low-key argument breaks out as to which is better: “Pepsi is too sweet,” “Coke is not sweet enough.” As tempers do not flare too high, I rarely need to weigh in, but when I do, I simply remind my girls that both brands are good.

Scripture teaches that every person, from every race and background, bears the same God-given worth. Genesis declares that humanity was created in the image of God, which means our dignity is not earned by appearance, culture, nationality, or social standing; it is bestowed by our Creator. The differences among races are not reasons for pride, prejudice, or division, but reminders of the beauty and creativity of God’s design. To honor God, then, we must honor the image of God in every person, treating all people with dignity, humility, and love.

When we learn to see every person as a child of God, we begin to look beyond the surface and recognize the value that God has already placed within each person. Everyone we meet carries a story, a purpose, and a dignity that deserves to be respected. This means we cannot measure someone’s worth by their race, background, wealth, abilities, or the way they compare to us. Instead, we are called to see others through the eyes of God, who loves each of His children deeply and calls us to do the same. To value every child of God is to listen with compassion, speak with kindness, and treat others as people who matter, because they matter to God.

Part of valuing every child of God is seeing the value in each person and what they “bring to the table.” *The 1619 Project* by Nikole Hannah-Jones retells the history of the United States through the lens of slavery. But this book also aims to reframe American history by placing the experiences and contributions of Black Americans at the center of the national narrative. The project highlights how enslaved individuals and their descendants have profoundly influenced the development of the United States across various aspects of society, culture, and politics.

As you may know, the training seminar provided by the Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism team is titled “Seeing the Face of God in Each Other.” In these sessions, the facilitators center the conversation around the fact that every person is created in the image of God and therefore is worthy of the same love, respect, freedom, and justice.

If we truly believe this, then seeing the face of God in each other cannot remain only an idea we affirm; it must become a way of living. It calls us to notice the ways people have been overlooked, dismissed, or devalued, and to choose instead to recognize their God-given dignity. It challenges us to listen to stories different from our own, to honor the gifts and contributions of others, and to repent of attitudes or systems that fail to reflect the love of Christ. When we see value in every child of God, reconciliation becomes more than a program or a training; it becomes a faithful response to the God who created us all.

Drinks are insignificant in comparison to the value of human beings. Yet even in that small disagreement, there is a reminder for us: difference does not have to become division. If we can acknowledge that two drinks can both have worth, how much more should we be able to honor the worth of people created by God? No race, culture, or background is less than another, and no person should be treated as though their story, voice, or contribution matters less. The work of reconciliation begins when we stop asking who is better, or who brings more value, and start asking how we can better love, listen to, and value one another as beloved children of God.

As we approach Reconciliation Sunday, I invite you to think and pray about how you can support this ministry. Whether it

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is through sharing your financial resources, or lending you time and passion, there is work for all of us to do to build God's kingdom of reconciliation here in Kentucky and beyond.

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering is received each year in congregations on the last Sunday in September and the first Sunday in October (in solidarity with World Communion Sunday). Funds generated by this special emphasis are used throughout the year to provide grants to ministries and congregations actively developing and implementing programs that promote our Church's Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racist identity. These programs and efforts seek to reveal, re-educate, and remove systemic and structural barriers in our communities that serve to deny the image of God and human thriving based on race.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry strengthens our Church's witness to God's unending love for all of humanity. With your generosity, leaders, communities, and our congregations are being equipped to witness to God's love and justice in all times and in every season. The time is always ripe to stand up for justice to ensure that all of God's children are treated equitably. Thank you for joining us on this journey through your generosity.

To learn more about Reconciliation Ministry, or give online today, visit reconciliationministry.org/.

To learn more about the Christian Church in Kentucky's Reconciliation Ministry and get involved, visit www.ccinky.net/reconciliation-ministry/.



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OUTDOOR MINISTRIES



Reflecting on Summer Camp and Preparing for the Future

*Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler, West Area Minister and
Rev. Steven Straub, Camp Wakon' Da-Ho Executive Director*

Summer 2026 was a wonderful time for Outdoor Ministry in Kentucky as both of our outdoor ministry sites, Camp Kum-Ba-Ya in Benton and Camp Wakon'Da-Ho in Yosemite, welcomed campers from around the state.

Summer Recap

At both camps, the theme was “In the Wilderness,” from InsideOut curriculum. Through small groups, keynote speakers, worship, and other activities, campers learned that God is with them wherever they go, through whatever challenges they encounter. Bible lessons included Psalm 139, Moses leading God’s people through the wilderness, the story of Esther, Peter and Jesus on the water, and more. Both camps created crafts with prayer requests that were shared at the Regional Assembly in September.

Both camps had excellent attendance this summer. At Kum-Ba-Ya, camper attendance grew just a hair from last year’s attendance, with CYF camp having a 52% growth in attendance over last year. Sailing Camp has continued to steadily grow each year since 2023. At Wakon’ Da-Ho, camp attendance exceeded our registration goal for the summer, with an increase in attendance at Junior Camp, CYF 1, and CYF 2.

Feedback was overwhelmingly positive for both outdoor ministry sites. Both camps are grateful for our directors, counselors, and summer staff who make these sacred and joy-filled experiences possible.

At Kum-Ba-Ya, campers enjoyed memorable experiences like a birthday party for Regional Minister, Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II, a visit from the LTS Admissions Director Stephanie Moon, a workshop on thinking about ministry, a guitar

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OUTDOOR MINISTRIES

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interest group, a drum circle, an inflatable waterslide, hikes with our Green Chalice Justice & Creation Summer Fellow, workshops with our DPF Peace Intern, setting sail on two new-to-us sailboats, and witnessing baptisms in the lake!

At Wakon' Da-Ho, through donations from several churches, campers enjoyed the new mini-split units that provided air conditioning in the cabins, allowing campers to rest and recharge in comfort during afternoon siesta times! Campers enjoyed the upgrades to the dining hall. Camp Wakon' Da-Ho would also like to thank all the churches and individuals who donated water to help with the Casey County water restrictions this summer.

Preparing for the Future

After a great summer camp season, both ministry sites are preparing for the future.

At Kum-Ba-Ya, focus has turned towards making campground improvements to some of our wood elements at the end of their life cycle. Thanks to the efforts of volunteers Sean Mestan and Jeff and Lyn Reeves, significant restoration is underway. With a generous donation of railroad ties from Rural King, they have already installed replacements in several areas around the grounds. Additionally, Jeff secured a lumber donation from Cole Lumber to build new benches for the campfire ring. Meanwhile, Sean obtained a donation of recycled telephone poles to create a parking lot barrier at the Billy Williams Lodge, enlisting Jeff's help to complete the project.

At Wakon' Da-Ho, plans are underway to replace several of the bridges around the camp. Plans are also underway to continue renovations of the dining hall that were started this past spring. New gutters will be installed this fall. We are raising funds to replace the fryer in the kitchen, add a new roof to the porch extension built last year, and replace the fans and lighting fixtures on the porch. There are also plans to develop a new camp map, as well as improve signage around the property.

Upcoming Outdoor Ministry Opportunities

Both sites are planning fall workdays again this year.

Join us at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya (4943 Barge Island Rd., Benton) for our [Fall Work Day](#) on November 14. Work begins at 8:00am Central. Bring your work gloves and join us as we tackle a long list of projects around the buildings and grounds.

Camp Wakon' Da-Ho will be having a Fall Work Day on Saturday, October 24 starting at 9:00am Eastern. Please contact Rev. Steven Straub (steven@ccinky.net) to get involved.



Save the 2027 Dates

June 7-11	Sailing Camp (grades 6-12)
June 11-13	Discovery Camp (grades K-2)
June 14-18	Junior Camp (grades 3-5)
June 21-26	Chi Rho Camp (grades 6-8)
June 28-July 3	CYF Camp (grades 9-12)

CAMP KBY & RETREAT CENTER
WWW.CAMPKUMBAYA.ORG



CAMP WAKON'DA-HO
2027 DATES | YOSEMITE, KY | CCINKY.NET

SPRING YOUTH RETREAT	APRIL 16-18
MINI CAMP (2-3)	JUNE 4-6
CYF 1 (9-12)	JUNE 7-12
EIGHTER'S CAMP (8)	JUNE 13-19
JUNIOR CAMP (4-5)	JUNE 21-25
CAMP 101A (K-2*)	JUNE 25-27
CYF 2 (9-12)	JUNE 28-JULY 3
CHI RHO 1 (6-8)	JULY 5-10
CHI RHO 2 (6-8)	JULY 12-17
CAMP 101B (K-2*)	JULY 24
Y'ALL CAMP (ALL AGES*)	SEPT 3-5

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



Exciting News from the West Area

Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler
West Area Minister

First Christian Church, Mayfield has Entered the Building

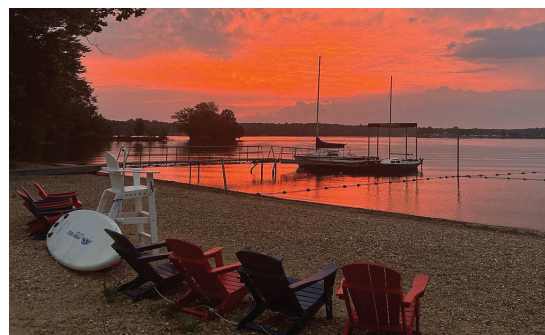
The Far West Kentucky Christian Men's Fellowship (District 1) was thrilled to be invited to meet in the new building of [First Christian Church, Mayfield](#) in July. Fifty-three folks from seven West Area churches were in attendance to learn about FCC Mayfield's rebuilding process (via a presentation by Barry McDonald) and get a sneak-peek tour of their new facility. After a fantastic meal, we closed with an impromptu singing of "Amazing Grace"—with Director of Music Steve Clark at the new piano—in their new sanctuary and a closing prayer by Rev. Dr. Micah Spicer. Then, on August 30, First Christian Church, Mayfield celebrated the opening of their new building and welcomed the community into the sanctuary for worship. Micah, Steve, and the church are making plans to host the 28th All Disciples Sing on **November 1**. The theme is "There is Joy in the House." Steve is organizing two mass anthems for the special occasion and inviting soloists, ensembles, and choirs from our West Area churches to be a part of this annual West Area tradition.



Far West Disciples Men (District 1) gathered in the new Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church, Mayfield.

Sailing Camp Endowment

A longtime supporter of Sailing Camp has gifted \$50,000 to initiate a designated, open endowment fund for Kum-Ba-Ya's Sailing Camp ministry. Called "Spiritus Dei – KBY Sailing Camp Endowment Fund," the permanent fund is held by the Blue Grass Community Foundation. The annual distributions are primarily designated to repair, rent, purchase, equip, or maintain sailing boats, maintain the boat dock, boat storage, teaching supplies, and to provide the necessary certifications, licenses, and insurance to conduct Sailing Camp at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya. What a significant investment in this impactful ministry! We are so grateful for our Sailing Camp Angel's generosity, vision, and leadership in establishing the Spiritus Dei fund.



The sailboats docked at sunset on Kentucky Lake at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya.



KBY Spirit Wear Fundraiser

Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Manager Becca Teckenbrock has organized a KBY Spirit Wear Online Fundraiser. Kum-Ba-Ya T-shirts, ball caps, and sweatshirts will be available **September 8-29** for online ordering, with all proceeds benefiting KBY operations. Each purchase helps our camp provide unforgettable spiritual experiences for our campers and guests. Look for Camp KBY's online store (www.thesweetteecompanyky.com/company-stores.htm), or use the direct QR code on our Facebook and Instagram.

Place your KBY Spirit Wear orders by September 29.



A Word from the Director of Women's Ministries

Marsha Thornton, Jr.
Director of Women's Ministries

Hello my Sisters!

I bring you greetings and gratitude for your prayers and efforts in lifting up the Women's Ministries in Kentucky. What an exciting year we have had, from Choral Retreat to Spring Conferences to Quilt/Knit/Craft Retreat to Fall Retreat. Please send me your stories and pictures from the year so that I can share them with the entire region (marsha@ccinky.net).

During this season of reconciliation, I ask that we reflect on where we sit in our hearts, minds, and faith.

What does it mean to me to be reconciled with Christ?

What does it mean to me to be reconciled with all of those around me?

Regional Minister Rev. Dr. Donald K. Gillett, II recently asked these questions of those of us on the Regional Staff, and they caused me to consider what I often keep hidden. It is easy to receive the reconciliation Christ provides; however, how well do I give it?

2 Corinthians 5:19 states that "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them." Do I put that into practice—reconciling without counting people's sins against them? Is my forgiveness authentic if I don't?

As we continue to grow on our journeys, let us remember that no one's path is the same. Please be patient with each other and with me.

Reconcile from within.

In His service and yours!



Fall Youth Retreat

Our new Regional Youth Council is so excited about our Fall Youth Retreat, **for all youth in Grades 6-12.**

It is **Friday, October 16 to Sunday, October 18**, at [Camp Piomingo](#) (1950 Otter Creek Park Rd, Brandenburg, KY 40108).

Our Keynoter will be the Rev. Allison Lanza, the Founder of Be the Neighbor: Justice-Based Learning and Serving Trips.



Our RYC has planned a great weekend of worship, games, food, and lots of fun. **Registration is \$100 a person and is submitted through your church.** We do ask that you have a 1 to 7 adult to youth ratio. If your church can't find adult chaperones, please reach out and we will see what we can do!

Please contact Rev. Mike McColl with any questions at mjmfcc@gmail.com. **REGISTRATION IS DUE BY OCTOBER 7.**

Register now at www.ccinky.net/myac/.

Kentucky Regional Ministry Team

REV. DR. DONALD K. GILLET, II

Regional Minister
don@ccinky.net

REV. JOSH SNYDER

Associate Regional Minister,
Treasurer
josh@ccinky.net

REV. RACHEL NANCE WOEHLE

West Area Minister
westareaminister@gmail.com

REV. STEVEN STRAUB

Camp Wakon' Da-Ho
Executive Director
steven@ccinky.net

MARSHA THORNTON, JR.

Director of Women's Ministries
marsha@ccinky.net

SARAH HACK

Director of Communications
communications@ccinky.net

REV. LON OLIVER

Administrator, Disciples Appalachian
Scholarship Ministry
lonoliver@mac.com

REV. DR. D. ANTHONY EVERETT

Staff Consultant to New Church Ministry
anthony@ccinky.net

2026-2028 CCK Moderators

ROB SHRADER

Moderator

DAVID CLIFFORD

1st Vice Moderator

LISA CALDWELL-REISS

2nd Vice Moderator

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Return Service Requested

Regional Ministerial Changes

- On April 29, **First Christian Church, Sebree** celebrated the installation of **Rev. Kevin Patterson** as their Minister.
- On May 1, **First Christian Church, Madisonville** welcomed **Eric Nance Woehler** as their Interim Associate Minister of Children, Youth & Young Adults.
- On May 31, **Cadiz Christian Church** celebrated the installation of **Rev. Steph Wallace**.
- At the end of May, **First Christian Church, Greenville** called **Rev. Eric Harris** out of retirement to serve as their Interim Minister.
- In July, **First Christian Church, Hopkinsville** welcomed **Neeley Bornstein** as their settled Director of Children and Youth Ministries.
- **Crestwood Christian Church, Lexington** welcomed **Rev. Missy Wallace** as their Minister for Children and Families.
- **First Christian Church, Covington** welcomed and installed **Rev. Dan Kovaly** as their Senior Minister.
- **First Christian Church, Henderson** welcomed **Rev. Jinny McCormick** as their Associate Minister.
- **First Christian Church, Paducah** welcomed **Kirsten Meadows** as their Children & Youth Director.

