



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

www.kansasdisciples.org

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JOIN US FOR 2020 CONNECT AND EQUIP REGIONAL ASSEMBLY



Mark your calendar for Connect and Equip 2020 on Saturday, August 8, at Tawakoni. Here are some ways your church can get involved:

- ⇒ Consider bringing a display of your mission projects to share ideas of service opportunities with other churches. You may find another congregation with a similar project that you can partner with in the future.
- ⇒ How about your church being one of the food booths this year? Everybody loves good food. You'll get lots of thank yous and rave reviews!
- ⇒ This year's event is our bi-annual Regional meeting, so we will be voting on future Regional leadership. Be sure to elect your congregation's voting delegates and send their names to the Regional office. It always feels good and holy when we share in the ownership of our covenantal relationship here in Kansas.
- ⇒ Let everyone in your congregation know now to save the date. Invite them to ride share for great conversations to and from the gathering. Who knows what wonderful ideas you may come up with on your road trip.
- ⇒ Tell your story of how much you enjoy our Region's day of celebrating life together in Christ!



here. Her life up to this point has been mostly about survival. Here, she meets others like her. Some of them are survivors of sexual abuse, domestic violence, or human trafficking. Some have been forced to work when they wanted to go to school.

What will the future be like when she is empowered to share her gifts with her community and the world?

AN INVESTMENT IN THE FUTURE WEEK OF COMPASSION SPECIAL DAY OFFERING

In Thailand, a 13-year-old girl arrives at The New Life Center, seeking relief from the cruel conditions that have brought her

When you give to Week of Compassion Special Day Offering, February 16 and 23, you invest in the futures of these girls and countless others like them. Your gifts provide education, vocational training, basic necessities, and much-needed community support.

You can build something miraculous to plant seeds of new life. Where God's people have suffered loss, you are invited to invest in the future. As we invest in futures and serve as co-workers with God, the future becomes one of endless possibility and opportunity for all of us. What a great return on our investment!

Check us out on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

CELEBRATE THE SMALL THINGS THOUGHTS AND MUSINGS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

By Steve Martin, Regional Minister and President



I'm recently responding to folks with "Yes, I am back!" Yes, the 100-day adventure in Omaha's medical world ended on January 23. Yes, it was rough. Yet, we believe it did the trick and I am gaining strength and soon my endurance will return, too. I will have weekly check-ups, sometimes in Omaha but hopefully in Topeka as well. How amazing is the work of the medical professionals!

Looking back on the past few months has helped me to gain a new respect for the small things which we often take for granted. The beauty of nature, and

the wonders of family/friends who enrich our lives, and the list goes on and on. I recently found some writings by Norann Voll who reflects on gratitude.

Gratitude, celebration, giving thanks – even for the smallest of gifts – became a new way of living for me, a kind of oxygen I couldn't get enough of, a transformative way of being.

~Norann Voll

Without a doubt, we each have our challenges and tragedies to live through. There are illnesses which just won't go away. There are the realities of what our living costs us, and often bank accounts which limit our abilities to do more. There are relationships which are continually a challenge.

All of these and more can leave one in a dark tunnel – yet, as Ms. Voll shared, giving thanks for the blessings we have is like "a kind of oxygen."

My gratitude list is growing, I promise you that. There is not space to thank so many who covered during my absence, including our dedicated staff. Cards and prayers and notes of support were all greatly appreciated!

I also want to promise you that the medical leave has given me a chance to reevaluate the work I do. The Kansas Region is a tremendous resource of people and opportunities to help bring God's light to this world. God bless you each as we serve together in the name of Christ.



NURTURING YOUR SPIRIT

By Debbie Griffith, Goodland First Christian Church

A meaningful alternate or addition to making New Year's Resolutions is to choose a "Word of the Year." It can be something that you need more of like hope, trust, joy, or it could be something that you need to be better at like forgiveness or hospitality.

Throughout the year, make this "word" a theme for you. Study what the Bible has to say about it, how it is used,

or how it is nurtured. Find ways in which the theme can be put into action, used to deepen your faith, augment your relationship with Christ and your relationship with others. Pray about it, talk with others about it, read books about it.

At the end of the year, evaluate your understanding of the theme and how its increased awareness has affected your life. You and others will be blessed in this process!

KANSAS DISCIPLES WOMEN TO PUBLISH COOKBOOK

Disciples Women will publish a region-wide cookbook with all proceeds going to the Jones Lodge construction fund. Jones Lodge will have six hotel-style suites giving greater diversity to the size and type of camps and retreats Tawakoni is able to offer.

Included in the cookbook will be a history of Disciples Center at Tawakoni along with pictures and information about the Jones Lodge project.

Additional information can also be found in the November and December editions of DW Newsbytes or by contacting your local Disciples Women fellowship group. All women are encouraged to participate in this project. Submit recipes to Carla Pearson, 1816 17 Ave, McPherson, KS 67460 or carla.pearson58@gmail.com by is May 20.

JONES LODGE BUILD, FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Jones Lodge building campaign. As of December 2019, we have raised \$160,400. This is a great start but far from complete. The Camp Facilities team would like at least \$200,000 raised before we start construction.

Jones Lodge will feature six, hotel-style suites to accommodate four to six people with bathrooms. The common area will have a full kitchen, storage and basement shelter area. The new lodge will be located on the northwest side of the Disciples Center facilities, between Cabin 2 and the north picnic pavilion across from Mt. Olive Cabin.

To contribute, you can make a one-time online gift at kansasdisciples.org and/or support the Kansas Disciples Women Cookbook project.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

'WHOLENESS IN A FRAGMENTED WORLD'

YOUTH SPRING RETREAT:

WHO WE ARE AS DISCIPLES

Spring Retreat for youth will be February 28-March 1, at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni. The retreat will include both middle school (Chi Rho) and high school (CYF) youth and sponsors.



Keynotes will feature Rev. Rob Tulloch, associate pastor at Hillside Christian Church in Wichita. He came to Kansas from Idaho and youth have found him to have a listening ear and a heart of care. Rob and his wife, Oksana have 3 dogs.

The program begins at 7 p.m. on Friday and ends at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday. Eat before you arrive! Register before Wednesday, Feb. 21, to save \$15 off the \$80 fee.

Register and pay online at kansasdisciples.org today.

TAWAKONI GALA AND AUCTION

Mark your calendar for the 2020 Tawakoni Gala and Auction Saturday, November 14. Plan to come out and support the camp.

JOURNEYS TO WHOLENESS:

TRAIL MARKERS IN JOHN 4

The 2020 Spiritual Retreat at the Heartland Center for Spirituality, 3600 Broadway Ave, Great Bend, will feature Bill Rose-Heim, Regional Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Greater Kansas City.

The journey begins with registration and check-in at 2 p.m. check-in on Thursday, March 12, and closes with worship starting at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 14.

During this interactive retreat, explore pathways we may already be taking or considering that lead to wholeness. We will draw from the wisdom of a familiar gospel story, from the group and from other Disciples of Christ who are part of our "movement for wholeness in a fragmented world."

This retreat is open to all people who want a chance to get away and focus some time on their relationship with God and God's will for their life.

Originally from New York, Rose-Heim has served in the Midwest for nearly twenty-five years – five years as regional minister of the Greater Kansas City Region. He is married to Donna Rose-Heim and is the father of five children. Bill is a veteran of the U.S. Air Force and has served in emergency services as a first responder and planner.

The registration cost is \$135 per person and includes all meals, lodging and program. Register today at kansasdisciples.org/event/regional-spiritual-retreat.

ART OF CHURCH COMMUNICATION—2020 WORKSHOPS

Registration is now open for the 2020 Art of Church Communication Workshops. This year's workshops will be each Tuesday morning in March, 9 a.m. to noon.

Attend in person at Tawakoni or join us via live video feed from the comfort of your home or office. Recorded videos of each workshop presentation will also be available with paid registration.

Each workshop will include a discussion on various strategies and hands-on applications. Workshops are for anyone. If you are interested in church communication ministry, regardless of skill level, you are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Cost is \$25 per workshop or \$100 for all five workshops. Learning is more fun with friends! Sign-up for all five workshops with two or more church friends and pay \$90 each. Discounts only available through Friday, February 14.

A minimum of 10 registrations for each workshop is required to hold workshops. Register online at www.kansasdisciples.org/2020-aocc-workshops.

2020 Workshop Topics are:

- ⇒ **Your Church Story in Photographs:** Learn how to take, edit, select, and publish pictures that tell the story of your church ministry.
- ⇒ **Your Church Live:** Explore some easy, volunteer & budget-friendly live-streaming solutions.
- ⇒ **The Community Connection:** Learn how to speak the language of your community to invite others and welcome them into your church family.
- ⇒ **The Welcome Center:** Learn what first-time folks want to see, hear, and do. Engage new people in the ways of Christ.
- ⇒ **Texting in Church, Engage Your Community:** Learn about ways to build relationships, develop two-way communication, and send reminders by text.



2020 SPIRITFESTS

Join Disciples Women Saturday, April 18, at Central Christian in Arkansas City; Sunday, April 19, at Galva Christian Church; or Saturday, May 2, at Baxter Springs First Christian Church for the 2020 Disciples Women SpiritFest.

Come worship, study, share, fellowship and do a service project together with women in your region. Enjoy a light meal, shop at our book table and learn more about “Serving Joyfully.” The Bible study will center on Hebrews 8 – the joy of service, doing God’s will.

Judy Cooper, Galva Christian Church is the 2020 SpiritFest coordinator. Plan now to attend and bring a friend.

BESSLER FEATURED AT 2020 CLERGY RETREAT



Rest, Relax, and Renew Clergy Retreat will be 6 p.m. on Tuesday, April 28, through mid-morning on Thursday, April 30, at Tawakoni. Dr. Joe Bessler is the featured visiting theologian for this year’s retreat.

Bessler is the Robert Travis Peake Professor of Theology at Phillips Theological Seminary and Interim

Chief Academic Officer and Dean at Phillips Theological Seminary.

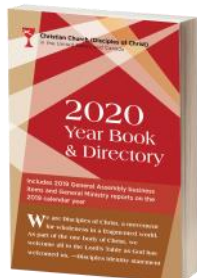
A registration fee of \$70 covers two nights lodging and four meals during the retreat. Lunch on Wednesday is on your own in Andover, Augusta, or Wichita. For those clergy who live near the camp and do not require lodging, the cost is \$50 to cover the four meals and program costs. Register and pay online at kansasdisciples.org today.

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

2020 DISCIPLES YEARBOOK REPORTING

It’s Year Book and Directory time. The Yearbook not only shows trends in membership and giving, but it also serves as the documentation for congregations’ 501(c)3 nonprofit status with the Internal Revenue Service.

Church offices should receive a postcard with the congregation’s PIN number. Remember to turn in your church’s report found at www.disciples.org/yearbook or download reporting instructions and other resources. The deadline for submitting is March 15.



DISCIPLES MEN SESSIONS 2020

Join Disciples Men from across the denomination for Sessions 2020 Friday-Sunday, July 10-12, on the Texas Christian University campus in Ft. Worth, Texas.

Every four years, Disciples Men gather to pray, teach, support, fellowship and care for one another so that they may return home impassioned and uplifted; moved by the Holy Spirit; ready to lift their churches and their ministries through the grace, power and wisdom of Jesus Christ.

Registration fee is \$295 for those under age 30 and \$395 for those 30 and over. Save \$70 when you register before May 1.

Scholarship support (1/2 of the registration fee) for Kansas Disciples Men to attend Sessions 2020 may be available; contact your regional minister to inquire.

MINISTERS’ WEEK AT BRITE

Ministers’ Week will be Feb. 17-19 in Ft. Worth, Texas at University Christian Church and on the Texas

Christian University campus. The featured preacher is Rev. Grace Imathiu, Senior Pastor of First United Methodist Church in Evanston, Illinois. Dr. Sheryl Sebo is the guest organist for the recital and hymn sing.

Join students, faculty and staff of Brite Divinity School and TCU for three days of worship, lectures, workshops and organ recital and hymn singing.

As this event is a gift from Brite Divinity School, TCU and University Christian Church there is no general registration fee; however, pre-registration is encouraged.



IN MEMORIAM:

Kim Rea, 55, of Topeka, died January 17, 2020. She co-pastored with husband Greg at Salina First Christian Church from 1995-2010. She became a part-time Associate at Salina’s Trinity United Methodist Church in 2013.