



# Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

[www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org)

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TBA, Regional Minister of  
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## BECOME A GREEN CHALICE CHURCH

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is called to create a just world for all. Part of this is caring for God's creation. Toward this end, the church has committed to reducing our carbon pollution with the goal to become carbon neutral by 2030 and climate positive by 2035.

Disciples churches can contribute to this commitment by becoming Green Chalice congregations. The Green Chalice Program is designed to encourage and assist local congregations and the Christian Church (DOC) offices and assemblies who wish to live out their faith by caring for creation. This program is also designed to recognize congregations for being good stewards of God's creation. It also aims to empower congregations with ideas and resources to enable them to walk gently on the Earth. The program promotes steps to save money and multiply resources for ministries and communities.

### Suggestions include:

- **Lights:** Replace all incandescent bulbs with LED lights to cut lighting costs by 90%
- **Insulate:** Windows, doors, water heaters, walls, and ceilings to save half your HVAC costs
- **Transportation:** Buy and encourage use of electric or hybrid cars. Carpool and support active transportation with bike racks in your parking area.
- **Recycle:** Saves energy and conserves other resources

Green Chalice needs you to talk and educate others about climate issues. They need your actions to meet the DOC carbon neutral goal in the next nine years. They need your passionate faith to model the right way to conserve our planets' resources. And they need your support with an online donation.

There are 189 Green Chalice congregations across the U.S., including Kansas congregations: Great Bend FCC, Leavenworth FCC, West Side CC Topeka, and Park Place CC Hutchinson.

To learn more about the program, contact one of the current Green Chalice churches in Kansas, or to become a Green Chalice congregation go to [www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice/green-chalice-program/](http://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/green-chalice/green-chalice-program/).



## REGISTER TODAY FOR SUMMER CAMP

Children, youth and adults are invited to seven events for grades K-12 and three specialty camps.

The cost is \$63-\$245 depending on camp session. Registration fees cover lodging, meals, program, nurse, t-shirt, water bottle, snacks, and camp maintenance. All camps begin at 1 p.m. on the first day and end at 10 a.m. on the last.

Grand Camp 1 registration is now full and cannot accept additional registrations. For other camps register online at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org) or through your ENGAGE account.

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



## **THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER**

### **“Support reconciliation and new church development”**

*BY KEN MARSTON, REGIONAL MINISTER*

As I sit wrestling with what to write as one of your Regional Ministers, there are two things that are currently tumbling through my mind. Actually, there are more than two things tumbling through my mind, but only two I wish to address in this article.

The first thing on my heart is the need for the church to be engaged in the important work of identifying the ongoing racism that exists in the world around us. For me, this is not a political issue. It is about justice and about living out Jesus' command to “love others” as he has already “loved” (John 15:12-13). It is about taking to heart what the Apostle John writes in his first letter, “We love because God first loved us. Those who say, ‘I love God’, and hate their brothers or sisters, are liars; ...those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also” (1 John 4:19-21). One of the ways we as the church address the hatred of racism is through Reconciliation Grants. Application deadline for grants have been extended through the end of April.

The second thing that is on my heart is the journey we are on to call a Regional Minister for New Church Ministries. We can consider doing this because of gifts that have been given to the Pentecost Offering over the past decade. In case you have forgotten, the Pentecost Offering goes to support the work of starting new congregations.

It has been more than a decade since we have last tried to start a new congregation in the Kansas Region, and it is time that we change that. It is time, because starting new congregations is one of the ways we fulfill the Great Commission to “Go forth and make disciples” of all people. It is time because it is a mark of a vital region and a vital congregation to be involved in such work.

And so, I invite you to support these two endeavors (the work of reconciliation and new church establishment) through your church first with your prayers. Second, I invite you to support these two endeavors through your offerings. And third, I invite you to pray how you can be involved in the hands-on work -- the healing work -- of reconciling the brokenness of racial hatred, and the work of bringing hope to those who do not have a life-giving relationship with God by establishing new church ministries.

### **KANSAS FOOD BANK PANTRY LIST**



The Kansas Food Bank in Wichita is working on a cohesive list of food pantries in the Kansas area. Their goal is to make sure that all food-insecure Kansans have a food

pantry close to them when needed. They would like to get all the possible information on area food pantries up on their website, [www.kansasfoodbank.org](http://www.kansasfoodbank.org). They are also working on a food pantry information hub website that will show information for all pantries in the state of Kansas.

If you would like to have your church food pantry listed, send your information to Craig Hubbard, Food Security Coordinator at [chubbard@kansasfoodbank.org](mailto:chubbard@kansasfoodbank.org) or call 316-265-3663.

### **CAMP REQUIRES VOLUNTEERS!**

The camp program team is planning camps for all ages. Camp planning for this summer includes COVID-19 safety. Currently our camp schedule has a registration limit-per-camp event, simply to keep both campers and staff safe.

Most camps are scheduled for Monday through Friday, and camps for younger ages are only two or three days long. Following are the directors who will lead this summer:

- CYF Alpha – Travis McKee
- CYF Omega – Stephanie Switzky
- Pre-High – *pending*
- Chi Rho – Belinda Amend
- Junior – Amanda Martin
- Primary – Belinda Amend
- Discovery – Conita Burden
- Grand Camp – Jodi Hime
- Mission Week – Joe and Sharon Bullock

Yes, we still need counselors! As always, finding counselors continues to be a challenge. Please consider giving of your time and talents. To sign-up, go to [www.tawakoni.org/summer-camp-fees-forms](http://www.tawakoni.org/summer-camp-fees-forms). For further information please contact Sid Rutland, [campmanager@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:campmanager@kansasdisciples.org).

### NEWS FROM THE PEWS



### MCPHERSON FCC SERVES NAVAJO NATION ON MISSION TRIP

days to cut and split wood. By Friday afternoon five, two-ton dump trucks of split wood had been delivered to three different Navajo Chapter Houses and Lybrook Mission. Additional wood that was cut during the week will be delivered to other Chapter Houses.

Because the Navajo are dependent on wood for cooking and heating, this mission was desperately needed. US Forest Rangers in the region were in awe of the number of volunteers and amount of wood that was cut and split. When asked why so many would travel so far to volunteer, Pearson responded, "We are called to serve."

Plans are already being made to return to the Lybrook Mission in June for possible waterline installation and other maintenance projects. A trip in September is planned for wood cutting and delivery.



Floyd Pearson, McPherson, long term leader for DOC Volunteering, recently led 26 members of the McPherson First Christian Church, Paola Lighthouse Presbyterian Church, and several friends on a mission trip to the Jemez Mountains near Cuba, N.M. The focus of the trip was to cut firewood for the Navajo Nation in the area. While on the mountain, the group lodged in cabins at Rancho del Chaparral, the Girl Scout camp in the Jemez mountains.

Greeted with a blizzard as they entered New Mexico and unable to head up the mountain until Monday, the first night was spent at the Lybrook Mission near Counselor, N.M. Included in donations left at Lybrook were a half pallet of flour donated by Grain Craft mill of McPherson as well as clothes, blankets, and numerous medical/personal hygiene items. Once up the mountain, volunteers worked for four

### NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

**CCK EVENT COVID-19 NOTE:** We plan to begin meeting in-person at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni. Therefore, face masks and social distancing precautions will be expected of all participants. If health authorities indicate it is not wise for large gatherings, we will move events online or cancel the event and refund registration fees.



### KDM BARBER SHOP TALK

Join other Kansas Disciples Men once a month for "Barber Shop Talk." The next meeting will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 3, and the discussion questions are:

- "Where do you feel God's presence?"
- "Where do you feel God is absent in your life?"

If you have questions or would like to join the Zoom call, contact Kansas Disciples Men Coordinator, Luis Mendez, disciplesmen@kansasdisciples.org, or the South Central Regional Office, scd@kansasdisciples.org.

### THE 2021 KDW FALL RETREAT

"Who Needs A Bridge" is the theme of the 2021 Women's Retreat to be held in-person at Camp Tawakoni. The midweek retreat is October 6-8 and the weekend retreat is October 8-10.

Rev. Dr. Beth Rupe, Interim Minister for Disciples Women of the Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) will be the keynote speaker. Beth has served congregations in Kentucky and Illinois and has provided articles for the *Just Women* magazine.

Watch for more information about Beth and updates as plans develop for Fall retreat.



### NEWS FROM YOUR REGION



#### RELAX, REFRESH, AND RENEW CLERGY RETREAT

The annual Relax, Refresh, and Renew Clergy retreat is back for 2021. It all begins with dinner at 6 pm on Tuesday, April 27 at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni. The cost is \$70 for two nights lodging and four meals. Those choosing to stay at a hotel or at home instead of the camp will need to make their own arrangements and their registration cost is \$50.

Our Resident Scholar will be Dr. Joe Bessler who will have four presentations on *Theology and the Politics of Power*.

- 1) **Getting Started:** A look at political convention address to see how the theological and political overlap
- 2) **Looking Back I:** A Christian mapping exercise
- 3) **Looking Back II:** Christianity's neo-platonic and imperial worldview
- 4) **Letting go of imperial Christianity,** and who's not.

The retreat will conclude sometime before lunch on Thursday, April 29. Register now at [kansasdisciples.org](http://kansasdisciples.org) or by your Engage account.



#### BOUNDARIES TRAINING— HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

As part of the regional church's efforts to help our clergy maintain good relational boundaries, clergy will have two additional

opportunities in 2021. This training fulfills their boundary training requirement for maintaining standing with the region.

This year's theme is healthy lifestyles which will explore how to manage the stress of ministry by developing healthy lifestyle habits through doctor visits, healthy diets, exercise, and spiritual disciplines.

These opportunities are offered to clergy, clergy spouses, and church leaders to explore the importance of maintaining appropriate relational boundaries. The next session is from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, May 22, at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni, with lunch provided. The final session will be 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 19, at Great Bend, First Christian Church. The cost is \$35 for clergy and \$10 for church leaders and spouses are free.



Kansas Christian Home (KCH) was founded in 1962 and has served countless older adults giving them a place to call home at the KCH location in Newton. KCH draws inspiration from the Legacy of John (John 19:25-27) where Jesus, from the

#### LEGACY OF JOHN FUND AT KANSAS CHRISTIAN HOME

cross, entrusts the care of his mother to John. It makes the work of KCH a ministry, not just a job.

As a faith-based retirement community in relationship with the Kansas region of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) they affirm God's grace and love for all at KCH, whether they be residents, staff,

family members, or benefactors. Their community represents many diverse religious backgrounds, or no religious affiliation, but maintains a home for all.

COVID-19 has had a big impact on the work of KCH, but thanks to prudent management, the cooperation of residents and

their families, and generous gifts from benefactors KCH is weathering the storm.

If you would like to contribute to help KCH sustain their quality of care and level of services, make a gift to Friends of Kansas Christian Home, Development Office, 1035 SE Third Street, Newton, KS 67114-3904.

#### SAVE THE DATE: DISCIPLES CONNECT AND EQUIP

The Regional Disciples Connect and Equip event is scheduled for:

**Saturday, August 14  
Disciples Center at Tawakoni**

This year's theme will center around reconnecting and celebrating what makes us Disciples. Watch the *Kansas Messenger* and Facebook for future details on this event.

#### SUPPLIES NEEDED FOR THE SUMMER CAMP SEASON

Donations of needed supplies help the camp season run smoothly. In addition to donations of supplies, monetary donations are also helpful to cover camp operations.

Needed supplies include:

- Paper towels, napkins, toilet paper
- 13 and 33 gallon trash bags
- Toilet cleaner
- Flour sack dish towels and dishcloths
- Crockpot liners
- Soft Scrub Comet
- Zip-lock bags - quart and gallon sizes

#### SIGN UP FOR KDW NEWSBYTES

Be informed about upcoming events and DW happenings. Sign up for the KDW *Newsbytes* email newsletter. Contact KDW Coordinator, Carla Pearson, at [carla.pearson58@gmail.com](mailto:carla.pearson58@gmail.com) to add your name to the list.

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

## NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH



### SAVE THE DATE!

There will be a national, virtual gathering of Disciples across the life of the church on Saturday, August 7, 2021 themed, "Nothing Can Separate Us From The Love Of God".

Right now, the event is still taking shape, but please make a note of this event on your calendar.

### ASSOCIATION OF DISCIPLES MUSICIANS CANCELS ANNUAL CONFERENCE



In response to survey results, the Association of Disciples Musicians (ADM) Planning Council has decided unanimously to cancel the ADM Conference scheduled

for June 2021. Without a minimum of at least 80 attendees, ADM could not meet the financial requirements for hosting a conference.

Possibilities and plans are already being discussed for 2022. Next year will be the 60th Anniversary of ADM conferences, with the first conference held on the TCU campus in August 1962. The clinicians for the 2021 Conference have already been asked to consider being with us next year, so sights are set on July 2022.

Considering the need to cancel the 2021 conference, we are endorsing a couple of other opportunities that ADM leadership has some familiarity with and are comfortable promoting for professional enrichment this summer. The two options include:

The Montreat Conference Center will be hosting two weeks of the Worship and Music Conference. The conferences are in partnership with The Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) and open to all. They will do both in-person and virtual options. Links are: <https://montreat.org/events/wm2-2021> and <https://presbysmusic.org/2021conference>.

The United Church of Christ is also holding both in-person and virtual meetings this summer. Their link is: [www.uccma.wildapricot.org](http://www.uccma.wildapricot.org).

### FREE USDOT SAFETY SEMINAR FOR OPERATORS OF CHURCH VANS OR BUSES

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) Kansas Division and state-partners sends an invitation to attend a free online presentation regarding the safe and legal operations of commercial motor vehicles.



You may bring any questions you have about the federal regulations and how it relates to faith-based entities. Please advise if you will be attending, or if you cannot attend, but would like to be placed on the list for future sessions.

#### A Faith Based Initiative Event

Wednesday, April 21  
9 – 11 a.m.

Join on your computer or mobile app or Click here to join the meeting. You may call in for audio only at (509) 931-1572. Conf ID: 160045477#

To register, or if you have additional questions, contact Armind A. Guerrero, Program Analyst, 785-596-1076 (w); 785-414-9275 (c) or email at [arminda.guerrero@dot.gov](mailto:arminda.guerrero@dot.gov).

### HAVE NEWS TO SHARE? KANSAS MESSENGER ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

We are glad to receive your news articles and photographs for publication. We reserve the right to edit all materials. Submit your items online at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org). Article submission deadline for the May issue is:

**Monday, April 19**

## NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

### TENNYSON CENTER CLOSES RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT PROGRAM



The Central Rocky Mountain Region, Christian Church (DOC) reports that the Tennyson Center for Children, Denver, Colo., has temporarily closed its

Residential Facility, effective March 23, to evaluate its future.

In an open letter to the community, James Young, the Interim President and CEO described the reasons for the shutdown.

“Last week we announced a difficult decision to voluntarily and temporarily close our Residential Treatment Program to evaluate its future. The decision was based upon operational and compliance concerns that have been identified by the Colorado Department of Human Services (CDHS) and our own internal review. Our other programs, including our K-12 Therapeutic Day Treatment School and Community Based Services, are not impacted by the residential closure, and are thriving and in good standing with

their regulatory agencies. The operational and compliance concerns we discovered are due to many factors, including the COVID-19 pandemic, and resulted in significant dysregulation and increases in the severity of the trauma experienced by the children we serve.”

The dozen children in the Residential Program made up approximately 13% of those served annually at the Tennyson Center.

Any number of churches in the Kansas Region have supported the mission at Tennyson Center over the 104-year history of the program and have been faithful to expressing God’s love for God’s most vulnerable children/families.

A local newspaper story on the closing is viewable at [www.coloradosun.com/2021/03/23/tennyson-center-residential-program](http://www.coloradosun.com/2021/03/23/tennyson-center-residential-program).



### YEAR BOOK REPORTING DEADLINE EXTENDED

*The Year Book of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada* is the official document that shows all the Disciples congregations and ministries in our denomination. Alex is a new initiative of the Christian Church to compile Year Book data online and provide assessment tools to work with congregational data.

As we work with and improve Alex, it will become an invaluable tool. Of course, with any change comes frustration, but it is an incredibly powerful tool for local congregational ministry.

The deadline for completing the 2020 Year Book Report has been extended to April 15.

### HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Your gift can benefit the church for years to come. For information about bequests, contact the Christian Church Foundation at 1-800-668-8016, by email at [kgould@ccf.disciples.org](mailto:kgould@ccf.disciples.org) or on the web at [www.christianchurchfoundation.org](http://www.christianchurchfoundation.org).

### IN TRANSITIONS

**Thom Scott** has returned to pastoring Lyons FCC after recovering from a stroke.

Hiawath FCC has called **Ron Stair** as a pastor. He begins April 18.

### IN MEMORIUM

**Merilee Berry**, 90, died February 25. Merilee obtained her Master of Divinity degree from Phillips Theological Seminary in 1977. She served as pastor at both Park City CC and FCC Conway Springs.

### ORDINATIONS

Manhattan First Christian Church celebrated the ordination of **Lukus Ebert** on Sunday, March 28.

Retired pastor, David Jones brought the sermon and Regional Minister Ken Marston presided.

Pictured are: (*top row*) Marston; Ben Hitzfeld, Manhattan Pastor; (*front row*) Jones; Susanna Southard, Professor at Phillips Theological Seminary; Ebert; Alice Trussell, Chair of Coordinating; and Mickey Bogart, church elder.

