



Kansas MESSENGER

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)



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DISCIPLES CONNECT & EQUIP

Kansas Disciples Regional Gathering

9 a.m. followed by opening worship at 9:30.

The food court, open from 11:15-2:15, will feature a variety of food prepared by Disciples Men's and Women's group including hotdogs, tacos, grilled corn on the cob, snow cones, and cupcakes and cookies.

Joyce McEwen Crane, from Kansas Leadership Center, will lead two workshops. In the morning she will help us fill the gap between expectation and reality. That afternoon, she will lead discussion on identifying what different groups of people bring to the table.

Beginning at 2:15, Joyce will lead the "Tell Me Something Good" discussion

under the big tent where churches are invited to share one thing that their church is most passionate about, ask questions, and offer suggestions.

Closing worship will begin at 3:30 honoring our retired ministers. We will specially lift up Regional Minister Renee Bridwell who will retire at the end of 2019 and Disciples Women coordinator Barb Runge who will retire November 1.

In addition to worship, workshops, and fellowship, there will be opportunities for fun and renewal, too. Come celebrate and express those challenges as we reimagine what it is to be church.

COMING EVENTS

Summer Camps
May 28-July 20

Disciples Connect & Equip Event
August 10 Pg. 1

Disciples Men Retreat Pg. 3
September 27-28

Disciples Men Odyssey
Experience Pg. 3
September 28-29

Disciples Women Retreat . . . Pg. 3
Oct 2-4; 4-6

KDYC Youth Convention . . . Pg. 4
Nov 8-10

In April, the Regional Board voted to adopt the vision statement

"Together we connect and equip."

We will celebrate this new mission statement at the Disciples Connect and Equip (DCE) regional gathering on Saturday, August 10, at Tawakoni.

We will combine our new vision and our Kansas Leadership Center training into an event designed to connect Kansas Disciples and equip them for the adaptive challenges faced by our churches.

The day will begin with registration and a community sing-a-long at

FROM TINY SEEDS MIGHTY TREES GROW.

2019 PENTECOST SPECIAL OFFERING



A small seed tentatively puts down roots. With proper nurturing, it grows, branching out in all directions, blossoming in time, providing sustenance, shelter and shade.

Through the 2020 Vision of the Christian Church (DOC), the new church movement has already helped our Disciples family grow by nearly 1,000 new and affiliated faith communities.

Our church planters remain committed to answering God's call to serve their neighbors, spread the gospel and make Disciples. They are supported by New Church Ministry.

Won't you help nurture them?

Your gift to the 2019 Pentecost Special Day Offering on Sunday, June 2

and 9 will help fund the new church movement and the bounty it yields.

Each year, half of this offering stays in Kansas to start and uphold new churches. The other half goes to the General Church to support the recruiting, assessing, training and coaching of new church leaders at events like Leadership Academy.

Give today to Pentecost Special Day Offering.

PRAYER 4 PARTNERS

From the Region:

- **Hiawatha First CC**
Interim Pastor Lynn Dickson
- **Eruie First CC**
Pastor Michael Haggard
- **Clearwater First CC**
Pastor Dustin Morris
- **Hutchinson, Park Place CC**
Pastor David Dubovich
- **Garden City, Iglesia Christiana Discipulos de Cristo**
Pastor Guillermo Reyes

From Our Partner Regions:

- First Christian Church
Elwood, NE
- Western Oaks CC,
Oklahoma City, OK

From the General Church:

- Hope Partnership trains more than 120 new church planters and spouses each year while working with regional partners to promote the mission of church planting. Learn more at www.hopepmt.org/plant/new-church-movement/.

From our Global Mission Partners in Middle East & Europe:

- **John & Karen Campbell-Nelson**,
Evangelical Church of West Timor, Indonesia
- **Anne Gregory**,
The Church of Christ in Thailand

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

WHY WE DO CHURCH CAMP

By Steve Martin

Throughout the history of the churches in Kansas – those who were called Disciples and chose to work together for a greater good— church camp has been one of the constant opportunities for learning and Christian fellowship.

We've all heard the statistics: 90% of our ministers say that they heard God's call at either camp or a retreat. Youth who attend church camp over the years have a better understanding of faith and leadership and their place in God's kingdom. The effects of camp exceed those of Church School (when we had Sunday morning classes). All of these have truth, for sure!

Yet more than simply "becoming better followers of Jesus" – which is in itself a worthy goal, we find that the youth and adults who have been faithful campers are often the very best leaders in their church and their communities. Why would this be?

I believe that something special happens – call it the presence of the Holy - when Christians gather for a shared purpose and build an intentional community for the days they are together on Holy Ground. Meals are more than just food; they are opportunities

for sharing together and hearing one another, discerning together God's values. Recreation becomes Re-Creation as deep friendships are formed and everyone is welcomed and valued. Worship is enhanced, in part due to the setting, in part due to the struggle and growth of campers who prepare and lead, as it becomes the faith community offering up their own gifts of thankfulness and praise. All these together enable the community to sense God's presence in a new way. Magic? No—God's Spirit intentionally sought and experienced.

Summer church camp is all of this and more. Yes, Kansas has an excellent camp program and an excellent facility; we want that to live on for future generations! Those who give leadership as counselors and in other roles are saints investing in God's People for generations to come; many of them experienced this gift as young people. It's the chain of Grace, being passed on through generations. We are always looking for counselors who will "give it a try" for the first time! Information is on the website or call any of our regional ministers to get connected!

2019 CAMP INTERNS NAMED

Camp interns serve the summer camp program in a variety of ways:

- » They are trained and certified as facilitators in the Challenge Course
- » They monitor campfires and grill hamburgers
- » They mow; wash dishes and help with food service
- » Clean the swimming pool and facilities between camp sessions
- » And more!

All of which make summer church camp the great experience that churches want for their young people. Besides all the background tasks, interns help lead all-camp games, fill in for counselors when needed, and are terrific role models for our campers.

For all of this, they earn a modest weekly stipend and if they complete the summer, a significant scholarship toward their ongoing

college education.

For this summer, one previous intern will return: Mason Oswalt of Atchison First CC.

New interns this summer are Grace Mapel, Arkansas City Central CC, Marisa Black, Wellington First CC, and Jordan Howard, Shelton Memorial CC, Ulysses.

Sid Rutland, Independence First CC, will also return in his role as Intern Supervisor.

This team includes great commitments to the church and to the camp experience. We are excited to share their talent with summer campers!

Intern training takes place May 20-25. Interns serve throughout the summer camp program, beginning May 28 with Primary 1, Discovery, and Grand Camp 1, and concluding in early August.



**DOUBLE
your impact!**

**Dollar for Dollar,
your donation to build
Jones Lodge
will be matched up to**

\$10,000

KANSAS DISCIPLES MEN FALL RETREAT

Director of Disciples Men’s ministries of the General Church, Greg Alexander will facilitate Disciples Men Retreat Sept 27-28 at Tawakoni.



Retired Regional minister of Kentucky, Greg is also the author of “Fellowship of Carpenters” a small group guide for men’s ministries.

As Associate Regional Minister in Kentucky, he developed men’s ministry resources and

worked with ecumenical men’s leaders both nationally and internationally. He will give four presentations on “What it Means to be a Man Today.”

The retreat will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and conclude shortly after dinner on Saturday.

A pre-event work project is scheduled for Friday afternoon. A golf outing Friday afternoon is also scheduled. Pre-registration required. A minimum of four players needed. Registration available soon.

MAIL CALL!

Campers love to receive mail from friends and family back home. Letters need to be addressed in the following format to insure timely delivery. There is no mail delivery on the last day of camp. Consider sending letters early to ensure your letter’s arrival.

Include the camp session (i.e. Junior 1, Grand Camp 1, CYF Omega, etc.) along with your camper’s name; We often have 2 or 3 camps happening at the same time!

Please do not send food as it is not permitted in the bunk rooms.

For Example:

Camper Name
Camp Session (Junior 1, CYF Omega, etc.)
Disciples Center at Tawakoni
8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.
Augusta, KS 67010-8111

KANSAS DISCIPLES MEN ODYSSEY EXPERIENCE

The 5 annual Kansas Disciples Men’s Odyssey Experience will begin at 7 p.m. Sept 28, at Tawakoni.



Originally conceived as mentorship program, the Men’s Odyssey is an ongoing effort to nurture Christ-like character in men of all ages. The retreat introduces participants to an intentional process of reflecting on eight Christ-like character qualities and scriptural teachings: Compassion, Faithfulness, Generosity,

Humbleness, Respectful, Responsible, Reliable, and Self-Controlled.

Then, participants are encouraged to live out these character traits through a daily act of service.

Participants receive an eight week “Rule of Life” book designed to help them develop the habits of living the character of Jesus in everyday life. They also receive a guide for a monthly men’s Odyssey group designed to encourage men to reflect on the nature of our Lord and Savior.

FAITH THAT OVERFLOWS—KANSAS DISCIPLES WOMEN FALL RETREAT

Join us at the fountain! Fellowship, learn, and worship as we explore Faith That Overflows at the 2019 Kansas Disciples Women’s Fall Retreat, Oct 2 - 4 (midweek) or Oct 4 - 6 (weekend) at Tawakoni.



Featured speaker, Sheila P. Spencer, serves as the Director of Christian Education/Faith Formation for the General Church.

Previously, she was the Program Director/Merger Staff for Disciples’ Women Ministries for 5 years.

Sheila is a published author, poet, speaker, and writer. She has recently published a book of meditations entitled, “From The Jewelry Box: Custom Made Inspiration.”

Leadership development has always been one of her passions and specialties. Teaching is a ministry for her.

Register and pay online at www.kansasdisciples.org/2019-kdw-fall-retreat or download a registration form and mail to the Topeka Regional Office. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 6.

Kansas Regional Office

Steve Martin, Regional Minister
Susan White, Executive Secretary
2914 SW MacVicar Ave.
Topeka 66611-1787
785-266-2914; 800-737-8130
Fax: 785-266-0174

Barb Runge, Disciples Women

South Central Satellite Office

Renee Bridwell, Regional Minister
Jessica Marston, Communications
8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.
Augusta 67010-8111
316-775-1236; Fax: 316-775-1455

Central & High Plains Satellite Office

Ken Marston, Regional Minister
Kathy Foster, Admin. Assistant
5230 Broadway Avenue
Great Bend 67530-3208
620-792-6490; Fax: 620-792-1268

Disciples Center at Tawakoni

8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.
Augusta 67010-8111
316-775-1222

KANSAS DISCIPLES WOMEN WELCOMES NEW COORDINATOR

Kansas Disciples Women Coordinator, Barb Runge, will retire as of Nov. 1. Runge has served as coordinator for 13 years. A celebration of her ministry is scheduled during the Disciples Women Fall Retreat. (See Retreat Article on Page 3)



Carla Pearson, Galva Christian Church, will take on the role of KDW Coordinator when Barb retires.

The KDW Coordinator in partnership with the cabinet president assists with the planning of regional retreats and events and keeps us connected with the happenings in the General Church through attendance at annual meetings and the Interregional event every 4 years.

“Carla is bringing a wonderful, caring and invigorating personality to this position. The

Cabinet looks forward to working with her,” said Jauna Khan, KDW Cabinet President. “We hope to begin being Women with a mission. We also look forward to planning joint events with the Kansas Disciples Men and have opportunities to work together.”

A lifelong Disciple, Carla grew up in the McPherson First CC where her mother introduced her to Christian Women’s Fellowship. Today, she and her husband Floyd are members of Galva Christian Church where they are active in many areas of the church.

“The women of Kansas have a passion for serving, learning and growing together in Christ’s love,” said Carla. “I am anxious to not only to work with Disciples Women, but Disciples Men as well. I believe together we can do great things and share the love of Christ as we have been called to do.”



Members of Pine Valley Christian Church attended Wichita State University’s 27 annual Midwest Bisexual Lesbian Gay Transgender Asexual College Conference (MBLGTACC), February 15-17, at Century II Convention Center in Wichita. Pictured are Rev. Thom Scott, Muffin Overstreet, Elizabeth Carson (left to right). Over 1,000 college students, staff, and faculty attended this weekend of learning and coalition building.

Volunteers needed for Church Camp

Do you love camp? Camp directors are looking to fill their staff for summer camp sessions. Volunteers are needed for all camp sessions.

Download a volunteer form at kansasdisciples.org or call any of our regional ministers to get connected!

SAVE THE DATE FOR KDYC

Rev. Virzola Law will keynote the 2019 Kansas Disciples Youth Convention.



Spend time with other youth, grades 6-12, from across the region Nov 8-10 at Hutchison Conference Center.

Law is well-known among Disciples for her 12 years of service including most recently supporting the XPLOR program of the National Benevolent Association.

Gather your friends and mark your calendar!



IN MEMORIAM:

Cindy Dougherty, 64, died April 29 in Weatherford, Okla. She served the Disciples at Phillips University in Enid, Chapman University in Cali., and as president of the National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (DOC).

Retired minister **Rev. Dr. William “Bill” Nowlan**, 84, died April 13. He spent his life in service as a minister. He served as pastor of Leavenworth First CC as well as churches in Ohio, Illinois, Missouri, and Tennessee. He received his Bachelor’s degree from Phillips University, and his Doctorate from Texas Christian University.

Connect with us on Facebook and Twitter!