



Kansas MESSENGER

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)



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TORNADOS IN LEWIS ... WEEK OF COMPASSION IS THERE



The gaping hole in the roof of the Lewis Christian Church marked the path of the EF-1 tornado that crossed the small rural community in southcentral Kansas late Friday, May 17.

The Lewis Volunteer Firefighters quickly assessed the damage and covered the area where the missing roof and beams exposed the interior of the church sanctuary to the elements. Meanwhile, inside the sanctuary additional firefighters and community volunteers moved the chancel furniture, organ, and piano.

Church organist Sheryl Fankhauser praised volunteers for their service, "I can't say enough about how our firefighters worked to save our church. At one point they only had twenty minutes before the next round of rain and lightning were to arrive."

The next morning, Pastor Rhonda Glenn contacted Regional Minister Ken Marston with an initial damage survey and within

hours, Week of Compassion called with offers of support. The church was given a Solidarity Grant and additional aid was provided to help individual members of the congregation with their damage recovery.

James Michel, Disciples Church Extension, also visited with church leaders to assess the damage and to provide support as the church works with their insurance company and an area contractor. Additional support was offered from Disciples Volunteering and The Pension Fund.

Churches, pastors, and fellowship groups across the Region have contacted the Lewis Christian Church to find out how they can help with needs not covered by insurance.

"At times the feeling of support has become overwhelming; it brings tears to my eyes," Glenn said. "Our brothers and sisters in Christ have blessed us in our time of need."



COMING EVENTS

Summer Camps
May 28-July 20

Disciples Connect & Equip Event
August 10 Pg. 3

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

KANSAS RECONCILIATION PROJECTS TO RECEIVE GRANTS

and ministries that meet the offering's purpose and address racism and poverty. Projects receiving grants are:

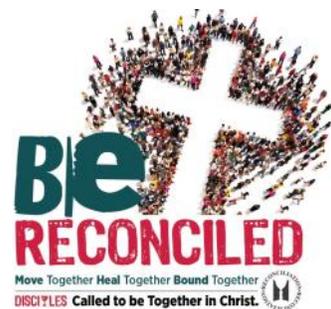
Pine Valley Christian Church, Wichita, Birthday Backpack Program
Birthday backpacks are filled with items a family needs to celebrate a child's birthday. They are given to economically at-risk children, whose families might not otherwise be able

to materially celebrate their child's special day, providing a message that children are loved and remembered.

Brothers in Blue
Brothers in Blue brings the Good news of Jesus Christ to inmates in Kansas prisons, through biblical teaching and personal testimonies of Christ-empowered heart change. Inmates who attend the program receive bibles and

crosses to help them on their faith journey.

CCK Anti-Racism Ministry
Established by the Regional Board, The Anti-Racism/Pro-reconciliation team offers pro-reconciling training, reviews regional policies and structures for embedded institutional racism, and develops anti-racism/pro-reconciliation resources for Kansas congregations.



Half of the funds from the Reconciliation Special Day Offering, received each fall, stay in Kansas to fund anti-racism/pro-reconciliation ministries. Each spring, the Reconciliation committee awards grants to programs

PRAYER 4 PARTNERS

From the Region:

- **Holton First CC**
Pastor Jim McCollough
- **Eureka Christian & Cong'l**
Supply Pastor Chauncey Biby
- **Conway Springs First CC**
Pastor Kelly Zellner
- **Groveland CC**
Pastor Charles Kaufman
- **Goodland First CC**
Pastor Doug Amend

From the General Church:

- Help those affected by the tornados and floods. Give to Week of Compassion.
- The Anti-Racism and Pro-Reconciliation projects and ministries of the General Church and Region

From our Global Mission Partners in Africa:

- **Nia Sullivan**, Council of Churches — Girls Access to Education, Sierra Leone
- **Paul Turner**, Community of the Disciples of Christ in Congo
- **Victoria Peagler**, Kgolagano Theological College, Botswana



THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER A COVENANT OF ETHICS

By Renee Bridwell

The College of Regional Ministers has been talking about standardizing our common activities, rather than developing processes in 30 different ways. This free-flowing conversation evolved over time into talk of the things that Regional Ministers should expect of one another, especially as related to common tasks like reports, financial administration, and facilitating the search process for congregations seeking pastors. From that, a document has grown that we didn't realize we needed: *An Ethical Covenant for Regional Ministers*.

Your Regional Ministers are signing this document, in the accompanying photo (*right*). With our signatures, we pledge ourselves to high standards in our work as Regional Ministers, and to mutual accountability within the College. The three of us already operate as a mutually accountable roundtable, calling each other to our best work and to the good of the Christian Church in Kansas. This *Ethical Covenant for RMs* expands that circle of accountability to our colleagues throughout the whole church.

Most provisions of this document are already native to CCK. It establishes high standards for financial practices. It expects promptness and fairness in facilitating pastoral searches. It expects Regional Ministers to tend to their physical, mental, social, financial, and spiritual well-being in order to serve well, according to the *Policies and Criteria for the Order of Ministry*. Most of all, it expects Regional Ministers to take seriously, their role as leaders of the whole church and partners for the General Minister and President, who we treat as a partner adviser with respect to regional matters--similar to ways that Regional Ministers are partner advisers to pastors and leaders.

Pray for us, as we pray for you, that the ministry God has placed in our hands will be fruitful.



Mason Oswalt



Grace Mapel



Grace Duffey



Marisa Black

2019 CAMP INTERNS

In the May issue we inadvertently left off one of our summer interns.

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, Grace Duffey, Hillside CC, Wichita, Marisa Black, Wellington First CC, and Jordan Howard, Shelton Memorial CC, Ulysses.



Jordan Howard

Welcome to Tawakoni!

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

Communication Office
[Renee Bridwell](#), Regional Minister
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8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.
Augusta 67010-8111
316-775-1236; Fax: 316-775-1455

Central & High Plains Satellite Office

Clergy Care 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



DISCIPLES CONNECT & EQUIP

Kansas Disciples Regional Gathering

Saturday, August 10, 9 a.m.—4 p.m.
Disciples Center at Tawakoni

Join us as we combine our new vision “Together, we connect and equip,” and our Kansas Leadership Center training in our 2019 regional gathering.

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

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.

Pre-order a regional t-shirt for \$10 and pick up at the event. Price increases to \$15 the day of the event and sizes are not guaranteed. Design preview available in July.

Register and pay online at www.kansasdisciples.org or download a registration form and mail with payment to the Topeka Regional Office.

FAITH THAT OVERFLOWS

KANSAS DISCIPLES WOMEN FALL RETREAT

The 2019 KDW Women’s Retreat is getting closer every day! Join us on October 2- 4 or October 4-6 as we once again gather at Camp Tawakoni to celebrate *Faith That Overflows!*



NEW: Kirby Gould, Vice President for the North Central Zone of the Christian Church Foundation, will keynote the event. She serves the regions of Kansas, Greater Kansas City, Mid America, and Upper Midwest, assisting Disciples churches in with endowments, permanent funds, investments, planned gifts, and bequests.

Gould grew up in McPherson as an active participant in regional and youth programs. She is a frequent speaker at conferences and seminars across the country.

Additional activities include a painting workshop (\$30 extra), massages (extra fee), service projects including paper goods for the camp, stuffed animals and fleece blankets for the Child Advocacy Center, and much more!

Registration cost of \$100 includes lodging at the camp, five meals, and program expenses. **SAVE! Register by Friday, Sept. 6, to save \$15!** Register and pay online at www.kansasdisciples.org or download a registration form and mail with payment to the

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.

Register and pay online at www.kansasdisciples.org or download a registration form and mail with payment to the Topeka Regional Office.

MEN’S ODYSSEY EXPERIENCE



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

Saturday, 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-Control.

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.

Register and pay online at www.kansasdisciples.org or download a registration form and mail with payment to the Topeka Regional Office.

Using your newsletter to grow your church

Your church newsletter is a powerful communication tool whether it's an emailed digital form or a printed paper copy. It distributes information about future events, special missions and ministry projects, and provides individual faith growing opportunities in the form of prayer, devotions, and sermon discussions.

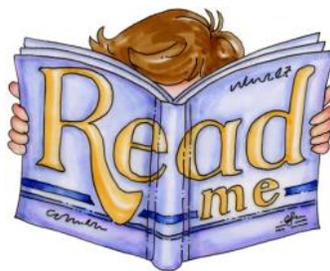
The danger comes when your newsletter starts to look like an insider's bulletin board and less like an inclusive and inviting faith community. So what do we do?

You start by looking at

who you are trying to reach – church members who are already established in the church and new potential members and visiting guests who are searching for a new church home.

Beginning in 2019, Faith Christian Church, Wichita, saw their vision and mission leading them to be an outward focused church. In doing so, all of their communication including their newsletter would be aimed toward reaching those outside their walls.

"By creating two newsletters we have given our members a new tool," said Andy Newbrey, Pastor



at Faith Christian Church. "We eliminated housekeeping items such as meetings and reports from the sharable newsletter, letting seekers, and potential guests know that we are not a club and we are intentionally opening our doors to the world."

Read the full article at www.kansasdisciples.org.

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!

Join us for General Assembly Des Moines

Worship, learning, fellowship and business all make up the biennial gathering of the General Church. Come early for one of the pre-events offered by Green Chalice, Phillips Theological Seminary, Disciples Alliance Q and Disciples Church Extension.

Join in the celebration beginning at 1:30 pm on Saturday, July 20, in the Iowa Events Center's arena. Meet Disciples from across all expressions of the church and ecumenical and international visitors. Worship and hear inspiring Bible studies and preaching. Explore workshops, MissionFest displays, exhibits, and enjoy special meal events and after sessions.

Find out what the general ministries have been doing

and their plans for the future. Register now at ga.disciples.org.

Youth Virtual Choir: This remote collaboration works by recording your singing and sending it in to us. We'll stitch together all of the singers into one giant sonic collage debuting at General Assembly. Show the world what God's doing through your generation.

Escape Room Adventure: Break out of the workshop mold with this wild and wacky adventure game. You and your team of up to 10 will be "locked" in a church-themed room, with 45 minutes to find clues, solve puzzles and discover keys and combinations to "escape" before your time expires.



Hunger Simulation: In the Hunger Simulation, you take on the identity of a real person experiencing food insecurity. You have 15 minutes to determine your food budget and get the recommended USDA MyPlate servings of fruits, vegetables, protein, grains, and dairy. You can do this by shopping at the grocery store, visiting the food pantry, and applying for SNAP benefits at the DHS office. Then, you will reflect on your experience and share with the rest of the group.

Foster announces retirement after 37 years of service



Kathy Foster, administrative assistant in the Central-High Plains Satellite office, has

announced her retirement effective July 31. She has helped the region transition through many regional changes and has blessed us with her dedication, commitment and gifts.

A retirement reception for Foster will be 1-4 p.m. on Saturday, July 6, in the Great Bend First CC parlor. All are invited to come as we say farewell. Cards and gifts may be sent to the Central-High Plains office in Great Bend or to the Topeka Regional Office.

RESILIENT HEARTS, LEADERS & COMMUNITIES GREEN CHALICE CLERGY RETREAT

It doesn't take long in ministry to realize that your own "stuff" shows up when caring for all of God's creation from people to planet. What can we do to show up as our best selves, even in the worst situations?

Join the Green Chalice Ministry July 18-20 at Wakonda Christian Church in Des Moines, IA. This retreat will meet at the intersections compassion Practice, sabbath, race, and creating to make peace within our own wounds so that we might make peace within these intersections.

Register at www.greenchalice.org



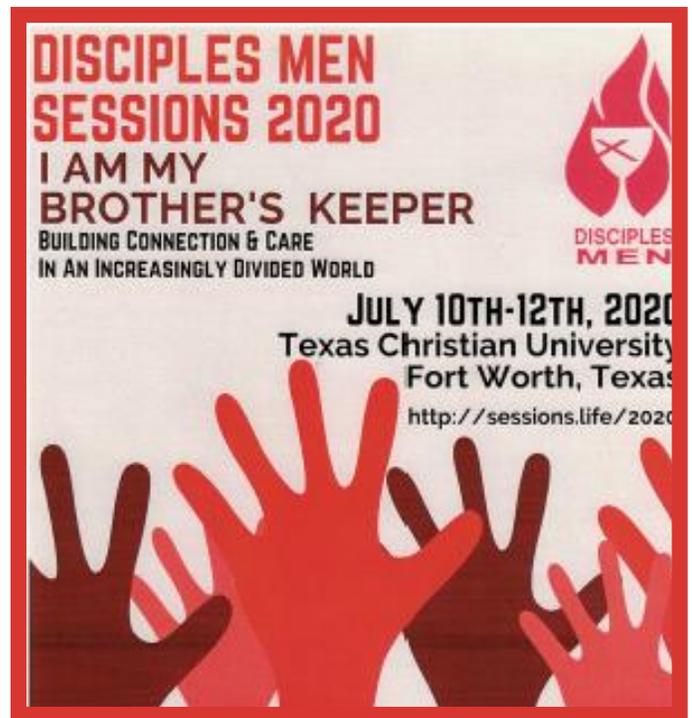
DOUBLE your impact!

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

\$10,000



Phillips Theological Seminary awarded 22 diplomas at its commencement ceremony May 18, at First Christian Church, Tulsa, Okla. Among those pictured are Claire Meredith, Chair of the Board of Trustees, and 2019 MDiv graduate Cristine Warring, pastor.



CAMP MAIL TIME

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

IN MEMORIAM:

Sharon Joan Finley, wife of Rev. Ken Finley, died May 10 at Quaker Hill Nursing Facility following a long illness. She taught kindergarten for several years and served as a minister's wife and mother most of her life. She loved to sing and decorate.

The Rev. Dr. **William Chris Hobgood**, former general minister and president, died May 31. Hobgood was general minister and president from October 2003 to July 2005. In addition to his work in the general Church, Hobgood was regional minister in Arkansas and the Capital Area and most recently pastor of Bethany Beach Christian Church in Delaware.