



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

www.kansasdisciples.org

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[Sid Rutland](#), Camp Manager
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www.tawakoni.org

Fellowship Groups

[Carla Pearson](#), Disciples Women
[Luis Mendez](#), Disciples Men

TBA, Regional Minister of
New Church Ministry

KCH HOLIDAY BAZAAR CANCELED

The KCH annual bazaar has been postponed until November 2021. However, cash donations payable to "KCH Campus Auxiliary" can still be sent to Alice Miller, 406 Bender Lane, Newton 67114.



Corner

BUILDING YOUR COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

BY JESSICA MARSTON, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Communication

Church communications is more than just editing the newsletter or making an announcement on Sunday morning. The everchanging complexities of modern communications require skills in a variety of interest fields.

Your church staff can't do everything. There are areas that escape their vision. That is where your church communications team comes in.

It takes a dedicated team to organize your church's various communications. A unified, consistent, and intentional communication strategy begins with your church's mission.

Whether you're currently building your team or you already have one, a team from a variety of backgrounds, ages, and genders increases the effectiveness of your overall church communication strategy. Every team will look different and might include paid staff, volunteers, contractors, interns, or some combination thereof.

If you have resources or means to hire someone, then great, but there are ways of working around this through volunteers and asking for help. If your church is fortunate enough to have staff, make sure you don't lock out volunteers. Whether you're recruiting staff or volunteers, intentionality is still important.

While one individual may not be able to take on all of these roles, some team members may fall in more than one role.

Communications Team Roles:

Project manager— coordinates between ministry leaders, creative staff, vendors, and volunteers.

Brand manager— checks for continuity and consistency in colors, fonts, and logo usage.

Copywriter— an excellent writer who understands the power of personal stories.

Graphic designer— creates compelling graphics to support the messages and promotions of the church.

Photographer— someone who knows how to tell a story with photographs.

Videographer— someone who knows how to tell a story with video.

Social media guru— coordinates and manages social media promotions and pages.

The Cheerleader— an outgoing, polished speaker who buys into your mission and wants every task to succeed in that mission.

The Outsider— helps generate messages that appeal to the whole community.

The Listener— understands how important listening is and also has the magic touch for recruiting volunteers.

Final Recommendation? Start simple, start somewhere, and work with what you have.

References

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- Norton, L. (2017, September 29). *Why You Need a Church Communications Team*. Retrieved from The Aspen Group: <http://www.aspengroup.com/blog/why-you-need-a-church-communications-team>
- Sanders, T. (2012, October 16). *Staffing the Church Communications Team*. Retrieved from MainStreetOpen.com: <http://mainstreetopen.com/staffing-the-church-communications-team/>

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THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER



BY KEN MARSTON, REGIONAL MINISTER

October is designated as Pastor appreciation month – a time when we encourage congregations to say thank you to their pastors. More than any other year, I believe it is important to say thank you to pastors of congregations in some tangible way.

You may not realize this, but many pastors have been hard at work learning to do ministry in ways they have neither been trained for or thought they would be doing. This pandemic has forced us to adopt the use of technology

in ways many are not use to. It has forced us to put together on-line worship without a live audience, thus taking on a role more like a television program producer/director/performer, than a pastor.

It has forced the use of video conferencing technology for meetings and educational experiences that has changed the nature of those experiences. It has meant longer hours and learning how to nurture professional and pastoral relationships without the benefit of being in the physical presence of others. And it has raised the stress level of us all, but especially pastors as they deal frequently with feelings of inadequacy for doing ministry in these ways.

Most pastors, have taken on this challenge with a dedication and faithfulness that I admire and I'm grateful for. They have done so with little complaining and they have done so because they love God and their congregations. They want what is best for those whom God has given into their care.

So, please, I encourage you, send your pastor a card of thanks or encouragement this month. (See article on page 4 for additional ways to show appreciation) But most of all give them an extra measure of grace and forgiveness. You will be glad you did and so will they.

TAWAKONI CAMP UPDATE

The Camp Steering Committee is working to analyze and prepare a list of future maintenance needs. The list currently includes two items in the kitchen to meet current health code requirements and replacing air conditioning condenser units. In addition, we are investigating a security system including a new front gate which can be easily monitored by staff.

The camp is blessed by many who care deeply for the Disciples Center. We have quite a list of return-users, including quilt groups, young adults from local colleges, and others. The pandemic forced many of our regularly scheduled camp programs and non-program group rentals to cancel for 2020. We have received about \$28,000 in program fees of the budgeted \$173,000 and about \$800 in non-program rental fees of the budgeted \$12,100. We have heard from



several of these, hoping for dates in 2021.

In addition, we have a wonderful list of volunteers who help to keep everything working. Some are available for mowing, and others tackle projects which need careful work. These folks are such a blessing, and the door is open to invite others.

(Story continued on page 4)

DISCIPLES MEN CORNER

BY LUIS MENDEZ, KDM COORDINATOR



Greetings! My name is, Luis Mendez. I was born in Puerto Rico. When I was 11 months old, my mom, three brothers, and I moved to Gary, IN.

I was a senior in high school when I started feeling a call to ministry, but it wasn't until I was in my 30's when I answered the call as the Associate Pastor at River of Life Christian Church, Logansport, IN.

In 2001, I received a call asking me to consider moving to Kansas to be the minister at Fairview Christian Church now The Dock.

On Sept. 1, I accepted the call as Pastor at North Heights Christian Church and the Kansas Disciples Men Coordinator. I'm looking forward to working with the Men's Cabinet and coming up with different ways to be "Connected and Equipped" to God and each other.

In September, the new officers for the Disciples Men's Cabinet were accepted. The officers are:

- Lanny Norstrom – President Galva FCC
- Kelly Jayne – Vice President Kingman Christian Church
- Ken Schuette – Secretary Riverside CC, Wichita
- John Sowers – Pastor Advisor Leavenworth FCC
- Jeff Smitt – Past President McPherson FCC

The cabinet will hold a retreat on Saturday, Oct. 10, to discuss future event planning. Keep us in your prayers; and many blessings to you.

Looking forward to next year, the Disciples Men Fall Retreat will be Sept. 24-25, 2021.

Feel free to contact me at disciplesmen@kansasdisciples.org or call 316-461-8170. I'm looking forward to hearing from you.

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

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION



2021 ART OF CHURCH COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS

Develop effective church communication strategies and goals to become a better steward of your church’s communication resources at the 2021 Art of Church Communication workshops.

This five-week workshop series will be Wednesday mornings, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., in March. Both in-person and video options are available. In-person location to be decided. These workshops provide church leadership – pastors, office staff, and members – with tools and strategies to improve their church’s overall communication ministry effectiveness.

Each workshop will include an interactive presentation, guided hands-on activities, and real-world church applications. Workshops are for anyone (not just church office staff). If you’re interested in church communication ministry, regardless of skill level, you are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Cost is \$30 per workshop or \$120 when you sign-up for all five. Save even more by signing up for all five workshops with two or more friends from your church and pay \$100 each. Workshop topics will be in the November issue of the *Kansas Messenger*.

TAWAKONI ONLINE GALA AUCTION IS ONE MONTH AWAY

We look forward to your church participating in this year’s virtual Gala Auction beginning at noon (CST) on Saturday, Nov. 7, and closing at 9 p.m. (CST) on Saturday, Nov. 14. Proceeds from this year’s auction goal of \$25,000 will benefit Tawakoni’s overall operational costs and provide camp scholarships for the 2021 season.

Help us spread the word! Because we must change the method of backing the camp this year, it is vitally important that you share and invite your church, friends, family, and neighbors to join in. Everyone is invited to participate, and no gift is too small. Even if you don’t see an auction item to bid on, you can still donate to specific camp needs through our Fund-a-Need donation page.

Get your auction items in! The Gala committee is well on its way to building a great set of items for bid. We have received 65 items so far with more on the way. Donations of gift certificates or gift cards are preferred. Quality items and gift baskets are also accepted. All donations with donation

forms are due at a drop-off location by Friday, Oct. 16. See www.kansasdisciples.org/gala for details.

Register for your Bidder ID! Registration is currently open to obtain your Bidder ID for the auction. Go to www.kansasdisciples.org/gala or www.tawakoni.org/auction and click on “My Account.” Enter your preferred email address and click “Register.” You will receive an email with a computer-generated password. You can choose to change your account information including password at anytime.

During the auction process, you will receive email communications that confirm your bid number, and advisories if your bid has been surpassed. After the auction is completed you will be notified if you have successfully acquired an auction item(s) and will be given instructions to complete your payment.

Thank you for your continued support of the Disciples Center at Tawakoni!



1/4 SIDE OF BEEF

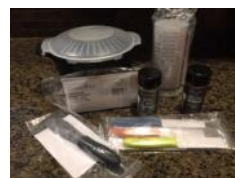
Includes processing and delivery
Processing will be the week of November 17.
Winner must contact Ken Houshopper by
Tuesday, November 17.
Value: \$700

Donated By:



Gala Donation Drop-off Locations

- **Topeka Regional Office**
2914 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka,
785-266-2914
- **Lewis Christian Church**
320 Main St, Lewis
620-324-5217
- **Central/High Plains Satellite Office**
5230 Broadway Ave, Great Bend
620-792-6490
- **Tawakoni Camp Office**
8492 SW Tawakoni Rd, Augusta
316-775-1222



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NEWS FROM YOUR REGION



OCTOBER IS PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

On average, 90% of pastors work over 45 hours a week, but this year hasn't been normal. A recent study shows that, pastors have increased their workload to 55-70 hours per week. (See accompanying article "Thoughts from your Regional Minister" on page 2)

October is designated as Pastor Appreciation Month with a mission of uplifting and encouraging pastors, missionaries and religious workers. Throughout October, take the opportunity to show your gratitude for the hard work your pastor does. Here are a few ideas:

Give a special church donation: Charitable giving has dropped, and these gifts are vital to your church's mission. Give a special gift in your pastor's name. Then, write a note expressing how the pastor has positively influenced your relationship with God.

Activate others to donate: Inviting a friend, neighbor, co-worker, and others to donate to your church's mission causes is a wonderful way to show your pastor you value them.

Engage to the fullest: Engage with your church beyond the walls by downloading your church app, watching your live stream, participating in prayer requests, and sharing social media posts.

Give a monetary gift: Monetary gifts are thoughtful, and there are a variety of ways to present these. Cash trees are easy and fun to give. You can also give gift cards to the pastor's favorite restaurant, bookstore, or grocery stores.

Update technology for the church: Technology can make a pastor's job much easier. Collect funds to update and replace

old computers, dated church management systems, and sound systems.

Medical/Food supplies for ministry: Right now, ministers are out in their communities helping people that are suffering. Depending on your church's current mission efforts, they could use extra supplies. Call your church and ask what items are needed most.

Volunteer: Volunteer in your pastor's name to help fill a need such as extra cleaning duties, community outreach programs, and other leadership responsibilities.

A final thought: Remember, if you don't know what your pastor would appreciate most, ask office assistants, close friends or family members. Trust that no matter what you give as a token of appreciation, your pastor will love and cherish it.

thank
you!

Source: blog.easytithes.com

PEACE IN CHAOS AFFINITY GROUP

You are invited to join other 18-35 years olds who are exploring ways to find peace and new life in the midst of the chaotic world we live in.

Peace in Chaos (PIC) is a four week online discussion of spiritual practices. You'll hear about a few spiritual practices and get a chance to try them yourself.

PIC will start on Thursday, Oct. 8, at 6:30 p.m. We'll meet for 90-minutes on Thursdays in October. Sign-up online at www.kansasdsciples.org.

TAWAKONI UPDATE (CONTINUED FROM PG. 2)

We also thank you for your continued financial support. We have received more than \$20,000 in designated donations. Continue to give in support of Tawakoni and minimize the pandemic's impact on our operational costs including supporting our online Gala Auction. (See article on page 3)

While summer 2020 will not easily be forgotten, we do not want to lose sight of the many ways we are blessed. It was a true joy to welcome Sid Rutland as full-time Camp Manager. Shortly after he began, the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and the summer was not what any of us had hoped for. Yet the maintenance and care were accomplished and now we are planning for camp season 2021!

We hope to announce a summer 2021 camp schedule soon. We will do so with a footnote, "pending development of the COVID-19 virus." Adjustments will be necessary; it is doubtful that we will hold camps for 60 or more as in the past. Stay tuned and know that every effort to return to our "new normal" is being made.

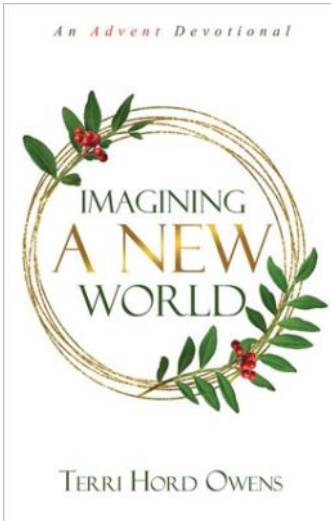
The Disciples Center at Tawakoni remains open. All visitors are asked to call ahead of their arrival and check-in with staff. Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Friday, or by appointment. Rental reservations will be accepted following city, county and state COVID-19 guidelines.

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

NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

‘JUST IMAGINE IF...’

A NEW DAILY ADVENT DEVOTIONAL



Advent’s scripture passages call us to imagine a new world, one free from fear, not one based on a “return to normal.” In this new daily devotional for Advent, [Imagining a New World](#), Terri Hord Owens, leader of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) denomination, delves into Advent lectionary texts to reflect on God’s vision for the world and how we might find the courage to imagine, the permission to change, and the freedom to fear no more. A prayer round outs each daily devotion.

Imagining a New World offers an inspiring pause during the day to reflect more prayerfully on what the season of Advent inspires in you, and in your community.

Buy a copy for each member of your congregation and get ready to imagine a new world together this Advent. This book is available for \$3.99 at www.chalicepress.com.

PTS Launches Ready-to-Stream Worship Kit for Churches

In this time of online worship, Phillips Theological Seminary wants to offer churches a break from creating and preparing their weekly worship service. Phillips has created a complete digital worship service as a gift to pastors and congregational leaders.

The service was created by members of the Phillips community, with President Nancy Claire Pittman preaching the sermon on Ecclesiastes 2:18-26.

In addition to the full service, each component of worship is available for download as its own file. For more information about the worship kit, or to register for a link to download the kit click [here](#).



IN MEMORIAM

Commissioned Minister **Tom Gandy** died October 5 after a hard fight against an aggressive cancer, and a short period of hospice care. Gandy was a fixture at Riverside Christian Church, Wichita, and led the Brothers in Blue prison ministry in Wichita.

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 at <https://kansasdisciples.org/km-submissions/>. Article submission deadline for the November issue is **Monday, October 19**.

AN INVITATION TO ‘WATER THE PLANTS’

The challenges of starting a church are unique. “Water the Plants” is a church-wide initiative from New Church Ministry that brings together 1,000 intercessors to pray for new leaders and congregations in the Christian Church (DOC).

This program gathers a team of dedicated supporters of new worship expressions to prioritize the spiritual discipline of prayer. Based on 1 Corinthians 3:6, we take a proactive approach to “watering” church “plants” with prayer.

If you are interested in participating, we ask that you commit to praying for the ministries and leaders of the New Church Movement. You will receive a prayer calendar that will guide daily and weekly prayers during your own personal prayer times as well as during our group prayer times led by a New Church Ministry Prayer Leader. In addition, you will receive regular communication prayer reminders as well as a physical prayer reminder of your choice. As part of their Covenant Agreement, intercessors are expected to:

- Embrace a lifestyle of prayer
- Regularly join a Water the Plants Prayer Group by phone for an 11-minute prayer led by a Prayer Leader
- Receive regular communication regarding additional prayer topics by email, text, and/or social media
- Provide your mailing address to receive keychain or wristband — your choice — that will remind you to pray.

To learn more, visit <https://newchurchministry.org/services/water-plants-prayer-initiative/>. If you have any questions, contact us at pray@newchurchministry.org.