



# Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

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

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## Kansas Regional Office

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## Central & High Plains

### Satellite Office

#### Clergy Care Office

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### Communication Office

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8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.  
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[www.tawakoni.org](http://www.tawakoni.org)

## Fellowship Groups

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

TBA, Regional Minister of  
New Church Ministry

## SUMMER CAMP SCHEDULE IS AVAILABLE



Registration for the 2021 camp season is now open. Children, youth and adults are invited to join us at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni for another great year of camps. Camp sessions in June and July offer seven events for grades K-12 and three specialty camps. A complete schedule and online registration can be found at [www.kansasdisciples.org/summer-camp](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/summer-camp).

### The 2021 camp theme: "Creation Speaks"

Campers will explore seven scripture passages, primarily from the book of Genesis with supplemental New Testament passages. *Creation Speaks* invites us to look to God's creation, including each other, as we listen for God's voice in the world today. We are intentional about creating activities and

experiences that are affirming of all God's people. However a camper arrives at camp, and however they understand themselves, we want them to know they are God's child.

### Camp activities:

Camps are organized around a small group of about eight campers and two counselors. The groups make decisions together and explore the scripture passages assigned for each day. In addition to these small group activities, which vary according to the ages of the campers, the campers can look forward to a variety of other activities including swimming, challenge course, crafts and lake time.

### Registration:

Registration for 2021 is a bit different. There is no early bird deadline as in the past. The schedule includes two fee columns. The first, larger amount, reflects the real expense for each camper. The second, the "Reduced fee," applies an automatic 30% scholarship from the Camp Scholarship Fund to help make the fee more affordable. A full week, which costs \$350, will be reduced to \$245 for 2021 only. Additional scholarship help is available for families who have a need and complete an application by April 1. Typically this fund pays about 25% of the fee. Registration for specific camp events will be closed seven days before the opening of the camp session.



Each year in February, congregations across the United States and Canada collect a special offering for Week of Compassion.

Week of Compassion is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund

of the Christian Church (DOC).

Funds received through this special offering provides grants for urgent needs like emergency supplies, water and food when disaster occurs.

## WEEK OF COMPASSION SPECIAL OFFERING

When you give to Week of Compassion Special Offering, you deploy resources to people in need all around the world.

So that more communities can experience this new life, please give

generously through your local church, ENGAGE account or online at [weekofcompassion.org](http://weekofcompassion.org), and let love flow.

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

## THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

### “Truth is the first casualty of war”

BY KEN MARSTON, REGIONAL MINISTER



Have you noticed how often our political leaders, when faced with a serious issue that they feel we, as a nation, need to solve declare war on that problem? There has been a declaration of war on poverty, and a war on drugs to name two issues. Election campaign advisors often approach their work as being at

war. We even have a COVID-19 pandemic “war room.”

In war we have an enemy. That enemy is evil which we must conquer or destroy at any cost. In war, we adopt a black and white, right and wrong mentality that guides our thinking, our policies, strategies, and our actions. In war, we dare not consider our diagnosis of the situation or interpretation of the facts might be flawed.

This supposedly helps us take a problem seriously. This supposedly helps us marshal the resources, resolve, and

commitment needed. The sentiment is good. The goal is righteous. Yet, all the striving, hours of hard work, the loss of lives, and dollars spent, little progress, if any, is made. Why?

There is a truism about declaring war that perhaps we too often forget. That truism says, “Truth is the first casualty of war.” Perhaps part of the problem with declaring war on social issues is the language of war and the mind set the language calls us to adopt.

The late Rabbi Edwin Friedman once said the seriousness with which we address many problems contribute to the problem. If this is true, and if truth is the first casualty of war then in declaring war, we lose the ability to see the truth of the challenge before us. Maybe, if we stopped using the language of war to address our challenges, we might stop seeing each other as part of the problem. We might see the humanity in others who think differently and live differently than us. We might even find solutions to our challenges we never would have considered otherwise. Who knows, we might even begin to love each other as God already loves us.

### CAMP REQUIRES VOLUNTEERS!

It takes the dedication of our camp volunteers and staff like you to make each and every camp season possible. Following are the roles we seek to fill within the next few weeks:

**Summer Interns:** College students, or college-age adults, who spend the entire summer at camp. Tasks vary and may include work at the pool or the Challenge Course; planning and supervising games; dishwashing and support to the kitchen staff, and more. Interns are paid a small weekly stipend and a scholarship for continuing their college studies. Contact Sid Rutland, Camp Manager, for more information at [campmanager@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:campmanager@kansasdisciples.org).

**Directors:** Adults who have a passion for working with children and youth. Most have been recruited but a few more are needed. All directors are invited to a training event on Saturday, April 17 at the camp.

**Counselors:** Adults who have a passion for working with children and youth. They are with the campers throughout the camp experience and are required to stay in the cabins with them. Directors plan training before the start of camp.

**Nurses:** These are recruited by Brenda Davis. The nurses give medications, monitor the health of campers, and at times run to the Emergency Room when required.

**Maintenance Volunteers:** Spend the entire camp week and give assistance to the Camp Manager in maintenance and other ways to keep the camp both attractive and functioning for a variety of activities.

A volunteer form can be found at [www.tawakoni.org](http://www.tawakoni.org). These forms are very important as it helps directors to know those who might volunteer.

### COVID PRECAUTIONS FOR 2021 CAMP



The camp and all its personnel will do everything possible to ensure a safe environment for everyone: campers, staff, and volunteers. Camp staff and volunteers will be required to have

a recent COVID test before camp begins. Temperature checks will be done at check-in and daily throughout each session. Face masks will be worn throughout the camp program. Campers will be encouraged to bring several masks. A supply of masks will be available for those who are unable to bring their own. Program leaders will plan for social-distancing as much as possible. Camp staff will sanitize the sleeping cabins daily. Meals will be served by staff instead of family-style. Depending on the weather, small groups may eat outdoors under the shade.

We plan to use only half of the available beds to maintain social distancing guidelines. As we know, there may be more demand than spots available, a waitlist will be kept during registration. Often campers who are registered find it necessary to drop out for a variety of reasons. If spots open up, a call will be made in the order of the waitlist to see if campers remain interested in participation.

For additional information contact the Topeka regional office, 785-266-2914, or email Regional Minister, Steve Martin, [smartin@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:smartin@kansasdisciples.org).

## NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

**CCKE 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.

### 2021 VIRTUAL SPIRIT FEST

The 2021 Virtual Spirit Fest will be by Zoom, 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 10, and 2-4 p.m. on Sunday, April 11. There is no charge for this online event.

Rev. Caroline Hamilton-Arnold, Associate Director, Domestic Disaster Response for Week of Compassion, will bring the keynote address during worship.



Caroline is a proud TCU graduate, and she completed her Master of Divinity at Claremont School of Theology. Caroline is a lifelong Disciple and she believes a life of faith is about becoming part of God's ongoing work in the world.

Attendees will have an opportunity to take part in two of the four workshops being offered. Workshops include a study from the book "Service, Ministry of Heart

and Hands", Sharing Individual Service Ideas, Exploring Daily Devotions, and a demonstration on making a crocheted sleeping mat for the homeless.

Blessing Box offerings will be dedicated during worship service. Please send your offerings to the Regional office at 2914 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka 66611. Please make checks payable to Christian Church in Kansas and write "Blessing Box" in the memo line.

Registration is open and may be completed online at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org) or through your ENGAGE account. A PDF copy of the registration form is available from Carla Pearson, KDW Coordinator at [carla.pearson58@gmail.com](mailto:carla.pearson58@gmail.com) or any regional office.



Donations of supplies or money are also helpful. Needed supplies include:

- Paper Towels, Napkins, Toilet paper
- 13 & 33 Gal. Trash Bags
- Toilet Cleaner
- Flour Sack Dish Towels
- Dish Cloths
- Crock Pot liners
- Soft Scrub Comet
- Zip-lock bags—quart and gallon sizes

### HELP US GET THE CAMP READY FOR SUMMER CAMP SEASON

Enjoy swinging a hammer, slinging a paintbrush, or cleaning out the flowerbeds? Bring your bedding, bring your tools, and come out to Tawakoni and help get the camp ready for the summer camping season.

Volunteers are needed from 10 am on Thursday, April 15, through lunch on Sunday, April 18.

Because there is no cost for work sessions, we ask you to help us be good stewards of food by letting us know of your intent to attend.

Contact Camp Manager Sid Rutland, [campmanager@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:campmanager@kansasdisciples.org), or volunteer coordinator Vern Failor, [vfailor@gmail.com](mailto:vfailor@gmail.com) to reserve your spot.

### REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THESE REGIONAL EVENTS:

**2021 AOCC WORKSHOPS**  
9:30 A.M.—12:30 P.M.

**WEDNESDAYS IN MARCH**

Individual cost is \$30 per workshop or \$120 for all five workshops. Church groups of three or more from the same church can register for \$100 per person when they sign-up to attend all five workshops.

**DISCIPLES MEN**  
**ODYSSEY RETREAT**  
9 A.M.—5 P.M.

**SATURDAY, APRIL 17**  
**TAWAKONI**

All men and boys, 10 years and older, are encouraged to attend. Cost is \$35.

**BOUNDARIES TRAINING—**  
**HEALTHY LIFESTYLES**  
**MAY 22 -TAWAKONI**

**OCT. 19 -GREAT BEND FCC**  
The cost for ministers is \$35 and \$10 for church leaders. Clergy spouses are free.

**ANNUAL R<sup>3</sup> CLERGY RETREAT**  
**TUESDAY, APRIL 27 —**  
**THURSDAY, APRIL 29**  
**TAWAKONI**

The cost is \$70 for overnight lodging at our camp and four meals. The cost is \$50 if a participant is not staying overnight at the camp.

## NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

### WHERE'S MY YEARBOOK FORM?

The paper yearbook forms of years past are gone and now you can enter your data easily via the ALEX: Data for Disciples app. You can login using any web-connected device with your congregation's username and password. For more about the system, including instructions, video tours, and background, go to [disciples.org/alex](http://disciples.org/alex). Reports are due by March 15.

If you cannot find your initial login email from [alex@disciples.org](mailto:alex@disciples.org), you can email that address and staff from the Office of General Minister and President will get you on your way. If your initial link expired, you can go to the [alex.disciples.org](http://alex.disciples.org) website, click on "forgot password" and enter your username (your email) to receive a new link.

## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

### WHERE'S MY YEARBOOK FORM?

KDW President Jauna Khan, McPherson FCC, has been elected to serve on the International Disciples Women Ministries Executive Committee as the Regional Presidents' Representative. Nominated by the KDW Cabinet, Khan will work with other IDWM members to provide input and themes for DW studies and programs as well as various other leadership tasks within DW. Congratulations, Jauna.



## MINISTRY TRANSITIONS

**Charles Kaufmann**, retired January 31 from Groveland CC, Inman.

Emporia FCC transitional minister, **Lorraine Bailey**, will retire at the end of February.

## 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 MEMORIUM

**Rev. Dr. Paul A. Crow, Jr.**, died January 27. He served as President of the Council on Christian Unity for 25 years. Dr. Crow was a long-time friend, colleague, and mentor to many Disciples and ecumenical friends as he offered significant leadership for over 40 years in promoting the unity of all Christians and the oneness of Christ's church in its local, regional, national, and international expressions. Dr. Crow helped to define and shape the ecumenical

movement in many ways – especially in nurturing seminary students and younger pastors in understanding their call to a ministry that includes the vision of unity and reconciliation as the "matrix for mission" in our world today.

## 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 February issue is:

**Monday, February 15**