



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)



www.kansasdisciples.org

Vol. 126, Ed. 04: April 2022

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**We would love to
connect with you!**

Connect with us on

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WEEK OF COMPASSION: PARTNERING TO RESPOND TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE



"For us, like for many others, every day Ukraine is on our hearts." So begins a letter from Pieter and Nora Kalkan, missionaries to the Czech Republic, through International Ministries, and the European Baptist Federation (EBF), Week of Compassion is on the ground in Ukraine, responding to those fleeing the country, or internally displaced by the war.

In Mariupol, two central churches shelter several hundred Ukrainian people. In Lviv, EBF-volunteers run mobile hospitals, where pastors provide spiritual and psychological support, and train others to do the same. Churches are serving as centers of refuge, helping those in transit, or needing overnight care.

Centers in bordering nations distribute aid, and churches have housed thousands of refugees. Hundreds of miles from Ukraine, rides are organized to pick up refugees and carry them to other nations. EBF is trying to connect with African and Asian refugees from Ukraine who have been refused at some borders. All refugees are being fed and are offered free transport and accommodation.

Even while the needs are dire, Week of Compassion holds fast to the vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope. We ask that you pray, prepare, and give.

PRAY: Pray that peace will reign in Ukraine. Pray for those staying in the cities surrounded by fighting. Pray for those travelling. Pray that Churches will be able to minister to all. Pray that leaders will know the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit.

PREPARE: We know there will be refugee, displacement, and relief needs for a very long time to come, and that you will join us in response and welcome.

GIVE: Contributions to Week of Compassion can be made online, www.weekofcompassion.org/donate, or by check (PO Box 1986, Indianapolis IN 46206). When designated for International Emergency Response, 100% of your gift will serve those impacted by this crisis.



EASTER SPECIAL OFFERING GOD'S LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

The Easter Offering, received on April 10 and 17, supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, and so much more.

Higher Education and Leadership Ministries (HELM) works with wider church and higher education partners to develop and nurture Christian leaders who are transforming church, society and world.

HELM focuses its mission into three areas: Leadership Programs, Colleges & Universities, and Theological Education.

Your gift has the power to change lives around the world. Give online now or through your congregation. Thank you.

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

Summer Camp 2022 Taking Shape



This past weekend I had the honor and privilege to sit in on the Summer Camp program meeting. This meeting's purpose was to help orient and train this year's Camp Directors and Camp Chaplains. As I looked around the table and listened to what was happening, I was greatly encouraged by those who have agreed to be part of the leadership for this year's camp program.

Belinda Amend is leading this team as well as directing at least one of our camps. Greg Rea, one of our chaplains, provided an overview of how he is approaching the camp curriculum as well as some training and insight for how to deal with various issues that children and youth may bring with them to the camp setting. And I am impressed by the folks who will be providing leadership for each of our camps.

BY KEN MARSTON,
CO-REGIONAL MINISTER, INTERIM REGIONAL PRESIDENT

Now is the time to get campers registered. The earlier we receive these registrations the better prepared our adult leaders will be to make this camp experience among the best week of our young peoples lives. When completing the online registration form, please be sure to click the "next" button on the confirmation/review page. Registration information is not saved in our system until you do. If you think you registered and have not received a confirmation email, call the Topeka Regional Office (785-266-2914) immediately. **See the 2022 Camp Schedule and register online at www.kansasdisciples.org.**

If there are adults who would like to be part of this experience as a camp counselor, please go to <https://tawakoni.org/summer-camp-program/> and fill out the volunteer application form today. We need to get background checks done and begin filling out the camp leadership teams as soon as possible.

EQUIPPING SMALL CHURCHES TO CONNECT WITH 21ST CENTURY FOLLOWERS

Editor's note: This article is part two of three that offers church communication strategies specifically for small congregations. While the focus is on small churches, all churches will find the strategies presented helpful for their ministry.

Written by Jessica Marston, CCK Communication Specialist.



Small churches with worship attendance of 75 people or less often have a smaller pool of volunteers to pull from and fewer financial resources to buy expensive equipment and programs.

It is important for churches to build up their digital presence, first with a church website then with social media profiles. Church websites are as much – if not more so – for visitors as they are for church members. The information contained in your church website is always accessible regardless of time or day and unlike social media pages the content and format are 100% controlled by you.

When looking at content, consider your church website as your digital front door and your site's home page as its welcome mat.

In today's tech centered world, the choice of having a website and social media presence is not an "either/or"

situation. It's a "both/and" proposition. Social media profiles allow your church to build relationships with church members and the community connections they represent. It is a tool to reach people where they are.

The list of social media platforms continues to grow every year and each one attracts a different user demographic, caters to a different media type, and has a different purpose. Do your research and find the platforms that will fit your needs. Remember that it is better to do 1-3 platforms well rather than four or more platforms in mediocrity.

Another simple way small churches can connect is through live streaming. With the COVID pandemic, churches have had to learn fast, and often on the fly, to transform traditional in-person worship into virtual live streamed gatherings. Understandably, some pastors are apprehensive about this

change, not wanting it to turn into another theatrical television evangelist type event.

When done effectively, live streaming is a great tool to connect with your church and the surrounding community. It takes the manifestation of the church beyond the walls of a physical church building. Live stream videos create excitement and membership engagement not just on Sunday morning but throughout the week.

It offers members a chance to connect with their church family even when they physically can't attend and fosters a diverse and dynamic faith community. It shows visitors that you understand your members varied and sometimes unpredictable lifestyles while giving them a pressure-free way to check out your church prior to their first church visit.

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

SUBMIT YOUR ARTICLES AND PICTURES TO US.

We are glad to receive your news articles and photographs for publication. Submit your items online at www.kansasdisciples.org/km-submissions.

The *Kansas Messenger* editorial team reserves the right to edit all materials for relevance, clarity, and space. Submission deadline for the May issue is:

Monday, April 18

WOODRIDGE CHRISTIAN CHURCH YOUTH HOST POTATO BAR FOR CAMP SCHOLARSHIPS

On March 21, the youth group at Woodridge Christian Church hosted a baked potato bar to raise money for those attending camp this summer.

Opportunities like this, give youth a way to have the life changing experience offered during summer camp.



CAMP NEWS

REMEMBER TO REGISTER FOR SUMMER CAMP 2022 EARLY BIRD DEADLINE IS APRIL 28

Come join us at Tawakoni for another exciting year!

Camp registration is now open for the 2022 Summer Camp Program. Six, age appropriate, camp sessions and three specialty camps are planned throughout June and July.

This year's theme, "What's in a Name," will explore the power and meanings we apply to names and how God equips us to care for others.

Registration fee includes lodging and meals, program expense, nurse, theme T-shirt and water



bottle, and \$10 for the camp maintenance fund. Register online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events, or through your Engage account.

Registration and health forms are also available through your church office. **Register before April 30 and SAVE \$40!** Registration will close two weeks prior to each camp session or when a session reaches maximum capacity. A wait list will be maintained in the Topeka Regional Office.

Help us go green!

To save paper and processing time, we encourage everyone to register for camp through our online registration system. For churches who scholarship all or part of camp registration fees, we have added a partial payment option to our online registration system.

Churches may request a report of the campers from their church who are registered by contacting Joanne Weddle in the Topeka Regional Office

When completing the online registration form, please be sure to click the "next" button on the confirmation/review page. **Registration information is not saved and submitted until you do.**

If you think you registered and have not received a confirmation email, call the Topeka Regional Office immediately.

Have Questions? We are here to help!

Check out our Summer Camp Program page at www.kansasdisciples.org or contact the Topeka Regional office at cck@kansasdisciples.org or call 785-266-2914 for assistance.

CAMP NEWS

HELP US GET THE CAMP READY FOR THE 2022 SUMMER SEASON



Time to dust off that trusty tool belt and grab a shovel or chain saw. Springtime means it's time to meet at

the camp and get the facilities ready for the summer!

The Spring Work Camp will be Thursday, April 21, starting at 10 a.m. and will conclude after lunch April 23. Help us get Tawakoni ready for the summer!

The projects planned include:

- ⇒ Clean cabin dormitory rooms
- ⇒ De-winterize cabins
- ⇒ Service lawn equipment, vehicles, and tractor
- ⇒ Clean out and mulch all of the flower beds and gardens
- ⇒ Mow as needed
- ⇒ Clean around the lagoon
- ⇒ Spray the trails and trim trees
- ⇒ Do minor electrical and carpentry projects
- ⇒ Stain the decks

We will provide food and lodging for all of you. Please let Vern Failor know if you will be coming via email vfailor@gmail.com, or call him at 785-231-3960.

CAMP DIRECTORS WANT YOU ON THEIR TEAM!



It takes many volunteers working along side paid staff to make our summer camp program possible. Directors and Chaplains met on April 2, to prepare for the 2022 season. Directors are now looking for volunteers to fill their teams.

Tawakoni is committed to ensuring all children and youth who attend our 2022 Summer Camp Programs have a fun and safe time. Following the CCK Child Protection Policy, all volunteers and staff working at camp this summer will need to turn in a Volunteer Application Form found at

www.tawakoni.org.

After filling out a volunteer application form, volunteers will receive an email with a background check consent form to sign and return. Directors will begin calling volunteers once background checks are cleared.



All paid and volunteer staff will be expected to be a good example of Christian faith and follow all COVID safety protocols as advised by the Camp Manager and Outdoor Ministries Team.

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

2022 ART OF CHURCH COMMUNICATION WORKSHOPS RESCHEDULED FOR JULY

Join us for the weekly Art of Church Communication Workshop Seminar in July. Taught by CCK Communications Specialist Jessica Marston, sessions will be online "at your own pace" to provide church leadership – pastors, office staff, and members – with tools and strategies to improve their church's overall communication ministry.

Each week participants will discuss a different church communication topic through discussion boards, a video presentation, interactive Q&A session, real-world applications, and more. In addition to all the great information, strategies, and resources presented at the Art of Church Communication workshops, every participant is eligible to win a \$50-\$75 gift card for their church.

Learn more and register at: kansasdisciples.org/aocc-workshops, through your ENGAGE account, or the regional Facebook Events page. The final registration deadline is **4 p.m. Friday, June 17**. A minimum of eight paid registrations is needed by the early bird deadline to hold workshops.



NEWS FROM YOUR REGION



REST, RELAX, AND RENEW CLERGY RETREAT

All Kansas pastors are invited to Tawakoni for a time of rest, relaxation, and renewal at this year's clergy retreat April 26-28 at Tawakoni.

The retreat begins with dinner at 6 p.m. on Tuesday and will end before noon on April 28.

Each year during the last week of April clergy from around the region meet at the Disciples Center at Tawakoni for fellowship and conversation with a resident theologian. This year, Dr. William Willimon will be our resident theologian.

The cost is \$70 for two nights lodging at the camp and four meals. If you will not be staying at the camp the cost is \$50. Registration is open online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events, and through your ENGAGE account.

DISCIPLES MEN FALL RETREAT IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 16-17

By: Luis Mendez, KDM Coordinator

As always, time is flying by quickly. Before you know it, our calendar will be reading September and you know that means -- Disciples Men's Retreat at Tawakoni.

If you haven't heard yet, make note of this; our regular fourth weekend in September is NOT available. This year our retreat will take place on the third weekend, Sept. 16 and 17, at Tawakoni.

Start making plans to attend. The theme for the retreat is: "The Courage To Let God." Our guest speaker will be, Rev. Dr. Paul Koch, Regional Minister in Mid-America Missouri.

It takes a lot of trust, and courage to let go, and let God. I'm excited!



PLAN NOW FOR THE FALL KDW RETREAT



KDW Women's Retreat will be held at Disciples Center at Camp Tawakoni, on Oct. 5-7 and 7-9. Get your permanent ink pen out to write it on your calendar, and plan to attend, because it is certain to be an exciting event! Disciples Women will be joining in fellowship, learning, and worship.

Your 2022 Retreat Committee, chaired by Jeanette Hammond (North Heights CC, Wichita) is deep in preparation, so please join with the women

of the region as we embrace our theme, "Let's BEE Church and Make a Difference!"

The speaker for retreat is the Rev. Christian Watkins, Executive Director and Campus Pastor at Ecumenical Campus Ministry, Kansas State University.

Watch for registration information coming in June.

NOTICE OF REGIONAL BOARD

The Regional Board will meet beginning at 10 a.m. on Saturday, April 30, at Tawakoni. If you are planning to attend, please contact Joanne Weddle in the Topeka Regional Office so we can prepare for your arrival.

Please be in prayer for our regional leaders as we conduct the business and ministries of the region.

2022 SPIRIT FEST:

WHAT DOES GOD REQUIRE OF ME?

There is still time to register for the KDW Spirit Fest that will be held at Wichita Riverside Christian Church on April 30. Our theme is "What Does God Require of Me?"

We are excited to welcome Rev. Angéle Johnson, Executive Director, Disciples Women to the event. Rev. Johnson will be the keynote speaker during our morning worship.



A Bible study on Micah, information on women's health and nutrition, and an opportunity to create fidget blankets for Kansas Christian Home will be offered in workshop settings.

Spirit Fest is a great opportunity to gather with Disciples Women from across the Kansas Region.

Registration is \$20.00 which includes all handout materials, a morning coffee and lunch.

Registration is open online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events, through your ENGAGE account, and the regional Facebook Events page.

KDW LOOKING FOR PHOTOS FOR 2023 CALENDAR

Kansas Disciples Women will be publishing a calendar for the year 2023. The calendar will be full of pictures of Disciples Women as well as activities throughout the years. In order to make the project a success, we need your help! We are asking for pictures to be submitted no later than July 30.

Pictures may be submitted by email to Carla Pearson at 1816 17th Avenue, McPherson, KS 67460 or, by email to carla.pearson58@gmail.com. If possible, please include names of the women in the photos that you submit. We are looking forward to a calendar that will provide memories of Disciples Women through the years.

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

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

OLIVIA SEE ORDAINED



The Reverend Olivia See was ordained into Christian ministry on Saturday, March 26, at Riverside Christian Church in Wichita with many friends, family, and associates in attendance.

Participants in the service of ordination included Arthur Stewart, Sr. Pastor of Riverside CC; Sister Eloise Hertel, Dominican Sister of Peace; Derek Tompkins, Director of Youth, Weatherford, Texas; Travis Smith McKee, Wichita; Will Ryan, Fulton, Mo.; Hannah Fisher Ryan, Columbia, Mo.; Rebecca Bunton and Jim Beaumont, retired Disciples ministers; and Ken Marston, Co-Interim Regional Minister and President.

See is a graduate of Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, Texas.



NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

PTS TO HOST TULSA RACE MASSACRE LECTURESHIP



Phillips Theological Seminary is excited to announce this new, major in-person and online event at Phillips with speaker Rev. Dr. Angela Sims the author of *Lynched: The Power of Memory in a Culture of Terror*.

The inaugural lecturer for the first Annual Tulsa Race Massacre Lectureship

features Dr. Sims, who serves as president of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School in Rochester, N.Y.

The April 25 event begins with a 5:30 p.m. reception with the lecture at 6:45 p.m. Details and registration for the event are online at: <https://ptstulsa.edu/lectures/>.

THE STATE OF THE CHURCH REPORT

[Editor's Note:] Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens delivered the State of the Church address on Friday, February 11, 2022. This is an edited excerpt from her close of that address.

Saints, I've said it before we don't need a new identity, we simply need to be the church that we say we are. Being courageous to even think crazy thoughts, grounding ourselves with scripture and prayer, strengthening covenant, and our understanding of relationships across the life of the Church.

And the reason that's so important is that we need to do more than just revamp anti-racism training. We must move beyond charity to dismantling systems of injustice, continuing to ask ourselves that question; is what we're doing contributing to the presence of the kingdom of God that Jesus taught?

We've got to embrace the courage to let go of some things and to do things differently. Most of all we've got to get inside God's imagination. Look to that Jesus who gives us a model of what love, peace, and fellowship in this world looks like. It can come to pass. And we can help bring it to pass. Let's get inside God's imagination, and let's help ensure that our church is actively working to bring about the kingdom of God.

A full transcript of the address is available at <https://disciples.org/from-the-gmp/2022-state-of-the-church/>

IN TRANSITION

FCC Fredonia has welcomed **Brian Rothgeb** to serve as interim minister. He began his service in late February.