



Kansas Messenger

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)

www.kansasdisciples.org

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REGISTRATION OPEN FOR DISCIPLES CONNECT AND EQUIP REGIONAL GATHERING “SUSTAINING OUR MOVEMENT FOR WHOLENESS: RECLAIMING OUR IDENTITY AS DISCIPLES OF CHRIST”



The 2023 Disciples Connect and Equip Regional Gathering will be Saturday, Aug. 12, at McPherson First Christian Church.

The day begins at 8:30 a.m. with registration check-in and fellowship time followed by an opening gathering at 9:30 a.m. Lunch will be a make-your-own hamburger bar, with potato salad, baked beans, desserts, and a drink. The day concludes with closing worship at 2:30 p.m. and a benediction at 3:30 p.m.

Our theme is “Sustaining our Movement for Wholeness:

Reclaiming our Identity as Disciples of Christ.” We will focus on what it means to be a movement for wholeness in terms of physical, spiritual, congregational/organizational wholeness and wellbeing.

Inspirational 2022 workshop leader, Rev. Josh Leu will keynote this year’s event. During his 9-year tenure as senior pastor at Great Bend First Christian Church, the congregation has doubled its average worship attendance divided among four services, making it one of the fastest growing Disciple congregations in the Kansas region. Josh’s leadership initiative to add a modern worship service, while keeping their formal traditional worship service, allows them to minister to every generation.

Josh is married to Ashley, and they have two amazing girls Karys and Khora.



Kansas Leadership Center’s Ed O’Malley and Julia Fabris McBride will lead the day’s morning workshops. They will present the “nuts and bolts” of KLC’s Leadership Principles and their biblical basis and their application to church life.

Tentative workshop topics include The Church Narrative Project Storytelling Moment, The Covenant Project, and The Benefits of KCL Leadership Training.

Children and youth activities for those 5-18 years are planned. Children and youth are encouraged to come reconnect with their camp friends. Child care will be provided for children under 5 years.

The registration fee is \$25 per adult, \$10 per youth (5-18 years), and children under 5 years are free. Disciples Connect and Equip event t-shirts are \$15. Other CCK merchandise will be available for sale at the event. Exhibitor space is available for CCK and DOC ministries. Cost is \$50 per 3-foot table space or \$100 per 6-foot space. Wifi and electrical available upon request.

For those needing Friday night lodging, CCK has a block of rooms reserved at the Fairfield Inn, 2270 E Kansas Ave, McPherson, KS 67460, call [620-504-5353](tel:620-504-5353) to book your stay.

Online registration will close July 28 to allow for adequate preparation of your arrival. Registrations will only be accepted by phone after July 28 at event organizers discretion.

Kansas Regional Office

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Fax: 785-266-0174

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[Becki Kisslinger](#), Corporate Secretary
[Barb Koelling](#), Treasurer
[Cindy Streeter](#), Bookkeeper

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

New Church Ministry

TBA, Regional Minister of New Church Ministry

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

Connect with us on

[Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#)

THOUGHTS FROM YOUR REGIONAL MINISTER

“SUMMERTIME IS HERE”

BY TOM STANLEY, CO-REGIONAL MINISTER & PRESIDENT



Summer Camp season has arrived! We have about 200 kids registered for camp so far and the registrations are still coming into the office. Additionally, the Christian Church in Oklahoma is bringing their CYF Camp to Tawakoni this summer. June and July are going to be very busy at Camp Tawakoni. **We need male counselors!** If you have ever thought about being a counselor at camp, please reach out to Olivia See, revoliviasee@kansasdisciples.org, about joining our staff this summer.

Please be praying for the children and youth who will be creating community and exploring their faith at camp this summer. Also, please pray for the adults who will be guiding and caring for the children and youth. May God bless our summer camp ministry this summer.

Next, we want to announce that Rev. Ken Marston has entered a time of sabbatical. Ken has been challenged repeatedly, beginning with Steve Martin’s health issues and retirement, COVID-19, the call of a new Co-Regional Minister and President, and recently by family health issues. The totality of this situation has taken a toll on Ken’s spirit. Please pray for Ken as he rests, recovers, and spends some time deepening his relationship with God. We very much look forward to Ken coming back in September rested, and ready to dive back into the ministry of the Christian Church in Kansas.

During Ken’s sabbatical the region will contract with Rev. David Dubovich to provide support for the Central and High Plains areas. David already has relationships with many in these areas and it is a natural fit with his gifts. I will take over search and call, emergency pastoral care and some church visits. I will be available for any other needs that may crop up for churches and pastors.

It is going to be a very busy summer! If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me, I would love to speak with you or plan a visit to your congregation!

Shalom,
Tom

REGIONAL CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

Boundaries Training	Aug 26 Oct 19
Junior Camp	June 19-23
Discovery/Primary Camp	July 5-7
Grand Camp	July 7-9
Chi Rho Camp	July 10-15
Pre-High Camp	July 10-15
CYF Conference	July 24-29
DCE Regional Gathering	Aug 12
Churches Healing Children From Trauma Workshop	Sept 14
KDM Fall Retreat	Sept 22-23
Tri-Regional Partnership Church Narrative Project Event	Sept 29
KDW Fall Retreats	Oct 4-6 Oct 6-8

2024 EVENTS

Youth Spring Retreat	March 1-3
Spiritual Retreat	March 14-16
Tawakoni Gala	TBA
AOCC Workshops	TBA

HAVE YOU TRIED ENGAGE?

This easy-to-use, mobile-optimized system allows you to give securely online, set up auto draft giving and view your giving history at your convenience. ENGAGE goes beyond online giving to also provide you a way to connect with others in the region through common interest groups.

You can also update contact information and register for regional and district events.

To get started, go to www.kansasdisciples.org/give and click the ENGAGE portal button. From there, follow the on-screen instructions to create an account or log into your existing account. If creating a new account, you will receive an email to reset your password and confirm the creation of your account.

After account creation, you can update your information, manage giving, and register for events all from one login.

CCK WELCOMES NEW BOOKKEEPER

Please welcome Cindy Streeter, our new bookkeeper! Cindy will be working twenty hours a week out of the Topeka Regional Office! Kelli Graham has decided to finish her time with the Kansas Regional Office but will be staying on to train Cindy for a few weeks.

Cindy has more than twenty years of experience as a bookkeeper and is very excited to be joining our staff. When selecting Cindy, we received fifteen applications and selected three to interview, it quickly became clear Cindy was the best fit for our staff and region.

If you wish to send Kelli a card you can send it to the Topeka Regional office.

SOCIAL MEDIA AS A DIGITAL MINISTRY

WRITTEN BY JESSICA MARSTON, CCK COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

Every year, there is an increasing number of people signing up for and using social media. Did you know that 35 percent of the couples married between 2005 and 2012 met online? Back in 2010 less than a billion people were active on social media. By 2019, there were around 2.8 billion people using social media.

People are building important networks and connections online, and it is becoming a valuable way for people to connect. There's no longer any question of if your church should be on social media. You need to prioritize using it well. In fact, it might be a secret weapon for struggling churches.

Michael Persaud of Church Brand Guide, proposes this idea of "digital missionaries" or people who serve, add value and point attention to Jesus through platforms like social media. Persaud wrote, "By embracing this perspective, individuals and organizations can approach social media with a genuine desire to impact lives and spread the love of Christ."

Social media is a helpful tool that church leaders need to understand and use in their local churches. Churches and leaders that remain absent from social media are not able to use this tool to expand the Kingdom.

One of the great things social media does is it enables all types of leaders, not just pastors, to broaden their influence and impact. Effective social media campaigns require the collaborative work of many. For this, you need a team.

"These individuals can bring a diverse range of skills, perspectives, and talents to the table, making the ministry more dynamic and impactful," said Persaud. "By involving volunteers, churches and ministries can foster a sense of ownership, engagement, and discipleship among their team members."

A key component of social media is that it's meant to be social. Encourage current members to interact with your posts and share your content to their personal pages. Doing so can also expand your reach into demographic circles that you would not have a connection to otherwise.

Persaud adds that in terms of social media content "one fundamental principle for effective social media ministry is to add value before asking for anything in return. Instead of bombarding followers with promotional content or constant requests, providing valuable and meaningful content that educates, inspires and engages the audience is essential."

He explains that by providing content that adds value to your social media audience's live, you build trust and by building trust the people you reach are more receptive to the message and ministry you share. You need to have a variety yet predictable pattern of timely and relatable content to engage your audience.

Here are a few ideas:

- Create a contest
- Go "behind the scenes" on an event or ministry
- Interview your pastor or church staff member
- Quote your pastor
- Share a reading list or book of the month
- Spotlight a volunteer



EVERY CENT COUNTS WHEN YOU HONOR GOD

"It is all about your heart ... Everything we have is a gift from God and in return, we should respond with gratitude."

Most Americans don't consider themselves rich. But if you live in the United States, you are among the wealthiest people in the world. We've been blessed with money and resources, and we are responsible for what God has given us.

God commands us to bring ten percent of our income back to the church in the tithe. But what about the rest of our income? Just because God gives us the freedom to spend 90 percent of His money doesn't mean there are no consequences for how it's used. God cares about the 90 percent because He cares about you.

God wants us to enjoy our money. But He doesn't want us to put our hope in it or be enslaved to it. Either way, money is a bad master who leaves us wanting. By honoring God with everything, not just the tithe, we protect ourselves from the temptation of making money our god.

For some of us, honoring God with everything means giving more generously. What we don't have can't own us. For some of us, the next step is learning to save. Saving breaks the debt cycle so we can start asking "What does God want me to do?" instead of "What do I have to do?"

Wealth is one of many ways Jesus blesses us with more than we deserve. There's nothing wrong with taking pleasure in the abundance God gives us, as long as we don't start worshipping the gift instead of the Giver.

Think about:

- Do you see yourself as rich? Why or why not?
- Are you using your other 90 percent responsibly? In what way do you need to change how you are stewarding your finances to be more faithful to Jesus?
- Do you need help creating a plan for the remaining 90 percent?

HAVE NEWS TO SHARE?

Your church could be featured here! Submit your articles and pictures to us.

We are always glad to receive your news articles and photographs for publication. News from local churches help us connect and equip each other. Submit your news items by email at messenger@kansasdisciples.org or online at:

www.kansasdisciples.org/km-submissions

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

MONDAY, JUNE 19

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

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

KANSAS CHURCH MISSION FEATURE:

Wichita, Woodridge Christian Church



Woodridge Christian Church is a medium sized congregation located on the far east side of Wichita. A few years ago, they identified themselves, through study, as a group with a common spiritual gift of "Being Helpers".

Based on this foundational knowledge they set out to implement and initiate a comprehensive mission program with a common goal to, "Reach out. Lift up. Teach Love".

By design their mission program is set-up to connect and equip based on a model of the 3-legged stool.

One leg is for local mission where WCC members reach out in the community with service programs working with The Ronald McDonald House to provide meals for long-stay hospital families. Organizing and playing BINGO with the veterans at the Bob Dole Regional VA Medical Center, or most recently providing a fund-raiser for Sunlight Child Advocacy in support of abused or neglected children.

The WCC youth reach out through service programs like Random Acts of Kindness, delivering Valentines and Christmas poinsettias to local nursing homes and making sleeping mats for the homeless.

A second leg involves a regional or national scope where WCC volunteers give their time for service projects where there is need. Whether it's hurricane relief in New Orleans or Houston, service projects in Detroit or providing aid where needed in Colorado or Oklahoma, WCC members will travel to connect.

International service is the third leg, which involves WCC's commitment to La Flor, a small village in the mountains of

Nicaragua. With help from *Just Hope*, a service organization headquartered in Tulsa, members have travelled to La Flor to help build homes and latrines. From Wichita the congregation has provided the community with regular monetary support for a micro-bank program, health services and children's education.

WCC's mission program is a faithful execution of their three-part goal, and they are connecting and equipping around the world.



CAMP NEWS

DISCIPLES CENTER AT TAWAKONI WELCOMES NEW FULL TIME STAFF



There are always exciting things happening at the Disciples Center. But with camping season almost upon us, things are moving at a fevered pace.

Disciples Center at Tawakoni is growing! With nearly half a million dollars in projected revenue for 2023, the camp needed to make some staffing changes. We needed help to

maintain the camp, and to continue to grow the camp. With nearly every weekend booked this year, we are looking for ways to expand our weekday operations.

Effective June 1, Olivia See's title changed to Executive Director and Pastor of Disciples Center at Tawakoni. When Olivia See joined the regional staff at Tawakoni it was as our Camp Manager. However, this title does not recognize that Olivia is ordained clergy. We want to recognize, support, and affirm Olivia's gifts, graces, and call to the Gospel Ministry in all ways.



Tawakoni also welcomes Amanda Jolly as the Director of Operations at Disciples Center at Tawakoni. Amanda brings a wealth of experience to the camp, a wide breadth of work and leadership experience, and a heart for the mission and ministry of Tawakoni.



We had fifteen applicants for the position and Amanda was by far the best qualified and most excited about the position. She brings new ideas and fresh energy to all our operations at Disciples Center.

If you see Olivia and/or Amanda out at camp congratulate them. Camp is going to be amazing this summer. If you have not been out to the camp in a little while, we can always use more volunteers!

CAMP NEWS

NEEDED CAMP SUPPLIES

Have you been blessed by the ministry of church camp? Want to give back? Consider a donation of camp supplies. See our Wish List at www.tawakoni.org/camp-promotion for details.

Cash donations allow us to use our non-profit status to get supplies at discounted and bulk rates making your mission dollars go farther. Tawakoni also has several special projects that need funding.

Consider making a designated donation to camp online or mail your check to Disciples Center at Tawakoni, Christian Church in Kansas, 2914 SW MacVicar Ave, Topeka 66611.

TAWAKONI SUMMER CAMP MAIL CALL!

Campers love to receive mail from friends and family back home. Include the camp session (i.e., Junior, Grand Camp, CYF, etc.) along with your camper's name. To ensure timely delivery, letters need to be addressed in the following format.

Addressing Example:

Jill Smith
Junior Camp
Disciples Center at Tawakoni
8492 SW Tawakoni Rd.
Augusta, KS 67010-8111

Remember, there is no mail delivery on the last day of camp, and it often takes two to three days to arrive. Consider sending letters early to ensure your letter's arrival. Letters that arrive before a camp session starts will be held in the office for camper's arrival. Letters arriving after a camp session end will be returned to the camper's home church.

Another option is to email your messages to the camp office, scd@kansasdisciples.org, and a staff member will deliver your message with the day's mail. Include the camper's name and camp session in the subject line.

Packages are highly discouraged as it takes longer to process and deliver. Please do not send food as it is not permitted in the bunk rooms.



TAWAKONI NOW HAS A WISHLIST REGISTRY

Are you someone who likes to know exactly where your donation money is going? We understand! The Disciples Center now has a Wish List registry of needed supplies and small equipment.

Disciples Center at Tawakoni is grateful to all the people who help make our camp run throughout the year. Part of making our camp run is all the donations that we receive to help us continue to enhance our facility. This registry will be a continuation of providing information on the needs of the camp. We hope this registry will help communicate the needs and make it easier for you to learn of our needs and be able to fulfill them.

This is our way to let people know what some of the needs are at camp. We will continue to update the registry as items come in and as new needs appear around the camp. Please check it out, at: www.tawakoni.org.



JOIN OUR TEXT ALERTS SYSTEM

Get CCK news on your phone wherever you are. Sign-up to receive the latest CCK news and event information by text message.



There are three ways to join:

1. Text KSMESSANGER to 316-465-5352 and follow the on-screen prompts.
2. Go to our "News" tab at www.kansasdisciples.org/news. Look for the "Text logo" on the right-hand side.
3. Call the CCK Communications Office, 316-775-1236

This is just one more example of how your Communications team is working to connect you to the ministries of your Kansas Region. You will normally receive no more than one or two text messages per week as a part of this service. Standard SMS and data charges apply.

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

REGISTER FOR 'CHURCHES HEALING CHILDREN FROM TRAUMA' WORKSHOP

Mark your calendars and save the date for a special training event entitled, "Churches Healing Children From Trauma" held Thursday, Sept. 14, from 7-9 p.m. via Zoom.

The workshop is hosted by Greg Rea, an ordained Disciples minister, a Trust-based Relational Intervention Practitioner and Post-Adoptive Support Specialist who has provided hundreds of hours of training/coaching to over a thousand families and professionals.

Drawing from personal experience, Greg knows the struggles that children go through dealing with their history and the challenges that families experience. Additionally he has become an expert in the principles and strategies that caregivers can use that promote healing in the brains and bodies of children from trauma.

This training will provide tools and strategies that churches can use to lovingly support these families in a way that promotes healing in the hearts and minds of children and teens.

Registration is \$15 per individual or \$10 per person when signing up as a church team. (A church team consists of three or more from the same church.) Register today at www.kansasdisciples.org/events.



REGISTRATION OPEN FOR THE 2023 KDM FALL RETREAT



The 2023 Kansas Disciples Men's Fall Retreat will be Sept. 22-23 at Tawakoni. Our theme will be "What Does The Lord Require Of You?" and the keynote will be Co-Regional Minister, Tom Stanley.

Friday kicks off with an optional pre-event service project beginning at 10 a.m. Event registration begins at 5 p.m. followed by dinner at 6 p.m. The retreat will close around 4 p.m. on Saturday.

Cost is \$70 for individuals, \$60 each for a church group of five or more, and \$50 for first time attendees. **SAVE!** Be one of the first 10 registrations under the age of 50 years and have your registration fee refunded.

Register today at www.kansasdisciples.org/events. Registration deadline is Friday, Sept. 15.

2023 SPIRIT FEST FOLLOW UP, THANK YOU



2023 Spirit Fest events were held on Saturday, April 22, at Topeka West Side Christian Church and on Saturday, May 6, at Wichita Woodridge Christian Church.

Once again, we were greeted with a warm Disciples welcome, and everyone enjoyed their day.

Susan Hill, Park Place Christian Church, Hutchinson did a phenomenal job as Spirit Fest Coordinator. Our workshop presenters, Erin and Richard Sack; Pati Bryan; Linda Galloway; and Gail Goolsby all went above and beyond expectations to provide great workshops.

The following is a breakdown of the events:

Topeka

Attendance: 43
Offering: \$257
Blessing Box: \$1261.60
Book table: \$342.70

Wichita

Attendance: 69
Offering: \$439
Blessing Box: \$823.44
Book table: \$551.35

Thank you to the groups and individuals who sent their Blessing Box monies directly to Topeka. If you were unable to attend Spirit Fest and have not submitted your money for the Blessing Box offering, please send your check to the Topeka office at 2914 SW MacVicar, Topeka, KS 66611. Remember to note Blessing Box offering on the memo line.



A portion of the Blessing Box offering stays with Kansas Disciples Women for service and mission endeavors. Your offerings are a blessing to many. A copy of the June calendar page may be found at

the following link <https://bit.ly/2023JuneBBCal>

The 2023-2024 Blessing Box calendar is available either in digital or paper format. To request your copy, please contact Carla Pearson (carla.pearson58@gmail.com).

NEWS FROM YOUR REGION

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR THE 2023 KDW FALL RETREATS

Have you heard the news? Registration is now open for KDW Retreat, to be held October 4-6 (midweek) or 6-8 (weekend), at Disciples Center at Tawakoni. We will have wonderful worship experiences, but also have time for workshops, service projects, and just plain relaxing.

If you can't make it for the full retreat, a one-day retreat registration is also available. The one-day includes two meals, worship services, and workshops. All women in Kansas are invited to attend.

Do you think that you can't come because you have young children? Well, we also have childcare options available for children ages 3-12. And, by the way, our keynote speaker is Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

You may register online at www.kansasdisciples.org/events or you may download a copy of the registration form to mail in your registration. Be a trendsetter and sign up soon!



TWO MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BOUNDARIES TRAINING IN 2023

There are two more opportunities for Boundaries Training this year: in-person from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 20, at Topeka FCC and by Zoom from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 26.

Clergy, if you have not taken boundaries training since 2020, you need to do so this year to meet requirements for standing. Contact Juli Reed chp@kansasdisciples.org, in the Clergy Care Office, Great Bend, if you are unsure when your last training was.

Church leaders: if you have ever wondered about the standards of ethical behavior we expect of our ministers, please join your pastor for this one-day training session.

In addition to going over the *Ministerial Code of Conduct*, we will also look at another document, *Ethical Guideline for Congregations*, that sets expectations for how we hope church members will treat each other and their pastors in the life of the congregation.

The cost of this training is \$35 for clergy and \$10 for congregational leaders. Registration closes one week prior to the start of each session, to allow us to plan for your arrival. Late registrations will only be accepted by phone and at the event organizer's discretion.



IN TRANSITION

Arthur Stewart concluded his ministry at Riverside Christian Church, Wichita, on May 21.

Pat Nixon concluded his interim ministry at Trinity United Christian Church, Cheney. TUCC has called **Carol Jolly** as their pastor beginning in July.

Wellington, First Christian Church called **Dr. Gerald Demarest** as their pastor beginning June 4.

Columbus, First CC called **Cody Bohall** as their new senior pastor. He began in June.

IN CELEBRATION

Etienna Mertel was installed as pastor at Clearwater First Christian Church on April 30. She was called to the position following her ordination in November 2022. Co-Regional Minister Tom Stanley was in attendance.

Don Warren will be installed as the pastor of Goodland First Christian Church on July 9. A reception will follow the service. Rev. Dr. Terri Hord Owens, GMP, will be the special guest speaker.

HAVE YOU REMEMBERED THE CHURCH IN YOUR WILL?

Your gift can benefit your church and region for years to come. When you include the church in your estate plan, your generosity helps connect and equip future Kansas Disciples.

For information about bequests:

- Contact the Christian Church Foundation at 1-800-668-8016
- Email Kirby Gould at kgould@ccf.disciples.org
- Go to www.christianchurchfoundation.org.