The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois & Wisconsin

The Christian

A Disciples of Christ Quarterly Publication





Turning Struggle into Steadfastness

Stories of struggle are nothing new to the church.
From the persecution faced by early Christians to civil rights movements led by faith leaders, the church has found its strength in times of unrest.

The COVID-19 pandemic is yet another chapter int his long history, both nothing unique and yet entirely different.

Through it all, Disciples have been steadfast. By launching emerging congregations, they have stepped up to care for communities in need.

But they don't do it alone.

With the help of regional and general ministries, these brave leaders have been provided with facilities to conduct their outreach activities and online educational opportunities, such as Leadership Academy.

By making a gift to the 2022 Pentecost Offering, received in most congregations on Sundays, May 29 and June 5, you can ensue that the new church movement continues to prosper in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Each year, half of these gifts go to your own region to support local new church development. The other half goes to New Church Ministry, which trains, equips, assists, and multiplies new church leaders across the United Sates and Canada through programs such as coaching, New Church Hacks, and Water the Plants.

Planning, nurturing, and sustaining new places of worship is part of the Disciples' vision-participation in this Special day Offering helps this vision come to life.

Please give generously to this year's Pentecost offering.

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6h Quarter
Volume 5 Issue 10


Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker

Regional Minister's Moment

Our mission; *To connect and empower Disciples congregations for life-changing and life-giving ministries in our evolving world.*

Our Covenant Partnership Michigan and IL/WI: Connection and Affirmation

Four months into our covenant partnership the goals are simple and significant: Connect and Affirm. Most ministry is about "showing up" for one another. Here are some of the ways we are creating connections and affirming one another:

- Regional Associates in Michigan are reaching out to Pastors for conversation and support. We meet monthly to share information and consult about needs. These partners in ministry are helping us be better together!
- CCIW Regional Ministry team continues to support cluster colleague groups and offer other opportunities to connect like Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth's preaching circles and Rev. Angee Byrd's Phygital Church and Missioninsite workshops, and Rev. Eli Rolón's book studies and preparations for Camping season. We are so blessed!
- Our CCIW Communication team has created a new Michigan eNewsletter called the "Light." CCIW has one called the Messenger. You can subscribe by visiting each regions website: michigandisciples.org or cciwdisicples.org. Our CCIW Communication team is also helping to generate a quarterly printed newsletter for both regions. This will be mailed to every congregation. It can also be downloaded for sharing.
- I also send out Clergy Alerts that include prayer requests and important information for MI and CCIW clergy colleagues.

By the time you receive this 64 of our clergy will have participated in our Clergy Retreat at St. Francis Retreat Center at DeWitt, MI. We will have been together for three days for rest, renewal and learning. Dr. David Anderson Hooker was our facilitator helping us consider the narratives that shape our lives. One more opportunity to meet, connect, and affirm each other on our journey together.

Grateful for the ways our Covenant Partnership is being lived out as we are the church together.

Teresa

Joint Michigan and IL/WI Regional Assembly

"In Defense of Kindness" is the theme of our joint and hybrid Regional Assembly, Oct. 14-15, 2022. We will be virtual with a few gathering spots in each region. (TBD). The keynote will be delivered by the Rev. Bruce Reyes-Chow on Friday evening.



Bruce Reyes-Chow

Bruce is an author, speaker, parent, consultant, coach, podcaster, and pastor. He speaks and writes on issues of faith, technology, race, parenting, and church culture. Over the past 25 years, he has pastored five churches in the San Francisco Bay Area serving as a head of staff, transitional, and founding pastor. He is currently a Senior Consultant and Leadership Coach with The Convergence Network and is a Gallup-Certified Clifton Strengths Coach.

Bruce hosts the podcast, BRC & Friends and is the author of five books. His latest is, "In Defense of Kindness" (Chalice Press, 2021) and he is currently working on his next book, "Everything I Believe about God" (2023)

He and his spouse currently live in San Jose, CA and can be found on most social networks via @breyeschow. His website: https://reyes-chow.com.

The Regional Assembly will take place in three parts:

Friday worship, 7-8:30 p.m. EST/ 6-7:30 p.m. CST

Saturday separate business, 10-11:30 a.m. EST/ 9-10:30 a.m. CST

Saturday afternoon workshops, 2-4 p.m. EST/ 1-3 p.m. CST

Workshops will include Bruce Reyes-Chow and, Rev. Matt Rosine, Christian Church Foundation; Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth, Elder/Diaconate; Jan Aerie, Older Adult Ministry of the MidAmerica region . . . and more to be announced.

A joint book study on "In Defense of Kindness" will take place prior to the Assembly. Rev. Eli Rolón Jeong will be facilitating the conversation. Watch for more information soon!

Regional Church Council Recognizes Ministry

The Regional Church Council at its March meeting voted to give "recognized ministry" status to the Grow Center. "The Grow Center is a legacy ministry of the Central Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), located in the Village of Bourbonnais in Kankakee County, Illinois. For 128 years Disciples have engaged in mission and ministry in four different locations in our community. As our congregational ministry comes to a close, we envision the creation of a new community-based nonprofit ministry. The Grow Center will give us the capacity to utilize the property assets we have to serve the community beyond the congregation's lifespan.

The Grow Center is a hub of collaborative relationships among organizations, nonprofits, individuals and community organizers cultivating inner peace and a peaceful community. Our mission is to grow pathways for healthy relationships, effective organizations, cultural shifts, and individual wellness, wholeness, and peace.

The Grow Center will accomplish this by:

- Fostering belonging in our community
- Supporting and developing programs for healing and wholeness
- Providing space for spiritual growth and social service
- Supporting and promoting organizers for peace and justice
- Developing and collaborating for sustainable living and environment"

For more information about this transformation, contact Rev. Robert Bushey, Acting Executive Director for the Grow Center and Co-Pastor of Central Christian Church or Rev. Kelly Youngblood, Co-Pastor of Central Christian Church.

School For Ministry



It's been a long two years, hasn't it?

If you are a weary and worn-out pastor or church leader emerging from the past two years of pandemic-ministry, we invite you to join the School for Ministry's Summer Intensive, There Is a Balm: Self-Compassion for Leaders in Trying Times. This two-day online Zoom workshop will feature Rev. Dr. Dara Cobb Lewis, a licensed clinical therapist and former Regional Minister of the Christian Church in South Carolina. Rev. Dr. Cobb Lewis is passionate about helping clergy to nurture their spiritual, mental, and physical health and will educate participants about how to care for their greatest gift - themselves! Her presentation, For the Love of God, Minister to Yourself! will be June 21-22 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. CDT.

Rev. Dr. Molly Carlson, Illinois Church of Christ Conference Minister, will present the second portion of the Summer Intensive. Her Boundary Awareness workshop will be presented June 23 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. CDT and will fulfill the annual Ethics requirement for clergy in CCIW and CMR.

If you'd like more information, please see the School for Ministry website http://school-for-ministry.org.

Next Steps

Rev. Dr. Alex Ruth

As the Transformation Team in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin has begun our work this spring, several themes have emerged. Among those themes are the challenge of working to enact and embody change, and the shared experience of so many transformative projects that fail for a lack of focus and energy. Especially in our current context, it is understandable that looking forward to transformation is daunting. After all, we have been through so many changes in the past few years. Many, if not most, of us are worn out and tired from the energy we have expended to attempt to keep up with the rapid shifts in society, health, church, and almost every other facet of our lives.

There is, however, a fundamental difference between those changes and the transformation we believe we are called to engage as people of faith, and as communities of faith. The changes we have been navigating have been thrust upon us without any real choice. We have HAD to adapt. Most of the changes we have made in the past few years have been the result of external forces beyond our control.

There is a difference between that kind of change and the change to which we are called by God. Throughout our scriptures we see God calling humanity to change because we want to, not because we are forced to. Think back to Ruth and Naomi. Although Ruth is forced to make a change by the death of those who would provide for her, she has a choice. She could choose to return to her people and a stable life, or she could cleave to her mother-in-law and choose the uncertain path. The disciples are presented a choice in the gospels, keep doing what they have been doing or follow Jesus. There is no indication that the disciples NEEDED to change. By all accounts things were going well for them. The fishing was lucrative. Tax collecting was certainly putting food on the table and afforded a status that following Jesus would not.

Time and time again we see people of faith choose change, choose transformation, choose to faithfully follow where God is calling them. Think back over your own life and some of the changes you have made. The transformations you chose probably have a different hue in your memories. Not that they are necessarily “easier” but there is a different energy to the experience when we make the choice to change. The transformation team is working on a few projects to help clergy and congregations who are choosing to follow God’s call into new territory. But, we are here to support you in all the changes you are making, chosen or not.

Next Steps, Cont.

Which, brings us to the second point. Regardless of whether we choose our transformation or it is thrust upon us, change brings with it uncertainty. You can probably tell story after story about a change in your life, or in your church, that began with a lot of energy and then fizzled, sputtered, and before you knew it the status quo had crept back in. That is partly due to the inertia of our lives. There is an unconscious pull toward stability for almost all of us. We like things the way they are, even if that isn't the best or the healthiest of situations. It takes a good deal of energy to get the needle to move from stability to transformation. Sometimes we exhaust all the energy we have just trying to discover our new vision, our next goal.

Other times, however, there is a lot of energy for change but a lack of focus. We eagerly work toward discerning God's call, our vision for who we will become, our mission in the world around us, only to stop and say "What now?" We spend all that time and energy creating a compelling story of what our future will look like, only to falter when it comes to living into that vision. The process breaks down when we get to the implementation phase. In my experience that has a lot to do with trying to get everything perfect. We want so badly to succeed at this new venture that we bog down trying to make sure every step is the perfect next step, and we forget that Jesus didn't call the disciples to be perfect, but to follow. Even if our next step is not *exactly* where we want to go, it is important to keep that momentum moving.

We here in the CCIW are blessed with many resources to help us on our journeys. We have trained coaches ready to help you discern those important next steps, access to amazing community data to guide the decision-making process, Healthy Congregations trainers who would love to help strengthen our churches, the Transformation Team who are working to create systems of support as you follow God's call, and the list goes on. My prayer for us all in this season after Easter, is that we would have the faith and courage to take that next step, to venture out trusting that God will continue to guide us into the future. And that we would be aware of God's presence and the support of our siblings and churches as we strive to become who God is calling us to be.

Clergy Retreat 2022



A time of conversation, sharing, and fellowship was enjoyed by all who were able to attend the 2022 Clergy Retreat held at the St. Francis Retreat Center in Michigan.

Dr. David Anderson Hooker invited us in as we talked about the "Stories and Narratives That We Have Lived IN" and we were inspired by both our General Minister and President, Rev. Teresa Hord Owens and our Regional Minister and President, Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker. We left refreshed and grateful for an opportunity to "break bread together", to care and be cared for, as we learned stories of both the CCIW and MI pastors.

We invite you to join us in 2023 (details later this year).





Camp Walter Scott in Spring



Greetings from Camp Walter Scott! Spring is in the air as the redbud trees (Cercis Canadensis) blossom into their characteristic pink, dotting our understory with signs of new life very appropriate for this Easter season. The trees are not the only things waking up however! The grounds of the camp are being cleaned, organized, and reimagined as we anticipate our summer camps returning to their pre-pandemic lengths this summer. We are excited to be welcoming our campers and other friends back into the beauty of God's Creation!

We will be running our programmed camps this summer for those who have finished Kindergarten all the way through those who can't get enough of camp at 30 years old. These will be camps where friendships are forged and renewed, where faith is explored and deepened, and ultimately where little glimpses of God's Realm happen and are celebrated every day. These are transformative experiences that shape the lives of our kids and the future of the Church. If you have children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, or other youth in your life, we encourage you to have them give camp a try this summer. Information about our camps can be found in many places, including on the regional website at https://cciwdisciples.org/camp-program/ and our camp website at https://campwalterscott.org/cciw-camp/.

Additionally, the facility and our practices at it are being renewed in anticipation of our coming summer camps at Walter Scott. Only three months into the year, we already have had 300 volunteer hours contributed to caring for this sacred space. From painting, to repairs, to cleaning, to organizing, to sorting donations and more, we have been blessed. As we think about our place in God's Creation, we have formed a Green Team to reexamine the ways in which we live into our Christian vocation of caring for this beautiful world. This is done with our partnership with a new ministry in the region, Great Lakes Green Chalice, which helps congregations and ministries explore questions surrounding sustainability and Creation Care. These are just a few ways in which Walter Scott is blossoming in spring.

We invite you to be a part of the journey we're continuing here at Walter Scott. You can do it by booking a retreat for your church leadership, elders, bible study group, sewing group, friends, or anyone else. Maybe you can journey with us by attending our memorial or labor day weekend family camps. Maybe you can volunteer your time on one of our workdays (May 21, Sept. 10, Nov. 5) or our service week (June 5-11). Maybe these aren't options for you right now, but you want to stay connected and can follow us on social media (Twitter/Instagram: @CampWalterScott, Facebook: @CCIWCampWalterScott). Maybe you have an idea for Walter Scott you're willing to share with us via email or over some tea or coffee at the camp. However you can join us on this journey, we're grateful to be traveling along with you.

CAMP WALTER SCOTT 2022 SUMMER SCHEDULE

Dear Friends of Camp Walter Scott,

There is still time to register for summer youth camps! Registration closes 2 weeks before each camp starts. Don't miss out on this opportunity to enjoy our beautiful campgrounds while joining in fellowship, worship, education, and fun with youth across our region. Below you'll find our full schedule for this summer. We hope to see you at Camp Walter Scott this summer!

CAMP WALTER SCOTT 2022 SUMMER SCHEDULE
Visit us online at ***cciwdisciples.org/camp-program*** for details, updates, and registration!

YOUTH PROGRAMS
June 12-18 CYF (Christian Youth Fellowship) | Completed grades 9th to 12th | *Registration Closes May 29*
June 24-26 Beginners Camp** | Completed grades K to 3rd* | *Registration Closes June 10*
June 26-29 Grandparents & Me | Completed grades K to 5th & Grandparent(s) | *Registration Closes June 12*
July 10-16 Chi Rho | Completed grades 6th to 8th | *Registration Closes June 26*
July 17-23 JYF (Junior Youth Fellowship) | Completed grades 3rd* to 5th | *Registration Closes July 3*

YOUNG ADULT CAMP
August 5-7, 2022 | Post High Camp is Back! Open to young adults 18 to 30 years of age.

FAMILY CAMPS
Memorial Day Weekend Family Camp (May 27-3) | Labor Day Weekend Family Camp (September 2-5)

WORK DAYS
June 5-11 | Camp Acts (Service Week)
Saturday Work Days | May 21, September 10, November 5

*Campers who have completed 3rd grade may attend either Beginners Camp or JYF Camp
**Parents/Guardians are welcome to register to attend Beginners Camp with their camper(s).





CCIW Disciples Women



There is nothing better than sharing with friends over a cup of coffee or glass of tea. In fact, that is one of the things that I enjoy about Disciples Women's retreats, meetings, and gatherings – the opportunity to share with others. It is great to find out what other women are doing in their congregations and communities. I always learn so much as I hear about the various ministries and as women brainstorm what might be done to address the common needs of their communities.

As the Ministry Leadership Team met and talked about what opportunities we might share this year, the desire to connect and share ideas came up over and over again. So, we decided that our first Coffee Connection of 2022 would be a time to brainstorm and share ideas of ministries and programs in which your congregation's women participate. Our first DW Coffee Connection - Restore, Renew, and Rengage - will be Saturday, June 8, 2022 from 10 – 11:30 AM by Zoom. You can register online starting May 1, 2022. There is no registration fee or this event.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. While progress has been made in supporting domestic violence victims and survivors and in holding perpetrators of domestic violence accountable, there is still work to be done. Our second DW Coffee Connection will focus on providing information about domestic violence and how we can support and resource women as they move out of these difficult situations. This conversation will be held on October 22, 2022 from 10 – 11:30 AM by Zoom. You will be able to register online after May 1, 2022. There is no registration fee for this event.

In addition to these two Zoom meetings, the Fall Women's Retreat will be on September 24 – 25 at Camp Walter Scott. Our theme is **Mothers and Others** and will provide attendees with the opportunity to explore women's gifts and leadership by considering women in the Bible and the Christian tradition. Vicky Woolridge will be our keynote speaker. The event will include time for study, worship, play, conversation, and relaxing. Registration forms and online registration will be available in early June. Registration deadline will be September 2, 2022. Registration fee will depend on whether you attend all or part of the retreat.

Disciples Women Mission Opportunity



Think of facing Midwest winters with bare feet. Or not having shoes for your children to wear to school.
You can be a part of providing shoes so others will not have to experience this by sending your donation to:

CCIW – Disciples Women
401 W. Jefferson
Bloomington, IL 61701

In the memo line of your check indicate the offering is for Shoes for Refugees.

As a part of the 2022 CCIW DISCIPLES WOMEN Spring Gathering, we will be partnering with Union Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Franklin, Indiana to provide shoes to Afghan refugees who are currently located at Camp Atterbury.



Our goal is to raise $2000 which will purchase 100 pairs of shoes. As of 05.02.22 we have raised $600.00.

Donations should be made by May 31, 2022

Ethics Classes and Dates

The Ethics/Boundary Awareness classes listed below fulfill the annual Ethics requirements for clergy in the CCIW and CMR.

Online registration: https://cciwdisciples.org/registration/

Healthy Boundaries 101
Thursday, June 23, 2022
Cost: $30.00
Time: 9:00 am—3:00 pm
Location: Online/Zoom
Deadline: June 9, 2022

Healthy Boundaries 101
Saturday, August 13, 2022
Cost: $30.00
Time: 9:00 am—3:15 pm
Location: Online/Zoom
Deadline: July 27, 2022

Healthy Boundaries 201
Saturday, Nov. 12, 2022
Cost: $35.00
Time: 10:00 am—3:00 pm
Location: Galesburg FCC
Deadline: October 25, 2022

Gifts to CCIW—2022 - Your Gift Changes

The following churches and individuals have contributed to the 4th quarter 2021 and to the 2022 mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through the Annual Fund, Designated and Undesignated gifts to the Regional, Camp Walter Scott and other ministries.

The Region gives thanks for the incredible support through prayers, volunteer hours and the financial support that allows ministry for children and youth, leadership development, congregational consultation, ministerial search & call, and shared mission activities to occur.



Churches

Villa Park Christian Church
Gibson City First Christian Church
Sullivan First Christian Church
Central Christian Church
Lomax Christian Church
Community CC of Lincolnshire
Winchester Christian Church
Fifteen Ave Christian Church
Danville Central Christian Church
Niantic Christian Church
Hoopeston First Christian Church
New Covenant Community CC
Girard First Christian Church
Bloomington First Christian Church
Illiopolis Christian Church
Winchester First Christian Church
Arrowsmith Christian Church
Litchfield Union Ave Christian Church
Gerlaw Christian Church
Canton First Christian Church
Petersburg First Christian Church
Paris First Christian Church

Individuals

Joe and Ellen Culpepper
Ricky and Melissa Williams
Eron Deupree
Amanda Butterick
Jeff Lindner
Terry and Frieda Foland
Doris Beckerman
Ricky and William Smith
Brenda Culver
Tim and Cheryl Smith
Don and Margaret Merritt
Barbara Jessen
Donald Graham
Jeff and Jayne Zimmerman
Susan and Patrick Larkin
Shirley Swarthout
Doris and Dan Carter
Lois Whitaker
Judith Ridlen
Eugene and Nancy Lamport
Camille and Art Taylor
William and Betty Rucker
William and Patty Crowl
Rachel and Alan Moore
Mark and Amy Sue Johnson
Amy Wharton
Tommy Akers
Arvil Bass
Clarence and Gladys Herzog
Laura Hollinger Antonelli
Kelly and Anne Ingersoll
Karen Knodt
Marla MsElroy
Darryl and Bonnie Parr
Sarah Simonds
Dwight and Diane Winnett
Deborah Owen and Kevin Frings
Daniel Horton
Brenda Culver

New Church Starts

Lincolnshire Community Christian Church

Camp Walter Scott

Jane Cahill
Clayton and Alix Summers
Canton First Christian Church
Bloomington First Christian Church
Pekin First Christian Church
Alix Summers
Sunnyland Christian Church
James Niebrugge
Champaign DOC Community Church

Contact Information

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Ecumenical Council of Churches in Guatemala

Pension Fund of the Christian Church

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Christian Church Foundation Representative

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FOR INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE CALL:

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401 W. Jefferson St.
Bloomington, IL 61701-3826
Ph: 309.828.6293 Fax: 309.213.9469

CAMP WALTER SCOTT DIETERICH, IL
15290 E 300th Ave
Dieterich, Il 62424
Ph: 15015706685 Fax: 217.739.2298

Prayer Concerns:: Rev. Gretchen Barron; Revs. Terry and Frieda Foland; Rev. Floyd Knight; Rev. Linda Chenoweth; Rev. Rob Rixman; Rev. Robert Bushey; Tracy Lee, wife of Rev. Jerome Lee, Carthage, FCC; Rev. John Huxtable; Rev. Karen Lorack Mitchell

Deaths: Barry "Bruce" Peters, brother Rev. Steven Peters, Chapin CC; Rev. Kurt and Kassie Sanders mother ; Walter Mitchell Owens, father-in-law of Rev. Terri Hord Owens; Cecil, father of Rev. Mike and Peg Dixon; Rev. Angee Byrd's brother-in -law, wife Carol Hambright; Lance Waldan, brother of Rev. Cheri Tuccy; Rev. Dr. John Trefzger;

Pastoral Changes: Rev. Will Brown concluded ministry at Abingdon; Rev. Reece Jones to FCC Paris; Rev. Jeff Zimmerman completed work as contract staff person for New Church; Rev. Bryan Burris to Carlock CC; Rev. Erin James-Brown, Transfer of Ordination; Rev. Blair Hull, interim, Community Christian Church, Lincolnshire

Retirements: Rev. Robert and Maxine Rixman;

Celebrations: Galesburg FCC (Revs. MJ and Greg Fitch) celebrating 150 years of ministry

The Annual Fund

Our Regional church is committed to high quality partnership with local congregations, providing ministry services not available elsewhere – helping congregations in times of crisis, providing camps for our children and youth, helping congregations call their next pastor, joining in global ministry together. We invite you to support the Annual Fund and join us as partners in life-changing ministry!

One way to show support in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL & WI's Mission is through a donation to our Annual Fund. Gifts to the Annual Fund enable us to grow Disciples congregations for healthy vital ministry!

Your support is appreciated



Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL & WI

Growing Disciples congregations for healthy, vital ministry.

☐ Yes! I believe in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in IL & WI's Mission and I want to help!

☐ Enclosed is my gift to the Annual Fund ☐ $100 ☐ $250 ☐ $500 ☐ Other

Name _____

Address _____

City State Zip

Email _____

Congregation _____ City _____

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