

The Christian

September 2017

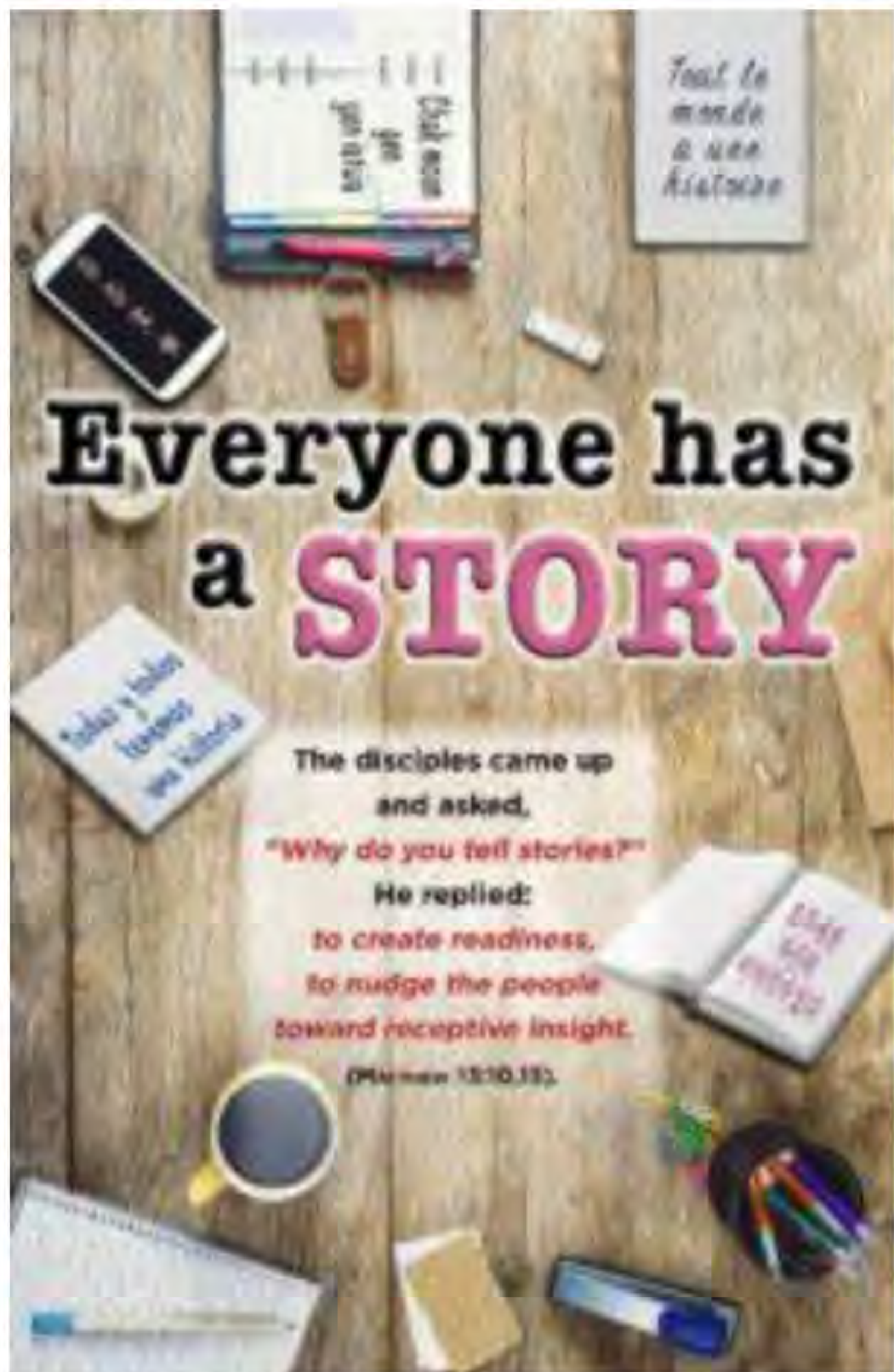
A Disciples of Christ (IL-WI Region) Quarterly
Publication

Reconciliation Offering

About the Special Offering

The Special Offering is used to fund our Church's mission imperative to become an pro-reconciling and anti-racist church utilizing experiential education, inclusive worship and intentional dialogue. Our efforts to promote healing, relationship and restoration in the whole family of God are enlivened by funds from this offering. Through it we are able to provide programs for leadership development, curriculum for dialogue and learning, and partnerships within the Church and our communities.

Recent events have reignited the conversation about human brokenness evidenced in the sin of racism and perpetuated in our institutional structures and systems. Your generous giving to Reconciliation Ministry is transforming lives and strengthening Christ's witness in the world showing that we love one another, even as Christ continues to love us!



Donations on behalf of emergency grants on behalf of impacted communities and congregations toward healing for the communities of Ferguson, Staten Island, Charleston, S.C., and Baltimore can be directed to the Reconciliation Annual Fund/Racial Justice Response.

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has a history dating from the 1960s of sharing our resources to address the racism of our society and the racism within our own church. We have called this process the Reconciliation Ministry.

We receive this offering in the fall and use the funds throughout the year to give grants to the pro-reconciliation/anti-racism initiative to organize to dismantle systems and structures that perpetuate this sin of division within the Church.

The 2020 Vision adopted by our church names this work as one of the four priorities of our mission together as a whole church. This voluntary annual offering is the only source of funding for this ministry.

The form of this ministry may be changing, but the need for addressing racism has never been more obvious.



REGIONAL MINISTER'S MOMENT

Rev. Dr. Teresa Dulyea-Parker

Communication, Mission First and SLAM!

So, where are we in the Study and Discernment process, you ask?

We have identified two areas of work as high priorities: communication and youth/camping Ministry. The focus on communication is very specific: helping our congregations tell their stories through new media. We envision a “story corps” type ministry to collect and tell stories of our Life Giving/Life Changing ministries. We will also produce video/imaging about our congregations and for our congregations to use in social media. Look for a new website to contain those stories called: LifeGivingLifeChanging.org. Our task group is very excited about the possibilities!

Youth/Camping Ministry will probably become known as Mission First---honoring the priority of our General Church. The focus of this task group is to bring wholeness to our Youth and Camping Ministry. To promote spiritual formation for all ages, but specifically focusing on ministry with children, youth and young adults. (You can see images of our 2017 Camping season, and read about our upcoming Youth Summit in other articles in this Christian.)

The two task groups are currently working to clarify vision, set direction, bring unity, and write job descriptions. These will be presented to our Personnel Committee and then processed by the Regional Church Council, Oct. 28. Keep praying for good outcomes.

We will also begin a new ministry group called SLAM---Service, Learning and Mission. The dream is to have regional service, learning and mission locally and globally, that engage our values. We will embrace spiritual pilgrimage---moving beyond our comfort zones to engage God in other cultures. Rev. Bill Kerns has agreed to lead this effort. Our goal is to launch a five-year plan at our Oct. 19-20, 2018 Regional Assembly in Bloomington.

In the meantime, we welcomed the Rev. Jeff Zimmerman as our New Church Ministry contract staff person. Jeff has been the Chair of the New Church Ministry Committee for the last year. He brings insight, clarity and organizational savvy to the position.

You can follow all the news of the region by subscribing to our weekly eNews. Visit our website at cciwdisciples.org to subscribe.

Teresa

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Teresa".

How to be a Part of

Re-Routing the School to Prison Pipeline

Perhaps you are aware that in many places, the tests of third graders are used to predict the number of prisons that will be needed in twenty years. But did you know that in California, 23 prisons and only 1 new university campus has been opened since 1980, a state that has increased its spending on prisoners five times faster than spending on K – 12 grade students. According to the National Institute of Corrections, in 2015 Illinois' county jail system housed 20,600 persons and its 25 adult correctional centers housed 46,240 persons. Additionally in 2014, there were 122,184 adults on probation and in 2015 an additional 28,478 adults on parole. These numbers do not reflect juveniles that are caught up in the justice system. Nor do these numbers seem to reflect that according to Pew Research Center that crime rates have fallen steadily since the 1990s. What they do seem to reflect is that the prison industry is a growth industry in our country. What they do seem to suggest is that mass incarceration is a problem in our state and in our country. What they do seem to suggest is that incarceration is the new Jim Crow (Michelle Alexander. *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*. The New Press, 2012).



Meet Reverend Dr. Dietra Wise Baker

Reverend Dean Bucalos, Mission Specialist, National Benevolent Prison and Jail Ministries states, “It seems that creative innovative methods for an obviously dysfunctional criminal justice system are now necessary... together, we can explore and exchange new ideas and approaches.” The Pro-Reconciliation and Anti-Racism Team echoes this sentiment. We invite you to come to First Christian Church in Virden, IL on September 30 at 10 AM to participate in the conversation as we explore how to **Re-Route**

the School to Prison Pipeline. Our morning conversation will be guided by Reverend Dr. Dietra Wise Baker. Our afternoon conversation will be guided by a panel of individuals representing the Judicial and Educational systems. **You can register for the event by going to the calendar page of the cciwdisciples.org and clicking on September 30.**

Wise Baker is a full-time chaplain and program development manager for Episcopal City Mission, a nonprofit providing chaplaincy services to incarcerated children in the St. Louis area. She is a Mission Specialist with the National Benevolent Association and organizer of the “Break the Pipeline” campaign in Missouri. She is also a church planter, serving as pastor of Liberation Christian Church (DoC). Dietra loves to dance, sing, and teach. She is married to Cornell R. Baker and has one daughter Alexis Baker.

New Day for Transformation—2017

Need a spiritual boost??

Resources that really help!

What is God calling you to do?

What's one thing you would do if you knew you couldn't fail?

Spiritual practices—drawing close to God and one another



Partners to share in my spiritual journey

Spiritual retreat
July 28-30

Life can be better— here's an invitation to make space for God

New Day
An answer to your questions and to your prayers

Passionate about God's future for us!

Ask your minister if New Day is right for you!

Contact **Scott Woolridge** –
scott@cciwdisciples.org

Here's What's Next – Spiritual Transformation

God is inviting us to a deeper relationship. God is singing us a love song and welcoming us back.

More than flowery expressions, these words speak truth – the closer we are to God's love, the more we can be God's loving presence – spiritually transformed!

In the Regional church, we put strong emphasis on ministries of transformation – faithful change for individuals and congregations. We have many offerings coming your way.



Watch for these life-changing events –

Storytelling – Saturday, October 14 – First Christian Church, 801 63rd St., Downers Grove – led by Rebecca Anderson of Gilead Chicago. The workshop will take place from 10-2 p.m. Register at cciwdisciples.org. The registration fee is \$10.00.

Geography of Grace – spiritual small groups - Saturday, February 24 at Illiopolis Christian Church – led by Melissa Ebken, Bryan Burris and Teresa Dulyea Parker.

And more for 2018 – **Personality and Spirituality**, another **New Day retreat**, and a return visit from **Ruth Fletcher** to talk more with us about **congregational transformation**.

All Disciple members and friends are invited to all of these events. Attend one event, attend all. There are many facets to our growth in God. How will you connect?

Health Care Zones

India Bobadilla, Jim Cullumber, and Michael Johnson to visit CCIW the week of September 12-14 as our new zone representatives from the Foundation and Pension Fund, respectively.

Three meetings from South to North have been arranged all from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the following locations:

Sept 12 @ Benton First Christian Church, 302 S. Main St., Benton, IL

Sept. 13 @ Decatur Central (DOC), 650 W Williams St., Decatur, IL 62522-2326

Sept. 14 @ Zion United Church of Christ, 1521 Sixth St, Peru, IL 61354

2018 Regional Assembly



Save the Date for our 2018 Regional Assembly. **Oct. 19-20, 2018** at **The Chateau in Bloomington, IL**. Rev. Teresa “Terri” Hord Owens will be our speaker (General Minister and President.) The emphasis will be on our General Church priority on ministry with and for Children, Youth and Young Adults.

Regional News

Minister of New Church/Ministries



The Christian Church in Illinois and Wisconsin recently approved five priorities for the next five years. One of the priorities is an emphasis to develop and support new churches and ministries in the region. To support this effort a part-time contract ministerial staff position was created. Jeff Zimmerman was called to serve as Minister for New Church/Ministries starting August 1st. He will lead the New Church and Ministry Team of CCIW and will guide and support new congregations, ministries and affiliations within the region.

Storytelling Workshop

You've got stories. We help you tell them."

CCIW New Day Ministry is pleased to host a storytelling workshop with Rev. Rebecca Anderson of earthshotstories.com. **The storytelling workshop will be held at First Christian Church, 801 63rd St., Downers Grove, Illinois on Saturday, Oct. 14 from 10-2:00 p.m.** Rev. Anderson will be our guide. The goal---- to lean to tell our stories of hope and transformation. **Register at cciwdisciples.org. Registration fee is \$10.00.**

Here's more information from earthshotstories.com

"Rev. Rebecca Anderson comes to storytelling via stand-up comedy, playwrighting, and preaching. She's been on Snap Judgment (radio), The Broad Experience (podcast), and a [Risk!](#) live event. In Chicago, Rebecca has worked with companies and events like [2nd Story](#), [The Moth](#), [This Much is True](#), the [Truth or Lie](#) series, and [Do Not Submit](#). In 2016 - 2017, she is an artist-in-residence with the Logan Square Ecumenical Alliance, teaching, leading, and facilitating storytelling with 4 congregations." Rebecca is the Co-Pastor of Gilead Chicago and Bethany UCC in Rogers Park with Rev. Vince Amlin.

More from earthshotstories.com: *Are the people you want to reach hearing your message? Earshot can help you get the word out!*

We're fluent cultural translators who can help you tell the story of your organizational mission to reach the public and inspire donors. Launch a fundraising campaign with well-crafted stories of why it matters.

We practice storytelling for advocacy and justice-making. Need to train folks to give a moving elevator pitch? We got you.

We tell stories to strengthen and celebrate community. Have a gala coming up? Celebrate with a polished performance by storytellers from clients to board members.

At Earshot, we know that stories build relationships, seal deals, change hearts and minds, and sometimes, even save lives. Find out what Earshot can help you do in your organization, congregation, or community.



Work Projects at Camp Walter Scott

Fall 2017

**2017 Work days at
Camp Walter Scott**

September 30

October 28

November 4

**Call Laura at
217-739-2332**

Turn off water to shower houses- winterize

Remove paddleboats from dock and store for the winter

Store paddleboards/paddles/canoes properly

Hand sand parts of the tree house

Install quarter round in Cabin #2

Cabins, #1 and #2 - insulation, weather stripping, sealing cracks, etc.

Finish repairs on shelters

Remove tarps from shelters

Trim tree branches

Cut trees and split firewood

Install drywall in storage area in Dining Hall

Remove debris from roofing areas

Deep clean Dining Hall tables

Power wash all metal roofs

Repair or discard trailers at shop

Install metal roofs - north side – small shelter & pavilion

Install metal roof on the shop

Camp Walter Scott
is a ministry of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
in Illinois & Wisconsin



Volunteers make a Difference

Greetings Youth Leaders,

As many of you may know I am currently serving as the CCIW Interim Regional Director of Youth Ministry. I want to inform you of a couple of things.

One, Summit 2017 “Time to Ignite With God” is on Nov. 17th-19th for youth in grades 6-12. Summit will be held at Lake Williamson Christian Center in Carlinville, IL. Please promote Summit to the youth in your congregation but also to other churches in your community; they don’t have to be Disciples congregations. I believe that sharing Jesus Christ with our young people is far more important than denominational lines. You can go to www.cciwdisciples.org to register and find information for Summit 2017.

Second, I want to let you know that we are in the process of creating a Regional Youth Ministry Network. If you want to be a part of this please send your contact information and what church you are serving to tim@cciwdisciples.org or peggy@cciwdisciples.org. One of the goals of creating this network is to be able to share resources with you and for you, youth leaders, to be able to share resources, ideas, mission projects, and other things that are helpful for your fellow youth leaders. Also, I will be able to share upcoming events such as Summit 2017 on Nov. 17th-19th and Midwinter Retreat January 20th-21st, 2018. Another goal of the network is to share education opportunities for youth leaders. For example, Middle School Ministry Conference on Oct. 13th-15th in Camp Allendale in Trafalgar, IN or get you connected with the Disciples Youth Ministry Network (DYMN). Here is the link to the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/DYMNNetwork/> .

I pray that your ministry is thriving and life changing for the young people in your community.

Peace & Love,

Tim Akers

CCIW Interim Regional Director of Youth Ministry

A Great News Story – A Disciple’s Life

Or we should say, A Disciple’s Life – So Far. Here is a good news story of a Disciple member who grew up in our Region as a faithful, joyful servant of God. Every phase of her life has a strong Disciple connection.

We’re talking about Kate Summers from Mt. Carmel, Illinois. Kate is the daughter of two Disciple ministers – Jim and Jackie Summers. They have served in Mt. Carmel for more than twenty years! All of Kate’s years have been in this congregation. Earlier this month, Kate attended her tenth General Assembly and she shared that she enjoyed the welcoming spirit as well as the trusted adults in leadership. From her childhood in the church, Kate has served in a variety of ways including acolyte, youth group, distributing food in Operation Share. In the local church, she has also served as a deacon and sung in the choir. Kate has been very active in school activities, too.

Kate has served on the Regional Youth Council (for three and a half years) and the General Youth Council (also as Moderator) for the past year and a half. She is active in Ministry Across Generations on the General church level and appreciates the great diversity of members on that team. Kate says her life is richer because of all the people she’s met. For twelve years, Kate has been a faithful church camp participant and this summer will attend and lead multiple weeks of camp. Camp Walter Scott is her home away from home and she values the experience of everyone being accepted and understood for who they are.

Kate loves being a part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) because it is family. Not just her family, who is regular in their participation in events like the General Assembly, but everyone she has met. It is a friendly, welcoming atmosphere where people care about one another and want to know more about one another.

Next month, Kate begins her freshman year at Eureka College, a Disciples of Christ affiliated school. She chose Eureka because it is similar to her hometown – small and caring, a great place to build relationships. Kate was also chosen as a Fellow in Eureka’s Disciple Leadership Program, receiving full tuition plus two on-site mentorships exploring service anywhere in the world. She’s excited about the experience Eureka can offer. Kate has many goals in life. She’d like to serve a local church, get a doctorate and write a book. She doesn’t know yet what the topic of the book will be. In light of the recent General Assembly and her work in the church, Kate has her sights on serving someday as General Minister and President.

We think Kate embodies what it means to be a faithful member of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and it is a joy to share the journey with her.



2017
Summer Camp
Camp Walter Scott



Register Today For

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Time to
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With God

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Nov. 17-19 at Lake Williamson Christian
Center in Carlinville, IL

Keynote Speaker: Lori Tapia from D.O.C. Central Pastoral
Office for Hispanic Ministries

Go to www.cciwdisciples.org
to register!

Disciples Women Plan and Reorganize

In 2016, the Disciples Women's Cabinet guided by Reverend Scott Woolridge and Reverend Dr. Christal Williams engaged in a process of visioning. Through our conversations, we agreed all Disciples Women are unique and that Disciples Women's ministries in congregations in CCIW are unique. Some Disciples Women meet for fellowship and book studies, others hold Baby Showers for the local agencies that provide social services for women and children, others focus on spiritual practices through prayer groups and retreats, and some make blankets for the Linus Project, just to name a few different activities of Disciples Women. Knowing this, we agreed that the primary purpose of the Disciples Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin is to connect and empower women of the region as they share the Good News through:

- Worship for spiritual growth and renewed discipleship;
- Bible study for greater knowledge, understanding, and service;
- Participation in mission, advocacy, and service;
- Networking and fellowship for building the faith community locally, regionally, and throughout the whole church;
- Leadership training for the service to God in Disciples Women, the church, and the community;
- Stewardship of time, talent, and resources for the mission of the church;
- Accountability and personal responsibility for the mission of Jesus the Christ through the church.

We agreed that this purpose could best be accomplished under the leadership of a Disciples Women Ministries Leadership Team consisting of a President, Vice-President, Recorder, Director of Worship and Study, Director of Service and 8 Directors of Communication from across the region. A **Nominating Committee** has been formed and in September 2017, we will begin to prayerfully identify individuals to serve in these roles.

We will seek the affirmation of the Regional Church Council by presenting our new structure at the biannual meeting in October. Believing that every woman who worships in a Disciples congregation is a Disciples Woman, we will strive to be a conduit to connect and empower women of the region in diverse ministries as they grow individually and communally as disciples of Jesus Christ.

One way to do this is through our new **Facebook page**. All you need to do is like this page and you will be connected to Disciples Women across the Region. You will have access to the latest information to news and information about upcoming learning and service opportunities. Our goal is to provide a space for women to share their stories of successes and challenges of the ministries that Disciples Women provide through their congregations. We hope to connect women and provide a network to ask questions and share resources as we strengthen the faith community.

Another way to do this is through the **Spring 2018 Gathering**. So mark your calendar and save **May 5, 2018** to join us at the Chiara Center in Springfield, IL as we are led by keynote speaker Reverend Dr. Dietra Wise Baker in exploring our theme **Called for a Purpose**. Registration cost is \$45 and additional information will be coming soon on the Facebook page, the Regional websites and other Regional sources of communication.

Finally, we will connect and empower women of the CCIW as we come together with women from Nebraska, Kansas, Greater Kansas City, the Upper Midwest, the Middle America, and Indiana Regions and the Midwest Convention and NAPAD at **Culver Stockton College in Canton, MO on June 22 – 24, 2018 for the Heartland Interregional Disciples Women Leadership Conference**. The theme of the conference is **Called, Connected and Charged for Christ**. We will have the opportunity for hands on mission of Friday, June 22. We will gather for worship each day with messages being brought by Rev. Dr. Dietra Wise Baker, Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, General Minister and President Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and Pastor Lori Tapia, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries. We will be led in Bible Study by Dr. Marti Steussy. We will engage in conversation and #dwconnect with Rev. Pat Donahoo, Executive Director Disciples Women and Rev Chesla Nickelson, Program Director Disciples Women. And, we will have the opportunity to explore a variety of interest through Saturday afternoon workshops.

Every women who attends a Disciples congregation is a Disciples Woman. Each Disciples woman and each Disciples' Women's Groups are unique. The Disciples Women Ministry Leadership Team is committed to celebrating these differences as we connect and strengthen one another to engage in sharing our stories and live out the Good News of what Jesus Christ is doing in our lives today and will be doing in our lives tomorrow.

Application for Reconciliation Grants

Brief History

The issue of racial justice is one that appears throughout our history as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). However, the Reconciliation ministry of the church officially began at the General Assembly in 1968 with the approval of the urban Emergency program. Its mission was to work to dismantle racism in our church and society. Reconciliation was reaffirmed as a permanent ministry of the church in 1972. Our 20/20 Vision, adopted at the 2001 General Assembly in Kansas City, MO, included the mandate for the Disciples to become an Anti-Racist/Pro-Reconciling Church, a phrase that has recently been changed to a Pro-Reconciling/Anti-Racist (PR/AR) Church.

Objective and Purpose

The objective of the Reconciliation Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Illinois and Wisconsin is to undergird the National Mission Priority set forth by the General Assembly to become a PR/AR Church. We do so through the work the PR/AR Team and Committee. Working together, the Committee and Team provides leadership and vision of responding to God's call to be a fully transformed, anti-racist multi-cultural church that we claim as members of the Body of Christ, an anti-racist identity that empowers, heals, and makes whole.

The Purpose of the CCIW Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Committee is to:

1. Present yearly to the Regional Church Council the plan, activities and reports of the Committee and Team.
2. Communicate the vision and goals of the region's ministry in creative and compelling ways to CCIW congregations and groups.
3. Promote the annual Reconciliation Offering within the congregations of the Region
4. Award a yearly discretionary grant to the Team from the reconciliation funds to carry out its program.
5. Solicit, receive, administer and award the annual Reconciliation grants in accordance with the guidelines.
6. Participate annually in the Anti-racism training that is selected by the Team

Grant Applications are due no later than December 1st at the CCIW Office.

Applications are available by typing <https://cciwdisciples.org/prar/grants/> into your browser or by contacting a CCIW PRAR Committee members who will be available to explain the funding priorities and/or assist you in completing the application. To insure that you receive the assistance you need, please contact the Regional Office or email ministry@ccwidisciples.org.

Previous Recipients

2017: Jim Wallis event at Eureka; **Parkway Gardens M.O.M.S. program.**

2016: Rock Island 15th Avenue Christian Church “Rise Up” ministry; Parkway Gardens “MOMS program”; Park Manor Christian Church; and CCIW PRAR Team.

2014: Glen Oak Christian Church, Parkway Gardens Christian Church, CCIW’s PRAR Team.

M.O.M.S. Parkway Gardens Christian Church

M.O.M.S. is a Summer Camp for children of the Parkway Gardens Homes complex and is housed on the campus of the Parkway Gardens Christian Church. The programs runs for eight weeks during the summer months to provide a safe haven for 50 to 60 of the 100 children of our community. The program runs five days a week from 3– 6 p.m. between June 26th and August 26th, 2017. The children are offered opportunities for fun, food, new learning experiences, social activities, community awareness, and other skill building games. There are field trips and give the children a chance to exit their regular surroundings and to enjoy more positive environments.

Our community has recently been targeted by the media as an unsafe area for children to be reared due to high gang and other criminal activity. We, Parkway Gardens Christian Church, have partnered with several community organizations to address this problem. The MOM’s program is the brain child of several of our members who live in the apartment complex adjacent to our campus. This is an ongoing on the Church in order to help provide a safe place for the children of our community to enjoy their summer.





**A MISSION TRIP:
CHURCH WORLD SERVICE DISASTER
CENTER & HEIFER INTERNATIONAL
IN LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS**

Members of the Illinois Conference UCC and Illinois-Wisconsin Region DOC are invited to be part of a “hands on” mission experience at the Church World Service Disaster Center in Little Rock, Arkansas, November 4 – 11, 2017. We’ll take with us Disaster Cleanup Buckets, school kits, health kits and items for assembly of kits collected by local churches at Fall Association meetings and at drop off points in the DOC Region. Also included will be additional “hands on” experiences at agencies related to the UCC & DOC churches in Little Rock such as a community crisis center, food bank/pantries and Habitat, etc.

A sixth load of completed buckets (100), empty buckets (about 400) and miscellaneous items for assembling buckets, school kits and health kits were delivered last fall to the Church World Service Center by a team of fourteen persons from Illinois churches. While in Little Rock they spent three days assembling buckets, school kits and health kits and an environmental project. They also visited nearby Heifer Ranch, Heifer International Headquarters and sorted food at the Arkansas Food Bank.

DETAILS: Plans are to leave by bus at 8:00 am from St. John UCC, Lincoln, on Saturday, November 4th and return on Saturday, November 11th. Work projects and mission experiences, side trips and fun will fill Sunday through Friday. Housing will be in The Lodge at Ferncliff Camp which will provide meals Sunday through Friday. The CWS Center is housed at Ferncliff. Meals while traveling will be the responsibility of each person.



The cost for travel, housing and meals is \$390.

For more information please contact:

Dave Kniker at 309-853-7814 or

dfkniker@gmail.com

Please encourage your local church to collect disaster, health & school kit items beginning now – and take the collected items to your Fall Association meeting or designated drop off points in the Disciples Region. Information on clean-up, school, & health kits is found at: www.cwsglobal.org

Mission First

First Christian Church East Moline

In 2014 and 2015, our church conducted in-house collections of personal hygiene products for homeless veterans - toothpaste, deodorant, shampoo, etc.-which we boxed and delivered to what was then called the VA's Homeless Veteran Outreach Center, in Rock Island.

After the second collection, we asked the VA how we could expand our efforts, our idea being a community-wide collection of such items. To our surprise, the VA showed us several storeroom shelves filled with donated, but as yet undistributed, hygiene products, including the ones we had given! But they also told us of an unmet need for basic household supplies for veterans who moved off the streets and into housing of their own with the help of VA housing subsidies. Our congregation's response to that need was the ministry we call "**Helmets of Hope.**"

Preparations for the ministry's launch included two major fundraisers, the production of a one minute promotional video, and consultations with area agencies serving the veterans for whom we expected to provide supplies. With their input, we created a 20-item base collection of items we called an "initial allotment," which through our partner agencies we would provide to vets as they moved into their housing. We decided that in addition to initial allotments, we would provide free refills of any of the items we supplied, again through our partner agencies.

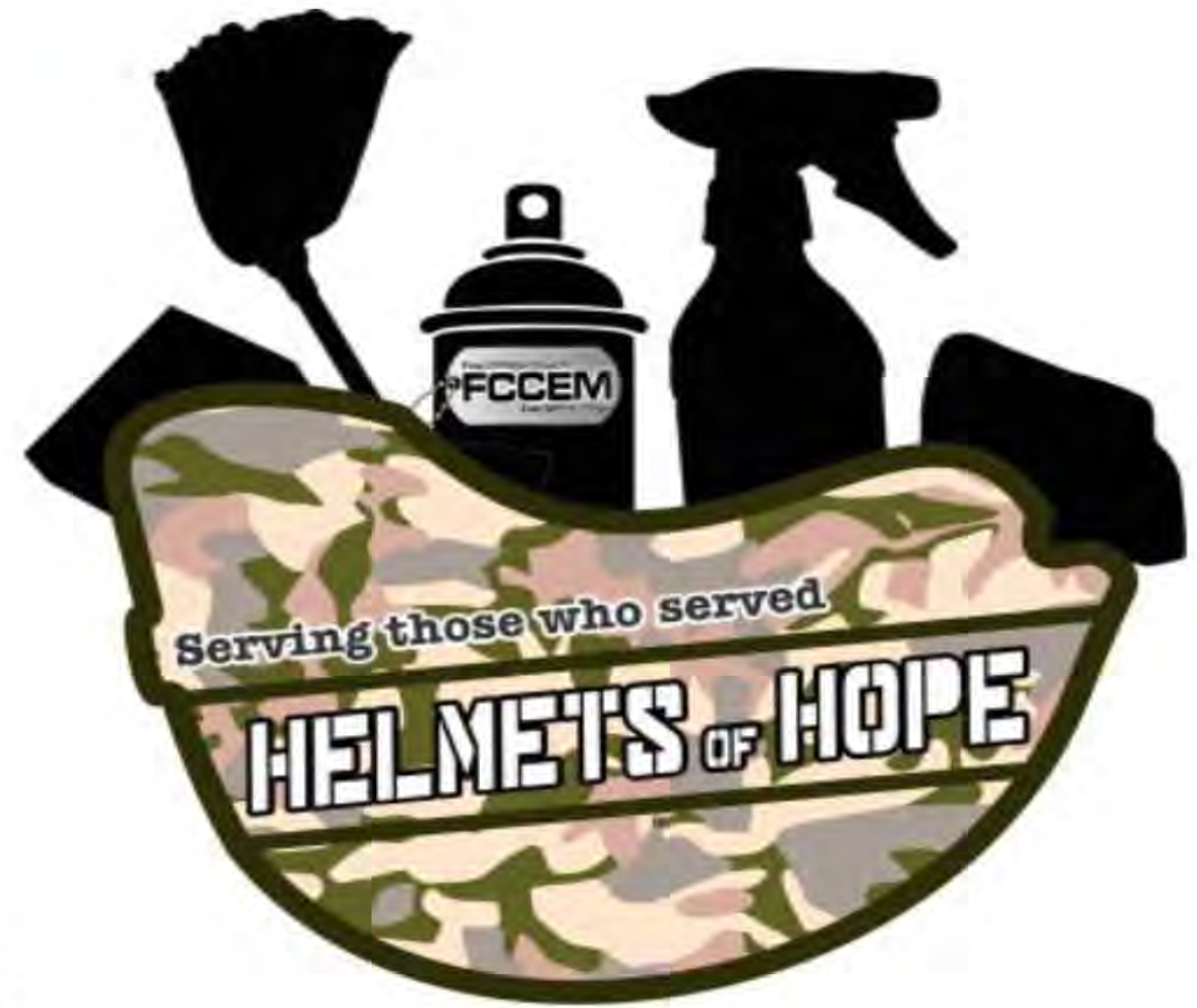
(NOTE: Confidentiality concerns mean we don't work directly with the veterans we serve. We deliver supplies to three partner agencies, whose case- and social workers make the distributions.)

We made our first supply deliveries in December 2015, the first of more than 40 such offerings through which, as of mid-2017, we have provided more than 7,300 essential household supply items for veterans moving into their own housing.

Over its first year-and-a-half, Helmets of Hope has provided more than 7,300 essential household supply items to more than 200 Illinois and Iowa veterans - an average of nearly 300 items per month since the first deliveries at the end of 2015, and 400 items per month during the first six months of 2017.

By God's grace and design, we believe Helmets of Hope is making a difference in the lives of veterans, and we hope you will support its work in the ways to which God calls you, whether through financial gifts, participation in our fundraisers, and/or as part of the Helmets of Hope ministry team. And of course we hope you will pray for God's continued blessing of our work.

For more information, please contact us by email (helmetsofhope@fccem.org) or by phone (309.755.6552). Visit us on the Web at <http://www.fccem.org/helmets-of-hope>.



Gifts to Disciples Mission Fund

The following churches and individuals have contributed to the mission of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through contributions to the Annual Fund. These gifts support a variety of ministries—camps for children and youth, leadership development, congregational consultation, ministerial search & call, and shared mission activities in Illinois and Wisconsin. Your gifts make a difference.



Individuals

Neil and Katherine Deupree
Dwight Bailey
Arvil Bass
Daniel and Doris Carter
Charles and Rebecca Cline
Larry and Gayle Conrady
Joseph Culpepper
Nathan Damery
Eron Dupree
Eric and Jane Moore Freyfogle
Dorothy Jacoby
Rex and Marcia Kibler
Eugene and Nancy Lamport
Marla McElroy
Jim and Jackie Meece Summers
Harry and Linda Meyer
Faith Russell
Nancy Trefzger
Scott and Vicki Woolridge
Jeff and Jayne Zimmerman

Churches

Creve Coeur First Christian Church
Danville Central Christian Church
Galesburg First Christian Church
Gibson City First Christian Church
Hoopeston First Christian Church
Illioopolis Christian Church
Lawrenceville First Christian Church
Lincolnshire Community Christian Church
Lomax Christian Church
Niantic Christian Church
Normal New Covenant Community
Petersburg First Christian Church
Rock Island Fifteenth Ave Christian Church
Sullivan Christian Church
Villa Park Christian Church
Winchester First Christian Church

Prayer Concerns: Frank Spears, Rev. Terry Foland; Rev. Dr. Dale Hutchcraft; Rev. Gretchen Barroon

Deaths: Rev. Robert and Euna Francisco's family, daughter Linda; Rev. Robert Belew's family, Rev. Belew passed; Larry Stower's family, Larry passed; Rev. Reachel Doolin Moore's family, mother Bettie passed

Pastoral Changes: Charlotte Hoppe to Pine Creek, Polo; Leslie Thomas, concludes at Henry, Youngeop Ahn retiring from Korean Christian Church, Chicago; Teresa Hord Owens to GMP in Indy; Robert Silvanik to Vine Street Christian Church, Arthur; Jody Brown to Chaplain at Ascension Wisconsin, Mequon, WI; Rick Hamilton to Downers Grove; Rev. Jeannette Larson, First Christian, Rock Falls; Jane Courtwright concludes at Moline First Christian Church (closing)

Join with us and each other in continual prayers for all Pastors, Interims, and Congregations of the CCIW Family

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Teresa Dulyea-Parker, Reg. Minister & President
Scott Woolridge, Associate Minister

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Administrative Staff

Tim Akers (Youth)
Beth Rupe (Women's, PRAR)
Rev. Hyoung Chel "Tom" Yang (NAPAD)
Jeff Dulyea-Parker (Website, eNews)
Jeff Zimmerman (New Church/Ministries)
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FOR INFORMATION OR ASSISTANCE CALL:

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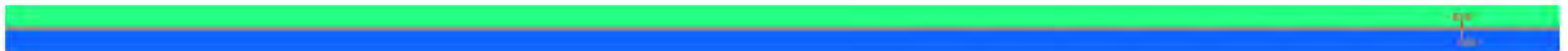
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Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

401 West Jefferson Street
Bloomington, IL 61701-3826



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!

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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