



Hold the following congregations and ministries in prayer:

Week of March 2

Pine Creek CC, Polo, IL; FCC Pontiac, IL; FCC Princeton, IL; FCC Cadillac, MI

Week of March 9

Mechanicsburg CC, IL; FCC Keithsburg, IL; FCC Knoxville, IL; Riverview Park CC, St. Joseph, MI

Week of March 16

Sunnyland CC, Washington, IL; FCC Lawrenceville, IL; FCC Paw Paw, MI

Week of March 23

Illinois St CC, Lewiston, IL; Ipava CC, IL; Mackinaw CC, IL; United Church of Wayland, MI

Week of March 30

Glen Oak CC, Peoria, IL; Mosaic Christian Church, Peoria, IL; FCC Petersburg, IL; FCC Rushville, IL

Pray for:

- Search Committee for Regional Minister and President - Sandy Harvey (Chair), Ben McCloughan (Vice- Chair), Karon Alexander (Secretary), Marla McElroy, Vicky Kirby, Allie Lundblad, Grant Wade
You can contact the Regional Search Committee at rmsearch@cciwdisciples.org
- Committee drafting the provisional documents for the Emerging Region
- Regional Assembly (Oct. 3-4, 2025) planning team

Dates to Remember

March is Women's History Month

March 5 is Ash Wednesday marking the beginning of Lent

March 7 is World Day of prayer

March 8 is International Women's Day

March 21 is World Poetry Day

Regional Events

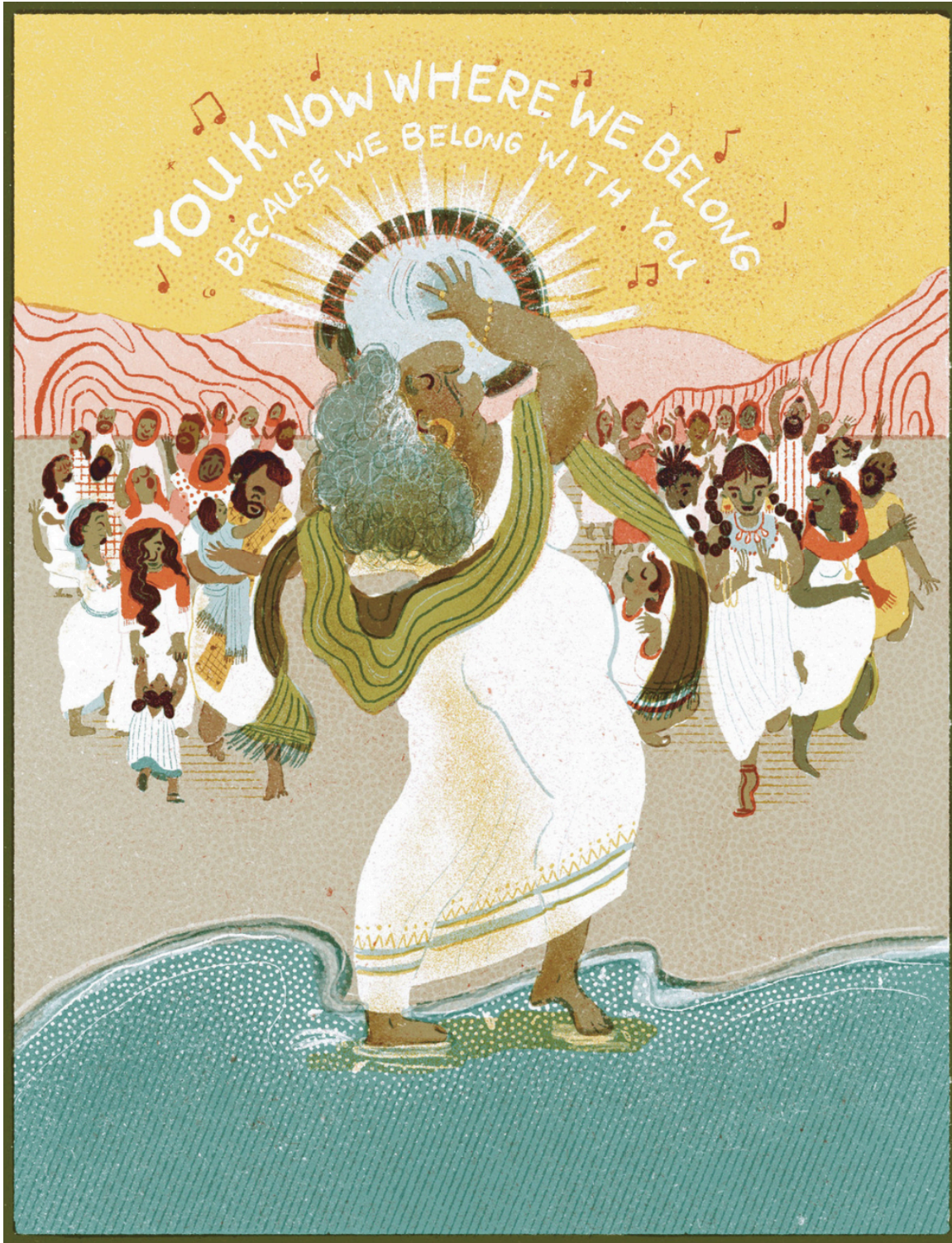
March 1 Camp Walter Scott Directors Meeting

March 11 *The Book of Two Ways* by Jodi Picoult

March 15 CCIW Regional Church Council/ CCMR Regional Board

Visio Divina: An Invitation to Sacred Seeing

Visio divina, meaning “divine seeing,” is a spiritual practice that invites us to encounter the divine through visual imagery. It shares roots with *lectio divina*, the ancient practice of slow, prayerful interaction with scripture—allowing a word or phrase to rise in our consciousness, something sacred to savor and reflect upon. Similarly, visio divina creates space for prayerful reflection and deep spiritual connection as we encounter the presence of God through images.



Try It Out

Focus: Allow yourself to pay attention to the image. Breathe. Let your eyes explore. Are you drawn to a specific part of the image? Notice shapes, colors, light, shadow, movement and texture. Absorb the details slowly. Close your eyes and consider the image in your mind’s eye, then reopen your eyes. Do you see something new?

Reflect: What emotions arise as you look at this image? What thoughts or memories does it bring forth? What surprises you?

Offer: Conclude your time with a moment of silence, lifting up whatever has emerged in your heart.

Visio divina is an invitation to see beyond the surface, to encounter the sacred in unexpected places. Through this practice, may your eyes and spirit be opened to God’s presence in the world around you.

Ash Wednesday

Excerpt from 'Ash Wednesday' in *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human* by Cole Arthur Riley (NY: Convergent Books, 2024)

To be read in solitude or as a collective

God of the Ashes,

Today, let us hold the tension of the story of our making—born of the dirt, beautifully connected to the earth we walk on. And yet, possessing the knowledge of our mortality—that our common decay cannot be escaped. As we begin Lent, help us to become honest about the way our societies and selfhoods are marred by injustice, cruelty, neglect, and greed. Help us to see our own role in the degeneration of the world; that as we push back evil around us, we might also admit to those secret evils that dwell in us. As we name how we've been complicit in the ashes of this world, help us to bear them in solidarity and hope. Amen.

Breathe

INHALE: I will carry the ashes.

EXHALE: God, bring rest to the suffering.

INHALE: There is breath in these ashes.

EXHALE: No death is final.