

## Ohio Regional Newsletter - September 2021

### Across The Region And In My Heart

**Rev. Allen V. Harris, Regional Pastor & President,  
Christian Church in Ohio**

Can we take just a moment to celebrate the Church of Jesus Christ? In the midst of all the complications of life, we need a moment or two just to look at the great things that are happening and give thanks to God for all that we are and all that we have been given in life. The Rev. James Schimmel, a beloved Pastor in the Christian Church in Ohio and longtime dear friend of mine, once said to me as I was protesting the fuss of a fellowship dinner being planned in my honor, "Allen, the church needs every excuse to celebrate good things, so just be quiet and let them celebrate!"



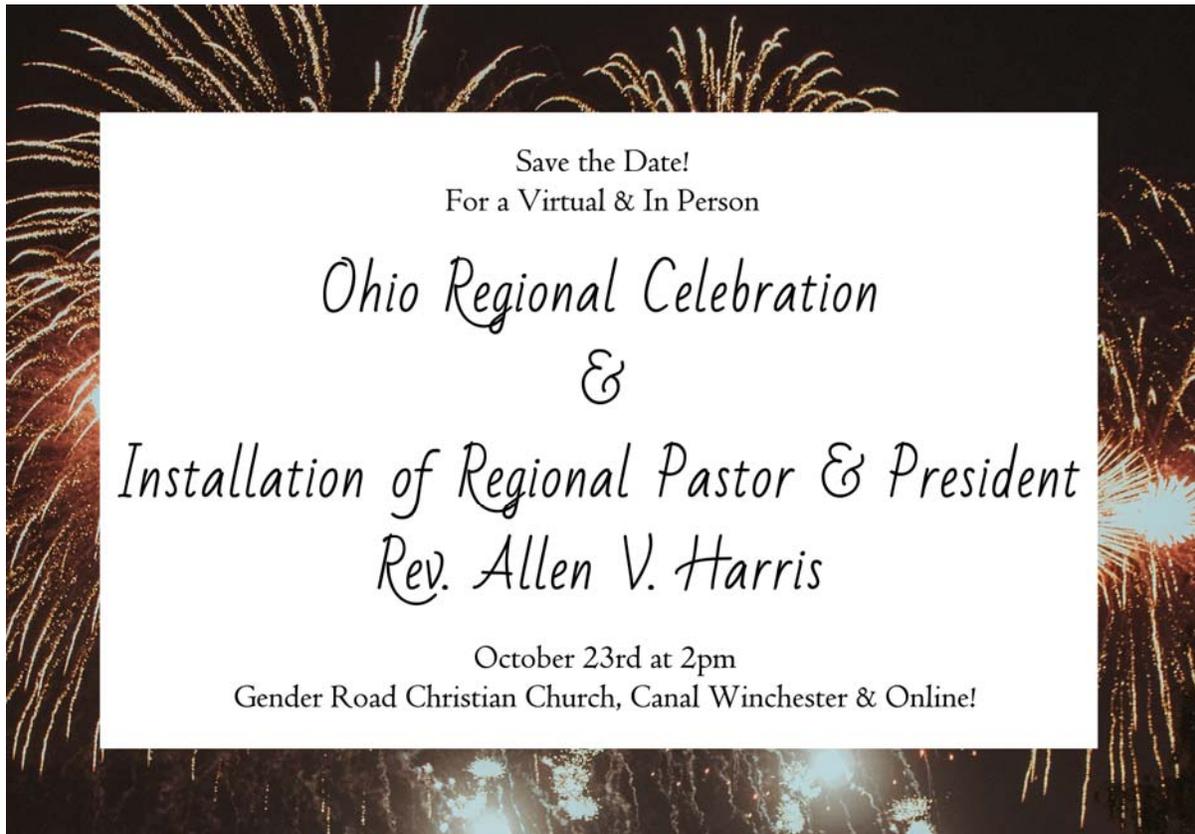
This summer, in addition to a successful and safe Summer Church Camp Program, we celebrated installations and ordinations abundant! We celebrated the installation of **Rev. Faith Solon as Associate Pastor of Northwest Christian Church Columbus, Rev. Amanda Moore as Pastor at First Christian Church, Kent, and the Rev. Nina Merkle Nestlerode as Lead Pastor at Good Shepherd Christian Church in Macedonia/Twinsburg.** We have also ordained to Christian Ministry the **Rev. Paul Bomeli, the Rev. Lisa Reshad, and the Rev. Ali Miguel** (see story and pictures below). This Sunday, September 5 at 5:00 p.m. in Florida **Pastor Shelby Baxter-Andrews**, Associate Pastor and Director of Youth Ministries at First Christian Church of Wadsworth will be ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in the P.C.(U.S.A.) (watch it online at: <https://fb.me/e/1nWvGnLqB>) Other installation services and building dedications are coming up, including: September 12<sup>th</sup> - the **101st Church Anniversary of Third Christian Church, Warren, and their Pastor, Rev. Robert L. Faulkner's 5th Anniversary;** September 19 the installation of **Rev. Bob Garwood at First Christian Church Lisbon** AND the installation of the **Rev. Michael Richter** as Pastor of the Mid-Ohio Valley Parish as part of their annual Parish stern wheeler ride on the Ohio River; September 26 – the dedication of the new sanctuary of **First Community Church North, Dublin;** October 10 – the installation service of **Rev. David Chafin** as Pastor of North Eaton Christian Church and the rededication of building renovations; October 17 - the installation service of **Rev. Kristin Wickless** at Perry Christian Church.

AND on Saturday, October 23 at 2:00 p.m. virtually and in person at Gender Road Christian Church, Canal Winchester will be **my service of installation as your Regional Pastor and President and a celebration of the Christian Church in Ohio!** The **Rev. Teresa Hord Owens**, our General Minister and President for the Christian Church in Ohio is scheduled to be with us to preach.

These, and so many other great things are happening across the Christian Church in Ohio. If I missed one, please let me know and we'll celebrate it as well! May God's blessings be with us all as we remember to "Rejoice in the Lord always, again I say 'Rejoice!'"

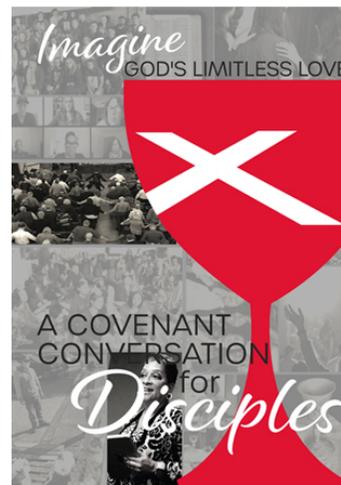
Joyfully Yours,  
Allen

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## Christian Church in Ohio Offers Covenant Curriculum

This summer the Office of General Minister & President, under the leadership of the Rev. Teresa Hord Owens, launched a new study curriculum to nurture the concept of "covenant" which is central to our faith as Christians, but is also the way in which the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is shaped and how we do ministry and mission together. Called **Covenant Conversation: A Small Group Curriculum For Disciples** this resource offers *"a journey through interactive conversation towards faithfully living into covenant as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Five guided sessions will take participants into a deeper reflection of what it truly means to live in covenantal relationship with each other, with the church, and with God."*



COVENANT CONVERSATION: A SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM FOR DISCIPLES  
WITH REV. HEIDI BARHAM & REV. ALLEN HARRIS

Both our Regional Moderator, Candis Wilson, and our Regional Minister, the Rev. Allen V. Harris, understand that this conversation is critically needed for our church to be more effective, more faithful, and to grow. They are arranging for this curriculum to be offered in several settings for clergy and lay leaders around Ohio to engage in deep conversations about what it means to be the kind of church we are in this day and place. The Regional Church Council will be urged to participate in a special presentation of the curriculum. However, the course will also be made available to the entire Regional Church.

This Region-wide class using the **Covenant Conversation: A Small Group Curriculum For Disciples** will be

offered virtually and at no charge on five consecutive Tuesdays, September 14, 21, & 28 and October 5 & 12 from 7-8 p.m. Rev. Harris will co-lead the course with the **Rev. Heidi Barham**, Pastor of Ledgewood Christian Church in Novelty, Ohio. Rev. Barham is also Adjunct Faculty for Indiana Wesleyan University and has worked in hospice care for the past 13+ years.

The curriculum, which has both video teaching components and is heavily interactive, frames itself around the Preamble to the Design of the Christian Church which was crafted 50 years ago to help celebrate the unique and faithful facets of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). In addition to the videos and interactive questions, the course also offers links to transcripts in Spanish and English, discussion questions for each session, and a full bibliography.

It is a special hope that pastors and educational leaders in our congregations and faith communities will participate in this Regional Church course and that it will inspire them to lead the course in their own settings.

Space is limited to 25 participants. To register for the course, go to the [Covenant Class](#) Regional Calendar page on [www.ccinoh.org](http://www.ccinoh.org). This course is being offered for free. It is strongly recommended for participants to be present for all five one-hour sessions to get the greatest benefit from the course. The only technology requirement will be to have a computer, tablet, or smartphone that can use the Zoom videoconferencing platform. To read more about the curriculum and see an introductory video, go online to: <https://disciples.org/our-identity/covenant-conversation/>

## CAMP CHRISTIAN SPONSOR-A-CAMPER



### Sponsor-a-Camper Matching Gift Results

Thank you SO MUCH to all of the individuals and congregations that helped to give to our Matching Gift fundraiser this summer! We knew that this summer would be difficult for our camps and conferences, and so we were thrilled when FCC Athens decided to offer a matching gift for our Sponsor-A-Camper initiative, matching up to \$10,000 in funds raised by the rest of the region.

We challenged Ohio to help us with this effort, and when August drew to a close, we had raised \$10,660, beating the goal that was set for us! Without your kindness and generosity of so many donors, congregations, and the initial idea from FCC Athens, we would never have been able to raise over \$20,000 for Camp Christian Summer programs. We thank you for this amazing display of love for Camp Christian, and for a phenomenal example of how a network covenant of churches and church members can make such a massive difference. THANK YOU!

## Kate Myers, Disciples Peace Intern, Shares Reflections About CYF Conference

This summer we had the honor of having Kate Myers as one of our CYF Conference counselors. Kate served as a Disciples Peace Intern, a program of the Disciples Peace Fellowship. Peace Interns are young adults who provide educational and program support at church camps and other church-related assemblies and events about peace and justice issues, serving as counselors and resource people, and modeling the lifestyle of peacemakers for youth and adults alike. For more than forty years, DPF's Peace Intern program has provided a vital witness for peace within church camps and other youth events of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.



Kate has written a reflection on her experience this summer and you can read her thoughts here: <https://www.disciplespeace.org/follow-the-interns/2021/8/16/takeaways-from-the-summer>  
To find out more about the Peace Intern Program and to read Kate's bio, go online here: <https://www.disciplespeace.org/what-is-a-peace-intern>

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## Northwest Christian Church Invites Other Congregations To Join In CROP Walk

2021 celebrates the 43rd year of the CROP Hunger Walk in Columbus, with planning and recruitment already in process for our walk this October!

Members and friends of Northwest Christian Church, Columbus, plan to walk at the Scioto Audubon Metro Park on Sunday, October 3rd at 1PM - following all COVID-19 protocols.

The planning team is currently recruiting NEW churches and organizations to participate in the walk this fall. If you're interested in joining us, please contact Ashley Montana ([amhofmaster@gmail.com](mailto:amhofmaster@gmail.com)) or Andrew Gifford ([AGifford@cwsglobal.org](mailto:AGifford@cwsglobal.org)).

Registration is also available online: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/event/columbusoh>. Find us on Facebook/Instagram @columbuscrophungerwalk.

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## Church World Service (CWS) – Festival of Sharing

Share the love with neighbors in need impacted by poverty, displacement and disaster- as well as those neighbors impacted by Hurricane Ida- through the Festival of Sharing – Ohio.

This statewide Church World Service (CWS) Kit collection is a great opportunity for your congregation to do a hands-on project while serving our most vulnerable neighbors. Assemble Hygiene Kits, School Kits, and/or Emergency Cleanup Buckets and drop them off at a Kit Depot. Most Kit Depots are open NOW through September 10 all across Ohio for convenient drop-off (please call or email ahead to make your arrangements, details at [fosohio.org/kits-depots](https://fosohio.org/kits-depots).)

-OR- Drop them off the day of the large collection on September 18 from 9am-12pm at Otterbein University: STEAM Innovation Center, 60 Collegeview Rd, Westerville, OH 43081.

-OR- You can also bring assembled kits or monetary donations for CWS to Camp Christian NO LATER than September 17<sup>th</sup> and they will be taken to the drop off on the 18<sup>th</sup>.

For more info: [fosohio.org](https://fosohio.org) or email [agifford@cwsglobal.org](mailto:agifford@cwsglobal.org).

Special thanks to our Christian Church in Ohio depots: First Christian Church of Massillon and First Christian Church of Mansfield!!

Details about CWS Kits can be found at <https://cwskits.org/>.

A promotional video can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/594706046>.



Lift up in prayer our neighbors in need impacted by Hurricane Ida.



Pack Kits for this fall's Festival of Sharing to restock those sent in response to Ida.



Donate at [fosohio.org/donate](https://fosohio.org/donate) or send checks to PO Box 968, Elkhart, IN 46515.

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## The Free Store at Camp Christian

Let me first introduce myself. My name is Bruce Bowerman-Jett, and I assumed the role of leading the Free Store this past winter. The Free Store at Camp Christian has served over 2,200 people in need over the last eleven years. It has been a meaningful ministry and much needed resource for folks in the surrounding area around Camp Christian. It is a blessing to be able to serve our community with this ministry.

The Ezerins' House on the Camp Christian campus is where we call home. It allows us to continue operation all year long. The Free Store is open Tuesday evenings 6p-9p and on Fridays 3p-6p. As we return to normal hours of



operation, we welcome any donation you can give. We are in desperate need of:

- Kids Clothes – Ages 24 months – Teens
- Kids Winter Coats – Ages 24 months – Teens



We also continue to stock our food pantry and blessing box. Listed are some of the shelf-stable items that we are need of:

Fruit cups, Applesauce, Fruit juice boxes, Raisins, Canned vegetables, Canned tuna, Canned chicken, Beef jerky, Rice, Au gratin potatoes, Instant mashed potatoes, Stuffing mix, Macaroni and cheese, Spaghetti noodles, Spaghetti sauce, Elbow macaroni, Spaghetti O's, Ramen noodles, Hamburger helper, Dry milk, Boxes of cereal, Instant oatmeal packets, Peanut butter, Peanuts

#### **Personal care**

Toothpaste, Tooth brushes, Toilet paper, Paper towels, Shampoo, Body wash, Hand soap, Feminine products, Dish soap, Deodorant

We have an Amazon wish list for the Food Pantry if you would be interested in making your donation that way. Items can be ordered and shipped directly to Camp Christian. The list can be viewed at <https://a.co/f9hMkNQ>. *(Please note, this is just a simple way to streamline these types of donations. You can always purchase items from your local stores and/or take collections at your Congregations and then bring them to Camp Christian.)*

You can also make monetary donations to The Free Store at Camp Christian at <http://www.ccinoh.com/donation.aspx>. Be sure to designate your donation to the Free Store at Camp Christian.

This ministry has meant a lot to those it has served over the years. Again thank you! Together, we can continue to share God's love with those in need for years to come. Thank you for your continued support of The Free Store at Camp Christian!

Sincerely,  
Bruce Bowerman-Jett  
[bruce.jett@gmail.com](mailto:bruce.jett@gmail.com)





## **Fall Silent Retreat Camp Christian November 1st – 5th**

"Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves . . . and rest a while."

Jesus is known for taking time away to be in quiet solitude and prayer (Mark 1:35). He invites us to join him in spaces of quiet prayer today, though those times and places can be harder and harder to find. Especially with the demands of pastoral, clergy, and lay leadership in this past year, we are all needing quiet prayer now more than ever.

The Spiritual Life Committee of the Ohio Region issues an invitation on behalf of Christ Jesus to ALL who are weary and worn, exhausted and exasperated, to all who seem to have lost connection to the Source, to all who are in need of quiet time to come away by yourselves and rest awhile.

This is an opportunity to come to Camp Christian's Monroe Lodge for a do-it-yourself unstructured Silent Retreat. You are free to bring your own food or to go out to eat on your own . . . or even to fast as a spiritual discipline. You are free to walk among the trees and sit at the Vesper Spot or stay in the Lodge and sit by the fireplace. There will be no programs or schedules to interrupt your sleep or your time of quiet, because you will be in control of your time at Camp Christian.

We understand that not everyone has the ability to have a full week of retreat so you may come for as long as your schedule permits.

Because we want to care for the physical health as well as the spiritual health of those on this retreat, proof of vaccination will be required for all participants. There may be additional requirements and recommendations as we continue to monitor the Delta Variant and get updates from the Union County Health Department.

If you are in need of spiritual, physical, or emotional rest, we hope you can come away... and rest for a little while.

These details and registration available at <https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/adult/spiritual-life.aspx>.

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## Learn alongside your peers at New Church Ministry's Leadership Academy

At [New Church Ministry's](#) virtual [Leadership Academy](#), attendees learn skills that will help them no matter what stage of the church launch process that they're in. With track sessions created for specific cohorts, no participant will feel alone. Which one is for you?

**Start Track** (pre-launch): Discern your missional purpose, develop your future story, and prepare for launch.

**Sustain Track** (post-launch): Develop strengthening practices to grow and maintain ministry.

**Multiply Track** (established congregations): Explore methodologies in ministry innovation and disciple-making principles to develop healthy collectives. *NEW*

Join us from September 21-23!

[Learn more](#)



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## Reconciliation Offering



The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering will be received in congregations this year on September 26th and October 3rd. Our theme is "Revealing God's Justice: "The Time is Always Ripe to Do What is Right." As we reflect on the events following the televised death of George Floyd, anti-Asian violence, and disparities in contraction rates of the novel Coronavirus in ethnic and racial communities, our Church strengthens its commitment to actively seek God's justice. As followers of Christ, we believe

every life is precious and valued in God's beloved community.

Reconciliation Ministry is the church wide mission fund which supports programs and program partners that enable full human flourishing for everyone in every community. Your generosity has supported our capacity to provide grant awards to Bethany College's Equity Community Guide, Diversity Audit and the Region of Greater Kansas City's Becoming Beloved Community Program, as well as local congregational racial and social justice educational events. We believe that the Christian Church (Disciple of Christ) is uniquely equipped to encourage racial equity and justice in the communities where we worship and serve.

Your gifts to Reconciliation Ministry promote our mission of creating a just and loving society. The prophet

Isaiah reminds us that God's salvation is for ALL of us. The scripture in Isaiah 56:1 reads, "This is what the LORD says:

"Maintain justice  
and do what is right,  
for my salvation is close at hand  
and my righteousness will soon be revealed."

All of us have a role in revealing God's justice. It is our call as the community of faith, the body of believers, and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Your giving promotes our capacity to respond and to reveal God's love and justice in such a time as this!

For more information about the Offering and the Reconciliation Ministry, go to <https://reconciliationministry.org/give/>.

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## Congregational Celebration & News



### **Congratulations To Our Newly Ordained Ministers!**

The month of August was very busy for the Christian Church in Ohio's Commission On Ministry as three persons who have been in care of the Commission and who were confirmed in June were ordained. On Sunday, August 15 the Rev. Paul Bomeli was ordained at Hampton Park Christian Church in Toledo. The Rev. Mary Jo Bray was host pastor and the Rev. Morgan Wickizer was guest preacher. On Sunday, August 22 the Rev. Lisa Reshad was ordained at Washington Avenue Christian Church in Elyria. The host pastor and preacher was the Rev. Nathan A. Russell. On Sunday, August 29 the Rev. Ali Miguel was ordained at New Horizons Christian Church in Akron. The Rev. Jim Bane served as host pastor and preacher for the day. The Rev. Cynthia Klingemier, Rev. Dr. Jeff Wheeler, and Brenda Osuga represented the Commission on Ministry and the Rev. Allen V. Harris, Regional Pastor and President, officiated.



## Compass Christian Church Hosts Friends and Family Night 2021

Compass Christian Church hosted a "Friends and Family Night 2021" for their community. The theme was, "We are All Part of the Family of God!" This was offered in place of their usual Vacation Bible School and was held on August 14. Community members were invited to come and leave when they could. Activities included: Bible stories about families, music, games, Kona Ice, giveaways, and more!

The congregation then celebrated the event in worship the next Sunday. To watch a video of the event and worship check it out on their YouTube page: <https://youtu.be/OYPTYwMeNsY>

The Interim Pastor for Compass Christian Church is the Rev. Beckie Linn Gregory

## Howland Community Christian Church Hosts 80 Years Of Scouting

On Sunday, August 22 Howland Community Church in Warren, Ohio hosted a free family event along with Howland Troops 28 & 122 to celebrate 80 years of Scouting in their community. The day started with a special Scout Sunday service at the church then an opening ceremony in the parking lot. Families and neighbors enjoyed the grounds of the Howland Community Church, reviewed a model boy scout campsite, watched scout skill demos, sampled campfire cooking, inspected an 18 wheeler, steam shovel, large military machines, trucks and other vehicles. There was also a pine wood derby race "for another shot at the track." Activities included a community service fair with more than 25 agencies, causes and Scout units on display. Food vendors provided tasty treats for those gathered.



The Rev. Erica Brown is Pastor of Howland Community Christian Church.

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