

Ohio Regional Newsletter ~ December 2021

Imagine God's Love Revealed

Christmas Special Offering Helps Make Known God's Love In Action

Imagination isn't the sole property of the Christmas season, but I think it is fair to say imagination flourishes at Christmas in ways unlike other times of the year. Whether through pondering what Mary or Joseph of the shepherds must have been thinking and feeling at the birth of the Christ Child, or picturing what presents you'll have under the Christmas tree, dreams, fantasies and imagination run wild the month of December.

This Christmas, I would like to invite you to let loose your imagination in a different way. Try imagining how faith and spirituality might take shape if your local church or the Regional Church had all the resources they needed to fulfill the mission and ministry God was calling them to for this new day in the new world of 2022 and beyond! If the Church could follow the invitation of Jesus Christ boldly, confidently, and totally what would that mean for your community or neighborhood, the state of Ohio, or the world?

Each year the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), through our local congregations and online offerings, receives gifts for the Christmas Special Offering which supports the ministry of the Regional Church. One hundred percent of the gifts received for this offering in our Ohio churches will go further the mission and ministry of the Christian Church in Ohio. The Regional Church helps make known the love of God as it is lived out throughout the life of the church, locally, regionally, across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada, and around the world through Global Ministries. Your gift to this special offering allows the very imagination you have for the Church to become a reality.

Some of the current vital ministries of the Regional Church that are revealed when we give to this offering include how the Regional Church...

- Connects congregations to each other for mutual support, celebration, and resource-sharing
- Fosters faith formation through spiritual workshops, webinars, retreats, and developing shared resources
- Gathers Disciples in camps, conferences, and assemblies for prayer, play, and discipleship
- Nurtures the development of a new generation of pastors through discernment, mentoring, and connecting them with resources
- Assists congregations in concluding their time with pastors who are leaving and in calling new ministers
- Supports pastors as they seek new calls to ministry
- Interprets the denominational and global mission of the Church to the local congregation while also interpreting the local mission of the Church to the denominational and global community
- Represents the Church in ecumenical, interfaith, and non-profit gatherings



- Counsels and prays with those who are troubled of spirit, especially clergy and lay leaders
- Leads the Church to address racism, sexism, homophobia, ableism and other injustices and inequities in our world

But there are other ministries that we have yet to fulfill because they are only in our imagination! The Regional Church could...

- Offer more of the above ministries to more congregations, clergy, and lay leaders on a more consistent and complete basis
- Inspire leaders to innovate, experiment, and create new ways of deepening spirituality, furthering justice, and being faithful community
- Design and offer significant quality lay and clergy continuing education to deepen and expand our witness to the world
- Witness to the power of God to make all things brand new!

When we imagine God's love revealed and we support that love with our energy, our wisdom, and our financial resources, we can turn our imagination into reality and make God's love real for a new day and for those who have yet to experience the transforming love of Christ. When you give to this offering, thank you for helping the Christian Church in Ohio to be your partner in making God's love real this Christmas.

Find out more about our mission and ministry at www.CCinOH.org. To give to the Christmas Special Offering directly online and credit your local congregation, go to <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give/>. Thank you!

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

District 12 Thanksgiving Service Raises Funds for Larry Pigg Scholarship

On Sunday, November 21 Disciples of Christ clergy and laity from all over the greater Cincinnati area joined together in worship and community at Northside Christian Church for a (revived) annual Thanksgiving Service. The Rev. C.J. Koen, Pastor of the congregation, was host and our Regional Minister, Rev. Allen V. Harris, preached on Psalm 133, "We Are Better Together." In addition to the wonderful music provided by leaders from across the District, a special presentation was made to the Rev. Alan Dicken, who will be moving from the area in early 2022. A handmade chalice and paten, gifted by the clergy of the District, was given to him during the celebration.



Participants in the service generously gave gifts totaling \$878 for the offering last night for the Larry Pigg Scholarship Fund. In addition, a wonderful gift of \$10,000 was given by Mt. Healthy Christian Church, also towards the Larry Pigg Scholarship Fund! The scholarship is for undergraduate students from District 12 Disciples congregations.

Following the service a bounteous Thanksgiving feast was provided by members of Northside Christian Church. In the words of Rev. Anna Hope Curwood, Pastor at Anderson Hills Christian Church and facilitator for District 12 clergy, "We have so much to be thankful for in this season of gratitude!"

[2021 Advent Devotional Booklet](#)

In case you haven't seen it yet, the Christian Church in Ohio 2021 Advent Devotional Booklet is now available!

The complete booklet is available for download [HERE on our website](#). If you have any trouble with the file please let us know.



As usual, we are also posting the meditations as daily devotions through email, our website, and on our social media pages.

Once again we've included several video devotions this year. We hope that you enjoy these videos and also subscribe to the [CCIO YouTube Channel](#).

We also wanted to let you know that the College of Regional Ministers has also put together an Advent Devotional Booklet, which can be downloaded in English, Korean, and/or Spanish [HERE on our website](#).

May you all have a blessed Advent Season!



RENEWAL INITIATIVE

FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO
AND CAMP CHRISTIAN

Supporting the Ministries of Your Ohio Region



[Renewal Initiative Update](#)

We wanted to share with you an update about the Renewal Initiative. As of right now (December 2nd,) the Renewal Initiative has received over \$65,000 from 154 donors! That puts us well over halfway to our goal of \$100,000.

The designations of the donations as of today are:

- \$21,196.00 - Ohio Regional Operations
- \$19,889.00 - Camp Christian Operations
- \$23,537.54 - Where Needed Most

We are so grateful for the amazing love and support from our Congregations, Ministers, Members, and Friends.

If you haven't checked it out yet, we have a fundraising thermometer chart as well as some details on the

contributions on our website so that everyone can follow along with the progress. This, as well as all of the other information and documents concerning the Renewal Initiative can be found at <https://www.ccinoh.com/other-pages/renewal-initiative.aspx>.

Your gift goes a long way to help the Christian Church in Ohio fulfill the great commission and the greatest commandment of Jesus Christ in and beyond Ohio. Thank you for your prayerful consideration!

The Free Store at Camp Christian Thanksgiving and upcoming Christmas outreach events

Several years ago, The Free Store began a tradition of making turkey pot pies and giving them to the local community. This year was no different, as The Free Store served our local families with a Turkey Pot Pie and plenty of desserts. They were able to drive up and get a pot pie and pick a dessert that they wanted. We served 40 Pot Pies to the community, and gave away 60 dessert items.

A big thank you to everyone who helped make this event happen. A special thank you goes out to Wendy Taylor, Lilly Taylor for making the crust, Ladies from Saint Andrew Christian Church in Dublin and the Muirfield Tennis Team for most of the desserts.



There are also a couple events and outreach opportunities coming up for the Free Store Camp Christmas Program.

Bears, Blankets and Buckeyes!

A Volunteer Event for Youth & Kids (with an adult)

Saturday, December 11th from 7 - 9pm in the Dining Hall at Camp Christian

Bring a BEAR (or any brand new stuffed animal) to donate with you. At Camp Christian we'll make some fleece blankets, buckeyes, and bracelets to donate to our **Camp Christmas Program**. Sampling of the Buckeyes is **encouraged** and you can make a bracelet for yourself if you'd like. We will have a local jewelry artist instructing! Have some fun for a good cause!

CYF age youth (grades 9-12) are welcome to stay afterwards for a slumber party with their parents' permission. Call or text Wendy Taylor directly for details on this 614-832-9679.

Camp Christmas Shopping Party

Friday, December 17th, from 4 – 8pm in the Dining Hall at Camp Christian

Volunteers Welcome

Join us for the BEST Christmas Party of the season. We will share GREAT FOOD and GREAT MUSIC with our neighbors as we offer a gift shopping opportunity for parents and caregivers who may need some assistance this holiday season.

This is an adult only event to keep our Christmas magic ALIVE.

- Sign up genius link for donating items and/or volunteering:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60b0948adaf28a1f94-camp1>
- Amazon wish list for needed items:
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/25IQXZ7DGIRTG?ref=wl_share

If you have any questions or need more information please call or text Wendy Taylor directly at 614-832-9679.

You can also make a monetary donation to the Free Store at Camp Christian to support this Christmas Program at <https://www.ccinoh.com/donation.aspx>. Be sure to designate your donation to The Free Store at Camp Christian.

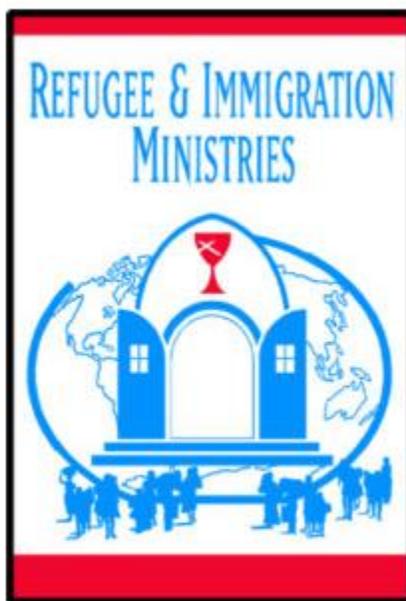
Congregations Invited To Help 250 New Afghan Refugees

Northeast Ohio Disciple Churches are joining with USCRI (U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants) and partnering with area United Church of Christ congregations to provide volunteers, monetary donations and community sponsorships to more than 250 new Afghan Refugees placed in our region. Churches and individuals who are interested in becoming involved, can help in many different ways. If you're interested in reading more about USCRI, please visit their website - <https://refugees.org/uscri-cleveland/>

These are the top needs of USCRI:

1. Storage facility on the west side of the greater Cleveland area, large enough to hold furniture.
2. Monetary donations to help with rent, etc.
3. Apartments/housing available to rent to families.
4. Transportation/advocates
5. Wish list donations (All new)
 - Blankets and Comforters - Full and Twin
 - Pillows (New in packaging)
 - Large frying pans + Big pots with lids
 - Tea Kettle (Stovetop)
 - Visa Gift Cards for Groceries (\$25 or more) - Marc's, Walmart, Save-A-Lot

One person alone, can make a big difference! For more ways to donate or volunteer or if you have any questions, please contact Susan Jarecke by email susanjarecke@gmail.com.





[Advance Winter Retreat](#)

As young adults (ages 19-30,) we are often faced with the stress of unknowns in our personal lives. So how on top of all the uncertainty in the world, do we find peace in all of this? This winter, we will tackle Finding Peace in the Unknown. So come join us January 7th -9th and you may find the tools you are looking for!

*Full vaccination is required to attend and if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at officers@advanceministry.org. Additionally, if you are in need of financial assistance to attend, the Advance Scholarship application is open as well.

We are so incredibly excited and look forward to having you all in community at Camp Christian!

For registration information, go to <https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/adult/advance-ministry.aspx>

An Invitation from Washington Avenue Christian Church in Elyria

Welcome to Children's Corner at Washington Avenue Christian Church. We are excited to share that we are expanding and growing the ministry of Children Worship & Wonder by offering engaging broadcasts to the Christian Church in Ohio.

Children's Corner is a hybrid place—in-person and online—where we come to be with God, listen to God, and hear the stories of God! We are ready to welcome you to this space of wonder. You are a gift to God and to us, and we celebrate your presence and participation.



On Mondays at 7pm, we premier broadcasts from our Children's Sanctuary on our [YouTube channel](#). We post these stories on our website and provide links to them on our social media pages. Nothing would thrill us more than for you to like and share these videos with your entire congregation. You can subscribe to our YouTube channel and be alerted each time a new broadcast is ready to stream. Furthermore, we have 48 videos already available that you can use at any time.

If you're not familiar with Children Worship & Wonder, watch this video: <https://youtu.be/1huqpeEha1I>

Children Worship & Wonder is an engaging unique, worship-centered, faith formation experience that focuses on storytelling, ritual, and follow-up activities to help children deepen their relationship with God. It

follows the same four-fold order of worship as a traditional worship service. Children gather in the name of God, hear the stories of God, respond to God's word, and are sent out to share God's love with others. Children Worship & Wonder includes multi-sensory materials that invite children of different ages and various learning styles to enter and enjoy each story. Open "wondering questions" and the follow-up activities invite children to respond to God in myriad ways.

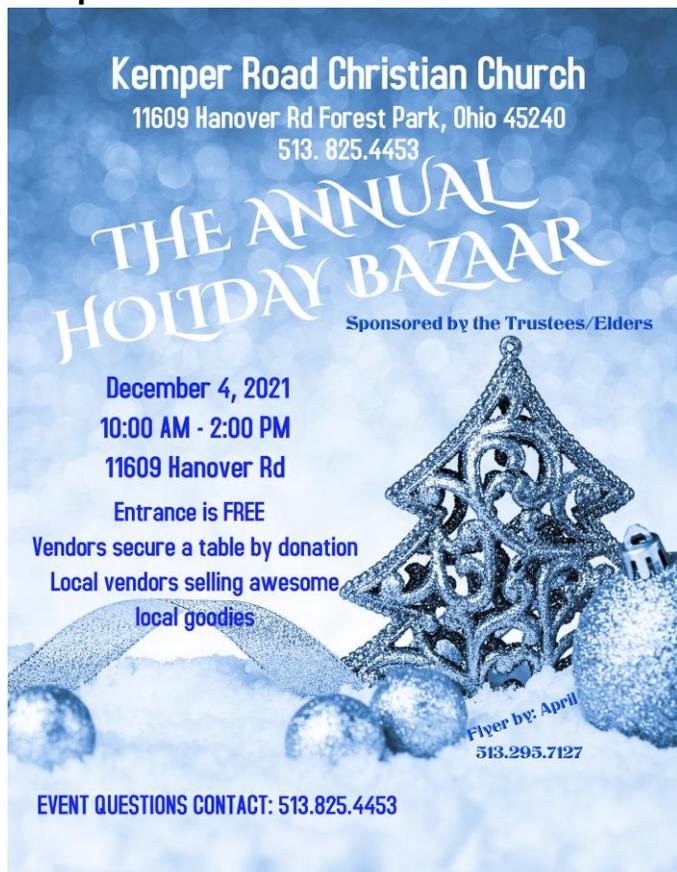
For more than a decade, we have prioritized Children Worship & Wonder as part of our weekly Sunday morning programming. Debbie Walker, Director of Advocacy and Christian Education, is the storyteller par excellence. In addition, we've served as the Regional Training Center for Children Worship & Wonder; hosted numerous storyteller-training events; and, participated in both Regional and General Assemblies. When COVID-19 required us to adapt, we opened our imaginations and wondered how to offer this content in new and accessible ways. Now, we're expanding and growing this ministry by inviting the whole region to participate.

Not surprisingly, adults have loved *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart* as much as do children. Our online series has allowed entire families and congregations to experience the stories.

You are welcome and wanted at Washington Avenue Christian Church, and we invite you to join with us as we wonder.

For easy access to *Children's Corner: Lessons from the Heart*, visit the church's website at waccelyria.org/childrenscorner.

Kemper Road Christian Church Annual Holiday Bazaar



Kemper Road Christian Church
11609 Hanover Rd Forest Park, Ohio 45240
513. 825.4453

**THE ANNUAL
HOLIDAY BAZAAR**

Sponsored by the Trustees/Elders

December 4, 2021
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
11609 Hanover Rd

Entrance is FREE
Vendors secure a table by donation
Local vendors selling awesome
local goodies

Flyer by: April
513.295.7127

EVENT QUESTIONS CONTACT: 513.825.4453

[Cuyahoga Falls Disciple Receives Recognition For Valor](#)

A 100 year old pacifist, World War II veteran, conscientious objector, Purple Heart & Silver Star recipient and longtime member of First Christian Church, Cuyahoga Falls, was featured in a front page article in the Akron Beacon Journal and on the USA Today web page.

As a conscientious objector, Robert "Bob" Hively didn't believe in killing — and still doesn't. So instead of taking lives during the war, he helped save them. As a medic, he treated countless wounded soldiers on the battlefields of Europe and earned the Bronze Star, Silver Star and Purple Heart. Bob also served as Elder, Board Chair, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Outreach Chair and Adult. Sunday School Teacher for many years at First Christian Church. Rev. Don Baird, former pastor of the congregation, reports, "Under his leadership the congregation gave 14% of its budget to Disciple missions - whether the budget was fully underwritten or not - and did so for decades."



Check out this article from Akron Beacon Journal for the complete story:

<https://www.beaconjournal.com/story/news/2021/11/11/world-war-ii-vet-100-conscientious-objector-honored-bravery/6247760001/>



Rev. Rick Modglin-Green Installed As Pastor Of First Christian Church of Findlay

On Sunday, November 21 the Rev. Rick Modglin-Green was installed as the Pastor of First Christian Church in Findlay. The Rev. Allen V. Harris, Regional Pastor and President, preached and presided at the installation. Tara Miller served as chair of the Search Committee and also participated in the installation. Rev. Modglin-Green is from Michigan and most recently served as the Associate Pastor at Central Woodward Christian Church in Troy. Previously he served as new church planter and pastor for Praise Fellowship Christian Church in Madison Heights, Michigan and Student Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church of Detroit. He also serves on the Michigan Regional Board as Secretary. Rev. Modglin-Green will move to Findlay with his husband, Wesley, and their son, Richard. For more information go to the congregation's website:

<https://www.fccfindlay.org/>

Phillips University Legacy Foundation Now Accepting Applications For Scholarships & Leadership Program

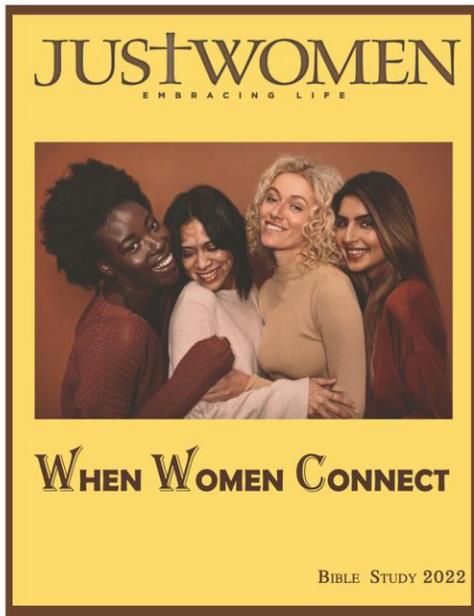


Phillips University Legacy Foundation is pleased to announce that starting January 1, 2022, it will be accepting new applications for its Undergraduate Scholarship and Leadership Development Program for the 2022-2023 academic year. This program makes annual awards of up to \$8,500 per year to full-time undergraduate students pursuing a liberal arts education at any of the 17 colleges or universities currently or historically related with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) (for a complete list, go to www.pulf.org/colleges-and-universities).

Recipients are chosen based on their academic achievements, their present and potential leadership in the church, their communities, and their chosen vocation. The program is available to incoming freshmen as well as college sophomores, juniors, and seniors. Recipients are required to complete a Volunteer Leadership Project and attend a Legacy Scholars Leadership Development Conference for training annually. The Phillips University Legacy Scholars program influences talented young people by acknowledging and nurturing their dreams, cultivating their talent, and providing PULF Accepting Applications for 2022-23 leadership development and scholarship funds to ensure they can graduate with minimum debt and make a difference in the world around them.

The goal of the Phillips University Legacy Foundation is to empower the Legacy Scholars to become lifelong leaders by developing the attributes that are represented by the four pillars of a Phillips University education: intellectual, spiritual, physical and social. To experience a glimpse into the Legacy Scholar lifestyle, visit www.pulf.org. For more information on the Phillips University Legacy Foundation's Undergraduate Scholarship and Leadership Development Program, please contact Tamela Harsha, Scholarship Administrator, at 580.237.4433 or email scholarships@pulf.org. The application will be available to access online, Saturday, January 1, 2022. The application deadline is Wednesday, March 16, 2022.

If you would like to help support the Phillips University Legacy Scholarship and Leadership Development Program, please contact J. Gottman, Director of Development, at 580.237.4433 or email giving@pulf.org. You can also give securely online at <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/pulf>. Phillips University Legacy Foundation is a 501(c)3 organization.



[Pre-Orders for the 2022 Just Women Bible Study are now being accepted!](#)

Women, if you've found the past year and a half a little challenging, we're right there with you. We know one thing that's been **seriously** hard during this time: **Connection**. Pandemics and social distancing make it hard to connect. That's why Disciples Women is SO pleased to present to you the Just Women theme for the 2022 Bible Study: **When Women Connect**. You see, we KNOW that connection is essential for God's people, even when we have to do it in radically new ways.

This Bible Study invites you to connect with both your neighbor and with women of the Bible. Hear the stories of contemporary Disciples women alongside the biblical stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and Rizpah. In these eight Bible Studies, perfect for individuals or groups, you'll have the opportunity to connect throughout all of 2022.

To order your copy, go online to: <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/product/2020-just-women-bible-study/>

For a full list of upcoming events and important dates, please visit the Regional Calendar at <https://www.ccinoh.com/regional-calendar.aspx>