



CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO
DISCIPLES OF CHRIST
A COVENANT NETWORK OF CONGREGATIONS



Ohio Regional Newsletter ~ April 2022

Across The Region & In My Heart

Rev. Allen V. Harris

Regional Pastor & President

As we prepare to enter into Holy Week and we journey with Jesus through his last few days on earth, and as we once again yearn for the promise of new life that Christ's resurrection brings, I cannot help but hold in my heart the horrific situation in Ukraine. The people of this faithful country have been traumatized by the unwarranted attack by the Russians and the senseless devastation of their beautiful country, cities and countryside alike. Hospitals with patients, nurses, and doctors inside have been bombed, as have schools with teachers and children in them and public buildings being used to house those whose homes had already been bombed. While certainly not all of those killed, injured, or made homeless are Christian, I cannot help but imagine the pain and horror of the cross of Jesus Christ when I see the pictures of what the injustices of the Russian army has done to Ukraine.



I wonder daily how the Ukrainian people must be feeling right now. I ponder what is going through the minds of those in Russia who know that what is happening is wrong, but who are fearful if they speak out or act up against the war. My heart wraps around those who have fled their homes with little more than a suitcase as they are seeking the bare bones of existence: food, water, shelter, and safety. I even think about what makes the soldiers commit the atrocities that they are committing, clearly against innocent civilians with no ability to defend themselves. My heart is full to overflowing with these feelings.

One of the primary calls of the Lenten journey is to face up to our own shortcomings and sin, and the war by Russia on Ukraine has provided the horrific example of our communal faults and failures. We must acknowledge that there is something that is alluring in all our hearts that responds to the comforting assurances of an autocratic leader who intentionally shapes and promotes a narrow-minded ideology in the public's mind. We must confess our own complacency when we have worried more about gas prices at the pump than we do about refugees fleeing

bombed out lives. We must confess when we have allowed the rhetoric of those whose words seek to divide and demonize to stir the worst parts of our souls.

And we must all believe in and work for resurrection. The promise Christ brings us this season and every season is that God is heaven-bent on new life, hope, grace, love, and peace. May the coming of Easter 2022 mark the coming of peace in our world. No matter how quickly the war will be over – and we pray it will be soon – there is still much work to be done to address the injustices perpetrated and the suffering inflicted. But there are tangible ways you and your congregation and community can make a difference and work for resurrection.

One of our Regional Elders, Rev. Don Baird, created an excellent resource outlining the work of Disciples of Christ in addressing the war in Ukraine and the massive refugee crisis around the globe. Please check out his detailed report on our Regional Website at https://www.ccinoh.com/media/324493/report_on_ukraine.pdf. Please share it with other church members, friends, and visitors.

I also strongly urge you to find out more about how you can make a difference in the lives of refugees around the world by going to the Disciples Home Missions Refugee & Immigration Ministry website <https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/missions-advocacy/refugee-immigration-ministries/>. Specific information about the Ukraine Refugee situation can be found here: <https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Up-to-100-000-Ukrainian-Refugees-to-Arrive-in-U-S-.html?soid=1101210808414&aid=bJA8IL2EFww>

May the worst that humanity is capable of never define who we are as the human race, and may we never forget that God's final word is resurrection and not death. And for these truths we say, Amen.

Faithfully Yours,
Allen

[Easter Special Offering](#)

April 10th and 17th

Several times a year, congregations receive a special offering to support the ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). These gifts are given above and beyond the regular core support of Disciples Mission Fund.

The Easter Offering, received by most congregations on April 10 & 17, 2022, supports several of the general ministries of the Christian Church. Your gift supports college students in leadership development programs, global mission partners, health and social service ministries, the formation of new congregations, support for pastors and chaplains, and so much more.

More information, including worship materials, available at <https://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/easter/>





YOU are invited to the 2022 Regional Assembly
9:00am – 7:00pm - Saturday, September 24th at Camp Christian

A Family Reunion

"How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!" Psalm 133:1

We are so excited to reunite in person with so many of you who we have not seen in a couple of years!

This year's Assembly will be filled with worship, fun and games, a short business session, delicious meals, and wonderful fellowship with friends and colleagues from around the Christian Church in Ohio and beyond.

Adults, youth, and children of all ages are invited to attend. Much of the Assembly is designed for all ages, but there will also be child care provided.

We would love to see as many of you as possible for this long anticipated assembly. We hope that each church in the Ohio Region will send at least 2 members to represent their congregation at the event.

Complete details including registration are coming soon!

ALSO, we'd love to create a photo collage of our extended church family here in the Ohio Region. If you already have, or could take a nice group photo of the members of your congregation and email it to us, we would greatly appreciate it. Please send your high resolution group photos as jpeg or png attachments to ccio@ccinoh.org.

Business Procedures for the Upcoming Regional Assembly

From the Regional Church Bylaws:

ARTICLE I – BUSINESS PROCEDURES FOR REGIONAL ASSEMBLY Section 1.

Business items or resolutions for the Regional Assembly may be presented by Congregations or instrumentalities of the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) forty-five (45) days prior to the convening of the Assembly [this will be August 8 for the 2022 Assembly]. Those business items

or resolutions will be published to congregations and instrumentalities of the Christian Church in Ohio no later than fifteen (15) days prior to the Assembly [this will be September 9 for the 2022 Assembly].

Emergency resolutions submitted by or through the Executive Committee of the Regional Church Council will be available for review at the Assembly.

Section 2. Ordained and Commissioned Ministers having standing in the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) and laity who are participating members of local congregations in the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) shall have voting rights in the business sessions of the Regional Assembly.

Camp Christian Wish List

We are SO looking forward to an awesome Summer at Camp Christian!! As in years past, many of you have asked for a list of needed items to physically donate to Camp Christian for the Summer Camps and Conferences. Some of our sporting equipment, crafting, free time activity, curriculum, and maintenance supplies could use an upgrade/restock. We created this Amazon wish list with several items that would be great additions to have around Camp Christian for our summer programs! <https://a.co/iBAaV1T>

Please feel free to purchase items from this list and have them shipped directly to Camp Christian, or if you would rather send a monetary gift towards the purchase of these items, that's OK too.

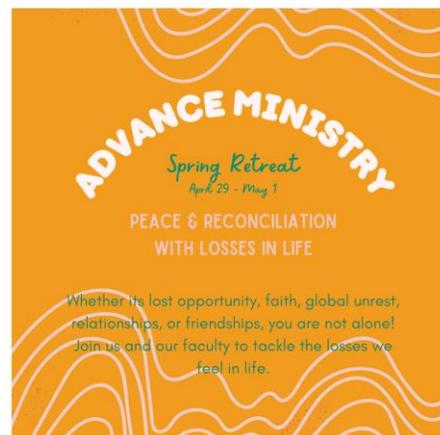
Thank you so much for your love, generosity, and support of Camp Christian!!

[Advance Ministries Spring Retreat](#)

April 29 – May 1
Camp Christian

Theme: Peace & Reconciliation with Losses in Life

Building on topics of peace and what that looks like for each individual, please join us for a workshop to tackle the losses we feel in life as young adults. It is our intention that through community and reflection that conferees will leave with a fuller cup. So whether it's lost opportunity, faith, global unrest, relationships, or friendships, you are not alone!



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



Camp Christian Work Day Saturday, May 14th

From 7:00am until 5:00pm
10335 Maple Dell Rd., Marysville, OH 43040
Attend as you are able

Here are a few of the tasks that need worked on around Camp Christian.
There are tasks suited for a wide range of ages and abilities.

- Cleaning Cabin Clusters
- Clean & Organize Free Store
- Set up Green Chairs around Camp
- Power Washing
- Clean out Gutters and Downspouts
- Cleaning Boats and Life Jackets
- Weed control throughout Camp
- Painting
- Repair Dining Hall Shingles
- Move Soil and Gravel
- General grounds cleanup
- Just to name a few!

Camp Christian Work Day

May 14th

We will once again be hosting volunteers for a day of cleaning, repairing, and general preparation of Camp Christian in anticipation of the Summer Camp and Conference programs!

There are tasks suited for a wide range of ages and abilities. We hope you will join us!

More details, including specific tasks, how to sign

up, how to donate, and more can be found at <https://www.ccinoh.com/regional-calendar.aspx?events=10334&action=details>

Summer Camp & Conference Registration 2022 Now Open!

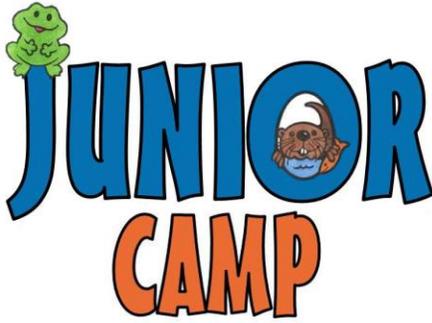
The Camp Christian Summer 2022 Camp and Conference registration forms and information are now available through our website. They are all available for download in one place on the [Summer Forms, Downloads, and Links page](#). They can all also be accessed through each of the Ministry's web pages and on each of the corresponding dates on the [Regional Calendar](#). Please feel free to post and share this information with as many people as possible.



As with last Summer, there is a Covid-19 Policy that will be updated as health recommendations change.

The Camp Christian Committee and Christian Church in Ohio Staff are working closely with the Union County Health Department on this policy. The policy can be viewed [HERE](#).

Each Congregation should have received a packet of hard copies of the forms and information in the mail as well. We are looking forward to having another wonderful Summer at Camp Christian!!



Otter and Ribbit Camp Counselors in Training (CIT)

Attention High School age youth! We are looking forward to another great and amazing summer for Otter and Ribbit Junior Camps. As always, we need you to help us out and make camp an experience these young campers never forget. If you are willing to take some time out of your summer and make a difference in the lives of elementary school kids, we invite you to consider being a Counselor in Training (CIT) this Summer at Otter Camp (June 26 – July 2) or Ribbit Camp (July 6-9.)

For more information, including how to apply, please contact Rev. Heather Hicks at hhicks@cozyspirit.com.

College Hill Christian Church Celebrates It's Long & Faithful Ministry

The leaders of College Hill Christian Church of Cincinnati, after much prayerful consideration and careful conversation, have decided to conclude the congregation's physical mission and ministry. They are inviting former members and friends to their closing celebration May 1st.



The planned list of events for Sunday, May 1st include:

10:00 am - Regular worship service with communion

2:00 pm - Celebration Service in the Sanctuary

3:00 pm - Reception with light refreshments in the Fellowship Hall

Our Regional Pastor and President will be leading the Closing Celebration Service. Please RSVP by April 15th to Beth Katz at katznjammers@fuse.net or call 513-521-2222

College Hill Christian Church was founded in 1909 and the current building (pictured) was built in 1958

College Hill Christian Church
1631 Marlowe Ave.
Cincinnati, OH 45224

Washington Avenue Christian Church Goes Green



Following God's imperative to steward creation, Washington Avenue Christian Church (WACC) in Elyria has become a Green Chalice Congregation.

Participating congregations with Green Chalice enter covenant with God and neighbor to: Worship God with all creation and pray for the healing of the earth; study the climate crisis and engage others in climate solutions; repent and forgive for the harm we have inflicted on the earth that sustains life; advocate for ecojustice public policies and witness by living sustainable lifestyles; and rest in God's good creation and invite others to delight in nature.

To embody this covenant, Washington Avenue contracted with an electricity provider for 100% of its power to be from renewable energy sources (0% carbon-based). In 2021, the church replaced its chancel lighting with energy-efficient LED bulbs and installed

standard, programmable thermostats on all HVAC units. For years, WACC has had a recycling program and a community garden on its front lawn. In worship, the church both incorporates hymns that reflect the beauty of the earth and acknowledges the "pandemic of climate change" each week in the prayers of the people. The church has formed a "Green Team" (aka The Justice League) to ignite the imagination of the community to seek sustainable ways to care for God's exceedingly beautiful creation so all may flourish. Furthermore, the Green Team will address how climate change intersects with discourses on race and poverty. Additional work is being planned for the church to become the first CERTIFIED Green Chalice Congregation in Ohio

The Green Chalice Congregation program was adopted by the Disciples' Division of Homeland Ministries in 2011 under the leadership of the Rev. Carol Devine. At the Disciples' General Assembly in 2017, the Christian Church (DOC) committed to reducing its carbon pollution with the goal of becoming carbon neutral by the year 2030 and climate positive by 2035.

Anyone may join the Green Chalice covenant by visiting [greenchalice.org](https://www.greenchalice.org). Suggested first steps, including those undertaken by Washington Avenue, are to undergo an energy audit, change to energy-efficient light bulbs, use washable dishes and utensils instead of disposables, use eco-friendly cleaning supplies, and host farmers' markets.

Washington Avenue, a historic Disciples of Christ congregation, has been part of the Elyria landscape since 1881 and is a pillar in the denomination. As witnesses to the very best, most beautiful gospel-good news of Jesus Christ, the church strives toward the future God wants and ultimately will have.

For more information, visit the Congregation's Green Chalice website, <https://www.waccelyria.org/greenchalice>

New Pastor At First Christian Church of Massillon Featured In Local News Story

Pastor Sara Coons, who has been the Minister at the First Christian Church in Massillon since January, is featured in a local news story in the Massillon Independent.

The full article can be viewed at

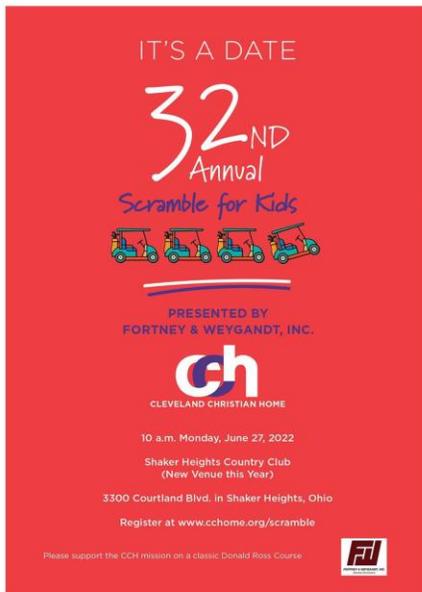
<https://www.indeonline.com/story/lifestyle/faith/2022/03/30/sara-koons-picked-lead-first-christian-church-after-two-year-search-massillon/9363115002/>

(Please note, the story incorrectly spells her last name as Koons throughout.)

First Christian Church in Kenton

This past Sunday, April 3rd, Bruce Bowerman-Jett was officially Commissioned and installed as the Pastor. Rev. Julie Cory, representing the Ohio Commission was in attendance to lead the Commissioning.

The church also now an official member of the Hardin County Chamber & Business Alliance, which connects many local businesses and organizations throughout Hardin County where the Church is located.



Cleveland Christian Home Golf Scramble For Kids

Get in the swing for the 32nd Annual Scramble for Kids benefitting The Cleveland Christian Home! We are excited to have a new venue this year.

Monday, June 27, 2022 - 10:00 a.m.
Shaker Heights Country Club
3300 Courtland Blvd. Shaker Heights, Ohio

You are golfing to support treatment for kids in crisis who need a therapeutic environment to recover from the emotional and behavioral disorders resulting from trauma, abuse, and neglect.

For more information, including registration and sponsorships, go to <https://cchome.org/scramble/>.

Ohio Council Of Churches Focuses In April On African Americans And Mental Health

Join us for our monthly Mental Health Monday webinars. April's topic will be African Americans and Mental Health. It will be held Monday, April 11 at 3:30 PM EST. Our guest facilitators are mental health professionals Carlos and Seneca Bing.



Meet us on our Zoom platform or watch us on the [Council's Facebook page](#).

Register on Zoom using the following

link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwoduGqqj4uE9wnYpqiYnQyHLVxglzmwdmp>

Certificate In African American Ministry 2022 Enrollment Now Open!

Hello! My name is Rev. Kimberley Proctor-White, and I work in admissions at Lexington Theological Seminary in Lexington, KY. It is that time of year again to help us spread the word about our Certificate in African American Ministry, which is a two-year continuing education program that provides theological, biblical, spiritual, and leadership training for women and men. Please see the brochure ([linked HERE](#)) to learn more about the program. PLEASE share this with clergy, congregations, and laypersons in your region. Space is limited to 15 people! Deadline to apply is August 31!!

For more information, go to <https://lextheo.edu/academics/continuing-education/certificate-in-african-american-ministry/>.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am more than happy to schedule a time to chat by phone. CAAM@lextheo.edu



Oreon E. Scott Lecture Series

April 25-26 at Bethany College

Bethany College Professor Emeritus of English and co-founder of the Buffalo Seminary Dr. Larry Grimes will be the featured speaker during the Oreon E. Scott Lecture Series on April 25-26 at Bethany College.

On April 25, Grimes will deliver "Original Goodness" at 10:15 a.m. and "Love" at 1:45

p.m. The lectures will continue at 9 a.m. April 26 with "Joy" and at 1 p.m. "Rejoice, I Say Rejoice." All lectures will be in the lounge of Phillips Hall.

April 25 will also feature a noon luncheon with Bethany's current Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) students. Bethany Memorial Church will host a dinner and worship service on the evening of April 25. Bethany College Interim President Dr. Jamie Caridi then will host a reception at 8:30 p.m. at Christman Manor at Pendleton Heights.

Grimes holds degrees from Bethany College, Yale Divinity School and Emory University. Over four decades, Grimes taught literature, religion and creative writing at Bethany and served as dean of arts and sciences, director of church relations, and vice president and dean of faculty.

A Zoom webinar link will be available closer to the event for those who are unable to attend in person.

The Oreon E. Scott Foundation funds the annual lectures. The foundation is designed to strengthen the Christian Church and support Disciples-related colleges and institutions.

For more information, including registration, go to <https://www.bethanywv.edu/about-bethany/dr-larry-grimes-64-to-lead-annual-scott-lectures/>.

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