

Ohio Regional Newsletter ~ October 2022

Across The Region and In My Heart
By Rev. Allen V. Harris

Celebrating Hispanic/Latinx Heritage Month

Hopefully by now you have seen one or more of our wonderfully successful social media posts celebrating Asian American and Pacific Islander month in May and LGBTQA+ Pride Month in June. We lifted up leaders across Ohio who shared in their own words a bit of their history and why such a month of celebration and education is important. If you are like me, you found them absolutely fascinating and deeply moving, even though I thought I already knew these leaders. You can find their stories and pictures on our Regional Church website here: <https://www.ccinoh.com/ccio-blog.aspx>



Each year, Americans observe National Hispanic Heritage Month from September 15 to October 15, by celebrating the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. The Christian Church in Ohio seeks to honor, educate about, advocate for, work alongside, and celebrate our Hispanic/Latinx members, leaders, and communities all year long, and we use this special month as a way to focus our appreciation and efforts.

The observation started in 1968 as Hispanic Heritage Week under President Lyndon Johnson and was expanded by President Ronald Reagan in 1988 to cover a 30-day period starting on September 15 and ending on October 15. It was enacted into law on August 17, 1988.

The day of September 15 is significant because it is the anniversary of independence for Latin American countries Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and September 18, respectively. Also, Columbus Day or Día de la Raza, which is October 12, falls within this 30 day period.



Find out more about this important month of education, advocacy, and celebration at: <https://www.hispanicheritagemonth.gov/>

In the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) we have a Central Pastoral Office for Hispanic Ministries under the leadership of their National Pastor for Hispanic Ministries, Rev. Lori Tapia. The fellowship is called Obra Hispana and you can find out more about their mission and ministry here: <https://obrahispana.org/> or on their Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/obra.hispana/>

Note: We do apologize for the delay in publicizing this special month. The ministries and mission of our Hispanic and Latinx congregations, clergy, and leaders are an essential part of the Christian Church in Ohio.

First Regional Awareness Conversation Hosted By The Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Commission

The renewed and revitalized Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Commission of the Christian Church in Ohio has been working to reimagine and redesign our traditional Anti-Racism Trainings and we are excited to announce that this process has been completed.

The new Pro-Reconciliation/Anti-Racism Awareness Conversations will satisfy our required training by our Regional Church for maintaining standing. The first such training will be available on October 22 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Camp Christian. For more information and to register, please go online to <https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/ministry-teams/pro-reconciliation-anti-racism.aspx> and reference the attached registration form.



Co-Chairs of the Commission are the Rev. Thomas Barnes, Pastor of Kemper Road Christian Church in Cincinnati and the Rev. Heather Schimmel, Pastor of Lyons Christian Church.



Disciples News Service Celebrates Washington Avenue Christian Church's Justice Work

The Christian Church in Ohio celebrates that the Disciples News Service chose to highlight one of our own congregations, Washington Avenue Christian Church of Elyria, and their incredible medical debt-reduction ministry. Responding to God's call to do justice, Washington Avenue

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Elyria, Ohio, has abolished an estimated \$2.1 million in medical debt, specifically for Lorain County and Ohio residents.

Read the full article, "*Disciples Congregation Eliminates 2.1 Million in Medical Debt for Low-Income Families*" here: <https://disciples.org/uncategorized/disciples-congregation-eliminates-one-million-in-medical-debt-for-low-income-families/>

Summit Christian Church of Dayton Celebrates 110th

This is the day that the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it!



SUMMIT CHRISTIAN CHURCH
4021 Denlinger Road
Dayton, Ohio 45426

SUMMIT CHRISTIAN CHURCH 110th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION - THEME: "WE'VE COME THIS FAR BY
FAITH; THANKFUL AND TRULY BLESSED"

CELEBRATION DATES: October 8 & 9, 2022

October 8th will be a "Fun Day" 1-4pm

October 9th "Celebration Worship Service"
Speaker: Rev. John L. Taylor, III (Tyler, Texas)

We warmly invite you to be a part of our celebration! God has truly blessed us and kept us as we continue to GROW STRONGER, GROW DEEPER, AND REACH HIGHER!

We will have a Souvenir Booklet available in 2023. Deadline for Ads will be February 28, 2023

Faithfully In His Service,

Rev. Michelle Dixon, Interim Senior Pastor
Ms. Kathy Guy Bagley, Congregational President
Elder Ruby Kavanaugh & Mrs. Naomi Davis, Anniversary Co-Chairs

2023 Summer Camp, Conference, and Retreat Schedule Announced

*- All grades refer to the grade *completed* the spring immediately preceding the Summer Camp/Conference -*

Watch our website for updated information and registration starting winter 2023:

<https://www.ccinoh.com/camp-christian/summer-programs.aspx>



***Disciples Fellowship Retreat** – May 26th – 28th (Memorial Day Weekend – Friday to Sunday)
For individuals and families of all ages

***Summer Camp Staff Move-In/Training** - June 3rd – 7th (Saturday to Wednesday)

***Grandparents Camp** – June 8th – 10th (Thursday to Saturday)
For Children in Kindergarten, 1st or 2nd grade and a grandparent or significant caregiver

***Elementary/Otter Camp** – June 11th – 17th (Sunday to Saturday)
For 5th graders and those in 3rd and 4th grades ready for a full-week of camp

***Middle School/Chi Rho Camp 1 & High School/CYF Conference 1 (concurrent)** – June 18th – June 24th (Sunday to Saturday)

Middle School/Chi Rho: For youth in grades 6, 7, & 8

High School/Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF): For youth in grades 9, 10, 11, & 12

***Adult Conference** – June 19th – 23rd at Northwest Christian Church, Upper Arlington, and a nearby hotel (Note: Conference begins on Juneteenth holiday)

For adults of all ages

***NEW CAMP! Music Camp** – June 25th – June 28th (Sunday to Wednesday)

More information on this new camp coming soon!

***NEW CAMP!** – June 28th – July 1st (Wednesday to Saturday)

We are thrilled to announce a new Camp designed and directed by the Ohio Black Pastors. More information on this new camp coming soon!

***Elementary/Ribbit Camp** – July 5th – 8th (Wednesday to Saturday)

For 2nd graders & also include 3rd & 4th graders (Spring 2022) whose parents want a shorter camp experience for their children

***Middle School/Chi Rho Camp 2** - July 9th – 15th (Sunday to Saturday)

For youth in grades 6, 7, & 8

***High School/CYF Conference 2** – July 16th – 22nd (Sunday to Saturday)

Christian Youth Fellowship (CYF): For youth in grades 9, 10, 11, & 12

***General Assembly of the Christian Church in the United States & Canada, Louisville, KY**

- July 28th – August 1st (Friday to Tuesday) For more info: <https://ga.disciples.org/>

***Young Adult/Advance Conference** - July 30th – August 6th (Sunday to Sunday)

For young adults ages 19 – 30 (at least one year out of high school)

***Disciples Fellowship Retreat** – September 1st – 3rd (Labor Day Weekend – Friday to Sunday)

For individuals and families of all ages

We will be partnering with the United Church of Christ Heartland Conference to share in the planning and promoting of both of our camp, conference, and retreat programs!

AND, please remember that throughout the rest of the year Camp Christian hosts a variety of meetings, events, retreats, and gatherings. Please see the attached flyer for more information about this. We would LOVE to host you, your family, your church, and/or your business/organization.



Global Fair Trade Marketplace Will Take Place October 8 at John Carroll University

Saturday, Oct. 8, 2022, come and go anytime between 9 am - 2 pm Dolan Science Center at John Carroll University, University Heights, Ohio

The Ohio Fair Trade Network, together with John Carroll University, is hosting the 2022 Ohio Fair Trade Teach-In and Expo! The theme for this year is Environmental Sustainability/Care for Our Earth, one of the nine principles of fair trade!



Join us for one of the largest regional fair trade events in the country. The Ohio Fair Trade Teach-In & Expo is a place for people of all ages, with educational opportunities and panels, food and activities for children, and the Fair Trade Marketplace.

Our guest speaker is Brenna Davis from the Ignatian Solidarity Network. She and other panel guests will highlight these and other principles of fair trade, inviting all of us to play our part in promoting social, economic, and environmental justice. Let's embrace fair trade as environmentally sustainable global trade.

The Fair Trade Marketplace will feature multiple vendors for you to shop for handcrafted jewelry, clothing and home decor items, as well as fair trade coffee, tea, chocolate and more!

Register at <https://2022OhioFairTradeExpo.eventbrite.com>. Walk-ins also welcome!



Ohio Council Churches Observes Anti-Racism Sunday

Sunday October 9, 2022

The Ohio Council of Churches is observing Anti-Racism Sunday on October 9th, 2022. This event will support Christians and other faith communities across the

State of Ohio in demonstrating God's love and vision of unity and justice. This is a holy and necessary occasion to encourage us all to focus and rededicate ourselves to detecting, disrupting, and dismantling racism as part of our faith practice.

As our second undertaking, we are led this year by the Ohio Council of Churches Anti-Racism Team, ART, an ecumenical state-wide committee of dedicated volunteers who wish to move forward faith-based anti-racism activities. We are so pleased to welcome such a widely diverse group of churches to participate in this worthy endeavor and honor the observance of Anti-Racism Sunday. We all have a stake in addressing and redressing our shared history of racism. It is our Christian calling and duty.

Local congregations and organizations are invited to participate by:

1. By joining the Council's pre-recorded 45-minute virtual worship experience on October 9 via Facebook live at 3 PM Sunday afternoon. The preacher for the service is Rev. Dr. Renee Wormack-Keels, a member of the ART committee.
2. By designing their own service to focus on the call to join the Beloved Community during their worship time October 9 or at some other time that matches their religious schedule. This can include incorporating pieces of the pre-recorded service or using the resources provided by the Ohio Council of Churches (www.ohcouncilchs.org/anti-racism).
3. By providing resources to members from the list the Council provides as they develop their understanding of God's call to respond to this national issue that is so spiritually relevant.
4. By using their marquee and social media to announce that they are observing Anti-Racism Sunday October 9, ringing their church bell at 3PM to be heard around the state, and planning activities for their youth.

Survey Seeks Input From Clergy & Lay Leaders About Decision Making

Rev. Sarah Taylor Peck, Senior Pastor of Community Christian Church of North Canton is looking to survey to any clergy or church leaders about how decision-making happens in church, with a particular look back at COVID-19, how did the church make a choice about masks, social distancing, online worship etc. What worked and what didn't, did churches see people leave after difficult decisions or not, why or why not?



The hope is that this research will help us form a leadership training for Disciples of Christ pastors in partnership with lay leaders to make decisions where folks don't leave the church and remain unified even when opinions are not uniform.

Rev. Taylor-Peck is working with the Kettering foundation out of Dayton Ohio on this research about deliberative dialogue in a church setting. She is also doing a research project with Bishop Will Willimon about church decision making. If any pastors who fill out the survey and would be willing to speak further in an interview format – feel free to reach out to Rev. Taylor Peck: STaylorPeck@northcantonccc.org

Rev. Taylor Peck is creating something that hopefully can be a tool for pastors as future contentious issues come up both politically and socially in our congregations. In the immediate future, she is presenting the responses to these surveys at the American Academy of religion conference in Denver this November with the Kettering foundation.

The link to the survey:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSff2ZuiID85WKWtdZte_RuB7rji5MTwxrDIDnkmcb3P2lpb_A/viewform



Hiram Farm Receives Christian Church Foundation Distribution For Its Important Mission and Ministry

Hiram Farm is a community project born out of the desire to provide inspiration and meaningful work for the individual growth of people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and other developmental disabilities. This organic farm is located on 120 acres outside of Hiram, Ohio. Recently they announced some wonderful news about recent distributions from investments at the Christian Church Foundation which will make a real difference for the Farm. Leeanne Saro Jereb is Executive Director of Hiram Farm. The Rev. Roger McKinney, retired pastor and former Association Regional Minister, helped found Hiram Farm.

This year's distributions include:

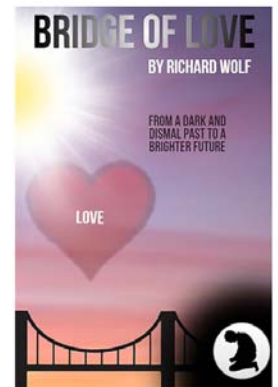
- Lakewood Ohio Christian Church Legacy Fund - \$15,875.73
- Second Christian Church, Warren OH Legacy Fund - \$3,532.31
- Gerald F. Vesey Estate Fund - \$699.28 (Mr. Vesey was a member of Second Christian Church)

The total distribution for 2022 is \$20,107.32. Permanent Fund giving from gifts made to the Christian Church Foundation really do make a difference! Please consider the Christian Church Foundation for your end-of-life gifts and those of your congregation.

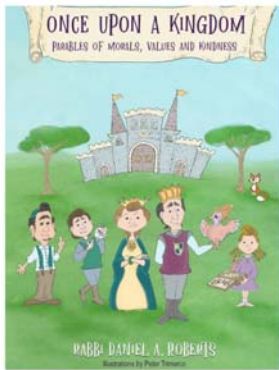
For more information about Hiram Farm, go to <https://www.hiramfarm.org/>

Two Books By Local Authors To Note

Published just last year, *A Bridge Of Love: From A Dark And Dismal Past To A Brighter Future* was written by Richard Wolf, a member of Fourth Avenue Christian Church in Columbus. Dick writes of the book, *"I see stories from all over the nation on how cities are overwhelmed with homeless people and the problems caused by homelessness. We did more than just get homeless people off the streets. We enabled them to turn their lives around so they could be productive members of society. We had a clear plan to help them restart their lives. Here is our story of how we started the Bridge of Love Program and how we turned lives around."* We celebrate Dick and his efforts to address the deeper problems of homelessness and despair.



The book can be purchased at <https://bibliobookstore.com/social-sciences/bridge-of-love-by-richard-wolf>



Another book came to our attention by the Rev. Houston Bowers, retired Disciples pastor. *Once Upon A Kingdom* was written by Houston's friend and colleague, Rabbi Daniel A. Roberts. For 30 years, from 1972 to 2002, he served as rabbi of Temple Emanu El, then in University Heights.

Rabbi Roberts writes, "I share these stories in the hopes that they will capture the hearts and imaginations of children, leading them to an understanding of right from wrong. These parables are from a time gone by and contain important learning lessons about morals, values, and kindness by which to live. I remind you that "once upon a time" happens all the time. Every story in this book contains a life lesson intended to evoke discussion. It is my hope

that you, as the storyteller, will stop along the way and engage your child(ren) in a dialogue by asking the meaning of various words, or allowing them to guess what will happen next in the story and discuss the moral in the story."

The book can be purchased at <https://once-upon-a-kingdom-book.square.site/>

Ohio Council Of Churches Offers Webinar On Farmworker Justice October 24th

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

As your Chair of the Governing Board and the Ohio Council of Churches and as your Executive Director of the Ohio Council of Churches, together we write to ask for your participation in a webinar the Ohio Council of Churches will be hosting on October 24th at 3:30 pm to learn about the plight of tomato pickers who work under unjust conditions as they pick for the company supplying tomatoes to the Wendy's Corporation. As you may know, all other major food chains have signed on to the Fair Food Program intended to guard the safety of workers and provide them with a living wage. Wendy's has consistently resisted using its influence to bring this measure of justice to those whose work enhances their company profits.



On October 24th we will have the opportunity to hear about this situation more deeply from those who work with these workers and from church partners in Florida who are giving their energy to this call for justice. We believe this to be an important issue worthy of our shared pause to learn and our shared participation to work for change. It is with this posture of heart and mind and the call of Jesus Christ to bear one another's burdens that we invite and ask you to join us for the Webinar on October 24th at 3:30 pm for one hour.

In situations such as this, we believe that showing up matters. Lending our voices

matters. Working for justice matters so that more and more of God's beloved human family may flourish without fear.

We hope you will join us. The link to the webinar is: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88299949319?pwd=V1kybnhOdzdjemppd0tvWkptMDBCZz09>

With hope for a new kind of world, blessings,

Rev. Dr. David Long-Higgins
Conference Minister, Heartland Conference UCC Chair of the Governing Board Ohio Council of Churches

Rev. Dr. Jack Sullivan, Jr.
Executive Director, The Ohio Council of Churches

Advance Ministries Announces Midwinter Retreat

Our 2023 theme will be "Pass It On". Through conversation with each other and our amazing faculty, we will learn how to discern and hone our spiritual gifts. What are my God-given strengths? How can I use them to not only transform myself and my relationships, but also the world? We hope through this that we gain a better understanding of who we are and what we have to share.

Join us January 6-8th at Camp Christian for Winter Retreat as your officers, Ally, Andy, and Maddy kick off the 2023 Advance Conference year! As always, bring a friend or two to join the welcoming community we've all loved, built, and cherish every day.

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



Disciples of Christ Historical Society Calls Rev. Dr. Joel Brown As New President

2022 Chicago Divinity School PhD graduate Joel Brown has been called as the next President of the Disciples of Christ Historical Society (DCHS), effective September 1. He is particularly suited for its leadership at this moment. Brown prizes the importance of history in shared life, and he relishes the place of archival work in telling and writing history. He looks forward to contributing to "the important work that DCHS has been doing of preserving and telling our history, both lifting up those narratives that tell of our movement's faithfulness and achievements as well as reckoning with those parts of our story where we have fallen short and caused harm."



His PhD dissertation, advised by Curtis Evans, is titled, *Preparing the Way: African American Women and Social Christianity in Turn-of-the-Century Chicago*. He also holds a ThM from Brite Divinity School and MDiv and BA degrees from Abilene Christian University. Readers of *Grail Sightings* will know him as our former editor.

Camp Christian Christmas
Market and Celebration!!
Saturday, December 3, 2022

SAVE THE DATE!

