

Ohio Regional Newsletter ~ November 2022

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

As I write this meditation we are in the midst of several significant seasons in the life of the church and society, I think of our ministry and mission here in the Christian Church in Ohio.

The last Sunday in October is a little recognized day in the life of the Christian Church (Disciples Of Christ) but nonetheless important to who we are, our heritage and our future: Reformation Sunday. November 1 is All Saints Day, perhaps observed in a few more Disciples congregations in recent years. Next week here in the United States there is a major midterm election where the citizens of the land elect officials and vote on ballot measures that shape our society for the coming years. And, of course, Thanksgiving Day approaches in a few weeks.



Laid on top of all of this is a veil of grief many in our Regional Church are experiencing following the death of three of our stalwart pastors and beloved friends: Rev. Bill McConnell, Rev. Ken Coy, and Rev. Albert Pennybacker. In my heart, mind, and soul these come together in some powerful ways.

Reformation Sunday reminds us that we were born from a grand movement for change, adaptation, renewal and revitalization, and creative possibility. As church historian Phyllis Tickle reminds us in her book, "The Great Emergence", we are in the midst of another 500 year time of grand change and upheaval in the church and the world. Each of these pastors offered witness to the need for renewal and revitalization, whether through transforming the way we do worship, the depth and breadth of how we offer pastoral care, or in the power of partnerships in ecumenical and interfaith collaborations.

All Saints Day is an annual reminder to not only remember those who have gone on before us whose lives, though imperfect, still reflected the glory of God and the hope of humanity. It is also a day to remind us each of us are saints-in-the-making, and each one of us has the potential to transform the church and the world much like those Saints we remember and admire so much. We take this opportunity to remember the qualities, values, and even techniques and perspectives of those saints and try to live them out in our own lives for the good of more than just ourselves, but all of society, the common good.

And Thanksgiving Day, while a so-called "secular holiday," nonetheless echoes a faith perspective that is patently biblical and thoroughly theological: that is the attitude of gratitude. I am profoundly grateful for those beloved teachers and leaders who have gone on before us, for who they were and all they did to make me and the world a better place. But my appreciation goes beyond just those qualities that were easy to receive and felt good, but also those facets of their character and behaviors that challenged me - and us - to grow and change and be our very best selves.

The upcoming election fits well here because it is truly the day that we bring our deep faith commitments to bear on society and make our best decisions on how to shape the course of the future for the good of society. What we do in the voting booth should be part reformation, part the

influence of those who have taught us and inspired us, and an abundance of gratitude for living in a country where our voice matters and every person can make a difference.

This first weekend in November, 2022, a new Regional Church Council will gather, in person and virtually, to do the work of the church and imagine our future together. We live in challenging times, but as our forbearers discovered challenges, when met with faith and courage and our very best selves, can be times of great opportunity and possibility. My hope is that as we gather as your Regional Church Leadership, we will bring with us gifts from each of the seasons that are upon us. May Reformation Sunday instill in us a hunger for change and adaptation that will help the church meet the needs of new generations of seekers and Christians alike. May All Saints Day remind us that we are not alone and those who have gone on before us have modeled lives and offered gifts that will help us get through these daunting times. May Thanksgiving encourage us to do all things with deep gratitude for God who has given us this life and this church. May election day remind us that the work we do as church is not done in isolation from the world but should always empower us to turn faith into action and bring our Christian values to bear on our communal decisions.

Please hold me and Regional Church Council in prayer as we gather, along with the leaders of our various Regional Ministries, to do the work of God as the Christian Church in Ohio.

Faithfully Yours,
Allen



Celebrating The Festival Of Sharing Regional Assembly Offerings

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Ohio and the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ decided this year to participate in Church World Service's annual Festival of Sharing as Ecumenical Partners. We set a joint goal to collect 2,022 kits for this important global disaster relief effort this year in collecting 4 kinds of kits: Hygiene Kits, School Kits, Cleanup Buckets, and

Welcome Backpacks. We also have a Festival of Sharing offering option for the churches that might not have time to make kits this year, but still want to support the kits program financially.

We received this report from Kevin Gehres, Heartland Conference Disaster Coordinator:

Dear Allen,

I was happy to assist, and share in the partnership between the Heartland Conference and the Christian Church Regional Assembly! By my "rough" count, there were 65 buckets, 50 hygiene kits, and 45 school kits collected at the Regional Assembly. Matt Stevens, from Church World Service, picked up these...as well as over 800 from Northwest Ohio Association office, Tiffin, and First Church, Columbus. Together, as the picture shows, there were 1,054 at First Church ready for the semi to



pick them up in early October. Your Assembly's generosity, along with an earlier shipment of over 1,000, has resulted in the Heartland Conference being less than 50 shy of our "2022 in 2022 Take the Challenge" goal! Thank you!!! I look forward to partnering again next year!

Blessings. Kevin



Thanks to everyone who participated. In the additional pictures, you will see the District 4 Clergy who held a "friendly competition" thanks to Regional Elder, Rev. Cynthia Klingemier's encouragement, and the youth group at First Christian Church of Wadsworth thanks to Associate Pastor, the Rev. Shelby Baxter Andrews!

Regional Assembly Offering Supports Regional Presence and Church World Service

At our September 24 Regional Assembly at Camp Christian almost 300 participants from around the Region and beyond gave generously to the offering during closing worship. We give thanks to all those who gave that day, and others who gave separately to support the work of Church World Service. The total Regional Assembly Offering was \$1,925.00. As we publicized there was a split 50/50 - \$962.50 to each the Christian Church in Ohio Renewal Initiative and Church World Service Kits. Plus an additional \$1,182.00 was given specifically for Church World Service Kits. Thus the total collected for CWS Kits was \$2,144.50.

We give thanks to all the generous donors who gave to these abundant offerings. Your faithfulness helps our Regional Church be more present in the life of congregations and communities across Ohio, as well as to serve those in crisis around the state and around the world.



Camp Christian Christmas Market and Celebration

Saturday, December 3rd, 2022 from 10am to 6pm

All are invited to shop the market and enjoy a beautiful day at Camp Christian!!

Celebrate Christmas at Camp Christian with a fun-filled day of shopping featuring a wide variety of arts & craft vendors, small businesses, and yard sale booths. PLUS there will be Christmas Carolers, Music, Crafts for Kids, and Gift Wrapping. If your Congregation would like to volunteer for a gift wrapping shift, and/or have some wonderful Christmas Carolers/Musicians who could attend, please let us know.



Help us support Camp Christian's life-changing ministry. Sign up to sell your items or bring your church group, youth group, book club, families, friends, or just treat yourself to a day out. There will be concessions sold for lunch and snack items throughout the day to benefit Camp Christian.

If you are interested in selling your items at the event, please fill out the separate Vendor Application form. Proceeds from vendor fees will go directly to Camp Christian operating funds, which helps prepare Camp for Summer Programming.

The Market will be open on Saturday, but we are also opening Camp up on Friday night for [overnight accommodations](#) and fellowship.

As we get closer to the date, more details will be shared through our website www.ccinoh.org and on the Camp Christian Facebook page [@OhioCampChristian](#).

Please post and share the attached flyer and vendor application.

Thanks and we hope to see YOU there!!



Paralee Compton Named NAACP National Trail Blazer Posthumously

Rev. Don Baird, Regional Elder for District 7, attended the Annual Stark County NAACP Freedom Fund Dinner where local and National Trail Blazers were recognized. Mrs. Paralee Compton was honored posthumously. Mrs. Compton was a leader in her congregation, Faith United Church in Canton, as well as in the Region. Her story includes her rise from school secretary to Assistant Superintendent of the Canton City Schools, the first woman of color to hold a top leadership position. To read more about her, please see this article from 2020:

<https://www.cantonrep.com/story/news/local/2020/06/15/canton-education-trailblazer-paralee-compton-dies/42238353/>.

At Rev. Baird's table they were joined by a member of the Ohio Attorney General's office, with whom they had an encouraging discussion about Police Reform and common sense gun control. Don's wife, Leslie, represented Moms Demand Action.

Thanksgiving Offering Supports Higher Education and Leadership Ministries

Received in many congregations on Nov. 13 & 20, the Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.



The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships, to religious life offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

As we continue to struggle with impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, our higher education institutions are facing unprecedented challenges and they need our support now, more than ever. Even as they work diligently to ensure safe and healthy learning environments, the financial realities faced by many of our schools add additional stress to students, faculty, and staff.

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students and it makes a difference in the world. To give directly online, please go to:

<https://disciplesmissionfund.org/give/>



Disciples Home Missions Offers Virtual Workshop On Theopoetics

Disciples Home Missions has partnered with Brite Divinity School's Dr. Oluwatomisin Oredein to bring a creative, one-hour workshop to Disciples across our church. "Theopoetics: Black Women's Poetic Writings as a Spiritual Practice in Freedom" will offer participants the following:

- Foundational understanding of Theopoetics
- Exploration of Black women's poetry
- Guidance in writing poetry as a spiritual practice

You, your pastors, and congregants in your region may REGISTER AT:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/theopoetics-black-womens-poetic-writing-as-a-spiritual-practice-tickets-443617611217>.

Let us learn together in newness of the Spirit!

DCEF - Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment Grants

Free money for eligible congregations - what's not to love?!

Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) announces **Furniture, Fixtures, and Equipment (FFE) Grants** are available in 2022 for a new generation of Disciples congregations. The grant amount is 25% of the FFE cost, up to a maximum of \$20,000. **The application deadline has been extended to Dec. 31, 2022.**

Eligible materials include office furniture (such as desks, chairs, lamps, cabinets, bookcases, and partitions) and electronic equipment (such as computers, printers, photocopy machines, audio-visual equipment, and security systems).

Eligible congregations:

- Are within seven (7) years of their founding, or three (3) years of being listed as Affiliated in the *Yearbook & Directory of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*
- Have within the previous 12 months or will in the next 12 months purchase FFE using only their funds, or their funds combined with a loan
- Are in covenant with their Disciples Regional Ministry and the **Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)** demonstrated by financial support to these ministries
- May also apply for other grants, interest-free or interest-bearing **loans from DCEF**

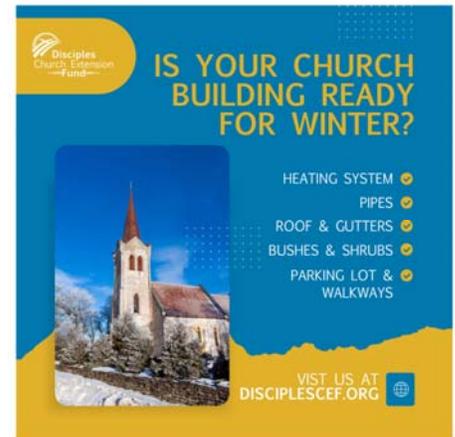
Apply by Dec. 31 for consideration in 2022. For more information, contact your local zone **Advisor**.

DCEF - Preparing for winter: Maintenance tips for church facilities

We may be enjoying the colorful autumn days, but winter is right around the corner. Make sure that your church building is ready to prevent damage from snow, ice, and freezing temperatures now before colder weather hits. Here are a few [Disciples Church Extension Fund](#) (DCEF) tips:

- Ensure that any external water pipes are drained and disconnected from any hoses. Lawn irrigation systems should be winterized by specialists.
- Prune trees close to your building.
- Have the cracks filled and the surface resealed on your asphalt lot.

For a complete guide, visit DCEF's [website](#).



Ohio Women's Ministries Fall Retreat

On Saturday, September 10 Women gathered from all around the state for the Fall Ohio Women's Ministry Retreat at Camp Christian. Mrs. Gena Stone Phillips and Dr. Patricia Brown lead the planning group and the keynote speaker was the Reverend Kara Swartz, Co-Pastor at the Central Christian Church in Newark. Plans are already in the works for future retreats and activities.

Follow the Ohio Women's Ministries Facebook page to keep up to date - <https://www.facebook.com/ohiowomensministries>

Commissioned Ministers Gathering

On Saturday, October 8 Commissioned Ministers from around the Christian Church in Ohio gathered to meet with the Commission on Ministry Team Two under the leadership of Rev. Julie Cory. Special Keynote speaker was Reverend Tim McCullum, Pastor of the Bazetta Christian Church in Cortland. Each commission minister had the chance to meet with one of the teams commissioners for updates and support.





Interim Minister Training

The Heartland Conference United Church of Christ and the Christian Church in Ohio have joined together in recent years to offer Interim Ministry Training at Camp Christian. Pictured is this year's class along with trainers from both traditions. The class was offered October 9-13.

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>





Change of Date For The Next International Affairs Seminar March 8-16, 2024



Reason for Change of Date: The COVID Pandemic has again taken its toll on us planning an effective and safe weeklong event. Because of the continued uncertainty of securing travel, lodging, meals, and activities, which need to be made months in advance, it became clear that we could not adequately plan for this event by February of 2023. Therefore, we are rescheduling the Seminar to March 8-16, 2024. Reason for Shifting Name: The United Nations International Affairs Seminar has been a vital part of the Ohio Christian Youth Fellowship since the early 1960's. However, over the past decade we have shifted our focus to reflect more with International Affairs, and so we are changing the name of the Seminar to emphasizes this. It's the same outstanding program with a more accurate name.

Well over 2,000 young people from Disciples congregations around Ohio have had the opportunity to travel to New York City and Washington D.C. for a week. The Seminar seeks to encourage faith-based critical thinking and reflection through prayer, worship, discussion and community building. For many, this has been a life changing experience, witnessing the many ways that faith plays a part in the decision making of our nation and the world. We excited to open up this opportunity to youth from the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Who Can Come: If you will be a High School Sophomore, Junior, or Senior in March of 2024, you are able join us on this amazing adventure.

Maybe you know of someone who shared in this awesome event, formerly known as The U.N. Seminar: a sister or brother, parents, even a grandparent. Maybe it was someone from your Church youth group or someone you know from Camp Christian. Talk to them and you will begin to understand what an opportunity the IA Seminar can be for you.

Cost: We are hoping to keep the cost at \$1,000, which covers Bus, Lodging, most meals, tour fees, 2 Theater Plays, and more. (About \$125 per day for 8 days). Plus, an additional \$200 for your own personal use is needed for some public transportation, food, souvenirs, etc.

Financial Assistant: Please, don't let money stop you from going on this awesome adventure. Contact Rev. Ralph Wearstler about Scholarships and other ways to secure funds, like support from local Church or Community Organizations (Eagles, Kiwanis, VFW, etc.) to help make the IA Seminar happen.

Think About It! Pray About It! Make An Awesome Memory!



Congregational Items Available

Western Reserve Christian Church has two brass vases and two brass candlesticks available to any church or faith community who wants them. The vases are Sudbury brass SB152 and candle holders are by Artistk. Email Rev. Ed Allen at edallenera@gmail.com if you would like them or need more information.

Congregational Updates

(Below pictures follow in order)

- We celebrate the Ordination into Christian Ministry Rev. Leila Jindra on Sunday September 11, 2022 at United Church of Christ Congregational of Medina. Rev. Jindra is Pastor of Christian Temple (Disciples of Christ) in Lorain. Rev. Nayiri Karjian, General Minister of the Living Water Association of the United Church of Christ officiated.
- On Sunday, September 25th, the Rev. Stewart Royce was installed as Pastor of Central Christian Church of Coshocton. The service, which also was their homecoming service and was titled "Milestones and Memories," included a sermon by Rev. Allen Harris, Regional Minister. Also participating was Rev. Larry Bobbitt.
- On Sunday, October 2, Dr. Kate Gillooly was Commissioned into ministry and installed as Transitional Minister of Heights Christian Church, Shaker Heights. Rev. Allen V. Harris, Regional Minister, preached and officiated at the installation service. The service was also World Communion Sunday and the beautiful presentation of breads and grapes that adorned the communion table have been used as the cover photo for the Christian church in Ohio Facebook page this past month.
- On Sunday, October 16 the Rev. Betty Sivis was installed as the Pastor of Perry Christian Church in Perry. The Rev. Ralph Wearstler, Regional Elder for District 15, and the Rev. Allen Harris, Regional Minister, officiated and Rev. Harris preached.
- On Sunday, October 30 the congregation of Karl Road Christian Church in Columbus celebrated six years of ministry of their Pastor, Rev. John Cox as he concluded his ministry with them. Rev. Cox has been called to be the Interim Minister for First Christian Church Of Lansing, Michigan. He and his wife, Joyce, have moved to Michigan.





Renewal Initiative

Dear Friends, Thank you for your consideration of support for the Christian Church in Ohio and Camp Christian Renewal Initiative. Through the years, our ministries have thrived because of active participation and continued generosity from people like you. We ask that you please review the attached brochure and letter and prayerfully consider a donation. Gifts of any amount to this initiative will help us reach our goal to continue the work of Camp Christian and the church in Ohio not just now, but in each new season that God calls us towards.

Keep up to date with the Renewal Initiative at <https://www.ccinoh.com/other-pages/renewal-initiative.aspx>



RENEWAL INITIATIVE

FOR THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN OHIO
AND CAMP CHRISTIAN

Supporting the Ministries of Your Ohio Region





Camp Christian Retreat and Conference Center

Camp Christian is a multi-purpose facility near Marysville, OH, that will provide your groups with an ideal setting in which to have a meeting, retreat, or other event. We offer an opportunity to get your group away from its normal setting to a place of calmness and serenity. You will find Camp Christian an ideal location to relax and play, or to meet and study. Conveniently located in Central Ohio, we would be delighted to share these facilities with you.

Lodging and Meeting Facilities

Overnight lodging starting as low as \$25.00 per person per night.
Meeting space starting as low as \$50.00.

Monroe Lodge

- Sleeps up to 40 people
- Large meeting area with a stone fireplace
- Screened porch with lake view
- Screen, TV, DVD capabilities
- Small Kitchen suitable for snacks, heating prepared food, and basic cooking



Dining Hall

- Suitable for large events, meetings and serving meals for up to 280 people
- Sound and projection systems available
- ¾ of the Dining Hall space is surrounded by glass sliding doors and windows with lake and property views



Cabin Clusters

- 20 Cabins with sleeping capacity of up to 240 in bunk beds
- Adjoining bathrooms within each Cabin Cluster
- Each Cabin Cluster has a deck with lake views

We also have great locations for outdoor events and gatherings, including weddings. Canoes and paddle boats available seasonally. Firewood provided with all rentals.

Delicious meals can be prepared for your meeting, retreat, or event by our onsite Food Services Director.

We hope that you will consider Camp Christian for your next retreat, meeting, family reunion, youth event, training session, or gathering. We would love to host you!!

Contact ccio@ccinoh.org – 614-433-0343