

THE COORDINATOR

JANUARY 2023

THE LIGHT STILL SHINES



One year has now passed since the devastating tornadoes of **December 10-11, 2021**. In this year, I have been so inspired by the ways that our churches have supported one another and reached out to their neighbors to represent hope and show the love of Christ.

Seven of our churches sought and received Week of Compassion community solidarity grants to creatively serve their neighbors, and many others directed their church's talent and treasure to respond to needs in their communities. Or partnered with other churches in the West Area to help neighboring communities begin to recover from the overwhelming devastation.

Three of our churches continue to host long-term recovery teams to rebuild our communities:

- First Christian Madisonville is hosting a long-term recovery site operated by the Fuller Center. <https://fullercenter.org/disaster-rebuilders/>

- First Christian Paducah will be partnering with two organizations in 2023 to assist with community recovery in Mayfield:

- Join an International Orthodox Christian Charities home build team as a group or on your own. Come for a week (Sunday - Saturday), or choose as many days as work for you.



- First Christian in Paducah will also be partnering with Week of Compassion and Be The Neighbor this summer to host youth groups for disaster recovery and education. Mayfield is intentionally rebuilding in ways that make home-ownership and safe affordable housing more available. You will work on construction rebuilding projects, build relationships with neighbors and learn about housing justice and best practices for making housing more accessible for all people.



- First Christian Princeton is in partnership with CrossRoads Missions of Louisville to tackle tornado relief projects in western Kentucky. There are opportunities for skilled and unskilled volunteers, families and youth groups. <https://www.crossroadsmissions.com/multi-day-opportunities/wky/>

What a gift it is to serve with you all. Through your hands and hearts, God's light continues to shine to give hope and create new possibilities for those in need among us.

Rachel

Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler
 West Area Regional Minister

SKI THING 2023 BACK AT BEDFORD



West Area Youth, grab your sleeping bags and heavy coats, and join in our annual Ski Thing 2023! This is a trip open to all students 6th-12th grade and will take place **February 10-12**. We will meet on Friday, February 10, at Camp Bedford in Southern Indiana. We will stay in the heated lodge at Camp Bedford (33 Church Camp Road, Bedford, IN 47421) both Friday and Saturday night. We will be providing breakfast on Saturday and Sunday mornings. We will wake Saturday, have breakfast, and then leave for Perfect North in Lawrenceburg, Indiana. Day ski passes go from 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. so students will be able to ski all day. After we all get back to Camp Bedford, we will have a large group activity and worship before lights out. On Sunday we will wake for breakfast and have worship together before we depart. More details and registration forms will be available soon on the WAYC webpage. Questions may be directed toward Rev. Zach Hardy at First Christian Madisonville, zach@madisonvilledisciples.org.

<http://www.westareadisciples.org/youth-ministries-wayc/>

WEST AREA WORKSHOPS!



In 2020, leaders from congregations across the West Area gathered together for a great day of workshops and conversations on topics designed to grow their ministries and bring life to their visions. Let's do it again!

On **March 11**, come to First Christian of Madisonville for the West Area Workshops-- a day of learning, fellowship, and worship together. Mark your calendar and invite everyone from your congregation to take part. Registration will open mid-January.

www.westareadisciples.org



BUILD HOPE AT GENERAL ASSEMBLY



Week of
Compassion
SERVICE SERVICE
GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2023
in Louisville, Kentucky
JULY 29 - AUGUST 1

Be part of worship to bless the builders, the resources, and the homeowners, and then help frame a house right in the Exhibit Hall! Join Week of Compassion on Sunday morning at General Assembly, or stop by afterward to write words of blessing within the walls. Add this to your General Assembly registration, and more information will follow soon! Register at ga.disciples.org, and find more information in worship/other sessions.

ADD CAMPS TO YOUR CALENDAR



KUM-BA-YA 2023 DATES

The 2023 Camp Kum-Ba-Ya Summer Camp dates are set! Save the dates and spread the word across the land (and lakes!).

June 5-10	Chi Rho Camp (grades 6-8)
June 11-17	CYF Camp (grades 9-12)
June 19-23	Spirit Sailing Camp (grades 6-12)
June 23-25	Discovery Camp (grades K-2 + adult)
June 26-30	Junior Camp (grades 3-5)

Plus, we are excited to announce a new camp opportunity that we are developing for youth living in foster care. Camp Agape will be held **July 3-7** at Camp Kum-Ba-Ya. Please help us spread the word. And, if you are feeling called to help financially support this new camp opportunity, please reach out to Interim Camp Manager Dee Moore Wells (deemwells@gmail.com).

WAKON' DA-HO 2023 DATES

Mini Camp – June 2-4
CYF 1 – June 5-10
Eighter's Camp – June 11-17
Junior 1 – June 19-23
Camp 101A – June 23-25
CYF 2 – June 26 – July 1
Chi Rho 1 – July 3-8
Chi Rho 2 – July 10-15
Junior 2 – July 17-21
Camp 101 B – July 22
Y'All Camp – September 1-3
Fall Family Fest – October 6-8



DATES FOR YOUR 2023 CALENDARS

CAMP DIRECTORS TRAINING

Saturday, January 21, 9:00 a.m.--2:00 p.m.
Central at Camp KBY,

KY REGIONAL MEN'S CHORUS

January 27-29 in Covington.
Register [HERE!](#)
Hotel reservations [HERE!](#)
<https://kyregionalmenschorus.com>

WEEK OF COMPASSION



February 19-26
<https://www.weekofcompassion.org/2023.html>

KY WOMEN'S CHORAL RETREAT

February 24-26 at Crestwood Christian in Lexington.
<https://www.facebook.com/The-Kentucky-Disciples-Womens-Choral-Retreat-104264362034335>

WEST AREA BOARD MEETING

Sunday, February 26, at 3:00 p.m. Central on Zoom. Please watch your email for Zoom links.

SPRING WORK DAY AT KBY

Saturday, April 22. Gates will open at 7:30 a.m. Central for Work Day. Work begins at 8:00 a.m. Central. Lunch served. All ages welcome.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)

July 29-August 1 in Louisville
<https://ga.disciples.org>

CLERGY NEWS

JANUARY MINISTERS MEETINGS

It's a new year and a new opportunity to add more time with colleagues to your life. Email Rev. Rachel Nance Woehler at WestAreaMinister@twc.com for details.

DISTRICT 1

Tuesday, January 24, at noon Central we will meet in person at First Christian Paducah (415 Audubon Dr.) Bring a sack lunch, if you wish.

DISTRICT 2

Tuesday, January 10, at 10:00 a.m. Central upstairs at First Christian Madisonville (1030 College Drive) and on Zoom. (Check your email for connection information.)

DISTRICT 3

Thursday, January 19, at 11:30 a.m. Central on Zoom. (Check your email for connection information.)

BI-VOCATIONAL/PART-TIME

Thursday, January 12, at 7 p.m. Central on Zoom. (Check your email for a new Zoom link.)

FOR CLERGY CAREGIVERS

Thursday, January 5
10:00-11:00 a.m. Central
Facilitated by Rev. Marie Weaver



To receive the Zoom link, contact Marie at craftywriter000@gmail.com

MINISTRY CELEBRATIONS

On January 1, Dr. Chris Owens began serving as the Interim Minister of First Christian in Murray.



In November, Rev. Kim Hudson, minister at First Christian Earlington, added First Christian Providence to his call, yoking the two churches together in ministry.



WEEK OF LAITY RESOURCES



Laity Sunday is a special time when the church pauses to consider lay leaders' varied gifts for ministry to church and community. January 15-21 is the week set aside to celebrate the love and strength of laity across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Disciples Home Missions has prepared worship resources to help your church celebrate.

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/week-of-laity/>

ALEX REPORTING IN JANUARY



Church staff, in January, the ALEX Yearbook reporting tabs will be available for you to enter your church's report for 2022. This is when the additional financial data and activity reports will be submitted for our historical snapshot of the year 2022. Learn more at the "Congregation User Info Page."

<https://disciples.org/alex/congregation-user-info/>

WEST AREA DIRECTORY INFORMATION FORM DUE

Church pastors and staff, please complete and submit the 2023 West Area Congregational Info form posted on the "Quick Forms" page of our website. This information is used to update our West Area Directory and helps us connect with each other for greater partnership in ministry. Scan and email the form to westarea@twc.com or mail it to P. O. Box 1332, Madisonville, KY 42431 by March 15.

<http://www.westareadisciples.org/quick-forms/>

NEW REGIONAL STAFF JOIN TEAM

In December, we welcomed two new ministers to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Kentucky Regional staff.



Rev. Josh Snyder is a 2004 graduate of the University of Pikeville, a 2007 graduate of Pittsburgh Theological Seminary, and a recipient of the certificate for Advanced Pastoral Leadership from Trinity School for Ministry in 2022. He was ordained at First Christian in Dawson Springs on July 1, 2007. Josh has served as pastor to Chapel Hill Christian Church in Wellsburg, WV, Mt. Lebanon Christian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, Burgin Christian Church in Burgin, KY, and First Christian Church in Liberty, KY. Josh is married to Crimson. They share a blended family of 6 children: Kaydance (14), Eliah (14), Malachi (12), Kendyl (12), Willow (9), and Avery (3).

Chloe Specht (she/they) is passionate about creating inclusive and liberating spiritual communities. She holds a Master of Divinity and a Bachelor's degree in Christian Ministries. Previously, Chloe was a fellow with The Center for Public Justice and Sojourners. Chloe also serves as the Associate Pastor of Woodland Christian Church in Lexington.



THANKFUL FOR OUR BOARD

We give thanks for Sheila DeMoss, Dennis Gray, Sue Gray, Madalyn Orr, and Leticia Overton, who will complete (or have completed) their service on the West Area Board in 2022.

We welcome Alice Doss (Millbrooke Christian), Paul Moore (First Christian Greenville), Kristi Stuckel (First Christian Benton) to the West Area Board on January 1, 2023. We welcome Teddy Barrett (First Christian Glasgow) as the new West Area Youth Council adult leader. We also welcome Anne Bruce (First Christian Glasgow), Mike Bruce (First Christian Owensboro), and Leticia Overton (Second Christian Mayfield--term begins fall 2023) who were installed on the Regional Board at the Regional Assembly. Thank you for your willingness to share your talents in this ministry.



CCK-West Area or Camp Kum-Ba-Ya
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270-821-1332

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WestAreaMinister@twc.com (Rachel Nance Woehler)

deemwells@gmail.com (Dee Moore Wells, Interim Camp Manager)



WWW.CAMPKUMBAYA.ORG



WWW.WESTAREADISCIPLINES.ORG

Share the good news!
Stick a mailing label here
to mail this to someone
who might join in these
important ministries.