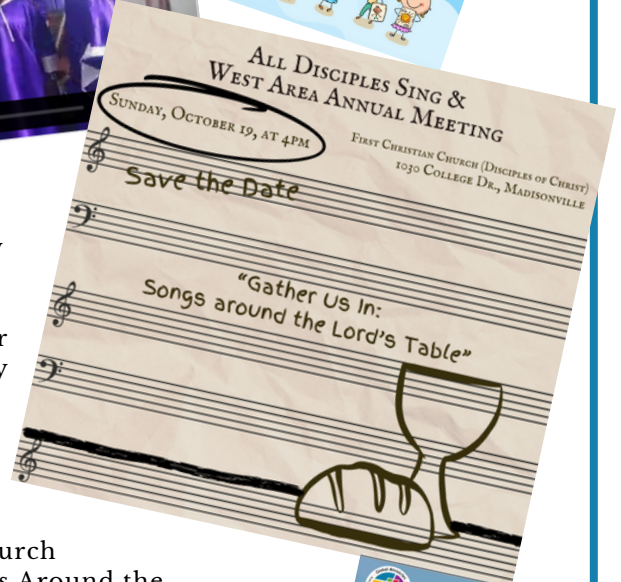


the COORDINATOR

OCTOBER 2025

ACROSS THE WEST AREA, AND AROUND THE WORLD



World Communion Sunday is **October 5** (annually on the first Sunday of October). Share prayers, music, and liturgy from around the world, provided by Global Ministries. Remind children that God's family stretches across every country and culture in the "World Communion Sunday for Kids" lessons for ages 3-14. Share a mission moment, or try bread recipes from other countries.

<https://www.globalministries.org/resource/world-communion-sunday-resources/>

Then, on **October 19** at 4 p.m. Central, join us in worship at the All Disciples Sing at Madisonville First Christian Church (1030 College Dr.). Our 2025 theme is "Gather Us In: Songs Around the Lord's Table," inspired by the hymn of the same name by Marty Haugen (Chalice Hymnal #284). As musicians from our West Area churches lead us in worship, they'll inspire us to greater depth in our understanding of what it means to be around the table. We'll hold a very brief annual meeting to elect board members (see the slate of nominees on our website), and collect a special offering for Camp Kum-Ba-Ya. Madisonville First Christian will host a hospitality reception following worship.

Music ministry leaders or pastors: To confirm your church's participation, inform us of your presentation's musical selection(s), and send us an estimated number of guests for the reception, please complete the Google form available through the link on our website by **October 6**.

<http://www.westareadisciples.org>



RECONCILIATION MINISTRY

RECONCILIATION OFFERING

The Reconciliation Ministry Special Offering will be received in most congregations on **September 28** and **October 5**. This year's theme, "Beyond Brokenness – Building Beloved Community," reminds us of Paul's vision in 2 Corinthians 5:17-21—in Christ, the old order has passed away, and a new creation is revealed. Through this offering, we join in God's reconciling work—healing division, restoring relationships, and building a beloved community together.

Find resources for worship and giving on the Reconciliation Ministry website.

<https://reconciliationministry.org/2023-give-to-reconciliation-ministry-special-offering/>

Sunday, September 28th - Sunday, October 5th

2025 Reconciliation Ministry SPECIAL OFFERING


BEYOND

Beyond Brokenness - Building Beloved Community

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he committed to us the message of reconciliation.

We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."

2 Corinthians 5:17-20



GRANTS UP TO \$1,500 FOR ANTI-RACISM/PRO-RECONCILIATION



In order to answer God's call and further the vision of becoming a fully transformed and anti-racist, multi-cultural church, the Christian Church in Kentucky's PR/AR Team will award grants to congregations and ministries for:

- a) Innovative and creative programs aimed at fostering healthy conversations on racism in the community
- b) Projects aimed at empowering and serving marginalized communities
- c) Projects aimed at organizing for human rights and full inclusion of persons of all ethnicities in the beloved community
- d) Projects whose priority is the implementation of social change and seeking to change systems (1) where there is demonstrable oppression of or discrimination against persons on the basis of race and (2) which support attitudes, prejudices, and injustices against marginalized communities

<http://www.ccinky.net/reconciliation-ministry/>

POLAR STAR CONGREGATIONS

Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry (CUIM) has created a guide for Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) communities who seek to learn, grow, and better live into their call to be a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world through creating authentic and loving relationships with members and organizations outside of the congregation. Churches who follow this free guide's steps will be designated Polar Star Congregations. Through exploration and theological reflection, churches begin to cultivate relationships with ecumenical and interfaith communities and organizations as they work to serve together in collaborative projects that benefit the broader community. Learn more about CUIM and their whole host of resources, including the Polar Star Congregations guide.

<https://www.disciplescuim.org/polar-star-congregations-2/>



COMMUNITY GARDENING WEBINAR



The Christian Church in Kentucky is offering a webinar entitled “Growing Together: Equipping Churches to Tackle Food Injustice with Community-Based Gardens on **October 14, 5:30-7:00 p.m. Central** with Rev. Dr. Michael Zachary, Sr., who serves as the senior pastor of the Centerville Missionary Baptist Church in Paris, Kentucky.

This webinar will explore how congregations can respond to the pressing challenge of food insecurity by establishing and sustaining community gardens as transformative ministries. Participants will leave equipped with actionable strategies to cultivate congregational vitality, foster community engagement, and embody the Gospel through faithful stewardship of the land.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/join/96651234567>

WEST AREA CHURCHES IN NEW BOOK

Two West Area churches have been featured in a new Chalice Press book defining 10 key traits of thriving congregations, based on a five-year study of over 20 churches. *Thriving Church: What We Can Learn from Faithful Congregations* was written Rev. Dr. Erin Cash, project director for the Thriving Congregations Project at Lexington Theological Seminary, and Rev. Dr. Kory Wilcoxson, pastor of Crestwood Christian Church in Lexington. In the book, Beech Grove Christian highlights the trait “Refuse to Be Stagnant,” and Mayfield Second Christian exemplifies the trait of generosity. Both churches participated in the study and benefited from the learnings of the project along the way. Chalice Press offers a sneak peek at a sample chapter on their website.



<https://chalicepress.com/products/thriving-church-what-we-can-learn-from-faithful-congregations>

CHILDREN'S NEWS

CHILDREN WORSHIP, WONDER & WELCOME

Training in Children Worship, Wonder & Welcome, an exciting way of doing faith formation with children, will be held at Madisonville First Christian Church on **November 8**, from 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. (There will also be a 60 minute virtual segment the week of the training and a follow-up the week afterward.) The cost for the training is \$75/person.

<https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=42fb13d8-9a00-46a7-958e-2d184bbafed6&envId=p-2Xj0BII5rEm8MRVgKSYv6w&zone=usa>

For more information please contact Elaine Austin, coordinator of Children Worship & Wonder at (540) 309-3328 or eaustin@dhm.disciples.org.



Disciples Home Missions
CHILDREN Worship
Wonder & Welcome

Date: Nov. 8th 9AM - 5PM

Plus a 60 minute virtual meeting before the date and after the date, two options will be offered

Location: First Christian Church
1030 College Drive
Madisonville, KY 42431

Cost: \$75 per person
Plus purchase of book *Young Children and Worship*

Registration:
<https://host.nxt.blackbaud.com/registration-form/?formId=42fb13d8-9a00-46a7-958e-2d184bbafed6&envId=p-2Xj0BII5rEm8MRVgKSYv6w&zone=usa>



Trainer:
Petie McLean
pmclean@glasgow-ky.com

For More Information
(540) 309-3328
Rev. Elaine Austin Coordinator of CWW&W



CAMP NEWS

FALL WORK DAY AT KBY



Come join in the fun of getting our campground ready for another season of ministry. On **November 8**, we'll be cleaning and preparing the grounds, buildings, and waterfront for the winter months. Doors open at 7:30 a.m., and work begins at 8 a.m. Join us as you are able. All ages and skill levels are welcome and needed. Bring your tools, water bottle, and work gloves. Breakfast goodies and lunch will be provided.



YOUTH NEWS



CCK YOUTH RETREAT!

Join youth from across Kentucky for the 2025 Fall Regional Youth Retreat! We will be gathering Friday, **November 21** to Sunday, **November 23**, at Camp Loucon in Leitchfield. This retreat is intended for 6th to 12th graders. The cost is \$100 per person (youth and adults) covering lodging, meals, and activities. The deadline to register is **November 8**.

Registration link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfUWl9knQmRbbBBjmK99yPrNCXWsojTDhsgZKZVWwudQOx4Ww/viewform>

<http://www.ccinky.net/ymyac/>

OLDER ADULTS NEWS

OLDER ADULTS DO MEDITATE! A GUIDE TO CONTEMPLATION WITH OLDER ADULTS

October 29, November 5, November 12, November 19

11:00 a.m. Central

Virtual

Older Adults DO Meditate!
A Guide to Contemplation
With Older Adults



Wednesdays from
October 29-November 19
12:00pm ET/11:00am CT



Enrich your spiritual life and that of others by following the contemplation resource, "Looking for God Over Your Shoulder." It will be our guide to a different topic each week. An image, scripture verse, meditation reflection, and prayer will be shared. Then participants will be invited to explore discussion prompts. Rev. Dr. Paul Koch, regional minister of the Mid-America Region, has been a participant in contemplative meditation circles in earnest for a decade and will lead our discussions. He practices daily meditation either alone, with his family, or with an online community. He has written, with other Disciples, "Looking Over God's Shoulder: A Contemplation Guide for Older Adults."

<https://www.nbacares.org/event/older-adults-do-meditate-a-guide-to-contemplation-with-older-adults/>

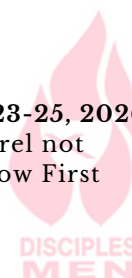
DISCIPLES MEN'S NEWS



SAVE THE DATE AND REGISTER FOR THE 2026 REGIONAL MEN'S CHORAL RETREAT

The 2026 Regional Men's Choral Retreat will take place **January 23-25, 2026** at Glasgow First Christian. Registration is \$65 – lodging and apparel not included. We will be singing at Sunday morning worship at Glasgow First Christian.

To learn more and register, visit www.ccinky.net/disciples-men/.



DISCIPLES WOMEN'S NEWS

REGISTER NOW FOR THE FALL RETREAT

KENTUCKY WOMEN'S FALL RETREAT

October 24-26

Barren River State Resort Park, Glasgow

Featuring speaker Rev. Dr. Denise Bell.

Make room reservations now by calling 1-270-646-2151.

Use group code 4947. Registration is due **October 12**, and lodging arrangements must be made by **September 26**.



WOMEN'S SERF RETREAT

March 13-15, 2026

Christmount Christian Assembly in Black Mountain, N.C.

The Disciples Women of the Southeast Regional Fellowship

(SERF) will gather for a retreat around the theme, "You Are Enough." Keynoter Rev. Dr. Marcia Whitney Mount Shoop will explore the theme inspired by the focus scripture 2 Cor. 9:8.

<http://www.ccinky.net/disciples-women/>



CLERGY NEWS

WEEK OF MINISTRY, OCTOBER 12-18

Week of Ministry was created by Pension Fund to provide resources for congregations and ministry workers to:

- Show appreciation for those in ministry
- Encourage congregations to celebrate their pastor
- Foster relationships among ministry peers
- Support and encourage those who might be interested in a ministry career in the future



This year, during the Week of Ministry, Pension Fund is offering a prayer that might be utilized by our churches. And, they have created free mental, financial, and physical health resources, webinars, videos, journals, and a free app offer for clergy. Registration is open for these webinars:

Exclusive Webinar: Flourishing Through Life Transitions (with Learn to Live)
Tuesday, October 14, at noon Central
https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_kxLle7JvSxCcBpmbZ8vpTg#/registration

Exclusive Your Money Line Seminar (on free services to clergy)
Thursday, October 16, at noon Central
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/CFsuHdxqG6JXAo9pSAA#/registration>

<https://pensionfund.org/learn/resources/week-of-ministry>
<https://pensionfund.org/resources/articles/supporting-your-pastor-during-week-of-ministry>



FCC OWENSBORO HOSTS CLERGY ADVENT PREACHING WORKSHOP



Dr. Anna Carter Florence, Professor of Homiletics at Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, is coming to preach, teach and lead preaching workshops at First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Owensboro, Kentucky (**700 J.R. Miller Blvd**). She will preach in worship on Sunday, **November 2**, at 9 a.m., teach at 10:20 and lecture at 4 p.m. for the community.

On Monday, **November 3**, she will lead a preaching workshop for clergy from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. focusing on preaching in Advent and Christmas. Let the office at First Christian Owensboro know if you are coming so they can plan for you at lunch. The cost is \$10. Their number is (270) 684-8879.

Anna Carter Florence is the Peter Marshall Professor of Preaching at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia. She is an ordained minister in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and holds degrees from Yale University (BA) and Princeton Theological Seminary (MDiv and PhD). Before joining the Columbia faculty in 1998, Anna served as an associate pastor for youth and young adults at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Minneapolis.

Anna's books include *Preaching as Testimony*, *Inscribing the Word*, and *Rehearsing Scripture: Discovering God's Word in Community*, based on her 2012 Lyman Beecher Lectures on Preaching at Yale Divinity School. Her newest book is *A is for Alabaster: 52 Reflections on the Stories of Scripture*. She has also published articles and chapters in numerous books and journals, including a year's worth of lectionary text commentaries for www.WorkingPreacher.org.

<https://www.ctsnet.edu/academics/preachers-studio-for-renewal/leadership/>
<https://fccowb.org>



MORE CLERGY NEWS

District Boundaries

(Approved by Regional Assembly, September 17-19, 1992.
Revised by Board Action, April 29-30, 1994.)



OCTOBER MINISTERS MEETINGS

DISTRICT 1

Tuesday, October 28, at noon Central at Paducah First Christian (415 Audubon Dr.) and on Zoom. (Check your email for Zoom link.)

DISTRICT 2

Tuesday, October 14, at 10 a.m. Central at Madisonville First Christian (1030 College Dr.) and on Zoom. (Check your email for Zoom link.)

DISTRICT 3

Thursday, October 16, at 10:30 a.m. Central on Zoom. (Check your email for Zoom link.)

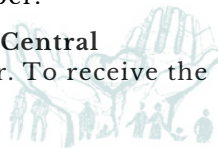
BI-VOCATIONAL/PART-TIME

Thursday, October 9, at 7 p.m. Central on Zoom. (Check your email for Zoom link.)

FOR CLERGY CAREGIVERS

Our clergy caregiver support group will meet a week later in the month of October.

Thursday, October 9, 10-11 a.m. Central
Facilitated by Rev. Marie Weaver. To receive the Zoom link, contact Marie at craftywriter000@gmail.com



"SEEING THE FACE OF GOD IN EACH OTHER" TRAINING

October 27-28, from 5-8 p.m. Central both days.

<http://www.ccinky.net/reconciliation-ministry/>

MINISTRY CELEBRATIONS



At Mayfield Second Christian on September 14, Rev. Leticia Gray-Overton was commissioned into ministry. Leticia continues on in her studies at Lexington Theological Seminary to seek ordination.



Mayfield First Christian celebrated the intirm ministry of Rev. Dr. Rick Loader on September 14 and presented to him a plaque and a stained glass panel crafted from pieces of a transom from their former building.

BOUNDARIES TRAININGS FOR CLERGY STANDING

Healthy Boundaries Trainings are now also being offered in shorter-form webinars! Take this 1.5-hour module to count toward 25% of the total required training for ministerial standing.

Social Media Boundaries Webinar

Tuesday, October 14, from 6-7:30 p.m. Central.
Cost: \$15

Best Financial Practices Webinar

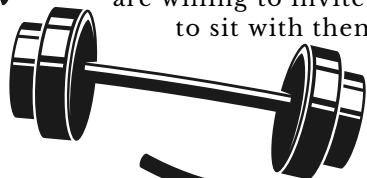
Tuesday, October 21 via Zoom from 6-7:30 p.m. Central

Full Boundaries Training – Monday and Tuesday, November 10-11, via Zoom from 5-8 p.m. Central both days

<http://www.ccinky.net/boundaries-training/>

BODY BUILDING

Does your church have a culture of invitation? Are members inviting others to worship and other events? It's estimated that 85% of church guests come from personal invitation. When guests come, how are they treated? Do folks introduce themselves and help them feel at home? Are there some who are willing to invite guests to sit with them?



PRAYER CHAIN

Join in the West Area Prayer Chain:

- Oct. 5 First Christian Church, Sebree
- Oct. 12 First Christian Church, Smiths Grove
- Oct. 19 Maxon Christian Church, West Paducah
- Oct. 26 Christian Care, Bowling Green

FROM THE TREASURER

FINANCIAL INFORMATION FOR THE MONTH
ENDING AUGUST 31, 2025

CHRISTIAN CHURCH IN KY--WEST AREA

Total Receipts	\$21,229.47
Total Expenses	\$11,994.57
Positive Cash Flow for August	\$9,234.90
Total Operations Balance as of 8/31/2025	\$11,290.01
Total Restricted Fund Balance as of 8/31/2025	\$5,945.40
Total Operations and Restricted Fund Balance as of 8/31/2025	\$17,235.41

CAMP KUM-BA-YA

Total Receipts	\$9,072.66
Total Expenses	\$10,934.68
Negative Cash Flow for August	-\$1,862.02
Total Operations Balance as of 8/31/2025	\$16,875.86
Total Restricted Fund Balance as of 8/31/2025	\$99,068.25
Total Operations and Restricted Fund Balance as of 8/31/2025	\$115,944.11

Respectfully submitted,
Kellie Jo Fredrick
2025-26 Treasurer

Help support our West Area ministries!

<http://www.westareadisciples.org/give/>



CCK-West Area or Camp Kum-Ba-Ya
P.O. Box 1332
Madisonville, Kentucky 42431

To receive the newsletter by email monthly, send your name and email to teri.westarea@gmail.com

270-821-1332

teri.westarea@gmail.com (Teri Arp)

westareaminister@gmail.com (Rachel Nance Woehler)

campkby.westarea@gmail.com (Becca Teckenbrock)

WESTAREADISCIPLES.ORG

@WESTAREADISCIPLES   

CAMPKUMBAYA.ORG

@CAMPKUMBAYA 



An Invitation to Join the West Area Prayer Chain

In 2021, the West Area connected in a powerful chain of prayer. Let's covenant to pray for one another again in 2025!

Each Sunday and the following week, the prayer chain invites to pray for one of our churches or ministries in the West Area. Our chain of prayer will begin the first Sunday after Epiphany on January 12 and take us throughout the year to the Sunday before Advent. We might list each one on our prayer lists in our newsletters and bulletins. We could raise up their names in worship, in our prayer groups, at our devotional times, or in our prayer moments at staff meetings. It's an opportunity to invite our Elders, Deacons, and other intercessors to speak the names of our sister churches and ministries in their own daily prayers.

Thanks be to God that we are able to connect across the miles in a chain of prayer with one another.

"I don't stop giving thanks to God for you when I remember you in my prayers. I pray that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, will give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation that makes God known to you. I pray that the eyes of your heart will have enough light to see what is the hope of God's call, what is the richness of God's glorious inheritance among believers, and what is the overwhelming greatness of God's power that is working among us believers."
(Ephesians 1:16-19a)

January 12	The retired ministers of the West Area
January 19	Bardwell Christian Church, Bardwell
January 26	Morris Valley Christian Church, Bardwell
February 2	Baskett Christian Church, Baskett
February 9	Beech Grove Christian Church, Beech Grove
February 16	First Christian Church, Benton
February 23	First Christian Church, Bowling Green
March 2	Cadiz Christian Church, Cadiz
March 9	Sinking Fork Christian Church, Cerulean
March 16	Crofton Christian Church, Crofton
March 23	First Christian Church, Dawson Springs
March 30	Camp Kum-Ba-Ya

April 6	Ilseley Christian Church, Dawson Springs
April 13	First Christian Church, Earlington
April 20	The Christian Church of Elkton, Elkton
April 27	First Christian Church, Fulton
May 4	First Christian Church, Glasgow
May 11	First Christian Church, Greenville
May 18	First Christian Church, Henderson
May 25	Roaring Springs Christian Church, Herndon
June 1	First Christian Church, Hopkinsville
June 8	Liberty Christian Church, Hopkinsville
June 15	Millbrooke Christian Church, Hopkinsville
June 22	First Christian Church, Madisonville
June 29	Christian Care Communities of Hopkinsville
July 6	Potluck Church, Madisonville
July 13	First Christian Church, Mayfield
July 20	Second Christian Church, Mayfield
July 27	First Christian Church, Murray
August 3	First Christian Church, Nortonville
August 10	First Christian Church, Owensboro
August 17	First Christian Church, Paducah
August 24	Pembroke Christian Church, Pembroke
August 31	Christian Care Communities of Owensboro
September 7	First Christian Church, Princeton
September 14	First Christian Church, Providence
September 21	Berea Christian Church, Russellville
September 28	First Christian Church, Russellville
October 5	First Christian Church, Sebree
October 12	First Christian Church, Smiths Grove
October 19	Maxon Christian Church, West Paducah
October 26	Christian Care Communities of Bowling Green
November 2	Whitesville Christian Church, Whitesville
November 9	Wickliffe Christian Church, Wickliffe
November 16	The leadership and staff of the Christian Church In Kentucky
November 23	The leadership and staff of the West Area