December 19 - Christmas Special Offering for Regional Ministries

Our Springfield office will be closed for the holidays as of 12/16 and our St. Louis office will be closed as of 12/23. Both will reopen 1/3. Please contact one of our Regional Ministers with emergencies during that time.

Opportunities

- Florissant Valley Christian Church is seeking an accompanist for Sunday mornings, starting 1/1. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please email fvccadmin@swbell.net.
- Advent Resources are available on our website.
- Mental health resources available for clergy and families through Pension Fund.
- Phillips Theological Seminary has a ready-to-stream downloadable worship service available.
- Digital Worship Resources
- Online clergy continuing education opportunities.

Congratulations Retirees!

Last Sunday Rev. Phyllis Hart of Liberty Christian Church in Thompson was presented her Honored Ministers pin by Barbara Hibbs. Rev. Hart retires after 22 years of faithful service to her congregation. A nice luncheon and gifts followed this Advent Sunday of Joy.

Also last Sunday we celebrated the retirement of Rev. Patricia Jones from FCC in Carrollton. Rev. Pat has served in ministry for 30 years and will retire to the St. Louis area. She enjoyed many friends and family for this special celebration. She is pictured in the middle in blue with her family. On behalf of a grateful Region, we wish both Pat and Phyllis the happiest of more leisurely days!

CCMA Ministry Fund

THANK YOU! We are grateful to all who have contributed to our Fall 2021 CCMA Ministry Fund campaign already.

Praying for Kentucky

One of the many buildings destroyed by the tornado that ravaged Kentucky last Friday night was that of First Christian Church in Mayfield. Even amid the destruction, Senior Minister Milton West speaks of gratitude for minimal loss of life within the congregation, and for the salvaging of their beloved communion table. Even within so much grief, there remains much hope and joy this Advent season. Week of Compassion is helping there already and encourages everyone who wants to help to Stay, Pray, and Give. Our Mid-America Regional Ministers have been in touch with clergy in the areas of our Region hardest hit by storms and report no damage.
and encourage those who have not to participate. In his invitation letter, Regional Minister Paul Koch shares about the Power of Pilgrimage, describing the wonderful experience our Mid-America civil rights pilgrims had earlier this year. Please help support such opportunities, and all the other ways our Regional Ministries impact the congregations and members of Mid-America all year long. Learn more>

Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance News

In their annual update newsletter, our Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance shares about some of their activities and ministries from the last year. They also celebrate the work of Rock Bridge Christian Church and share the story of one of its members who says, "RBCC has given me so much joy and support and has been nothing but a welcoming experience." What a wonderful testament to their dedication to intentional inclusivity!

Prayer Requests

Please keep in prayer the family of pastor John Gulick who passed away on December 9. He was retired having served at Dixie Christian Church. His wife Barbara is also a retired pastor.

Please hold in prayer Rev. Wendy Miles and her husband Ray, both retired ministers, as Wendy recovers from recent surgery.

Reunion in Dexter

This past Sunday Acting Regional Minister Larry Colvin visited First Christian Church in Dexter. He preached during the worship service and shared about his Global Ministries experience in Ghana. The event was a special reunion as Larry had served as Interim Pastor there from 2009 to 2011. He is pictured here (on right) with current minister Rev. Mike Williams.

From the Wider Church

This coming week's Global Ministries prayer request is for the Philippines.

This coming week's College of Regional Ministers prayer request is for the Christian Church Capital Area.

Celebrating Kwanzaa

Kwanzaa is a week-long celebration held in the United States and also celebrated in the Western African Diaspora in other nations of the Americas. The celebration honors African heritage in African-American culture, and is observed from December 26 to January 1, culminating in a feast and gift-giving. Learn more and download this year's Kwanzaa resource from DHM>

Job Opportunities
Check out the most recent update from the Center for Ministry & Lay Training at Phillips Theological Seminary. It includes an Advent message from the director, information about course offerings, and an invitation to the annual Remind & Renew event next month.

Do you want to join a team that inspires and empowers congregations to create Holy Places where people connect with God, each other, and the community? Then consider a career with Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF)! From a Vice President of Services to a Building and Capital Services Advisor position, DCEF has various job openings available. Learn more on the ministry’s website.

The National Benevolent Association is seeking a Chief Financial Officer. Can work from anywhere in the continental US. Learn more>

Week of Compassion is seeking an Associate Director for Refugee & Immigrant Response. Learn more>

www.mid-americadisciples.org