



# Kansas MESSENGER

Christian Church in Kansas (Disciples of Christ)



Vol. 123, Ed. 1 : January 2019

## WELCOME TO THE NEW AND IMPROVED KANSAS MESSENGER



It's a new year, a time for new beginnings. We have cleaned out the cobwebs and reimagined the ministry of the Kansas Messenger.

Instead of two publications – The Kansas Messenger and The Kansas Mini-Messenger – we will bring timely information on regional news and events to your inbox through a single monthly publication.

Features that you will find in the reimagined version of the

longest running Disciples regional publication (*since March 1897!*) Include:

**Thoughts from your Regional Minister** – reflections about regional ministry, congregational ministry, and reflections from personal study.

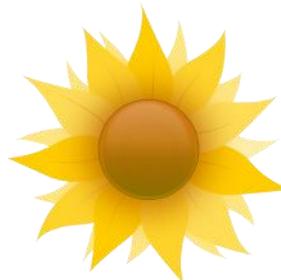
**Leadership and Spiritual growth articles** – articles on topics such as stewardship and finance, communication, mission, and more.

**Prayer 4 Partners Column** – churches, pastors and ministries to lift up in your personal and congregational prayer time. Over time we will cover the breadth of Disciples

ministries and all our Kansas pastors and congregations.

**News & Events** – a look at congregational, regional and general church news and information about events, tailored for you.

Don't have email? Have a friend that doesn't use email? Consider printing a copy or two to share with new members, those confined at home or in the hospital, and those who don't have email.



## CCK GRANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUR CHURCH



The Kansas region offers several grants to clergy, laity and congregations for ministry support

and enhancement. Two of those are Kansas Bible Chair Grants and Reconciliation Grants.

Established by the Kansas Women's Board of Missions, the Kansas Bible Chair provides grants for educational programs and lectureships which will benefit both laity and clergy of Disciple congregations in Kansas.

Funds from the Reconciliation Special Day Offering in the fall provide grants for pro-reconciliation/anti-racism programs. The Reconciliation offering is divided, with one half staying in our region and one half used by General Reconciliation Ministry.

Deadline to submit grant applications for the Kansas Bible Chair Grant and Reconciliation Grant is Tuesday, April 30. Applications and guidelines can be found at [www.kansasdisciples.org/resources](http://www.kansasdisciples.org/resources). Send completed application forms to [scd@kansasdisciples.org](mailto:scd@kansasdisciples.org).

## COMING EVENTS

It's About the Campers Pg. 3  
January 18-19

Tawakoni Gala & Auction Pg. 3  
February 16

Spring Youth Retreat Pg. 3  
March 1-3

Spirituality Retreat Pg. 3  
March 7-9

Art of Church Communication Pg. 4  
Workshops  
Tuesdays in March

KDW SpiritFest 2.0 Pg. 4  
April 6, 7, 13

Clergy Retreat Pg. 4  
April 23-25

Boundaries Training Pg. 4  
May 3 or May 4

Appendix:

2019 Summer Camp Schedule

## PRAYER 4 PARTNERS

### From the Region:

- Galva Christian Church  
Pastor Trip Edwards
- Atchison FCC  
Pastor Matt Broxterman
- Baxter Springs FCC  
Pastor Cody Graves  
Bobby Jo Wade  
Tiffany Graves
- Arkansas City Central CC  
Pastor Dennis Voth
- Atwood FCC  
Pastor David Todd

### From Nearby Regions:

- Ashland FCC, Ashland NE
- Perry FCC, Perry OK

### From the General Church:

- It's a new year with new beginnings: Check out Hope Partnership's New Beginnings Process! Over 1,000 congregations have engaged the New Beginnings process, with 99% finding clarity and embracing a new vision for their future ministry.

### From our Global Mission Partners in Africa:

The Africa office of Global Ministries shares in the joy of growing ministries with partners in 15 countries across the African continent focused on education, microcredit, health care, access to water, peace building, and sharing the Good News of God's abundant life.

- Mark Behle, Lesotho Evangelical Church in South Africa
- Maria (Charo) & Robert Breckenridge, United Church of Zambia
- Phillis Byrd, Organization of African Instituted Churches



## 2019

## GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Des Moines IA

July 21-24

You can help promote the General Assembly in your congregation and community! Go to [www.ga.disciples.org](http://www.ga.disciples.org) for more information and worship resources. There are Bible studies to help you think about the GA theme and to prepare for an excellent Assembly experience.



By Danny Ginn,  
Pastor at Oxford  
Christian Church

### NURTURING YOUR SPIRIT

The angels declared "Peace and Goodwill" not too long ago. These are two sides of the same coin. Goodwill is just what it says-- to will the good of another person-- which is to love them. Love is

not an emotion as much as it is an action taken for the good of another. God is always willing good into our lives (grace) and we experience this as God's love.

On the other side of the coin is peace. Peace is not the absence of conflict as much as it is an internal harmony of various notes working together despite

their tonal differences. The notes are not the same, but they have the same purpose—music. As followers of Christ we are not the same either, but we have the same purpose—love. May the church spread this peace and goodwill to all!



Thank you to everyone who helped build the caretaker's house at Camp Tawakoni. It was a huge success and our caretaker family enjoys it. The old house has been torn down and the ground smoothed out. It's simpler to find the Administration Building now, where the South Central Regional office is located.

With this behind us, the new shower house and fence at the pool is next. We want to finish it before the 2019 camping season, with volunteer efforts! Camp Tawakoni Mission Week is planned for April 7 - 13. Food and lodging will be provided.

### WHAT'S NEXT AT CAMP T?

We have jobs for several different crews for the week:

1. Finish the shower building - the floor and walls constructed by our contractor.
2. Build the new fence around the pool.
3. Build 6 beds – materials provided
4. Do electrical work.
5. Do plumbing.
6. General maintenance, to prepare for the summer camp season.

What a great way to be the hands and feet of Jesus, by giving to the camp without an outlay of funds from you. For more information, Contact Vern Failor, 785-231-3960, or Topeka Regional office, 785-266-2914.



**“IT’S ABOUT THE CAMPERS” CAMP TRAINING**

Curious about how you can get involved in the summer camp program?

If you are a leader in our camp program or want to be one, this is for you!

Friday, Jan. 18—Sat, Jan. 19

Disciples Center at Tawakoni

Event begins with 6:00 supper, and will dismiss shortly after lunch. Bring bedding and personal items, and a snack to share!

The Camp Program Team is bringing together current and future camp adults and those who are curious about whether they might fit into the program, to share their wisdom and learn from others about best practices in various leadership roles.

There’s something here for everyone who

cares about church camp ministry, to learn more about how the pieces fit together and how each person contributes to the whole. Come and learn!



RANDY KUSS is a pioneer in youth ministries and has served the church in various ways throughout his career. He lives and serves in Indianapolis, and continues to give guidance to the Youth and Young Adult Ministries of Homeland Ministries.

Register online at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org) or download a registration form and mail with payment to the Topeka Regional Office.

**TAWAKONI GALA & AUCTION**

The annual Tawakoni Gala and Auction is always fun, and a great way to see what’s new at the camp, while supporting ongoing development efforts.

This year’s Gala is set for Feb. 16 beginning with 10:30 a.m. social time and silent auction, then 12:15 dinner.

Please invite your church leaders, teachers, youth leaders, everyone in your church who cares about youth and the camp program!

2019 Gala funds will benefit the Pool Bathhouse and fence project and pay off the new Caretaker’s House. Proceeds beyond those needs will be used for rebuilding Cabin 3, Jones Lodge.

Martin Peck, Wellington FCC, returns as our chef.

Tickets are \$45 per person or \$300 for a table of 8; children under 6 eat free.

Register and pay online or download a registration form and mail with payment to the Topeka Regional office.

**2019 SPIRITUALITY RETREAT:**

**LIVING AS PART OF THE BODY OF CHRIST**

All believers are part of what Paul calls “The Body of Christ.” Each believer is granted gifts from the Holy Spirit, to help us live in loving and helpful relationships with others. There are no unimportant gifts.

Come discover what these gifts are, and how to use them in our quest for a purposeful life at the 2019 Spirituality Retreat March 7-9

at the Heartland Center for Spirituality, Great Bend.



Cristine Warring, pastor at Girard First Christian Church, will

lead the discussion to discover your gifts from God, and how you can use those gifts to love others as God has already loved us.

This retreat is open to all people who want a chance to get away and focus some time on their relationship with God and God’s will for their life.

Cost is \$135 per person. Register and pay online at [kansasdisciples.org](http://kansasdisciples.org) or download a form and mail with payment to the Topeka regional office.

**YOUTH SPRING RETREAT**

Kansas youth – both middle -school and high school students – are invited to Tawakoni for the annual spring retreat March 1-3.



Andy Beck, senior pastor of Hillside Christian Church in Kansas City,

MO is known for his prophetic preaching. Youth will enjoy his sense of humor and his

energy. Andy has been a popular youth speaker and Kansas youth will enjoy him greatly!

The annual retreat, under the direction of the KCYF Cabinet, will begin with registration at 7 pm. Please eat before arrival as dinner is not provided. Adult sponsors are essential for this event, so please send one sponsor for every 6 youth.

The retreat will include five keynotes, music and worship, games and fellowship, and an act of service for the campground.

Register and pay online at [www.kansasdisciples.org](http://www.kansasdisciples.org) or download a registration form and mail with payment to the Topeka Regional Office.

**Have Auction Items to donate?**

Are you a builder, quilter, photographer, or artist? Use your imagination to create high quality items for the auction.

Items can be brought to Disciples Center or given to any regional staff member. Unique items and experiences sell especially well.

## 2019 CLERGY RETREAT FEATURES

### GENERAL MINISTER AND PRESIDENT TERRI HORD OWENS



All Kansas Clergy are invited to three days of rest, fellowship, and learning April 23-25 at our beautiful camp and conference center.

Each year during the last week of April clergy from around the region of Kansas at the Disciples

Center at Tawakoni gather for fellowship and conversation with a resident theologian.

Our guest scholar this year is General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens. She was elected to that role on July 9, 2017. A Disciple since young adulthood, Owens's ministry and intellectual interests include

theology of reconciliation, cultural intelligence, developing inclusive and multi-cultural congregations, and mentoring youth and young adults.

Rev. Owens will give several presentations around the theme "Leading Through Points of Collision" which will help ministers who attend think about how to manage differences in our churches and communities.

Take advantage of an opportunity to rest after the busy Easter holiday while getting to visit with our General Minister and President.

The cost is \$70 for two nights lodging at the camp and four meals, or \$50 without lodging. Register and pay online at [kansasdisciples.org](http://kansasdisciples.org) or download a registration for and mail with payment to the Topeka regional office.

## NEWS FROM THE GENERAL CHURCH

### PREPARE YOUR CHURCH FOR WINTER WEATHER



Christmas and eggnog may be on your mind, but now's the time to think about protecting your church against damage from snow, ice, and freezing temperatures. Knowing what to do and when can help you avoid losses.

Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) helps congregations plan and finance Holy Places to be used for ministry, so they know our way around churches. Here's a snippet from their winter maintenance guide:

#### Pipes

Know where and how to shut off the main water valve.

Use insulation on water pipes that are exposed to freezing temperatures, cold drafts, and unheated or non-insulated areas.

Close windows near water pipes and cover open-air vents.

When temperatures drop really low, turn interior faucets to a slow drip.

#### Roof and Gutters

Search for cracking, blistering, cupping, peeling, or loss of granules on asphalt shingles.

Check drains, downspouts, gutters, and valleys to see that nothing prevents water from draining off.

Lead roof runoff away from the foundation.

#### Ice Dam Prevention

Ensure the attic has sufficient insulation and ventilation. Seal other attic openings.

Using a snow rake to clear snow 2-3 feet back from all roof edges.

For the rest of DCEF's guide, including tips on heaters, plants, and walkways, visit [disciplescef.org](http://disciplescef.org).



## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE EVENTS

### The Art of Church Communication

One way that your church can become a better steward is by aligning church communication and church vision. Learn how to communicate in order to reach your church's mission goals at the 2019 Art of Church Communication workshops series

These workshops will be Tuesday mornings, 9:30-12:30, in March at Disciples Center at Tawakoni. Both in-person and video options are available.

### Spiritfest 2.0,

*Refresh ... Rejuvenate ... Renew*

This will not be the same Spirit Fest! Come check out how we are reimagining KDW SpiritFest! This year we are focusing on Kansas Disciples Women on a Mission.

Please come see what new experiences are in store for you, along with the opportunity to study, worship and fellowship with women from across the region.

- ⇒ **Sat. April 6:**  
Salina FCC
- ⇒ **Sun. April 7:**  
Hillside CC, Wichita
- ⇒ **Sat. April 13:**  
Independence FCC

**Article deadline for the next Kansas Messenger is:  
Tuesday, January 22**

CAMP SUNFLOWER RECEIVES NBA GRANT



Pine Valley Christian Church in Wichita received a \$5000 grant from the NBA Mission and Ministry Grant Program for Camp Sunflower, a summer camp experience for teens in the LGBTQ community. Camp Sunflower promotes safety and acceptance, resulting in self-knowledge and development of leadership skills.

For the second year of the program, the National Benevolent Association is granting a total of \$157,900 to 20 Disciples projects and ministries working with older adults and at-risk children and youth.

With some creative thinking, your church could get grants like this too!



Disciples Women's Fellowship at Pittsburg First Christian Church Collected toys and blankets for the Child Advocacy Center here in Pittsburg. Representatives from the center spoke at the December meeting about the services of the advocacy center and the DWF presented them with the collection.

IN MEMORIAM:

Steadfast camp electrician volunteer Gerald "Jerry" Borger died November 19. Then memorial service was held December 14 at Augusta First Christian Church. Jerry's ashes will be inurned in our Columbarium, Disciples Center at Tawakoni.

Chris Gideon, son of retired minister Jay & Pat Gideon, died December 3, after a 3 year battle with cancer. Services were December 8 in Lee's Summit, MO.

Retired Minister Rob Scofield's mother, Lillian Scofield Pooler, died December 18, in New York.

A memorial service was held for Rev. Darrell Biggs at First Christian Church, Temple, Texas on December 29. A graduate of Brite Divinity School, Biggs served Girard FCC from 1998-2005 as well as churches in Colorado, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Oklahoma and Texas.

Frank Galloway, husband of camp cook Linda Galloway, died Dec. 31. The memorial service was held January 5 at Woodridge CC where he was a member.

Stephen Gleason, father of Wichita Woodridge Christian Church pastor Bob Gleason, died Jan 5 in Grand Island, NE. Services are pending.

IN TRANSITION

Traci Matherly ended her ministry at Everest Christian church on January 6.

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Check out the latest news and events on our website, our Facebook & Twitter pages or scan this QR code with your mobile device.