

# The Indiana Christian



Volume 102 • Number 1

IndianaDisciples.org

Spring • 2020

## COVID-19 Coronavirus Forces Congregations to Suspend Regular Worship Patterns

In mid-March, all of a sudden, the congregations of the Christian Church in Indiana were compelled to change the way they have always come together. Responding to the recommendations of state and national governmental and public health officials, Disciples in Indiana began suspending worship entering a time of “social distancing” with the hope of slowing the transmission of the novel virus across the nation. As this issue of the *Indiana Christian* goes to press, it is uncertain how long it will be deemed

### Ways You Can Provide Service While Self-Quarantined

#### Care for your Church

- Call to check on your church and community members. Send cards of encouragement and of appreciation to your leadership.
- Continue to make your offering to support your congregations ongoing expenses.

#### Care for Others

- Use your new-found free time to clean out closets and cupboards! Many organizations would love to have items you don't need and never use.
- Cook enough of your favorite casseroles to share with food insecure or elderly neighbors, delivering meals to their doorsteps.

#### Care for Family

- Provide a safe place for neighbors to leave their children while they work.
- Have family movie nights or game nights. Enjoy the togetherness!

#### Care for Self

- Treat yourself well! Find time to decompress and renew your spirits, with walking, reading, and exercise.
- Learn something new. Play an instrument, work on crafts, or try a new recipe.

#### Care for the World

- Plant a garden. The oxygen plants provide, their cooling effect, and the nutrients they provide for birds and insects are all valuable to the ecosystem.
- Above all, pray! “Pray in the Spirit in all times.” (Ephesians 6:18) By so doing we sustain ourselves and our church in these days.

wise for our congregations to forgo coming together. But already in the earliest days of this health crisis, our churches are finding innovative ways to stay connected.

Many congregations are now streaming their services online, with just a few worship leaders present in the sanctuary. Others are using video

conference platforms to hold meetings and engage in Bible study and small group meetings.

The Region has suspended all face-to-face meetings and instead is gathering using video conferencing to continue the mission of the church.

This unusual time is sparking innovation and generosity among our people. †

## who is my NEIGHBOR?

2020 Regional Assembly of the Christian Church in Indiana

The Christian Church in Indiana will hold its 181st Regional Assembly on **October 2nd and 3rd** at the **Warren Performing Arts Center in Indianapolis**. Disciples have gathered annually in Indiana since 1839 to connect our congregations and proclaim our faith. This year we will be blessed to have Disciples leaders from Mexico join our gathering as an expression of our “Mexico Initiative.”



General Minister and President **Terri Hord Owens** will be the preacher for our closing worship service on Saturday, October 3. Terri, who we claim as a “favorite daughter” of the Indiana Region, is in her third year giving leadership to our church.

On Friday afternoon the assembly is invited to attend a reception at 4:00 p.m., sponsored by Christian Theological Seminary, followed by Men's and Women's Dinners at 6:00 p.m. The Culinary Arts program at Warren Central High School will provide the meals for our event, including a continental breakfast and lunch on Saturday.

**Will and Marcia Jewsbury** of Jeffersonville are coordinating program planning for the event which will include an exhibit hall, and workshop opportunities. A business session will be held during the Saturday morning plenary under the leadership of Regional Moderator **Julia Johnson** of Madison. Resolutions for consideration by the Assembly must be submitted to her at [jajohnson54@gmail.com](mailto:jajohnson54@gmail.com) by June 5.

Registration for the Assembly is now open and can be completed online at [www.indianadisciples.org](http://www.indianadisciples.org). The cost is \$55 for adults and \$20 for the men's or women's dinners. Students age 12 and up, including college and seminarians, may register for \$35, and children under 12 are free.

This Regional Assembly will be a great opportunity for you to meet new neighbors from Mexico and across Indiana and be equipped to be a good neighbor in your own community. Make plans today to be present at the Regional Assembly this fall. †

## One Region, One Book

Some of our region members have already studied the book, *The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon and found it encouraged helpful conversations about discovering their neighbors.

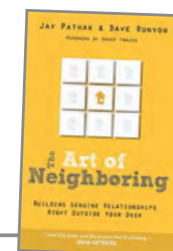
They are thinking about their congregation's ministries and how they

can welcome and bring hospitality into their communities. Perhaps your congregation can form a study group and let the conversations spark new imagination? Maybe you would like to be a part of electronic communication with other Disciples in other Indiana congregations?

Or possibly create a study group with other Disciples congregations in your area to create a learning community?

The book includes a study guide. So, if you need a nudge in expanding your thinking about being a neighbor, here is an opportunity!

Let's do this together and get the conversations started! One Region, One Book! (And look for more information coming out electronically soon.) †



In The *Spirit* Richard L. Spleth, Indiana Regional Minister



# We Are All Neighbors

In late January, I discovered new neighbors in an unlikely place. I had the opportunity to travel with a delegation of Disciples, United Church of Christ, and United Church of Canada leaders to southern Asia. Over 15 days, we visited mission partners and projects related to Global Ministries in Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and India. It was a most engaging trip to a part of the world that I had never seen. And it was in that place I found some neighbors.



One was Jude Sutharshan. Jude is the principal of Christian Theological Seminary in Jaffna, Sri Lanka, and a 2014 graduate of Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis. Wow! I had to travel 8,000 miles to meet someone who was in school for three years, just down the block from my office. Incredible.



Another was Suresh C. Jacob, Treasurer of the Church of North India, and the principal of a boy's school. He told me that the congregation he grew up in and still belongs to in Jabalpur was founded by

Disciples missionaries from Indiana. The name of their local church is "Disciples of Christ—CNI." Wow!



And then there was Madhubi Das. She is the secretary of the Forum of her village near Gournadi, Bangladesh. She coordinates the microcredit projects that help her neighbors be self-sufficient and maintain dignity. She welcomed me to her beautiful home.

Neighbors. They are everywhere. They live on our block, and they live 8,000 miles away on the other side of the globe. We are called to learn their name and claim them as part of our life.

I admit it is somewhat embarrassing that I have lived in my Indianapolis home for 18 years and still do not know everyone on my street. I now have new Facebook friends from India, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka, but I cannot tell you for sure the names of all the children who live just down the block from my house. Your circumstance might be like mine.

But, in this issue of the *Indiana Christian* are three invitations that might help.

A first invitation is to attend the Regional Assembly in October. There, too, will be neighbors. The Regional Assembly is filled with familiar faces for many, but just to make sure that everyone has some new neighbors to meet we



are going to import some Disciples from Mexico to be with us. Lisania Martinez is one of them, come meet her. Our gathering will serve as a reminder that our "neighborhood" is bigger than Indiana and our nation.

The second invitation is to read a book, *The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door*. We are inviting all our members to read this together—One Region, One Book. The author, Jay Pathak, says, "I have come to believe that, as followers of Jesus, one of the worthiest endeavors we can undertake is to take the Great Commandment seriously and learn to be in relationship with our literal neighbors." He means by that the people who live on your block.

The third is to join a parade of neighbors in Washington, DC, in June. There will be a bunch of people you know there and lots and lots of people you don't know. They are all neighbors. I hope you will come with me to DC.

Mr. Rogers often said to us, "Won't you be my neighbor?" Many others, both at a distance and near at hand, are asking us the same. Let's work together this year to be able to provide an affirmative response. †

Richard L. Spleth  
Regional Minister

## 2020 Regional Calendar

### APRIL

April 12 EASTER!

### MAY

May 1 & 2 Financial Literacy Academy, Webinar

May 2 Commissioned Ministers Interviews

May 21 Commission on Ministry Meeting

May 25 Regional Office Closed for Memorial Day

### JUNE

June 6 Regional Board Meeting

June 10 Anti-Racism/ Pro-Reconciliation Training  
Indiana Interchurch Center

June 15 Explorer Camp  
Geneva Center

June 17 You & Me 1 Camp  
Geneva Center

June 20 Poor People's Campaign March, Washington DC

June 22 M.A.D. Camp  
Geneva Center

You & Me 2 Camp  
Geneva Center

New Beginnings Camp  
Geneva Center

New Beginnings Camp  
Bedford Camp & Conference Center

June 29 High School Camp  
Bedford Camp & Conference Center

### JULY

July 6 Middle School Camp  
Geneva Center

High School Camp  
Geneva Center

C.R.O.S.S. Camp  
Geneva Center

Explorer Camp  
Bedford Camp & Conference Center

July 13 Middle School Camp  
Bedford Camp & Conference Center

### AUGUST

Aug. 29 Anti-Racism  
Pro-Reconciliation  
Training  
First Christian, Kokomo

### SEPTEMBER

Sept. 12 Commissioned Ministers Interviews

Sept. 19 Regional Board Meeting

### OCTOBER

Oct. 2 Anti-Racism/  
Pro-Reconciliation  
Training  
Eastgate Christian  
Indianapolis

Oct. 2-3 Indiana Regional  
Assembly  
Warren Performing Arts  
Center, Indianapolis

Oct. 9 & 10 Financial Literacy  
Academy  
Indiana Interchurch Center

### NOVEMBER

Nov. 7 Healthy Boundaries  
Training  
North Christian, Columbus

Unless otherwise indicated, meetings will be held at the Indiana Interchurch Center. All times, unless otherwise indicated, are for the Eastern Time Zone. You can also view the regional calendar by visiting our website at: <http://indianadisciples.org/upcoming-events>.

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The Indiana  
**Christian**  
(ISSN 0279-179X)

Published four times a year by the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indiana, 1100 W. 42nd St., #150, Indianapolis, IN 46208. This publication began in 1918. The present name, *The Indiana Christian*, dates to January 1891.

**Website:**  
[www.indianadisciples.org](http://www.indianadisciples.org)

POSTMASTER  
Send change of address  
notices to:  
Christian Church  
in Indiana  
1100 W. 42nd St., #150  
Indianapolis, IN 46208  
Periodical postage paid at  
Indianapolis, IN 46206

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**SUMMER ISSUE  
DEADLINE  
JULY 1, 2020**



## A New Future for Camp Bedford

Exciting things are happening at the newly named “Bedford Camp and Conference Center,”—it will become a year-round facility. The renovation will permit more people to experience the presence of God in its sacred space. The revitalization of the camp is part of the “Future Story” for First Christian Church Bedford (FCCB) that offers a 2023 vision of their ministry. The camp is a crucial component of the congregation’s ministry.

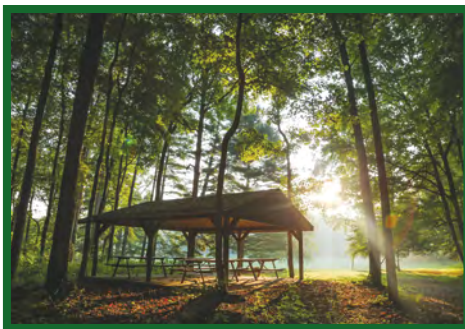
Planned renovations include:

- Bathhouses will have new sinks, countertops, partitions, lighting, and showers
- Refurbishment or installation of a new swimming pool (available for daily use during the summer of 2020)
- The Overlook Lodge basement will be transformed into a convertible dormitory for year-round use, partitioned for male and female use. Moveable bunks can be stored away, making current floor space available for activities. Lodge bathroom and shower facilities will be expanded so that winter campers will not have to trek through the darkness and the cold to reach a bathroom in the middle of the night.

Further down the road, new playground equipment will be installed, and the craft building refurbished. The facility will be befitting for camp staff and retreat space for families and church groups.

In the meantime, heating and air conditioning units are being repaired and replaced, new lights installed, and the grounds will be upgraded with new equipment. We have also launched a new website making it easier for people to discover and book camp facilities.

Funding for improvements was made possible through Barbee Blessing, a gift from the proceeds of the sale of Indiana Disciples Camp Barbee. We raised additional funds through the sale of unused land on the eastern edge of Camp Bedford. FCCB also expects to expand funding



through grants, donations, and additional camp rental use.

“We are very grateful for the leadership of Camp Manager Chuck Bair and Camp Revitalization Chair Steve Miller. Without their vision, ingenuity, and hard work, this transformation would not be possible,” adds Senior Minister Bruce Ervin.

Check us out at [www.campbedford.com](http://www.campbedford.com), give us a call at (812) 329-1222, or come for a visit at Bedford Camp and Conference Center, 33 Church Camp Road, Bedford, Indiana 47421. †



## North Christian Hires Community Ambassador

Story borrowed in part from “The Republic” article by Brian Blair

Nancy Hoover, a retired teacher, college dean and provost, was hired as community ambassador for North Christian Church in Columbus, Indiana. Her job is to market the church’s space as a multi-use venue. She is well-connected in the community and has the skills and experience to fulfill the church’s hope for expanding the utilization of their space.

Because the church has a commercial kitchen and a spacious auditorium, organizations and businesses can use the space for meals, classes, meetings, children’s organizations/programs, and the arts. They also have a particular interest in providing space for music, which is an excellent fit for a building designed with music in mind. The possibility of future office space for nonprofit organizations has also been in conversation.

“I love this building,” Hoover said of this National Historic Landmark—which makes it easy for her to talk to people about North Christian. Its unique architecture and history have attributed to the work of local industrialist J. Irwin Miller and world-renowned architect Eero Saarinen. Irwin Miller was a leader in the church at the time Saarinen began working with the congregation to design the 1964 structure with its circular edifice and sky-high spire.

“North Christian Church has long thought of itself as a ‘community hub,’ welcoming individuals, groups, and organizations for their meetings, events, and workspaces,” Rev. Tonja Gerardy, Senior Minister, said. It has hosted a great many speakers and events.

Hoover’s position also includes leading tours for a regular stream of visitors wanting special access. That includes photographers, architects, and student groups. “More people are finding out about us,” Hoover said. “But we know this (work) is not all going to happen overnight.” †

## Ministry Milestones

### MINISTRY CHANGES

**Katie Kerr** began serving as Director of Children’s Ministries, Geist Christian Church, Promise Road Campus, Fishers on October 21.

**Eric Brotheridge** began serving as the Senior Pastor of First Christian Church, Kokomo on November 4.

**Diane Zehr** concluded her service as interim senior minister at Tapestry Church, Greenwood on November 24.

**Cory Glover** began serving as Senior Pastor at Tapestry Church, Greenwood on December 1.

**John Kixmiller** began serving as Associate Minister at Tapestry Church, Greenwood, on January 1.

**Patricia “Patti” Case** began working as the State Organizer for Indiana for Bread for the World on January 6.

**Deb Strock-Kuss** concluded her ministry as pastor of Pittsboro Christian Church, Pittsboro on February 23.

**Greg Eberhard** began serving as Interim Minister at Pittsboro Christian Church, Pittsboro on February 25.

### DEATHS

**Ernest Newborn**, retired Disciples minister, died on November 6.

**Paul Palusko**, retired Disciples minister, died on November 25.

**Art Hanna**, retired Disciples minister, died on December 13.

**Leon Riley**, retired Disciples minister, died on January 4.

### ORDINATIONS

**Heath Jones** was ordained at Northwood Christian Church, Indianapolis on November 10.

**Baek Hee Kim** was ordained at University Christian Church, Fort Worth on December 15.

The ordination of **Melody Merida** was recognized at Downey Avenue Christian Church on January 5.

### CONGREGATIONAL CHANGES

**Hillsboro Christian Church**, Hillsboro concluded its worship life as a congregation on October 27.

**The LabOratory Church**, Indianapolis launched their ministry on January 18. †



## Learning “Neighboring” at Tapestry Church

By Shannon Sedgwick, Associate Minister, CYC-P

**T**apestry Church has been on a journey for the last several years. We’ve listened to God’s call to relocate, change our name, and discern how we can be a progressive voice in Johnson County. Through a time of introspection, we realized that an all-church endeavor was needed to revitalize us and weave us closer together.

Thanks to the Barbee Blessing money, we were able to embark on an all-church study, based on the book, *The Art of Neighboring: Building Genuine Relationships Right Outside Your Door* by Jay Pathak and Dave Runyon.

We held several classes throughout the 6-week program, and our interim minister, Diane Zehr, used the book as a jumping-off point for a sermon series.

We also reached out to our neighbors through Trunk-or-Treat and Thanksgiving

basket initiatives. We invited the community to join us at the Historic Artcraft Theatre for a viewing of *Won’t You Be My Neighbor*, a documentary about Fred Rogers.

This program brought us together as a church and pushed us to engage with our neighborhoods and our local community. Responses from a follow-up survey showed that people enjoyed the experience and would be interested in other opportunities to bring all ages together to learn and grow in faith and fellowship.

We are excited about the ways this experience will continue to push us out of our comfort zones and into the world to spread Christ’s love. †

## When ‘What If’ Becomes ‘What Now’

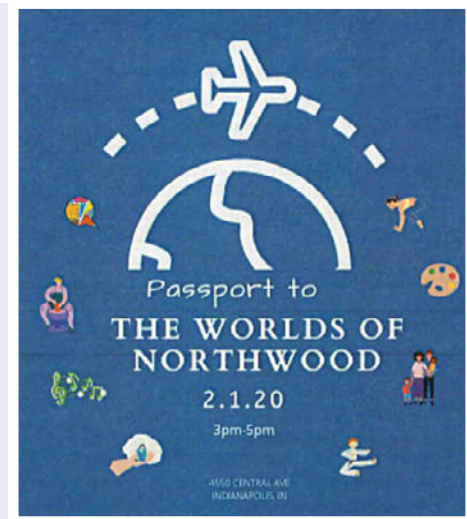
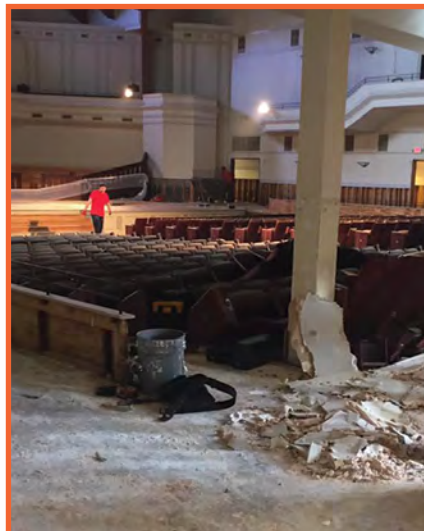
**N**atural disasters impact churches every year. Most often, it’s the lack of preparedness that does the damage. The time for planning what to do if the worst happens is before it happens. That time is now.

According to a 2017 research study conducted on 27 churches damaged by Hurricane Katrina:

- 59% did not have a formal disaster preparedness plan in place prior to the hurricane.
- 24% had only “bare necessity” plans that consisted of attempting to protect physical property the day before Hurricane Katrina made landfall.
- Only 24% had comprehensive preparedness plans focused on protecting property (e.g., church records and data, sacraments).
- 53% underestimated the potential threat of Hurricane Katrina.
- And, 47% felt disorganized trying to prepare.

In good times or bad, Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) offers facility-related services through its Building and Capital Service Advisors, including General and Architectural Consultation, Building Evaluation, Building Planning, and Relocation. And if a fire, hurricane, tornado, or earthquake hits, Disaster Response provides immediate facilities support at no cost.

Learn more or call DCEF at 800.274.1883 to see how it can assist your congregation. †



## Congregation Celebrates “Passport to the Worlds of Northwood”

**I**n February, Northwood Christian Church, Indianapolis, held their “Passport to the Worlds of Northwood” event. They celebrated its more significant role in the community and recognized organizations that conduct services in their church. Northwood considers itself as somewhat of a neighborhood “hub.”

The congregation hosts two other congregations that share their space and houses 12 different groups in their building, including a preschool, a school for the gifted, artists, therapists, and many more.

Rev. Heath Jones and Northwood members greeted 200 friends and neighbors to the event, answering questions, and serving refreshments. †



## Hazelwood Christian Presents Jazz Concert

**J**azz selections from the “swing” era were enjoyed by Muncie’s Hazelwood Christian Church members and visitors during an October concert performed by America’s Hometown Band jazz ensemble. Due to rainy weather, we moved lawn seating to the church sanctuary and opened the doors wide to let the sound draw in neighbors and passersby.

It was an excellent opportunity to hear professional jazz music and mingle with guests at the cookie and cider reception. They shared the concert through social media with over 200 guests attending via Facebook Live.

The event was gratefully made possible with Barbee Blessing funds. The congregation’s Epiphany Action Team stated, “It was a wonderful way to put our new mission statement into action: “Serving Christ with our community through service and relationships.” †



## Zo Christian Dancers Perform at First Christian

**D**uring Advent last year, a group of young women from Zo Christian Church in Fort Wayne performed a “Myanmar Christmas Dance” during a First Christian Church (Fort Wayne) worship service.

Many of those same women also portrayed angels singing Gloria in Excelsis Deo a cappella in the community event, “Walk to Bethlehem,” a few weeks prior.

Zo Christian Church has been “nested” in the First Christian Church since 2011, holding their first worship service there on Easter Sunday.

The alliance of the two congregations began the year before when a small group of Zo Christians saw the star in the church’s steeple and knocked on their door. Two FCC members who were in the church at the time opened the door (both literally and figuratively) to the beginning of a new relationship. It was as if the light of God brought them together.

A video of the “Myanmar Christmas Dance” can be seen on the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Fort Wayne Facebook page. †

Zo Christian Church USA will celebrate its 10th anniversary in July with a combined gathering at First Christian Church. Congregations from Atlanta, Georgia; Charlotte, North Carolina; Logansport, Indiana; and Indianapolis, Indiana, will be attending. Fort Wayne is also home to five other Zo Christian Churches: Zo Presbyterian, Grace Assembly of God, First Zo Assembly of God, Zo Baptist Church, and Zo Brethren Church. For more information about Zo, communities visit [disciples.org/congregations/a-growing-group-the-zo](http://disciples.org/congregations/a-growing-group-the-zo)

## First Christian Alexandria Leaps Into Faith

**O**n Saturday, February 29, members of First Christian Church of Alexandria, IN, gathered for a day-long “Leap into Faith” spiritual retreat. Rev. Beth Crouch of First Christian Church Shelbyville led the retreat. Group building activities, visioning, prayer, and worship was spirit-filled in the Emery Lee Building at Beulah Park. The event was gratefully made possible through Barbee Blessing funds. †



“FLOURISH!” – verb: grow or develop in a healthy or vigorous way. FLOURISH! is both an action and a result that comes from laying the right foundation. To “flourish” is our desire for every clergy person serving the Christian Church in Indiana. It is also God’s desire for us as well.

## Financial Literacy Academy Webinar Open to All Ministers, Spouses, and Church Leaders

The Christian Church in Indiana has a wonderful opportunity for ministers with standing and lay leaders to grow and develop through the FLOURISH! Financial Literacy Academy (FLA). The academy will be held as a webinar on Friday, May 1 and Saturday May 2.



### The Friday Session is for Ministers and Spouses

Award-winning comedian and financial mind **Pete the Planner**® (Peter Dunn) will speak on Personal Finance. Pete is a columnist for USA TODAY, Indy Star, and author of ten books. He also hosts *Pete the Planner*® Radio Show on 93.1 FM WIBC. Pete has appeared regularly on CNN Headline News, Fox News, Fox Business, as well as numerous nationally syndicated radio programs. Pete lives in Carmel, Indiana with his wife and two children.



Check out **Pete the Planner**® talking about this event on his video.



### The Saturday Session is for Ministers and Church Leaders

**Rev. Dr. Todd A. Adams**, President of the Pension Fund of the Christian Church, will present best practices for congregations as employers. Rev. Adams previously served as the Associate General Minister and Vice President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada and Senior Minister of Memorial Drive Christian Church, Houston, Texas. He leads workshops and retreats on non-profit governance, compensation and benefits, congregational transformation, stewardship, and financial ethics.

**Don't miss out on FLOURISH! Financial Literacy Academy and the wealth of information being presented. Register now to participate in this webinar at [indianadisciples.org/event/financial-literacy-academy-may-2020](http://indianadisciples.org/event/financial-literacy-academy-may-2020) †**

## Pension Fund Offers New Financial Tool

**T**he Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) has announced a free new benefit for its members. They have partnered with **Pete the Planner**® to bring you **Your Money Line**, a tool to help you on the road to your personal financial wellness.

Your Money Line financial concierges are available via phone and email to answer your financial questions. They are trained to treat every scenario with empathy and confidentiality.

Your Money Line Dashboard is equipped with calculators and tracking tools. Video-based eLearning courses are also available to support your area of focus (budgeting, debt, retirement and much more).

For more information, answers to your questions, and to register for Your Money Line, visit: [pensionfund.org/resources/your-money-line](http://pensionfund.org/resources/your-money-line). Check out the video on this site. †



**Pension Fund**  
of the Christian Church  
*strong. smart. secure.*

## New Models for Women's Ministries: A Case Study

By Rev. Maribeth Westerfield and Rev. Melissa Kleinschmidt

In talking with women's groups around the Region, one question that pops up frequently is, "How do we reach younger women?" One local pastor, Melissa Kleinschmidt at Countryside Christian Church in Winchester, shared with the Indiana Women's Council the work she has begun with the young women in her congregation.

"We have two active CWF groups at Countryside. One group has women in their 70s, 80s, and 90s, and the second group of women in their 60s and 70s," stated Kleinschmidt. Both groups have an interest in involving younger women in the life of their work.

Melissa and others reached out to the women, talking to them face-to-face and through emails, text messaging, and social media. "We wanted to know how we might support them both personally and spiritually." They discussed their life/work schedules and availability to "get together." Those conversations led to an invitation to enjoy a simple meal and conversation.

As a result of that first gathering, a group of younger women, along with a few of the older women, have met one evening a month at a local business called Drab to Fab. "They create decorative signs, have a light dinner, and discuss a book called *Dear Daughters*, which is what I am calling the group," shares Kleinschmidt.

She believed that after that first meeting, the women would say that their schedules were too busy to meet and that they would want to communicate mostly through Facebook. The reality is that they want to meet monthly in person and look forward to that evening each month.

"What I have heard from older women in our congregation is they understand that what has worked for them, and has been important in their lives (CWF, for instance), probably isn't going to appeal to women today. I truly believe that they have the best interests of these young women in mind and long to have a deeper relationship with them and to support them on their faith journey."

"While some congregations talk about how to get young people more involved, we must reach out to them and talk to them directly. I have purposely had discussions with these women as a group and individually about membership, participation in worship and church life, baby dedication, baptism, etc." Women are interested and appreciative of the church's willingness and desire to provide programming for their children and their families."

Kleinschmidt advises, "The best tools are communication and building relationships in your congregation. Also, don't limit participation just to women who attend your church. Reach out to others who are connected through friends and family members. We all long for community."

If your women's group is finding ways to connect with young women, please consider sharing your story. Contact Maribeth Westerfield at [maribeth@indianadisciples.org](mailto:maribeth@indianadisciples.org). †



## Indiana Disciples Chaplains Gather

Chaplains from across Indiana gathered for an evening of food and fellowship last November at Allisonville Christian Church in Indianapolis. Like congregational pastors, chaplains benefit from peer-to-peer support and engagement.

The evening was sponsored by the Disciples Chaplains Association and the Indiana Region. Rev. Tom Yates, the Disciples Chaplain Endorser, spoke about the support he provides to chaplains across the country. We talked about ways to remain engaged with the Association and with each other, mainly through the Association's Facebook page (@discipleschaplainsassociation) and by maintaining contact with the Indiana Regional ministers.

Disciples' chaplains are ordained or commissioned ministers who serve in specialized ministries outside the walls of a congregation. Chaplains work in hospitals and hospice agencies, in jails and prisons, and the military and the Veterans Administration.

Chaplains help individuals, families, and even other care providers who find themselves in stress and crises. They are especially skilled and experienced in addressing spiritual and emotional issues related to devastating illnesses and injuries, loss, trauma, death, and dying. They also provide an empathic presence, attentive listening, and companionship as they journey with others through life's challenges. †





## Indiana Disciples Invited to March in Washington with the Poor People's Campaign

**Y**ou are invited to join Disciples and other people of faith in a march on Washington, June 20, 2020. Thousands are expected to gather on the National Mall that day as part of the Poor People's Campaign.

At the Disciples General Assembly held in Indianapolis in 2017, delegates called upon all expressions of our church to lend support to the Poor People's Campaign, a national call for moral revival led by Dr. William Barber, Disciples minister from North Carolina. Dr. Barber has sought to continue the unfinished work of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to summon our nation's effort and energy to bring justice to the poor. Details of this mobilization and organization among people of faith are documented on the website: [www.poorpeoplescampaign.org](http://www.poorpeoplescampaign.org).

Dr. Barber's plea, echoing the preaching of Dr. King, is to challenge the evils of systemic racism, poverty, the war economy, ecological devastation, and the nation's distorted morality of religious nationalism.

Disciples minister Alvin O'Neal Jackson is serving as the National Executive Director for the June 20th march. Buses have been arranged from 327 departure points across the nation to bring people to Washington for this event. Disciples in our Region can sign up to ride one of these busses at the website: <https://rally.co/poor-peoples-assembly>. There are departure points in Bloomington, Elkhart, Evansville, Fort Wayne, Gary, Indianapolis, Portage, and South Bend. Louisville, Kentucky, is also a departure point. These restroom equipped motor coaches will depart on Friday evening, June 19th, in time for the rally on the National Mall, and then return to each departure city by early Sunday morning, June 21st. The cost, in the range of \$140, varies by departure location and increases closer to the event. You are encouraged to book your seat soon and invite others to join you on this historic trip.

**You can request a full refund of your registration 14 days before the event if the event is canceled or you are unable to attend. †**

## Bread for the World Hires Disciples Clergywoman

**B**read for the World, a Christian movement to end hunger, will expand its efforts in Indiana with a new full-time state organizer.



Rev. Patricia R. Case, a Disciples of Christ minister and faith community organizer, has joined Bread for the World as State Organizer for Indiana. Case will partner with a volunteer team in central Indiana. The team is led by Dave Miner, who also serves on Bread's national Board of Directors and is a member of the Central Christian Church (DOC) in Indianapolis.

"Our success here in central Indiana helped us justify bringing a full-time organizer on board," Miner said. "We look forward to what Rev. Case will offer to multiply and expand our efforts across the rest of the state."

As the 11th hungriest state in the union, according to the USDA, Indiana can benefit from the work of Bread volunteers.

"Christians do what we can with food banks and other feeding ministries to provide help in the short term," Case said. "But charity alone can't meet the need that exists here—1-in-6 Hoosiers has limited or no access to enough food to lead a healthy life."

Bread for the World helps Christians come together to call for policy and programmatic change that can make a bigger impact.

"Like people all over the globe, Hoosiers in poverty need programs that make them a priority, that help them overcome disadvantages and achieve their full potential," Case said. "I look forward to helping the Indiana Bread team mobilize the Christian community across the entire state to end hunger in our time."

Bread for the World ([www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)) is a collective Christian voice urging our nation's decision makers to end hunger at home and abroad. †

## Listening Lessons From a Sick Bed

By Rev. Toni Colbert

**H**ave you experienced God's lesson during a special time or situation? I suspect this happens to us more than we realize.

As a registered nurse for more than 45 years, procedures that I have performed on others are not services that I would care to have done on me. Administering injections, placing catheters, and doing nasogastric procedures are a few that quickly come to mind. I also prefer to be on this side of a surgeon's scalpel. However, earlier this new year, I found myself needing major surgery.

Other than a few post-operative logistical concerns, I was at peace with this surgical decision. I knew that I would be in the hands of God and a competent surgeon. It was wise to have this procedure.

Before entering the surgical suite, my anesthesiologist stood by the stretcher and introduced himself, followed by a series of questions. However, his last question was, "Is there anything else that you feel I should know?" What immediately came to mind was several unfavorable issues that I've been having.

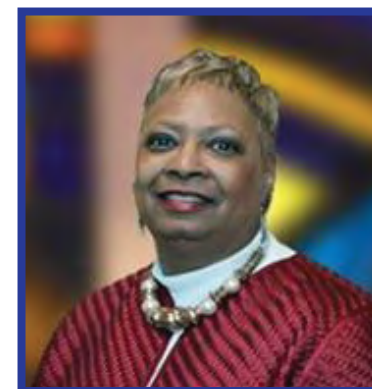
While restraining tears, I shared that 20+ years ago, my mother had not survived major surgery. But what my doctor did, then I will never forget. He grabbed a nearby chair and sat down next to me. It did not matter that he was two hours behind his surgical schedule. He placed himself in a posture to do

what author Michael Nichols had titled his book *The Lost Art of Listening*, and he listened. He truly listened, and we connected. What a powerful and effective tool this was for me. He stopped the busy-ness of his day to remind me that I truly mattered.

The Dictionary of Biblical Imagery reminds me that "ears are synonymous with the heart and mind as an organ of cognition." Biblically, it says true hearing involves listening and understanding (Job 13:1), seeking knowledge (Proverbs 18:15), and testing words (Job 12:11).

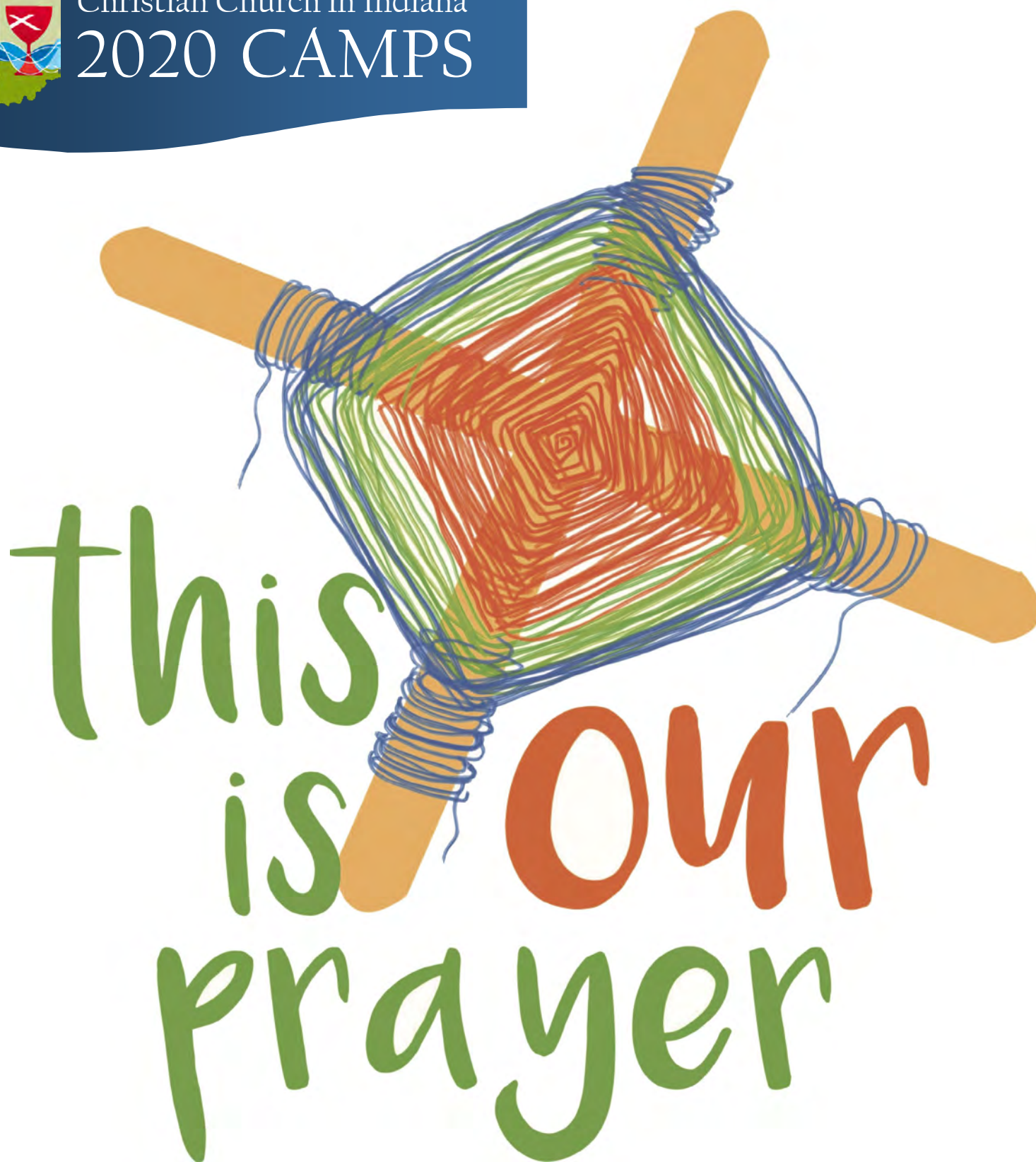
To incline the ear is to be favorably disposed to what is heard as recorded in (Jeremiah 34:14; Psalm 31:2). It also reminded me of Jesus' stressing in Matthew 13:9 to "Let anyone with ears listen."

Like most, I have been found guilty of having more tasks than time and more pressures than patience. But, from this sickbed lesson, I recommitted myself to exercising more opportunities for that doctor's very simple action of engaging my listening skills. Will you join me? †





Christian Church in Indiana  
2020 CAMPS



	GENEVA	BEDFORD	
<b>Explorer</b>	June 15-20	July 6-11	(completed gr. 4-5)
<b>You and Me</b> (4 days)	June 17-20		(age 5+ and an adult)
<b>M.A.D.</b>	June 22-27		(completed gr. 6-8 & 9-12)
<b>You and Me</b> (3 days)	June 22-24		(age 5+ and an adult)
<b>New Beginnings</b> (3 days)	June 22-24	June 22-24	(completed gr. 1-3)
<b>Middle School</b>	July 6-11	July 13-18	(completed gr. 6-8)
<b>High School</b>	July 6-11	June 29-July 4	(completed gr. 9-12)
<b>C.R.O.S.S.</b>	July 6-11		(completed gr. 6-8 & 9-12)

6-day camps: \$375 / 4-day camp: \$265 / 3-day camps: \$205 / Add \$25 after May 15th  
For registration and camp information go to: [indianadisciples.org](http://indianadisciples.org) and [genevacenter.org](http://genevacenter.org)