

Ohio Regional Newsletter ~ January 2022

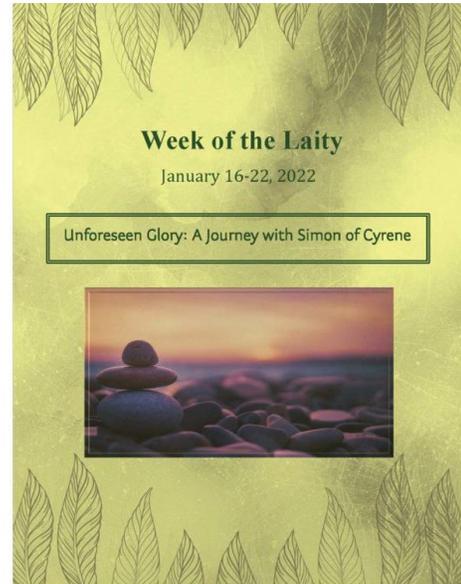
Camp Christian Summer Programs

Please download and share the attached poster ([linked here](#)) with information about the 2022 Summer programs at Camp Christian. And please post it at your church if you are meeting in person! More details and registration will be available soon!

Celebrate Week of the Laity

[Week of the Laity](#) will be celebrated January 16 – 22, 2022. Laity Sunday is a special time when the church pauses to consider lay leaders' varied gifts for ministry to church and community.

We have plans to celebrate with you the love and strength of laity across the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). It is our hope you will gather in safe ways to affirm lay leaders and edify their ministry in the world. As you start the year, these resources inspired by Simon of Cyrene will aid you in doing so thoughtfully. Simon of Cyrene was a North African man we find supporting the enfleshed church in Matthew 27, Mark 15, and Luke 23. We only know him because of what he did for another. Let's journey with Simon together!



Download resources especially prepared for this week's [2022](#) Laity Week by the Dr. Stephanie Buckhanon Crowder - Unforeseen Glory: A Journey with Simon of Cyrene and click [HERE](#) for the worship PowerPoint

Camp Christian Summer Staff Applications

Do you know a young adult who would love to spend their summer at Camp Christian serving on Camp Staff? Perhaps, it's you!!

The 2022 Camp Staff Application & Reference Forms are posted. Please share with anyone who may be interested in applying. Thank you!

More info and the documents are available at: <https://www.ccinoh.com/camp-christian/summer-programs/camp-christian-summer-staff.aspx>

Deadline to apply is February 28th.



Week of Compassion Special Offering

February 20 – 27

Love Remains

On Memorial Day 2019, tornadoes swept through the Miami Valley of Ohio, destroying thousands of homes and apartments and leaving a trail of downed trees and power lines in their wake. Many of the tornado-affected

families have had to relocate multiple times since the tornadoes due to substandard housing conditions and inflated rent.

Two years after the storm, the Stephens family were still unable to find adequate living quarters. The family of ten was forced to live apart. In addition to dealing with unscrupulous contractors, the family had to haggle with insurance companies as they tried to rebuild their home. The Stephenses, like so many other families, remained in temporary housing and separated, pending the completion of repairs.

Yet, all was not lost. The Stephens family connected with the Miami Valley Long-Term Recovery Operations Group (MVLTRG,) and volunteer teams finished the repairs.

Alongside these traditional home repair projects, and with support from Week of Compassion, the MVLTRG helped launch the Tornado Survivors' Pathways to Homeownership Project to help alleviate the housing crunch in the Dayton area. Volunteers and local nonprofits work together to transition "nuisance" properties and vacant lots into affordable, single-family housing options for tornado survivors who were displaced from rental housing, stabilizing both families and the community. First-time homeowners receive the support they need to build for their futures.

Sammy Deacon, Brethren Disaster Ministries Long-Term Project Leader, says "When you reach out to help someone else, the blessing comes back to you as well. An important aspect of the recovery effort is listening to people's stories and knowing you have the opportunity to help them—physically and spiritually."

With support for long-term recovery, including innovative programs like the Pathways to Homeownership project, Week of Compassion helps create opportunities for families to thrive after disasters. Because love remains.

For more information and worship resources, go to <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/2022.html>

Dayton Disaster Relief Underway in the New Year

Accepting Volunteers Now

A tornado outbreak in May 2019 damaged thousands of homes in the greater Dayton, OH area. The Disciples of Christ agency for relief funding, Week of Compassion, is working with the Miami Valley Long Term Recovery Operations Groups on an innovative collaboration called the Tornado Survivors' Pathways to Homeownership, which helps families displaced from tornado-damaged rental housing become first-time homeowners.



In partnership with the Ohio Disciples Region, the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ Disaster Relief Network, UCC Disaster Ministries, and DOC Week of Compassion, volunteer teams of 4-10 people are gladly welcomed this spring to finish interiors of new homes. Volunteers must be 14 years of age or older (mixed age groups must have 1 adult for every 4 volunteers under 18).

To register to volunteer, and for more information about staying in the Dayton area while volunteering, email Caroline Hamilton-Arnold at caroline@weekofcompassion.org with your preferred dates, a point of contact, and your group size (if known).



CYF Retreat at Camp Christian

Expanding the Table: Jesus our Host

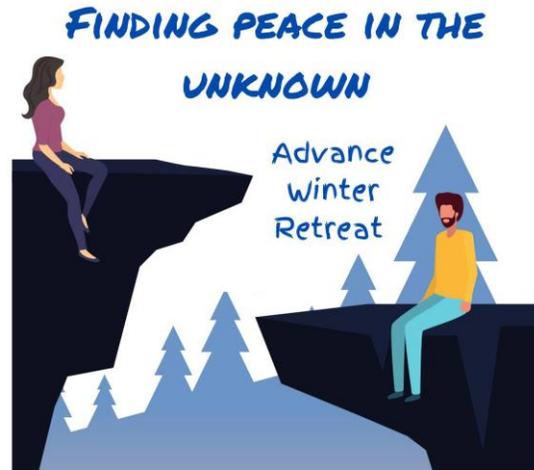
February 18 -20, 2022
For all High School Youth

More details coming in the next few days. Registration available at <https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/children-youth/youth-fellowship/cyf-retreat.aspx>

[Advance Winter Retreat - Rescheduled](#)

As young adults (ages 19-30,) we are often faced with the stress of unknowns in our personal lives. So how on top of all the uncertainty in the world, do we find peace in all of this? This winter, we will tackle Finding Peace in the Unknown. So come join us **February 11th -13th** and you may find the tools you are looking for!

*Full vaccination is required to attend and if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us at officers@advanceministry.org. Additionally, if you are in need of financial assistance to attend, the Advance Scholarship application is open as well.



We are so incredibly excited and look forward to having you all in community at Camp Christian!

For registration information, go to <https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/adult/advance-ministry.aspx>

ALERT: Our Regional Minister's Name Used In Scam – AGAIN!



Yes, it has happened again! Someone is pretending to be our Regional Minister to scam individuals. The Christian Church in Ohio email system has not been hacked or compromised in any way, but individuals are posing as Regional Staff, especially Rev. Allen V. Harris. PLEASE DO NOT RESPOND to any request for personal help for money or gift cards or any other financial help from someone posing as Rev. Allen V.

Harris. He will NEVER, nor will any Regional Staff person, EVER ask individuals privately for assistance, no matter how good the cause may seem. The only requests for support will come publicly through the Regional Office and will use the official Regional email address (@CCinOH.org) and the official Regional or General email websites for offerings. Any Regional or Camp Christian email will come from an email address ending in @ccinoh.org. Remember, if something seems off, it probably is. If you are unsure, DO NOT REPLY, but forward the email to ccio@ccinoh.org and just ask. Please pass on this information to members of your congregations and other leaders in the Regional Church.

Yearbook Reports Due February 28

Most kids of a certain age have heard the riddle, "What's black and white and read (or red) all over?" Answers range from zebras with dermatological conditions to newspapers. Well, here's a new answer to go along with those – ALEX: Data for Disciples. The data ALEX contains in the form of Yearbook reports is somewhat black and white in that numbers are pretty straightforward. The data is "read all over" by other congregations in summary reports, by regional staff helping congregations, and other ministries seeking to better support our congregations.

Help all the expressions of the church by making sure your congregation is included in this year's data gathering effort. Reports are submitted electronically through ALEX, approved by the region, and end up in the annual statistical snapshot of the church known as the Yearbook. Reports are due to the regions by Feb. 28 so they can be reviewed and approved by March 15.

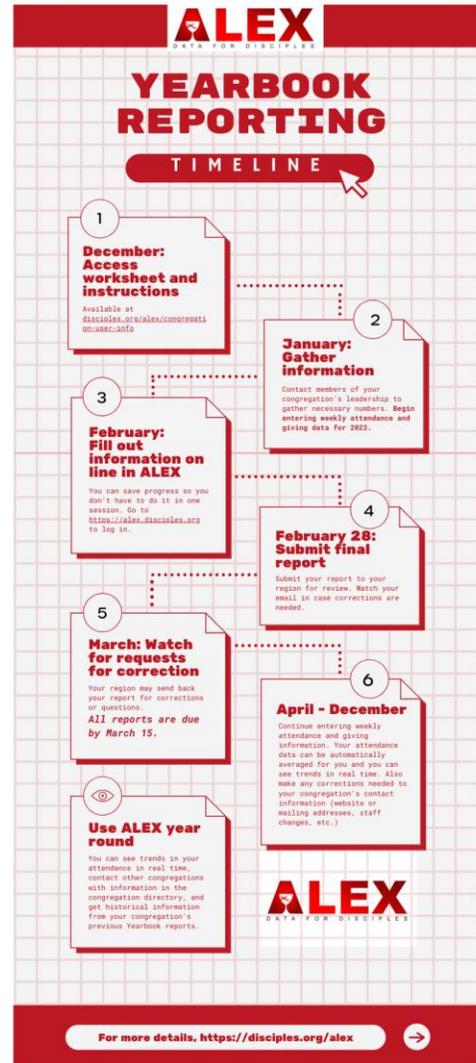
For more information, including worksheets and instructions, go to <https://disciples.org/alex/congregation-user-info>.

You can see the **instructions and worksheet posted [here](#)** along with a video of what is new and a tour of the tabs. Please plan to make time to **enter your information during February** so your region has the opportunity to ask you questions before March 15!

Tutorial sessions will be available in late January and early February. See below for a schedule.

Your attendance will automatically be totaled and averaged for you by the system when it comes time to fill in your Yearbook report **if** you have been filling in your weekly numbers. Go to the icon that looks like a pencil piercing a box and you'll find how to add your entries.

When congregation administrators go to look at the Yearbook listing (click on the ribbon on the left) for the congregation, you will notice TWO tabs - one for the ministerial staff and one for the other staff. **You cannot edit the minister listing, but you can still update your other staff at any time.** (See below for instructions about pastor listings.)



Six ALEX Tutorials Offered Congregational User Tutorial Sessions

All in English

- Monday, January 17 – [7:00 pm ET](#) (4:00 pm PT)
 - Wednesday, January 19 – [6:00 pm ET](#) (3:00 pm PT)
 - Tuesday, January 25 – [3:00 pm ET](#) (noon PT)
 - Thursday, January 27 – [1:00 pm ET](#) (10:00 am PT)
 - Thursday, February 3 – [2:00 pm ET](#) (11 am PT)
 - Monday, February 7 – [8:00 pm ET](#) (5:00 pm PT)
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Business Items from the November 2021 Regional Church Council of the Christian Church in Ohio Meeting

Expressing Gratitude for the service of Rev. Mike Valentine as Regional Elder District 5

Rev. Mike Valentine, a longtime local church pastor who had recently retired as Senior Pastor of First Christian Church, Bellefontaine, as asked by Interim Regional Minister, the Rev. John Richardson, in 2017 to be Regional Elder for District 5, he gladly accepted. He has served the clergy and congregations of his District with great wisdom, a sense of purpose, grounded in his deep faith, and with a touch of good humor. In the fall of 2021, after becoming a grandfather for the first time, Rev. Valentine offered his resignation as Regional Elder to spend more time with his family. The Christian Church in Ohio Regional Church Council, at our November 5-6, 2021 meeting, offers our deepest gratitude to Rev. Mike Valentine for his five years of service as Regional Elder to the Christian Church in Ohio.

Expressing Gratitude for the service of Ann Overturf, Chi Rho Director

Ann Overturf has served the Christian Church in Ohio as a youth leader and Chi Rho counselor for decades, but for the last seven summers Ann has served as a Director of Chi Rho Camp, bringing a love of children, a deep faith, and a pure delight in the power and possibility of spiritual transformation that can happen at church camp. She has also served as co-chair of the Chi Rho Commission for many years. This fall Ann expressed a desire to move on and focus on other ministries, and so the Christian Church in Ohio Regional Church Council, at its November 5-6, 2021 meeting, offers our deepest gratitude to Ann Overturf for her many years of service to the Christian Church in Ohio, and most especially her seven years as Chi Rho Camp Director.

Expressing Gratitude for the service of Rev. Carol Oetzel, Team 2 Chair, Commission on Ministry

Rev. Carol Oetzel has been a local church pastor in the Christian Church in Ohio for decades, serving at Walnut Hill Christian Church in Cincinnati, Legacy Christian Church in Harrison, and Disciples Christian Church in Hamilton, as well as offering supply preaching and short term ministry in several others. She was one of the first persons who was under care in the Apprentice Track to Ordination. She has served as a Commissioner on the Commission for Ministry for about 15 years, but since we reorganized the Commission on Ministry in 2017 she has also been serving as the Team 2 Chair of the Commission On Ministry. This Team provides the care and oversight for our Commissioned Ministers, a vital and growing part of our ministry in the Church. Rev. Oetzel has led this team

admirably, and provided not only care and oversight for our ministers, but has done so with a deep respect and passion for Commissioned Ministers. The Christian Church in Ohio Regional Church Council, at our November 5-6, 2021 meeting, offers our deepest gratitude to Rev. Carol Oetzel for her over four years of service as Team 2 Chair of the Commission on Ministry.

Rev. Julie Cory Was Confirmed as Team 2 Chair, Commission on Ministry

Julie is a second career pastor who spent most of her career in the field of education. In local church's she has been a teacher, Christian Ed director, led a large outreach team, directed bell choirs, developed youth bell programs and was a deacon, and elder. In 2007, she and her husband Alan were thinking about retirement, we entered the Colorado Region's Theological Education Inst. Training program for commissioned ministers. They were called to serve the church in Chillicothe, OH in 2009. In 2010 I was blessed to be able to enter the new hybrid M Div program at LTS and I graduated and was ordained in 2014. In 2015 she was called to serve the church in Kent, OH and served there until February of 2021 when she retired. Following that she and Alan moved to Delaware, Ohio in May of 2021 and are loving retirement and I am looking forward to continuing my ministry in new ways. They have been married 49 years, have two grown sons, two daughter-in-law's and four grandchildren ages newborn to 16.

The Rev. Margot Connor Was Confirmed as District 5 Regional Elder

Rev. Margot Connor is retired from full time ministry, having served churches in Zanesville, Bowling Green and Columbus. She currently is enjoying part time ministry at Gender Road Christian Church. She has also served as Co-Director of Advance Conference. She is a Reiki practitioner and a spiritual director. She is the mother of Kacey Powell, Marnie Schultz and Audrey Connor (another Christian Church in Ohio Pastor). and has five grandchildren. She lives in north Columbus.

The Rev. Chad Delaney Was Confirmed As the CCinOH Representative to the General Board

Rev. Chad Delaney is Senior Minister at Mantua Center Christian Church. Rev. Delaney studied Coaching4clergy and received his Professional Certified Coach certificate from the International Coaching Federation in 2020 at Val Hastings – Coaching. He is a graduate of Hiram College and Vanderbilt Divinity School. He is married to Christin and they have three children and live in Stow.

CCIO Ministerial Celebrations and Changes:

Rev. Lauren Roe Called As New Senior Minister of First Christian Church of Zanesville

Rev. Lauren Roe has been called to serve as the next Senior Minister at First Christian Church in Zanesville. Her ministry will begin January 18. Rev. Dawn Remster is the current Senior Minister. She will retire the end of February. Dawn and Lauren will serve together for six weeks providing opportunity for a smooth ministry transition.



Laureen looks forward to returning "home" to The Christian Church in Ohio. She has served the last 6 years in churches within the PCUSA and UCC. Laureen was raised in the faith at Central Christian Church in Kettering where she was ordained in 2005. Over the years, she has served CCC-Kettering, FCC-Wilmington, and FCC-Middletown.

Many may know Laureen from her 20+ years of service with Otter Camp. While she will not be returning to Otter Camp, she looks forward to serving in other ways within the Regional Church.

Rev. Sara Coons Called As Pastor of First Christian Church of Massillon

Rev. Sara Eleanor Coons will begin her ministry as Pastor of First Christian Church of Massillon, Ohio on Sunday, January 16. Rev. Coons writes by way of introduction: "I first heard the call to ministry at an Urbana Conference about twenty-five years ago, which then led me to pursue my MDiv at Gordon-Conwell. I remained in Massachusetts, working at the seminary for several years. Through this time I volunteered in ministry, pursued my ministerial license, almost became an Associate Pastor, and had the painful leadership experience of a church split. I was slow to heal, but the Lord was faithful and waited for me to stop hiding. In 2019, I repented of running from my call. During COVID I started a post-graduate certificate in pastoral counseling to explore issues of mental health, grow in theological reflection, and take a transformative step forward. In September of this year, I prayed, "Here, I am. Send me. God answered by introducing me to the First Christian Church of Massillon, Ohio. A few weeks ago I preached a candidate sermon, and the congregation voted to call me as their next settled pastor. I begin Sunday, January 16, 2022! We are working to schedule an installation service for Sunday, March 13, 2022. I love expressions of human creativity, so enjoy reading, music, exploring new places, and new experiences. I will move to Massillon with my cat, Popsicle. I am excited about joining you in serving the body of Christ in Ohio.

All the best,
Sara"

Central Christian Church, Newark Says Farewell To Interim Pastor Rev. Ron Hall and Celebrates His Retirement from Ministry

The members of Central Christian Church, Newark, had a celebration to say farewell to the Rev. Ronald Hall, Interim Pastor of the congregation for the last year and a half, as well as to celebrate Rev. Hall's retirement. To honor him, they collected memories from his

friends and loved ones over his 30 years of service in ministry to Christ and bound them into a book to share with him after his official retirement on December 31, 2021. Memories were received from his student ministry at St. John's UCC (Newark), his 20 years as Pastor at Highwater Congregational UCC, his ministry as Senior Pastor at Grace UCC (Whitehall) and his post-1st-retirement interim position at Central Christian Church! The Christian Church in Ohio joins in giving thanks for Rev. Hall's ministry among us. The Rev. Kara Swartz and the Rev. Chad Penhorwood began their ministry as Co-Senior Pastors on January 2nd at Central Christian Church.

Two Congregations Seek Youth Ministers

Washington Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Elyria is seeking a Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries who will cultivate relationships, inspire Christian discipleship, and lead with imagination. The successful candidate will be a vital staff member who contributes to the ministry of the whole congregation that seeks the future God wants and ultimately will have.

To receive a full position description, email office@waccelyria.org

To apply, please send a cover letter and resume to:

Diana Tyler, Office Administrator
Washington Avenue Christian Church
301 Washington Ave
Elyria OH 44035
office@waccelyria.org
(440) 323-4213 Phone; (440) 323-4214 FAX

Howland Community Church Seeks Part-Time Youth Minister

Howland Community Church near Warren, Ohio is seeking a Youth Minister for our young people. We are hoping that this new person will help us to build a vital program. Howland Community Church is looking for a person who is resilient and patient, and a person who listens and is a team player. Likewise, a person with creativity, enthusiasm and flexibility are important, as are the ability to speak in public, to make decisions, to plan for the future, and to respect and maintain interpersonal relationships. This person will face the task of ministering to young people. Instructional skills will come into play as well as team building, prioritizing, and organizing skills. Due to the pervasive use of social platforms, familiarity with computers and technology are a plus. We want to build a vital program and realize that this will take time. We firmly believe faith in our loving God will carry us through.

A full position description can be downloaded by clicking [HERE](#).

To apply, please send a cover letter of application along with either a ministry resume or request your Ministerial Profile be submitted. Qualified and interested candidates should email Rev. Allen V. Harris, Regional Minister at AHarris@CCinOH.org

Lordstown Christian Church Is In The News For Hearing Enhancement System

The Tribune Chronicle newspaper printed a story about the addition by the church of a new special sound loop system. This special system sends the sound directly through the hearing aid the individual wears rather than through speaker systems. A sign and logo is located outside the church indicating there is a hearing loop system in the church, thus it aids in the evangelism efforts of the congregation. More than half of the costs for the system were paid with donations. The Rev. Bernard Oakes is Pastor of Lordstown Christian Church.

To read the entire story and view pictures, go online to:

<https://www.tribtoday.com/news/community-news/2022/01/lordstown-church-modifies-sound-system/>



First Christian Church of Wilmington Shows Off Restored Stained Glass Windows For Christmas

The newly refurbished cupola stained-glass windows were moved from the floor of the sanctuary to the cupola of First Christian Church of Wilmington, Ohio. They were installed the morning of December 21 by Jim and Joe Bradley just in time for Christmas. Thanks to

them and all who had a hand in making this project a reality! The Rev. Tom Stephenson is Pastor of First Christian Church of Wilmington. To learn more about the church go to:

<https://wilmingtondisciples.com>

Fifth Christian Church of Cleveland Offers Vaccination Opportunities

Thanks to Yvonka M Hall and her brilliant team at Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition (NEOBHC) for keeping our community vaccinated. A list of dates for Vaccination Clinics happening at Fifth Christian Church Doc Fifth Christian Church Disciples of Christ is now available, starting THIS SATURDAY:
Dates:

- Saturday, January 15th
- Saturday, February 19th
- Saturday, March 19th
- Saturday, April 16th
- Saturday, May 14th
- Saturday, June 18th
- Saturday, July 16th
- Saturday, August 13th

100 FOLKS HAVE BEEN VACCINATED SINCE THIS PROGRAM FIRST STARTED! SEE YOU JANUARY 15TH! BLESSINGS!
Rev. E. Regis Bunch, Transitional Pastor

GET OUT TO VAX

Bring Your Vaccination card & photo ID

HEALTH & WELLNESS FAIR

LET'S GET VAXXED TOGETHER
Pfizer, Flu Vaccines & Boosters Available

SAT JANUARY 15TH
11:00 AM-1:00PM

While Supplies Last

\$25 Gift Cards from NEOBHC with vax
Medicaid Recipients receive \$100 w/1st vax
Cuyahoga County residents receive \$100 w/1st vax
Boxed lunches available to-go

Fifth Christian Disciples of Christ
14109 Benwood Avenue 44128
neobhc@gmail.com or call (216) 295-0283

Logos: Northeast Ohio Black Health Coalition, MetroHealth, GOOD HEALTH WEEKS, REGION 6 WEEKLY DIGEST, CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH, CHRISTIAN CHURCH DISCIPLES OF CHRIST, THE CENTER FOR BLACK HEALTH & EQUITY, R FOUNDATION, drug mart.

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