Ohio Regional Newsletter November 2025

Around The Region And In My Heart
Rev. Allen V. Harris
Regional Pastor & President, Christian Church in Ohio

Remembering Congregations As Saints Of God

Traditionally November 1 is celebrated in the church as All Saints Day, and frequently the Sunday in November closest to that day liturgies and commemorations are offered in worship services around the world to give thanks to God for the lives and witness of all the saints who have died. According to ***Encyclopedia Brittanica***[1], Pope Boniface IV formally started what would later be known as All Saints Day on May 13 in 609 CE and the current date of November 1 was established by Pope Gregory III during his reign (731-741 CE). In the Eastern Orthodox Church, All Saints Day is observed on the first Sunday after Pentecost. As I understand it, congregations that are a part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) have only recently begun to find meaning in this commemoration, primarily since the Protestant liturgical renewal movement of the 1970's and 1980's.

All Saints Day recognizes those who have died whose sainthood is either obvious to those who knew them or known only to God. Of course, what exactly constitutes a "saint" might be up for discussion, but for me it really constitutes someone who dedicated their lives to living out their faith in God and following the teachings and examples of Jesus Christ. This does not at all have to be someone who was officially called as a minister of the church or even someone who was a member of a particular church or community of faith. In my mind, and in my ministry, I have believed these distinctions are less important to God than what happens in one's heart and made tangible in one's intentions, words, and actions. In short, a saint is someone who made real their faith.

This November I would like to expand the definition of "Saints" to include those congregations, churches, and faith communities who have concluded their visible and regular ministry, or, in the words of our one of our movement's founders, Barton W. Stone, in the ***Last Will and Testament of the Springfield Presbytery***, when he wrote *"We will that this body die, be dissolved, and sink into union with the body of Christ at large; for there is but one body and one Spirit, even as we are called in one hope of our calling."*

I want to lift up and honor those congregations who remained in faithful covenant with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) here in Ohio up until their last day of communal worship, last outreach event, and final governance meeting. These congregations served God in so many faithful ways, from baptizing new believers to marrying those in love and burying loved ones. They taught biblical wisdom, served those in need within and beyond their churches, worshiped God, prayed ardently, and "sang songs and spiritual Psalms." They visited the sick, the dying, and the lonely and they served more coffee and green bean casseroles than our Lord and Savior ever could have imagined or eaten. They held meetings to pray, to discern their future mission and ministry, and sometimes held meetings to hold meetings. All were faithful in their own way, time, and place.

Frequently when I am working with congregational leaders of churches that are either considering closing or leaving the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) faith tradition, I remind them that there are custodians of an entity much larger than their own lifetime, perspectives, and experience. They simply must hold in their decision-making the saints of their congregation, known and unknown, who gave deeply of themselves,

oftentimes sacrificially and over their entire lifetimes, to ensure the health and vibrancy of their church and its mission as a community of faith that would be solidly aligned with the theology and practices of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the Stone-Campbell movement. No decision should ever be made without honoring those saints who have invested their lives in that congregation in this unique faith tradition. I seek to honor these saints in all I do in my ministry as your Regional Minister.

In that spirit, I offer you the names of the following congregations that have officially concluded their ministry in the time since I began serving as your Regional Pastor & President on April 1, 2021:

Congregations That Have Closed Since April 2021

** Indicates the church closed prior to 2021 but acknowledged officially since then.*

- Firestone Park Christian Church, Akron
- Ghent Christian Church, Akron
- Disciples Christian Church, Boardman
- Fellowship Christian Church, Cleveland*
- First Christian Church, Chillicothe
- College Hill Christian Church, Cincinnati
- Disciples Christian Church, Hamilton
- Western Reserve Christian Church, Hudson
- Parma Christian Church, Parma
- Fair Street Christian Church, Springfield*
- First Christian Church, Willoughby

May God bless all who were related to these congregations, from their founding day to their last service of worship and communion. May God bless all who served these congregations as deacons, elders, trustees, board and council officers and members, musicians, teachers and youth group leaders, outreach volunteers and leaders, and ministers. May God bless all who were touched by the ministries of these congregations, from children, youth, young adults, adults, and seniors; those who were visitors one Sunday and never returned to those who were lifetime, cradle roll members; staff, volunteers, and community partners; those who supported the church, whether in volunteer hours, prayer, occasional or regular offerings, gifts-in-kind, or as major donors; and those who were heartened by the church's virtual presence, whether in livestream worship, email newsletters and text prayer chains, or social media posts.

As a way to honor these congregations and every person connected with them, I offer these words from one of my favorite hymns, "I Sing A Song Of The Saints Of God," written by Lesbia Scott in 1929, the third verse:

They lived not only in ages past;
there are hundreds of thousands still.
The world is bright with the joyous saints
who love to do Jesus' will.
You can meet them in school, on the street, in the store,
in church, by the sea, in the house next door,
they are saints of God whether rich or poor,
and I mean to be one too.[2]

Blessings as you celebrate All Saints Day.
Faithfully Yours,
Allen

[1] "All Saints Day" Encyclopedia Britannica, found online at: https://www.britannica.com/topic/All-Saints-Day
[2] "I Sing A Song Of The Saints Of God," Hymnary.org, found online at: https://hymnary.org/text/i_sing_a_song_of_the_saints_of_god

United Christian Ministry At Kent State Holds Open House

Our Regional Minister, Rev. Allen Harris, represented the Christian Church in Ohio at the annual Homecoming Open House for United Christian Ministries at Kent State University. This fun and informative event was a chance for friends and supporters to meet the students, alumni, & staff. Displays, a light lunch. door prizes and great ecumenical fellowship were all a part of the experience.

Rev. Lauren Odell-Scott is Director and Rev. Jodi Stillisano is Campus Minister of UCM. Both are Disciples of Christ clergy. Karrie Gould is Program & Tech Coordinator.

We were also gifted to hear excellent presentations from UCM interns as well as alumni. Participants had the chance to decorate and fill care package bags that will be handed out through KSU's CARES Center, run in part by our very own Disciples of Christ member, Blane Burnett, case manager.

United Christian Ministries at Kent State University is an Ecumenical Protestant Campus Ministry transforming lives through Christian wisdom, love and service. It is sponsored by: The American Baptist, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Episcopal, Presbyterian (USA), United Methodist, United Church of Christ, Kent Friends Meeting, Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA).

UCM is an organization independent of Kent State University. Find out more and donate to support this wonderful ministry at http://www.myucm.org/

Pictured is our Regional Minister, Reverend Allen Harris, with two UCM participants: Anna Paul, one of this year's UCM Interns, and Alaina Paul, her sister, both who are members at First Christian Church of Zanesville.

Ohio Disciples Show Up For CRIS's 5K Race!

On October 4th, in downtown Columbus, many Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) related individuals participated in the CRIS 5K & Advocacy Fair sponsored by the Community Refugee and Immigration Services in Ohio (CRIS.) The 5K & Advocacy Fair is an annual event to raise awareness and funds to support CRIS's mission of helping refugees and immigrants reach safety and stability, sustain self-sufficiency, and achieve successful integration into the Central Ohio community. This year the event raised over $60,000.

Central Ohio Disciples from Northwest Christian Church, Gender Road Christian Church, current and former Camp Christian Staff, Regional Staff, former Advance Conference Officers, Camp Directors, Ministers, and more supported the day's events.

Northwest Christian Church Young Adults were honored as the top fundraising group for the CRIS 5K raising $1,470. They were supported strongly by the congregation and their Pastor Joyce Wealand, who also participated at the event.

Tyler Reeve, the Director of Development and Engagement at CRIS, said
"It was so nice to see so many Camp friends and local DOC Congregations turn out, this year of all years. It really made me grateful for my community of people who share my values."

Tyler was on Camp Christian staff, and has been active with Camp, Advance, and the Region over the years.

For more information about CRIS, the communities they serve, or to support their vital outreach, please visit https://www.crisohio.org/

Transitional Skills For Ministry Event A Success!

The first ever *Swimming Through Change: Transitional Skill for Ministry* training held at Camp Christian, October 19-23 was a wonderful success.

Rev. Karen Bruno designed and guided participants through the week's skills building training for clergy from around the Christian Church in Ohio (DOC) and the Heartland Conference (UCC).

Presenters included:
Rev. Vicki McGaw, Rev. Karen Bruno, Rev. Dr. Dave Long-Higgins, Rev. Allen Harris, Rev. Jeff Nelson, Rev. Dr. Elena Larssen, Rev. Monica Dawson- Smith, Rev. Jeff Jackson.

This training was a re-imagination of the traditional interim Ministry training provided by the region and

conference. Those who attended all the sessions and did the required feeding received an official Interim ministry certificate.

Christmas Market & Celebration – ALL are invited!

Saturday, December 6th from 10:00am to 4:00pm

Celebrate Christmas at Camp Christian with a fun-filled day of shopping featuring a wide variety of arts & craft vendors, small businesses, and yard sale booths.

PLUS there will be festive family activities, cookie decorating, live Christmas music, crafts for kids, gift wrapping, concessions, s'mores, a photo booth for holiday pictures and MORE!!

EVERYONE is invited to shop the market and enjoy a beautiful day at Camp Christian!!

Also, Barbara Lengen will be teaching two Wool Needle Felting classes at the Camp Christian Christmas Market and Celebration on December 6th.

There will be 2 classes offered. One for a 2 Dimensional Butterfly at 11:30am and the other for a 3 Dimensional Bee at 1:30pm (both pictured.) For details about those classes, please see the Facebook posting we shared HERE.

Help us support Camp Christian's life-changing ministry. Sign up to sell your items or bring your church group, youth group, book club, families, friends, or just treat yourself to a day out. There will be concessions sold for lunch and snack items throughout the day to benefit Camp Christian.

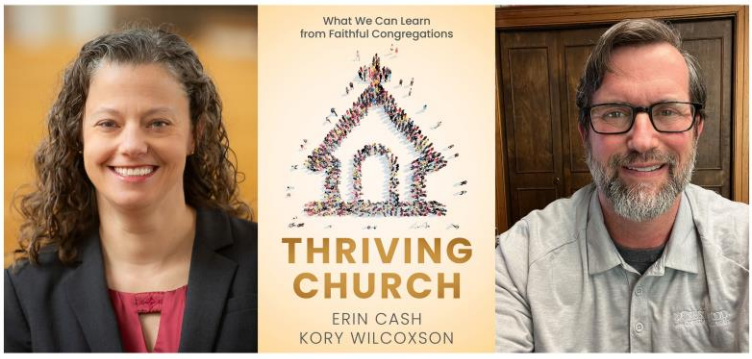
If you are interested in selling your items at the event, please fill out the separate Vendor Application form (attached.) Proceeds from vendor fees will go directly to Camp Christian operating funds, which helps prepare Camp for Summer Programming.

The Market will be open on Saturday, but we are also opening Camp up on Friday night for overnight accommodations and fellowship.

We hope to see YOU there!! And please share/post the attached Flyer.

Details at and Vendor Application at: https://www.ccinoh.com/regional-calendar.aspx?events=15399&action=details

---



Thriving Church Event
Saturday, November 15th
9am-4pm at Camp Christian

Leaders!

I want to be sure you get an invitation to this daylong event at Camp Christian on Saturday, November 15th. I am the chairman of the Congregational Renewal Team that is sponsoring this workshop, and I think this is an important event for us as we live into the core values that make for a thriving church.

This event is for both Pastors and lay leadership in congregations and will be worth your time and money. . .

Registration can be done online at https://www.ccinoh.com/ministries/ministry-teams/congregational-renewal.aspx

Rev. Michael Doerr, Pastor, First Christian Church, Wauseon & Convener, Congregational Renewal Team, CCIO

Featuring Erin Cash & Kory Wilcoxson
Saturday, November 15, 2025, 9am – 4pm
Camp Christian 10335 Maple Dell Rd., Marysville, Ohio 43040

Kory Wilcoxson, Pastor of Crestwood Christian Church in Lexington, KY, and Erin Cash, Project Director of the Thriving Congregations Project at Lexington Theological Seminary, have published a book, Thriving Church, telling the story of their Lilly Endowment project on the attributes of a thriving church.

Come spend the day hearing the stories of thriving churches and the core values that help them thrive. This event is for both Pastors and congregational leaders! The $60 registration fee includes the all-day session, a copy of the book ($10 value,) and lunch. Add on overnight at Camp Christian in a Cabin for $25.

Renewal Initiative 2025
Every Gift Helps Build Up The Body

Each year the Christian Church in Ohio reaches out for support of our Renewal Initiative. We call it a *renewal* offering because it is an opportunity to renew the work of the Regional Church, but it also a time to renew our own individual commitments to the mission and ministry of the Regional Church and to covenant afresh to our shared work.

As we think about our gifts to the region, we can reflect on the gifts of the Christian Church in Ohio as a whole that build up the Body of Christ, such as:

- Stronger and more confident congregations

- Better equipped and more closely connected clergy
- Reliable Christian faith formation and quality discipleship training at Camp Christian
- A compelling spirit of generosity and abundance
- Visionary thinking, such as our "If Not Now, When? If Not You, Who?" campaign
- Nurturing hospitality and a Christlike welcome for all at the table of communion

Just to name a few!

Our Ohio congregations and individual members build up bodies in their communities in so many ways! They support food pantries, backpack ministries, medical equipment needs, and nurturing that comes through scouting programs. We provide VBS programs that reach out to families in communities, hospitality to social service agencies, volunteers to neighborhood organizations, and in so many other ways! Ohio is a gifted Regional Church that shares our gifts to the world by supporting our congregational leaders and communities to improve and share their gifts to the larger community.

Please see the attached Renewal Initiative full letter and brochure for more information. These PDFs, as well as contribution updates, can always be found at https://www.ccinoh.com/other-pages/renewal-initiative.aspx

---

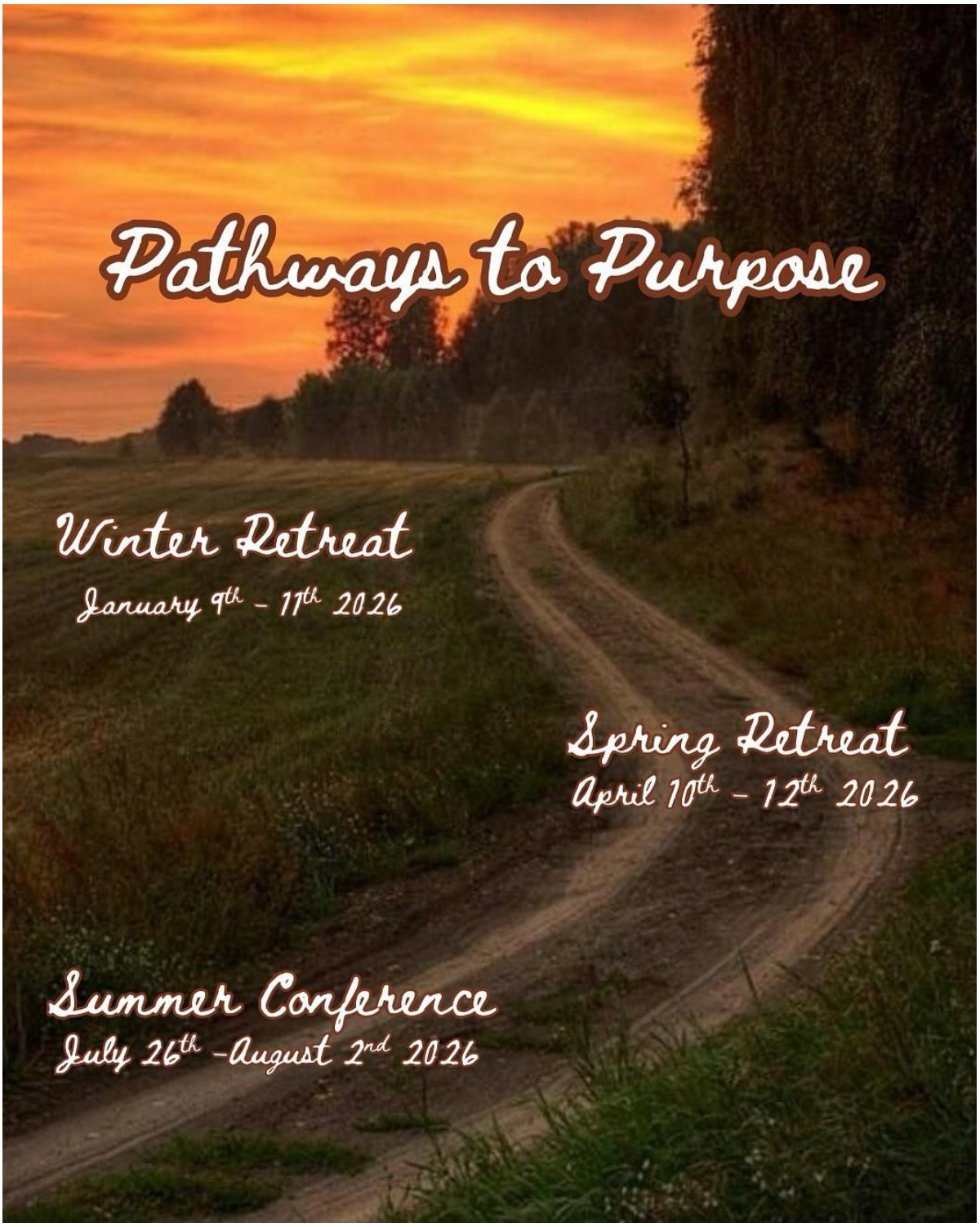
November Network Meetings

The Christian Church in Ohio is now partnering with the Heartland Conference of the United Church of Christ to do expanded mission and ministry through a series of Networks. Below you will see the November Network gatherings.

For more information about each of these and/or if you have any questions, please email the Rev. Karen Bruno, Network Coordinator, at networks@heartlanducc.org

Advance Ministry
Retreats and Summer Conference
Save the Dates 2026
Advance is for Young Adults ages 19-30 (graduated/finished high school)

- Winter Retreat – January 9-11
- Spring Retreat – April 10-12
- Summer Conference – July 26 – August 2



Converging 2025 Embrace Music That Is More "Just And Generous”

From October 15 to 18 Converging 2025 Conference, the music event sponsored by Convergence Music Project was held at Northwest Christian Church in Upper Arlington. Their Senior Pastor and host pastor is the Rev. Joyce Wealand.

The theme for this year's conference was "Sing Truth: Leadership For Resistance and Resilience.” The event is designed for Church musicians, clergy, worship leaders, songwriters, artists of all kinds, and others involved in leading and designing worship experiences for communities of faith that embrace a more "just and generous” understanding of the Gospel.

So many wonderful things happened at this conference including interactive keynote presentations and panel discussions, intensive workshops, worship services, and exhibits . Speakers and Musicians included: Brian McLaren, Melanie DeMore, Patrice Turner, Christopher Grundy, Ken Medema, Paula D'Arcy, Bryan Sirchio, The Many, Mark Miller, and Andra Moran.

Pictured are one of the morning vesper Services and a most moving services of worship, led by the gifted musicians of The Many themed "Love Is Greater Than Fear,”

More information are available here: https://www.cmpconverging.com/the-details

More photos can be found on the Ohio Region's Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.1242043177961269&type=3

District 12 Gather For Thanksgiving Service November 23 at Anderson Hills Christian Church

District 12 clergy and laity alike will gather for their annual Thanksgiving Service at Anderson Hills Christian Church on November 23rd at 4:00pm. The church is located at 8119 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45244.

Rev. Thomas Barnes, Regional Elder for District 8 & 12, asks that you please share this information with your congregations.

Clergy, please inform Rev. Rebecca Woods, host pastor, if you plan to attend and specify how you'd like to participate in the service. The church's phone number is (513) 474-2237.

Thanks so much to Rev. Rebecca Woods and Anderson Hills Christian Church members for offering to host this Annual Fellowship Service.

Fifth Sunday Songfest Set For Summit Christian Church, Dayton, November 30, 4 p.m.

Per the 2025 Fifth Sunday Songfest schedule, the last Fifth Sunday Songfest of the year will be held at Summit Christian Church (937-854-1920), 4021 Denlinger Rd, Dayton, Ohio 45426 on November 30, 2025 at 4pm. We are looking forward to our fellowship together. Please email Rev. Dr. Pamela Barnes-Jackson at revpamela@frontier.com if you are attending, including a count of attendees, and if you are providing music. Let us continue to pray for one another as we come together. An offering will be taken for the Sarah Wilson Scholarship Fund.

See you then!

Sarah Wilson Scholarship Committee
Rev. Dr. Willie Barnes-Jackson
Rev. Thomas Barnes
Elder Cordelia Hill
Rev. Dr. Pamela Barnes-Jackson

Save The Date: Adult Conference 2026 Welcomes Rev. Dr. Valerie Bridgeman!

For the last few years the Christian Church in Ohio (Disciples of Christ) and the Heartland Conference (United Church of Christ) jointly sponsors a summer adult continuing education event that brings the best and most compelling theologians to inspire and nurture faith formation in adults. Next summer, from Monday afternoon June 22nd to Thursday afternoon, June 25th Adult Conference participants will gather at Northwest Christian Church in Upper Arlington to learn from the Rev. Dr. Valerie Bridgeman. Dr. Bridgeman is Dean and Vice President for Academic Affairs and Associate Professor of Homiletics and Hebrew Bible at the Methodist Theological Seminary of Ohio. She will serve as both the morning Bible Lecturer and the evening Vesper speaker. We are thrilled to have this world-class scholar and preacher for our 2026 Conference!

The Planning Team for Adult Conference has made some changes for next year's event to try to make it accessible to more people. Including previous changes such as a one-day registration and individual workshops that are self-contained to that day, for next year we have shortened the event by a day ending on Thursday rather than Friday and we will offer a variety of hotel options in various price ranges.

More information, our theme, and registration will be forthcoming, but please save the dates on your calendar, June 22 – 25, 2026!

United Protestant Campus Ministry of Cleveland Holiday Homestay Program

Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your partnership and support as we continue to revitalize UPCaM's ministry with Cleveland's college students. Many of you are aware that we have been providing responsive care to international students—especially those navigating uncertainty under the current administration.

As we approach the Christmas and New Year holidays, we are compiling a list of potential Homestay Families who can offer safe, welcoming housing to students who cannot return home. You can find details in the attached letter. I've included two PDF attachments—a letter from me that you can share, and an announcement document—as well as links to JPEG versions in Canva suitable for newsletters, online posts, or social media. These Canva links allow you to easily add your own logo or customize details to fit your community's context.

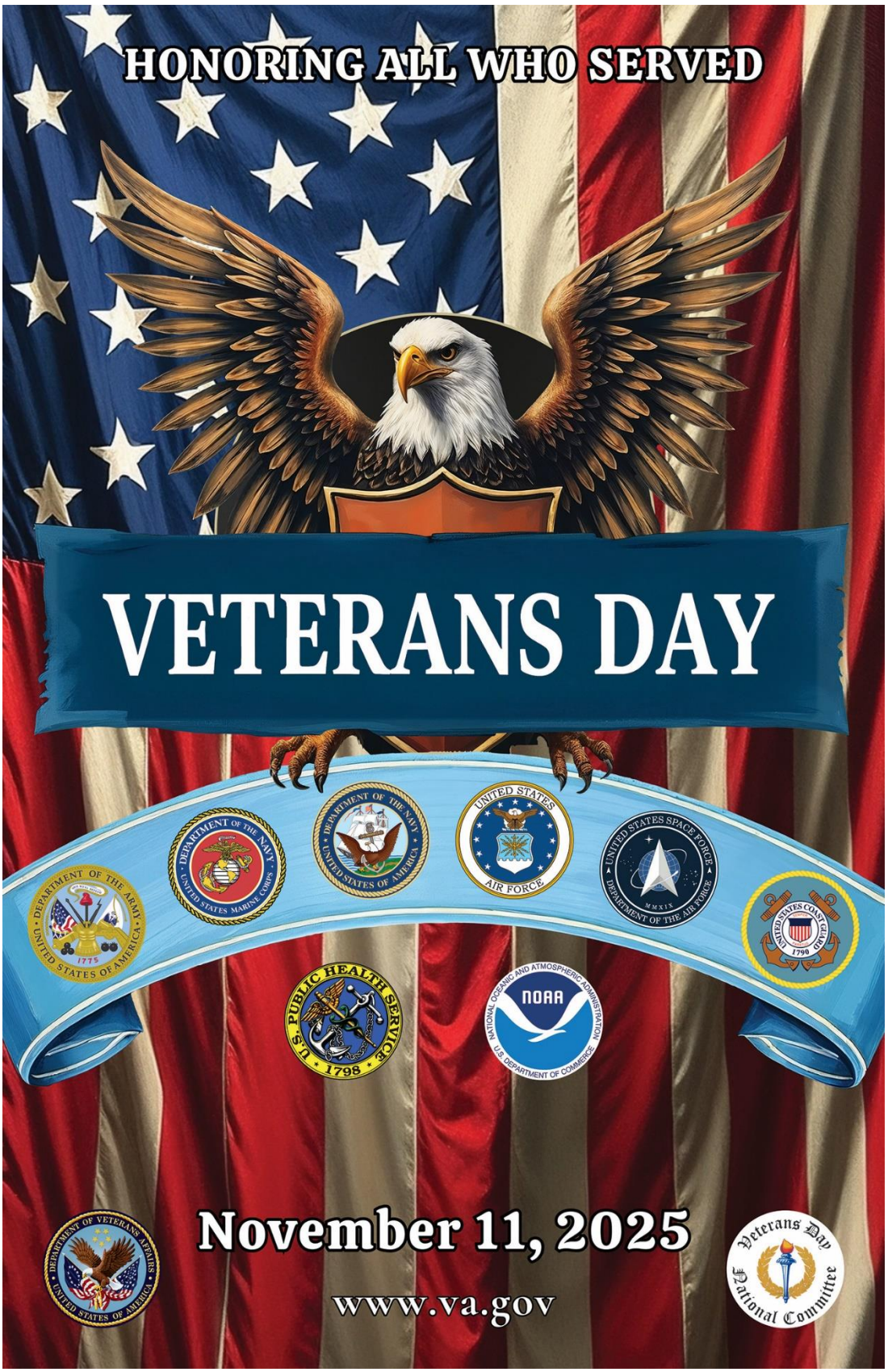
One simple but powerful way to support UPCaM is by sharing our story with your community and helping us spread the word about this need.

UPCaM is **your** campus ministry—we represent your denominations, your churches, and you! We embody the love of Christ in a world that can sometimes feel dark. I'm deeply grateful for your continued compassion, encouragement, and partnership.

With gratitude,
Amanda Powell
Campus Minister, UPCaM

Attached you'll find: Holiday Homestay Letter Link and the Holiday Homestay Announcement Link

The Christian Church in Ohio lifts up in prayer all Veterans in Honor of Veterans Day, November 11th.



Pastor Bradley Ham Installed At First Christian Church of Uhrichsville October 19

On Sunday, October 19th the Christian Church In Ohio recommissioned and installed Pastor Bradley Ham (center) as the Pastor of First Christian Church of Uhrichsville.

Officiating were our Regional Minister, Rev., Allen, Harris (far left) and Regional Elder for District 7, Rev. Jamie Gump (2nd from left).

Also present were the Rev. Robin Myers, Regional Elder for District 6, where Pastor Ham previously served (2nd from right), Barry Williams, Board Chair (3rd from right) and Gay Cox, Elder Chair (far right).

Please hold Pastor Ham and the leaders and members of First Christian Church in your prayers as they move into the next chapter of their lives together.

Welcome Rev. Tyler Whipkey, Disciples Chaplain For Genesis Healthcare In Zanesville

Rev. Tyler Whipkey joined the Genesis Healthcare System in Zanesville, Ohio, on September 22nd as their Director of Spiritual Care.

Tyler earned his MDiv from Phillips Theological Seminary, and is currently pursuing his DMin at Brite Divinity School. He is a Board Certified Chaplain with the Association of Professional Chaplains, and also serves as a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy Reserve, attached to RELSUP III MEF as a chaplain.

Tyler comes most recently from the Pacific Southwest Region, where he served as a mission leader for the Dignity Health - St. Rose Dominican Hospitals in Las Vegas, Nevada.

He also served as Interim Minister at First Christian Church of Las Vegas for a brief period prior to relocating to Ohio.

Welcome Rev. Whittney-Marie Murphy As Interfaith Chaplain At Hospice Of The Western Reserve

Rev. Whittney-Marie Murphy, MDiv. (she/her) is the Founder and Executive Director of Come As You Are Collective (CAYA), a 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to closing the gap in mental health and spiritual care access for people of color within the LGBTQ+ community. She also serves as an Interfaith Chaplain at Hospice of the Western Reserve and as an Assistant Track and Field Coach at her Alma mater, Hathaway Brown School.

Rev. Whittney-Marie triple majored in International Studies, Political Science, and French at Butler University ('11) before earning her Master of Divinity from Christian Theological Seminary ('17). Ordained in the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), she holds space as a Spiritual Director, Preacher, and Advocate. Her work around radical inclusion led to her appearance on the AppleTV+ docuseries Gutsy in conversation with Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who later called her "a wonderful sounding board" on The View.

Learn more at www.comeasyouarecollective.org or on social media @comeasyouarecollective_ and @revwhittneymarie.

Rev. Dr. Martina Moore Receives Distinguished Achievement Award From John Carroll University

On October 25 the Rev. Dr. Martina Moore was honored to receive the Rev. Casey Bukala, S.J. Distinguished Achievement Award from John Carroll University. This award recognizes alumni for exceptional teaching, service, and contributions to the JCU community, and to receive it in the name of someone who so fully embodied the Jesuit spirit of service and compassion is an incredible honor.

In her over 20 years of counseling experience, her 12 years as a member of the JCU faculty, the last three years as Chair of the Department, Rev. Dr. Moore deserves this honor. During her time with the program the number of students in the program has increased by 70% and has brought in over $500,000 in scholarship awards for the Ohio Great Minds Fellowship helping over 200 students matriculate from the program. She revived a students abroad program and travels to Ho Chi Minh City in Vietnam to teach and guide the program.

Dr. Moore writes, *"I have been blessed to teach, serve, and lead alongside extraordinary colleagues who are deeply committed to the Jesuit mission. To know that I am one of only three people in the history of this award have received it makes this moment even more humbling. I am truly grateful to be part of a community that believes in developing both the mind and the heart, inspiring us all to be people for and with others."*

Rev. Dr. Judy Alston Receives Educator Of The Year

On Saturday, November 1 the Rev. Dr. Judy Alston was awarded Educator of the Year by the Sigma 614 Foundation as part of their inaugural Beacons of Leadership, Unity, and Empowerment awards program.

The Christian Church in Ohio also celebrates Rev. Dr. Alston's accomplishment and commends her for years of extraordinary service in higher education.

Disciples Higher Education & Leadership Ministry (HELM) Announces Hannah Dunn-Helton As A Be The Neighbor Student Intern and Selects Caroline Dunn-Helton For Leadership Fellows Program

Be The Neighbor Student Interns

Big things are ahead for these incredible students! Nine students connected to HELM through the Leadership Fellows Program or Youth Leadership Symposium will be serving in communities across the U.S. through Be The Neighbor. They'll be learning, leading, and living out justice in action alongside other student interns. Hannah Dunn-Helton is one of those selected for the internship. Keep them in your prayers as they make an impact from coast to coast!

More information about the Be The Neighbor program, go to https://www.betheneighbor.org/.

Leadership Fellows

The Disciples Higher Education & Leadership Ministries is excited to announce another one their new HELM Leadership Fellows from Ohio! Caroline Dunn-Helton attends the Ohio State University and is from the Heartland Conference (UCC).

Read more about each Fellow on our website: https://www.helmdisciples.org/post/meet-the-2025-2026-year-one-leadership-fellow-cohort

Hannah and Caroline are both daughters of Rev. Nancy Dunn and Rev. Chris Helton.

Social Media Workshop
Online November 19 at 2pm

Join the Communicators Forum Social Media Workshop on November 19th at 2 PM EST. Gain valuable information on social media platforms and deepen your understanding of content and analytics to strengthen your church or ministry's online presence. Register by clicking HERE.

Thanksgiving Special Offering
Received in many congregations on Nov. 16 & 23, 2025

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our **fifteen colleges and universities** as well as our **seven seminaries and divinity houses**.

The Colleges and Universities of the Christian Church provide quality education through classes offered by some of the nation's top undergraduate and graduate faculty. Many of the campuses are comprised of state-of-the-art facilities, offer diverse degree programs, include dynamic student life activities, offer exciting athletics programs, and much more. The Thanksgiving offering supports everything from scholarships to religious life offices, to faculty growth and development. By giving to the Thanksgiving Offering, you are helping our institutions invest in students as they prepare themselves to become leaders.

The Thanksgiving Offering also provides scholarship and support for our theological education institutions. Each of our seminaries and divinity houses is committed to educating and forming Christian leaders for church and society. Generations of pastors, community leaders, and agents of social transformation have been educated at our theological institutions. They have flourished and made a difference in the world, thanks to gifts from Disciples congregations and individuals throughout the ages. These institutions continue to prepare leaders for the present age and the age to come.

Supporting our students is more important than ever. Scholarship requests are increasing yearly for our colleges, universities, seminaries and divinity houses. For this reason, we ask for your generous financial support during this year's **Thanksgiving Offering.**

Support for Disciples Mission Fund and gifts to the Thanksgiving Offering are a critical part of the ongoing collaborative work of church and higher education that is such a foundational part of the heritage of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Please give generously to this offering. Your gift makes a difference in the lives of our students, and it makes a difference in the world.

For more information and worship resources, go to https://disciplesmissionfund.org/special-offerings/thanksgiving/

A Thanksgiving Special Offering Bulletin Insert is attached to this email as well.

If Not Now, When? If Not You, Who? Campaign
New Resources Available!

As many Congregations are ramping up their Congregational "If Not Now, When? If Not You, Who?" Campaigns, we wanted to make sure you all knew where to download resources for the Campaign.

The Google Drive folder (linked below) contains all the information that was in the packets received by all of the Congregations earlier this year, as well as a few new resources. We have added a single page Campaign Report PDF, a sign for donation boxes, 2 high resolution Campaign logos, and a donation QR Code that can all be used for your local Campaigns.

We encourage you to utilize these resources and share them with your Congregations. Thank you!

The direct link to the shared google drive folder is https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NjXSxciqxstZg2S4sa7tCqoa0-eqIECm?usp=sharing

If you need another physical packet sent to you or your Congregation, please email jstoddartbernard@ccinoh.org.

If you have any questions about the Campaign, please contact Campaign Director, Rev. Jim Bane at jwbane@hotmail.com.

Please see the attached schedule for the 2026 Summer Camp Program schedule, share it with friends, coworkers, and others who may be interested, and we'll look forward to another year of faithful fun and exploration!