

The Virginia Christian

July, 2026

www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian



Reverend Leroy Cecil Ashworth

Reverend Ashworth passed away peacefully on July 11, 2026 in Tampa, Florida. Rev. Ashworth was a minister at Calvary Christian Church in Martinsville, Belmont Christian Church in Roanoke, and Independence Christian Church in Ashland, Virginia. He also served as the Moderator of the Christian Church in Virginia in 1982-83. The link to his obituary is: <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/12964614>.



Craig Springs Kitchen Renovation to Begin Fall 2027:

We are excited to announce that the Craig Springs Kitchen Renovation will begin in the fall of 2027. This project has been needed for some time and I am excited to announce that we intend to start the project following the camp season next year. Please join us in prayer for this project and for the many lives that have experienced and will experience God's love on the Holy Mountain we call Craig Springs:

- Share this video
- Contribute/Pledge a gift individually
- Talk to your church about a contribution for this important ministry
- Encourage your church to hold a retreat at Craig Springs

PS. Camp numbers have grown over last year.....

<https://youtu.be/7jQJwR0b8Jg> (Announcement Video)

<https://www.ccinva.org/cskitchen> (Kitchen Renovation Page)

Blessings BSD



**Virginia
Disciples
Women
Regional Retreat**



**September
18 - 20,
2026**

"Sprouting Our Faith"
Keynote Speaker: Dr. Erin Reibel

"For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as the garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations"

Isaiah 61:11 ESV

Dr. Reibel is a dynamic, thoughtful and inspirational speaker who has served in multiple church settings.

The VDWM Retreat means fellowship with old and new friends, learning and growing our faith through worship and study, and having fun together. Bedrooms are single to triple, twin or full beds, with a private bathroom.

The retreat is Friday dinner through Sunday morning worship.

LOCATION:

W.E. Skelton 4-H Conference Center
at Smith Mountain Lake, Wirtz, VA

Registration opens May 1st, 2026 and closes Aug. 15, 2026



Please see registration form for cost details.

To register, use the QR code or link below:

<https://bit.ly/48hO3Pe>



Questions? Email ccinvaoffice@gmail.com or call the
Regional Office 434-846-3400

Registration Here:

<https://christianchurchinvirginia.regfox.com/arpr-2026>

Virginia Anti-Racism & Pro-Reconciliation Ministry 2026 WORKSHOPS



- **Saturday, September 19, 2026** **First Christian Church Lynchburg**
Dr. Jarrett Banks, hosting
Time: 9:00am
Location: 3109 Rivermont Ave.
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503
- **Saturday, October 24, 2026** **Westside Christian Church**
Pastor Jennifer Larson, hosting
Time: 9:00am
Location: 535 Cherokee Road
Portsmouth, Virginia 23701
- **Saturday, TBA** **Craig Springs Camp Center**
Pastor Ron Schwarz, hosting
Time: 9:00am
Location: 30 Craig Springs Circle
New Castle, Virginia 24127



DHM's Disciples Day of Volunteering - September 12, 2026

DHM is organizing a Disciples of Day of Volunteering on September 12, 2026 asking Disciples Churches to volunteer in their community on that day and the week before will have webinars about community need and partnerships. For more information please go to <https://disciplesmissionhub.org/disciples-mission-week-2026/day-of-volunteering/>

We also are asking if your church is doing a day of volunteering please let the region know so we can include it in the August edition of the Virginia Christian, so other Disciples might be able to join you, Please send in the name of your church, what you will be doing and a contact person and number/email

SAT. SEPT. 12
JOIN US IN A
DAY OF
VOLUNTEERING
& SERVICE



The Ministry Church

The Ministry Church is the Virginia Region's Congregation in Formation. The Church is located in the Church Hill neighborhood of Richmond, VA. The reflection below by the founding Pastor/Church Development, Rev. Laticia Lee, gives the background and vision of the church. In future editions of the Virginia Christian, we will focus on the different unique and creative ministries of the church.

Re-membering the Body

What does it mean to be the church in a world that is so deeply divided?

That question gave birth to The Ministry Church.

Every day we witness people living with the effects of disconnection. Families are fractured. Neighborhoods are changing. Loneliness is growing. Politics, race, economics, sexuality, and even religion have convinced us that our differences are stronger than our shared humanity. We have become a people living in pieces.

We believe the gospel tells a different story.

At The Ministry Church, we often speak of re-membering the Body of Christ. We intentionally place a hyphen in the word because we believe God's word is not simply helping people remember something they have forgotten. God's work is re-membering joining back together what has been dismembered. Christ gathers what the world has scattered. He restores dignity where it has been denied, relationship where it has been broken, and hope where it has been lost.

That conviction shapes everything we do.

As a Spirit-led, open, affirming, and inclusive congregation of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), we seek to become a community where people encounter God's radical welcome before they encounter our expectations. We believe belonging can become the soil where transformation takes root.

This vision also shapes how we understand ministry. Worship is central to who we are, but the work of Christ continues long after the benediction. Whether we are praying with our neighbors, sharing fresh food, creating spaces for healing, supporting local artists, or gathering around the Communion Table, we are participating in God's ongoing work of making a fragmented people whole.

The church has always been at its best when it embodied good news rather than simply announcing it. We believe the Table of Christ calls us to more than remembrance. It calls us into the ministry of re-membering, of becoming a people who refuse to leave anyone disconnected from the love of God or the embrace of community.

We are still a young congregation, still learning, still being formed by the Spirit. But our prayer remains constant: that every person who encounters The Ministry Church would discover that they are not a forgotten piece of God's story. They are a beloved member of Christ's Body, and together we are being re-membered into the life God intends for the world.

Mission Trip Reflections by Jonathan Webster

83 Virginia Disciples went to Black Mountain, NC in June as part of our fourth Annual Virginia Region Multi-generational mission trip to do hurricane recovery and other community building work. One organization that has gained a special place in the heart of Virginia Disciples is Bounty and Soul. They are located in Black Mountain just a few miles from our homebase for the week at our National Disciples Conference Center-Christmount. We got to know them in the summer of 2025 and some of our Virginia Disciples have continued working with them by writing “love notes” that are included in the boxes of fresh veggies they give away. Campers at Family Camp 2025 at Craig Springs and Disciples Women of Bon Air CC have written these “love notes.”

This year we had a team serving with them 3 days of our trip. Bounty and Soul is not like a regular food bank, they have no processed foods and focus on distributing fresh veggies and fruits, and other items such as fresh baked bread into neighborhoods and communities in the greater Asheville area. They obtain these either from local and regional farmers or donations from local grocery stores. Some of our group made the veggies boxes at their warehouse, others distributed them at one of the drive by sites and they also have some places people pick out their own veggies.

On Wednesday afternoon a team of 14 of us drove to a building that used to be a church. In the middle of the community I saw very little green, just dirty concrete, broken down buildings and houses. When we got there the volunteer coordinator, Amy, told us “I hope some of you speak Spanish, most of this neighborhood is Hispanic.” Xena would stand side beside me and another staff member, she told me to say dos, meaning they could have two of what I was passing out - turnips, sweet potatoes, bags of spinach. The smiles and the gracious the joy that we could see made my afternoon.

You can imagine it is a herculean task to have a veggie market every day, sorting veggies, packing boxes, cleaning veggie trays, driving the trucks to the markets. But we saw a group of volunteers and staff do it with joy and determination. It was honor to be part of it.

We will be announcing our plans for our 2027 Mission trip in August. We hope you will be a part of the trip.



District IV News



Deacons and Elders Workshop at Jerusalem Christian Church

District IV continues to demonstrate its unwavering commitment to leadership education, strengthening the ministry through intentional training and shared learning. That dedication was on full display Saturday, July 18, 2026, when Jerusalem Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Martinsville, Virginia, opened its doors to host a free Deacons and Elders Workshop for the wider community.



Approximately twenty-five participants gathered for this enriching session, led by the Rev. Dr. Jackie McHenry, who serves as pastor of First Christian Church in Reidsville, North Carolina. Dr. McHenry offered thoughtful, practical instruction on the sacred responsibilities of congregational leaders, emphasizing spiritual grounding, compassionate service, and the call to model Christlike character within the life of the church.

Pastor Greg Holt and the Jerusalem Christian Church family extended warm hospitality throughout the day, creating an atmosphere of welcome and fellowship that allowed participants to learn, reflect, and grow together. Their generosity and care made the event not only informative but deeply meaningful.



District IV celebrates Jerusalem Christian Church for hosting this workshop and expresses sincere gratitude for the opportunity to attend. As members of District IV continue to invest in leadership development, events like this affirm the shared commitment to nurturing strong, faithful, and well-equipped congregational leaders who serve with integrity and joy.



225th Anniversary of the Cane Ridge Revival

We are pleased to announce the schedule for the 225th Anniversary of the Cane Ridge Revival. The event, which will be held on Saturday, August 8, 2026, at the historic Cane Ridge Meeting House in Paris, KY, will be a day to celebrate and reflect on the earliest history of the Stone-Campbell Movement. Featuring guest lectures, panel discussions, and worship, spend the day connecting with other Stone-Campbellites as we explore our shared history at one of the birthplaces of the movement. This day-long event is free with registration.

Schedule:

10-11 am – Opening Session

11 am – 12 pm – Scholarly Panel on Barton Stone's Theology; featuring scholars from all three streams of the Stone-Campbell Movement

12-1 pm – Onsite lunch opportunity for those who have RSVP'd

1-2:30 pm – Featured Lectures on the Cane Ridge Revival

Dr. Amanda Porterfield, The Robert A. Spivey Professor Emeritus of Religion, Florida State University

Dr. James L. Gorman, Professor of the History of Christianity, Graduate School of Theology, Abilene Christian University

2:30-2:45 pm – Break

2:45-3:30 pm – Closing Worship – with preaching by Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

To plan appropriately for food and programming, please REGISTER for this FREE event. Please register each member of your group who plans to attend individually.

<https://discipleshistory.org/225th-cane-ridge-revival-anniversary-event/>

