

The Virginia Christian

March 2022



**Sunday April 10
and 17, 2022**

A special day offering of
Disciples Mission Fund

 supporting general ministries of the
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

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Regional Assembly Invites Churches to Share a Ministry

at the Regional Assembly on June 4th, University of Lynchburg

As we gather together as a whole region, it is our hope that you will share ONE ministry/idea with others through the Mission/Exhibit hall. We will provide a table for you to set up a display so you can share one ministry idea with the whole church. Send an email to MatthewsMandMs@aol.com to reserve a table/booth. The workshops are growing with the hope that there will be so much to do and share together.

Some sample workshops are: New Church Ministry, Mental Health Ministry in the Church, Clergy Self Care, Women's Ministry Gathering, Camp Ministry, University of Lynchburg (Parents and Youth), How to Start a Youth Group, Worship and Church after the Pandemic, The Story of UNITY Christian Church, Immigration and Refugee Ministry....and there will be more.

Bill Spangler-Dunning
Regional Minister
bsdinvirginia@gmail.com



*We are the
Church Together*

ONE DAY FORMAT

Regional Assembly
SAVE THE DATE:
Pre-Event **June 3rd, 2022**
June 4th, 2022 - 10-4pm
University
of Lynchburg



Kentucky Tornado Relief

So you would like to help with the tornado relief in Kentucky? Please check out this message from Rev. Kara K. Foster from First Christian Church (DOC) in Madisonville, KY.

First Christian Church in Madisonville is partnering with Fuller Center and has started hosting volunteers beginning last month (February). If you follow this link: <https://fullercenter.org/disaster-rebuilders/> it will take you to the information about volunteering through them and staying at First Christian Church, Madisonville. The maximum group is 20 and you must be age 16 and up. First Christian Church, Princeton is also working on preparing to receive volunteers but they are not up and going yet.

Rev. Kara K. Foster
First Christian Church (DOC)
1030 College Drive
Madisonville, KY 42431
270-821-5335
<http://www.madisonvilledisciples.org>

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Grand Camp (Grand Parents/Grandchildren age 4-2nd grade)

It is an honor to offer this new camp to our offerings this summer. Grand camp is something I learned to love and see the powerful moments that can happen between grandparents and grandchildren when my own son took my parents to camp for their first time. It was fun for both Tristan and my parents and helped to form a lifelong bond between another camper and Tristan and a connection between both sets of grandparents who stayed with them. Congregations evolved the concept by encouraging members to adopt young children in the congregation for the weekend when their own grandparents could not make it or were no longer on earth. I hope you will promote this new camp experience as I, along with Rev. Trudy Betts, will be directing this first debut of Grand Camp in Virginia. Here is the first promo for the camp, but more will follow:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=X34hqU4XcU4>

Bill Spangler-Dunning
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Craig Springs Update and News:

Two Vision meetings have been held with an architect with more input sessions to be scheduled. The architect will visit Craig Springs in coming months to better help us know what and where we are headed. The plan is to develop an intentional plan as to where we believe God would want us to go. This plan will be laid out in a 5 phase process to allow us to not only know where we are headed but also in "phases" to prevent us from getting overwhelmed.

In the meantime, in order to make our facilities more useful for our camp ministry and to provide an inviting year-round facility for guest retreats, we have begun some renovations to OAK. These renovations include new heaters, upgrading the electric and other needed renovations to the building. We are blessed to have a 25 member, highly skilled mission team from Iowa spending the first week of April to begin the process but hope that this years work weekend might attract a larger group from Virginia churches to allow us to continue to bring Oak online. Let me be clear, our main ministry for Craig Springs is our camp ministry but we know if we can provide an inviting space for other groups to experience Craig Springs then this will help us control if not lower our camping price. It also will help bring in income to maintain and continue to improve this Holy Ground. **Work weekend is set for May 27-30th.** Please consider bringing a group from your church.

Bill Spangler-Dunning
Regional Minister
bsdinvirginia@gmail.com

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Nature Camp Teen Counselors for Craig Springs:

Hello to all teens who will have just completed 9th grade to just graduated in June of this year! Nature Camp, a camp that is run by teenagers in VA, and directed this year by Kendall Dalton, is so awesome it's truly difficult to put into adequate words to describe how amazing it is! We are calling out for teens to be counselors this summer! Nature Camp counselors are paired up with an underprivileged child, who we call campers, for a week of overnight summer camp fun! We are calling out for teen counselors because, due to the short window of time that teens get to counsel at Nature Camp, and because we couldn't hold Nature Camp the past 2 years, the only counselors this summer who will have ever been to Nature Camp before will be those who will graduate this summer, and we need to have plenty of counselors so we won't have to turn any of the underprivileged campers away. These campers would likely not have this special opportunity to go away to camp without ministries like Nature Camp! This camp teaches self-worth, encourages good self-esteem, teaches all about God's love, and there is SO much fun to be had! Teen Counselors get breaks, so it's not all work, there's plenty of play time, and there are really fun events like a talent show, a dance, swimming, games, worship, hiking, and so much more! The counselors & campers create a bond like no other, and I will sign off on 75 community service hours for those who need it for special diplomas or things of that sort. Also, Nature Camp looks fabulous on your college application and for jobs! If you have questions, please feel free to text me (best), call or email. Nature Camp is a true ministry that Craig Spring has ben committed to since the 1970's, and we are called to keep it alive and strong! We are also more than happy to take donations, as campers don't pay to come to Nature Camp, and we have to try to raise money to pay for their stay and change their lives. So if you are looking for a place to donate, make it clear the donation is to "Nature Camp and you will be helping to make this world a better place! Teens may not understand about camp unless they experience it, but EVERYONE wants to come back to Nature Camp year after year, so come and be a part of it!

Amy Jones Williams, Adult Advisor
Amy Cell: 804-357-0996 / Amy email: amy.jones@vibonline.org

Virginia Disciples Women News Update

The Virginia Disciples Women cabinet met February 12, 2022 at the Regional Office and via zoom. It was our first cabinet meeting in 2022 and was well attended.

Rev. Coretha Loughridge, Interim Pastor of Fairview Christian Church and past Interim Regional Minister for Virginia, was in attendance at this meeting. She was invited to attend this meeting to do the installation of our new incoming officers for the Virginia Disciples Women's Cabinet. The incoming officers for the Virginia Disciples Cabinet for 2022-23 are: President: Margretha Kellam, Vice-President: Belinda Lineberry, Secretary: Penny Gradwell, and Treasurer: Kay Ainsworth.

The Virginia Disciples Women's cabinet surprised Rev. Coretha Loughridge, with a special recognition of her service as Interim Regional Minister for Virginia. She was presented with a basket of unique items especially selected for her. Joy Flowers selected the basket for her.

During our cabinet meeting, business discussions included our quarterly pre-retreat sessions, (dates and speakers), our Spring Projects 2022-23, (SERF) South Eastern Regional Fellowship 2022, W2WW 2022, our Just Women study, Regional Assembly, and our planned Virginia Disciples Women's Fall Retreat.

Our 2021 Virginia Disciples Women's Fall Retreat was postponed due to COVID. In an effort to keep women encouraged and engaged after the postponement of the Fall Retreat, the cabinet decided to offer virtual quarterly pre-retreat sessions leading up to 2022 Fall Retreat. The first pre-retreat quarterly session was held October 16, 2021. The speaker was Rev. Hollie Woodruff, Senior Pastor of 7th Street CC, Richmond, Virginia. Her topic was "Strength Through Unsettling Times." Our second, pre-retreat session was January 29, 2022. Our speaker was Rev. Donna Webster, Transitional Pastor Central Presbyterian Church, Princeton, Kentucky. Her topic was "Love One Another: Lay Caregiving." Both sessions were well attended (around sixty to seventy participants) via zoom. Future sessions are planned for April and July. Everyone is encouraged to share the zoom link and invite others to attend.

Submitted by,
Margretha Kellam, President
Virginia Disciples Women Ministry



Southeastern

**Regional
Fellowship
SERF**

**SERF is an inter-regional
gathering of Disciples
Women from eight
southeastern states.**



Join Your Sisters From:

- Alabama/Northwest Florida
- Florida
- Georgia
- Kentucky
- North Carolina
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Virginia



**virtual
Retreat**



You Are Invited –

What: SERF Event

**Speaker: Rev. Angéle
Saunders Johnson, IDWM
Executive Director**

Where: Zoom

When: March 11, 2022

Time: 7:30 pm – 9 pm EST

Registration: \$10

<http://www.alnwfdisciples.org/dw-virtual-serf-event>

CRAIG SPRINGS

2022 Summer Calendar

Regional Assembly June 4

Nature Camp June 20-24

Grand Camp June 24 - 26

CAMPDD Camp June 27 - July 2

Special Camp July 3 - 8

Triple I July 10 - 15

New Covenant July 17 - 22

Triple II July 24 - 29

Family Retreat July 29 - 31