

# *The Virginia Christian*



**August, 2026**

[www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian](http://www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian)

## **Rev. Dr. Erin Reibel Ordained**

This past Sunday I had the joy of attending Seventh Street Christian Church, Richmond, VA as Rev. Dr. Erin Reibel was ordained. She has been doing ministry for years, but it was our joy to affirm and confirm it in this service.



## **New Administrative Secretary Position**

The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Virginia is seeking a faithful, organized, and hospitable Administrative Secretary to support the shared ministry of the Region. This role offers an opportunity to serve congregations, clergy, ministry leaders, and regional programs through dependable administrative support, gracious communication, and careful stewardship of information and resources.

The Administrative Secretary serves as a welcoming and dependable presence in the regional office and helps sustain the ministries of the church across Virginia. This position supports communication, recordkeeping, financial processes, event coordination, and office operations, helping the Region remain organized, responsive, and connected. The person in this role will work closely with staff, ministers, congregations, committees, and ministry partners in support of the mission and witness of the church. If you are interested, please send a cover letter and resume to [bsdinvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:bsdinvirginia@gmail.com)

To see a message from the Regional Minister about this position, go here:  
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vEiOV6wqT-iS5ozTT7qECLincciKN8qb/view>



For more information go to the Regional Website at: <https://www.ccinva.org/administrative-assistant-position>.



## **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



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## **Savoring Awe Sunday Mornings & Midweek Clergy Version:**

Would you be willing to try a new way of doing faith development/Sunday School together. In brief, I am asking for congregations willing to try something different than the standard book resource used by many churches and try an interactive learning environment via Zoom.

**Sunday Morning Version:** Your group will gather normally in your lounge/classroom for fellowship and connection, but on screen will be 6-12 other church groups to interact with AND a LIVE teacher from somewhere in the whole church. This first experiment will be free for the first 12 churches willing to give it a try. The focus of the 8-week course will be on "Savoring Awe" and how this spiritual practice could help transform individuals and potentially help heal the world. The Sunday morning version begins at 9:30 am on September 27th for people to gather (9:45-10:45 actual class time)

The Clergy Day Version will begin Tuesday August 25th at 1pm!

Zoom link for both is the Virgina Meeting Room: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/485473273?pwd=MkxtZlZlZsR2wrYWNFMDlVXK0h3ay9ZlZ09>

Check out this video to learn more:

<https://youtu.be/3O5rzmHMktY>

## **Help Us Stay in Touch with Disciples Young Adults as they head off to College.**

Unity Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Radford, Virginia, welcomes students as the fall term gets underway! UCC is located adjacent to the campus of Radford University, 15 miles from Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, and 8 miles from New River Community College in Dublin. Students will find a home-away-from-home at UCC with plenty of opportunities for fellowship, worship and participation in outreach/mission projects including Community Table, a weekly meal ministry for neighbors in need. Check UCC out on Facebook ([facebook.com/UCCRadford](https://facebook.com/UCCRadford)) or our website [www.unitychristianchurchradford.org](http://www.unitychristianchurchradford.org). Looking forward to seeing you!



## **Students Attending the University of Lynchburg**

Another request to connect your young adults and/or college students: A representative from our HELM (Higher Education and Leadership Ministries) will be coming to the University of Lynchburg in November. HELM is a critical ministry opportunity for our young adults as it gives them access to scholarships and other faith-life enhancing programs. Specifically, this conversation will focus on the undergraduate HELM Symposium and is available for both Disciples and UCC students. The rules have changed with college students that prevent enrollment data to include faith background or identification which means there is no way for the school to give us a list of students. WE NEED CHURCH TO HELP US MAKE SURE OUR YOUNG ADULTS DO NOT GET FORGOTTEN. Please send a note to me at [bsdinvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:bsdinvirginia@gmail.com) with the name and contact of students attending the University of Lynchburg. We are stronger together!



## **Men's Retreat Revival?**

As I have traveled around the region, I keep hearing from men that they would like to gather again for an Adult Church Camp like experience.... (A Disciples Men's Retreat). Send me a note if you or men in your congregation would be interested and if I can find 2 or 3 leaders to help me organize it, I would love to add this to our gathering ministries in Virginia.

BSD  
[bsdinvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:bsdinvirginia@gmail.com)



## **Energy for Innovation Episode: Christmas in July (ideas for upcoming Advent/ Christmas)**

If you are looking for ideas for Christmas (I know its only August), but sometimes good things take a while to prepare), listen to the latest episode of Energy for Innovation (Great things happening across the Disciples Movement).  
<https://youtu.be/YJVfH5NbLsw?si=ItHv22X9cWEnAkrY>

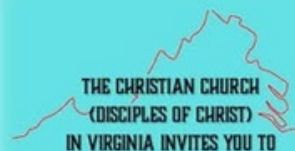
## Registration Here:

<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



### ANTI-RACISM PRO-RECONCILIATION WORKSHOP OPPORTUNITY

**SEPTEMBER 19, 2026**

**9:00 AM - 3:00 PM**

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH (DISCIPLES OF CHRIST)  
SNIDOW FELLOWSHIP HALL  
3109 RIVERMONT AVE., LYNCHBURG, VA

Hosted by First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and led by the Virginia Anti-Racism/Pro-Reconciliation Team, this workshop is required every 5 years for clergy to maintain standing in our denomination, but it is not just for pastors!

This workshop opportunity is for church leaders and members who hope to:

- Deepen their understanding of racism
- Examine the impact of racism on our communities
- Explore faithful ways to become agents of reconciliation



*This workshop is FREE and lunch will be provided!  
Please register by 9.16.26 via link, QR or e-mail to [fcclynchburg@gmail.com](mailto:fcclynchburg@gmail.com).*

"One of the clearest convictions of our faith is that God is always at work breaking down the walls that divide us and creating one human family.

That work doesn't happen by accident.

It requires humility, listening, learning, and a willingness to be transformed."

Rev. Dr. Jarrett G. Banks



## **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



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### **Open Ministry Positions**

If you are interested, contact Bill Spangler-Dunning at [bsdinvirginia@gmail.com](mailto:bsdinvirginia@gmail.com)

**Chalice Christian Church.** 5612 Haden Road, Virginia Beach, VA 23455 is seeking a full-time minister that will transition from Associate to Senior Pastor.

**Doe Run Christian Church.** 3536 Doe Run Road, Rocky Mount, VA is seeking a full-time minister (parsonage included).

**Fayette Street Christian Church.** 420 Fayette St., Martinsville, VA is seeking a pulpit supply to part-time minister.

**First Christian Church, Richlands.** 1502 Second Street, Richlands, VA is seeking a full-time (with parsonage).

**Loudon Avenue Christian Church.** 730 Loudon Ave., NW, Roanoke, VA is seeking a full-time pastor.

**Midway Church of Christ,** North Tazewell, VA is seeking Sunday Pulpit supply.

**Philippi Christian Church.** 17276 General Puller Hwy., Deltaville, VA is seeking a ¾ to full-time pastor.

**Poole Christian Church.** 7521 Trinity Church Road, Church Road, VA is seeking a part-time minister.

**Sherry Memorial Christian Church.** 729 Mountain Lake Rd., Newport, VA is seeking a part-time minister.

**Slash Christian Church.** 11353 Mt. Hermon Rd., Ashland, VA is looking for a part-time youth minister. Contact Michael Weeks at [pastormichael@slashcc.org](mailto:pastormichael@slashcc.org) for more information.

**Unity Christian Church.** 400 Tyler Street, Radford, VA is seeking a full-time minister.

**West Side Christian Church.** 535 Cherokee Road, Portsmouth, VA is seeking a part-time minister.



# Craig Springs Camp

## Fall Work Weekend

October 9-11, 2026

Join us for work and fellowship as we work together to finish up some 2026 projects and get the camp ready for the winter. There is something for everyone as we paint, organize, and make other preparations. There are also tasks that require skilled labor or assistants, so whatever your skill-set we have tasks for you!

For More information and  
a link to the registration page visit:

<https://www.craigsprings.org/get-involved/work-week>



Or to go directly to the Registration Page:  
<https://christianchurchinvirginia.regfox.com/2026-fall-workweekend>

If you or your church would like to come some other weekend, please contact Ron Schwarz at  
[admin@craigsprings.org](mailto:admin@craigsprings.org)!



## Virginia ARPR Ministry Recognized as Liberation Award Finalist

**By: Marilyn Whittaker**

### GREETINGS, DISCIPLES!

The National Convocation recently issued a call for nominations for the **Liberation Award**, presented during the 29th Biennial Session (DOC). This distinguished honor celebrates individuals and ministries whose courageous, intentional, and persistent leadership opens doors of opportunity, empowerment, and justice for communities experiencing oppression. The award reflects our denomination's deep commitment to justice, liberation, and faithful Christian witness.

Nominees for the Liberation Award embody a prophetic and discerning presence—engaging in transformative action that shifts perspectives, uplifts communities, and helps free others from ongoing struggle. Congregations across the church were encouraged to prayerfully nominate individuals or ministries whose service deserves recognition on a national stage.

We are proud to share that the **Virginia Anti-Racism / Pro-Reconciliation Ministry (ARPR)** was among this year's nominees. Our team is excited to celebrate this meaningful moment with the entire Virginia Region.

Although we did not receive first place, the National Convocation honored us as a **finalist and runner-up**. Reverend Derrick L. Perkins and the Liberation Award Committee shared the following message with our team:

"Congratulations to the Virginia Anti-Racism / Pro-Reconciliation Ministry on being named a finalist and runner-up for the Liberation Award for Organizations/Ministries. This distinction reflects the profound impact of your leadership, service, and unwavering commitment to justice, equity, and human dignity... Your ministry, advocacy, and service are helping build a more just, inclusive, and hopeful world, and the values this award represents are clearly reflected in your life and work."

We give thanks to God, to the Liberation Award Committee, and to Reverend Dr. Delesslyn A. Kennebrew of the National Convocation for this opportunity and for recognizing the work of our ministry.

The **Virginia ARPR Ministry** encourages all members of the region to participate in an ARPR workshop if you have not yet done so. Workshop dates and times are available on the Virginia Regional website. Congregations interested in hosting a workshop may contact the regional office with their information, and our team will gladly follow up.