

The Virginia Christian

November 2022 Updates



[Christmas Offering Materials and Video](#)

Our Christmas Special Offering materials are available on our [CCINVA.org](https://www.ccinva.org) website and here is the 2022 version of my annual thank you and Christmas offering video. There really has been a lot of Joy and Good News this year!

<https://youtu.be/XleeDN1JEX8>

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Clergy Standing Form:

We have released the Clergy Standing Form early this year. However, remember that it is not due until January 31, 2023. The form has been shortened this year and as Bill tries not to ask ministers to do extra things during Advent, please remember it is not due until the end of January. So, please fill it out before Advent or after the first of the year. Current requirements are boundary training every 5 years. Requirements starting next year when filling out the 2024 form will be anti-racism training every 5 years along with the boundary training every 5 years. Go here to fill out the form: <https://www.ccinva.org/standing>

If you have any questions, please contact the Regional office at 434-846-3400.

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Church of the Covenant Partnering with University of Lynchburg



Church of the Covenant has entered a unique partnership with the University of Lynchburg to hold its Sunday morning services there during the school year, giving the campus community a unique opportunity to worship alongside an inclusive and diverse DoC congregation. Church of the Covenant has consisted of current and former students of the university, as well as professors, since its start in 1954. However, this is the first time a church has been invited to have a consistent presence on campus. This is a unique opportunity to support not only current and future Disciples of Christ students, but to also provide a spiritual safe space for all who are seeking to connect with God and community in an inclusive church context. Their inaugural worship service on campus will be Sunday, December 4th.



Rev. Elaine Austin Retirement

Rev. Elaine Austin has retired from Boones Mill Christian Church. Rev. Austin has served in many ways across this region, including as pastor at Bethany Christian Church in Roanoke as well as her current congregation at Boones Mill Christian Church. Rev. Austin has also been a long supporter of the camping program at Craig Springs, having directed, counseled and served as overall Chair of the camping ministry. Rev. Austin has also been a strong advocate and trainer for Worship and Wonder ministry across the whole church. As she completes her ministry at Boones Mill, I ask that you find a moment to wish her well in whatever will come next and thank her for sharing her gifts and talents these many years so far. AustinRVA@cox.net

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Camp and Conference Visioning Request

A team of camp and conference leaders from across the region have begun meeting to imagine a new expansive way of leading this ministry. We are still working on things but, in short, we will be expanding beyond any one location or age group. We will be more flexible to adapt and grow. What we need from you and the churches/ministry groups is **"What do our churches need that can best be experienced in a camp or conference way?"** We are dreaming wide and hope you will help us be more.

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Apply Now to be a DPF Peace Intern!

Disciples Peace Fellowship is now accepting applications for the Summer 2023 Peace Intern Program. This paid, 12-week internship is a life changing experience for young adults (age 21 and older) where you get to live out your faith while serving as an ambassador for peace and justice. Visit disciplespeace.org/apply to learn more and start your application. Or email DPF Mission Director Brian Frederick-Gray at missiondirector@disciplespeace.org with any questions you might have.



Virginia Disciples Women's Retreat 2022

The Virginia Disciples Women's Retreat was held October 14-16, 2022, at Hilton Garden Inn in Lynchburg, VA. It was an awesome retreat! There were 53 Disciples Women in attendance. Due to the pandemic, the last retreat was held in 2019.

Rev. Stephanie Kendell, the keynote speaker from Park Avenue Christian Church, New York, delivered four messages over the weekend developing the theme. The theme was "Called for Such a Time as This" from Esther 4:14. Rev. Kendall presented the theme with four different aspects of time which helped the group realize the many ways that we are called for this time in our lives. Her messages were enlightening and spiritually uplifting for such a time as this!

Prior to each of Rev. Kendell's messages, worship leaders directed the services. The worship leaders were: Sister Tiffanie Hariston from Mount Olive Christian Church for Friday evening; Rev. Kelsey Creech from Olive Branch Christian Church for Saturday morning; Rev. Sheila Thomas from Mount Zion Christian Church, Floyd for Saturday evening; and Olive Branch Christian assumed full responsibility for Sunday morning worship, including Communion service. The musician for the weekend was Sister Dianne Price, Mount Zion Christian Church, Floyd.

The retreat offered a variety of other events as well. Four workshops were offered: one focused on community outreach led by Sis. Lynn Maddox, Timberlake Christian Church; another based on victorious recovery through COVID-19 led by Minister Deborah Clark, First Christian Church, Stuart; another on lay ministry led by Rev. Catina Martin, Chaplain, U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs, and procedures for welcoming immigrants led by Sis. Resa Payne, Timberlake Christian Church. A social justice panel was moderated by the Regional Minister, Rev. Bill Spangler-Dunning, with panelist Min. Deborah Clark, Chap. Rev. Catina Martin, and Rev. Kelsey Creech. During the Saturday luncheon, Rev. Spangler-Dunning shared his goals for the region and Sis. Doris Daugherty, the longest serving member, was honored for her dedication and faithfulness.

On Saturday evening Sister Loretta Jones-Gafford, Fayette Street Christian Church, hosted a Talent Show. The talents varies across the arts and the Virginia region, consisting of five acts. There were two monologues, one scriptural (by Rev. Sheila Thomas) and the other a satir (by Way Perseverance CC); a liturgical dance (by Sis. Tiffanie Hairston); and a creative skit (by the Women's Ministry of Olive Branch CC.)

My earnest thanks are extended to all who attended and contributed to the outstanding success of this retreat. Special thanks are extended to Sis. Loretta Jones-Gafford (Fayette Street CC) and Sis. Risa Payne (Timberlake CC) for their invaluable assistance in joining with me to plan, organize and work through this 2022 Fall Retreat.

Magretha Kellam, President, Virginia Disciples Women's Cabinet
Mt. Olive East Christian Church



Request for youth and youth leaders:

One of the goals for this year is to rebuild the Regional Youth Council and so we want to connect all youth leaders and encourage each church to send one youth to be on the youth council. The pandemic got in the way of reviving this 3 years ago but now we hope to bring it back. See the flyer attached as we have a chance to join with other youth councils around the whole church to both mentor leadership/faith as well as provide an opportunity for youth who might go to college to be eligible for scholarships to our many Disciples schools. Chapman University in Orange, CA is hosting the training events and the University of Lynchburg will be our partner here in Virginia. We will create our Pod and meet in person as well as via zoom starting in February. Send in the name of your youth (*youth need to be in at least 9th grade and able to serve for 2 years*) and youth leaders (and their contact info to me as we rebuild our Regional Youth Council. bsdinvirginia@gmail.com



Chapman University
Invites you to

Youth Lead
January - June 2023

6 Month Leadership Seminar

2 Gatherings In person or On Zoom

Countless Projects Planned by Youth For Local Church

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ congregations may register one youth, and one adult, free of charge.

Participants will design and lead a project of their own choosing in their local Church.

Those who complete the program will qualify for leadership scholarships, including 50% tuition at Chapman University.

District 10 News

- New Sunday Evening Service at Holly Grove Christian Church - A new worship option starting November 13th at 6:00 pm. This service is a casual and open service for those busy families, night owls, and anyone who may struggle to make it to the morning worship service for whatever reason. Plus, every 4th Sunday is a worship and fellowship meal service, where we gather as a family and break bread just as those first Christians did. This service will be led by Associate Pastor Andy Rose and promises to be a wonderful and inspirational start to your week.
- Rochelle Christian Church is a small country church in Madison County. They are currently without a pastor but are enjoying guest speakers every Sunday. RCC will be collecting food for their local food pantry at Madison Emergency Services Association throughout November and December. They will continue the tradition of providing gifts for residents at a local nursing home. Their Christmas Service of Song followed by lunch will be on December 18th at 11:00 am. Everyone is invited!
- Louisa Christian Church welcomed 8 new members on September 25. They were each invited to give a testimony about their journey with Christ and were welcomed with a potluck dinner. On October 30, Louisa Christian Church had a special Sunday service to celebrate children who also sang songs for the congregation. Everyone had a wonderful and uplifting morning celebrating all of God's children.
- Coffee House @ Elpis - The 4th Friday night of every month, Elpis holds its "Coffee House". The event usually features live music, games, and of course food and coffee! All are welcome to come and bring a favorite game, an instrument to play, or just a smile and some conversation.
- Family Game Night @ Holly Grove - The 2nd Friday night of every month (Except December) is Family Game Night at HGCC. It's an opportunity for folks of all ages, congregants, and non-congregants alike, to spend some time together playing card games, board games, and enjoying each other's company.

Upcoming District 10 News

- 12/2 - Youth Lock-in @ Holly Grove: Open to all youth ages 6-17, spend a night at HGCC enjoying Pizza, Popcorn, Movies and games! Be sure to bring a sleeping bag, blankets and pillows (cushion pad recommended). Doors open at 6:00 pm, Lock at 8:00 pm and will open again Saturday morning at 9:00 am. Breakfast will be provided.
- 12/11 - It's a Nativity, Soup, and Santa Christmas Caroling Celebration! @ Holly Grove: 4pm - 7pm - Come enjoy a live musical nativity starting at 4pm, followed by soup with Santa Claus and a little caroling to boot!
- 12/18 - Campfire Carols @ Yanceyville: 4:30 pm - Come spend an evening singing your favorite carols of the season around a crackling fire while enjoying seasonal treats and beverages.
- 12/20 - Springers Gathering @ Springfield - 10:30 am - Special music and our traditional gift exchange! Bring a gift of approximately \$5.00 to share. Also bring either a covered dish, salad, or dessert and especially bring a friend!