

The Virginia Christian

November 2023



Regional Calendar Link

If you need to schedule a meeting with your Regional Minister, please take a look at his calendar and the regional calendar before calling to schedule an appointment.

<https://www.ccinva.org/calendar>



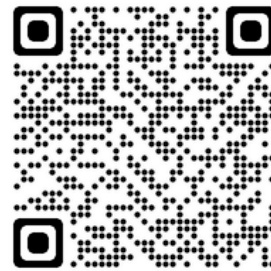
Rev. Emily Sheppard Celebrates her first year of Ordained Ministry.

On Sunday, October 29 members of the First Christian Church in Salem, VA celebrated the first year of ministry for Rev. Emily P. Sheppard. Emily has been a wonderful addition to the church staff working with children, youth and also young adults. In addition, Emily is also a talented preacher who has challenged the congregation with new insights from her experiences as a recent Duke Divinity graduate; her perspectives as a young adult; and her insights as a woman in ministry. As a Priscilla of the congregation, Emily has brought to the church her stories of growing up as a youth in the church and also her insights into how churches can continue to nurture the call to ministry in young people. In the picture below, Emily holds up her new Associate Minister plaque which will be added to the church sign.



West Side Christian Church DMF

On Saturday, November 4th, the West Side Christian Church DMF as well as other church members gathered for a breakfast meeting. The program was presented by Ashanti Kincannon from the Portsmouth Public Health Department. The topic was “Revive Training for the Lay Rescuer” and it included the use of Narcan to save the life of someone with an opioid overdose. The question and answer discussion that followed left all in attendance with an awareness of the importance of this issue. Each person attending was given a kit to carry that included Narcan.



As the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Week of Compassion works with partners to alleviate suffering throughout the world. <https://www.weekofcompassion.org/>

Virginia Camping Ministry 2024 Camp Dates.....

.....can be found at <https://www.ccinva.org/virginiacampingministry>. We are still adding a few dates and some opportunities to attend other events sponsored by other partner regions. Registration will open soon. Note that camp prices did increase this year and we are asking all individuals who are seeking a scholarship to first connect with a local Disciples congregation to allow you to have contact and possible future faith mentoring. We will have camp scholarships from the region, but want individuals to make a connection with our local congregations first with the hope of building relationships with an ongoing faith community.



Bedford Christian Church - Garden Ministry and Operation Christmas Child

At BCC, our kids and adult sponsors, including the church's Director of Children, Youth and Family Ministries, Susan Epperly, work the garden in the spring and summer as part of the children's worship experience. They learn appropriate lessons then head to the garden. What they harvest is shared with the church family, the families who participate in our Headstart Preschool....then the rest is sold in Bedford's Farmers Market. Several hundreds of pounds of food are distributed and/or sold each year. This year, the farmer's market money was \$175.00 which we donated to the Shepherd's Table. Here is the presentation of the check to Peter Hull, one of our church members who volunteers regularly to cook and serve at The Shepherd's Table.



Also, for the last three years Bedford Christian Church has participated in Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of The Samaritan's Purse. This shoebox ministry provides Christmas gifts to underprivileged children throughout the world. In each of the last two years, BCC members filled seventy to seventy-five boxes. This year the Outreach Committee's goal was eighty boxes. However, by the time all were tallied, BCC members donated enough items to fill 114 boxes. Praise the Lord! A very special thanks is extended to Outreach Chair, Eleanor Coppedge and her team for organizing and packing the boxes.



Virginia Youth Retreat - SAVE THE DATE

Registration information to follow at a later date....for further information contact JB Beane at blacksburchristianyouth@gmail.com

Virginia Youth Retreat
Hosted by the Virginia Youth Council

When: February 17-18
Where: Eagle Eyrie Baptist Conference Center
Who: 9th-12th grades
What: An overnight youth event. Come chill and have some fun with our theme "Blessed not Stressed"

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.
John 14:27

 [@virginiayouthcouncil](https://www.instagram.com/virginiayouthcouncil)

Churches in Search and Call:

If you or others have interest in any of these churches, please contact me and I will pass your name and information along to the church.

BSD

bsdinvirginia@gmail.com

Direct Cell: 515-577-9050

Part time/Bi-Vocational

Antioch Christian Church, Spencer, VA
Ledbetter Christian Church, Keysville, VA
Saumsville Christian Church, Saumsville, VA

Full Time:

Rocky Mount Christian Church, Rocky Mount, VA
Ashland Christian Church, Ashland, VA
Luray Christian Church, Luray, VA
West Point Christian Church, West Point, VA

Coming Open:

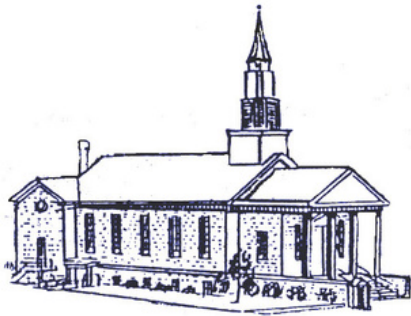
Westhampton Christian Church, Roanoke, VA
Blacksburg Christian Church, Blacksburg, VA

**Anti Racism/Pro Reconciliation Ministry
GRANT PROGRAM**

The ARPR Committee sponsors a grant program established to enable congregations to explore new areas of ministry and mission with the goal of encouraging innovative projects to advance the work of anti-racism & reconciliation in our churches

Grant application and guidelines can be found at ccinva.org/arpr

Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
In Virginia



Hillsville Christian Church

(Disciples of Christ)

120 Edgewood Drive

Hillsville, Virginia 24343

(276) 728-2221

hillsvillechristian.org

November 19, 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

Hillsville Christian Church would like to joyously invite you to our annual "Hanging of the Green" program so we can focus in the weeks ahead on the coming birth of our King!

Please come celebrate with us on Sunday, December 3rd. Our service will begin at 5:30 p.m. and will last about 45 minutes. Be immersed in the reading of holy scripture, festive music from the choir, and beautifying of the sanctuary. We look forward to sharing with friends in communal worship. And all will leave with a renewed spirit.

We look forward to seeing you the First Sunday of Advent!

Yours in Christ,

Monika Hunter

Rev. Monika Hunter

Please join us for refreshments following!



Disciples Women's Retreat 2023

The 2023 Disciple Women's Ministry retreat for the Region of Virginia was held October 6th-8th at Hilton Garden Inn, Lynchburg, Virginia. Forty-three women, one man, the musician, registered in advance for the retreat entitled "This is the First Day of the Rest of Your Life." Guest speaker was Reverend Kelsey Creech, pastor of Virginia Beach Christian Church. Together we read and discussed the book of Ruth during three sessions. Kelsey clarified cultural customs, explained terminology and interpretations of biblical times. Next, Kelsey shared thought-provoking questions that we discussed in small groups of four or five. Then a reporter shared with the large group a summary of discussions. Each session opened with gathering music, the announcements and introduction of the speaker. Friday night closed with an evening of fun where we played games, biblical of course, and had snacks while some just shared in fellowship.

Saturday afternoon four workshops were offered.

A) Diversity, the Wall of Love led by Rev. Catina Martin.

B) Disciple Women who we are, and what holds us together was presented by Rev. Donna Webster.

C) Mindful Movement was led by Sister Tiffanie Hairston.

D) Easy Fall Craft was led by Sisters Jane Hatcher and Judy Eley.

A Talents for Mission Market was also opened during the retreat which included bookmarks, knitted hats, slippers, blankets, small quilts, wreathes, Christmas ornaments and decorations, Hot pepper jelly, note cards, fall decorations and more. A silent auction of Santa's (some which were hand-made) was also available. Each Santa was auctioned separately. This group of twelve to eighteen inch tall, tabletop Santa's were donated to the Disciple Women Ministry. A variety of Five Gift Baskets were donated and raffled off for Missions. They were beautiful and abundantly filled with different items to include first aid items, scrapbooking supplies, crafts, and a home spa day.

Meals at the retreat were self-served, appropriate, delicious, and enjoyed by all!! Saturday night ended with fellowship, dessert/snacks, and entertainment by Olive Branch Disciple Women.

Sunday morning our retreat came to an end with a beautiful worship service, a memorial tribute to Rev. Marilyn Taylor, music, and communion.

Much appreciation and grateful thanks to Olive Branch Christian Church, Disciple Women's Ministry for organizing and planning the 2023 retreat. A special thanks to Rev. Kelsey Creech from Virginia Beach Christian Church, our keynote speaker, our presenters, and all attendees at our 2023 retreat.

Submitted By,
Flo Parcell



National Benevolent Association

of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

National Benevolent Association of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
733 Union Blvd Ste 300, St. Louis, MO 63108
ph 314.993.9000 • www.NBAcares.org



A general ministry of the Disciples church, the nonprofit **National Benevolent Association (NBA)** collaborates with leaders and with **health and social service organizations** to strengthen and transform communities through **compassion, healing, and justice.**



The NBA provides education, companionship, inspiration, and resources for **organizational and leadership development** for health and social service ministries. All of our work with partners is grounded in our historic mission of **justice and advocacy.**



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

NBA offers peer learning groups, continuing education, mental health and wellness tools, and other resources to strengthen Disciples leaders such as clergy, chaplains, social entrepreneurs, community organizers, nonprofit administrators, and young adults committed to justice work.



ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

NBA accompanies entrepreneurs in the growth, impact, and sustainability of innovative faith-rooted social enterprises. To established ministries we offer supports such as coaching, executive search consulting, accounting, and networking opportunities.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our vision is to inspire and invite people of faith into activism and advocacy for communities that are often overlooked and underserved. Every service, program, and resource offered by NBA is rooted in compassion, healing, and justice for all of humanity.



National Benevolent Association
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

PROGRAM AREAS

SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURSHIP

NBA encourages the development of new and innovative faith-rooted social enterprises that embody care and compassion. The organizations we work with seek to change the narrative by inviting communities into new possibilities; by creating innovative health social service-related enterprises.

YOUNG ADULT DEVELOPMENT

NBA is dedicated to the spiritual deepening, vocational discernment, leadership development, and advancement of justice and community engagement skills with young adults. Currently, NBA is developing a variety of new programs for young adults to learn and grow together in community.

MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS

NBA fosters an integrated vision of wellness that prioritizes a holistic approach centered in justice, equity, theology, spirituality, and clinical awareness. Partner with us in areas such as leadership wellness and corporate health, mental health justice and wellness equity, and crisis care and support.



PRISON & JAIL MINISTRY

This collaborative ministry addresses justice issues within prisons, jails, and immigration and detention centers. Our goal is to offer inspiration, advocacy, and education such as informational webinars, educational workshops, worship resources, peer networking, and organizational partnerships.

MISSION & MINISTRY GRANTS

NBA's Mission & Ministry Grants program utilizes purpose-restricted funds to provide grant funding for projects serving older adults (ages 50+) and educating youth and young adults (ages 10-25). Beginning in 2022, there are two opportunities to apply each year, in the Spring and the Fall.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

NBA nurtures engagement strategies to transform the root causes of social injustice. Our commitment is to bring to light how we are complicit in maintaining unhealthy systems of discrimination and oppression. NBA actively supports denominational efforts to be an anti-racist and pro-reconciling church.

PEER LEARNING & WELLNESS

NBA Peer Groups provide an opportunity for support, encouragement, mutual dialogue, spiritual renewal, and peer-to-peer learning. Cohorts are convened around common areas of ministry, such as chaplains, social entrepreneurs, community organizers, nonprofit executives, and young adult leaders.

HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICE MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

NBA connects Disciples health and social service ministries with individuals, communities, churches, and other organizations empowering them to learn, collaborate, and grow stronger together in our shared work of creating compassion, healing, and justice.

Minute Monday's

Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayer, letting God know your concerns.... It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life. [Philippians 4: 6-7](#) [The Message](#)

Dial 1-516-259-9230

We are answering the call to pray.

Will you join us?



7:15 AM
Monday's

**Piedmont District Convention
Minister's Fellowship &
Prayer Team**



Truly
Grateful
for you.

