

Friday Letter April 12, 2024

Good Friday Friends,

I pray you all have had a safe and peaceful week.

Please keep our Susan Moore and her family in your prayers, saying goodbye to her father. Continued prayers for Paula Holliday as she regains her strength and mobility. Prayers and gratitude for Katherine Kinnamon as she transitions into retirement. And prayers for our Mid-America Region and our upcoming Regional Assembly in August. Mark your calendars August 8, 9, and 10 in St Joseph Missouri. Our Disciple Women's Luncheon will be on Saturday August 10th.

Don't forget our Disciples Women's Zoom gathering April 27th at 9:00 a.m. from the comfort of your home, your church, or wherever you are comfortable. Enjoy a cup of your favorite brew as we share with one another, our lives, our churches, and our upcoming events, along with a thought-provoking and encouraging Bible Study from the Just Women. Don't have one yet, don't let that stop you! Read the scripture, read the questions, and join us!

Embracing Life, Through the Looking Glass; seeing the world through the eyes of faith! Our first study comes from Sandyha Jha, the scripture references are from Deuteronomy 6:4 and 5 and Leviticus 19:18. Her questions to ponder:

1. Who is the biblical ancestor who tried to engage people different from them in a loving way? If you could ask them questions, what would they be? What might be their responses to those questions.
2. Who in the community is different from you, who don't know well, who have you had conflict with? Who from the Bible might be able to relate to your situation and what might their advice be?
3. Activist Grace Lee Boggs of Detroit talked about " putting the neighbor back in the hood. " Thinking about that last story, are there any small acts that could help you connect more deeply with your own neighbors so you're all in a relationship with each other?

Don't forget if you have someone in your congregations that could benefit, encourage them to apply:

Christian Ministries Scholarships Available

The Christian Ministries Scholarship Fund provides financial assistance for those preparing for Christian ministries, both in seminary and undergraduate education. This fund is primarily aimed at supporting those persons from the Christian Church of Mid-America (CCMA) Region who are preparing for the Christian ministries. Our Disciples Women invite anyone interested to apply by May 30.

<https://www.mid-americadisciples.org/christian-ministries-scholarship-fund>



From the weekly update:

Eclipse Viewing

Abbey Road Christian Church opened their hearts, their church, their spacious grounds, and their beautiful labyrinth to welcome those who gathered from around the country to witness the solar eclipse on Monday. A brief worship service and reflection, led by Paul Koch and David Woodard, preceded totality.

Thank you ARCC for extending your kindness and generosity!

Bootheel Leadership Workshop April 20th

All Mid-America church leaders are invited to this FREE workshop on Saturday, April 20th at First Christian Church in Sikeston. Workshop choices will include being an elder/deacon, discernment, technology, and engaging scripture. Lunch will also be served. This is a great opportunity for both clergy & laity. <https://www.mid-america-disciples.org/upcoming-events/2024/4/20/bootheel-leadership-workshop>

Bridgeton Grant Awarded

Fifth Street Christian Church has been awarded the first Bridgeton Grant for this year. They are installing two new chair lifts in their facility - just in time for hosting the annual African American Convocation this Saturday! Additional funds are available, so congregations are invited to review the criteria and submit an application> <https://form.jotform.com/220175124988056>

Congratulations also to Fifth Street's Elder Alvin Cobbins, who was just elected to the Columbia school board!

Around the Region

Four times per year, the Fredericktown CC CWF collects items for the Madison County Food Bank. In March they donated a whole truckload of cereal!

Dozens gathered at Compton Heights CC on Sunday to worship God and give thanks for Rev. Katherine Kinnamon's life of ministry and service, as she officially retires as our Associate Regional Minister for the Regional Commission on the Order of Ministry.

The worship service was led by Regional Ministers Ron Routledge and Paul Koch, seen here at Table alongside Katherine. Madeline Haraway, Regional board moderator, presented gifts and well wishes on behalf of the board at a reception following the worship service.



Faith CC had a fantastic Holy Week. and were so grateful for the extra hymnals and choir robes they received.

They had a moving Last Supper, Maundy Thursday Service together with Hermitage CC. Then this last weekend, 24 of their congregation met in Branson for the Young Christian Weekend and an adult retreat!

Spring Spark in Springfield this Saturday.

Spring Spark is more than just an event; it's the first of hopeful seasonal celebrations designed to bring the Springfield community together in a vibrant, inclusive, and playful environment. It will include live music, playful activities, space for belonging, and a yogurt bar! National Avenue CC is one of the supporters & encourages all to attend.

News from the farm:

Well, the cleanup began this week on the farm from the storm we had. The farm was full of heavy equipment, boom trucks, loaders, and wagons. It seemed like a dozen men were sawing stacking and chipping, like a bunch of ants, working so fast to clean the place up. They spent two days and still have to come back for the last little bit. But our farm looks, although minus quite a few trees, like it did before.

We are blessed. I was reminded how things don't always stay the same. And no matter how hard we try to avoid change, it happens. It's called life. And it's not so much what and how things happen, it's more how we react to it.

Have a beautiful week full of God's surprises.

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer

Jennifer Long is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Disciples Women

Time: Apr 27, 2024 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85103457025?pwd=cE9jT2JzWEJ0MUZRUXQ0ZFdKeVgrUT09>

Meeting ID: 851 0345 7025

Passcode: 859436

Dial by your location

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85103457025>

Rev. Jennifer Long

Associate Regional Minister for Disciples Women's Ministries

Christian Church (DOC) of Mid-America

Faith Christian Church

P. O. Box 1434 Buffalo Mo 65622

417-838-0936 jennifer.ccma@sbcglobal.net

Micah 6:8 Message: Do what is fair and just to your neighbor, be compassionate and loyal in your love, And don't take yourself too seriously— take God seriously. C.S. Lewis : "Believe in God like you believe in the sunrise. Not because you can see it, but because you can see all it touches."