



# Update

February 21, 2024

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## Upcoming Events

February

24 - [Disciples Women Gathering](#),  
9am via Zoom

25 - [Week of Compassion Special Offering](#)

25 - [Ordination of Teresa Spear](#),  
2pm (listed last week as 3pm in error),  
South Street CC, Springfield

26 - [Regional office open house](#), 10-12,  
South Street CC, Springfield **Come by & pick up some books & other resources as we trim our collection before we move to Drury!**

27 - [Lenten Lectio @ 11](#) via Zoom

## ALEX Reporting

With less than two weeks left to complete our Yearbook reporting in the ALEX database, **only 19% of our Mid-America congregations** have done so. It really is a quick and easy, though vital, process. Sign in, answer a few questions, skip the ones you don't know, and submit. There's an [online help desk](#) to answer lots of frequently asked questions. [Contact the St. Louis Regional office](#) if you don't know how to start, or get stuck at any point. **Pastors and lay leaders, please make sure that your congregation reports as its tax-exempt status could be affected.** [Here's a worksheet](#) listing all the questions that will be asked online. **Please do it today!**



## Opportunities

- [Pension Fund tax resources available.](#)
- Get [Imagine Together stewardship resources](#) from the Center for Faith & Giving.
- [Register for the March 6](#) Past, Present, & Future of New Church webinar featuring **Rev. Dr. Dick Hamm.**
- [Pastor Partners](#) is open to all clergy partners on the 1st Tues. of each month via Zoom.
- [Youth Leadership Symposium 2024](#)
- [Black Ministers Retreat March 12-14, 2024](#)
- [Phillips University Legacy Foundation](#) scholarship apps due 3/22. [Learn more>](#)
- [HELM](#) scholarships available. Applications due March 31.
- There are still **camp song books** available. Contact the St. Louis Regional office.
- [Apply](#) for a [Disciples Church Extension Fund green loan.](#)
- *Return to Reverence four-week study on earth stewardship available from [Ron Routledge.](#)*
- [Mental health resources](#) available for clergy and families through [Pension Fund.](#)
- [Digital Worship Resources](#)
- Online clergy [continuing education](#) opportunities.

## Celebration in Canton

This past Sunday [Canton CC](#) celebrated and renewed, as they do annually, their covenant with [Culver-Stockton College](#). This year's recognition was made even more special by the **installation of Rev. Dr. Mandy Tarpensing as**

**Chaplain** of the college. Rev. Tarpensing is the former pastor of FCC in Macon and is pictured here (right) with Regional Minister Rev. Ron Routledge (left), and Culver-Stockton President Dr. Lauren Schellenberger (center). Canton CC pastor Rev. Mandy Gosik is seated in front.



**BLACK  
HISTORY  
MONTH**

## Convocation April 13th

Make sure your calendar is marked for our annual African American Convocation coming up on **Saturday, April 13**. [Fifth Street Christian Church](#) in Columbia will be hosting the event. The special guest speaker will be Dr. Delesslyn Kennabrew, Executive Director of the [National Convocation of the Christian Church \(Disciples of Christ\)](#) and Associate General Minister. [More information and registration options will be posted here when available](#)>


## Threads of Joy

Join our Rural Ministry Network for these discussions designed to encourage, equip, and connect Disciples of Christ churches in Mid-America as we grow in Christ. **These are free events and a meal will be provided at each.** More information, including the agenda, is [on the flyer here](#)> **Five different dates/locations to choose from!** [Please register online so we can be prepared with enough food for all](#)>

IN APRIL		2024
THU 04	<b>DEXTER, MO</b> First Christian Church 224 E Stoddard St (63841)	10:30 to 2 PM
FRI 05	<b>MEXICO, MO</b> First Christian Church 307 W Jackson St (65265)	10:30 to 2 PM
SAT 06	<b>ELDON, MO</b> First Christian Church 102 S Aurora (65026)	10:30 to 2 PM
WED 10	<b>BOLIVAR, MO</b> First Christian Church 407 W Broadway St (65613)	10:30 to 2 PM
THU 11	<b>GALLATIN, MO</b> First Christian Church 1501 S Main St (64640)	5:00 to 8 PM

[An invitation to embrace & embody Black History Month](#) by Rev. Dr. April G. Johnson, Minister of Reconciliation. 2/21 - [Communal Mental Health](#), webinar, 1pm. 2/29 - [Mental Health from the Sacred Desk](#), webinar, 6pm [Guide to Black History Month events in St. Louis](#).

## Black History Names to Note: Atlanta Area Pastors and Churches



**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

**National Council of Churches**  
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE USA

### Atlanta Area Pastors & Churches

In celebration of Black History Month, this election year the National Council of Churches salutes the church men and women who fearlessly and tirelessly devoted themselves to advocating for voter equality.

In 1946, federal courts outlawed Georgia's all-white primary, opening the way for Black citizens to register and vote in primaries. Black church leaders quickly spearheaded a voter registration drive in Atlanta to increase the number of African Americans who could participate in local elections. Atlanta's longtime mayor William B. Hartsfield recognized the growing importance of Black voters in local politics and hired eight African-American police officers in 1948. This pattern of carefully negotiated steps toward desegregation gave Atlanta a reputation for moderation in race relations. Although Hartsfield proclaimed that Atlanta was "the City Too Busy to Hate," local African-American ministers continued to provide leadership in the struggle to end segregation. For example, in Black ministers were instrumental in the federal district court declaring Georgia's segregated bus system invalid. This kind of gradual change and moderation was in sharp contrast to other cities in the South.

Photograph: Voter Registration Drive at an Atlanta Church, 1946. Photo Courtesy U.S. Library of Congress

## Mt. Vernon's Super Donation

On Sunday, February 11, [First Christian Church](#) in Mt. Vernon celebrated the Super Bowl by **donating non-perishable food** to the local food bank, [St. Susanne Food Pantry](#). The congregants wore their favorite team colors and put the food under the goal posts of either the San Francisco 49ers or the Kansas City Chiefs. Needless to say, the Chiefs goal post harbored the most donations. In the end, everybody won with this outreach project!



## From the Wider Church

This coming week's Global Ministries prayer request is for [Ecuador](#).

This week's College of Regional Ministers prayer request is for **US!**  
[The Christian Church of Mid-America](#).

# SO MANY POSSIBILITIES!

There's something for everyone!  
Check out what's happening and get involved!!



## Scholarships

[DHM scholarships](#) available for those preparing for Christian vocation. Apps due by March 15.

[Phillips University Legacy Foundation scholarships](#) available to Disciples schools. Apps due by March 22.

[HELM scholarships](#) available for undergrad, seminary, DMin/PhD. Apps due by March 31.

## Learning

**2/29** LTS webinar [Hybrid Church: More Than Streaming](#), 6pm

**3/6** [State of Pastors Summit: Six Trends Shaping the Future of Pastoral Leadership](#), free webcast, 11am

[Intentional Interim Ministry](#) course meets Mondays 4/8-5/20

[Boundary](#) and [Anti-Racism](#) courses through DoC & UCC. ([New Boundary course scheduled for 3/21 in Sedalia.](#))

## Connections

Internship opportunities with [Be the Neighbor](#). Apps due by 3/18.

[Young Adult Kinnections](#), 6pm, via Zoom

[Drum Birthing Weekend](#), May 4-5, Jabez Retreat Center, Mooresville

[Obra Hispana](#), June 20-22, 2024 in Kansas City, MO.



Thanks for keeping in touch!  
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Monday-Thursday  
8:00-3:30  
417.865.0850

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