



New Disciple News



Friends,

December is finally here! We have officially hung the greens. The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new church year (and my first year in ministry with y'all) in which we reflect anew on the meaning of the incarnation, ministry, suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus for us. In the season of Advent we focus on the threefold coming of Jesus Christ to the world in the flesh, as a newborn baby to earthly parents.

While it seems we are so far from the cross here at Jesus' birth. One of our younger disciples asked quite the question after one of my sermons a few weeks ago, "Why do we talk about the cross so much and the manger so little?" This brought to mind a couple of things. One, what a brilliant question brought forth from such innocence. Remember when our grade school teachers taught us that there are no bad questions? The other concept it brought to mind is something from Divinity School. I think the cross and the manger are in fellowship with one another. Martin Luther would often say that they are made of the very same wood. Luther argued that our blood stained sin is in the wood of the cross.

But, do we also remind ourselves that the blood that birthed Jesus, Mary's blood was love? God closed the gap between human existence and the divine with blood and tears by sending God in human form, to dwell not only among us, but within us. Can you imagine the skinned knees of a toddler Jesus learning to walk and run? This Advent and Christmas Season I invite you to think fully into the gift of humanity that God gave us and that Mary birthed. Take a moment to breathe in the holiness of such a gift. Imagine how much you are loved by God and share that love with someone who needs it.

The purpose of Advent is to remember that Christ has already come and is coming. God splits the heavens and comes to us in our deepest need, our humanity. Let us be the hands and feet of Christ in the world this season and beyond,

In Christ,

Pastor Monica

Luke 2:1-14, (15-20)

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. (This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) All went to their own towns to be registered.

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see--I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!"

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us."

So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.



New Disciples Family: We Pray for...
 Kenny, Suzie, Cindy, Connie, Denny, Jeanette, Vicki,
 Sharon, Candi, Ann, Rick, Allan, Scott, Tim, John,
 Norma, Sharon, Janelle, Savanna, Pam, Skip, Jojo,
 Nanga, Glenda, Loy, Lorene, Ellery, June, Shawn,
 Savanna, Imani & Tantine, Theodore & Annie.

Friends of New Disciples: We pray for...
 Aubrey, Richard, Josie, Sara, Charlene, Keshon, Lee,
 Sheila, Cece, Craig, Caitlin, Ellen, Kimmerly, Skip.

New Disciples: We ask for our church family...
 ♦ that God strengthen our sense of community.
 ♦ strength, communication, and patience in all things.
 ♦ that strife and disagreement come to an end.

Other: We pray for...
 ♦ our church budget; may we inspire giving.
 ♦ renters for our office space.

Grief: We ask for comfort and strength for ...
 ♦ the friends and family of
 ♦ Dean's father-in-law

Military Personnel:
 Daniel Ruhd - Lynette Lubbock's grandson..... NC
 Kyle Stallman - Kim Stallman's son WA
 Tyler Edler - Nancy Wise's nephew..... Bulgaria
 Eli Walters - Helen Christophersen's g-g-son in law GA
 Kaylee Graves - Garland Waddilove's granddaughter CA
 Aaron Thomas Krouse - Aaron Krouse's nephew US
 Iowa National Guard members

Upper Midwest Region Prayers
 First Christian Church, Coralville, IA
 First Christian Church, Seymour, IA
 Iglesia Cristiana Nueva Jerusalem, Rochester, MN
 First Christian Church, Sac City
 First Christian Church, Corydon, IA
 Luther Christian Church, Luther, IA
 Broadway Christian Church, Council Bluffs, IA
 First Christian Church of St. Paul, Mahtomedi, MN
 First Christian Church, Creston, IA
 Christian Church Disciples, Rock Rapids, IA

Our Homebound: May God surround you with His love...
 Roger & Mary Steve Helen Lois Ann Berdine
 Allan & Janetta Alice Ben Gisela

Missionaries/Community Workers:
 Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) regional staff
 Alain Imani Habinamwisho & Tantine Kapila
 New Disciples Staff Daniel Reed - Hope Builders

Pray, we as a Christian community ...

- ♦ to keep Christ first in all we do.
- ♦ that we would have unity amid diversity - loving those with whom we have nothing in common but the gospel.
- ♦ that a culture of discipline would form in which making disciples is viewed as an ordinary part of the Christian life.
- ♦ that we worship God with all our strength, minds, hearts, and souls.



“Room at the Table” Dinner Church

New Disciples has set the dates for our monthly Sunday evening dinner worship service called *Room at the Table*. Mark your calendars, invite friends, and join us on December 15, 6 - 8 PM.

December’s dinner will be named "Apps & Caps". Participants can bring either an appetizer or dessert to share.

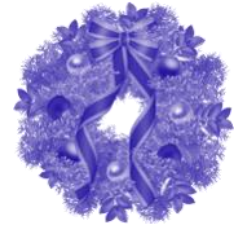
At each dinner worship service, conversation topics are provided for each table. Topics are expanded to involve the full group. Scripture is read, followed by ideas & insights shared.

Each service involves everyone helping with table and food preparations and everyone assisting with clearing the worship space at the end of the meal.

Blue Christmas

Worship With Those Who Mourn

Blue? Yes, blue as in the blues. As in "I am feeling blue." Not everyone is up and cheery for the Christmas holidays. Dealing with the death of a loved one, facing life after divorce or separation, coping with the loss of a job, living with cancer or some other disease that puts a question mark over the future, and a number of other human situations make parties and joviality painful for many people in our congregations and communities.



Grief doesn’t follow a straight line or timeline or a checklist. It doesn’t just “go away”. Grief loops back, especially at times with strong memories, like holidays. Grief doesn’t care about “should”.

There is a growing attentiveness to the needs of people who are blue at Christmas. Increasing numbers of churches are creating sacred space for people living through dark times. Such services are reflective, accepting where we really are, and holding out healing and hope.

Join us at New Disciples on Saturday, December 21 at 6:00 PM.

Fresh Church Directory for 2020

Our congregation is overdue for a new directory to stay in touch with our church family.



Please contact the church office with any updates or corrections to your contact information. Heidi Haney is leading this project and she has already started to ask for contact information as well.



We are considering how to include photo directory in this project. As a “Fun & Quirky Church”, we are considering taking informal fun and quirky photos before and after

worship in a “come as you are” fashion and compiling our own booklet. We hope to finish the photos by Christmas and have the book ready in early January.

Be sure to check our Lost & Found box every month or two.

It is on the shelf of the coat rack, near the sanctuary.





How the Light Comes ~ A Blessing for Christmas Day

I cannot tell you
how the light comes.

What I know
is that it is more ancient
than imagining.

That it travels
across an astounding expanse
to reach us.

That it loves
searching out
what is hidden
what is lost
what is forgotten
or in peril
or in pain.

That it has a fondness
for the body
for finding its way
toward flesh
for tracing the edges
of form
for shining forth
through the eye,
the hand,
the heart.

I cannot tell you
how the light comes,
but that it does.
That it will.
That it works its way
into the deepest dark
that enfolds you,
though it may seem
long ages in coming
or arrive in a shape
you did not foresee.

And so
may we this day
turn ourselves toward it.
May we lift our faces
to let it find us.
May we bend our bodies
to follow the arc it makes.
May we open
and open more
and open still
to the blessed light
that comes.

—Jan Richardson





Responding to Transition

November 7, 2019

Dear Upper Midwest Disciples of Christ:

The last two Regional Minister Search Committee Listening Sessions will be held this Sunday, November 10—one at Broadway Christian Church, Council Bluffs (3:30 pm), and the other at Plymouth Creek Christian Church in Minneapolis area (2:00 pm). You may also give your feedback to the Search Committee through an online survey that has been sent our entire UMW email list. I strongly encourage you to fill out the online survey, if you have not attended a listening session.

My sense is, after attending several listening sessions and visiting with others in between, is our clergy and congregants, in general, fall into two broad groups. One is the group of those who remember when there were five, full time, regional staff clergy members, and these dedicated staff members visited congregations, attended clergy cluster meetings, and in many other ways were physically present around the Upper Midwest Christian Church.

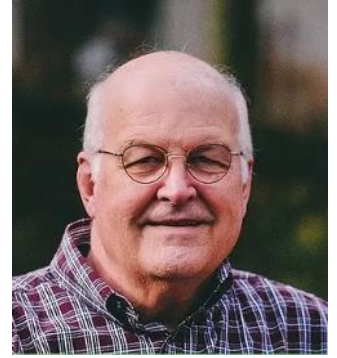
The second group, in general, are those congregants and clergy, young and old, across the Upper Midwest Region who understand we now have 1.5, full-time equivalent regional staff clergy members, which makes it impossible to personally visit every congregation, or every clergy cluster meeting—although we try hard to be present for clergy gatherings.

This is not a new reality. It has been unfolding for years. It is not unique to the Upper Midwest Region. It is not unique to the Disciples of Christ. It is a reality of being church today in our country as we travel through what some are calling “The Great Transition,” a time in which how we being and doing church in changing in a degree of magnitude not seen since The Protestant Reformation, 500 years ago.

The ways we organize to be church and how we offer ministry as church are radically different than in 1951, the year I was born, or in 1921, the year my father was born. How we respond to this significantly different reality is the key to being church in the years to come. Not every denomination or congregation will respond in the same way. However, there is one reality that is essential—to be Church we must love one another. There is no option to that reality. That is why, as Disciples of Christ, we welcome all to the Table of our Lord.

Peace,

John



Rev. John Richardson,
Interim Regional Minister
and President

**First Christian Church,
Coralville Hosts Ordination**

Melea White was ordained into Christian ministry on Saturday, October 12 at First Christian Church, Coralville. Melea serves as chaplain at Coe College in Cedar Rapids. Many Disciples joined together to celebrate this joyous day!

2019 Regional Calendar

Things We Do Together

Below, @CCC = held at Christian Conference Center

Dec. 19 Regional Operations Council Online
 Jan. 23 Regional Operations Council Online
 Jan. 26-29 Minister's Institute @ CCC
 Feb. 7-8 Committee on Ministry
 Feb. 7-9 Junior Retreat @ CCC (\$40 per camper)



Service Opportunities

Service	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Welcoming Deacon (Front Door)	Glenn Healy	Dan Dice	Kim Stallman	Rick Sutphin	Glenn Healy
Welcoming Elder (Entry to Worship Space)	Scott Niskanen	Dan Mineck	Kyle Taylor	Pam Gibbs	Nancy Wise
Communion Prep	Lynn Moss	Jean Goodall	Vicki Ehrenberger	Shirley Sedore	Lynn Moss
Worship Tech	Tim Wise, Patrick Lower	Tim Wise, Patrick Lower	Tim Wise, Patrick Lower	Patrick Lower	Patrick Lower
Worship Leader	Heidi Haney	Sydnee Phillips	Tim Wise	Becky Johnson	Lisa Phillips
Children's Sermon					
Pulpit Elder	Dick Goodall	Scott Niskanen	Dan Mineck	Kyle Taylor	Pam Gibbs
Serving Deacons	Glenn Healy, Tim Wise, Lynn Moss, Ricardo Larios	Dan Dice, Heidi Haney, Debby Krivanek, David Krivanek	Kim Stallman, Dean Hunter, Don Phillips, Melody Livengood	Rick Sutphin, Aaron Krouse, Theodore Bosenge	Glenn Healy, Tim Wise, Lynn Moss, Ricardo Larios
Tabulators	Heidi Haney, Dean Hunter	Lynn Moss, Jonathan Williams	Sydnee Phillips, Melody Livengood	Kim Stallman, Glenda Denning	Heidi Haney, Don Phillips
Coffee Fellowship					

A service schedule is posted on the bulletin board in the church office. If you need to make a change, please email the church office or update the posted schedule and then Heidi will update the bulletin.



Church Board minutes are now available in a labeled binder in the church office.

New Disciples Kids! Join us every other Wednesday for children's worship. There will be no meals served this year; please eat before you join us. We are currently watching Christian movies and discussing the lessons we can learn from them.



Age Ranges:

Preschool thru 2nd Grade will be with Lisa Phillips
3rd grade and up will be with Savanna and Sydnee Phillips

If you need a ride to get to Wednesday night Children's Church or would like to attend one of the Sunday services, please contact the church office or Sydnee Phillips at 319-521-5271.

NEW DISCIPLES OF CEDAR RAPIDS
610 32nd AVE SW
CEDAR RAPIDS, IA 52404

Staff:

Pastor: Rev. Monica L. Banks
Pastor: Pastor Mwana-Mubake
Music Director: Janelle Lauer



D e c e m b e r
2019



Visit our website: <http://www.newdisciples.org>

Find us on Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/NewDisciples>



**New Disciples
of Cedar Rapids**

610 32nd Ave SW
Suite C
(319) 363-2089
office@newdisciples.org
www.newdisciples.org

Sunday Worship Service:

9:30 AM - Worship
11:30 AM - Multilingual
Worship

Office Hours:

Monday - Friday
9:30 AM to 1:30 PM



Fibromyalgia and Chronic Pain Support Group is usually held the first Thursday of every month at **6:30 PM** at Curves on Edgewood Rd. SW. If you have either of these concerns, or you wish to learn more, please join us! (Please note the new starting time.)

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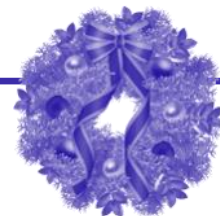
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See Page 3 for more
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