

Follow the news of Michigan Disciples, the witness, worship, mission and spiritual pulse of our congregations and region.



September 5, 2019

Neil E. Topliffe, Editor

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Congrats to Triumphant Temple of Praise



This Flint, congregation purchased a nearby bingo hall to serve as worship space with the help of the Michigan Region and Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF).

[Check out the video.](#)

Lord, Teach us to Pray



Please join us in prayer for these congregations and their ministries

PRAYER

- First Christian - Battle Creek
- First Christian - Petosky
- Church of Christ - Luther
- First Christian - Manton
- First Christian - Paw Paw
- Harvest Time Christian - Muskegon Hts
- First Christian - Muskegon
- First Christian - Saginaw
- First Christian - Ionia
- Grace Christian - Frankfort

This prayer request is a call to pray together for our congregations in Michigan, Disciples in covenant with one another. We look forward to lifting up each of our Michigan Disciples congregations in the coming year.

First Christian Battle Creek to End Ministry

Embezzlement takes toll on congregation

First was the discovery early in the year that the former treasurer had embezzled all but \$3,400 of its funds. Then the realization that her mother, a long time elder and church leader who had not been seen for months, had died several months earlier and been buried by the daughter in the yard beside her house. Both of those issues are being addressed by legal authorities.

Yet, for First Christian, a small congregation, struggling to be a witness in the community, the emotions of guilt, loss, and financial chaos, hit hard. Subsequently it has taken its toll, leading to the decision in recent weeks church leaders and members to conclude their ministry as a congregation at the end of this year.



in
by

We Michigan Disciples and First Christian, part of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Michigan Region, were reminded in recent months what it means to be part of a larger community of churches. Within several weeks of discovering their plight in January, Michigan Disciples congregations and individual members rallied, raising more than \$17,000 to help the church continue to pay its bills and allow time for determining its future.

Both Rev. Kingery Clingenpeel, the pastor, and Laura Clingenpeel, instrumentalist, have foregone salaries through the end of the year allowing the church to meet ongoing operating expenses.

"The Michigan Region's financial support of First Christian has been overwhelming," said the Rev. Kingery Clingenpeel, pastor. "We will strive to be good stewards of the resources

as this chapter of the church's efforts concludes," noted Laura Clingenpeel, congregational board co-chair. "We thank all who prayed, advised and provided financial support over the past year," they added.

Prior to the decision to close, congregational and regional church leaders consulted with staff at Disciples Church Extension Fund, Indianapolis, who provided demographic studies of potential prospects for the church to consider. The DCEF report provided by Belinda King, DCEF Vice-President, was followed by discussion and prayer with church leaders and Eugene James, out of which a clear sense of direction became painfully obvious.

It was time to celebrate the congregation's mission and witness of the past and move toward completing ministry December 31 of this year. The decision was confirmed by the church board August 11 and a congregational meeting August 18.

Michigan Disciples Regional Minister Eugene James commended the church leadership for its strength, noting "the events of the past months have taken a toll on the leadership and the members of the congregation. They have the resources that will allow for a reverent, orderly transition process. Please continue to pray for Pastor Kingery, the leadership, and the members."

The Michigan Region, which holds title to the Battle Creek church property, has named a Property Task Group that will manage the details in determining future utilization of the church property when the congregation completes its ministry.

Mitzie Hall, Regional Moderator has named the following to the committee: Laura and Kingery Clingenpeel, First Christian co-chair and pastor respectively; Doug Morgan, Lansing First Christian Church, John McCauslin, Central Woodward Christian Church; and Eugene James, ex-officio. Disciples Church Extension Fund will serve as consultants to the Property Task Group, which will report its discoveries, evaluations and recommendations to the Michigan Disciples Regional Board.

40 Acre Crystal Property Sold Smaller 5 acre sale set to close soon

A forty-acre parcel of Crystal Conference Center property, that has been on the market for more than a year, has been purchased by a neighboring property owner.



“I am pleased to inform you that the 40-acre parcel (section B in photo) has been sold for our approved negotiated price of \$275,000,” reported Doug Morgan, Chairperson of the Michigan Disciples Crystal Property Task Force. The final amount received by the Region was \$254,370, after realtor fees and other expenses were

deducted, Morgan said.

The sale of the land was approved by the May Regional Assembly, subject to receiving a negotiated price of \$275,000 and with final approval by the Regional Executive Committee, all of which was met.

A second property of five acres (section C in photo), also approved by the Regional Assembly for sale at \$65,000, has been accepted by both the Region and buyer and will close as soon as a final approval is given by Crystal Lake Township authorities. That triangle is located on the south corner of Lobb and Morro Roads. The Region will continue to own all of the adjacent Morro Road land.

Neither parcel impacts the land used by Crystal Conference Center for its regular camping and conference center activities, Morgan pointed out. The Region continues to own 87 acres, including the camping area, beachfront and undeveloped surrounding land.

The Michigan Disciples Regional Board will act on disbursement of property sale income at its October Board meeting. \$55,000 has already been designated to go back into the North Oakland Fund For Crystal to replace money used in recent years as an emergency to avoid shutting done operations and canceling the camp season.

Boundary Training Event

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

8:30 - 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$50.00 (includes materials and lunch)

Location: [Salem UCC](#) - 33424 Oakland Ave., Farmington, MI 48335

The Association Church and Ministry Committees of the Michigan Conference UCC now require ALL pastors to participate in Boundary Training. [This includes those who have retired.] If it has been more than 5 years since you've taken the training, it's time to take it again.



This training is in conjunction with the Christian Church - Disciples of Christ, and is open to other denominations as well! Come one, Come all!

Deadline to register: September 13, 2019

Safe, easy, and fast online registration - [REGISTER TODAY!](#)

Disciples Men's Retreat @ Crystal



Men's Retreat, September 20-22 at Crystal Conference Center is looking forward to men and their friends from our Michigan Disciples churches to join in a great weekend of fellowship, spiritual reflection, free time, work opportunities around the conference center, bonfires and vespers. They have just announced their weekend program schedule. AND you can register online now.

Go to [online registration link](#) to sign up.

Download the schedule and a print registration form: [click here](#).

Women's Institute for Higher Living Fall gathering of Disciples Women in Lansing



Michigan Disciples Women, here's your chance to get together with Disciples women from across the region to study the Bible, pray, meditate, play and commune together even as we share from our experiences.

WHEN? Saturday September 28, 2019 from 10 am 'til 3 pm

WHERE? First Christian Church, 1001 Chester Rd, Lansing.

WHY? Learn more about our service with Rippling Hope, our partner in the Michigan Region's "Gospel in Action." Let's ask the questions and seek the answers as we gather together.



WHAT TO BRING? Bring a book to help supply the "Little Libraries" that Rippling Hope is helping neighborhoods set up.

REGISTER NOW!

ONLINE: [2019 Women's Institute Registration](#)

Or

CONTACT: Regional Office – 517.372.3220

OR

CONTACT: Diana Payton – 248.901.5909

MORE DETAILS: Print and share the [attached flyer](#) with more information.

Upcoming Events for the Region

September 12 - Founders #DMF Day

September 17 - Boundary Training - Salem UCC, Farmington

September 20-22 – Disciples Men Retreat – Camp Crystal

September 28 - Women's Institute - 1st Christian, Lansing

October 19 - Regional Board Meeting - Regional Office, Lansing

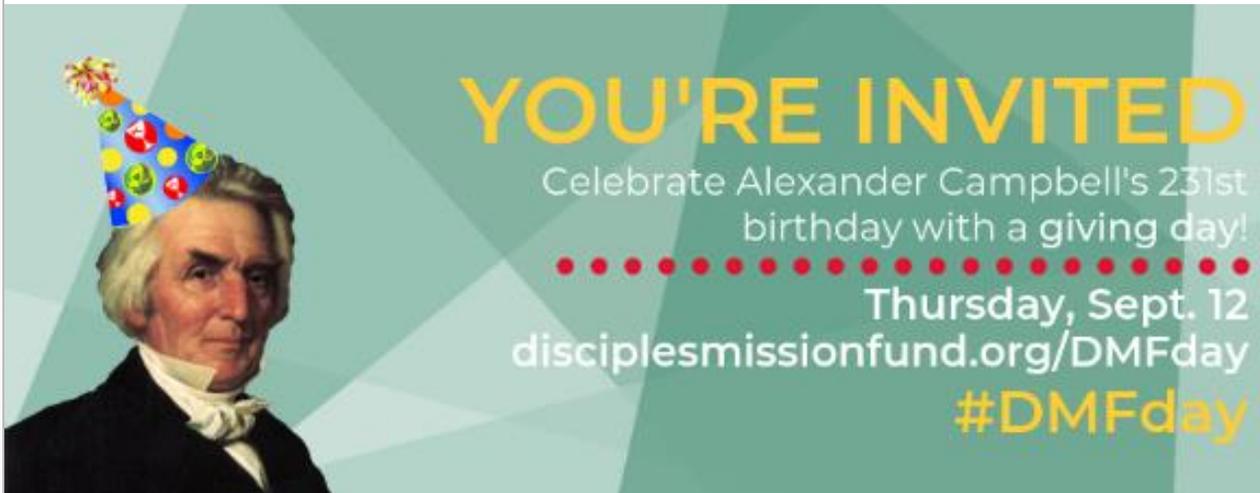
November 1-3 - Perry Gresham Lectures - Central Woodward CC, Troy

For more details on these events and others go to www.michigandisciples.org

or www.campcrystal.org.

Celebrate Disciples Founder's Birthday

Make a gift to support the region and world-wide ministries



We're celebrating this special day on Thursday, September 12, 2019, which is the 231st birthday of Alexander Campbell, one of the [founders of our denomination](#).

To honor our Church's history, we look towards the future, by investing in the [regional and general ministries](#) we've developed to live into our call to be a [movement for wholeness in a fragmented world](#).

#DMFday is our Church-wide day of giving – our first-ever giving day to support and sustain [Disciples Mission Fund](#). So on #DMFday, we invite Disciples to come together — to celebrate our Church's past, present, and future. **Our goal is to receive 231 gifts on Sept. 12.** Will you join us?

[The easiest, quickest way to give is online](#). If you prefer to mail a check, you can send it to Disciples Mission Fund, PO Box 1986, Indianapolis, IN 46206, and **write DMFday in the memo line** so it can be counted towards our goal.

Or go directly to the [Michigan Disciples online giving location](#) and make your selection there.

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You have been included on this list as one who has joined or asked to be recipient of communications from the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Regional office.

Our mailing address is:

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