

Friday Letter February 2, 2024

Good Friday Friends,

I pray this letter finds you all well and at peace! I can't believe we are already into the second month of 2024. The days go by so quickly, I pray we all are taking a moment to smell the roses.



Last Saturday was a fantastic Disciples Women's Zoom gathering and Bible study! The day before, Friday, I had a wonderful conversation with Paula Holiday! She is doing better, she still needs our prayers as she works through rehab, and she plans on getting well enough to join us when she can! She has and will be such a faithful servant for the Lord. She was going to try and join us Saturday if she was not in the middle of therapy. Therapy rules!

We had a great gathering Saturday, from across the region on the screen and by phone. Women shared their projects, what their ladies' groups were doing, and their churches and themselves. It was informative and thought provocative. Some churches are not having designated women's groups but are having co-ed groups. But like many said there's nothing like a woman's group to be able to get close to one another and share life. One of our ladies shared that her church has started another ladies group. One of our sister churches has involved the men's group with the ladies' group to help with other projects. One of our churches shared about Care Connection women were rotating sending cards organizing funeral dinners. One shared updates on their Cookie Walk and Funeral placemats. And of course, we had a fantastic Bible study with Judi Linville at the helm. Just Women magazine has been a joy to work out of. If you have not ordered your just women magazine for 2024 there is still time.

Our next zoom gathering is February 24 that's a Saturday morning at 9:00 a.m. from the comfort of your home, work or wherever you would like. You can join by your computer, laptop, smart phone, or a regular phone. If you don't have the Just Women, read the scripture and the questions, and join us! The link is at the end of this letter. We are still in the 2023 book.

The new 2024 Just Women is now on sale. You can order yours here.

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/disciples-women/just-women-magazine-general/>

Our next Bible study is brought to us by Rev. Dr. Cristal L. Williams.

Dr Williams was with us on the immersion trip to East Asia. Formerly the Regional Minister of Tenn., She is now the Regional Minister in Indiana.

Scripture verse is from Numbers chapter 27:1-7 The title is The Daughters of Zelophehad Versus the People. Her questions for consideration:

1. What do you believe is the cost for women speaking out in the 21st century?
2. What would it take for you to be a conduit of change?
3. Is there a gift in this story for you? What is it?
4. Who are the women in your life, church, circle that have used their voices to bring hope, change, and inspiration?
5. What makes you uncomfortable about the story?
6. What does God's redemption look like to you in this story? And in the story of your own life?

From the Weekly Update:

Lenten Lectio @ 11

Join us for an online Lenten spiritual journey. Each Tuesday, beginning February 13, we'll meet on Zoom at 11am for a time of centering, reflection, and prayer. We're hoping this will be a time to step away from the routines of the week, be with others you don't normally get to see, and engage the Word of God for the people of God. Join us every Wednesday, or only a few as your schedule allows. All are most welcome! <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81337845959?pwd=K1dUdW1vNWs0U2hiZFBPTEFnajNjUT09#success>

Mid-America 2023 Finances

We are pleased to report that our Region was able to end 2023 in a good financial position. Thanks to market gains, our investment values are up \$501,319 over the same period last year. Regularly scheduled distributions from these holdings enable us to support various ministries throughout the Region each year. As for the operating budget, income was very nearly what was projected, in part thanks to the generosity of donors to our CCMA Ministry Fund (for a total of \$14,192) and to the annual Christmas Special Offering for Regional Ministries (for a total of \$12,148 so far). We are grateful to all who contributed to these efforts, and to Disciples Mission Fund. Having worked hard to minimize expenses, we had a positive net operating margin of \$2,908. We appreciate our Regional Treasurer Gail Turner and the budget committee for their diligent stewardship of our Regional finances.

Disciples Women Meet in Indianapolis

The recent Disciples Women's Leadership Council 2024 meeting in Indianapolis was a success and our Associate Regional Minister for Disciples Women's Ministries Rev. Jennifer Long was there! Women from across the United States and Canada met for the first time since before the pandemic for training, fellowship, and valuable information to pass on to the women in their regions. Plans and discussions were made for an

Interregional event in our Heartland group of Regions, tentatively scheduled for August 2026. More information to come as planning evolves.

MLK Legacy Continues

Disciples Home Missions Coordinator for Ministry with Youth and Young Adults Alexis Tardy was the keynote speaker for our Regional Youth Lock-In over MLK weekend. She then preached on Sunday morning at Broadway CC. Her sermon is now available on their YouTube channel here>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6zrVE9o19HE&t=65s>

There are still two opportunities to participate in the MLK Meditation series brought to us by Reconciliation Ministries.

Warmer for Winter

Thanks to the Christian Women's Fellowship group at Ozark Christian Church, students at Care to Learn in Ozark will be warmer this winter. The ladies recently donated 259 items including hats, gloves, socks, scarves, and underwear to the organization.

Correction

Last week we shared the General Church recognition of Rev. M. Faye Vaughn as a Dedicated Disciple. In the piece, we referred to her recent installation and noted the congregation as First Christian Church of Fulton in error. She was installed at First Christian Church in Frankford. We apologize for the error.

Can you get past Friday Letters? Yes, Susan Moore has them on the Mid-America Website and Sheila Colley posts them on our Facebook.

You can read past issues and get informed at:

<https://www.mid-america-disciples.org/disciples-women>

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100065037780715>

How do we order Just Women? Regular sales began the end of January

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/disciples-women/just-women-magazine-general/>

Where do I go to find out about the Christian Ministries Scholarship?

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

For information about our region and sign up for the Regional Weekly Update::

<https://www.mid-america-disciples.org/>

Learn more about Disciples Women and Home Missions:

<https://www.discipleshomemissions.org/congregations/disciples-women/>

I would love to hear from you. When you have special gatherings, special events, let me know so I can share with others and if I can, maybe I could join you.

News from the farm:

As I was going over my notes for Sunday from Isaiah 40:21-31 something got my attention, and I looked up and out the window to see an eagle flying up the river. I was taken back by the moment, the beauty of seeing this incredible bird flying effortlessly, scanning the waters until it perched on one of the tree branches watching the water for an opportunity for dinner. I watched for a while until it decided to move on.

I was blessed. Had I not looked up and out the window I would have missed one of Gods breathtaking gifts. How many of God's gifts have we missed by not looking up? How many, pardon the cliché, of us have forgotten to 'stop and smell the roses'? By staying so focused on something we forget to listen with our hearts. God is speaking.

Have a wonderful God blessed week!

Blessings,

Pastor Jennifer

Jennifer Long is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Disciples Women

Time: Feb 24, 2024 09:00 AM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81653914930?pwd=d0RWRmZHUHpFeVdJcHdqdBByZW03UT09>

Meeting ID: 816 5391 4930

Passcode: 187080

Dial by your location

• +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcstxuY43y>

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."