

Northern Lights Reflections

Official Newsletter of the Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in the Northern Lights Region

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IN THIS EDITION

+Moment with the Moderator
p. 1, 2

+Thanksgiving Special Offering
p. 2

+Regional Assembly
May 1-3, 2026
p. 3

+Community Connections
Chelan Christian Church
p. 4

+Community Connections
FCCs Hamilton & Missoula
+Tech Grant continues
p. 5

+Community Connections
Journey Christian Church
p. 6

+General Church Disciples
Opportunities
p. 7

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The Fierce Urgency of Now

Moment with the Moderator, Rev. Doug Garner

November 6, 2025

So, we have just made our bi-annual time adjustments, and once again we are on “standard” time. The biggest question for me has always been, “what will we do with all the time we’ve been saving?” Of course, you know as well as I do you can’t save time, time passes at the same rate, unless you are a kid in church or math class, then time passes at a glacial pace. You know who doesn’t do daylight savings time? Dogs don’t, at least my dogs don’t. They want to be fed on time, and that is determined by their stomachs. To be fair, for a dog it is always time to eat, but this whole spring forward and fall back stuff makes no sense to them. You know who else it makes no sense to... the people of Arizona (except the Navajo nation) and Hawaii and US territories like Guam and Puerto Rico. They only observe standard time. Wouldn’t it be nice not to have to adjust your clocks twice a year?

All time is relative. Some divisions of time make sense, like a day makes sense. One rotation of the earth, from sundown to the next sundown. A month makes sense, at least a lunar month makes sense... from full moon to full moon. A year makes sense, a full revolution around the sun. But other divisions of time seem more random and nonsensical... a minute, an hour, a decade. Now I’m sure there are mathematical formulas that can tell you why a second, or a minute, or an hour are the length they are, but... well, refer to my mention of math class above.



Continued on Page 2

Thinking about the concept of time always reminds me of comedian Stephen Wright, who was known for his one-liners. One of my favorites was, “if you are driving your car at the speed of light and turn the headlights on, what happens?” Or this one, “the sign said, ‘Breakfast anytime,’ so I ordered eggs... in the Renaissance.”

So, what is the big deal about time, other than the fuss I’ve raised about it here? It is just this, while it is good to honor and learn from the past, it is never good to live there. And while it is good to dream and plan for the future, it is not a great idea to live there. The Church must live in the fierce urgency of now. As I write, our government is in its 36 th day of being shut down, making it the longest shut down in our history... and that means roughly 750,000 federal workers are furloughed, and another 730,000 workers are working without pay. Adding to that urgency, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) has run out of funding. That means around 42 million people have lost food assistance, including about 1.1 million of those people in the Northern Lights Region. I have no idea if the government will be open by the time you read this and funding restored, but I do know that the Church cannot afford to wait while people are hurting. To that end, the Region is searching for ways to get funding from our Region to food pantries and food banks, and I hope you will back those efforts. You can also urge your local congregations to get involved in feeding the hungry as best they can.

And finally, on a personal level, you can contribute to local efforts on your own.

Seek out those ways and advocate for the hungry. The time is now. “Come you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food...” (Mt. 25:34-35)



Special Thanksgiving Offering



Received in most congregations Nov. 16 & 23, 2025

[Donate Now](#)

The Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement. Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.

Print Materials for congregations:

[Thanksgiving Flyer Front](#)

[Thanksgiving Flyer Back](#)

[Thanksgiving Poster](#)

[Thanksgiving-Offering-Letter-to-the-Congregation](#)

NORTHERN LIGHTS



GREAT IS YOUR FAITHFULNESS

THEREFORE I HAVE HOPE. -LAM. 3:20-23

MAY 1 - 3, 2026

KENNEWICK CC

WATCH FOR
REGISTRATION
INFO SOON!



2026 REGIONAL ASSEMBLY



*My soul is bereft of peace; I have forgotten what was happy. And I say, "My hope is lost from the LORD."
But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope: The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
God's mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.*

~Lamentations 3:20-23 NRSV

While still in the planning stages, the wellspring of a creative team is at work, and the Regional Assembly Planning Team is working hard to curate a meaningful weekend that will unite, inspire, and inform... and bring hope and reminders of God's faithfulness.

Mark your calendars as the third in-person assembly of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the Northern Lights Region unfolds (virtual options will also be available)!

**Friday evening, May 1, 2026 through Sunday morning, May 3, 2026
at Kennewick Christian Church, WA**

**Keynote Speaker: Rev. Chris Dorsey,
President and CEO, [Disciples Home Missions](#)**

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Chelan CC Women continue a legacy of gifts for children

Submitted by Rev. Mark Wilton,
Chelan Christian Church, Chelan, WA



Samaritan's Purse
INTERNATIONAL RELIEF

The ladies of Chelan Christian Church for many years gather to pack Christmas Shoe Boxes as a part of the worldwide relief effort of giving boys and girls what may be their first gift ever! Local churches in more than 100 nations hand out these Operation Christmas Child shoebox gifts at festive outreach events where the Gospel is presented in a child-friendly way. Each box bursting with items such as a soccer ball, doll, or stuffed animal becomes a tangible expression of God's love to the child, their family, and their community. Many shoebox recipients also participate in our 12-lesson follow-up discipleship program, *The Greatest Journey*.

This year Chelan Christian Church women came together on November 13th to pack our boxes and to celebrate the birthday of one of our ladies, Karen Kreider. There were 13 women in attendance, which is just about our whole church women's group. They packed the largest number of boxes from our congregation ever, 50 boxes, which will be taken to our area collection point in Wenatchee.



The ladies, going left around the table, starting with Karen the birthday girl (in the black sweater), Edith, Janey, Rosa, Roberta, Marge, Anita, Dotti, Sally, Diane, Jan, Shannon, and Joan

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

FCC Missoula & Hamilton team up for Young Adults Retreat

FCC Hamilton and FCC Missoula are teaming up again in 2026 to host 'A Way In The Wilderness,' a Young Adult (ages 18-30ish) retreat. The retreat will take place Feb. 13-16, 2026 in Missoula, MT. The cost is \$40 dollars, register through 12/31/25 for a \$5 discount.

This weekend will involve delicious food, fun times with friends, some time of meditation and a few adventures with plenty of time for rest and relaxing. You can find details and register at fchamiltonmt.org/ya-retreat. If you have any questions or would like to attend but could use some financial help, please reach out to Mat Goodrich at minister@fccmissoula.org

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Young Adult Retreat

A WAY IN THE WILDERNESS

Join in an exciting weekend retreat to gather in community with other Young Adults and explore faith. Over the weekend we will enjoy games, activities, studies, and meditations all while having free time to hang out.

ADVENTURE • MEDITATION • COMMUNITY

Learn More  www.fccmissoula.org/ya

Church Technology Grants

up to \$500 (Every NLR congregation is eligible!)



The ongoing regional technology grant offers NL Region congregations up to \$500 for electronics and technology upgrades, equipment, software, and projects (not to be used for normal operating expenses). Each Northern Lights congregation may request up to \$500 in funds.

Apply NOW: northernlightsdisciples.org/2025-tech-grant

Made possible by a legacy gift from Joliet CC in MT, whose tradition of service continues even after their visible ministry has ended.



A Mission Statement — an Opportunity — Success!!

Submitted by Jennifer Prekeges, Co-Moderator, Journey Christian Church in Seattle, WA

Many churches engage in the process of writing mission statements. Do we ever expect them to have real consequences? Journey Christian Church in Seattle found out that they can. Here's our story:

Then God challenged us to put our money where our mouth is, so to speak. We were approached in April 2025 to serve as the faith sponsor for a sanctioned encampment, Tent City 4, in its proposed move to land owned by the City of Seattle for a year-long lease. Having a faith sponsor allowed the campers to avoid some of the permits that would otherwise be required, under something called the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized Persons Act. At the time, we were told that "everybody" in the city was in favor of their move to the new location. And because it was entirely consistent with our mission statement, it was an easy decision to say yes.

But it was not true that "everybody" was in favor, and we had to fight to get an agreement for a six-month-long lease, expiring on Nov. 15. Now, it's important to understand that the campers themselves will not ask for an extension, ever. They know that their ability to get permission to stay for a limited period of time will only be successful if they hold to the date they said they would leave. So it was incumbent on others to fight for their ability to stay. So Journey members took to their computers and stationery to plead with the city to extend the lease. And, miracle of miracles, on the 10th of November, the city agreed!

God dared us to act on our words, and then showed us that our efforts made a difference. There is no doubt that we will be emboldened to act again, when the opportunity arises. The moral is, be careful what you say in your mission statement!



Northern Lights Reflections

Move your ministry forward with DCEF's capital campaign guide

Thriving communities of faith often need to raise funds for a specific purpose or ongoing upkeep. A new building, renovation project, debt reduction—all reasons they should conduct a fundraising campaign. You can turn to Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) to guide you through how to empower and inspire your faith community to be more. On average, places of worship who follow DCEF's plan meet or exceed their fundraising goals, and that can make a huge difference in the success of their ministries. If your congregation, camp, or other ministry has the vision, DCEF can make it a reality.

Ready to get started on a capital campaign?

Contact your Building and Capital Services Advisor—in the Northern Lights Region, our DCEF representative is:

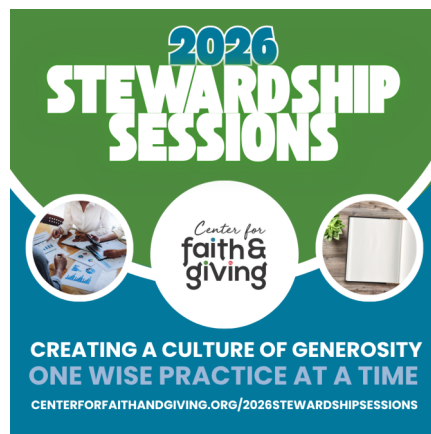
Rev. Rosario Ibarra
ribarra@disciplescef.org
or 317-635-6500
extension 2547.



Offerings from the General Disciples of Christ Church

Introducing the Center for Faith & Giving's 2026 Stewardship Sessions!

For one hour on second Thursdays monthly, we'll explore a new dimension of cultivating faithful generosity—from care for self and creation, missional storytelling, gratitude, and generational differences. Together, we'll begin to see year-round stewardship as a life-giving practice that sustains ministry and deepens discipleship.



Starting in January—1 hour, 2nd Thursdays

9:30 am PT / 10:30 am MT

Learn more and register:

centerforfaithandgiving.org/2026stewardshipsessions



"Our Visible Homage: An Embodied Love For Jesus," this year's Disciples Home Missions Advent Reflections, Worship Litany, Prayers, and Meditations are here!

Join Tyler Araki, Melissa Frantz, David Giron, Scott Hardin-Nieri, Julie

Richardson, Erma Sinclair, and Monique Crain Spells in set apart time with Jesus and the Magi. We hope this concise resource is of help to Disciples in the stillness and hope of Advent.

discipleshomeissions.org/resources/our-visible-homage-advent-2025-reflections

[Click the image to download and share!](#)