

The Virginia Christian



December, 2024

www.ccinva.org/virginia-christian

★
Message from Bill Spangler-Dunning: ★

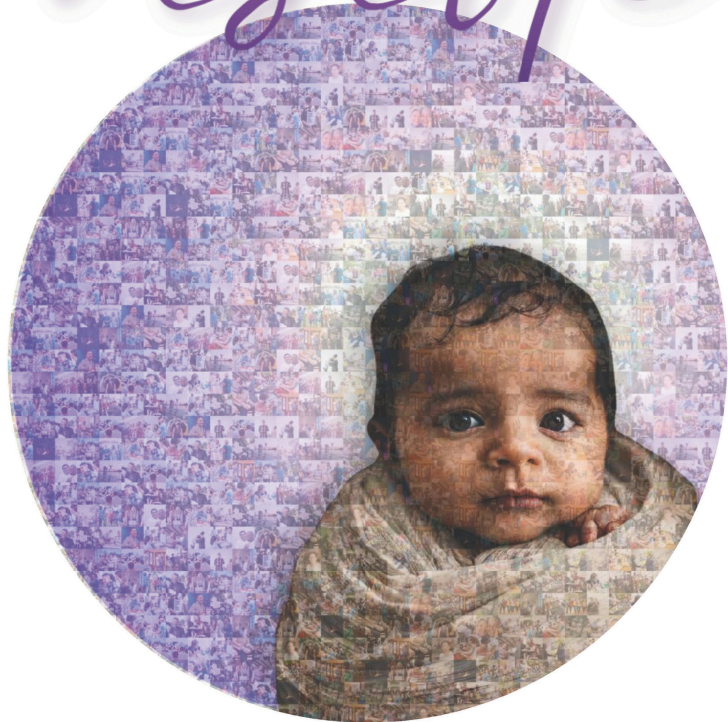
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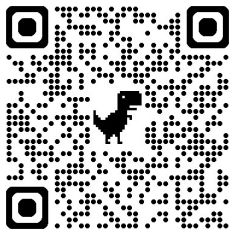
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*By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God,
so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible. ~ Hebrews 11:3*

God's love
visible



Give Here:



2024 CHRISTMAS OFFERING

supporting the work of your Region and its ministries

By giving, YOU make
God's love *Visible*

Ephesians 5:13, Hebrews 11:3
Chalice Hymnal #171 God's Love Made Visible #134 Emmanuel

Poet Christina Rossetti wrote Love Came Down at Christmas; Jazz master Dave Brubeck wrote God's Love Made Visible 90 years later, and in his trademark 5/4 time. We still recite how God made what was invisible to be visible in Jesus Christ. Caring Disciples in our Region create evidence that he is our Movement for Wholeness in a Fragmented World. Emmanuel: God With Us. Brubeck gives us additional adjectives to ponder what God and we accomplish together.

Incomprehensible!

How can we gauge the energy from the sparks of Love when Virginia Regional Disciples care for, support, guide, and be present for us all? God Grows Through Us!

Invincible!

Christ is present when Virginia Regional Disciples stand together to speak prophetic truth amid barrages of hateful voices, policies, and injustices. God Waits for Us!

Bountiful!

When a last-minute sign-up for our Virginia regional church camp ignites all campers' and volunteers' faiths because all experience presence together, Emmanuel: God In Us!

Uncountable!

Consider the reach of a new pastor in Virginia found through Search & Call – regular worshipers, extended family, friends consoled, people fed! God works when we work!

Surmountable!

When the regional minister helps a Virginia church work through a difficulty, blockages become veins for life to flow to the Heart again. Emmanuel: God Cares for Us!

Praying. Yearning. Fulfilling. Loving. Praising. Opening...describes a typical Virginia Regional Commission on Ministry meeting with persons feeling called to ministry.

God among us!

We Dwell. We Bless. We Honor. We Love. We Bring. We Open. We Guide. We give gratitude for our Virginia Regional Ministries this Christmas.

*Thank you for your generous support! 100% stays in our Virginia Region!
Disciples Mission Fund and the other special day offerings multiply our Virginia Region's giving from our Doorsteps to the Ends of the Earth – in common time, march time, waltz time, 6/8, and sometimes & especially, in 5/4 time.*



Pastor Robert Smith

It is with great honor for Pastor Robert Smith that we inform you of his intent to retire from pastoring. After serving as distinguished Pastor of Jerusalem Christian Church, for 17 years, Pastor Smith will preach his last sermon **as Pastor** on Sunday, December 29, 2024. Service will begin at 10:15 am. Pastor Smith served Jerusalem Christian Church after the Rev. Eugene Reynolds retired. As Pastor, his members report that he is a great leader, mentor and educator. We pray God's bountiful blessings upon Pastor Smith and his son Randall as they move forward in life in the Lord. Please mail cards to Pastor Robert Smith to 21 Knollwood Drive, Collinsville, VA 24078, or email him at robertsmithcv@comcast.net
BSD

Youth Lockin

Scheduled for January 24-25, Fairview Christian Church, Lynchburg

Regional Youth Lock-in **"Be Blessed - Not Stressed"** planned by the Virginia Youth Council will be held on January 24 at Fairview Christian Church in Lynchburg, VA. This is open to all middle and high school youth in Virginia. Start time is 8:30 pm and end time will be 9:00 am. Registration deadline is January 19th. Registration fee is \$10.00 per youth. Please bring an overnight bag and something to sleep on.

Register Here: <https://wmt.suran.com/tool?guid=f4151fda87b611ee99571223ac2df89c>

Hurricane Relief Update

Below are a few links and information regarding our common effort to help with recovery and rebuild efforts in North Carolina following the hurricane. Like most disasters, there has been lots of attention for recovery and clean-up efforts, but this area will need years of rebuilding. We are working with Christmount and Week of Compassion to determine when and how we can be part of long-term recovery/rebuild efforts. With this goal in mind, we are beginning to collect names/contacts for individuals/churches who might want to be part of mission trips to the area. We know not every church can organize something, but as a region we can join together and make a real impact. Please pass along the link/QR code to individuals who might be interested. We will also continue to meet via zoom calls every other week to share information, resources and ways churches/individuals can make a real difference. Thank you, as always, for being willing to work together as Disciples in Virginia.

See the Video, QR Code, Website link and zoom schedule/link below:

Youtube Video: <https://youtu.be/ee0-a8DT08M>
<https://www.ccinva.org/hurricanerelief>

Bi-Weekly Mission Zoom Meetings: 12 noon -1pm
January 8th / Future meetings will be announced

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/485473273?pwd=MkxtZEZsR2wrYWNFMlVXK0h3ay9zZz09>
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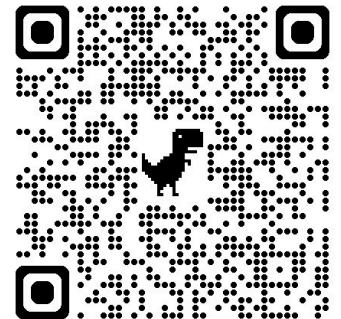
Launch 25

Launch 25 is a retreat for any young adult (High School Senior to Age 23). It will start at 5:00 pm on Friday, January 10 and end at 11:00 am on Sunday, January 12, 2025. The purposes of the retreat are:

1. To help the Virginia Region understand what young adults are looking for in a church.
2. To provide a time for spiritual growth; and
3. To have some great fellowship.

It will be held at Massanetta Springs Conference Center outside of Harrisonburg, VA. The weekend will include an afternoon of snow tubing. Please register on the link below by 12:00 noon, December 23.

<https://wmt.suran.com/tool?guid=07f6e314a5d211ef93cfe959c81fb703>

A winter-themed poster for the 'Launch 25' retreat. The background is a light blue sky with white snowflakes and snow-covered evergreen trees. The text is centered and reads: 'Christian Church in Virginia Disciples of Christ' in white, 'NEW CHURCH' in large orange letters, 'Young Adult Retreat for High School Seniors to 23 years of age.' in purple, and 'LAUNCH 25' in a white box. Below this, it says 'REGISTER BY NOON DECEMBER 23RD', 'Location: Massanetta Springs Conference Center Harrisonburg, VA', and 'Registration Link'. At the bottom, it states 'Begins Friday evening, January 10 to Sunday afternoon January 12. No cost if stay for whole retreat' and 'Includes Snow Tubing at local Ski Resort' in a cursive font.

Christian Church in Virginia
Disciples of Christ

NEW CHURCH

Young Adult Retreat
for High School Seniors to 23 years of age.

LAUNCH 25

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Location: Massanetta Springs
Conference Center
Harrisonburg, VA
Registration Link

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*Includes Snow Tubing at
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VA CAMP SCHEDULE 2025

- 6.16-6.21 Intergenerational Mission Trip
- 6.21-6.28 TREC Camp
- 6.22-6.27 Nature Camp
- 6.29-7.4 Special Camp
- 7.6-7.11 Triple 1
- 7.20-7.24 New Covenant
- 7.21-7.26 CAMPDD
- 7.27-8.1 Triple 2
- 8.1-8.3 Family Camp
- 8.3-8.8 Adult Hiking Camp

CRAIG SPRINGS

- Nature Camp
- Special Camp
- Triple 1 Camp
- New Covenant
- CAMPDD
- Triple 2
- Family

OTHER LOCATIONS

- Intergenerational Mission Trips
- TREC Camp
- Adult Hiking Camp

June Multi-Generational Mission Trip:

This past summer 29 faithful disciples from the region of Virginia went to Charleston, SC for our second annual Virginia Region Multi-generational mission. We were able to serve in many ways and were planning on returning for a second year. However, with the devastation of Hurricane Helene in Western NC, we are now planning on going to Western North Carolina from Monday June 16 - Saturday, June 21, 2025. We do not have a lot of details to share at this point because the region of North Carolina is developing plans with Week of Compassion to accept volunteer groups. We have been in contact with Rev. Karen Kelly who is coordinating efforts for the region of NC. If you have questions about our June Mission trip, please contact trip leaders Rev. Dr. Jonathan Webster at jonathanwebsterbcc@gmail.com or Diane Clark at 804-712-5728. We do not know when registration will open up, but if you think you will go on the trip, please let Diane or Jonathan know so we can get some idea of how many people might participate. The region of Virginia is also planning other ways to help in this recovery effort.

2025 Peace Intern Applications

Disciples Peace Fellowship is overjoyed to announce that we are now accepting applications for the 2025 DPF Peace Intern Program! Visit disciplespeace.org/apply to learn more about the program and to start your application! Applications are due by January 31, 2025.

Each year DPF selects three young adults (21-years-old or older) to serve as Peace Interns. This is a 12-week, paid, summer internship (\$3,000 stipend) that will allow you to serve as an advocate for peace and justice in many different ways and in several different formats. The 2025 DPF Peace Internship will be a hybrid model again this summer. That means that Peace Interns will serve at in-person Disciples of Christ Church Camps AND they will have remote work weeks where they work on specific projects with Disciples Justice Ministries groups (like AllianceQ, Reconciliation Ministries, Green Chalice, Be The Neighbor, and more) or interfaith/ecumenical peace partners (like the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the InterReligious Task Force on Central America, and Blessed Tomorrow). The 2025 Peace Intern summer experience will begin in late May, include a working trip to General Assembly in Memphis, and conclude in early August.

Learn more here: <https://www.disciplespeace.org/what-is-a-peace-intern>





The window for General Board Nominations is now open. With the approval of GA-2343, and our commitment to fostering a more connected church, the nomination process has evolved.

We aim to strengthen the bonds between congregations and the General Board, ensuring that congregations have a voice in shaping the present and future of our church. In pursuit of this goal, as a Disciple, you have the exciting opportunity to nominate delegates to serve on the General Board.

Learn more and begin the nomination process by clicking below to access the nomination forms and an educational pamphlet. The deadline for submitting nominations is February 15, 2025.

Learn More Here: <https://disciples.org/general-board-nominations/>