

Northern Lights Reflections

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

Vol 2 Issue 10 October 2021

IN THIS EDITION

Reflections on the Journey—
Rev. Sandy Messick
p. 1

Prayer Calendar— FCC Sumner
p. 2

Lane Salmon Clergy Assistance
Fund
Mini-Sabbatical Grants for
Pastors and Chaplains
Community Connections
p. 3

Second Saturdays— Coming in
Nov & Dec
Regional Assembly 2022 Save
the Date
p. 4

Fireside Chats Return! Read All
About It
p. 5

Thanksgiving Offering for
Higher Ed
Together We Welcome Event
DCEF Elects Next President
p. 6

A publication of the
Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ) in the
Northern Lights Region

PO Box 23819
Federal Way, WA 98093
Phone: (253) 893-7202
northernlightsdisciples.org

Reflections on the Journey

A moment with Transitional Regional Minister, Rev. Sandy Messick

I'm back from sabbatical and while not exactly rested, I am certainly refreshed for the ministry we are doing together. I am grateful for those who picked up extra pieces while I was away, particularly Rev. Dr. Amy LaCroix who served as acting Regional Minister, Office Manager, Amber Saladino who kept things moving, and Rev. John Keener, Regional Moderator who stayed in touch with the business work of the region. And I'm grateful for a region that allows and expects its leaders to take time away in order to return refreshed and renewed.

While I did step away from most of my regional and general church responsibilities, I attended the fall meeting of the Disciples Seminary Foundation Board on which I serve. That organization is in a time of transition while being ably served by Interim President, Belva Brown-Jordan. They have had to make some difficult and challenging decisions in recent months. During the fall board meeting, we met in retreat with Rev. Ann Updegraff Spleth who led us through some visioning time as DSF looks toward the future. Rev Updegraff Spleth used the change management model espoused by Kurt Lewin. https://www.mindtools.com/pages/article/newPPM_94.htm

This three-stage model uses “unfreezing, change, and refreezing” to define the steps of managing change in an organization. Unfreezing involves releasing the “way we’ve always done things” and assessing what needs to change in an organization to adapt to new realities. The second stage involves implementing those changes which of course sounds simpler than it is. And the third stage, “refreezing,” involves embedding those changes into the organization. Many groups, ours included, struggle with the image of refreezing. We didn’t want to lock in place any change too quickly, and it felt like refreezing was a denial of the reality that change will continue to happen. (Nothing is set in stone.) I share some of this resistance, but also recognize the importance of embedding change into an organization in order to provide stability and identity to the organization. Lewin uses the image of transitioning a block of ice to a cone of ice. First you need to melt the block, then reshape it, but then refreeze it into the new desired shape. If you don’t refreeze, it remains a soupy mess with no solid edges.

As a new region, we have been in the midst of transitioning from two regions into one region. This has involved unfreezing the traditions and practices of our former two regions, examining the gifts and challenges those traditions carry, shaping ourselves into the new region we understand ourselves to be, and gradually embedding and refreezing our identity into the Northern Lights Region. This isn’t a once and for all

(Continued on page 2)

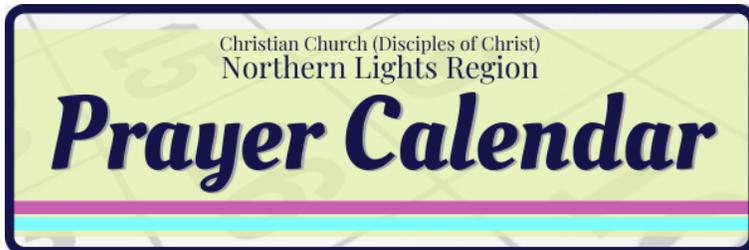
Northern Lights Reflections

(Continued from page 1 Reflections on the Journey)

process. We will continue to unfreeze, reshape, and refreeze our traditions, practices, and priorities. But we are becoming who we believe we are called to be. It's not smooth. COVID has challenged us on our way to uniting as one region. We have some bumpy edges as we continue to discover places where unspoken assumptions lead to misunderstandings or a sense of disconnection. We have welcomed new people and pastors into this region who don't necessarily know our shared history or the rich traditions that led us to this new beginning. We are still becoming the Northern Lights Region. But we've also passed some significant milestones. We've created new groups for supporting clergy across the region and built new relationships that transcend the geographical distance. We've moved through our first in-person camping season and are well into the planning for our first in-person Regional Assembly in 2022. We have weathered a pandemic

together and continued to support our congregations through transitions. All of this is helping us plant the seeds of our shared history as one region even as we remember and celebrate the gifts our former regions brought to the table. Unfreezing. Change. Refreezing. Or as another change management guru, William Bridges describes these stages: Endings, Neutral Zone or Wilderness, and Beginnings. May God continue to bless and guide our transitions. May we be willing to thaw a little in the ways we've always been, move with as little anxiety as possible through the wilderness of change, and not rush too quickly to refreeze what is new in our midst, but embed in our ethos and culture the gifts of grace we are discovering in this new expression of Christ's church.

Grateful to walk this road with you,
Sandy



October 24-30

First Christian Church

432 Wood Ave
Sumner, WA 98390
(253) 863-7858
Minister: Rochelle Richards
Email: sumnerfcc@qwest.net
[Website](#) | [Facebook](#)

Sumner First Christian Church is located in Pierce County and has had a long history in the town of Sumner (having been founded in the late 19th Century). The church has seen great change and transition through the years, especially during the time of COVID. Since the beginning of the summer of 2021, we have been worshipping on Sunday mornings in a hybrid fashion--in person and on Facebook Live. The Sumner Valley Preschool has been able to continue their operations in our building and we continue our ministries of worship,



pastoral care and outreach to our community. We have greatly enjoyed utilizing and welcoming visitors to our Wood Ave. garden labyrinth that church members volunteer time to take care of. We ask for your earnest prayers as we discern our mission and ministry in these continued days of transition and change.

Our mission remains the same: "Love God and Love neighbor" (Luke 10:27) and we ask for prayers as we continue to seek out ways to live this mission in these times.

Northern Lights Reflections

Invitation to contribute to the Lane-Salmon Clergy Assistance Fund

October is traditionally Pastor Appreciation Month within the Disciples. I hope you have taken time to thank your pastor and give thanks for pastors who have positively impacted your life. In the Northern Lights Region we strive to support our clergy through fellowship groups, educational events, and being responsive and accessible to clergy in need. Another way we offer tangible support for our clergy is through the Lane-Salmon Clergy Assistance Fund. This fund is a Northern Lights creation that brings together funds from the former Northwest and Montana regions. In the Northwest Region, the Lane-Salmon fund has been used to provide financial grants to clergy in emergency situations or facing unusual financial need. In the past these funds have been used to provide for rent between ministry positions, counseling/therapy in stressful situations, emergency medical bills, or travel money to attend to unexpected extended family situations. It has also been used for continuing education scholarships for clergy. The Clergy Assistance Fund was created in the Montana Region to provide continuing education funds for clergy and scholarship monies for ministerial students. Together, these two funds provide extra support for our clergy across the Northern Lights Region. The Lane-Salmon Clergy Assistance fund can be accessed by clergy by reaching out to the Regional Minister with a specific request under guidelines established by the Commission on

Ministry.

These funds are replenished through special offerings received at ordinations and installations in the Northern Lights Region. They are also replenished through this special annual appeal during Pastor Appreciation Month during October each year. If you would like to contribute to this important fund, you can contribute online through this link: <https://northernlightsdisciples.org/donations-portal/> and select the Lane-Salmon Clergy Assistance button. Or you may mail a check to Northern Lights Region, PO Box 23819, Federal Way, WA 98093 and indicate it is for the Lane-Salmon Clergy Assistance Fund. Thank you for your support of this important fund and for the clergy in the Northern Lights Region.

Mini-Sabbatical Grants for Pastors and Chaplains

As a reminder, the Northern Lights Region has made available mini-sabbatical grants for congregational pastors and chaplains in the region. Funding for these grants is coming from the ongoing generosity of the Zephyr Heritage Fund. These grants are designed to help congregations support their pastors and chaplains with a little extra R&R after a challenging COVID season. More information and the application can be found on the regional website: <https://northernlightsdisciples.org/com/>. Deadline for application is December 15, 2021

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

Greenacres Christian Church, Spokane Valley - Rev. Chris Hayward has announced his resignation to accept a call in Iowa. His final Sunday is Oct. 24. Please hold him and the congregation in prayer as they move through this transition.

Upcoming Installations - You're Invited!

If you have not experienced it, most congregations will celebrate a new pastor joining the ministry of their church by hosting an Installation service. This shared time will invite the pastor and the congregation to join one another in covenant and commitment to their shared life in ministry.

Please refer to the websites listed for COVID protocols.

October 24 at 2:00pm - Rev. Ellie Leech
Northwest Christian Church, Seattle, WA
7503 18th Ave NW, Seattle, WA 98117
(206) 784-4690

<https://www.nwchristianchurch.org/covidprotocols>

October 31 at 2:00pm - Rev. Sarah Almanza
First Christian Church, Puyallup, WA
623 9th Ave SW, Puyallup, WA 98371
(253) 845-6232

<https://www.fccpuyallup.com/> (scroll down on the home page)

November 7 at 1:00pm - Rev. Stephen Underwood
Central Christian Church, Great Falls, MT
1025 Central Ave, Great Falls, MT 59401
(406) 453-4317

<https://www.gfccc.net/> (scroll down on the home page)

Northern Lights Reflections



Coming Up in our Second Saturdays Series!

November 13

Built to Change – Adaptive Leadership in the Congregation with Rev. Dr. Kara Markell

Adaptive Leadership is an approach to making progress on the most important challenges we face as Church. Adaptive leaders are able to move beyond quick-fix problem solving, to diagnosis of adaptive challenges, and the nurture of adaptive capacity in your organization. For so long we viewed the Church through the built-to-last mindset. Adaptive leaders can shift their congregation to a Built-to-change mindset.

We will review the characteristics of adaptive change, and deepen our understanding of the characteristics and skills of an adaptive leader. We'll explore how to nurture adaptive capacity through faith formation and

worship. And we'll learn how to study scripture through an adaptive change lens.

This workshop is intentionally designed for pastors and congregational leaders who have a basic knowledge of adaptive change principles and want to go deeper in learning how to lead a congregation into and through adaptive change. A significant portion of the sessions will be spent in small working groups.

December 11

Welcome to Sabbath! Um, what is Sabbath? with Jennie Isbell Shinn, M.A., M.Div.

Are you longing for soul-deep rest that actually restores? Or to re-connect with a sense of your daily life as a walk with God? Do you wonder: Is Sabbath a gift or a commandment? A rhythm or a discipline? Is it defined by the things we do, or by the things we abstain from? Bring your journal and your sense of wonder to a quiet space where you can join with others holding these same longings, and more. Together, we'll practice— and explore— the sacred and recurring invitation to rest with God. Drawing on scripture and other writings, we will use reflective journal prompts, small group sharing, guided imagery and the practice of wonder to re-imagine and re-connect to the life-giving practice of Sabbath. Ours is a God who invites. Might this Advent season be a good time to say yes to more time with God?

[Register Here](#)

Visit the Second Saturdays homepage for speaker bios and descriptions of all the Second Saturdays events!

[Visit the Second Saturdays homepage.](#)



Northern Lights Reflections

Fireside Chats

CONVERSATIONS WITH THE REGIONAL MINISTER



Fireside Chats Return – Storytelling Edition!

Our monthly Fireside Chats are returning on the 2nd Thursday of each month. In November we will gather on Zoom at **6:30pm (Pacific) on Thursday, November 11**. All are welcome from all corners of the region to join for an hour of connecting and conversation.

Back in July our Second Saturday event focused on storytelling and Sandy thought this might be a great format for the Fireside Chats. So, this month we will be trying a **storytelling event with the focus on “gratitude.”** You are invited to come with a story to share having to do with the topic of “gratitude.” Maybe it’s about someone you are especially grateful for, or a time when you felt or received gratitude, or what makes you grateful. Keep the story focused and under 5 minutes so others will have a chance to share their stories as well. Here are some tips from Rebecca Anderson, our Second Saturday leader, about building your story: <https://www.earshotstories.com/journal/2019/3/17/building-a-story>

If you know you have a story and want to tell it, let Sandy know ahead of time. But even if you aren’t willing to commit, but might want to tell a story, come prepared. And if you

aren’t ready or interested in sharing a story, join us to hear the stories of others. How does gratitude and thanksgiving show up in our lives? We can’t wait to hear your story!

Zoom Information

Sandy Messick is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Region-Wide Fireside Chat

Time: Nov 11, 2021 06:30 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Every month on the Second Thu, until Dec 9, 2021, 2 occurrence(s)

Nov 11, 2021 06:30 PM

Dec 9, 2021 06:30 PM

Please download and import the following iCalendar (.ics) files to your calendar system.

Monthly: <https://us02web.zoom.us/join/tZcpde2pqTvwH9HYGOTQ6X7ASUR0VzJMihHL/ics?icsToken=98tyKuGrqjkuG90StRyCRpwqBojoLOvwtmZYgvp1pTjKNxEFwITXBddwYoRiOvXZ>

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83424177555?pwd=NjdTVTN2SGkwbzFQL2hRcjJncDJBUT09>

Meeting ID: 834 2417 7555

Passcode: 503945

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,83424177555#,,,,*503945# US (Tacoma)

+16699006833,,83424177555#,,,,*503945# US (San Jose)

Dial by your location

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 834 2417 7555

Passcode: 503945

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kbmD2HYMbh>

Northern Lights Reflections

News from our General Ministries and Partner Organizations

 Higher Education &
Leadership Ministries
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Colleges &
Universities

Seminaries &
Divinity Houses

2021 Thanksgiving
Offering

Disciplesmissionfund.org



Disciples Church Extension Fund calls Belinda King as President



The Board of Directors of Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) is pleased to announce that it has named Belinda R. King, MBA, as the next President of the general ministry. With nearly two decades of experience in business banking, commercial lending, investment management, and client service, King is the first African American and first woman to serve as

President of DCEF. She will begin her role as President Elect on November 15, 2021, following Erick D. Reisinger who will retire as President on December 31, 2021.

“I am overjoyed with Belinda becoming the next President of DCEF,” said Rev. Laurie Pound Feille, DCEF Board chair. “She has the experience, gifts, and talents to lead DCEF into the future. The Board of Directors is looking forward to working with her and to all that she will bring to the position.”

King joined DCEF in 2012 as Assistant Treasurer for Loan Services. She has served as Assistant Vice President (2014) and Vice President (2019). In her role on the DCEF Advisors team, King works directly with congregations, relates to Regional Ministers, other Disciples of Christ ministers, denominational Bishops, and a host of church partners. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Public Administration & Labor Relations from Indiana University and an MBA from Indiana Wesleyan. She also holds the FINRA Series 6 and 63 licenses.

King will be the ninth president of the 138-year-old ministry. “I am very pleased that Belinda has been named the next president of DCEF,” said Reisinger. “Her love for the Church paired with her extensive background in the financial sector makes Belinda the ideal person to lead DCEF into its next chapter of ministry.”



**Together
WE WELCOME**

A National Faith Gathering to Strengthen
Support for Refugees, Immigrants and Migrants

November 7 - 11 | 6-9 PM EST

REGISTER: CWSGLOBAL.ORG/TOGETHERWEWELCOME

 CWS