

Weekly Newsletter

Pastor Tracy Out of Office Next Week

Written by Pastor Tracy

I will be attending The Gathering during the week of Labor Day. The Gathering is a retreat for clergy sponsored by The Pension Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). I will be traveling to New Orleans for the week to meet with colleagues and Disciples general ministries for a time of fellowship with Disciples colleagues, daily worship and time for learning. Dr Matt Bloom will be the keynote speaker. He is a professor of Wellbeing at Work. He will be leading sessions about flourishing and thriving in ministry. Thank you for this time of retreat and renewal for ministry. If you need pastoral care during the retreat, please contact Elder co-chairs Cathy or Sue or an Elder.

Cincy Shakes presents: King Lear

Written by Pastor Tracy

Our very own Jim Hopkins is starring as King Lear in the upcoming production at Cincy Shakes! It is showing from September 9th—October 1st. If you are interested in going as a group to a Sunday, 2:00 PM matinée, please contact Pastor Tracy to coordinate tickets.



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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Pastor Tracy will be Out of Office next week.
- We are asking folks to submit opinion pieces to be featured in our newsletters.
- The book club is reading "The Hotel Nantucket" by Elin Hilderbrand.
- We need volunteers to help with the Oct. 1st community dinner.
- Pilgrimage opportunity available.
- LGBTQ+ Retreat hosted by AllianceQ is upcoming.

Sunday School Class in September



Written by: Rev. Tracy Siegman

Sunday, September 25th, I will be leading a special one class Bible study regarding Matthew 18: 21—35 focused on The Sin of Unequal Relationships and the Money that Creates those Power Structures. This is a Bible study I wrote for a DMin class I did last fall. As we move into the fall, celebrating the abundance of the harvest, reflecting on ministries addressing poverty,

beginning our church budget planning and thinking about our fall stewardship campaign, this is an opportune time for this study. The class will start at 9:30 and meet in the choir / donut room. If you are one that worships from home or unable to make that Sunday, I will offer the class again on Wednesday, September 21 at 6:30 pm via Zoom (link to come soon).

“How does the church add value to your life?” - writing prompts for opinion pieces to be featured in our Weekly Newsletter

Writing Prompts:

- ◆ Why do you like First Christian Church?
- ◆ What is something you have learned about First Christian Church?
- ◆ What is something you've learned about faith during your own journey?
- ◆ Highlight a ministry that First Christian Church does that you appreciate or have ideas for.
- ◆ How does the church add value to your life?
- ◆ Share your favorite bit of information or history about the Disciples of Christ.

We Want to Hear from You!

Written by Alex Gallenstein

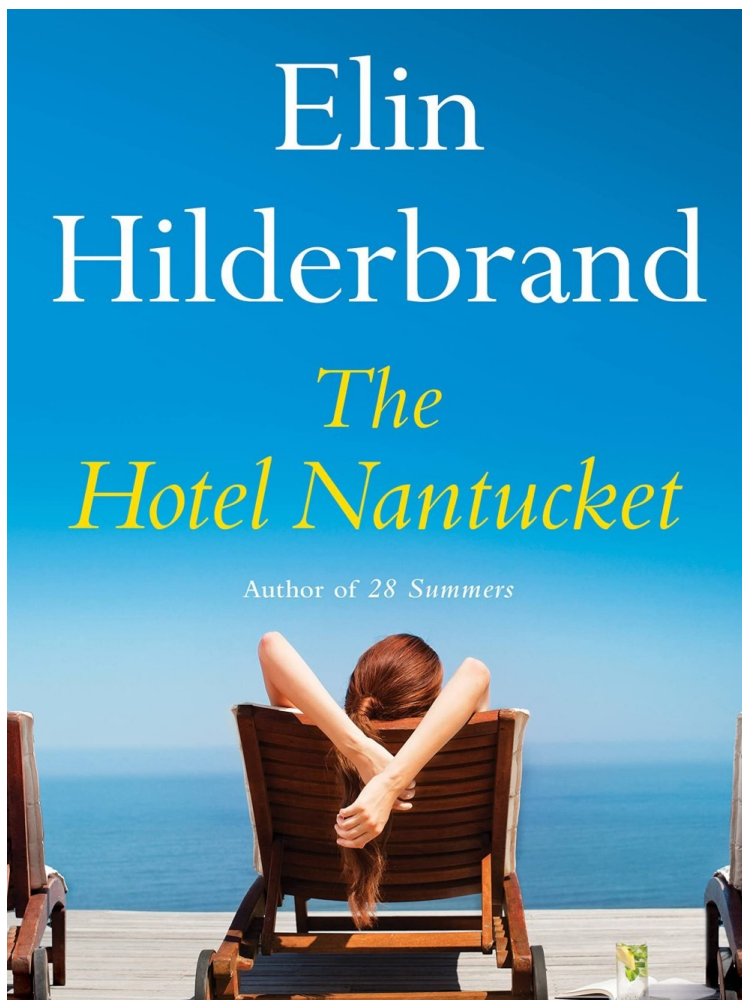
Do you have thoughts about the church, our ministries, or faith in general that you'd like to share? We want to hear about it!

We will start taking submissions for opinion pieces to be featured right here, in our Weekly Newsletter, starting immediately! We'd love to hear more from folks and really let the voice of First Christian Church be heard in our communications.

Interested in writing a piece but unsure what to write about? We have a list of prompts to the left of this article that you can use to help inspiration flow!

We hope to hear from you soon! We will feature one submission per week and queue additional submissions received that week. Submissions should be received no later than Wednesday night to be featured in that week's newsletter, as the newsletter is written on Thursdays.

Any and all feedback to this new process is welcomed. We can't wait to hear from you!



New Book Club Book Selection

The First Christian Church Book Club had a wonderful meeting last month! The group met to discuss last month's book and eat ice cream in celebration and remembrance of Tom Rambo.

The next book selection is "The Hotel Nantucket" by Elin Hilderbrand. A description of the book from the website [goodreads](https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/18470934-The-Hotel-Nantucket) says:

"After a tragic fire in 1922 that killed 19-year-old chambermaid, Grace Hadley, The Hotel Nantucket descended from a gilded age gem to a mediocre budget-friendly lodge to inevitably an abandoned eyesore — until it's purchased and renovated top to bottom by London billionaire, Xavier Darling. Xavier hires Nantucket sweetheart Lizbet Keaton as his general manager, and Lizbet, in turn, pulls together a charismatic, if inexperienced, staff who share the vision of turning the fate of the hotel around. They face challenges in getting along with one another (and with the guests), in overcoming the hotel's bad reputation, and in surviving the (mostly) harmless shenanigans of Grace Hadley herself — who won't stop haunting the hotel until her murder is acknowledged."

If you'd like to join the group at their next meeting via Zoom on **Sunday, October 16th at 2:00 PM**, contact the church office to receive the Book Club's emails.

Volunteers Needed for Community Dinner!

Written by Pastor Sheri Jackson

First Christian Church is responsible for the community dinner served on Saturday, October 1st. We are currently in need of volunteers for that time. If you are interested in helping with this important ministry, please contact the church office or Pastor Sheri Jackson directly.

Thank you!



Take a Pilgrimage to the Holy Land!

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YOUR ALL-INCLUSIVE PRICE INCLUDES:

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Florence Christian Church: Bible Land Exploration with Dr. Susan Diamond

Message from Dr. Susan Diamond

Dear Friends,

One of the highlights of my spiritual life was making pilgrimage to the Holy Land in 1991. To say that the Bible came alive is an understatement! From journeying to Bethlehem, where Jesus was born, to standing at the shores of the Sea of Galilee, where Jesus spent his ministry teaching, preaching and healing people...to the streets of Old Jerusalem, the Mount of Olives, and the Garden Tomb, where we remembered his final hours, I experienced my faith in a life-transforming way.

I have participated in three such pilgrimages, and each one was special in my life and faith. Over the years, I have pondered whether I would take one more journey with friends to the Holy Land. I believe that time has come. It's time to look forward, and I want to invite you to join me in May of 2023 for a spiritual pilgrimage to the Land of the Bible. This brochure will share some of the highlights of what that pilgrimage will look like. Each day, we will not only visit the sites that undergird the story of our faith; we will have special worship experiences that you will never forget! I hope you'll join me in 2023!



Itinerary:

Day 1—5/15/23: Depart

Day 2—5/16/23: Arrive in the Holy Land

Day 3—5/17/23: Caesarea by the Sea, Mount Carmel, Megiddo & Nazareth

Day 4—5/18/23: Sea of Galilee

Day 5—5/19/23: Tel Dan, Caesarea Philippi, Golan Heights, Bethsaida & Jordan River

Day 6—5/20/23: Jericho, Qumran, Masada & the Dead Sea

Day 7—5/21/23: Bethlehem, Yad Vashem & Israel Museum

Day 8—5/22/23: Jerusalem

Day 9—5/23/23: Jerusalem

Day 10—5/24/23: Return to the USA

For the full brochure, please visit
[https://www.noseworthytravel.com/
files/uploads/
NH23_051523F_48948_Diamond_FIN
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COLORS OF HOPE RETREAT

Taken from <https://disciplesallianceq.org/retreat/>

Gather with LGBTQ+ people of faith and allies from across the Church to **hope in color** and enjoy the colorful foliage at Christmount with the Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance. By engaging the spiritual practices from the devotional journal **Colors of Hope**, you will be encouraged and equipped to **embody your faith**—and **queer your spirituality**. With an emphasis on **connection** over content, you are invited to join the book's editor and authors to wonder, resist, embody, create, hope, stretch, and share.

Learn and unlearn and rest

Sessions, sermons, spiritual practices, and conversation with Tyler Heston, William DeShay C. Jackson, Melissa Guthrie, Brendan Y. Boone, Allen V. Harris, and Marian Edmonds-Allen.

Along with programmed opportunities: intentional space for rest, restoration, and restorying.

Event Registration is open!

Registration includes lodging, meals, and all retreat activities. Costs are already subsidized and we encourage everyone who is able to select the regular registration rate. Sharing a bunk room is the most affordable way to participate in the retreat (and live in community!).

Room reservation and one registration: \$475

This option secures registration for one person and a room with one king bed, two queen beds, or four bunk beds.

Room reservation and one registration for students/restricted income: \$350

This option is for students or individuals with restricted income and secures registration for one person and a room with one king bed, two queen beds, or four

bunk beds. When reserving your tickets, use this discount code: hopingin-color.

Additional registration: \$225

This option secures an additional registration for someone in a shared room.

Room types are limited. The registration form will collect information about dietary or accessibility needs. [Read Christmount's Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Statement.](#)

Registration closes on September 15 (or when the gathering reaches capacity).

About the Book

[Colors of Hope: A Devotional Journal from LGBTQ+ Christians](#) draws upon the iconic Pride flag and raises a call to embody our beliefs. The book is an expansive resource for personal growth and collective change. "Hoping in color" brings the joy, beauty, and power of the rainbow to life.

Disciples
LGBTQ+
Alliance

AllianceQ
Disciples LGBTQ+ Alliance



COLORS OF RETREAT
HOPE OCTOBER 24-27

Recurring Events:

Sundays 10:45 AM

Morning Worship

Join us in-person or from home during our live stream!

Tuesdays 2:00 PM

Women's Bible Study

Join the weekly Zoom call for a prayer and Bible study session! Contact the church office for the Zoom link if interested.

Saturdays 5:00 PM

Community Dinner

We prepare and serve a community dinner weekly and always need volunteers! Contact the church office if you're interested!

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Upcoming Events

⇒ **Friday—Saturday, Sept 9th—Oct 1st**

Cincy Shakes presents King Lear, featuring Jim Hopkins

Contact the church office if you'd like to coordinate a group for a Sunday matinee, or feel free to make other plans to attend.

⇒ **Sunday, September 18th 7:00 PM**

Leadership Council Meeting

All members of the congregation are invited to join!

⇒ **Sunday, September 25th 9:30 AM**

Sunday Morning Bible Study

A special one class Bible study regarding Matthew 18: 21—35 focused on The Sin of Unequal Relationships and the Money that Creates those Power Structures.

⇒ **Saturday—Sunday, October 15th —16th**

Disciples Women's Ministries 2022 Fall Retreat

This year's theme is: "Women, Get Ready... Get Set... Connect!"

⇒ **Sunday, October 16th 2:00 PM**

FCC Book Club

The book club will be meeting via Zoom to discuss "The Hotel Nantucket" by Elin Hilderbrand. Contact the church office to be added to the book club's email list.

⇒ **Monday—Thursday, October 24th—27th**

Colors of Hope Retreat

Gather with LGBTQ+ people of faith and allies from across the Church where you will be encouraged and equipped to **embody your faith—** and **queer your spirituality.** [Register online.](#)

⇒ **Thursday—Saturday, November 3rd—5th**

Biennial Regional Assembly

The Christian Church in Kentucky will gather in Georgetown this fall. The Assembly team is planning for a feast of workshops, fellowship, worship, and prayer. They are also preparing a digital assembly experience for those who cannot make it to Georgetown.

Thank you for reading this week's newsletter!