

# Weekly Newsletter

## Member Submission!

*Written by Brenda Staggs*

Words alone are not enough to express my sincere appreciation to my friends at First Christian Church for all of the love and care extended to me recently. As many of you know, I had a fall that required a trip to the emergency room and stitches, x-rays, etc. My balance became more of a problem. I needed help to stay alone while Sterling was away helping our daughter and grandson in Florida.

Beginning on October 19th, I had dear friends who called, who prepared meals and brought them to me, who stayed and visited with me. These friends went to the grocery store for me, drove me to a dentist appointment, helped me make candy bags for Halloween, raked leaves from my yard to the street, brought the garbage and recycle cans to the street on Monday night and returned the next morning to pull them back up the drive. Another special act of kindness was to run the vacuum sweeper. Still another friend took me to lunch on a Friday and then to her home where we did book club. What a trip from Campbell County to Boone County and back home. Another friend bought more Halloween cards and Thanksgiving cards for me to send. Another friend walked down our hill to get mail from the mailbox and then back up the hill. Another Elder took my place on Sunday at the communion table. These are some of the many ways my church family stepped forward for me. There was nothing that these friends would not do for me. These acts of kindness reflected God's amazing Grace!

Again, thank you dear friends.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

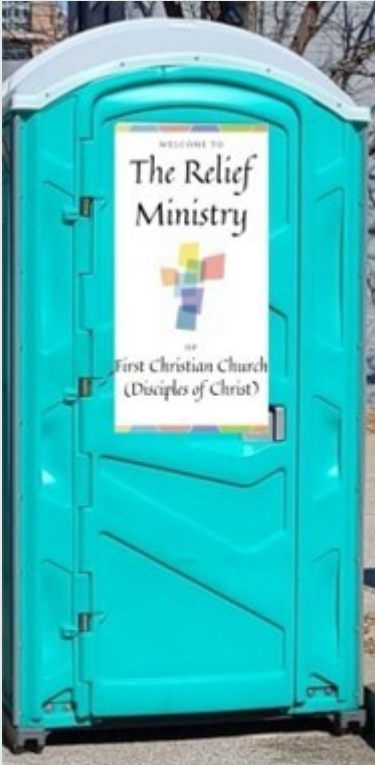
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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- A special "thank-you" from Brenda Staggs
- Petition to keep the Relief Ministry / Porta John 3:16
- Help us decorate for Advent on 11/26 at 6 PM
- Upcoming Theopoetics event 11/30
- Upcoming World AIDS Day event 12/1
- Upcoming Sober BINGO event 12/8
- Upcoming SoulCare: Warmth & Wellness event 12/14

# Petition to Make Porta John 3:16 Permanent

Written by: Rev. Tracy Siegman  
& Alex Gallenstein



During the COVID pandemic, when many establishments in the community were closed to the public, people experiencing homelessness had fewer options to use a restroom. There was no access to the library, restaurants, and other places where people experiencing homelessness could use the restroom. According to bloomberg.com, "...Covid-19 exposed and exacerbated the American bathroom gap... In cities with high rates of homelessness, efforts to install temporary hygiene facilities during lockdowns often met resistance from community members and city officials, even as frustrated local businesses locked their restrooms to prevent use from unhoused individuals."

According to an article in "The Gate" by Brian Cohen, the state of Kentucky is tied for the 2nd to the last state for access to public restrooms with only 2 public restrooms per 100,000 people.

The Relief ministry with Porta John 3:16 has provided a place where people can relieve themselves with dignity and privacy during a time when it has been difficult to find a public restroom. Porta John 3:16 ministry meets the needs of those experiencing homelessness as well as City of Covington visitors who come downtown for many of the community activities. Rev. Tracy Siegman says, "Covid revealed a justice issue and we responded."

*"Kentucky is tied for the 2nd to the last state for access to public restrooms with only 2 public restrooms per 100,000 people."*

People with fewer options were relieving themselves in public places that posed public health concerns: behind bushes, bus stops, etc. "The state of public restrooms in the U.S. is pretty deplorable, with certain exceptions," says Steven Soifer, president and co-founder of the American Restroom Association.

First Christian Church, Covington, seeing the issue, responded to the need of their neighbors. FCC Covington applied to the City of Covington for a permit to place a portable restroom on our property. We were approved for a permit by the city and Rumpke delivered a portable restroom in early 2021.

Recently, First Christian Church was advised by the City of Covington that we were not allowed to have this ministry as a permanent structure on our property and that it would need to be taken down. We hope that you can take a moment to [sign this petition](#) and that a show of support from the community will help us to be able to continue this impactful ministry.

Thank you for your support! We will continue to update folks on the progression of our fight to keep this ministry for our community!

<https://chnq.it/PCs8cBkSxW>

## Watch Party: “Theopoetics”



The poster features a purple and yellow background with a circular portrait of Dr. Oluwatomisin "Tomi" Oredein. The title "Theopoetics:" is written in a large, stylized yellow font, followed by the subtitle "BLACK WOMEN'S POETIC WRITING AS A SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF FREEDOM" in white. Below the portrait, the text identifies her as the facilitator and provides her title and affiliation. The event date and time are listed in yellow and white. A bio of Dr. Oredein is provided in small text. The DHM logo and a registration button are at the bottom.

**Theopoetics:**  
**BLACK WOMEN'S POETIC WRITING AS A  
SPIRITUAL PRACTICE OF FREEDOM**

**FACILITATOR**  
**DR. OLUWATOMISIN "TOMI" OREDEIN**  
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN BLACK RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS,  
CONSTRUCTIVE THEOLOGY AND ETHICS | BRITE DIVINITY SCHOOL

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 30**  
AT 12:00 PM EST/  
11:00 AM CST

Oluwatomisin "Tomi" Oredein  
is an Assistant Professor in Black Religious Traditions and Constructive  
Theology and Ethics and the Director of Black Church Studies at Brite  
Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX. Her scholastic and creative work engages  
theopoetics, womanist theology and ethics, postcolonial thought, and  
Black theology from a diasporic perspective. Her research interests include  
American African articulations of womanism, theopoetics, constructive  
theology, and social ethics.

**REGISTER ON EVENTBRITE**

**DH M** Disciples  
Home  
Missions

Written by Alex Gallenstein

Dr. Oluwatomisin "Tomi" Oredein will lead us in the foundations of theopoetics, exploring Black women's writings, and in nurturing our own poetry as a spiritual practice in freedom. She is the Assistant Professor in Black Religious Traditions and Constructive Theology and Ethics and the Director of Black Church Studies at Brite Divinity School in Fort Worth, TX. Her scholastic and creative work engages theopoetics, womanist theology and ethics, postcolonial thought, and Black theology from a diasporic perspective. Her research interests include American African articulations of womanism, theopoetics, constructive theology, and social ethics.

First Christian Church will host a watch party and discussion as the event streams live. Join us in-person on Wednesday, November 30th at 12 PM to watch and discuss together, or, [register online](#) (free) to participate from home.

## Decorating for Advent

Written by Alex Gallenstein

As many of you have likely realized, Advent season is quickly coming upon us! Our church is blessed to be housing a wedding the day before our first Sunday Advent service. As such, we are asking our members to help us decorate the sanctuary *after* the wedding and *before* Sunday morning's service.

**Please join us Saturday,  
November 26th at 6:00  
PM to decorate the  
sanctuary!**







## 2022 World AIDS Day at FCC

December 1st is World AIDS Day, where communities across the globe come together to bring attention to the HIV epidemic.

Join us and partner organizations for a special memorial event at our church on Thursday, December 1st at 7:00 PM. The night's goal is to unite with others to prevent HIV, support people with HIV, and remember those who have lost their lives to an AIDS-related illness.

The evening will feature a quilt signing, music written or performed by HIV/AIDS activists, and readings/reflections from people who are living with or have been affected by HIV. By honoring this day, we contribute to the effort to end HIV and make the world a healthier place.

You can join us in-person or online for this important event. Check our [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#) to find the live-stream during the event!

Greater Cincinnati & Northern Kentucky Area  
Annual Gathering



An evening to unite in the fight against HIV, to show support for people living with HIV and to remember those who have died from AIDS

**Thursday, December 1 @ 7:00 PM**  
First Christian Church - 14 W Fifth Street, Covington, KY 41014

**HOSTED BY:**  
ANITA DUSHAY

**SUGGESTED DONATION - \$10**  
PIZZA/SODA/WATER  
AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE

**BENEFITING:**  
GAY & SOBER

**SOBER BINGO!**

**DECEMBER 8TH, 2022**  
DOORS 6PM - BINGO 7PM

**FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH - 14 WEST 5TH STREET, COVINGTON, KY**

## Sober BINGO benefiting GAY & SOBER

Join the ISQCCBE (Imperial Sovereign Queen City Court of the Buckeye Empire) in a new partnership event with Gay & Sober! We've got our first sober bingo night! Complete with a drag queen host and a few performances throughout the night between rounds!

Doors open at First Christian Church at 6:00 PM; BINGO starts at 7.

Suggested donation is \$10 at the door will get you your first round of cards, with additional cards available for a donation! We will have soda, water, and pizza available for purchase as well.

All proceeds will benefit Gay & Sober. See y'all there!

# SoulCare

WARMTH & WELLNESS



National  
Benevolent  
Association



Livestream Event

Wed., December 14, 2022

7:30 pm ET / 4:30 pm PT

REGISTER NOW

## Watch Party: “SoulCare: Warmth & Wellness”

Join the National Benevolent Association’s Mental Health & Wellness Director, Joselyn Spence, along with other guests as we share a moment to pause, process, and care for ourselves this holiday season. We encourage you to grab your favorite mug, something soothing to sip, and a cozy chair as you prepare for an evening of SoulCare focused on wellness practices.

Want to share the moment? First Christian Church will be hosting a watch party during the event’s live-stream. Join us for refreshments (including hot chocolate and coffee), good discussion, and great company!

You can [register online](#) (free!) to participate from home, or come by the church on Wednesday, December 14th for the 7:30 PM live-stream. Either way you choose, we hope to see you there!

## Prayer List

- ◆ Doug Baldrige
- ◆ Phyllis Mead
- ◆ Rose & Elton Gudvangen
- ◆ Sue Gallenstein
- ◆ Logan
- ◆ Priscilla Hubbard
- ◆ Imogene Walters
- ◆ Momo Siegman

## 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!*

## First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

14 W 5th Street  
Covington, KY 41011

Phone:  
(859) 640-9435

E-mail: [firstonfifthcc@gmail.com](mailto:firstonfifthcc@gmail.com)



## Upcoming Events

⇒ **Wednesday, November 30th 12:00 PM—1:00 PM**

Watch Party: "Theopoetics: Black Women's Poetic Writing as a Spiritual Practice"

*Dr. Oluwatomisin "Tomi" Oredein will lead in the foundations of theopoetics, exploring Black women's writings, and in nurturing your own poetry as a spiritual practice. FCC will host a watch party and discussion; [register online](#) (free) to participate from home.*

⇒ **Thursday, December 8th 6:00 PM—9:00 PM**

Sober BINGO benefiting GAY & SOBER

*Doors will open at 6:00 pm; BINGO starts at 7:00 pm; suggested donation of \$10 at the door; pizza/soda/water will be available for purchase*

⇒ **Wednesday, December 14th 7:30 PM—8:30 PM**

Watch Party: "NBA SoulCare: Warmth & Wellness"

*Join the National Benevolent Association for a livestream event! Grab a hot beverage and get cozy as we offer warmth and wellness this holiday season. FCC will be hosting a watch party with refreshments and great company! [Register online](#) (free) to participate from home.*

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***Thank you for reading this week's newsletter!***

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