

GREATER KC DISCIPLES of CHRIST

SERVING AND LEADING WITH FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE

(updated 4/1/2020)

We are shifting our focus for these daily messages to highlight the good work being done and opportunities for service. Underlined text is linked to an online resource. Stories, resources and opportunities to serve change daily.

With more information coming in almost hourly, we are switching formats for you. Now, each day we will post new information on a separate page on our website. The buttons indicating topics will have the same url and new information will be posted at the top. Share these links with others.

Archived daily updates are accessible here.

- **SCRIPTURE**

Jesus said to them, “Do you believe that I am able to do this?” They said to him, “Yes, Lord.” Then he touched their eyes their eyes and said, “According to your faith let it be done to you.” *Matthew 9:28b-29 NRSV*

- M. Basil Pennington O.C.S.O., commenting on this passage in his book *Living in the Question* notes that when Jesus always answers prayers, “*We have our role to play. Every work of the Lord in us is a collaborative effort: his divine action finding room to act in us to the extent we give it room, that we are open to it by our faith. Nonetheless, Jesus does more than his part.*” In the moments we have to engage in personal prayer and meditation, when we pray alone or with others for an end to the pandemic and discernment about how we are to live differently in the future, may Jesus find us to be not passive but in full partnership with his response.

- **PICTURE**



Out thanks to Rev. Kent Deubner for sending this photo and to the faith communities of Pleasant Hill, Missouri and their Lay Clergy initiative that is finding new ways to feed 30 + people during the pandemic.

MUSIC VOCES REUNIDAS - [Es exaltado / Grande es Dios](#)

(Great is Our God) - a reminder that we Disciples now worship in over 20 languages!

NEXT KC DISCIPLES LEADERS CONFERENCE: Next KC Leaders Conference: 8 pm, April 7

31. Focus: **Finances** [Details ABOUT GETTING ON THE CO.NFERENCE ONLINE OR BY PHONE](#)

- [Recording](#) of the March 31 Conference (will be removed 4.3.2020)
- **ELDERS AND DEACONS CONFERENCE:** An opportunity to check in with each other share concerns, discoveries, and successes. <https://zoom.us/j/559076409> or 16699006833,,559076409#
- **TODAY'S FEATURED CONGREGATION:** [Weston Christian Church](#) – upgrading their website and use of digital media to worship, serve and lead! (Photos taken before COVID will not display social distancing.)
- **QUICK UPDATES OF INTEREST**
 - **+Household Solidarity Grants for Income Loss** are available to Disciples of Christ congregations *on behalf of members and pastors* who are experiencing significant financial hardship. Eligible households must have lost wages due to COVID-19 (illness, protective social measures, or reduced hours/gigs) and must *not* be eligible for state unemployment insurance (USA) or the GSTC (Canada). Additional funds are available for households that do not qualify for federal stimulus benefits. For more information, email Week of Compassion at info@weekofcompassion.org. We also have this application in Spanish and Korean should you need it. **We will put this and other new information about grants and the financial assistance to individuals through the federal and state governments on a new web page this evening. That button will read: CV FINANCIAL INFO**
 - From Rev. Dr. Bob Hill, Minister Emeritus at Community Christian Church and Consultant with the Kauffman Foundation:
 - Community Resources which can be of assistance to you and your congregation, for education purposes, organizational support, and more.
 - 1) **Mayor Quinton Lucas** will host a **conference call for religious leaders** about the KC response to the coronavirus pandemic **this coming Thursday, April 2, at 9:00 a.m.** To participate: call #: 425-436-6361 passcode:372-423
 - 2) The **\$2 trillion coronavirus economic stimulus bill (CARES ACT)** is aimed at providing relief for individuals, businesses, and organizations (including congregations) that have been negatively impacted by the

coronavirus outbreak. Please see the ATTACHED PDF about how congregations can connect with possible resources and support from the CARES ACT. To assist congregations in understanding the CARES ACT (and how congregations can apply), Rev. Darron Lamonte Edwards of United Believers Community Church will host two ZOOM meetings (each session lasting 45 min.-1 hr.) this coming Thursday afternoon (April 2) and Friday (April 3). Text Rev. Edwards at PASEDS70@gmail.com about the day you would like to participate, and he will provide the Zoom invitation. (It is anticipated that this part of the stimulus package will be ready to commence this Friday or the Monday after Easter.)

- - 3) Click [here](#) for news about the new **COVID-19 Education Relief Fund** which **SchoolSmartKC** announced today.
 - 4) Click [here](#) for information about the **Kansas City Regional COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund** coordinated through the Great Kansas City Community Foundation.
 - 5) Click [here](#) for **The Beacon's "Kansas City COVID-19 Community Resources"**. (The Beacon, launched just this year, is an online news outlet based in Kansas City focused on local, in-depth journalism in the public interest.)
- ONE MORE THING: Information and updates are happening at lightning-like speed these days, and we all can expect changes, alterations, and reinterpretations of news, policies, guidelines, initiatives, and a host of program roll-outs. Let's keep patience and forbearance at the forefront. Deep breaths are also in order throughout this process. As always, hold on to hope: We're all in this together, and we will get through this together.

- OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE AND LEAD
 - Swope Parkway United Christian Church Pastor, Rev. Dr. Rodney Williams, has extended an open invitation to his 6 am daily prayer calls (*6-8 minutes – I have found these to be a great way to start the morning – BRH*) 425.436.6398 – access code 651057#
 - **Join "IWOBS" (Immigrant-led Weekly Online Bible Studies).** Dial in here: <https://zoom.us/j/829199714> -- An "Inner Study" for directly impacted community members will happen on April 2, 16, & 30 at 11 am ET, and an "Outer Study" for all who wish to study scripture thru an immigrant-based lens will happen April 9 and 23. Contact Valeria Bejar, Disciples Immigration Response Specialist for more info.: vbejar@cpohm.disciples.org
- My name is Andrew Williams and I am a medical student at UMKC, writing on behalf of KC PPE Drive. We are a volunteer team of healthcare members and friends in the

Kansas City area. We're organizing and delivering collections of unopened supplies on behalf of the front line hospitals in the KC Metro area. Our healthcare workers are coming face-to-face with COVID-19 daily and there is a shortage of masks and other personal protective equipment (PPE). PPE helps to keep our doctors, nurses and medical staff healthy so they can keep serving patients and prevent spreading the virus to their loved ones at home. We are looking for donations of:

- N95 Masks
- Surgical masks
- Rubber gloves (latex and non) (non-latex preferable)
- PAPR's (powered air-purifying respirators)
- Disposable gowns (paper, plastic)
- Eye protection(goggles, face shields, wrap-around)
- Hand sanitizers

- We understand that your church may not have any of these materials directly on hand, but we're hoping that you can let your congregation know about the community's need for supplies. We're collecting information from donors through this online form: <https://forms.gle/NPaEpwQzBUipKgtw5>. If you could pass this form along to your congregation, it would be much appreciated. We can arrange for pick-up and delivery of any donations to a local hospital or can help coordinate for you or your members to donate directly. Please feel free to contact myself (amw9bb@mail.umkc.edu) or the organization directly at kcppedrive@gmail.com with any questions. If your congregation members have any questions, you can also direct them to the same email addresses. Thank you! Andrew Williams See on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/KcPPEdrive>
- KC For Refugees works with those already here (and still coming) from refugee camps in Syria, the Congo, and Somalia. Our work is focused on the period following their first 90 days when all their aid and income runs out. Most do not speak English and many are afraid to venture out or even to ask for help as learn to navigate life in a very different culture and language, carrying with them the traumatic memories and scars that forced them to flee in the first place. We can help, and, Regional Minister Bill Rose Heim would like to hear from you if you and/or members of your congregation want to be part of a city-wide interfaith effort to help these vulnerable new neighbors:
 - Hygiene products
 - Food baskets
 - Help with rent and utilities
 - Funeral expenses
 - Additional members of the KC For Refugees Board – with experience in social work, spiritual support, teaching, English-as-a-Second-Language, fundraising, grant writing. (We meet online to coordinate our part of an even larger network of support and we are considering writing a grant

- application to employ a social worker with experience in trauma-informed care and cultural competency)
- Mentoring Families – orientation and support provided to these people who primarily care about the successes and challenges of a refugee family and can make referrals for specific assistance. One member of the family would be invited to commit to learning basics of a refugee family's native language as a way of creating a shared experience of challenges and successes as they, too, learn another language.
- Interested? Call or text 816.617.7020 or email billrh@kcdisciples.org
- There is a private Facebook group for all KC Disciples clergy and congregation leaders where additional information, questions, and references for resources are being posted. Email billrh@kcdisciples.org for an invitation.
- CNN offers a weekly email called [the Good Stuff](#) featuring stories of people and groups doing well by doing good.

Keeping us all up to date, coordinating efforts and communicating with you requires that we continue to support the ministries of our congregations and the wider Church as we are able. Even small click [here](#) and follow the prompts. Thank you and God bless you for all that you are doing to offer a faithful, hopeful, loving response with God during this time of extraordinary challenges!