



**THE CHRISTIAN ALERT**  
**February 8, 2021**

The January communication from our Disciples' General Minister and President, Rev. Terry Hord Owens, reminds us of the connections we have with the wider Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as well as our connections to the wide world so in need. You are invited to read excerpts from this letter as printed here, and then stretch your imaginations to think of the possibilities in this faith community called Champion Christian Church for seizing this "wilderness moment" of which Rev. Hord Owens speaks.

*January 14, 2021*

*Dear Disciples:*

*Here at the beginning of a new year, there is no doubt that our church – as much of the rest of the world – is in a wilderness season. We find ourselves wandering, longing for the comfort of what we once knew and wondering what the future holds.*

***I believe that this moment, like all wilderness moments, holds great opportunity for us, if we are brave enough to imagine what might be. I want to invite you to imagine with me.***

*Several intertwining crises present themselves in this moment, each with a particular opportunity: The pandemic, which has caused the cancellation of our General Assembly and forced so many churches out of their buildings, provides an opportunity to re-envision what church looks like in all expressions and to explore what it means to be a church sent out.*

*The racial justice reckoning happening across the United States gives us an opportunity to revisit our commitment to be a pro-reconciling/anti-racist church; that is, to be the church we say we are.*

*The economic crisis, in which the wealth gap is widening and leaving many without access to resources, gives us an opportunity to discern how we will love and serve our neighbors, even as we work toward a more just economy for all.*

*The political unrest in the context of American democracy gives us an opportunity to explore what it means to be witnesses to the story of Jesus in a time of such division and change.*

*And the ever-present crisis of climate change provides an opportunity to reaffirm our call to care for God's good creation, even as we confess and repent our participation in its destruction.*

*In this moment, then, our calling is clear. As a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world, we are called to imagine a church that bears witness to God's limitless love. We will need to act with courage. We will need to give ourselves permission to change, to let go of processes and structures and practices that don't serve us well any longer. We will need to let go of fear – the fear of what might happen if we do change, and the fear of the unknown future.*

[Here Rev. Hord Owens outlines four key areas on which to focus. To see a video with this message or to read the full correspondence go to [Disciples.org](https://disciples.org) homepage and click on "A Message from the General Minister and President" dated 1-14-2021.]

*Church, we are called to imagine a new world. We are called to imagine God's reign fully come, and to discern how we can participate in making it so. We call ourselves Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world. **It is time for us to be the church we say we are: to seize the opportunity of this wilderness moment and to move forward with courage, permission to change, and freedom from fear, to imagine a church that bears witness to God's limitless love.***

*I'm glad to be in ministry with you.*

*Rev. Teresa "Terri" Hord Owens*

*Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) General Minister and President*

**10:30 am WORSHIP Online –**  
**[www.championchristianchurch.org](http://www.championchristianchurch.org)**  
**February 14, 2021**

Scripture: Isaiah 49:10  
Sermon: “Let Love Flow”  
Rev. Cynthia Klingemier

### **CHURCH FAMILY**

Please continue to pray for those recovering in their health and our homebound.

Nancy Countryman- Shoulder Surgery today,  
Monday Feb. 8th

Esther Urey- recovering at home

Dave Conway and Tammy Hurst as Dave is having lower back surgery today, Monday Feb 8th

Please pray for Paul Kandel. He has been taken to the hospital.

### **THE NEXT BIG WAVE!**

Mark your calendar for Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> for our “2<sup>nd</sup> Big Wave” Details coming soon. You’ll don’t want to miss out to welcome back Pastor Ken.



### **KEEPING IN TOUCH! TEXT UPDATES!**

Here is some more good news to share! We now are able to send a quick text message to keep everyone updated. It is very easy to sign up for, if you are unsure how to sign up or need help, call the Casey Lewis or the church office for help.

Text “CCCADDME” to 84576 to receive text announcements from Champion Christian Church! This is of no cost to you, other than standard message rates!

### **APPOINTMENT SCHEDULING HELP AVAILABLE**

“If you are in an age group that can now schedule appointments but are having trouble figuring out how you might get signed up for the coronavirus vaccine, congregation member Karen York has offered to walk you through some options. Contact her directly at 330-637-2683 or [Klyrvtcvpm@neo.rr.com](mailto:Klyrvtcvpm@neo.rr.com).”



### **PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

#### **HOSTED BY BSA SCOUT VENTURING CREW**

Join us for a pancake breakfast on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to Noon.

Breakfast menu includes pancakes, eggs, sausage, juice and coffee

Adults : \$7.00

Kids 6-10 \$6.00

Kids under 5 free

This year’s breakfast will be held at:

Masonic Lodge,  
3263 Everett Hull Rd.  
Cortland, OH 44410

Thank you for supporting BSA Scout Venturing Crew 4025