



FCM Newsletter

Volume 59 - Issue 3
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Madison McAleese Executive Director

exedir@fcmmail.org



Dear FCM Community,

Thank you all for the warm welcome as I begin my tenure as your Executive Director. I'm truly grateful to everyone I've had the chance to speak with and collaborate with so far.

One of my priorities in these early months is to connect with each member of the Circle, as well as the partners we work closely with. While I still have a few more conversations to go, I've already had the pleasure of engaging in thoughtful and inspiring discussions with many of you.

I'm looking forward to continuing these connections and deepening our shared work together.

I wanted to share some immediate actions I have taken in close collaboration with Circle members and Vice Chairperson, Chris Breen:

We launched our very first FCM blog on the website! This public-facing blog offers FCM members an opportunity to share their insights and reflections with the wider community. We've already had some wonderful pieces from Lav Kelley, Mary Coffey, Rachelle Swanson, Tony Di Bartolo, Carole Brennan and yours truly. Keep them coming!

Blog: <https://fedcm.org/blog/>

We have also launched our "FCM News" page where we plan to post press releases and/or news statements. We just released our "Statement of Expansive Inclusivity" to communicate our focus on inclusion and the dignity of all people. We also published a statement on the passing of Pope Francis. May he rest in peace and may his legacy of ministering to those on the margins live on.

-We re-engaged with our Facebook audience. Over the past month, our activity has resulted in a 539% increase in Facebook views, 100% increase in content interactions, 650% increase in follows and a staggering 1.6k% increase in reach. I will be working closely with our Social Media Committee to expand our work in this area and pursue other platforms of engagement.

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/federationofchristianministries.org/>

We have worked with GMU to strengthen our partnership. GMU has graciously offered a 10% discount to any FCM member who would like to pursue courses, programs, or continuing education at GMU. We are looking for additional ways to deepen our partnership and collaborate on programming together.

We have been interviewing candidates for the Financial Clerk position. We have made a decision and will be announcing our new hire shortly!

Lastly, we have also changed our mailing address to a central site which will process, sort, and forward us our mail. Our new mailing address is 2261 Market St., Suite #86674, San Francisco, CA 94114.

I have been hearing from many of you about your desire for increased community-building and educational opportunities. I look forward to continuing to brainstorm ways to strengthen FCM's work in pursuit of our mission. Feel free to reach out any time to collaborate!

Thanks,

Rev. Madison Jones McAleese
Executive Director

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Christy Howard-Steele Chair Circle of Directors

chairperson@FCMmail.org



Grief

In the last edition of the newsletter, I shared that grief, our natural response to loss, is part of change, even change that is desired. This edition, I want to reflect on grief that comes from loss and change that is not desired. I find myself grieving the changes/losses that are occurring in this country's policies and values along with losses that have occurred in my personal life. Are you grieving?

Each of us grieves differently. Our grief is shaped by the closeness, the love, we have for that which is lost and the patterns of emotional expression we have. How or why we grieve is important, however having the self-awareness to recognize when we are grieving is equally important. For example, I know that if I'm not paying attention to myself, I can keep myself busy doing something/anything so that I don't have time to feel my sadness. We live in a culture that is impatient with grief; that considers three days off adequate time to grieve.

One of the things, I am grieving most is the loss of love for one another. Where is the love? In the media, in Congress, in the White House, in civil society, where is the love? This is my loss, this is our loss. My understanding of G-d is grounded in two truths: G-d loves everyone (which does include me) and we are all called to love one another as ourselves. How do we love those we disagree with? It is human to want those we disagree with to be wrong and for ourselves to be proved right. That may never happen. I recall growing up the saying: there's always 3 sides to an argument - your side, my side, and the truth. How do we avoid labelling, name-calling, ostracizing? We are not called to impose revenge or punishment on those who think or believe differently. We are called to love even those who have or seek to do us harm. How are we going to love those who support policies that are harmful to our very being? How are we going to work to cure the division that is rampant?

G-d is calling us to be loving not right.

Christy Howard-Steele, Chairperson

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Christopher Breen Vice Chair

Circle of Directors

A Place of Refuge and Peace

As we move into this new season together, I am filled with a deep sense of excitement and possibility for the future of our beloved FCM. We are a community that has always been grounded in love, justice, and the transformative power of Spirit—and today, I feel that in the face of so much anxiety and unknown, FCM is a place where I can find refuge and peace.

One of the recent reasons for finding that sense of peace has been in the addition of Madison as our Executive Director. Over the past months I have been blessed in working with Madison to get her up to speed on FCM's current state and identifying opportunities for further work and expansion.

Madison brings not only a wealth of experience in organizational leadership but also a heart that beats in rhythm with the mission and values of FCM. From the moment we met, it was clear that her vision, creativity, and collaborative spirit would be a tremendous gift to us. She has already jumped in with both feet, listening deeply, asking thoughtful questions, and bringing fresh energy to the work we do.

With Madison's leadership, and the continued guidance of our Circle of Directors, FCM is poised to step boldly into what's next. Whether it's expanding our reach, deepening our support of commissioned ministers, or reimagining how we gather in Spirit across distance and difference, the path ahead is bright.

We know we are living in a world that feels increasingly uncertain. The political landscape in the United States is charged and shifting, and many of us are carrying the weight of anxiety and concern for the vulnerable among us.

In moments like these, I return to Jesus' words from the Sermon on the Mount: "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." As FCM continues to grow and evolve, may we do so as peacemakers—rooted in compassion, courage, and conviction. Let us be a refuge, a voice, and a light.

I am so grateful to walk this path with each of you, and I can't wait to see what we'll create together in this next chapter.



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Opportunities to Serve with FCM

Regional Vice President Elections

FCM is currently seeking dedicated members to serve as Regional Vice Presidents (RVPs) in the Southwest, Lakes & Plains, and Mid-Atlantic regions. These volunteer leadership roles are vital for nurturing our inclusive ministry and supporting members across diverse communities.

Regional Vice Presidents serve on FCM's Circle of Directors, acting as liaisons between the national organization and regional members. They provide support, facilitate communication, and help implement FCM's mission at the regional level.

For more information about the responsibilities and expectations of Regional Vice Presidents, please refer to the detailed role descriptions available on the FCM website at <https://fedcm.org/membership/volunteer-service/>

Each region has an Election Committee that will facilitate the election process, for information about how to nominate a candidate (including yourself!) keep an eye out for an email from your Regional Election Committee.

Northeast Regional Vice President

The Circle of Directors is looking to appoint a Regional Vice President for the Northeast region. This appointed position offers a unique opportunity to contribute to FCM's mission and engage with members in the Northeast. For more information please contact Rev. Christopher Breen at southcentralvp@fcmmail.org.

Is it I, Lord?



Tom Stricker Endowment Chair

tomstricker2009@gmail.com

Why Do We Give to the FCM Endowment:

We give because we see a need and are called to address it through contributing funds. Endowments are in place to fill a need for the long haul. While we worry about what tomorrow may bring, we also have assurance that long term needs will be met.

We give because of the we know that it feels good to help others. We are filled with wellbeing through the increase of dopamine and all the other feel good chemicals that react to our altruism.

We give because it allows others to feel empowered through services offered, as in, assistance with education, funds to attend FCM gatherings, and taking part in research projects and growth opportunities in ministry.

But most importantly, we give because we are called to give through the love of God. As God's beloved children, and through allowing ourselves to feel the love that surpassed all understanding, we understand the importance of helping others. There is love in giving to further God's work for the benefit of others so they may feel the sense of belonging to something so enriching personally and through others.

Yes is shows our support of inclusive ministry in the future,





Donate to the FCM Endowment Fund
NO GIFT IS TOO SMALL!

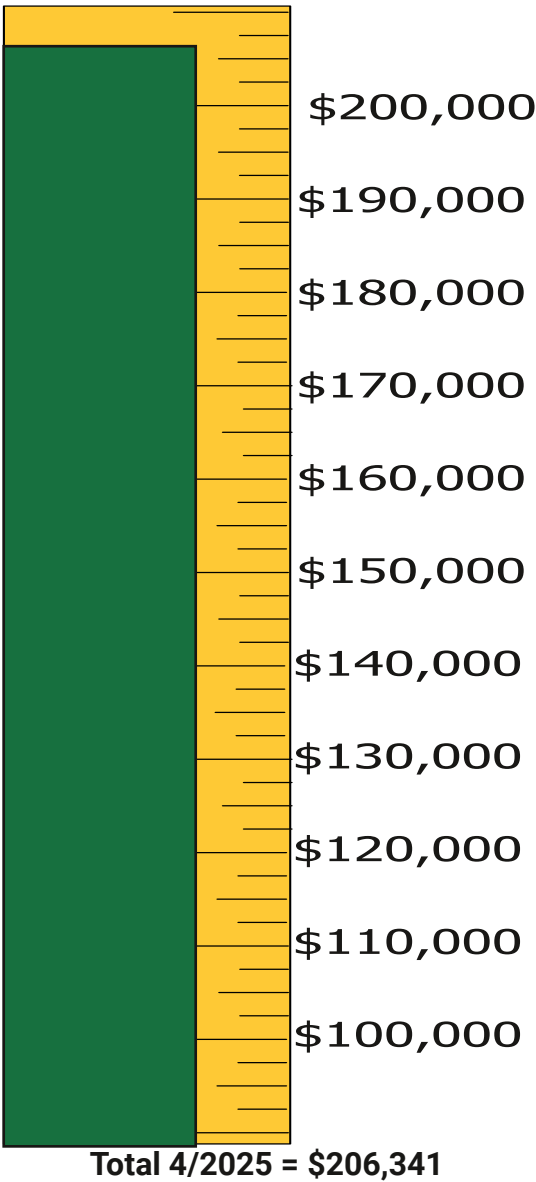
Regular Donation

Go to the FCM website www.federationofchristianministries.org or go to your personal account on Realm www.onrealm.org and make your donation.

- 1. Sign in to Realm or, if in the FCM Website, use the "Donation" button to get there.
- 2. Click on "Giving" (left hand column) and this will take you to donation page
- 3. Click on the "+ Give" button
- 4. You will see a pull down (FCM General Account); click on the pulldown arrow
- 5. Click on the "FCM Endowment Fund" button

Tribute Gift

Is there a friend, family member, teacher, or mentor you would like to honor on their special day or send an expression of sympathy?
Consider a small donation to the FCM Endowment Fund.
A notice of your gift will be sent to the honoree or a member of their family.
You will also know that your gift will help ensure that FCM will be able to support future generations of ministers and congregations.
For more information go to the FCM web site under FCM Endowment Fund for the online Tribute Gift Form orendowment@fcmmail.org





Judy Lorenz Faith Communities Chair

faithcommunity@FCMmail.org

Why communities matter in our current political moment:

Because people are hurting
Because injustice is happening
Because rights are being taken away
Because the message of Jesus is being dishonored
Because people are scared
Because our democracy is being undermined
Because humanity is being threatened
Because the earth needs help
Because negativity is winning
Because we cannot do it alone

Join or start a community today.

We are Stronger Together



*All people should
be treated equally,
regardless of who
they are or who
they love.*

The FCM Faith Communities Committee is pleased to welcome "The Table" as our most recent faith community. The Table is a progressive, interfaith, LGBTQ+ led spiritual community providing a space for folks who have been traditionally excluded from religious communities to find communion with each other and a higher power. This community is based in Los Angeles California and is co-led by FCM Executive Director, Madison McAleese.



Upcoming Webinar:

April 28: Rainbow Railroad Ministry

In countries around the world, LGBTQI+ people face violence and oppression simply because of who they love or who they are. The Rainbow Railroad helps them get to safety. The Sophia Inclusive Community was originally founded in NJ but is open to all as it has provided virtual liturgies since the covid era. Sophia is currently providing help to a refugee by giving them security and a chance to start a life free from persecution. A Sophia member will share their experience with this ministry including how they became part of the Rainbow Railroad.

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Application Deadline

The next deadline for completed endorsement applications is June 6.

Endorsement applicants need to connect with their regional endorsement liaison prior to beginning the endorsement application process; some of the forms needed for endorsement are not available online.

Only Commissioned FCM members are eligible to apply for endorsement.

FCM Anniversaries

5 YEARS

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Kristen Burgdorf | 5/14/2020 | Lakes & Plains |
| Deborah Davis | 5/13/2020 | Mid-Atlantic |
| Dorie Griggs | 5/23/2020 | South East |
| Charlotte Hoffmann | 6/04/2020 | Lakes&Pls |
| Daniel Kane | 5/19/2020 | Mid-Atlantic |
| Susan Levy | 5/05/2020 | South East |
| Eric Robbert | 5/20/2020 | Lakes & Plains |
| Jill Striebinger | 5/16/2020 | Mid-Atlantic |
| Jessica Tinkham | 5/28/2020 | Heartland |
| Amy Tracy | 5/06/2020 | Heartland |
| Carolyn Woodhouse | 5/18/2020 | South Central |

10 YEARS

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Tresca Allsman | 5/19/2015 | Lakes & Plains |
| Cynthia Jones | 6/03/2015 | Heartland |
| Heike Ward | 5/14/2015 | South Central |

15 YEARS

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|------------|
| Richard Nelson | 5/05/2010 | North East |
| David Nyland | 5/25/2010 | South East |

20 YEARS

NONE

25 YEARS

| | | |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| Thomas Cusack | 5/27/2000 | North East |
| Susan Schaefer | 5/23/2000 | Lakes & Plains |

30 YEARS

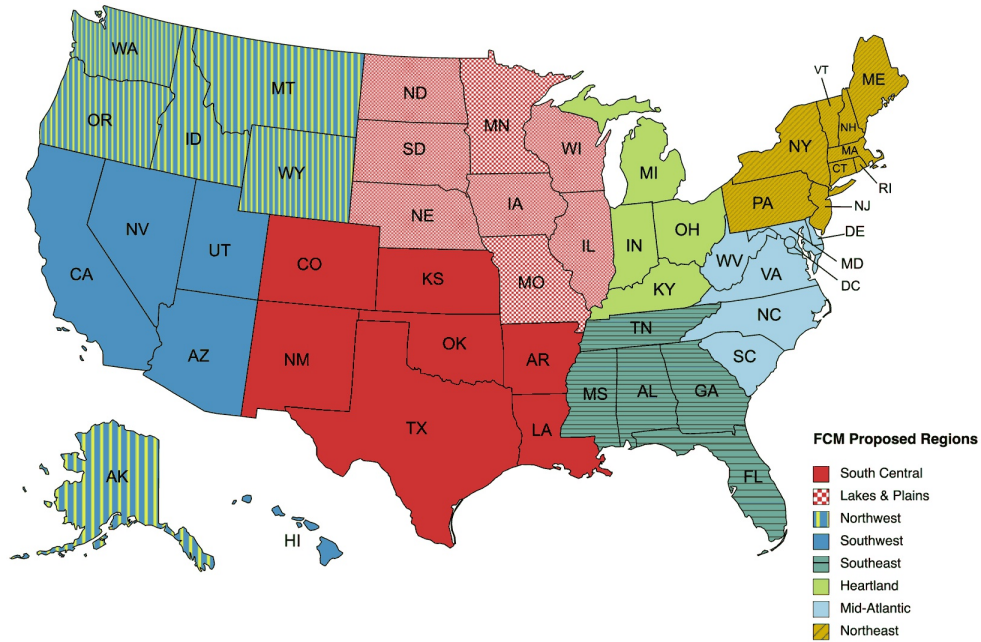
NONE

35 YEARS

| | | |
|--------------|-----------|------------|
| Leo McIlrath | 5/10/1990 | North East |
|--------------|-----------|------------|

Carolyn Horvath, membership@fcmmail.org

FCM Regions



Created with mapchart.net

Northeast

Pennsylvania
New Jersey
Rhode Island
New York
Connecticut
Massachusetts
New Hampshire
Vermont
Maine

Mid-Atlantic

West Virginia
Virginia
Delaware
Maryland
Washington DC
North Carolina
South Carolina

Southeast

Tennessee
Mississippi
Alabama
Georgia
Florida

South Central

Colorado
Kansas
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Arkansas
Texas
Louisiana

Heartland

Michigan
Indiana
Kentucky
Ohio

Lakes & Plains

North Dakota
South Dakota
Nebraska
Minnesota
Iowa
Missouri
Wisconsin
Illinois

Southwest

California
Nevada
Utah
Arizona
Hawaii

Northwest

Alaska
Washington
Oregon
Idaho
Montana
Wyoming



Joy

Joy is resistance.

This simple declaration has been grounding during times of anxiety, times of lament, and times of holy rage at the broken things going on in our world. One could say the intentional decision to seek joy is a spiritual discipline. Not a head-in-the-sand kind of joy, but instead a grounding-gratitude kind of joy.

Over the last few months I've lost two family members, and I know I'm not alone. Some of you have been experiencing grief as well. Many of us have felt waves of anger, fear or despair at the ways the Name of Jesus has been hijacked to justify atrocities to humanity. Maybe there is a significant life change that has happened or is in process, and the ground under our feet is shifting. It is specifically in these times that joy is resistance.

So in that spirit, I offer this beautiful poem of blessing by the late John O'Donahue:

A Blessing for Beauty

May the beauty of your life become more visible to you, that you may glimpse your wild divinity.

May the wonders of the earth call you forth from all your small, secret prisons and set your feet free in the pastures of possibilities.

May the light of dawn anoint your eyes that you may behold what a miracle a day is.

May the liturgy of twilight shelter all your fears and darkness within the circle of ease.

May the angel of memory surprise you in bleak times with new gifts from the harvest of your vanished days.

May you allow no dark hand to quench the candle of hope in your heart.

May you discover a new generosity towards yourself, and encourage yourself to engage your life as a great adventure.

May the outside voices of fear and despair find no echo in you.

May you always trust the urgency and wisdom of your own spirit.

May the shelter and nourishment of all the good you have done, the love you have shown, the suffering you have carried, awaken around you to bless your life a thousand times.

And when love finds the path to your door may you open like the earth to the dawn, and trust your every hidden color towards its nourishment of light.

May you find enough stillness and silence to savor the kiss of God on your soul and delight in the eternity that shaped you, that holds you and calls you.

And may you know that despite confusion, anxiety and emptiness, your name is written in Heaven.

And may you come to see your life as a quiet sacrament of service, which awakens around you a rhythm where doubt gives way to the grace of wonder, where what is awkward and strained can find elegance, and where crippled hope can find wings, and torment enter at last unto the grace of serenity.

May Divine Beauty bless you.

~ John O'Donohue,

from Beauty – The Invisible Embrace

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Jennifer Friedman & Barbara Zeman

VP s Southeast

southeastvp@FCMmail.org



We are Popping up all over

We congratulate Garth Battick in his new position as Chaplain Supervisor with Trustbridge Hospice of Palm Beach County. We celebrate our newly commissioned members: Nate Schweigert and Jasyn Banks. We welcome new members: Ruth Ostler and Komoni Puffer.

Our members are present where many have not gone before forging new paths and discovering unique ways to serve. The gifts of Spirit among us represent diversity of call and expressions of grace. We are pastoral counselors, spiritual directors, mental health counselors, wedding officiants, and ministers who provide pastoral care for baptisms and funerals. Some of our ministers lead retreats, offer healing support and interfaith outreach, some lead meditation and offer contemplative prayer services in cancer support groups and traditional parishes. We are an ever-expansive presence of Spirit.

Certainly not the mainstream, we are the marginalized who had not found spiritual homes until we discovered FCM. Roman Catholic Women priests and married priests, LGBTQIA ministers, chaplains and counselors, spiritual directors, musicians all coming together to celebrate God's love through ministry to all who come our way. While FCM has recently become known for our hospital and hospice chaplains, we counsel and guide many through the challenges of life outside institutional medical environments, we serve in faith communities, we officiate at weddings and baptisms, bring comfort and relief to patients suffering with terminal illnesses through meditation and contemplative prayer.

ZOOM Monthly Meets:

Join us every third Tuesday at 8:00-8:30 pm, EST for a Southeast Regional check in
Click <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4261272157?pwd=TKNrbm5aY3R6bXZ0Y2hlZksZ3Y1UT09&omn=87313774732> to join our scheduled Zoom Meeting.

To highlight some of our ministers calls:

Beth Knight, FCM former Southeast VP, is a spiritual director and pastoral counselor Clermont/Orlando and is now serving as liaison for FCM specialized ministries;

Julia Styles is a spiritual director in Atlanta;

Sam Mullen is widely known as a wedding officiant in Orlando;

Rebecca Bass is a consultant for Audire' a FL school which trains spiritual directors in Tampa,

Bishop Bridget Mary Meehan, shepherds the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests, ordaining women to the priesthood all over the world;

Butler Vin Cole Officiates weddings, has a homeless ministry and is pulpit supply preaching for 3 local church congregations in Memphis

Mary Murphy is an addiction treatment spiritual counselor in Tennessee

Joon Park has an online platform

Barbara Zeman leads weekly zoom meditation groups for Gilda's Club, a free Cancer Support Community

If you know someone who shows the gifts of presence, perhaps membership in FCM would enhance their reach of ministry. Share the FCM spirit. We uplift ministry in innovative and exciting ways.



Chaplains Barbara Zeman & Susan Levy



Christopher Breen VP South Central

southcentralvp@FCMmail.org

Beautiful Chaos

As spring settles across the South Central region of FCM, we find ourselves once again surrounded by reminders of renewal. The redbuds are blooming, the wind carries the scent of new growth, and the land—once dormant—is stirring back to life.

In places like Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas, this season arrives with dramatic flair: thunderstorms one day, sunshine the next.

It's a beautiful chaos, and it reminds me how deeply Spirit is at work even when the path forward seems unpredictable.

Recently, I had the privilege of traveling to Oklahoma City to celebrate the Commissioning of Rev. Josh Wright at the Church of the Open Arms UCC. Josh has come to us from the Nazarine church and brings a truly “on brand” ministry and theology for FCM. Josh spoke about the expansive and inclusionary experience of God, and how he has come to understand it in his own work, ministry and life.

Being part of that sacred moment was an affirmation of all the ways God continues to call and equip people for ministry in our time.

Spring teaches us to trust the process—that what was planted in quiet will rise in beauty. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus says, “The kingdom of God is as if someone would scatter seed on the ground... the seed would sprout and grow, he does not know how.” (Mark 4:26-27). In our lives, in our ministries, in the work we do through FCM, we are called to be faithful sowers, even when the harvest is not yet visible.

As the days grow longer and the light warms our faces, may we continue to plant seeds of justice, compassion, and Spirit-led service. And may we trust, with joy and with hope, that God is bringing about something beautiful in and through each of us.



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Reverend Josh Wright



Peter Wolf VP Heartland

heartlandvp@FCMmail.org

Local Ohio Group Update

No matter the ministry setting - whether that be a highly structured denomination or a decentralized network - I have found that I greatly appreciate the opportunity to meet with colleagues for encouragement, support, and networking. As I have become more involved with FCM, I began to realize that I desired more interaction with other FCM members for these very purposes. When I interviewed with Peter Wolf for my FCM Endorsement he asked if I would be interested in starting up a local group and I got excited at the prospect.

In early January, I reached out to folks within a 60 mile radius of Columbus to gauge their interest. Others in Southwestern Ohio began to hear some rumblings about this group and asked to join. So we widened our circle!

We established a Zoom meeting on a Tuesday night in late March and 6 of us joined together. Zoom allowed for us to meet from locations as varied as Cincinnati, Dayton, Columbus, and Mansfield, and even Buffalo, NY where one member was traveling on business. It was a rich time of getting to know some new folks and to reconnect with some friends and acquaintances. Those gathered represented various facets of the FCM membership including a Faith Community leader and several healthcare chaplains. At the end of our hour together, we concluded with a blessing from Irish poet John O'Donohue.

We decided that we would like to continue meeting and we've got plans for 2 upcoming events.

First, on Saturday, May 3 we plan to gather at 12noon for a fellowship meal at Ron Davis' home in Springfield. We're looking forward to the opportunity to break bread together and deepen our fellowship.

Second, we will meet virtually on Tuesday evening, June 17 at 7:00pm on Zoom again. We'll spend some time sharing together, and then we'll move into a time of continuing education. The group has decided to read and discuss the first 4 chapters of the book *Everything Isn't Terrible: Conquer Your Insecurities, Interrupt Your Anxiety, and Finally Calm Down*. This book introduces the concept of Bowen Family Systems theory and it's a perspective that many clergy find useful in their work - both in congregational and chaplaincy settings.

We plan to meet on a quarterly basis on Zoom and will have periodic in person gatherings as well. If you are in Ohio and would like to join this local group, please email me at fcm.feldbush@gmail.com for more information.

~ Mark Feldbush, DMin, BCC, ACPE-CE

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Jo Brenneman-Fullwood VP Lakes & Plains

lakesplainsvp@FCMmail.org

Welcome, and congratulations to our new members

Greetings & Salutations,

Spring is on the way! The trees are budding, and the tulips are breaking through reminding us of the hope we have in new beginnings. There are several members who are celebrating moments personally and professionally. Please send me a message via text message so that Lakes & Plains can celebrate with you. Others who are mourning or grieving a loss, please reach out so that we can support you during this time.

Welcome, and congratulations to our new members! Please join me in welcoming our new members of Lakes & Plains. When you have a moment, please send them an email to wish them well!

Let's Welcome our New Member(s):

| Name | Area | Occasion | Email |
|---------------------|------|------------|--------------------------------|
| Thomas Dixon | IL | New Member | thomas.dixon9@gmail.com |
| Nicole Marie Murray | MN | New Member | nikmurray@gmail.com |
| Robyn Lee Hare | MN | New Member | robyn_roller@yahoo.com |
| Paul Peterson | MN | New Member | paul.peterson@commonspirit.org |
| Erin Brekke | MN | New Member | erinlbrekke@gmail.com |

Volunteer Opportunities:

If you're great at planning events, hosting, or just looking to give back some of your time Lakes and Plains Regional Conference Committee is looking for you! We need volunteers to assist with planning and hosting a regional meeting in the fall. We are looking for representatives from each area. The time dedicated will be twice a month on Wednesday at 12:00 CT. Together, we can do it! Contact me at lakesplainsvp@fcmmail.org to express interest!

Chat with the VP monthly zoom will be the first Monday of each month at 12:00 CT and 8:00 CT. Through this recurring link. Just copy and paste the link in your browser or use the Meeting ID and Passcode below! Looking forward to meeting you soon and sharing updates and prayer requests!

Link: [https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87595770893?](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87595770893?pwd%3D3c5tvK2tSxVuGbVPqnOFuBywSW9wjT.1&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1eXJDCmdpNgkE0cIAI0Rri)

[pwd%3D3c5tvK2tSxVuGbVPqnOFuBywSW9wjT.1&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1eXJDCmdpNgkE0cIAI0Rri](https://www.google.com/url?q=https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87595770893?pwd%3D3c5tvK2tSxVuGbVPqnOFuBywSW9wjT.1&sa=D&source=calendar&usd=2&usg=AOvVaw1eXJDCmdpNgkE0cIAI0Rri)

Zoom Meeting ID: 875 9577 0893

Passcode: 028163



Final Thoughts:

I will miss winter. I love the freshness of the snow and the beauty that winter brings. I look forward to the spring and the calls of the birds waking up from their winter slumber. I hope you have a moment to step outside and notice the beauty of the earth. Below, you will find a poem for the spring season.



Spring in Tulwa Thlocco
Thro' the vine-embowered portal blows
The fragrant breath of summer-time;
Far, the river, brightly winding, goes
With murmurs falling into rhyme



It is spring in Tulwa Thlocco now;
The fresher hue of grass and tree
All but hides upon the mountain's brow
The green haunts of the chickadee.

There are drifts of plum blooms, snowy white,
Along the lane and greening hedge;
And the dogwood blossoms cast a light
Upon the forest's dusky edge.

Crocus, earliest flower of the year,
Hangs out its starry petals where
The spring beauties in their hiding peer,
And the red-buds crimson all the air.

~ Alexander Posey 1873 – 1908

*Tulwa Thlocco—A large settlement of people. This settlement lies on the north side of the Oktahatchee.

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Zachary Wheat VP Northwest

northwestvp@FCMmail.org

Connecting

Hello all as dark days have made way for more light, less rain, and warmer air I have been thinking about how we can all stay connected. I know that in the past regional gatherings have gained some traction and I am planning a few in the coming months. Details will be emailed out through realm.

During the past round of commissioning and endorsement we had a few folks join our growing ranks. For commissioning we welcomed Vesper Andes, Laura Walton, and AJ Zimmerman. Becca McMartin was also successfully endorsed at our last circle meeting. Overall things have been good and busy and I personally am looking forward to lots of time outside this summer.

As always please let me know if I can help you out in any ways.

Poem in Shorthand (Spring)

BODY FIRST
SLEEP BEST
SLEEP, REST
RADISHES
WORK MORE
SIT, STARE
WORK LESS
LESS CARE
WORRY LOTS
BE STILL
FLOWERPOTS
WINDOWSILL
UP LATE
TETRIS
BAKE CAKE
SLEEP, REST
DRESS DOWN
BIG HUG
HALF MOON
DISHRAG
DISH SOAP
CORNMEAL
MEASURING CUP
TILL YOU'RE FULL
LATE WALK
LEATHERFLOWER
FRENCH TALK
LOOK AT THE RIVER

LETTUCES
KALE SEED
SLEEP, REST
ALL YOU NEED

DAYTIME
LATE LIGHT
CLEAN SHEETS
MAKE OUT

FLIPFLOPS
NICE SHIRTS
SCREENSHOTS
<3 HEARTS

FILL PEN
THINK LESS
WRITE AGAIN
USPS

MAKE WORK
MAKEREADY
FAKE WORK
REAL PRETTY

STOP SCREEN
SOFT SPINE

STAND UP
BREATHE IN

SHAKE LOOSE
NEIGHBOR CAT
CHICKWEED
SUN HAT

BREATHE OUT
SHOWER OFF
SUPPERTIME
WHO DO YOU LOVE

DAY GONE
BODY FIRST
SET DOWN
SLEEP, REST

~ Anna Lena Phillips Bell

Anna Lena Phillips Bell is the author of *Ornament*, winner of the Vassar Miller Poetry Prize, and the chapbook *Smaller Songs*, from St Brigid Press. Bell is the winner of the 2021 Winter Anthology Contest and recipient of an NC Arts Council Fellowship in Literature. Raised in what's now called upstate South Carolina, Bell teaches at UNC Wilmington, where she is editor of *Ecotone*, and calls ungended Appalachian square dances in North Carolina and beyond. For more, visit annalenaphillipsbell.net.



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FCM DIRECTORY

FCM Newsletter-

Email: newsletter@FCMmail.org

The FCM Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Federation of Christian Ministries. Its mission is to keep members current with the organization and its activities, to provide ideas to further ministry, and to promote community-building among local FCM groups and the national organization. All current members receive a copy. Articles and feedback are welcomed and can be sent to: newsletter@FCMmail.org by the 4th of each month (February, April, June, August, October, and December). FCM member-submitted articles should aim for 500 words and not more than 3 high quality photos.

FCM Central Office Coordinator-

Carolyn Horvath-

Email: centraloffice@FCMmail.org

Phone: 216.571.7698

FCM Website:

<https://fedcm.org>

FCM Additional Contacts

FCM Endowment:

Tom Stricker - Phone: 937.477.0139 / Email: endowment@FCMmail.org

Ethics Committee:

Currently Vacant - Phone: / Email:

Prayer Support Leader/Coordinator:

Anthony Capone - Prayer support button on the website or: Email:

prayersupport@FCMmail.org

Realm & Membership Administrator

Emails: connect@FCMmail.org - membership@FCMmail.org

FCM Certificates

These lovely certificates are available from the FCM Central Office. Please specify your choice: Baptism, Marriage, Holy Union, and the number of certificates you need. Certificates are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Each certificate is printed on certificate-weight paper in blue ink; they carry the FCM logo and seal.

FCM Baptism and Wedding Registries

are now on www.onrealm.org Sacramental Registry - Click EVENTS and follow directions for additional help. Email: registry@fcmmail.org or connect@fcmmail.org

Endorsement for Specialized Ministries

Qualified FCM members may apply for "Religious Body Endorsement" for the specialized ministries of Chaplaincy, Pastoral Counseling, and Clinical Pastoral Education. Such endorsement is required by professional certifying organizations and many institutional employers. The FCM Circle of Directors acts on endorsement applications three times yearly. Endorsement application materials are available for downloading on the FCM website at: www.fedcm.org. Inquiries may be made by email at: specmin@FCMmail.org

Global Ministries University, GMU,

offers degree completion programs, certificates, a Celebrant Training Program, and individual courses online. FCM members are eligible for a 5% discount on degree programs. For more information, visit the web site: www.globalministriesuniversity.org. Email: info@globalministriesuniversity.org, Phone: 866.419.8020 toll-free

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Chairperson:

Christy Howard-Steele - Phone: 708.285.5845 / Email: chairperson@FCMmail.org

Interim Treasurer:

Thomas Cusack - Phone: 609.947.0770 / Email: treasurer@FCMmail.org

Secretary:

Michelle Joachim - Phone: 757.642.1396 / Email: secretary@FCMmail.org

Chair: Specialized Ministries:

Jeanne Hale - Phone: 919.350.7853 / Email: specmin@FCMmail.org

Chair: Faith Communities:

Judy Lorenz - Phone: 301.633.2823 / Email: faithcommunity@FCMmail.org

Regional Vice Presidents

Southwest:

Daniel Windham - Phone: 760.845.4378 / Email: southwestvp@FCMmail.org

Northwest:

Zachary Wheat - Phone: 904.588.5097 / Email: northwestvp@FCMmail.org

Lakes & Plains:

Jo Brenneman-Fullwood - Phone: 229.938.0587 / Email: lakesplainsvp@FCMmail.org

Heartland:

Peter Wolf - Phone: 502.568.2174 / Email: heartlandvp@FCMmail.org

Mid-Atlantic:

Michelle Graham - Email: midatlanticvp@FCMmail.org

Southeast:

Jennifer Friedman & Barbara Zeman - Email: southeastvp@FCMmail.org

South Central:

Christopher Breen - Phone: 401.499.9231 / Email: southcentralvp@FCMmail.org

Northeast:

Mike Corso - Phone: 973-534-3978 / Email: northeastvp@FCMmail.org

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