

Federation of Christian Ministries

2024



Newsletter

January/February

Vol.58 No. 1

In This Issue

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

*As the dawn breaks on a new
year, let us give thanks for all we
hold dear:*



*Shine your light in us,
through us, over us.*

*May we make a difference in
this world for your glory and
purposes*

The Future and FCM... January Flowers Christy Howard-Steele, FCM Chairperson.....	Page 2
Comings and Goings Christy Howard-Steele, FCM Chairperson.....	Page 3
A Recruiting Request with a History Lesson Tom Cusack, FCM President.....	Page 4
Cheerful Endowment Giving in 2024 Tom Stricker, FCM Endowment Chair.....	Page 5
FCM Endowment Fund Report Tom Stricker, FCM Endowment Chair.....	Page 6
Happy New Year FCM! Judy Lorenz, FCM Faith Communities Chair.....	Page 7
In Memory Of....FCM Sacramental Registry Antoinette Marold, FCM Communication Chair.....	Page 8
FCM Commission Blessing Beth Knight, FCM	Page 9
Major Membership Anniversaries (January/February 2024) Carolyn Horvath, FCM.....	Page 10
FCM Assembly Save the Date! Co-Chairs, FCM Assembly.....	Pages 11
Regional News	
FCM Regional Map.....	Page 12
Northeast...News from the Northeast Carl Yusavitz, Northeast V.P.....	Page 13
Southeast...Celebrate...Celebrate...Celebrate... Jennifer Carpenter-Friedman Barbara Zeman Co-Southeast V.Ps.....	Page 14
Mid-Atlantic... A New Year... Susan Loving, Mid-Atlantic V.P.....	Page 15
Heartland ... Reflections on the Biennial Retreat Peter Wolf, Heartland V.P.....	Page 16
Northwest... Congratulations! Zachary Wheat, Northwest V.P.....	Page 17
FCM Directory.....	Page 18



Chairperson

CHRISTY HOWARD-STEELE
CHAIRPERSON@FCMMAIL.ORG

The Future and FCM

*Without leaps of imagination or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities.
Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning.” - Gloria Steinem*

Happy New Year, Friends! I am excited about the possibilities for 2024 and beyond! **First there is the 2024 Assembly in Atlanta, GA.** Next is the **Circle of Directors development of FCM’s strategic plan**, an initiative the Circle of Directors undertakes every 3-5 years. Strategic planning is a process in which we define our vision for the future, set priorities, and focus energy and resources to ensure that we are moving in our desired direction. “It is a disciplined effort that produces fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what we are, who we serve, what we do, and why we do it, with a focus on the future.”¹ Our community has and is changing to meet the needs of an ever-changing world. For example, in the previous strategic plan, virtual or Zoom gatherings were not considered very attractive. Now, thanks to the pandemic, we often gather virtually rather than in-person.

The Circle has hired an outside person, **Debbie DiVirgilio, MDIV, MNM, GPC, CGT**, to facilitate the development of our strategic plan. Debbie has more than 25 years’ experience serving the nonprofit sector. We plan to survey the membership as part of the planning process. All current members will receive an electronic survey. Please **RESPOND** to the survey when you receive it. Your imagination, your dreaming, and your input informs our possibilities.

¹ <https://balancedscorecard.org/strategic-planning-basics/>

January Flowers



As a way of acknowledging and celebrating a member of FCM in a more public way, I would like to “give flowers” to **Jeanne Hale, Chairperson of the Committee on Specialized Ministries.**



Jeanne introduced me to FCM and we attended our first Assembly together in Columbus, OH, in 2009. Jeanne has served FCM’s endorsement community for 10 or so years, first as the Southern Region liaison and since 2018 as Chair. Jeanne is dependable, compassionate, and authentic.

As stated in the previous newsletters, I would like to encourage us to engage in the practice of giving flowers metaphorically by expressing our appreciation, gratitude, and love to at least one person each edition. Based on the saying “Give me flowers while I can smell them”, Do you have someone in FCM that you want to acknowledge? If so, please email your brief write-up to chairperson@fcmmail.org or newsletter@fcmmail.org.



Chairperson

CHRISTY HOWARD-STEELE
CHAIRPERSON@FCMMAIL.ORG

Circular Movement

COMINGS...

WELCOME! WE LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH YOU.



**JENNIFER CARPENTER-FRIEDMAN &
BARBARA ZEMAN
CO-VICE PRESIDENTS, SOUTHEAST REGION**

Jennifer has been an FCM member since 2021. A native of Orlando Florida, Jennifer is passionate about spiritual development and trauma work, music, storytelling, and finding ways to build connections across divides.



Barbara has been an FCM member since 2008. Barbara is a Roman Catholic Woman Priest (RCWP) and was the first woman priest ordained in Chicago. Barbara served Dignity Chicago, Chicago's Roman Catholic LGBTQ community, offering weekly Mass and spiritual care and acting as wedding officiant. Barbara currently resides in Orlando.

We look forward to the vision and leadership of Jennifer and Barbara in the Southeast Region and on the Circle of Directors. Email: southeastvp@fcmmail.org

GOINGS...

WITH MUCH GRATITUDE FOR YOUR FAITHFUL SERVICE



BETH KNIGHT - VICE PRESIDENT, SOUTHEAST REGION

Beth joined FCM in 2019 and has been actively engaged since then. She served as a area liaison during the pandemic facilitating commissioning services and participating on endorsement committees. Beth stepped up her involvement during a time when there was the need for more committed leadership when she was appointed to the position of Regional Vice President of what was then the Southern Region. Beth always has an encouraging word and has cultivated a nurturing and supportive community in her region and on the Circle. Beth, may it all be well with you.



President

TOM CUSACK

PRESIDENT@FCMMAIL.ORG

A Recruiting Request with a History Lesson

First, happy new year FCM. Second, thank you to the newly elected regional vice presidents in the **Northeast Region Mike Corso**, in the **Southeast Region Barbara Zeman and Jennifer Carpenter-Friedman**, and in the **Northwest Region Zachary Wheat**. I look forward to working with you.

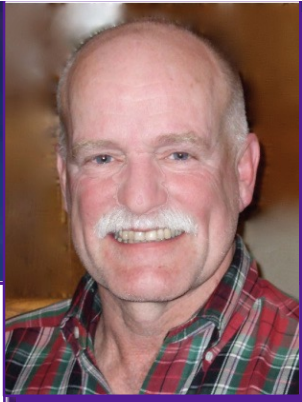
Next, for all members, I am requesting that you consider **having the faith community that you belong to, to join FCM as a new FCM faith community**. Since you who read this are mostly general members, commissioned members or endorsed members, you may not have considered the fact that faith communities belong to FCM, and are actually core parts of FCM. Let's see why.

When FCM was first incorporated as a nonprofit in the early 1970s, it applied for 501(c)(3) status. This status was granted by the IRS, but it was granted as if FCM were simply an organization that was supported by the general public. FCM was not seen as having a religious aspect at all. This status of FCM created no problems. But a possible problem was recognized in the first decade of the 2000s. In Pennsylvania the Universal Life Church had its ministerial ordinations called into question by a couple who wanted their marriage annulled from its beginning. They claimed that Universal Life Church with its \$25 ordination was not really a church. They took it to court. The judgment was in favor of the Universal Life Church. But this court case brought a concern to FCM leadership through the observations of one of our earliest members, **Joe Ruane**. FCM at the time was not considered a religious organization by the IRS, so its commissioning (called certification at that time) and weddings officiated by FCM ministers might be called into question, just as the Universal Life Church's procedure was. A first FCM step to respond to this concern was to apply to the IRS to change our plain-vanilla 501(c)(3) to a designation that considered FCM a church. The IRS rejected this approach, saying we looked to them like a ministerial association, not a church. Next in the timeframe of 2009-2012, FCM began a process that culminated in its requesting the IRS to consider us a "convention of churches." This IRS designation has the same effect in society as the designation "church." A major part of our effort was to change our bylaws to reflect a new category of membership, which we now call faith community membership. The FCM Circle recruited numerous faith communities to join FCM. Reviewing this new situation, the IRS designated FCM as a convention of churches. This is the status we hold now, and with this status our commissioning and endorsement are supported by the recognition that FCM is a religious body.

The implication of this status, gained in 2013, is that faith community members are central to FCM's presentation to society. So that is why I am requesting you to consider having the faith community you belong to, to become an FCM faith community. With this status your faith community will belong to FCM that expresses itself as inclusive and welcoming. Our faith communities vote in FCM elections. We do not impose doctrinal nor structural requirements on our faith communities. Our faith community members understand they belong to an organization bigger than themselves. Their membership carries benefits with it. Their members can receive the FCM Newsletter. They can also avail themselves of our programs of commissioning and endorsement, if they choose this path. They are represented on the FCM Circle of Directors by the Faith Communities Chair, **Judy Lorenz**. The *Faith Communities Committee* offers webinar series with topics of interest to all members, especially our faith community members.

To discover more information about faith community membership in FCM please reach out to **Judy Lorenz** at faithcommunity@FCMmail.org. Or reach out to me at president@FCMmail.org. We are eager to speak with you and your community's leadership.

Please pray for peace.



Endowment

TOM STRICKER, CHAIR
TOMSTRICKER2009@GMAIL.COM



Cheerful Endowment Giving in 2024

A New Year Resolution is often made with the best of intentions but it frequently lacks the determination to follow through.

We decide to join the gym, we pay our annual membership, and we go maybe three or four times before our initial enthusiasm fades. Or we buy a stationary bike, and within the month we are using it to hang our clothing on.

But here's a resolution that is simple to follow through on because once made it will take care of itself. How about authorizing your bank to set up an automatic, recurring deduction on behalf of the FCM Endowment Fund?

Your monthly donation can be as large or small as you want. Even \$5 or \$10 a month can make a substantial difference over time to ensure the future of FCM's charitable outreach.

Each year, the Circle determines how a percentage of the interest in the Fund will be used to support programs of spiritual welfare by building up local church communities, by enabling members to attend FCM gatherings, by assisting members who are pursuing needed continuing education, as well as many other projects.

Near the end of the year, the citizens of North America set aside a special day on which to give thanks for the gifts we have received. What better way to express our gratitude than by paying it forward into the new year.

You can use the instructions below, or you can contact a member of the Endowment Fund Team for advice.

Saint Paul reminds us that the Lord loves a cheerful giver. So bring some cheer into your own life in 2024 by setting up a recurring donation to the FCM Endowment Fund.

Instructions for setting up on going donations to the Endowment Fund

Go to the FCM Website at www.FederationofChristianMinistries.org

Go to the Welcome screen. See on right side of page "Donations." Click Donations.

Now you will come to FCM's Realm software. Sign in, or begin to complete the donation screen.

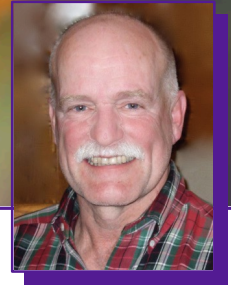
Answer "how much." In the "Fund" drop down box, click FCM Endowment.

Click give multiple times. Click your frequency. Enter your start date. Then continue to completion with the manner in which you will pay each time.



Endowment Report

TOM STRICKER, CHAIR
TOMSTRICKER2009@GMAIL.COM



Thank You!

VALUE AS OF 12/20/2023
\$142,205.00

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

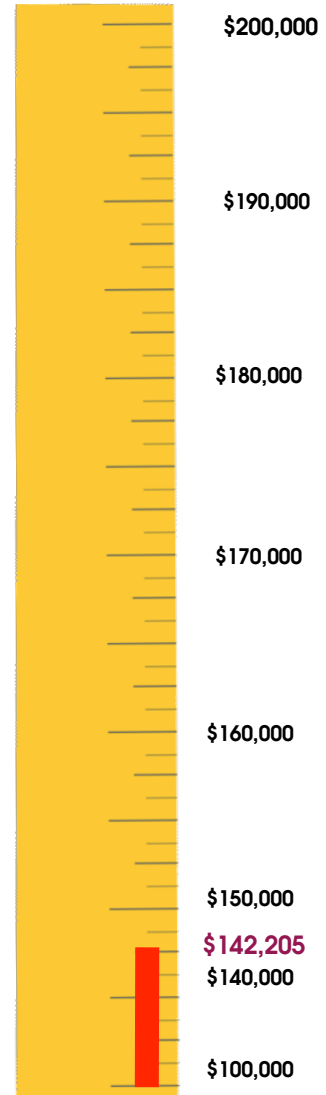
Tribute Gift

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** or endowment@fcmmail.org



Measuring Our Success

Federation of Christian Ministries

Jan/Feb 2024 Vol. 59 No. 1



Faith Communities

JUDY LORENZ

FAITHCOMMUNITY@FCMAIL.ORG



As the new chair of the Faith Communities Committee, I am excited to share important information with the entire membership. Last year the former Chair, Mark Bernecker, oversaw the emergence of FCM online Chaplain Support Groups in response to requests from many members currently working in this ministry. There were seven groups established but not all were able to continue for a variety of reasons. However, some of them are doing very well! I put out a request to those liaisons to tell us the benefits of a chaplain support group in the hopes that others may feel called to join current groups or perhaps start one of your own. Here is what one of those liaisons was eager to share with us:

FCM Chaplain Support Groups by Gina Mercurio-Brown

The Chaplain Sanctuary is a group meeting from noon to 1pm EST on the second Tuesday of the month. Although I have participated in other online chaplain support calls, nothing has been as valuable as the FCM chaplains' company and support. We have broached issues around self-care; struggles with supervisors/leadership and administration; Board Certification questions and mentoring; patient and family conversations we need to review; job searching and interviews; book and resource recommendations; and support for continuing to process COVID, while the rest of the world is adding the word "post" to it. The best part has been the availability of additional conversations via text and sometimes phone, outside of our monthly meeting times. We continually share with each other our mutual gratitude.

Chaplaincy can be unexpectedly isolating. No matter how gifted you are with friends and family support, there are many levels at which we exist, that only another chaplain can truly accompany you in both verbal and nonverbal ways. We invite you to join TCS or find a support community that works best for you.

A note from Judy: If you are interested in joining or forming a chaplain support group, please contact me at faithcommunity@fcmmail.org

Spring 2024 Webinars

Prescription for a Support Group: Mon. Feb. 26 at 8 p.m.

There are over 500,000 support groups in the US, and they all seek to offer a means of serving the needs of people navigating similar experiences to form communities. Have you ever found yourself wanting to start a group, but don't know how? What types of groups should you offer? What is the role of the facilitator?

Q. Hailey of the Northeast region will bring her ten years of organizing and facilitating groups to provide you with knowledge about various types of groups, the facilitator role, and managing conflict. Q is currently a staff Chaplain at NYP Brooklyn Methodist Hospital in Brooklyn, NY. She is also a Social Work Intern at the Brooklyn Community Pride Center where she serves as a psychotherapist and mental health group facilitator.

Please look for future webinars coming in March and April!





Communication

ANTOINETTE MAROLD
COMMUNICATION@FCMMAIL.ORG

Robert E. Schutzius

It is with deepest sympathy and great sadness, that we announce the passing of Robert E. Schutzius on November 6, 2023, a long time (47 years) FCM commissioned member of the Lakes & Plains Region.

Robert was born on Dec. 6, 1931, died suddenly at home Nov. 6, 2023, just one month shy of his 92 birthday. He is survived by his wife Mary Jane (nee Krekeler) and his two daughters and sons-in-law, Mary Jane and Jeffrey Horvath and Ann Marie Schutzius and Dean Hess, and his grandchildren, Gabriella and Julianna Horvath and Louis, Audrey, and Natalie Hess.

Mass of Christian Burial was on November 11, 2023 at St. Rose Philippine Duchesne Catholic Church in Florissant, MO

Obituary:

<https://www.hutchensfuneralhomes.com/obituaries/Robert-E-Schutzius?obId=-29837249>



Accessing the Sacramental Registry

All Baptisms by FCM members must be registered.
Marriage Registry is suggested but optional

- Go to www.onrealm.org
- Log into your Realm profile using your email address and password you created
- The initial screen you should see is "News"
- Look for the "Baptismal Registry" or "Marriage Registry" and click on the provided link.
- Complete a separate registry for each baptism or wedding. Do not forget to click "Submit" when finished.
- After you submit your entry, you are offered an option to print or save your response if you choose. You may also submit additional entries simply by clicking on "Submit another response".



FCM Commission Blessing

BY REV. BETH KNIGHT, MAPC



“This Blessing is for you
 on the cusp of everything.
 To this gathering you bring
 tenacity and resilience
 and we are grateful for
 God’s gift of strength
 within you.
 On a day where new and old friends
 gather to affirm and
 claim community---
 richness unfolds
 and sacred is the way before us.
 This blessing is for you
 dear kindred souls,
 as we join and weave together a new story.
 We shine brighter
 because of one another.
 Vessels of the One
 who creates, sends forth
 and loves the world—
 you and we
 are blessed for being willing.
 Blessing to you
 dear hearts
 for your tears
 broken places
 and all that comes
 here in bitter-sweetness.

You minister to others
 and now we minister to you.
 Blessing to you for your presence ...
 for standing with others
 in solidarity
 when words did no justice...
 You who have stood quietly
 with souls that needed
 God with skin on
 Blessed, blessed are you..
 May your feet
 continue grace-filled
 into new chapters,
 with steps
 that are confident in your calling
 and sure
 that the One God of many names is with you.
 May your spirit be uplifted
 in thanksgiving
 for all you have received thus far.
 May the blessing you are
 circle back to bless you in return.
 And in this season of new chapters,
 may the Light of Lights live on through you
 always.”
 Amen.



FCM Anniversaries

CAROLYN HORVATH

THE PEOPLE LISTED BELOW HAVE WORKED LONG AND FAITHFULLY TO BUILD FCM TO ITS PLACE TODAY. IF YOU WISH TO CONGRATULATE THEM, SEARCH THEM ONLINE IN REALM (WWW.ONREALM.ORG) OR ON THE REALM APP. NOT SIGNED IN TO REALM? ASK YOUR REGIONAL VICE PRESIDENT OR CONNECT@FCMMAIL.ORG FOR AUTHORIZATION.

January/February 2024

5 YEARS

Beth Knight	01/01/2019	Southeast
Tressalyn Reed	01/04/2019	Heartland
Stephen McCullough-Cain	01/07/2019	Lakes & Plains
Kori Pacyniak	01/24/2019	Heartland
Denise Woods	02/12/2019	Mid-Atlantic
Virginia Hagan	02/16/2019	Southeast
Joe Musco	02/28/2019	Southeast
Kathy Bohley	03/01/2019	Heartland

10 YEARS

Galen Surlak Ramsey	01/05/2014	Southeast
Frederick Abe	02/17/2014	Mid-Atlantic

15 YEARS

Jonathan Krause	01/11/2009	Northeast
Susan Ross	02/19/2009	Heartland
Brian Gray	02/28/2009	Northeast
Patricia Stubenbort	02/28/2009	Northeast

25 YEARS

Richard Korn	01/16/1999	Heartland
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30 YEARS

Ronald Hindlang	01/01/1994	Northeast
Jean Marchant	01/01/1994	Northeast
David Pasinski	02/10/1994	Northeast
John M. O'Sullivan	02/22/1994	Northeast

35 YEARS

Ronald Exley	01/01/1989	Southwest
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FCM 2024 Assembly

CO-CHAIRS REV. JULIA STYLES & REV. DORIE GRIGGS

Save The Date!



Atlanta

2024

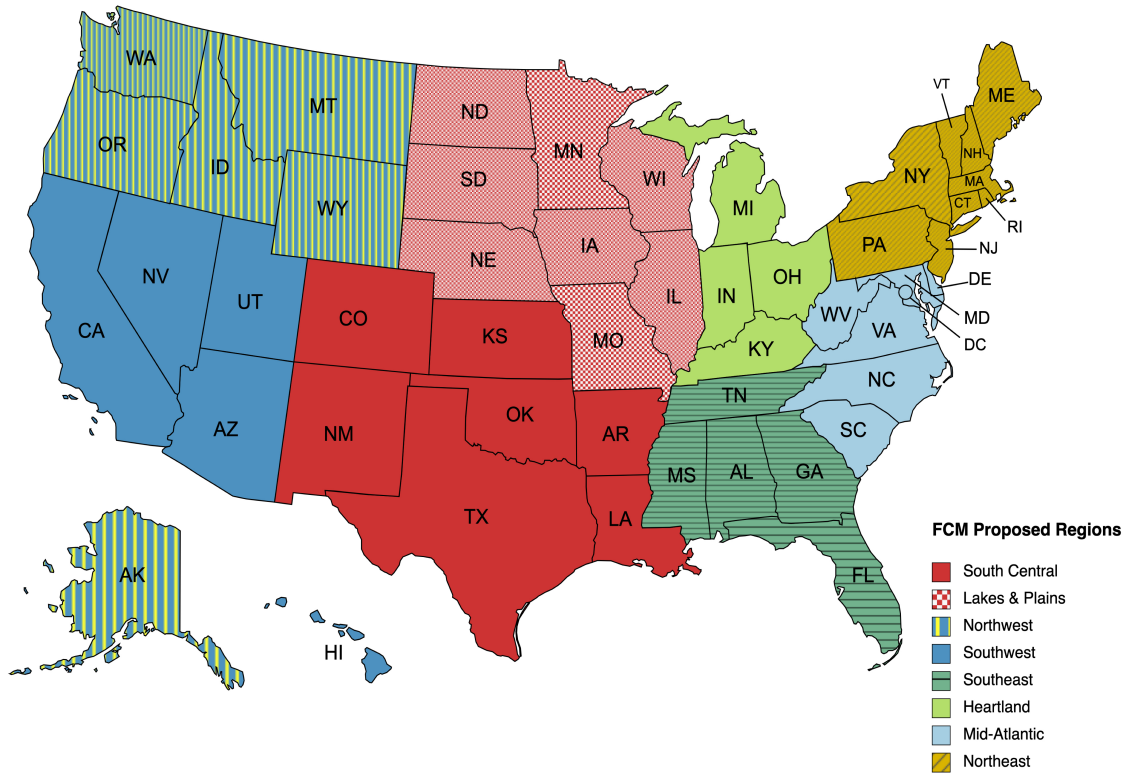
FCM NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

JULY 19 - 21, 2024

Atlanta, Georgia

Details to Follow... Watch Your Email

FCM Regions



South Central
Christopher Breen, VP
southcentralvp@fcmmail.org

Colorado
Kansas
New Mexico
Oklahoma
Arkansas
Texas
Louisiana

Lakes & Plains
Jo Brenneman-Fullwood, VP
lakesplainsvp@fcmmail.org

North Dakota
South Dakota
Nebraska
Minnesota
Iowa
Missouri
Wisconsin
Illinois

Northwest
Zachary Wheat, VP
northwestvp@fcmmail.org

Alaska
Washington
Oregon
Idaho
Montana
Wyoming

Southwest
Daniel Windham, VP
southwestvp@fcmmail.org

California
Nevada
Utah
Arizona
Hawaii

Northeast
Carl Yusavitz, VP
northeastvp@fcmmail.org

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

Heartland
Peter Wolf, VP
heartlandvp@fcmmail.org

Michigan
Indiana
Ohio
Kentucky

Mid-Atlantic
Susan Loving, VP
midatlanticvp@fcmmail.org

West Virginia
Virginia
Delaware
Maryland
Washington DC
North Carolina
South Carolina

Southeast
Barbara Zeman, VP
Jennifer Carpenter-Friedman, VP
southeastvp@fcmmail.org

Tennessee
Mississippi
Alabama
Georgia
Florida



Northeast Region

CARL YUSAVITZ
NORTHEASTVP@FCMMAIL.ORG

News from the Northeast...

Sadly, we had to cancel our **semi-annual Northeast Region fall retreat** due to issues at the retreat center beyond our control. Our theme for the retreat was “Creation and our Role as Stewards of Creation.” **Mike and Teri Corso** and their retreat team did a wonderful job pulling together various resources and ideas to explore and celebrate this important theme.

On November 4th we held an on-line time of reflection for the retreat registrants. Here is our opening prayer (adapted from Pope’s Francis’ “Laudato Si”):

Divine Presence, you are with and within the whole universe and in our smallest creatures, plant life and flowing streams. Pour out upon us your love that we may learn to protect the life and enhance the beauty of our world.

Bring healing into our hearts, so that we may sow a glorious and thriving ecosystem, not pollution or destruction. Touch the hearts of all who use the measure of profit rather than the Spirit - and so exploit natural beauty and deny the rights of our sisters and brothers, especially those of the Global South.

Fill all your people with awe and wonder to the exclusion of greed and convenience.

We are thankful for your Holy Presence here with us today, helping us discern the path of light and the trail of justice for all. Amen.

We continue our **monthly regional Zoom gatherings**. Our November discussion centered on the heartache we were all experiencing with the Russia/Ukraine and Israel/Hamas wars.

Recently our gatherings have included a good mix of chaplains and congregational leaders. In that, our discussions often explore the role that our diverse faith journeys play in how we introduce ourselves and identify ourselves and how we function in our ministry.

Our next Zoom gathering will be January 20th. This is a week later than usual, due to my being away on the second Saturday. A Zoom invitation will be sent out earlier that week.

In my earlier ministry as a behavioral healthcare chaplain, I would help patients identify **“resolutions” for the New Year**. Here are five suggestions those patients taught me:

- ❖ Don’t make absolute resolutions. Keep your resolutions realistic.
- ❖ View all upcoming setbacks as opportunities and lessons for growth. They can be the best teachers.
- ❖ Don’t keep your resolutions to yourself. Share them with someone you trust.
- ❖ Make a plan. Change it if you need to.
- ❖ Be gentle with yourself. Always be gentle with yourself.

A Happy and blessed New Year to all!

Carl R. Yusavitz, D. Min., FCM NE Region VP



Southwest Region

BARBARA ZEMAN & JENNIFER CARPENTER-FRIEDMAN
SOUTHWESTVP@FCMMAIL.ORG

Celebrate...Celebrate...Celebrate...



As November ushered in the season of Thanksgiving and gatherings, FCM Southwest region was no exception. On November 5th we celebrated the 15th Anniversary of Ordination with **Rev. Barbara Zeman** in person and via zoom.

Rev. Beth and **Rev. Jennifer** played a key role in the success of the event, along with **Pastor Ryan Gerlach** at Spirit of Joy ELCA Lutheran Church where Rev. Barbara offers a weekly contemplative prayer/meditation gathering. Then all the people said ... Amen.



November 17th some of us gathered in Lake Mary at F.D. Cantina to break bread and get to know each other. Chaplains all ... **Sam Mullen**, **Randy Shebek**, **Janyth Bryant**, **Beth Knight** and **Barbara Zeman** discussed some of the challenges of chaplaincy in Florida over Mexican food.



December 3 ... the first Sunday in Advent, brought a delightful commissioning for **Rev. Sam Mullin** and **Rev. Theresa Nicholson** at the home and private chapel of **Rev. Kathy Anderson**. Family and FCM friends gathered to witness the event and pray together for the healing of Theresa's niece, Melissa.

Rev. Sam Mullen stated, "As pastor in the Church of the Nazarene for over 20 years. I was a church planter and have been a hospice chaplain for 10 years now. My commissioning with FCM arises from my desire to be aligned and ministering with a faith group that values inclusion.

Rev. Theresa Nicholson reflected on her journey, "When I joined FCM, I knew that I made the right choice being affiliated with the organization. As time passed by and I see what all FCM is doing as a Christian Based organization, I knew that I wanted to go forth in the ministry that God has called me to do and there was no better organization to commission me to do that but FCM.

Rev. Beth Knight turned over the reins of VP-Southwest Region to **Rev. Barbara Zeman** and **Rev. Jennifer Carpenter-Friedman** and we all celebrated over Lemon Bundt cake, homemade cookies and iced tea.





Mid-Atlantic Region

SUSAN LOVING

MIDATLANTICVP@FCMMAIL.ORG

A new year....

The rush of the holiday season is winding down for many. If you are reading this, you have survived another season of actual well-wishing and the diatribes of the greedy that push us to do more, more, more!

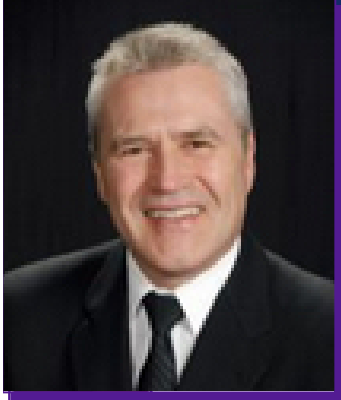
As 2024 unfolds in all its shiny newness, you may determine all the good you will do for yourself. It is proven that more exercise and healthy eating will make us work even harder, stay up later, and not mind because- well, you know- you are being healthy AND productive.

I wish you the best if this is your plan for 2024. If it isn't, please know there is a growing community of folks who call BS on doing more and welcome you in for another cup of coffee, and to put your feet up for a bit. There is plenty to do; you just aren't required to do it all yourself.

May you be kind to yourself this year.

Susan





Heartland Region

PETER WOLF

HEARTLANDVP@FCMMAIL.ORG

Reflections on the Biennial Retreat

hosted at the Maria Stein Retreat Center in the rural Ohio countryside.

The weekend retreat for 25 members of the Heartland Region started with a nurturing and tasty cook out orchestrated and a generously contributed main entree by **John Polanski**. The meats and veggies were grilled and complemented with creative side dishes including options for vegetarian preferences. The meal was not the “Last Supper” but the first supper inviting us to know each other and share our companionship. Throughout the weekend the Maria Stein staff provided excellent meals and an atmosphere of camaraderie.

The weekend agenda involved a plethora of opportunities to “**Harness the Power of Love**”. These include but are not limited to the following sessions.

1. **Discovering our purpose and meaning (presented by Shannon Queenan)**
2. **Relationship with self (presented by Peter Wolf)**
3. **Relationship with others (presented by Carolyn Horvath)**
4. **Relationship with the Divine, (presented by John Polanski)**
5. **Relationship with ministry (presented by Tom and Patty Stricker).**

These sessions were intermingled with the power of community prayer especially at an unplanned prayer over **Bill Wisniewski** who had to exit early to respond to a tragic event with the people of his police ministry.

Each presentation focused uniquely on the various elements of the much-needed power of love that we live in our personal lives as well as in our ministries. The sessions were woven together with the beauty of movement and dance so eloquently taught and demonstrated by **Carolyn Horvath**.

All participants contributed their grace and wisdom at various times in small-group sharing sessions during the presentations and during our informal late evening gatherings.

And of course there was quiet time to hear the voice of God in creation that surrounded us on a somewhat rainy but mostly sunny weekend in the cornfields of Ohio.



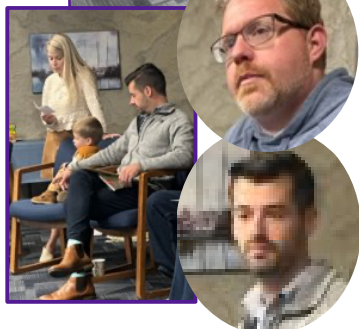
The weekend culminated in a liturgy (Shannon Queenan presiding) of prayer, reflection, and commissioning (by **Peter Wolf** and those gathered in the name of FCM) of **Trent Elders and Micah Smith**. Our guests at the commissioning were Trent Elder’s spouse (Kelly) and their two children (Hank and Charlie).

A lesson learned is that the majority of those in attendance came because they were invited by someone. The participants came from multiple locations in Ohio such as Dayton, Columbus, Cleveland, Bedford, Mineral Ridge, Medina, Kettering, Germantown, Ravana and Lakewood. In addition some came from other cities outside of Ohio such as Detroit, Grand Rapids, Louisville, and Kendalville, Indiana. We hope that the richness of our gathering brings forth more participants.

We have reserved the 2025 weekend already for two reasons.

The staff at Maria Stein are booking into the year 2026, and we are inviting all of you to join us well in advance for a well-deserved renewal of your spiritual bucket. Mark your calendars October 24-26, 2025.

COMMISSIONING PHOTOS: MICAH SMITH - TRENT ELDERS - KATHY ELDERS & SON





Northwest Region

ZACHARY WHEAT
NORTHWESTVP@FCMMAIL.ORG

Congratulations!

It is my pleasure to begin by congratulating and welcoming our newly commissioned members, **Lindsey Smith** and **Lisa Barrett-Kelly**.

They both currently reside in Portland, Oregon and work alongside me at Providence. Lindsay finished her residency back in August and has joined the team at Providence Portland as an on-call chaplain and Lisa recently began a role with Providence Medical Group working in the Ambulatory world.

They are both excellent additions to our body. In addition to commissioning, we also had one chaplain complete the Endorsement process in our region.

Trish Dick who is currently serving in Montana was endorsed this past month and is an excellent chaplain there. Currently Trish is serving as a double whammy chaplain working both in a hospital and at a hospice agency.

One of the big things coming up is our assembly so please stay on the lookout for more details in the coming months.

I will also be working on more gatherings in the coming months and look forward to connecting with more of you and deeper with those who our paths have already intersected.

I hope that each of you finds ways to survive and possibly even thrive with the return of the rain, bluster, and cold.



NEWSLETTER EDITORS
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The FCM Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Federation of Christian Ministries, a non-profit religious body. As the informational publication of FCM, 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 2-3 selected photos in MS Word and JPG formats.

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