

## CCNC REGIONAL UPDATE

April 20, 2020



### From Wayne to Lincoln County...Have Mask will Travel!



On April 2, it came to the attention of the Commission on Ministry that Minister Angie Pooley, who is commissioned as Pastoral Care Minister of FCC Lincolnton was in desperate need of masks for her community ministry. Minister Pooley is an online student at Lexington Theological Seminary and works as a Case Manager of the Christian Ministry of Lincoln County, Inc., which serves the homeless and low-wealth community. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Minister Pooley remains on the front lines of ministry and sees clients through a Plexiglas screen in front of her desk with a small slit for the clients to pass their identification and signed forms.

For social distancing, the staff sanitize before and during each client visit, and they allow fewer than 10 people into the lobby. They have gloves, but no masks.

Minister Pooley provides the clients access to prepared food, the food pantry, utility assistance, and shelter, as well as offers spiritual care. The Christian Ministry of Lincoln County soup kitchen currently provides carry-out meals only. Clients walk or drive up to a tent to pick up meals.



They also prepare meals for the local homeless shelter, which is under stay-in-place mode, and the homeless director picks up the meals daily.

(Minister Pooley had led a monthly Bible study at the homeless shelter, but this has been postponed until the virus is under control.) The Christian Ministry of Lincoln County assist the food pantry and soup kitchen, plus their volunteers deliver food boxes to the county's elderly and sick at home.



During the first week of April, the other Christian Ministry food bank in East Lincoln County closed, leaving Minister Pooley and her Director to manage all of the staff, clients, and Christian social assistance for the entire county. And they were doing all of this without masks.



As the Lord would have it, mask makers at Greenleaf Christian Church in Goldsboro under the leadership of Sister Mollie Renfrow were already eager



to begin sewing. With a single email about the opportunity to help Minister Pooley to Bishop Melvin and the special Regional Health Team on which Lady Rebecca Barber serves, God provided the resources. Sister Mollie Renfrow and the women of Greenleaf crafted the first batch of masks post haste and sent them priority mail to Minister Pooley so the team could feel more comfortable and more confident that they were protecting the most vulnerable members of the community whom they serve.

If you or your church group are making masks, please consider donating some to your local food pantry, community shelter, or homeless ministry because this is an underserved group of workers on the frontlines, many of whom are volunteers. The NC DWM would be glad to provide you with the most up-to-date pattern information to help you get started. You can contact NC DWM President Mary Evans by email at [mwevans1953@gmail.com](mailto:mwevans1953@gmail.com). Here is some additional mask resource information.

CDC mask pattern:

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/diy-cloth-face-coverings.html>

Video of making a mask:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hpszLQTy-SA>

Hospital mask pattern:

[https://addiemartindale.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Sew\\_Hospital\\_Mask\\_Pattern.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0qyvT7e3qSLMMblkpA1W4d00I9RoHEsp9yTiagyklATeT80ILxZpTWOik&#160;](https://addiemartindale.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Sew_Hospital_Mask_Pattern.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0qyvT7e3qSLMMblkpA1W4d00I9RoHEsp9yTiagyklATeT80ILxZpTWOik&#160;)

We know that many of our churches have sewing teams in place making masks, other individuals have culled their stock of fabric, elastic, and buttons and donated them to sewing groups, men have emptied their storage sheds of dust masks and cut up their last vacuum cleaner bags for mask filters. You are planting your victory vegetable gardens with more than enough to share with the neighbors. We will be stronger through this because we are helping one another. Thank you! We celebrate everyone's efforts. **We invite you to tell the region what you and your church are doing to make a difference in your community or across a wider area. Write to us and share some good news. Don't forget the photos!**

### CCNC Medical Response Team Update

It is the recommendation of the CCNC Medical Response Team that all churches and parishioners continue to follow the Governor's guidelines about staying at home. When stay at home orders are lifted, it will be important for churches to slowly return to their in-person operations. It cannot be stressed enough how important wearing a mask is during this time. When churches begin to meet in person, there should be safety precautions in place, including requiring masks and social distancing in the buildings. During this time, many are feeling stir crazy from the isolation, but it is important that we take each step slowly to ensure the health of our communities. Please consider continuing the use of technology after small groups are welcomed back to worship in person so that those who cannot safely leave their homes can still participate.

### **Creation, Church, and Community: An Earth Day Webinar Wednesday, April 22, 2020 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM ET**

In commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, LTS presents an Earth Day webinar moderated by Rev. Carol Devine, Minister of Green Chalice and featuring LTS faculty members. Dr. Emily Askew, Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, will offer a theological response to climate-despair. Dr. Wilson Dickinson, Director of the D.Min. Program and Continuing Education and Lay School of Theology Programs, will share his insights on finding our place in social change. And Dr. Leah Schade, Assistant Professor of Preaching and Worship, will lead us through the lectionary texts in the season of Easter with ideas for using a "green lens" for preaching. We invite clergy, laity, and all those seeking to connect their faith with caring for God's Creation. The webinar is free of charge. To register, use this link:

[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr2dtola4dJhHksEdXB8YjUTzmxhsCaCdcjegCYi4E3FTN\\_g/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfr2dtola4dJhHksEdXB8YjUTzmxhsCaCdcjegCYi4E3FTN_g/viewform)



## Wake Tech is offering free IT training for displaced workers

<https://www.wraltechwire.com/2020/04/17/wake-tech-is-offering-it-training-for-displaced-workers/>

As job losses mount in the wake of the coronavirus crisis, Wake Tech Community College is stepping up to help displaced workers. North Carolina's largest technical college based in Raleigh will now offer cost-free IT training for those who qualify for in-demand fields, including programming, networking and cybersecurity.

"Wake County's job growth has surged in information technology areas," the college said in a release. "As a result, employers have unfilled positions because candidates are not available. The College's Non-Credit Computer Education Department will provide accelerated training to address the industry skills gap."



Key topics include: job market overview; IT industry trends; the transition from the current industry to in-demand IT industry; barrier removal strategy; student resources; information technology training and candidate placement.

Scholarships will be based on WCE Scholarship Criteria as well as performance on a technical assessment.

## IN EXTRAORDINARY TIMES, EXCEPTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES



To help Disciples congregations minimize the impact of the coronavirus on their ministries, Disciples Church Extension Fund (DCEF) is offering a unique suite of loan products especially designed to meet borrowing needs during these uncertain times. If your ministry is experiencing financial issues, call us at **1-800-274-1883** or contact your **DCEF Building and Capital Services Advisor (Belinda King at [bkings@disciplescef.org](mailto:bkings@disciplescef.org))**. Find out how we can help your church stay healthy despite the pandemic through emergency, short-term financing, including for operational purposes. Now, as always, funds invested with DCEF allow us to make timely loans possible for congregations in need. We offer a variety of vehicles, including Demand Notes, Fixed- and Variable-Rate Term Notes, Traditional and Roth IRAs, Educational Growth Notes and special-rate, limited-time offerings. To learn more about our available investment options, rates and terms, visit [disciplescef.org](http://disciplescef.org).

## A Gift for the Earth: Earth Day Vigil - FOR WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Although we are unable to gather in person this year, we are excited to host a virtual Earth Day Vigil in celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day. The vigil will be focused around the idea of "Seeing with New Eyes" and will include readings, prayers, songs, and information about creation care from speakers from throughout Western North Carolina. Following the vigil, we will host a "reception" where we invite you to grab your dinner or favorite beverage and join us for a discussion and reflection. The vigil will run from 6-7:30pm and the reception will begin directly after it ends. We welcome you to join us for as long as you are able.



The vigil will be hosted over Zoom, and you will receive a link to join the Zoom meeting after signing up. When you join for the vigil, you will be muted and your video will be turned off. For the reception, there will be more opportunities for interaction. You may join from your computer or your phone.

Registration Link:

<https://creationcarealliance.org/event/virtual-earth-day-vigil/?emci=cafd0b02-db80-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&emdi=79317d37-e680-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&ceid=8329151>

HEALING THE HEALERS  
FREE film and  
written resource for Hospital Chaplains  
on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic.



To watch, click link: <https://vimeo.com/408603687>



**When Quarantine Isn't Safe**

<https://zoom.us/j/91249039576>  
**FREE ZOOM WEBINAR:**  
 Meeting ID: 912 - 4903 - 9576

**HELPING VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC ABUSE DURING COVID-19**

Tuesday, April 21, 2020  
 10am - 12noon (CST)

**LIVEFREE CHICAGO**

**Sharon Ellis Davis, PhD**  
*Affiliate Professor*  
 McCormick Theological Seminary

**Stephanie Love-Patterson**  
*Executive Director*  
 Connections for Abused Women and Children

A large black silhouette of a woman's head in profile, facing right. Her hand is raised in a gesture, with fingers spread. The background is dark with some light effects.