



Tennessee
DISCIPLES of CHRIST

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Dear Friends,

Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by the devastating storms that recently swept through the Midwest. I write today to invite us to be in fervent prayer for Rev. Paul Koch and the Mid-America Region, as well as for all who were caught in the path of these tragic tornadoes and severe weather events.

We especially lift up our sister congregation, **Centennial Christian Church in St. Louis, Missouri**. Their church building was struck directly during the storm, with members inside at the time. The steeple and roof collapsed, injuring several people who were later rescued from the rubble. Tragically, our beloved sister and former President of the National Convocation Board, **Pat Penelton**, did not survive. Pat was faithfully serving alongside others in her congregation as they ministered to the homeless in their community when the storm struck.

We ask the Lord to surround Pat's family and her church family with strength, peace, and comfort as they navigate this unimaginable loss.

Please also keep **Rev. Don Gillette** and our Kentucky siblings in your prayers. Many in that region have also been deeply impacted by the storms and continue to recover and rebuild.

As we gather for worship in the coming days, let us not only celebrate our shared faith, but also lift up our siblings in Christ who are mourning, recovering, and rebuilding. Let our worship be filled with both praise and prayer, and may we find ways to offer tangible support where we can.

We pray for God's comfort, peace, and healing presence as they walk through the valley of grief and trauma.

In Christ's love,

Rev. Kevin L. McNeil