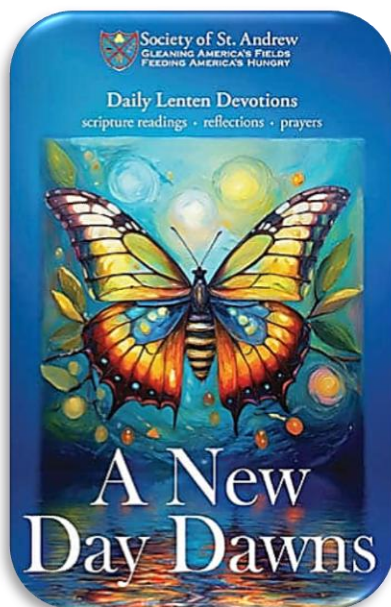


Ponca City Christian

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Seeking, Serving, Sharing
March 30, 2025



IN THIS LIGHT IS GOD

**SCRIPTURE:
LAMENTATIONS
3:22-23**

Artists' depictions of looking out from the darkness of the empty rock tomb to the light of a new day capture the first gasp of the enormity of the moment. Jesus is not there. Such paintings

capture the moment when the heart realizes things are different. For me, this moment encapsulates the instant when I discovered I no longer must linger in the state I thought would last forever.

It is as if I was looking out of the tomb of the darkness of depression into the Light of hope. The first rays of the dawn had broken through. It is as if I was looking out from the cold depths of anxiety into the warmth of Mercy's embrace.

The early disciples must have felt every emotion upon seeing the empty tomb. Mary, in despair, then hearing her name spoken, went dashing off filled with joy to proclaim that death had not claimed her Beloved. How enormous the realization that the steadfast love of the Lord never ceases! It is new every morning. A new day dawns, and this light is God. In this early awakening is the promise of hope for all eternity. May I never stop pausing, taking it in, with a grateful heart.

Prayer: Touch every soul with the light of your presence. Enter every heart, no matter the darkness, and soothe any fear with the brightness of your eternal glory. Amen.

Nancy Severin | Fort Morgan, CO

[Lent | The Society of St. Andrew, Inc.](#)



In September
2024,
Hurricane
Helene swept
upward from

Florida's Big Bend, devastating communities throughout the southeastern United States. It hit the Blue Ridge particularly hard, triggering historic flooding throughout Western North Carolina.

For 75 years, Christmount, located in Black Mountain, North Carolina, has served the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) as a sacred space and a campground for thousands of young people building their own relationship with God. For the past several decades, it has also served as the home of Camp Lakey Gap, a unique residential camp designed for people on the autism spectrum. Throughout seven decades of changes, it has remained true to its mission as "a place for all to discover community, acceptance, and purpose."

In the immediate days after Hurricane Helene, Week of Compassion connected with Christmount staff to offer pastoral presence, community support grants, and solidarity grants and to coordinate with Disciples Church Extension Fund to support the repairs across the campus. Cleanup efforts were made harder by widespread infrastructure damage, which meant that the camp couldn't host large volunteer groups in the early days after the storm. Week of Compassion is subsidizing registration fees for volunteers and will provide logistical support during the busy summer months, and additional [volunteer opportunities](#) will be opened as needs emerge. Groups will serve both at Christmount itself, and within the wider Black Mountain community.

Find information about [volunteer opportunities](#) and [contribute to the Hurricane 2024 response](#) on the Week of Compassion website.

Learn more about Christmount's ministry and mission [on their website](#).