

Volume 1, Issue 2
Nov 17, 2022



Union Avenue Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) Outreach and Justice News

Our Vision

To be a faithful, growing church, that demonstrates true community, deep Christian Spirituality, and a passion for justice.

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ in the U.S. and Canada)

The Outreach and Justice Ministry Team is excited to help our congregation engage with the community, world, and wider Church in long-standing and new ways through direct service, relationship building, giving, and deepening the work of justice and mercy for God's people.

Thanksgiving Offering November 13 & 20

Tougaloo College, Jackson, MS

On November 10th, I was in Jackson, Mississippi for our 3 day NBA Board Meeting. Before that meeting began, I decided to go visit the campus of Tougaloo College there in Jackson. Tougaloo is an HBCU (Historic Black College/University) of the Disciples of Christ and United Church of Christ. Wow! The campus was such a beautiful, peaceful space. My time on campus taught me about Tougaloo's historic part in the Civil Rights Movement as well as their strength in education through all these years. I spent some precious time in their chapel, had conversation with a couple of women on campus, and learned that Tougaloo's President, Dr. Carmen J. Walters has been named one of the most influential African American Leaders in Mississippi for 2022.

I was reminded of how vital higher education has always been to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the importance of our support through DMF – Disciples Mission Fund!

- Jacque Foster



Disciplesmissionfund.org

Thanksgiving Offering 2022



Our Thanksgiving Offering benefits the Colleges, Universities, Seminaries, and Divinity Houses affiliated with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). Higher education has been an important focus for Disciples since the very beginning of the movement.

“My name is Sarah and I am a sophomore at Chapman University. I grew up in a Disciples congregation and am a life-long Disciple. As a

sophomore, being on campus full-time is new for me, but the community I have found in Disciples on Campus has made this transition easier. Entering the Chapman family, I knew I would be involved with this group of people as it was a significant factor in my college decision – knowing I would have a community I could become a part of that I had already been exposed to through participation in Pacific Southwest Regional events. This community is important to me because it allows me to enter a space of acceptance and understanding at our Wednesday Night Worship Services. Despite being on zoom the first year, I have been able to become a part of this community, have fun, and further develop my faith as a Christian. Having the Disciples community on campus has helped me bring my faith with me to college instead of leaving it at home, as so many college students do. I am extremely thankful for the opportunity I have to attend Chapman University and the opportunity I have to continue participating in the Disciples community despite being in a college environment. Thank you so much for your support of the Thanksgiving offering that makes Disciples on Campus, and so many other programs, possible!”

Sarah Sandoval, Chapman University Student, Class of 2023

“How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help? Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action.”

1 John 3:17-18

Memorial Blvd Food and Clothing Pantry

As we at UACC seeks to deepen our ministry with Memorial Blvd. Christian Church Food and Clothing Pantry, Daniel Leach and Randy Palmer are leading us on the way! We want to share Daniel’s report after their first visit a couple of weeks ago.

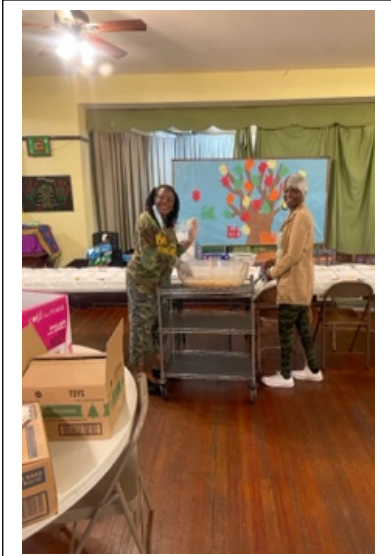
“Randy and I visited the Memorial CC Food Pantry yesterday. We met with Rev Linda and Shirley White the Lead Coordinator. Oh my gosh, what an operation !!! They have a defined process and they are very organized as well as a FUN group of people. The staff at the Food Pantry clearly find the work satisfying and enjoyable.

On a normal Food Pantry day they set up a minimum of 100 to 130 complete kits of hot food lunch as well as home pantry supplies bags for their clients to take away. Yesterday they set up 120 kits, they open the doors at 12 pm. By 1pm (their first rush) their initial kits and supplies for the day were already almost completely depleted. The team then sets up for the second rush which comes in at 2 pm.

Linda and Shirley are aware that Randy and I will be away until after Thanksgiving. However, I'm sure Memorial CC Food Pantry would welcome any Union Ave CC volunteers on any given Thursday and especially while Randy and I are away. Our UACC volunteers should call Shirley to advise her that a volunteer will be available on a particular Thursday.

Also, in discussion with Rev Linda and Shirley we stated our goal to have at least one UACC volunteer per week. Once we return, Randy and I plan to work one week per month. However, any one can volunteer, whether on the Outreach team or not. It would be great if more UACC members would like to assist.” - Daniel Leach

PLEASE NOTE: Food Pantry days are Thursdays. Daniel is coordinating our volunteers when he gets back! Please call or see Daniel if you would like to volunteer!



Rev. Linda Tobias Doss and Lead Coordinator Shirley setting up To-Go trays.

Items Needed at This Time:

Canned soup, canned vegetables, canned beans, as well as peanut butter.

They also need fresh meat products to serve during their hot meal distribution. Financial contributions will allow the Pantry staff to make these fresh meat purchases. If you would like to make a financial contribution you may place a check in the offering plate. Please make it payable to Union Avenue Christian Church, indicating on the ‘memo’ line that it is for MBCC Food Pantry. You may also contribute online through the Union Avenue Givelify App. There you may indicate that it is for the Memorial Blvd Food Pantry.

Your food contributions may be placed in the crates in the foyer at the parking lot entrance outside our gallery.

Thank you for the wonderful gifts of food in recent weeks; let’s keep it up!



Individual Supply Bags ready to go!

Outreach and Justice Ministry Team Members

Kathy Davis
Rose Fischer
Jacque Foster (Chair)
Rochelle Kaskowitz
Daniel Leach
Matthew Mahaffey
Sandra Miller

There are many ways that UACC has given in the past and continues to give. Some of these are one time giving and some are ongoing. With some we may further develop our relationship in service and justice-seeking. These include:

Disciples Mission Fund through our 4 seasonal offerings.

Global Ministries CC(DOC)/UCC

International Child Sponsorship

Metropolitan Congrs. United

Soldan School

Doorways

Prison Ministry

St. Louis Pride

MBCC Food Pantry

Alliance Q of the CC(DOC)

UACC Mission Inn

Unleashing Potential (formerly Neighborhood Houses)

Hylton Point II Affordable Housing

Food Outreach

Woodhaven (an NBA related community)

Community Ministry in the UACC Neighborhood

Our Outreach Team is excited about renewed relationship-building with three areas of need in the immediate community around the church.

Soldan School

We have supported Soldan School in the past. And during our Epiphany process, we have had conversation with them about their needs. For this Christmas we expect to do a project for Soldan School families in need.

Please watch this space for details soon to come. Rose and Rochelle are doing great work on this!

St. Louis Forensic Treatment Center

The Forensic Treatment Center (formerly called Metropolitan Psychiatric Center) is just across the church parking lot and their residents and staff want and need our support! In conversation with Chaplain Karen Pitt, we are planning a way to connect with them at Christmas.

Watch this space for date and details! Matthew and Sandra are working on this connection!

We hope this to begin a UACC – FTC Connection. We hope YOU will join in relationship-building in this season! This is intended to be the beginning of our reaching out and sharing in events at other special times of the year. We will also have the opportunity to extend support to a staff in need of community encouragement.

Hylton Point II Affordable Housing

We have had a giving relationship with Hylton Point II (one of the 3 Hylton Point communities). Dianne Benjamin, of our congregation, is on the Hylton Point II Board. We agreed at our most recent meeting to increase our annual giving to Hylton Point II for their Christmas gifts to the 60 residents.

Hylton Point was begun by Centennial Christian Church and our NBA (National Benevolent Association). It is managed now by Lutheran Senior Services.



National Benevolent Association
of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Our NBA Board met last week in Jackson, Mississippi. We were there to connect with and lend support to our Southern Christian Services for Children and Youth. Our first evening we were deeply moved by a presentation by Jaime Himes, President and CEO of the organization which serves and equips vulnerable children and youth. We learned about their Therapeutic Groups Homes, their PALS Transitional and Homeless Youth Program, Therapeutic Foster Care, Adoption, and Post-Adoption and Respite care. They have Counseling Services, and Parent Strong (training and support for parents, and Crime Victim Assistance. That same evening we heard a powerful address by the Rev. Nadine Burton, Regional Minister of the Great River Region. The second day we went to the new Southern Christian Services facilities, and then spent the evening with the 2021/22 SENT Cohorts, leaders of Social Entrepreneur ministries from across the country. These are supported and nurtured through the NBA SENT Program. I give thanks for the powerful ministry of NBA, our health and social service ministry of the CC (DOC). I consider it an honor to serve on the NBA Board. – Jacque Foster



[Week of Compassion](#)

is the relief, refugee, and development mission fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in the United States and Canada.

November 10 2022

HURRICANE NICOLE made landfall in Florida overnight as a category 1 hurricane. As tropical storm and surge warnings continue throughout the Atlantic coast states and into the northeast U.S., Week of Compassion is monitoring weather and news reports, and will remain in touch with Regional leadership for support and response as needed.

Those interested in virtual volunteer opportunities - staffing a call center to connect survivors to clean-up assistance - please [email Week of Compassion](#) for more information.

"They brought us hope."

Week of Compassion Board of Stewards meets in Puerto Rico

Last week, at the first in-person meeting since fall 2019, the Board of Stewards and staff of Week of Compassion gathered in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, tending to the business of Week of Compassion while bearing witness to the fruitful partnership with Iglesia Cristiana (Discipulos de Cristo) de Puerto Rico, especially in the years since Hurricane Maria, and more recently Hurricane Fiona.



photo : Week of Compassion

Week of Compassion staff gathered for meetings before the Board arrived, generously welcomed with hugs, prayer, song, and food by the staff team at the Centro Cristiano. It was an added joy for the Week of Compassion staff to join our ICDCPR colleagues for a surprise celebration for Pastora General Hilda Robles Floran, on her first anniversary in that historic role.

A very full business agenda included a report from the Executive Director; updates on a wide variety of partnerships; discernment regarding sustainable development (including approval of grants for work in Haiti and Yemen); and consideration of a domestic disaster response policy informed by Week of Compassion's commitment to diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice.

Alongside the important work of their meeting, the Board of Stewards spent most of one day visiting Cayey and Villa Las Lomas, honored by the opportunity to meet families impacted by Hurricanes Maria and Fiona and the pastors and congregations who have served them faithfully.

Week of Compassion and ICDCPR have worked closely since the 2017 Hurricanes Irma and Maria, in support of long-term recovery. These lasting relationships made for a quick response to the local community in the immediate aftermath of September's Hurricane Fiona. As the Board was welcomed with joy into homes and communities impacted by such devastation, gifts of genuine solidarity and mutual hospitality were front and center.



photo: Week of Compassion

When the storms came with such force, families had to evacuate quickly, and even as they tried to return and begin again, were left without electricity or clean water for several days or even weeks. Pastora Shirley Torres Falero, of ICDC Cayey, said **the church was "all hands on deck" in response, and as much as it meant to receive resources, in reality, families said, "They brought us hope."** Churches with no more than 75 people became great centers for relief: delivering meals, creating a food pantry and bottled water distribution, cleaning out and finding safe housing options, helping neighbors and friends whether or not they were part of the church. Those in areas less hard-hit continued their ministries of worship and community service, providing [water filters](#), health care, and tutoring.

Throughout these visits, the Board and staff prayed with families and pastors, giving thanks for the immense generosity and collaboration that places the needs of the community at the center of every action. The stories of hope and transformation are powerful, and the shared inspiration and gratitude were abundant and overflowing.

[Stories](#) will continue to emerge over the next few months, and we will continue to share [Updates](#) on the ways Disciples are responding through Week of Compassion. As incoming Board Chair Cindy Kim-Hengst shared, "It was such a great meeting and even more meaningful for the chance to share it with our extended ICDC family and congregational brothers and sisters. **I am so grateful for the chance to witness how local churches are serving and meeting needs, supported by Week of Compassion.** The members of the board will be thinking about this gathering for weeks to come."



Global Ministries

Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
And the United Church of Christ

CMEP Joins Christian Faith Leaders in Writing in Support of Accountability for the killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by [Middle East and Europe](#) | Nov 15, 2022

Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP) Executive Director, Rev. Dr. Mae Elise Cannon, joined 25 other Christian Faith leaders – including Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), United Church of Christ, and Global Ministries leadership – in a letter to Secretary of State Antony Blinken in support of a U.S.-led investigation into the killing of Palestinian-American journalist Shireen Abu Akleh, who was shot and killed during an Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) operation on May 11, 2022 in the West Bank town of Jenin. Numerous reputable news outlets and research groups have conducted investigations that all came to the same conclusion: Shireen Abu Akleh was likely shot by Israeli forces while she was wearing protective gear clearly marked 'PRESS' despite there being no signs of Palestinian gunfire in the area. Israel has failed to conduct a thorough investigation and no individuals have been held accountable for her death.