

Volume 2  
Issue 2  
Jan 12, 2023



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

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*Lamentably, it is an historical fact that privileged groups seldom give up their privilege voluntarily. Individuals may see the moral light and voluntarily give up their unjust posture; but as Reinhold Niebuhr has reminded us, groups tend to be more immoral than individuals.*

Martin Luther King, Jr., "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"

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**Centennial Christian Church Hosting MLK Jr. Observances Saturday, January 14 – (see this page and next)**

**JAN 14**

Dismantling Hate by Promoting Hope.  
Empowering Today's Youth to Take Action!

**SATURDAY JAN. 14TH**  
**Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observance in Fountain Park 2023**

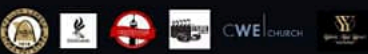
Brought to you by Centennial Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Fountain Park-Lewis Place Neighbors, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity's Epsilon Lambda Chapter, Epsilon Lambda Charitable Foundation, Central West End Church, and The Butler Group

**Location: King Statue**  
Centennial Christian Church  
4950 Fountain Place  
St. Louis, Missouri 63113

**Dr. MLK Commencement Program**  
Commencement begins at 10:00 a.m.

**Peace March**  
March following commencement at 10:30 a.m.

Inviting the Fountain Park-Lewis Place residents, the St. Louis community, and the D9 organizations to celebrate with us.



**#MLK2023STL**

Contact Centennial Christian Church for questions, 314-367-1818

While we are  
waiting for  
God's  
intervention,  
God is  
waiting for  
our  
collaboration.

John Dominic  
Crossan

**MLK Youth Fest, Saturday, January 14, 12:00 – 3:30 pm  
at Betty Jean Kerr People’s Health Center, 5701 Delmar**

**Event sponsored by Centennial Christian Church.  
Panel Discussion facilitated by Pastor Breonna Hawkins, Co-  
Pastor Memorial Blvd. Christian Church.**

**MLK YOUTH FEST '23**  
**A Community Conversation About**  
**Youth Violence & Crime**

In Addition to the Hype Session & Special Performances, There Will Be  
A Workshop Experience For Youth & Adults

**\*Panel Discussion\***

Facilitated By Pastor Breonna Hawkins, M.Div. MSW,  
Co-Pastor of Memorial Blvd. Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

**\*Panelist\***

- Keely Finney, LCSW; *Rejuvenating Comprehensive Services*
- Dr. LeKesha Thomas-Davis, PhD, LPC, Vice President of Behavioral Health Services  
*Amanda Luckett Murphy Hopewell Center*
- Terry Wilson, *Councilman City of Jennings & City Manager of Dellwood*  
Officer Takisha Boyd, *SLMPD*
- William Dailey, Jr., *Harvey Dailey Law Firm, LLC*

**\*Youth Workshops\***

- Mental Health: Bullying, Suicide & Depression, *Dr. LeKesha Thomas-Da*  
*Vice of President Behavioral Health Services Amanda Luckett Murphy Hopewell Cen*
- Interactive Presentation on Drugs – *Dr. LJ Punch, MD., The T*

**\*Adult Session Topics\***

- Gun Safety in the Home, *Curtis Smith, 3 Tier Defense*  
*Let's Start For Previous Incarcerated Families By Toni Jordan & Tracy Stanton*
- Signs & Symptoms of Drugs & Changes of Behavior & An Advocating For Your Child  
*LaToya Stewart, School Counselor & Social Worker, Hawthorne Leadership School For Girls.*

**Outreach and  
Justice Ministry  
Team Members**

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

Please contact a  
member of the  
Outreach and Justice  
Team if you have  
questions about  
UACC’s work in the  
community and the  
world.

Adults & Youth  
Scan QR Code Here & On The Front  
To Pre-Register Now!

For more Information, Contact  
Centennial Christian Church  
314.367.1818



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*Learn to do  
right;  
seek justice.  
Defend the  
oppressed.  
Take up the  
cause of the  
fatherless;  
plead the case  
of the widow.*

Isaiah 1:17

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## We Receive Thank-You Letters!

Our year-end discretionary gift contributions included Doorways, a vital community partner of UACC. Doorways is an on-going recipient in our Outreach Budget and a face-to-face partner as we participate in preparing special meals and engaging with the Doorways community.

Rev. Michael Riggs received this letter from Jim Timmerberg at Doorways. We want to include the whole letter here, as Michael has followed up with us on this; encouraging a group of us to respond to this invitation by planning a visit to the new Doorways Campus. Perhaps some from the Outreach and Justice Team, and others who have been engaged with Doorways would like to visit!

*Hi Michael,*

*Happy New Year! Thank you for Union Avenue Christian Church's very generous year-end contribution. We deeply appreciate our ongoing relationship and partnership with Union Avenue and its members. Your gift comes at a critical time; as winter settles in more and more people seek refuge from the streets and shelters while countless others need utility subsidies to warm their homes. Thank you.*

*I remember that you weren't able to attend our Grand Opening because of your travel schedule, so I am hoping that we can find a time in the near future for you to visit and tour the new Campus.*

*I hope you are well - Happy Friday!*

**Jim Timmerberg**

Development and Communications Director  
DOORWAYS

## How Does the Outreach and Justice Team Make Decisions?

As we began our work, we realized that there are so many needs and UACC cannot respond to all of them! In listening for God's leading, we created "Discernment Questions." Every question does not speak to every situation; but, as a whole, they can help us to stay on track. Here they are:

\*How does the project or donation address the needs of the least of God's children directly or indirectly in UACC's neighborhood?

\*How does the project or donation strengthen or foster long-term working relationships with neighborhood churches, metropolitan DOC churches and churches of other denominations or General DOC church bodies and institutions as well as with neighborhood nonprofit organizations, agencies, schools and other institutions?

\*What justice issues might the project or donation lead UACC into? With what partners -- locally, statewide and nation-wide?

\*How does the project or donation build on what UACC is already doing or has done in the recent past?

\*How will this project or donation engage and enrich the faith of people affiliated with UACC as individuals, families, Sunday School classes and other groups within the church?

\*How will the project or recipient of a donation involve UACC congregants, as workers in the project/donation recipient organization and/or at church (e.g., bible study, book group, prayers, written reports, mission moments, tours, etc)?

\*What human capacity does UACC have to start and sustain the project/relationships, including lay leadership to carry out and sustain the project/donation/relationships?

\*How does the project, donation or relationship nourish UACC's capacity to thrive in the future?



*Whoever does  
not love,  
does not know  
God, for God  
is love.*

1 John 4:8

## Memorial Blvd Food Pantry Support and Volunteering

\* **On Sunday, January 22, Daniel Leach will bring a Mission Moment in worship, focusing on Food Pantry Ministry!**

\* **A teaser: Watch for information coming soon re: an After-Worship Panel Discussion on Food Insecurity in St. Louis and Jesus' Call to Feed the Hungry**

Daniel Leach, Jacque Foster, and Rochelle Kaskowitz are volunteering with the MBCC Pantry. You are invited and encouraged to join us any time!

### Planned Schedule and needs:

**Daniel Leach** First Thursdays *recurring assist -10 am to 2 pm*

Second Thursdays, *bulk delivery - recurring and other UACC members opp*

*9 am to 2*

(Third Thursday - already staffed by Webster Groves CC, *no assist needed from Union Ave Team.*)

**Jacque Foster** - Fourth Thursdays *recurring assist, other UACC members opportunity. 10 am to 2*

**Rochelle Kaskowitz** Jan 26th with Jacque  
Feb 2nd with Daniel  
March 9th with Daniel  
March 23rd

*Please bring your food and or gently used clothing donations and place them in the boxes in the UACC lobby!*

## UACC Representation at Metropolitan Congregations United Annual Meeting

Next Thursday, January 19 **Carol Iglaur, George Stericker and Jeanne Heitman** will represent us at MCU's Annual Meeting and Member Assembly, bringing back information about this year's priorities for the work that MCU will be about in the community and ways we can connect. *You are welcome to join them!*

**Annual Meeting and Membership Assembly  
Thursday, January 19, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm  
Central Baptist Church Education Building  
2845 Washington Ave. 63103**

**Register at:**

<https://bit.ly/AnnualMeeting23>

We'll be gathering on Thursday January 19th as Metropolitan Congregations United to review and make decisions about our 2023 agenda. ~ ALL are invited! ~ MEMBER CONGREGATIONS are expected to send 2 voting delegates and as many additional guests as you wish. Please register now for this important event! Further details will be emailed about a week before to all who registered. And Dinner will be served at 5:30pm before the start of the meeting. **Don't forget to sign up for it after registration.**

**Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm (cost \$15.00 per person)  
followed by the business meeting at 6:00 and workshops at 6:45.**

### Pantry Needs:

- \*canned soup,
- \*canned veggies,
- \*canned beans,
- \*peanut butter

Financial contributions will allow the Pantry staff to make fresh meat purchases for their hot meals.

To contribute financially, 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.

UACC is a supporter of the Arts and has supported the Prison Performing Arts Program both financially and by attending and supporting productions and thereby engaging with artists/actors.

In our need to make cuts in our Outreach and Justice Budget (for the present time), we have discontinued our financial donation to this program for this year.

A vital part of our discussion was around the fact many at UACC have gone to PPA Productions, which is a vital way to support them! We can continue our engagement with this wonderful program through active participation!

Here is an opportunity to attend the production, *The Golden Record*, by the PPA Alumni Theatre Company. It is January 26th thru 29th here in STL! Cost: \$25 per ticket; Order Now!

# PRISON Performing ARTS

PPA ALUMNI THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

**JAN.**  
26 THU  
27 FRI  
28 SAT  
29 SUN

# THE GOLDEN RECORD



ADAPTED AND CURATED BY  
**COURTNEY BAILEY**  
DIRECTED BY  
**RACHEL TIBBETTS**

THE CHAPEL  
6238 ALEXANDER DRIVE  
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

PRISON  
Performing  
ARTS



[www.prisonperformingarts.org](http://www.prisonperformingarts.org)