

Volume 2  
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Jan 19, 2023



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

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*There is no  
doubt ... that  
ecumenical  
and  
interreligious  
communities  
once again  
prove to be  
resilient and  
creative in  
times such as  
this.*

*Our  
communities  
are rooted in  
faith after all,  
and history  
has shown that  
faith always  
prevails, even  
during the  
grimmiest  
human  
challenges.*

The Rev. Paul Tch e  
President of CUIM  
in 2022 President's  
Report

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## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – January 18-25**

Each January we celebrate the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. We come together as a people united in the ministry of Jesus the Christ. In these days, we do not create something new; rather we pray for the deepening of the Unity, the Oneness that we have been given in God's Love and embody throughout our ministries. For example, just last week we gathered with our ecumenical community to celebrate the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and recommit to the anti-racism ministry that we all share through the gospel of Jesus the Christ. At other times, we are bound together in our ecumenical ministries to feed the hungry, to house the unhoused, to heal the sick, and set the prisoner free.

The President of our denomination's Christian Unity and Interfaith Ministry is the Rev. Paul Tch e. In his 2022 President's Report, Rev. Tch e reflects on the pandemic, the importance of interreligious engagements of the ecumenical community, and what should be the core of the Disciples of Christ as a faith community, (and other topics.)

In the Introduction, speaking of the impact of the pandemic on our ecumenical and interfaith relationships, he says this:

*"As any crisis does, this pandemic has also required our ecumenical and interfaith communities to be more pastoral and to give significantly more attention to one another. We have acknowledged that we are one community of distressed humans facing the challenge and that we can only overcome it through our collective wisdom and care for one another. Ironically, the pandemic has rather promoted deeper relationships among divided churches and diverse interfaith communities. We now have deeper and broader awareness of one another because we have paid more attention to one another in our daily struggles .... The pandemic has prompted the ecumenical and interreligious communities at the national and global levels to become more attentive to what happens at the regional and local levels. The local and regional communities have collaborated more to tend those who are more affected by the pandemic, and more local initiatives have been organized to help care for those in need."*

We at UACC are reminded that outreach and justice ministries almost always lead us beyond ourselves to connect and work with those of other Christian traditions and other faiths. May it be so!

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

**Dear Friends,**

Communities around the world, time and again, have seen conflict, illness, emergency, disaster, and storms of every kind. And time and again, compassion has responded.

As disruption, grief, and loss come in wave upon wave, compassion is there. While wars rage and displaced families seek shelter, compassion is there. When winds and water overwhelm and destroy, compassion is there. As individuals and communities wonder what to do now or next, compassion is there.

*"When Week of Compassion is there, the whole church is there."  
Rev. Terri Hord Owens, General Minister and President*

In every generous moment of prayer and support, with every coinbox and check and bake sale and special offering, because of every partnership and collaboration and far-reaching vision of a world where God's people transform suffering into hope, Week of Compassion - Disciples - you - the whole church, is there.

**Over the next 5 weeks (leading up to our Week of Compassion Offering at the end of February) we will list our WOC outreach in 5 areas of the world!**

You can see where your compassion has brought transformative hope, responding to needs throughout 2022. (See interactive map at [www.weekofcompassion.org](http://www.weekofcompassion.org))

**This week's area is Africa:**

<b>Angola</b>	<b>drought relief</b>	<b>Uganda drought relief</b>
<b>Congo</b>	<b>emergency response</b>	<b>Uganda refugee support</b>
<b>Congo</b>	<b>flood response</b>	<b>Zambia flood relief</b>
<b>Ethiopia</b>	<b>drought response</b>	<b>Zimbabwe cyclone relief</b>
<b>Ghana</b>	<b>flood relief</b>	<b>Zimbabwe development support</b>
<b>Kenya</b>	<b>drought relief</b>	
<b>Liberia</b>	<b>women's empowerment</b>	
<b>Malawi</b>	<b>emergency relief</b>	
<b>Mozambique</b>	<b>cyclone relief</b>	
<b>Nigeria</b>	<b>food security</b>	
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	<b>girls' education</b>	
<b>Somalia</b>	<b>drought response</b>	
<b>South Sudan</b>	<b>relief</b>	
<b>Tanzania</b>	<b>WASH (water, sanitation, hygiene) support</b>	

**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.

*We are  
strangers  
no longer,  
but fellow  
pilgrims;  
Seeking first  
God's realm  
of justice  
and peace.*

*The peace  
of the  
Lord Jesus  
be with  
you all.*

## **We Receive Thank-You Letters!**

**A letter of thanks received this week from our dear friend Mark Anderson, President and CEO of National Benevolent Association:**

*Thank you for shining your light of hope this Advent Season! Your generous gift of \$3000.00 helps NBA partner with incredible Disciple leaders and ministries who are transforming communities across the United States and Canada. We appreciate your commitment to supporting bold visions of compassion, healing, and justice.*

***Our hearts are full of gratitude!** Your gift is shining the light on prophetic ministries like Casa de Oración in San Diego. During the pandemic, Casa de Oración created a weekly drive-through food ministry. They partnered with the local food banks to access food in bulk which enabled them to offer food to their neighbors in need.*

*Without your gift, Casa de Oración's bold vision to remake this world and support their local community might have never come to light! I look forward to your continued partnership as we reshape what it means to be the church in North America.*

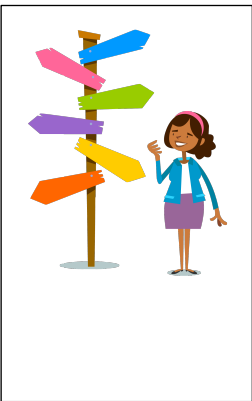
*Together, we will strengthen and transform congregations, communities, and leaders through compassion, healing, and justice.*

*Friends at UACC, thanks for your generous support. Blessings in the New Year!*

*With sincere thanks for your partnership,*

*Mark D. Anderson  
President and CEO*

Find out more at [www.nbacares.org](http://www.nbacares.org)



## **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?

**LOOK  
at  
last page!**

**Prison  
Performing  
Arts Event  
next wknd  
in STL!**

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

1 John 4:8

## Memorial Blvd Food Pantry Support and Volunteering

\* **This 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 opportunity 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** 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!*

### 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.

## Prayer of St. Teresa of Avila

Christ has  
No body now on earth but yours;  
No hands but yours;  
No feet but yours;  
Yours are the eyes  
Through which Christ's compassion  
Is to look out to the world;  
Yours are the feet  
With which he is to go about doing good;  
Yours are the hands,  
With which he is to bless people now.

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)