

Volume 1 |
Issue 7
December
22, 2022

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

*like a child love
would send to
reveal and to
mend
like a child and
a friend, Jesus
comes
like a child we
may find
claiming heart
soul and mind,
like a child
strong and kind,
Jesus comes.*

Dan Damon, 1992
Hope Publishing

The Surprise of Discretionary Outreach Gifts at Christmas

In each year's Outreach and Justice budget we designate funds for community and Church organizations with whom we partner. For instance, Soldan School in our community, and Week of Compassion (the Relief and Development Ministry of the CC(DOC). We give regularly an amount to Memorial Blvd. Food Pantry in a addition to our food collection. The list goes on. The particular Outreach funds for 2023 will be decided by the end of January.

In addition to those that are planned for and designated in January, we have an Outreach Team Discretionary Gift Fund. This year, in part because the present Outreach and Justice Team was not formed until October, we had not used much of our discretionary gift fund. We used a some in November and early December for our Christmas projects, but then had about \$25,000.00 left to distribute by the end of the year.

The Outreach team put heads and hearts together and prayerfully discerned how, with these funds, we could reach into the community and the wider Church in ways that would impact lives! We had such a rich exchange as members of the team shared their passion for the work of various ministries and organizations that address the needs of our community and world.

These are the wonderful, life-giving organizations receiving an extra gift from Union Avenue Christian Church before the end of this year! As they receive gifts for deeper outreach, we pray that their work, as always, will be transforming! And that our work in partnership with them

1. **Memorial Blvd Christian Church Food Pantry**
2. **Arch City Defenders**
3. **Freedom Community Center**
4. **Doorways**
5. **National Benevolent Association**
6. **Metropolitan Congregations United**
7. **Soldan International Studies High School - Social Worker's Discretionary Fund**
8. **Reconciliation Ministries (of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ))**
9. **Assisi House, Inc.**



Metropolitan Congregations United

Rock us

Rock us gently

**ROCK US
WITH LOVE**

Cradle us

*Cradle us
tenderly*

**CRADLE US
WITH LOVE**

Swaddle us

Swaddle us firmly

**SWADDLE US
WITH LOVE**

Bless us

Bless us kindly

**BLESS US
WITH LOVE**

Ruth Burgess
Candles and
Conifers
Wild Goose
Publications

UACC is part of Metropolitan Congregations United and we have many opportunities to partner in ministry with our interfaith community as we seek to live in compassion and justice together.

As we move into the days of Christmas and then Epiphany, we are especially reminded of those who become refugees, fleeing danger to live and raise their children in safety, as Mary and Joseph fled Herod to protect their child, Jesus. And we think of immigrants, seeking to create home in a new place for a variety of reasons. Our families came to this country as immigrants, refugees, enslaved people, or were indigenous to this land. And we welcome adults and children in our congregation now who are new immigrants.

Sister Dolores Sanchez, Immigrant and Environmental Justice organizer with Metropolitan Congregations United, shares this with us, inviting us to contact our congressional leaders:



Will you welcome the Child....

**...the least among us--the immigrant,
refugee, asylum seeker?**

We have a chance this year to achieve the path to citizenship we have sought for more than three and a half decades. There is one way to do this that doesn't shoehorn people based on age, education, job, and more into limiting categories: an update to the immigration registry date.

The registry has existed for nearly a century and is meant to provide deeply rooted immigrants permanent protections. Unfortunately, it was last updated in the Reagan era. To qualify today, an immigrant must have lived in the U.S. since January 1, 1972 – over 50 years ago. A simple update to the immigration registry through the Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929 could normalize the system and let up to 8 million people come out of the shadows. If both the Senate and House bills pass it would unlock permanent residence for millions of immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for at least seven years.

Please contact your Senators and House Representatives NOW! Urge them to update the registry through the Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929.

When you register at https://secure.everyaction.com/iGboj52cNEy9byhGMbmpKA2_ the screen that appears will give you **detailed instructions for calling your legislator**. If you put your phone number, they will call you with taped instructions. If you don't, you can call the number given and connect with the instructions that way.

Muchisimas gracias!

Sister Dolores Sanchez
Immigrant and Environmental Justice organizer
Metropolitan Congregations United
314-703-1453

P.S. For **more detailed information** on this issue that includes fliers and social media files, download the [Registry Tool Kit.docx](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A_s-Oq2dxie5zN5rN4t84zG0Y-QfAUeu/view?usp=drive_web) by clicking on this link or putting this link in your browser: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A_s-Oq2dxie5zN5rN4t84zG0Y-QfAUeu/view?usp=drive_web.



Thank you!

**For your gifts of
time, creativity,
planning, buying,
wrapping, boxing,
singing, and so
much care and love
shared in this
season!!**

When God is
a child
there's joy in
our song.
The last shall
be first
and the weak
shall be
strong,
and none
shall be
afraid.

Brian Wren
1985

When God Is a
Child
Chalice Hymnal



JOY TO THE WORLD!

THE LORD IS COME!

If you have not taken the opportunity to give your Christmas Offering yet this season, we invite you to give to help to deepen the ministry of our Mid-America Region!

Memorial Blvd CC Food and Clothing Pantry

As we work on building hands-on, side-by-side relationship with the community through the food pantry, our volunteering is moving forward. Rochelle Kaskowitz is scheduled to serve this Thursday (weather-willing as the winter storm threatens!) This reminds us that hunger continues without regard to the weather and the problem can be aggravated by storms.

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.

A Christmas Prayer Come, God-With-Us, be born to us anew! We pray this Christmas for your Love incarnate to fill the lives of those in every community, that every relationship may be grace-filled.

For the youth, families, and staff of Soldan High School. In this holiday break, may each one know comfort and joy. May each family have enough love, enough hope, enough food, enough warmth, enough community to thrive. May each teacher, counselor, social worker, building cleaner, and support staff be renewed and see the gift in their work in this community.

For the community of Memorial Blvd. Christian Church and Food Pantry, that those who worship together, and those who give together, and those who share meals and community together may know the feast of Christmas every day. May our partnership deepen in love and support.

For the residents and staff of the Forensic Treatment Center, that each one may know that they are not alone, but are held in God's healing and wholeness, and loved by others through the challenges of growth in their time there and in their lives to come.

For those in our neighborhood, who create home, work, and worship here; may each be strengthened the ability to nurture a community of peace, to say "No" to violence, and "Yes" to a space of care.

For the elders who live in the Hylton Point apartments, and all the apartments seeking to provide healthy, affordable housing and community for seniors. We pray, O God, for those who do not have a place to live and we pray for the Assisi House community, for Doorways, and others working to create a city in which everyone is housed; where there is room 'in the inn' for everyone.

For those in our community who work daily for justice in our legal system, especially for Arch City Defenders, for Freedom Community Center, and for all who work for legal justice.

And for the Church in congregations, Regional and General Ministries, NBA, Week of Compassion, Reconciliation, and interfaith Metropolitan Congregations United, that we may serve in every place God's calls us. We give thanks, O God, for the commitment you stirred in us to give in this season. Open us to continue to hold Jesus, your Christ close to our hearts in these days. Amen.

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 Receive Thank-You Letters!

*God of new
creation,
when we are
sleeping,
exhausted by
activity
and the demands
upon us:*

*WAKE US WITH
A BURST OF
LIGHT
TO LEAD US
WITH JOY
INTO YOUR DAY*

*God of the
unexpected,
when we are
sleeping,
dulled by apathy
and indifferent
to the needs
around us:
WAKE US WITH
A BURST OF
LIGHT
TO LEAD US
WITH JOY
INTO YOUR DAY.*

*Jan Berry
"God Wake Us Up"
in Candles &
Conifers
Wild Goose
Publications*

One of the priorities of the Outreach and Justice Team in 2023 will be communication because we are so excited about God's call and work through our UACC congregation! We want to make sure that YOU know about and receive the thanks from those who are impacted by our ministry together. (Since our Team did not come together until October, we're reaching back to share with you some this year's thank-you notes that came before then.)

We will highlight these along the way, as some may know of all the areas of our outreach and many may not. This is not to "toot our own horn," but to keep us aware that we are community of prayerful, compassionate, justice-seeking care as we seek to be the community of Jesus the Christ in the world.

So here is one to begin:



Dear Union Avenue Christian Church,

As the new Executive Director of Prison Performing Arts, thank you so much for your generous gift of \$1,500.00 on 7/12/2022. I know you share my passion for this incredible organization!

*As we slowly maneuver into a new world where connections can safely occur with more frequency, PPA has returned to in-person programming with justice-involved youth in some facilities, while continuing to offer virtual classes where needed. Alumni Theatre Company members across the country continue to participate in dozens of writing workshops, rehearsals, and productions. Incarcerated artists rehearse and receive comprehensive theatre curriculum and activities. **All thanks to support from people like you.***

PPA has the profound ability to help people share their stories and write next chapters. Your support helps our community heal, grow, and write a better tomorrow. Together. We hope you'll stay up to date with all that's happening at PPA by following us on social media or signing up for our e-newsletter through our website.

Please feel free to reach out to me with any questions you may have, and I look forward to knowing you and the rest of the PPA community better over the coming months.

Thank you again for your support,

John Wolbers
Executive Director
Prison Performing Arts

3547 Olive Street, Suite 250 /// St. Louis, MO 63103 /// www.prisonperformingarts.org

UACC Representation at MCU Annual Meeting



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

We are continuing our work to address:

- * Lead in the water in households and school buildings
- * Pollution in the air we breathe
- * Juvenile Courts to involve families in participating in their own defense.
- * Voter engagement and participation
- * Our congregations – to invest in and strengthen them

Participants will:

- * Celebrate victories of 2022
- * Launch our second annual Gala fundraiser
- * Discover ways to:
 - connect with your neighborhood
 - participate in upcoming elections
 - mobilize your congregation and neighborhood

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.

Register at: <https://bit.ly/AnnualMeeting23>

PLEASE NOTE: Our congregation is a member of MCU and is encouraged to send TWO VOTING DELEGATES.

We are looking for 2 people who would be like to attend as our Voting delegates.

Please let Jacque Foster (jleigh55@att.net or 314- 882-2868) know ASAP if you would be willing to represent UACC on January 19!

THANKS to our Disciples' National Benevolent Association for this wellness offering in the Holiday Season

To help with feelings of grief, depression, or anxiety you may be feeling this season, *Joselyn Spence, Director of NBA's Mental Health and Wellness* program has recorded 12 tips that will help you get through this time of year with a bit more wellness in mind. Almost all of these helpful videos are under 2 minutes in length (the longest is 4 min.) So give yourself the gift of a moment of reflection.

<https://www.nbacares.org/resources/12-days-of-wellness/>