

Volume 1 | Issue 1



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

*“We are Disciples of Christ, a movement for wholeness in a fragmented world.”*

*from the Identity Statement of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)*

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



[Disciplesmissionfund.org](http://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.

Throughout our history, Disciples have founded institutions of higher learning to educate students and form leaders to make a difference in the world. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is still committed to higher education. Your gift to the Thanksgiving Offering helps support the education of thousands of students at our fifteen colleges and universities as well as our seven seminaries and divinity houses.

In addition, in recent weeks, our Higher Education and Leadership Ministries has awarded over 57 scholarships to students in enrolled in undergraduate and PhD programs throughout the United States and Canada.

This is one of the four offerings each year that are a part of our Disciples Mission Fund! You are invited to give as you are able!

You might enjoy clicking on some of the links to the left just to get a taste of some of our Colleges, Universities, and Theological Seminaries!

### Colleges & Universities of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

- [Barton College | Wilson, NC barton.edu](http://barton.edu)
- [Bethany College | Bethany, WV bethanywv.edu](http://bethanywv.edu)
- [Chapman University | Orange, CA chapman.edu](http://chapman.edu)
- [Columbia College | Columbia, MO ccis.edu](http://ccis.edu)
- [Culver-Stockton College | Canton, MO culver.edu](http://culver.edu)
- [Drury University | Springfield, MO drury.edu](http://drury.edu)
- [Eureka College | Eureka, IL eureka.edu](http://eureka.edu)
- [Hiram College | Hiram, OH hiram.edu](http://hiram.edu)
- [Jarvis Christian College | Hawkins, TX jarvis.edu](http://jarvis.edu)
- [University of Lynchburg | Lynchburg, VA lynchburg.edu](http://lynchburg.edu)
- [Midway University | Midway, KY midway.edu](http://midway.edu)
- [Texas Christian University | Fort Worth, TX tcu.edu](http://tcu.edu)
- [Tougaloo College | Tougaloo, MS tougaloo.edu](http://tougalooc.edu)
- [Transylvania University | Lexington, KY transy.edu](http://transy.edu)
- [William Woods University | Fulton, MO williamwoods.edu](http://williamwoods.edu)

### Theological Institutions

- [Phillips Seminary Tulsa, OK | ptstulsa.edu](http://ptstulsa.edu)
- [Christian Theological Seminary Indianapolis, IN | cts.edu](http://cts.edu)
- [Lexington Theological Seminary Lexington, KY | lextheo.edu](http://lextheo.edu)
- [Brite Divinity School Fort Worth, TX | brite.edu](http://brite.edu)
- [Disciples Divinity House of the University of Chicago, Chicago, IL | ddh.uchicago.edu](http://ddh.uchicago.edu)
- [Disciples Seminary Foundation California | dsf.edu](http://dsf.edu)
- [Disciples Divinity House at Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN | discipleshousevandy.org](http://discipleshousevandy.org)

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*“Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?”*

*Matthew 25:37...*

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## Memorial Blvd Food and Clothing Pantry

We at Union Avenue have been committed to supporting Memorial Blvd Christian Church with the food ministry in their high need area. Daniel Leach, on our team, is the lead contact person as we continue (and look to strengthen) our engagement with the MBCC Food Pantry. Daniel reminded us on Sunday, October 30, that “just as our home pantries need replenishing, so does the Memorial Blvd. food bank need replenishing.” He encouraged us to remember this as the holidays approach and we plan for special meals with family and friends.

### 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.

## Connecting with Community in Time of Mourning

On the day of the tragic shooting at Central Visual and Performing Arts School, Frank Proctor and Michael Riggs discerned that it was important for our congregation to host a service of prayer and light with others in our community. With haste Michael created a beautiful prayer service, inviting other community leaders. Frank worked on communication. Enola made contact with “Life Without Violence: A St. Louis Community-Based Violence Response Project grounded in the Institute for Public Health at Washington University. That evening following the shooting, community members, including pastors and members of Pilgrim UCC, Centennial CC, Memorial Blvd CC, Affton CC, and New Hope Community CC, and Union Ave. CC gathered in our sanctuary. Robert Reed and Scott Schoonover shared powerful music to heal the soul.

One of the most powerful aspects of the evening was the sharing by, and prayer and conversation with, Mr. Darren Seals of the LOV (Life Outside of Violence) Project. Those of us who were present will continue to pray with him as he and others connect immediately in the hospital to help those who are harmed receive the treatment, support, and resources they need to end the cycle of violence. We were reminded that night that worship with the community in crisis IS Outreach. Connections made that night may be life changing.

## Meet the Outreach and Justice Ministry Team

Giving thanks for Debbie Stinson and Rose Fischer who led UACC Outreach Ministries through the deepest part of the pandemic, we give thanks now for a new team. Each shares a passion for helping us as a church to live as God’s people engaged with the community and the world. We left our first meeting on October 27th, having set some vision for outreach and engagement with the community around us. Members of our team shared our own values and dreams, and some of the hopes we have heard from the congregation in our small groups in the Epiphany process. We also responded to some community conversations begun in that process. We were glad to have Rev. Michael with us as a part of this vital conversation. Our hope is that as we connect with people, build relationship, and respond to needs, we will also dig deep to help bring more justice.

Between this time and our next meeting on November 14, we are each doing some exploration and research. Expect to hear more from us soon, about opportunities for you to participate in the new things God is doing in our midst!

Watch this space! - Jacque

### Outreach and Justice Ministry Team Members

**Kathy Davis**

**Rose Fischer**

**Jacque Foster (Chair)**

**Rochelle Kaskowitz**

**Daniel Leach**

**Matthew Mahaffey**

**Sandra Miller**