

Volume 2
Issue 1
Jan 5, 2023



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

*Christmas is
forever, Not for
just one day.
For loving,
sharing, giving,
are not to put
away Like bells
and tinsel, in
some box upon
a shelf. The
good you do for
others, is the
good you do
yourself.*

Norman W. Brooks



Memorial Blvd Food Pantry Support and Volunteering

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!

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.

Outreach and Justice Team January Meeting

Our first meeting of 2023, will be on January 9th.

At this meeting, we will:

- *work on budgeting for this year
- *begin planning for 2023 Urban Mission Inn (Ron Lindsey will join us for this conversation)
- *discuss a series of Mission related Panel Discussions for the congregation

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God. He was with God in the beginning...

In him was life, and that life was the light of all ...

The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

John1: 1-5

UACC Representation at Metropolitan Congregations United Annual Meeting

Three UACC Members have signed up to represent us at the Metropolitan Congregations United Annual Meeting. We are so grateful that **Carol Iglaur, George Stericker** and **Jeanne Heitman** will attend and bringing back information about this year’s priorities for the work that MCU congregations will be about in the community and ways we can connect. It would be fun to have others join these. If you are interested in joining them, please sign up (link below) and let one of them know that you plan to be there!

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>

*Gracious God,
for Your faithfulness in loving us
and your mercy toward us,
we give You thanks and praise.
Forgive us the ways
that we have not been loving
and merciful toward one another.
Break in us the strongholds
that suppress Your light and love
and inhibit our ability to see You
Incarnate in all of your children.
Strengthen us to transcend
the kind of reconciliation
that demands allegiance to the*

*powers of the world.
Give us the courage
to create new pathways
to Your redeeming grace.
We need hearts that hear and feel,
ears that listen and see,
hands that heal and move,
and feet that are planted and leap.
May it be so.*

Rev. April G. Johnson
Reconciliation Ministry
in *Wellsprings of Hope: Prayers for a
Prophetic New Vision for Disciples,*
Richard H. Lowery, Ed. Chalice
Press, 2020.

**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.

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. God has sent me to proclaim freedom to the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."

Luke 4:18-19

We Receive Thank-You Letters!

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.

This week we received a letter from Covenant House, located at 2727 N. Kingshighway, which was part of our budgeted Outreach support in 2022.

Dear Union Avenue Supporters,

Thank you for your donation of \$500.00 on 12/16/2022 to support the mission of Covenant House Missouri. Because of your investment, youth who are experiencing homelessness have a safe place to call home, a place where they received unconditional love and support. Our holistic, individualized programs guide our community's most vulnerable youth from homelessness to hope.

During Fiscal Year 2022, Covenant House Missouri supported 260 youth in need of our services. Of these young people, 153 lived on our campus and received a total of 12,881 nights of shelter. Without generous supporters like you, these critical services would be impossible, and many of our youth would have nowhere to turn.

Again, thank you for your investment in our youth. I look forward to staying in touch and sharing our progress with you. I encourage you to check our website, www.covenanthousemo.org regularly for events and volunteer opportunities, to "like" us on Facebook at facebook.com/covenanthousemo, and to join our mailing list via the form on our website.

With sincere gratitude,

*Jessica Erfling
Chief Executive Officer*

PLEASE NOTE:

Some have said that you had not seen the Outreach News and asked how to find it. If you have newly found it, and would like to see the 8 issues published in 2022, please contact Jacquie Foster, who will send them to you.

Joseph Brodsky was born to a Jewish family during the siege of Leningrad, but apparently baptized in a country church at age 2. He began writing poetry as a young man and incurred the wrath of Soviet authorities. In 1972, he was expelled and with W.H. Auden's help came to the United States. On this Epiphany on January 6, we offer this section of Brodsky's "Nativity Poem."

from "Nativity Poem" by Joseph Brodsky (1940-1996)

Imagine the kings, the caravans' stilted procession
as they make for the cave, or, rather, three beams closing in
and in on the star, the creaking of loads, the clink of a cowbell;
(No thronging of Heaven as yet, no peal of the bell

That will ring in the end for the infant once he has earned it).
Imagine the Lord, for the first time, from darkness, and stranded
immensely in distance, recognizing Himself in the Son
of Man: His homelessness plain to him now in a homeless one.