

Volume 2  
Issue 5  
Feb 2, 2023



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

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

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## RISE UP ANEW

**Week of Compassion Special Offering, Feb. 19 & 26**



Take just a moment to refresh your spirit with this WOC video!

<https://youtu.be/QGkkNJb93Ew>

**Morning by morning, new mercies I see!**

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 weeks (leading up to our Week of Compassion Offering at the end of February) we are listing 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 we are highlighting Latin America and the Caribbean:

### LATIN AMERICA & CARIBBEAN

Bolivia  
Brazil  
Cuba  
Cuba  
El Salvador  
Haiti  
Honduras  
Mexico  
Paraguay  
Nicaragua

indigenous peoples' support  
flood relief  
Hurricane Ian relief  
hurricane relief  
hurricane relief  
women's empowerment & livelihood support  
flood relief  
earthquake response  
indigenous peoples' support  
hurricane response

*“For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me ...”*

**Matthew**  
25:35-37

## Congregation-wide Conversation on Food Security

Today, we're going to talk about three ways you can be involved in reducing hunger and increasing food security in our neighborhoods.

**Come To Our Congregation-Wide Conversation on Hunger and Food Security.** On **Sunday, March 5** join us immediately following worship for our first quarterly Justice Conversation. After pizza and salad, we'll meet with Reverend Dr. Linda Tobias-Doss, Pastor, Memorial Boulevard Christian Church, and Christine Woody, Policy Director, Missouri Coalition on Food Security to talk about the connection between feeding the hungry and why one in seven Missouri households doesn't have enough food to get through the month.

This will be a genuine conversation. Representing the UACC Outreach and Justice Team, moderator Sandra Miller will ask three questions

- Who struggles to put food on the table in our neighborhoods?
- What causes there to be one in seven households who struggle?
- What can we do as individuals, as a church, a community and a state to help?

Rev Linda will tell stories of people who come to the Memorial Boulevard food pantry and the extent of their needs. Christine will paint a picture of the overall landscape. No PowerPoints. No talking heads. Just a conversation with lots of time for your questions. No sign up. **Just mark your calendars and make a commitment to be a part of this important conversation!**

**Please note:** the Rev. Dr. Linda Tobias-Doss will also be our preacher on that Sunday! As a nurse practitioner and minister, she brings a deep sense of the needs of the community and God’s movement in our lives.

Justice Conversation on Hunger & Food Security  
Sunday, March 5  
Noon - Pizza & Salad  
12:30 - 1:45 - Justice Conversation

### Get Involved With Memorial Boulevard's Food Pantry & Hot Meal

**Program:** UACC provides food, volunteers and financial contributions to feed people through Memorial Boulevard's food pantry & hot meal program.

- **Commit to pick up priority food items.** Every time you go to the grocery store, look for sales and pick up some extra for the food pantry as a spiritual discipline. Drop them off on Sunday when you come to worship. This month UACC will focus on collecting canned soup, vegetables and beans as well as peanut butter.
- **Commit to give your time:** UACC is committed to providing volunteers the first and fourth Thursdays of the month from 10 am - 2:00 pm and the second Thursday of the month from 9:00 - 2:00 pm. Some 300 food boxes are distributed every Thursday. While you will work hard, you will come away with the satisfaction of knowing your labor has made a difference.
- **Commit to make a regular contribution:** The food pantry counts on regular donations to provide fresh dishes for its hot meals. You can make a recurring contribution to the Memorial Boulevard Food Pantry through Givelify or you can write checks, indicating it's for the MBCC food pantry in the memo line.

#### 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.

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*There is no  
power for  
change  
greater  
than a  
community  
discovering  
what it  
cares  
about.*

Margaret J.  
Wheatley

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## Upcoming Moments for Mission

**February 19 Week of Compassion Special Offering** by **Kathy Davis**, Pres. of Congregation and Outreach and Justice Ministry Team member.

**February 26 Assisi House** by **Deborah Sheperis**, Assisi House Board Member  
A retired healthcare executive, Deborah Sheperis has extensive people management and organizational skills, plus a master's degree in counseling.  
She combines her experience and skills to assist with organizational planning, business oversight of Assisi House operations, and day-to-day management of existing residences.

**March 5 Memorial Blvd. CC Food Pantry** by **Rev. Dr. Linda Tobias-Doss**  
This will not be in the form of a 'mission moment': rather Rev. Dr. Tobias-Doss will preach and then speak after worship as a part of the Food Security discussion.

## Urban Mission Inn

Urban Mission Inn is program that UACC can be very proud of; housing mission groups, and helping plan hands-on mission opportunities in the city for many youth, young-adult, and intergenerational groups over years! The development of the program reflects a commitment to mission, to helping to provide cross-cultural experiences for youth and adults, nurturing spiritual transformation, and building connections with service and advocacy organizations throughout the city.

There were years that the program was run by ministry staff, and interns, as well as volunteers from the congregation. In recent years, the program has rested heavily on Ron Lindsey, the Sr. Pastor, and two or three volunteers.

During the Covid shutdown time, of course the Urban Mission Inn took a break. The hope was to evaluate and discern how to move forward. That critique did not happen, and we tried to start up again in the summer of '22. We did have 4 groups that summer but it was a struggle. With Pure Catering using the kitchen, UMI groups no longer have use of the kitchen to prepare their meals.

The Outreach and Justice Team met this January with Ron Lindsey to talk about what would be needed for the program to continue in 2023. After the conversation with Ron and input from Neil and others, it is our conclusion that the program is resting too heavily on one person and needs critique and time to plan before moving forward.

*Therefore, the Outreach and Justice Ministry Team has made the decision to postpone the Urban Mission Inn until such critique and planning can take place. We will not host groups in 2023.*

This comes at a time of transition in our congregation as we begin an interim ministry time, and have the privilege of space to reflect and plan for the future. This is an exciting time for us to look in fresh ways to assess current needs in our community, and to set our imaginations free to dream and plan forward. We hope you will be a part of that dreaming!

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Hold fast to  
dreams,  
for if  
dreams die,  
life is  
broken  
winged  
bird that  
cannot fly.”

Langston Hughes

## St. Louis County Library Black History Celebration Author Events – Upcoming



The 2023 Black History Month theme is: “**Black Resistance**” exploring how African Americans has resisted historic and ongoing oppression, in all forms, especially the racial terrorism of lynching, racial programs and police killings” since the nation’s earliest days. The St. Louis County Library, in its well-known Black History series is following this theme in the events scheduled this month.

This past Monday, Sandra, Rochelle, Dave, and Jacque attended the first in this series of SLCL Author events. It was with Otis Moss, III on “Dancing in the Darkness: Spiritual Lessons for Thriving in Turbulent Times”. It was excellent! Here are the upcoming events through February:

Monday, February 13, 7:00 p.m. at The J’s Stainberg Family Complex in Creve  
Coeur, 2 Millstone Campus Drive, St. Louis

**Alvin Hall**, “Driving the Green Book: A Road Trip Through the Living History of Black Resistance” *Presented by the 2023 Black History Celebration and the Westfall Politics and History Series*

In the era of Jim Crow, Black travelers encountered locked doors and potentially violent encounters throughout the United States. Millions relied on “The Negro Motorist Green Book,” the definitive guide to businesses where they could safely rest, eat, or sleep. Award-winning broadcaster Alvin Hall set out to revisit the world of the “Green Book” – visiting motels, restaurants and stores where Black Americans once found a friendly welcome.

Friday, February 17, 7:00 p.m. at the Ethical Society of St. Louis, 9001 Clayton Rd.  
**Carlotta Walls LaNier**, “A Mighty Long Way: My Journey to Justice at Little Rock Central High School” *Presented by the 2023 Black History Celebration – Frankie Freeman Inspirational Lecture*

When 14-year-old Carlotta Walls walked up the stairs of Little Rock Central High School on September 25, 1957, she and eight other Black students only wanted to make it to class. But the journey of the “Little Rock Nine,” as they came to be known, would lead the nation on an even longer and much more turbulent path, one that would challenge prevailing attitudes, break down barriers and forever change the landscape of America.

Monday, February 27, 7:00p.m. at the Florissant Valley Branch

**Bobby Bostic**, “Time: Endless Moments in Prison”

*In Conversation with Pulitzer Prize-Winning St. Louis Post Dispatch Columnist Tony Messenger*

At the age of 16, Bobby Bostic was sentenced to 241 years behind bars for an armed robbery. In 2010, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it was unconstitutional to sentence a juvenile to life without the possibility of parole for non-homicidal crimes. Through the efforts of the ACLU and the now-retired judge originally sentenced him, Bobby Bostic finally left prison as a free man in 2022. While incarcerated, Bobby earned his GED and wrote several books.

My humanity is bound up in yours,  
for we can only be human together. Desmond Tutu