

Volume 1
Issue 8
Dec 29, 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

Please note: As we had a little glitch last week and some of you may not have seen the Outreach News, we are leaving much of this the same, so that you don't miss it. Yet there are also new items, such as the MBCC Food Pantry volunteers, Soldan School Thank You Notes, and Week of Compassion concern & our prayer for those in the winter storm. *Read on*

The Surprise of Discretionary Outreach Gifts at Christmas

In each year's Outreach and Justice budget we designate funds for our outreach work, such the Mission Inn, and for community and Church organizations with whom we partner. For instance, Soldan School, and Week of Compassion (the Relief and Development Ministry of the CC(DOC). We give a regular amount to Memorial Blvd. Food Pantry in addition to our food collection. The list goes on. The designated funds for 2023 will be decided by our team as the congregation discerns the overall budget.

In *addition* to these projects/funds that are planned for and designated, we have an Outreach Team Discretionary Gift Fund. This is wonderful as it gives us the ability to respond to outreach /justice needs that cannot be pre-planned. 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 some in November and early December for our Christmas projects, but then had about \$25,000.00 left to use by year end.

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 partnership will be fruitful.

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 Ministry** (of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ))
9. **Assisi House, Inc.**



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

Metropolitan Congregations United

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. [See article on page 5 regarding the MCU Annual Meeting and our need for 2 voting delegates!]

As we move through the days of Christmas & Epiphany, we are 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. All of our families came to this country as either immigrants, refugees, enslaved people, or were indigenous to this land. And we welcome those 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](#) 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

Memorial Blvd CC Food and Clothing Pantry

The Second Thursday of each month is when Memorial gets their monthly recurring supply of bulk items delivered by truck. Daniel's understanding is that the delivery happens Second Thursday morning, but there is no exact scheduled time that the truck arrives. So the Second Thursday is an early start at 9 am to 2 pm.

Planned Schedule and needs:

First Thursday – Daniel Leach - recurring assist -10 am to 2 pm

Second Thursday, bulk delivery - Daniel recurring and other UACC members opportunity 9 am to 2 pm

Third Thursday - already staffed by Webster Groves CC, no assist needed from Union Ave Team.

Fourth Thursday – Jacque Foster - recurring assist, and other UACC members opportunity. 10 am to 2 pm

Rochelle Kaskowitz plans to volunteer as available!

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 Christmastide 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.

*When the song of
the angels is
stilled,*

*When the star in
the sky is gone,*

*When the kings
and princes are
home,*

*When the
shepherds are back
with their flock,*

*the work of
Christmas begins;*

To find the lost,

*To heal the
broken,*

*To feed the
hungry,*

*To release the
prisoner,*

*To rebuild the
nations,*

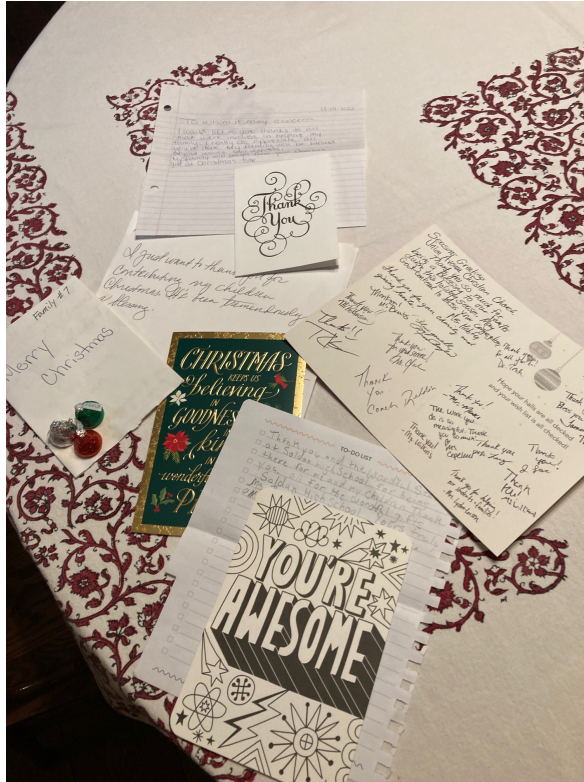
*To bring peace
among the people,*

*To make music
in the heart.*

-Howard Thurman
1973

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 pile of Thank You notes from the Soldan School families

who received the gift of warm coats, hats, scarves, and gloves (as well as diapers for little ones). We also received a card from Mrs. Habtu, Soldan Social Worker and signed by many teachers and counselors! I wanted you to see the notes, but also wanted to keep the names of the families confidential. Here is a glimpse of the content of these dear notes:

*"To Whom it may concern,
I would like to give thanks to all that were involved in helping my family. I really do appreciate all you've done. My family will be blessed beyond words can express. My family will benefit from your Generous gift at Christmas time.*

*Thank you!
(signed)*

*"Thank you for all you do. Love,
(signed)"*

"Thank you for blessing me and my family. Happy Holidays (signed)"

"Thank you and the wonderful staff at Soldan High School for being there for me and my children. Thank you all for the wonderful gifts ... Yours truly, (signed)"

"I just want to thank you for contributing my children Christmas. It's been tremendously a blessing. (signed)"

"Thank you for your gratitude. I thank God for you and appreciate the love that's been given. Hebrews 13:2 'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.' (signed)". (This is the card in the picture with 3 Hershey's Kisses attached!)

And finally on the card signed by the Soldan teachers and staff, Mrs. Habtu writes:

"Season's Greetings Union Avenue Christian Church. Thank you so much for being a Blessing to our families during this Holiday Season. May God continue to bless your congregation."



December 26, 2022

Week of Compassion remains watchful of winter weather, freezes, snowfall, and record low temperatures across the United States, including the devastating blizzard in Buffalo NY that has claimed as many as 31 lives. We are in touch with Regional leadership and are not aware of any impacted churches at the moment.

Please check on your neighbors, church members, and community. We are grateful for congregations who have given 'sanctuary' renewed meaning, as they have become warming centers and shelters these last few days.

Week of Compassion remains in prayer with and for you, ready to respond to congregations and members affected by this winter storm, and to support churches who are responding to the needs in their community.

Through these 12 Days of Christmas and beyond may we pray for those suffering loss, and those who have died to this life in the midst of the winter storms and brutal cold across our country. Let's check on our neighbors, and even those far away!

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!