

# Covenant News

## December 2021 & January 2022

DECEMBER 2021  
JANUARY 2022

### FROM THE PASTOR

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#### *Good Tidings of (Potential) Ministry*

[Seal your heart as a member of God's people], and do not be stubborn any longer.

For YHWH your God is God of gods and Ruler of rulers, the great God, mighty and awesome, who is not partial and takes no bribe, who executes justice for the orphan and the widow, and who loves foreigners, providing them food and clothing. You shall also love the foreigner, for you were foreigners in the land of Egypt. You shall revere YHWH your God; your God alone you shall worship.

(Deuteronomy 10:16-20a, adapted with inclusive language)

I chose the reading above for this edition of Covenant News, because it resonates both with a familiar phrase from the Hallelujah Chorus of Handel's Messiah oratorio ("King of kings and Lord of lords, forever!") and with the founding purpose of the Martin Luther King Holiday. In other words, it brings together December and January quite nicely, I think.

Since the covid pandemic began and hygiene protocols have been put in place, thus preventing our hosting of Room at the Inn attendees and restricting other direct-contact efforts, we have wondered what sort of churchwide collective action we could be doing. Christmas puts us in mind of homeless, maligned, and displaced people, like the Holy Family in Luke's familiar Birth narrative. And Christmas Eve and the King Holiday weekend might present solutions both for the people we are called to serve and for the ways in which we might best be serving them. I bear you good tidings of useful ministry! (Well, a suggestion of something we might do, anyway...)

Dr. King's Holiday was conceived as an opportunity for a Day of Service – getting everyday people out of their workplaces and homes and busy helping their neighbors. The idea I propose, I will admit, was not original with me (my wife Coco suggested it), but it goes like this: Do we have it in us and among us to do what we have done before, by being donors and collectors for an organization we are connected with?

Two examples come immediately to mind:

During the UCC's 2013 One World campaign, we conducted "Go Right for Hunger," inviting people driving east on Lockwood to use our parking lot to avoid the traffic light at Elm & Lockwood. The "toll" was a can of food. Hundreds of donors turned out, and church members collected, sorted, and delivered the canned goods to area food justice ministries (Webster Rock Hill Ministries and St. Stephen's and The Vine in Ferguson).

In August and September 2014 we were the center for area churches who wanted to donate food, hygiene and paper products – practically anything from a grocery store – to the families living in the former Canfield Green Apartments in Ferguson. We also gathered energy bars and bottles of water for the many first responders on duty there. All of these items we also transported either to Christ the King UCC, Florissant, or directly to the first responders.

For this season of giving and service, I invite members and friends to meet with me on Monday, December 20 at 7:00pm on Zoom ([bit.ly/FCCWG-Giving](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-Giving)), to discuss whether and how we might turn Monday, January 17, into a Day of Service. Dare I suggest that we might also consider a monthly day of such service? Let's consider together what's possible!

Merry Christmas. Happy New Year.

Peace





## WORSHIP NOTES FOR DECEMBER 2021 & JANUARY 2022

*This schedule is subject to change, as need may arise.*

*All worship services will be offered in person or live streamed ([bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)).*

*Please observe appropriate pandemic hygiene when attending in person – masks that cover nose and mouth, social distance between groups of at least 3 feet, and hand-washing and sanitizing.*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 5, 10:00 AM** — *Second Sunday of Advent: Peace; Sacrament of Christ's Table.* The word for "peace" in Hebrew, as you undoubtedly are aware, is *Shalom*. *Shalom* does not mean the absence of conflict or anything approaching quietude, which are our usual meanings for peace. *Shalom* indicates wholeness, fullness of life, the individual's sense of fulfillment and the community's affirmation of all its members. *Shalom* is certainly the embodiment of the Gospel! So, how do embody the Gospel? Well... how did God? **Message of the Day:** "Embodying God's Message of Peace" (Hebrews 10:5-10; Luke 1:39-45)

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 10:00 AM** — *Third Sunday of Advent – Joy; Hanging of the Greens.* A favorite annual tradition at First Church is our decoration of the sanctuary for Christmas. Everyone gets to participate as we hear bells and carols again, and add wreaths, candles, a crèche, poinsettias, and the Christmas tree in a festive ritual of music and readings. Guest accompanist – Jocelyn Rugaber, piano (as Dr. Burke conducts our choirs).

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19, 10:00 AM** — *Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love; Christmas Program for All Ages: "The Underappreciated Donkey."* The news about Jesus' birth is brought front and center (literally) in a Message of the Day featuring youth and adults of the church imagining themselves as participants in the first Christmas – including a certain donkey who for now shall go unnamed.

***This afternoon at 3:00PM, please plan to attend "Jazz Noel."***

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 4:30 PM** — *Family Christmas Eve.* This brief worship service features a Live Nativity tableau, including one of our newest additions as the Baby Jesus! "Gifts for the Manger" will be collected during the service – infant and family needs to be presented to local charities, along with cash offerings. Singing of "Silent Night" ends the service, with battery-powered candles for the children to hold.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 24, 9:00 PM** — *A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.* Members of the church read scriptures that foretell and announce the miracle of the Incarnation. Accompanist and musician for this service will be recording artist Walter Parks ([WalterParks.com](http://WalterParks.com)), a dear friend of the Congregation and son-in-law of Paul & K Wentzien.

*There will be no services conducted on Christmas Day  
so that our dedicated, hard-working staff may enjoy the holiday at home with their families.  
Please also note that the office will be closed, December 27 – January 3, with staff on call  
(see contact information on the back cover of this newsletter).*

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 26, 10:00 AM** — *Kwanza'a Celebration.* The seven days from December 26 through January 1 are recognized by many African Americans as the season of Kwanza'a (in kiSwahili, "harvest"). Each day is used as an opportunity to celebrate communitarian Principles (Nguzo Saba) – Unity (Umoja), Self-determination (Kujichagulia), Collective Work and Responsibility (Ujima), Cooperative Economics (Ujamaa), Purpose (Nia), Creativity (Kuumba), and Faith (Imani). The Rev. Elston McCowan and members of his family lead worship on this first day of Kwanza'a, along with musicians and dancers of the Intercultural Music Initiative ([www.imusici.org](http://www.imusici.org)). **Message of the Day:** "Who Was Lost?" (Luke 2:41-52)

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 2, 10:00 AM** — *Second Sunday after Christmas. Sunday Series: The Challenge of Tolerance.* Pastor Dave Denoon opens a new series about God's call upon the Church to be as genuinely welcoming, nurturing, and affirming as we can be of all people among and beyond us. Some call this discipline, "tolerance." The pastor addresses this concept and offers concrete examples of how we can make this practice part of every day.

Message of the Day: “*Tolerance, Not Tolerantion*” (Ephesians 1:3-14; John 1:10-18) Today ends of our observance of the Christmas season with a brief act of removing the greens we hung in December. Music will be led by guitarist and vocalist Katie Noland.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 10:00 AM — Epiphany Celebration.** On this day we remember the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem and the revelation of Good News to all the world, in the person of a divine toddler (not hyperbole; read Matthew 2:1-12). *The Challenge of Tolerance* series continues with the Message of the Day, “*A Toddler’s Tolerance*” or “*Why Jesus Called His Followers, ‘Little Children’*” (Isaiah 60:1-6; Ephesians 3:1-12). After worship, refreshments will include King Cupcakes prepared by our young people – our own special take on the New Orleans tradition that begins the passage toward Mardi Gras.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 16, 10:00 AM — Martin Luther King, Jr., Weekend.** “Lift every voice and sing” of the blessings of liberty for all people. In 2008 we became Open and Affirming; our 2017-2018 observance of a Year of Renewal sought to establish among us a spirit of reform and refreshment. Nevertheless, the host of -isms and -phobias that make up the proverbial waters in which we swim like fishes threaten our practice of tolerance. Message of the Day: “*Tolerance As Complementarity*” (Psalm 36:5-10; 1 Corinthians 12:1-11). Music by the Oikos Jazz Ensemble.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23, 10:00 AM — Ecumenical Sunday (Week of Prayer for Christian Unity).** Much of our ritual will be echoing what churches around the planet will be saying, as we pray for unity of purpose and message. Message of the Day: “*Tolerance Without Borders*” (Psalm 19; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a; Luke 4:14-21). Music will include “*Avinu Malkeinu* (Our Father, Our King),” sung by soloist Leslie Caplan. This song, often heard during Jewish High Holy Days, will become our own prayer of confession and plea for renewal in this new year.

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 30, 10:00 AM — Heritage Sunday.** We celebrate our 156th anniversary, this Sunday, with an all ages service including a Message of the Day by Pastoral Assistant Halley Kim.

## FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



Happy Holidays everyone!

Our music department is busy preparing music for Hanging of the Greens and Christmas. For the Hanging of the Greens, we will feature the Canterbury Bells and Chancel Choir together and singly. I am preparing some wonderful organ music for the season as well. For Kwanzaa on December 26th we will have guests from the Intercultural Music Initiatives with African drumming and dancing in addition to the richness of music from the McCowan family.

Just barely do we clear Epiphany than we have Christina Harnisch, Swiss concert pianist with us to give a concert. Save the date, January 9, 2022, for her concert at 3:00pm in the sanctuary. This free concert will include great but largely unknown women composers and their more-

famous male counterparts. This interesting recital will include two Polish composers, Chopin and Maria Szymanowska, Felix and Fanny Mendelssohn, another Polish woman composer Grazyna Bacewicz (a bit à la Prokofiev) and two French composers, the romantic impressionists Cécile Chaminade and Debussy. This free event promises to be a world class concert that has something for everybody. Do bring your friends! In the new year we will start taking free will offerings at our free events to support our music program.

See you at church! Merry Christmas!

Leon Burke



## FROM THE PASTORAL ASSISTANT



It's Advent! I'm so excited. We put our tree and stockings up on November 1st because, yes, we're those people. (It's just too hard to wait! It's Christmas!)

But as we get into the technical beginning of the holiday season, I hope you'll participate in a church-wide, family-friendly Advent devotional! If you remember "Bless This Mess" from this past Lent, you'll find that "Naming Jesus" is similar in format. The devotional spends a week each on hope, peace, joy, and love and invites both kids and adults to do some "holy name calling" — considering "the names we give Jesus and the names he gives to us." There are (very short) readings and prayers to follow, and — the best part — activities for the whole family to get into

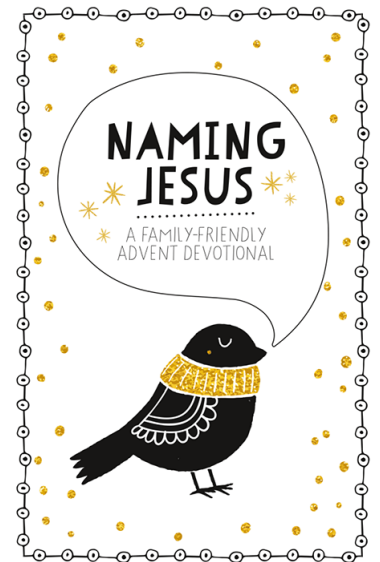
the Advent spirit. Halley will use "Naming Jesus" for Kids Church during Advent so that parents can tie in their home devotional use with what their kids are doing on Sundays! Use this link <https://bit.ly/3oiPlmo> to download the program and join in the fun!

Pastor Dave and I will be interviewing a church family about their Christmas traditions on each Sunday of Advent and also at the 4:30 Christmas Eve service. I love hearing about what other people do for Christmas, and I hope you'll be there to hear too!

Definitely mark your calendars for Sunday worship on December 19th: a group of youth and adults are putting on a Christmas play for the children! Kids are invited to attend church in their PJ's and there will be VIP seating for them! And certainly we will also be having the traditional family Christmas Eve service on the 24th!

Youth — mark your calendars for Saturday, January 22nd at 7pm! We're going to have a board game night in Memorial Hall (Kelsey and Maggie — Scattergories rematch?! You think you can take me?). Come in your jammies, bring your favorite games, and I will have hot chocolate and snacks for us!

Merry Christmas, everyone!  
Halley Kim



## PLEDGES FOR 2022 RECEIVED \$305,533

(If you have not yet made your pledge, please call the church office at 314-962-0475, or visit: <http://FirstChurchWG.org/Donate> and scroll down to make your pledge online.)

## MODERATOR'S CORNER

Tasked with writing something that encompasses both December and January for this combined edition of the Covenant News, I first thought of the phrase “Ring out the old; ring in the new.” How inappropriate! First, the “old” in this context is December, the season of Advent! Advent: arrival, leading up to Christmas, the coming! Hardly something to dismissively “ring out.” There is also the implication that the “old” is something to get rid of and the “new” is to be anticipated. Yet that which is “old”, memories and traditions, are foundational to our lives.

There is joy in the foundation provided by Christmas traditions that have given, and continue to give meaning. As a Christian Community we share a number of services and gatherings embodying the spirit of Love that is Christmas. You will find these highlighted in this issue of the Covenant News. The Joy of returning to these traditions after being denied them in 2020 is palpable. The Hanging of the Greens and Yankee Swap on December 12; Jazz Noel on December 19; and the high point of the season—Christmas Eve, with the Family Service acting out the Nativity at 4:30 and the reverential, meaningful Lessons and Carols service at 9:00. These are old/traditional, not to be rung out, but to be celebrated. Join me if you can for both of these wonderful services.

We are also establishing new traditions. The Christmas tree decorating in the Jubilee Garden, inaugurated in our “COVID Year” as a way to celebrate in a safe way outdoors, brought so much joy that it has quickly become “traditional.” Similarly, the traditional Lady Elect Cookie Exchange on December 14 has taken on new features conceived last year to promote safety as well as convenience. Also, we may all engage in a relatively new tradition on December 26, the celebration of Kwanza, with a joyful mix of drumming and dancing. Plan to participate and enjoy these wonderful opportunities to celebrate together. As a favorite Christmas card entreats:

“Remember the past,  
Take joy in the present.  
Bring hope to the future.  
And celebrate the season with renewed commitment.”

So what about ringing in the New Year? First, we continue with traditions of Christmas into the “new year” as we commemorate the Coming of the Magi — Epiphany. And we return to our traditional church calendar with worship, ministry meetings, and a focus on social justice as we mark the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Stay tuned to the weekly E-News as the details of the life of our church unfold in the first month of 2022.

As I think of the “new year” my thoughts always go back to a poem I have likely shared with you before. The author was a British poet, Minnie Louise Haskins. Her words were adapted for a choral work I sang in high school. The adapted words have stayed with me and may be meaningful to you as well.

“I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
‘Give me a light, that I may tread safely into the unknown!’  
And he replied:  
‘Go forth and put your hand into the Hand of God.  
And he shall be better than light and safer than a known way.’  
So, I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night, into the unknown.”

Make church life an integral part of your life as we “go forth” together, putting our “hands into the hand of God.”

Celebrating the blessings of the Christmas season and anticipating our life together in 2022,  
Joan Musbach, Moderator

## CLIFF'S NOTES – WHY JAZZ NOEL?

This December 19th, we will be performing the 10th anniversary edition of Jazz Noel at our church. If you've never attended a performance before you're in for a treat as we mix storytelling, jazz, and dance into a joy-filled Christmas celebration. And, if you have been to a Jazz Noel performance you're still in for a treat, because the performance changes every year. While the gospel narrative tells a timeless story of the birth of the Christ child, every year we fashion a new, creative retelling of the story through jazz to spread the Christmas spirit.

Jazz Noel began in 2011 when I was serving as Artist in Residence for the UCC Missouri Mid-South Conference. For many years I had dreamed about creating something more than a concert or jazz worship service. Why not a sacred jazz experience, reimagining the Christmas story for today's audience using musicians, actors, dancers, painters, storytellers—artists from a variety of disciplines? Why not a Jazz Noel for the entire community as a Christmas gift where concert goers could give back to others through a free-will offering benefiting a local charity. In the nine previous performance years there have been 21 concerts in eight different churches in St. Louis, Kansas City, Belleville, IL and Cleveland, OH. Jazz Noel has been performed for more than 4,500 people and raised more than \$7,500 for area community service organizations.

So why jazz you ask? Jazz, America's original artform, is based on reimagining—taking existing musical themes and improvising new, creative melodies and harmonies. Jazz improvisation can be a deeply spiritual art and for many musicians, an act of prayer. Some of the great jazz masters have reimagined traditional Christmas carols and improvised vibrant new arrangements that echo the spirit of Christmas.

Please join me and the Oikos Ensemble, the Logos Readers and dancer Jen Medina as we offer you our Christmas gift—Jazz Noel: The Return of the Light.

Rev. Cliff Aerie

Director of MICA (Ministry of Imagination, Creativity and the Arts)



## TREASURER'S REPORT

Below are the church operating results for the ten months ending October. Pledge income remains above budget. A large pledge payment was received in August 2020 that has not yet been received yet this year. In 2021, CARES Act PPP funds of \$62,300 were received and recorded as income. On the expense side, expenses are relatively flat compared to last year except for Human Resource Expenses. The increase in this area reflects that changes we have made in staffing. Overall expenses are over budget by \$3,326.

### Statement of Financial Activities

	2021	2020	Budget	Change to Prior Year	Change to Budget
<b>Income</b>				<b>Higher/(Lower) Income</b>	
Pledges and Gifts	\$ 279,210	\$ 303,893	\$ 262,500	\$ (24,683)	\$ 16,710
Transfer from Endowment	110,000	100,000	215,833	10,000	(105,833)
Benevolence	23,527	23,934	12,500	(407)	11,027
CARES Act PPP	62,300	-	-	62,300	62,300
Use of Space and Miscellaneous	39,104	29,495	39,263	9,610	(158)
Interest Income	13,248	13,930	9,667	(682)	3,581
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>527,389</b>	<b>471,251</b>	<b>539,762</b>	<b>56,138</b>	<b>(12,373)</b>
<b>Expenses</b>				<b>(Higher)/Lower Expense</b>	
Human Resources Expense	\$ 368,909	\$ 325,916	\$ 358,611	(42,993)	(10,298)
Facilities and Finance Expense	\$ 125,739	\$ 128,894	\$ 135,146	3,155	9,408
Benevolence Expense	\$ 36,065	\$ 37,449	\$ 26,667	1,384	(9,398)
Christian Education Ministry Expense	\$ 2,874	\$ 1,958	\$ 3,417	(916)	543
Parish Life Ministry Expense	\$ 6,728	\$ 2,662	\$ 9,334	(4,066)	2,606
Executive Ministry Expense	\$ 2,186	\$ 637	\$ 6,000	(1,549)	3,814
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>542,500</b>	<b>497,515</b>	<b>539,174</b>	<b>(44,986)</b>	<b>(3,326)</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (15,111)</b>	<b>\$ (26,263)</b>	<b>\$ 588</b>	<b>\$ 11,152</b>	<b>\$ (15,700)</b>

### Statement of Financial Position

	2021	2020	Variance
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 105,941	\$ 203,201	\$ (97,260)
Prepaid expenses	65	65	-
Pledges receivable	65,920	24,394	41,526
Property and equipment	28,801	30,259	(1,457)
Minister housing long term receivable	60,000	60,000	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 260,727</b>	<b>\$ 317,918</b>	<b>\$ (57,192)</b>
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Unrestricted Designated Funds	16,768	21,880	(5,112)
Restricted funds for:			
Funds in Endowment Trust	45,815	40,309	5,506
Churchyard	36,007	33,760	2,247
Kishlar/Dickens Room Maintenance	53,946	58,096	(4,150)
Temporarily restricted funds for pledges	65,920	44,394	21,526
Memorial Funds	54,797	79,369	(24,572)
Long term liabilities	60,000	122,300	(62,300)
Unrestricted Net Assets	(72,525)	(82,189)	9,664
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 260,727</b>	<b>\$ 317,918</b>	<b>\$ (57,192)</b>

If you have any other questions or want further detail, please let me know.

Thanks

Jennifer Jones, Treasurer



## SECOND ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TREE DECORATING CELEBRATION!

**December 4th from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm • Jubilee Garden**

The elves are at it again! They have been planning and scheming, and figuring out how they can make this Christmas Tree Decoration Party better than the one we had last year.

In addition to tree decorating and a bonfire, Leon will be leading us with a round of caroling at 11:30. We will be serving s'mores, hot chocolate, hot spiced apple cider, and plenty of holiday cheer.

Bird Feeder Ornaments Needed for the Tree Decorating Party!

We would love everyone to bring a bird feeder ornament for the tree again this year. Last year members made popcorn and or cranberry garland, and bird seed ornaments for the tree. However, please NO Cheerios. Last year, we made the discovery that not one bird or squirrel (or any other animal) touched the Cheerios!

*A very big THANK YOU to everyone who bought pecans this year! This party is officially paid for!!!*



★  
JOY  
PEACE  
LOVE  
KINDNESS  
HOPE to ALL  
Come find them with us  
AT FIRST CHURCH  
during the service

**12/5 - 10:00 AM - Second Sunday of Advent • Peace • Sacrament of Christ's Table**

**12/12 - 10:00 AM - Third Sunday of Advent: Joy; Hanging of the Greens**

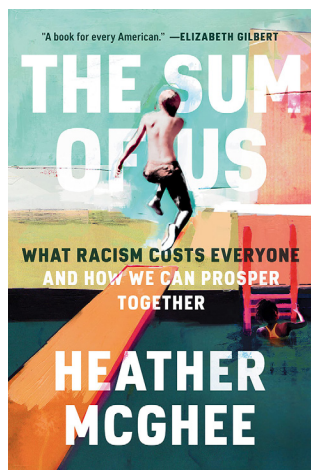
**12/19 - 10:00 AM - Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love. Christmas Program for All Ages: "The Underappreciated Donkey."**

*This afternoon at 3:00PM, please plan to attend "Jazz Noel."*

**12/24 - 4:30 PM Family Christmas Eve • Live Nativity tableau, including one of our newest additions as the Baby Jesus! "Gifts for the Manger" will be collected**

**12/24 - 9:00 PM - A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. Accompanist and musician for this service will be recording artist Walter Parks**

**Worship will be streamed on YouTube at [bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)**



## THE WEBSTER EQUITY BRIDGE AND THE ALLIANCE FOR INTERRACIAL DIGNITY ARE SPONSORING A COMMUNITYWIDE BOOK READ

*The Sum of Us: What Racism Costs Everyone and How We Can Prosper Together* by Heather McGhee. Let's dive in together!

This communitywide book study will explore the social and economic costs of racism that all of us pay. Author Heather McGhee shows that racism is the undercurrent of many problems in America, from rising student debt to collapsing infrastructure.

She discusses how the false notion of a "zero-sum paradigm" has resulted in a mindset among many white Americans that they'll suffer if Black Americans make gains. The book illustrates how this way of thinking has led to negative consequences in education, housing, labor, political representation, and the environment. **Ultimately, McGhee makes the case for racial unity, which would result in the enrichment of all Americans.**

Organizers are excited about this opportunity for neighbors to work together to build a community of learners interested in nurturing each other's perspectives, growth, and humanity. We will foster constructive conversations with nuance, work to seek multiple viewpoints, and consider the dividends that solidarity can yield. Plan to read from November to January, and then discuss in late January and early February.

**More information regarding where to check out or purchase discounted copies of the book and register to join a discussion can be found at the website [tinyurl.com/63119reads](https://tinyurl.com/63119reads) or [allianceforinterracialdignity.org](https://allianceforinterracialdignity.org).**

## PASTOR HIGHLY RECOMMENDS "WITNESSING WHITENESS"

I am just concluding a wonderful book study led by volunteers of the St. Louis Metro YWCA ([ywcastlouis.org](https://ywcastlouis.org)), and I want to recommend this inspiring opportunity to you. The book for study is Shelly Tochluk's *Witnessing Whiteness: The Need to Talk about Race and How to Do It*.

The YWCA organizes discussion groups of 15 to 18 participants at a time, matched with three trained group leaders and meeting on Zoom. All the leaders and members are white people seeking to know better how to interact with people of color and to foster genuine trans-racial relationships. The reading and discussions (ten 2-hour sessions) are thought-provoking, challenging, and heartfelt.

If you are interested in developing a fresh perspective on the world and how to live in it as openly and constructively with others as you can, regardless of their race, please consider becoming a Witnessing Whiteness participant. Just send an inquiry to [witnessingwhiteness@ywcastlouis.org](mailto:witnessingwhiteness@ywcastlouis.org), to get information about groups that begin meeting in January 2022. (Pastor Dave Denoon)



## LADY ELECT — DECEMBER AND JANUARY

December 14 - Cookie exchange

January 25-Book Reviews

For more information, contact Laura Cooper



Tom Waltz December 6  
David Brader December 10  
Dennis Barnes December 11  
Earl Rinne December 12  
Nannelle Griffith December 13  
Dan Claggett December 14  
Amanda McCoy December 16  
Janet Fales December 24  
Darrell Lakies December 26  
Terri Thompson December 26



Michael Lenard January 1  
Helen Moody January 1  
Coco Denoon January 7  
Faye Dyer January 7  
Erin Prange January 8  
Roger Barnes January 11  
Ken Perry January 11  
Marj Courtney January 12  
Kin Lavender January 12  
Richard Smith January 14  
Joyce Berger January 17  
Jan Barnes January 23  
Bob Hill January 26  
George Conlee January 28  
David von Weise January 28

**Did you know that First Congregational Church was one of the founding churches that formed Webster-Rock Hill Ministries?**



Webster-Rock Hill Ministries (WRHM) is a cooperative effort of member churches to fulfill their commission to serve people in need in our community especially by:

- Building awareness of poverty and social problems in our community
- Promoting new options and alternatives for people lacking resources for physical, emotional, and spiritual needs
- Working together to promote understanding and build community among all residents of our area
- Acting as a clearinghouse for churches by maintaining files on services provided to assure that those who are most needy receive help
- Referring to and cooperating with other organizations to meet the needs of our community

One of the ways these things are accomplished is through the WRHM food pantry. Clients receive USDA and Food Bank commodities, in addition to hygiene bags, grocery store and Emmanuel Food Pantry vouchers. Individual churches, Straubs, Starbucks, and Porter's Chicken also donate items to be distributed.

Other services available include utility assistance, home maintenance, and legal assistance.

In this season the Adopt-a-Family programs are in full swing with clients receiving Thanksgiving and Christmas assistance.



## THE CHRISTMAS FUND

For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

Sunday, December 19, will be the day on which we participate as a congregation in the UCC special offering for The Christmas and Emergency Fund. We hope that you will be able to give generously.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees. Over the past 18 months, the emergency financial needs of many who serve the church increased dramatically. Many of our clergy continue to bear the consequences of lost or decreased income. These difficult times make the need for the Christmas Fund more urgent than ever.



### MEAL-A-MONTH DECEMBER

Canned Ham • Brown Rice • Instant Mashed Potatoes  
Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt) • Canned Fruit in own juices  
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Baby Fruits • Baby Vegetables • Baby Cereal

### MEAL-A-MONTH JANUARY

Boxed Whole Grain Pasta • Canned Green Vegetable (low or no salt)  
Canned Fruit in own juices • Sugar free juices in plastic bottles  
Powdered Milk, shelf stable milk, soy milk  
Cold Cereal (no sugar) • Plain Oatmeal (no sugar)

### MISSING SOMEONE?

Have you been missing someone for a while from worship and other church events? Please, let Pastor Dave Denoon or Mary Edwards, know. Either will be happy to follow up for you.

## December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> <del>9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room - OFF</del> <b>6:00 PM - 9:30 PM</b> Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>2</b> <b>8:30 AM - 9:30 AM</b> Journeymen - Parlor <b>6:00 PM</b> Canterbury Bells - Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301G - Parlor <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir - Practice	<b>3</b> <b>6:00 PM - 6:30 PM</b> Vigil for Black Lives	<b>4</b> <b>11:00 AM - 1:00 PM</b> Christmas Tree Decorating Party
<b>5</b> <i>Sacrament of Christ's Table</i> <b>9:00 AM</b> Brown Baggers <b>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Nursery Care Available <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> Kids' Church <b>11:05 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship	<b>6</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall	<b>7</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> <b>Staff Meeting</b> <b>1:00 PM</b> Communications Team - Church Office <b>6:30 PM</b> Pastoral Relations Committee - Zoom	<b>8</b> <del>9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room - OFF</del> <b>6:00 PM - 9:30 PM</b> Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>9</b> <b>12:30 PM</b> <b>Staff Christmas Luncheon</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Canterbury Bells - Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301G - Parlor <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir - Practice	<b>10</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> Hanging of the Greens setup <b>6:00 PM - 6:30 PM</b> Vigil for Black Lives	<b>11</b>
<b>12</b> <i>Hanging of the Greens</i> <b>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Nursery Care Available <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship <b>10:15 AM</b> Kids' Church <b>11:05 AM</b> Sweet & Savory Finger Food Potluck <b>1:00 PM - 3:00 PM</b> Harp Circle - Sanctuary	<b>13</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall <b>7:00 PM</b> Three Ministries (Zoom)	<b>14</b> <b>10:30 AM</b> <b>Staff Meeting</b> <b>6:30 PM</b> Practicing Our Faith - Inglis Room	<b>15</b> <del>9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room - OFF</del>	<b>16</b> <b>6:00 PM</b> Canterbury Bells - Practice <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301G - Parlor <b>7:30 PM</b> Chancel Choir - Practice	<b>17</b> <b>6:00 PM - 6:30 PM</b> Vigil for Black Lives	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> <i>Christmas Fund Special Offering</i> <b>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Nursery Care Available <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship for all ages <b>11:05 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship <b>3:00 PM</b> Jazz Noel	<b>20</b> <b>4:00 PM</b> Executive Ministry (Zoom) <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall <b>7:00 PM</b> MLK Day of Service Planning - Zoom	<b>21</b> <i>First Day of Winter</i> <b>10:30 AM</b> <b>Staff Meeting</b>	<b>22</b> <del>9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room - OFF</del> <b>6:00 PM - 9:30 PM</b> Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>23</b> <b>7:00 PM</b> Scout Troop 301G - Parlor	<b>24</b> <b>4:30 PM</b> Christmas Eve Family Worship Service <b>9:00 PM</b> Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship <b>10:00 PM</b> Wassail Bowl Reception	<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>
<b>26</b> <b>9:00 AM - 11:00 AM</b> Nursery Care Available <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship (Kwanza'a) <b>10:00 AM</b> Worship <b>11:05 AM</b> Coffee Fellowship	<b>27</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>28</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>29</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>30</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	<b>31</b> <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	

## January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 New Year's Day
2 <i>Sacrament of Christ's Table</i> 9:00 AM Brown Baggers 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Kids' Church 11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship	3 OFFICE CLOSED	4 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 1:00 PM Communications Team - Church Office	5 9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room	6 Epiphany 6:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor 7:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice	7 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Vigil for Black Lives	8
9 Epiphany (celebrated) 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Kids' Church 11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship	10 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall 7:00 PM Three Ministries (Zoom)	11 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Confirmation Class 6:30 PM Practicing Our Faith - Inglis Room	12 9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room	13 8:30 AM - 9:30 AM Journeymen - Parlor 6:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor 7:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice	14 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Vigil for Black Lives	15
16 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Kids' Church 11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship	17 Martin Luther King Holiday (Office Closed) 4:00 PM Executive Ministry (Zoom) 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall	18 10:30 AM Staff Meeting	19 9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room	20 6:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor 7:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice	21 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Vigil for Black Lives 8:00 PM Webster Stamp Club	22 Youth Game Night - Memorial Hall
23 Ecumenical Sunday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Kids' Church 11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship	24 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall	25 10:30 AM Staff Meeting 6:30 PM - 7:30 PM Confirmation Class 7:00 PM Lady Elect - Parlor	26 9:30 AM Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM Bridge Club - Inglis Room	27 6:00 PM Canterbury Bells - Practice 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301G - Parlor 7:30 PM Chancel Choir - Practice	28 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM Vigil for Black Lives	29
30 Heritage Sunday New Members Sunday 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM Nursery Care Available 10:00 AM Worship 10:15 AM Kids' Church 11:05 AM Coffee Fellowship	31 7:00 PM Scout Troop 301B - Memorial Hall					



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*Seek Christ in each. Serve God in all.*

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