

# Covenant News

December 2022 & January 2023

## FROM THE PASTOR

### *New Year, New Definitions, Renewed Persistence*

We respond to God's call by welcoming everyone regardless of ability, age, ethnicity, race, gender identity, sexual orientation or socio-economic background. To proclaim in word and deed the love of Christ, we affirm that all may share in the full life, ministry, fellowship, responsibilities and blessing of our congregation. No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome here. (Our Open and Affirming Statement, 2008)

I've been reading *A Gospel for All Ages: Teaching and Preaching with the Whole Church*, by Prof. David Csinos of the Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax, Nova Scotia. Prof. Csinos asserts that the rise of capitalism and marketing in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century witnessed the creation of numerous new categories of people. Adolescent, toddler, tween, and emerging adult were added as target demographics to those of child, youth, young adult, adult, and senior.

Resulting from these narrower definitions has been churches divided by age into smaller and smaller subgroups. In some cases, we even lack common ground for understanding the world and ourselves in it. Senior adults now usually outnumber the younger folk; their preferences tend to govern policy, programming, and worship.

Congregations of longstanding are obligated, Csinos argues, to reset our frameworks, our paradigms, our mindsets, even just our goals. It will be a struggle, but we must become relevant to age groups only meagerly represented.

Reviewing our 2008 ONA Statement, it occurred to me that we also need to (re)commit ourselves to embracing and enfranchising LGBTQI+ people, as well as people of differing socio-economic classes, those with mental infirmities and illnesses, and people of color.

How do we provide an answer to all these voices and points of view?

We ask. We pay attention, not only when we hear words that affirm the direction in which we are currently going but also when they indicate new ways are needed. We must persist in faith, keep trying, adapt, and by doing so convince those who are not in our majority (as well as the majority) that it is worthwhile for them to be a part of *this*!

An old year is ending and a new one beginning. Let's be reminding ourselves of the commitments we've made as we acknowledge the challenges and promises ahead.

Have blessed holidays, but especially a joyous New Year!

Peace.

*Pastor Dave Dawson*

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## WORSHIP NOTES FOR DECEMBER 2022 & JANUARY 2023

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

*All worship services noted below will be offered in person and live streamed  
([bit.ly/FCCWG-YT](https://bit.ly/FCCWG-YT)), at the times indicated.*

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4, 10:00 AM — SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT — PEACE; SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE. Scriptures: Isaiah 11:1-11; Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; Romans 15:4-13; Matthew 3:1-12. Isaiah speaks of the Jesse Tree, Paul reminds Roman Christians of how they ought to behave, and John the Baptist preaches his version of a political sermon. All of them point toward a future when the world is a just and blessed place to be. Pastor Dave lays out the terms for peace in our time, or in any time. Message of the Day: **"God Wants Peace"**

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 10:00 AM — THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT — JOY; **HANGING OF THE GREENS**. This annual tradition at First Church includes our decoration of the sanctuary for Christmas. Everyone who comes 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.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 18, 10:00 AM — FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT — LOVE. Scriptures: Psalm 8:3-5; Luke 1:46-49. With the music of the Oikos Jazz Ensemble featured, Pastoral Assistant Halley Kim shares a very special Message of the Day: **"Our Not-So-Lowly State"** (working title).

***This afternoon at 3PM, please plan to attend  
"JAZZ NOEL — THE RETURN OF THE LIGHT."***

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 4:30 PM — **Family Christmas Eve**. This brief worship service features many of the readings you'll have heard in the morning but with a Live Nativity tableau, including our newest addition 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.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 9:00 PM — **A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols**. This very special nighttime service incorporates voices and instruments performing readings and music that may be familiar or new, to celebrate of the birth of the Messiah and the mystery of the Incarnation. ***This service will be followed with our Christmas Wassail Bowl reception.***

***There will be no services conducted at First Church  
on Christmas Day, Sunday, December 25.***

SUNDAY, JANUARY 1, 2023, 10:00 AM — NEW YEAR'S DAY; SEVENTH DAY OF KWANZA'A — IMANI (FAITH); FEAST OF THE HOLY NAME OF JESUS; ALL AGES WORSHIP; SACRAMENT OF CHRIST'S TABLE; **HOLIDAY HYMN SING**. Scriptures: Ecclesiastes 3:1-13; Psalm 8; Revelation 21:1-6a; Matthew 25:31-46. This very special, all-ages worship service, conducted in Memorial Hall, includes a recognition of the communitarian values of the season of Kwanza'a and a Christmas/New Year Holiday Hymn Sing. ***(Please note: If you plan to attend on this Sunday, please be watching on December 4, 11, and 18 for a Narthex Table ballot of hymns from which to choose your favorites. Vote early and often; the most popular selections will be sung as our Message of the Day.)***

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8, 10:00 AM — CELEBRATION OF THE EPIPHANY (observed). Scriptures: Isaiah 60:1-6; Psalm 67; 2 Timothy 1:5-10; Matthew 2:1-12. On this day we remember the arrival of the Magi in Bethlehem, the revelation of Good News to all the world, and the revolution introduced in the person of a toddler Messiah. Message of the Day: **"How Creator Sets Free"**

SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 10:00 AM — SECOND SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY; SUNDAY IN MLK HOLIDAY WEEKEND; CHANCEL CHOIR PERFORMS WITH THE OIKOS JAZZ ENSEMBLE. Scriptures: Isaiah 9:2-7; Psalm 36:5-10; Romans 15:8-13; Matthew 4:12-17. Everywhere, today, our culture is beset by "Christian" voices who spout intolerance and who insist that persecution of defenseless people is God's will. What should our answer be? Message of the Day: **"The Proper Role of a Christian"**



SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 10:00 AM – ECUMENICAL SUNDAY (WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY). The World Council of Churches and the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity Joint Commission on the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity has named the theme for the 2023 Week's observance: ***“Do Good; Seek Justice”*** (Scripture: Isaiah 1:12-18). First Church's commitment to social justice traces back to our founding in 1866. In the 1950s Pastor Ervine Inglis, served as president of the Metropolitan Church Federation, a St. Louis area ecumenical group. MCF ceased operation in 1978, replaced in large part by the local chapter of the National Coalition of Christians and Jews (and led by Rev. O'Ray Graber who would become an Associate Pastor here). In 1991, four regional groups united to form the multi-faith Metropolitan Congregations United (MCU) which now carries forward the work MCF and NCCJ began.

On this Ecumenical Sunday, we pray for unity of purpose and message with our fellow Christians in proclaiming Good News, a message echoed in the calls for justice and righteousness from other Abrahamic traditions. Post-worship, join representatives from MCU for an Adult Education presentation about MCU's current initiatives.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 10:00 AM – HERITAGE SUNDAY (157<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY); HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICE SUNDAY (UCC).  
Scriptures: Micah 6:6-8; Psalm 15; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25; Matthew 5:1-12. On a day when we may be tempted into nostalgia, Pastor Dave Denoon considers some of the words that are most central to our understandings about faith. We have to know where we've been in order to have a strong sense of where we are and where we have the potential to go. Message of the Day: ***“Balancing Act”***

Worship will be followed by our annual Midwinter Potluck. Watch the eNews and bulletin for more information.

## FROM THE MUSIC DIRECTOR



The holiday season is upon us! The music department is busy preparing for Hanging of the Greens and Christmas Eve. I will be gone the week of December 12 to conduct *Messiah* in Harvard Massachusetts.

The December offering in First Congregational Church of Webster Groves Concert Series is “Hymns and Hollers Live: A Winter Solstice Concert” featuring Walter Parks who lives in Webster and is an acclaimed roots musician. Judy Collins has said: “Walter Parks is an extraordinary singer whose songs can break your heart as well as get you dancing. Lyrical and political, personal and otherworldly at the same time, transcendent as well as down to earth, Walter is a musical treasure, an artist of the highest caliber. To hear him is to be lifted into

a mystical sphere. I adore him.” The concert will take place in the church's Memorial Hall on December 10 at 7pm. This concert is free and open to the public. A freewill offering will be accepted to support the music programs at First Church. Search Facebook and YouTube for his work. More at [www.walterparks.com](http://www.walterparks.com).

In August 2020 Walter Parks was invited by The Library of Congress to archive his research on and perform his arrangements of music made by southeast Georgia's Okefinokee Swamp homesteaders – hollers, hymns and reels. For 10 years Parks, a Florida native, served as the sideman guitarist to Woodstock Festival legend Richie Havens. Walter has recently co-written with Stan Lynch, former Tom Petty drummer and has performed at various venues with R&B drum legend Bernard Purdie and at Lincoln Center with Judy Collins. Walter tours with his own trio Swamp Cabbage, with his solo show Swamp By Chandelier and with an Americana spirituals project called The Unlawful Assembly co-founded by drummer Steven Williams. Walter was a member of The Nudes, a popular folk duo, with cellist Stephanie Winters.

Please join us for his concert and end the year with this phenomenal event!

Leon Burke

## MODERATOR'S CORNER

This edition of the Covenant News launches the delightful season of Advent as well as the new calendar year. These are wonderful times in which we celebrate together as a Christian Community and resolve to support and nurture our church into the New Year.

We have experienced moments of gut-wrenching sadness in recent weeks, but in those experiences we have, and continue, to come together as a community of love to support our extended church family who need our love. We are blessed to be part of such a group. While many church groups and individuals have played important supportive roles, I would like to thank Jeanene Harris for her willingness to step into the role as church clerk, sadly vacated by Marilyn Davis's passing.

As we begin to enjoy the festivities of Advent, I would also like to thank Sharon Love for sharing her love of model trains with us in the recently installed display case, spreading joy as we move from the sanctuary to Memorial Hall. Sharon has been collecting model trains since the age of six! Her preferred trains, shared with us, are American Flyers. You can enjoy these trains in three different scales. One of the engines was produced in the 1920s! She has three operating layouts at home. As you enjoy the display case, envision "Christmases of Yore" with model trains encircling the Christmas tree.

Please read this entire Covenant News to be familiar with the many ways you can celebrate Christmas in our church: Yankee Swap, Jubilee Garden Tree decorating, Lady Elect Cookie Exchange, and of course the special services at the church-- Hanging of the Greens, Jazz Noel, Christmas Eve Family Service and the later service of Lessons and Carols. Bring family and friend as we keep Christ in Christmas.

The Christmas festivities continue into the New Year with our celebration of Epiphany early in January and the month will end with Heritage Sunday. The Endowment Counselors are preparing a special program for January 29 to highlight our heritage and our obligation to preserve that heritage for the future. I awakened one morning with a line from an old hymn I often listen to on a CD by Ella Fitzgerald, "throw out a lifeline." Who knows why it was on my mind as I slept, unless it has to do with my thoughts that as we currently benefit from the foresight of church members of the past, we must also pledge to insure our church for the future. We are now holding on to a "lifeline" provided for us by our forebears. As we move toward sustainable financial health, we also need to provide a "lifeline" for times of financial need for those who will be the future of First Congregational Church of Webster Groves. If you have not already made end-of-life plans to support our Endowment, please consider doing so. As part of the special Heritage Sunday observance, Rev. Denoon will share an excellent video he has created detailing our proud heritage from Congregational through UCC and into the illustrious history of our local church as it has witnessed for Christ, serving members and the community.

We can take pride in our heritage. We can be proud of who we are today. We can have the courage and foresight to ensure the future of our church.

In Covenant,  
Joan Musbach, Moderator

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Below are the year to date church operating results through October 2022:

Statement of Financial Activities				
	2022	2021	Full Year Budget	Change to Prior Year
				Higher/ (Lower)
Income				
Pledges and Gifts	\$ 261,645	\$ 278,956	\$ 315,000	\$ (17,312)
Transfer from Endowment	145,000	110,000	299,000	35,000
Benevolence	22,572	23,527	15,000	(954)
CARES Act PPP	-	62,300	-	(62,300)
Use of Space and Miscellaneous	58,420	39,104	47,115	19,316
Interest Income	19,689	13,248	11,000	6,441
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>507,327</b>	<b>527,135</b>	<b>687,115</b>	<b>(19,809)</b>
Expenses				(Higher)/ Lower
Human Resources Expense	\$ 380,457	\$ 359,465	\$ 458,354	(20,992)
Facilities and Finance Expense	\$ 132,606	\$ 122,999	\$ 163,375	(9,607)
Benevolence Expense	\$ 34,100	\$ 36,065	\$ 32,000	1,965
Christian Education Ministry Expense	\$ 2,827	\$ 2,515	\$ 4,100	(312)
Parish Life Ministry Expense	\$ 8,414	\$ 6,748	\$ 11,400	(1,666)
Executive Ministry Expense	\$ 3,717	\$ 1,996	\$ 17,200	(1,720)
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>562,121</b>	<b>529,788</b>	<b>686,429</b>	<b>(32,333)</b>
<b>Net Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ (54,794)</b>	<b>\$ (2,653)</b>	<b>\$ 686</b>	<b>\$ (52,142)</b>

Statement of Financial Position			
	2022	2021	Variance
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 117,024	\$ 119,294	\$ (2,270)
Pledges receivable	60,756	65,920	(5,164)
Property and equipment	27,211	28,669	(1,457)
Minister housing long term receivable	60,000	60,000	-
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 264,992</b>	<b>\$ 273,882</b>	<b>\$ (8,891)</b>
Unrestricted Designated Funds	38,074	16,461	21,613
Restricted funds for:			
Funds in Endowment Trust	51,334	45,815	5,519
Churchyard	38,370	36,007	2,363
Kishlar/Dickens Room Maintenance	49,046	53,946	(4,900)
Temporarily restricted funds for pledges	60,756	65,920	(5,164)
Memorial Funds	57,262	55,297	1,965
Long term liabilities	60,000	60,000	-
Unrestricted Net Assets	(89,850)	(59,563)	(30,287)
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 264,992</b>	<b>\$ 273,882</b>	<b>\$ (8,891)</b>

Continued

**Items to note include:**

- The Decrease in Net Assets this year is \$52,142 greater than last year's Decrease in Net Assets at this time last year.
- Total Revenue is down \$19,809 this is due to several factors:
  - ◇ Last year, the church had recorded \$62,300 in PPP loan receipts
  - ◇ Pledge revenue is lower \$17,312
  - ◇ To offset these decreases:
    - The church has received \$35,000 more from the Endowment this year
    - Use of space income is up \$19,316 compared to last year of which \$7,536 is due to 10 West Lockwood events.
- Expenses are \$32,333 higher this year. The increase in expenses is primarily due to:
  - ◇ \$21k: Higher staff expenses, including the new audio visual position (\$8.6k)
  - ◇ \$9.6k: Higher F&F expenses, including higher insurance (\$8.7k) and utilities expense (\$9.1k) which are offset by lower office expenses (-\$2.7k) and building maintenance expense (-\$5.5k)
- The cash position of the church is flat. The church currently has 2 months of operating funds on hand. It is recommended to have 3 to 6 months of cash reserves on hand.

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

Thanks

Jennifer Jones, Treasurer

## Transaction Fees

Did you know that the church gets charged a fee for every online donation? Last year, the church paid almost \$1,000 in transaction fees.

Did you know that you can click a box on the payment page that adds the fees to your donation? For a \$50 donation, the fees are about \$2. Please consider clicking the box the next time you donate online. Every little bit helps!

**Here are some recent and future rentals in our newly marketed event space.**



### ► October

- Bridal shower in Kishlar
- Weavers Guild group in Memorial Hall
- Wedding Reception in Memorial Hall
- Theater Group Fundraising event in Memorial Hall

### ► November

- Baby Shower in Inglis Room
- Glory to Glory Church Celebration in the Sanctuary
- Birthday Party in Kishlar
- Birthday party in Inglis

### ► December

- Holiday Concert in Memorial Hall
- Jazz group Kishlar (continuous on Thursdays)
- Baby Showers in Inglis
- Metalsmith in Memorial Hall
- Family Holiday Party in Memorial Hall
- Holiday party in Memorial Hall

## ARE THOSE NEW DOORS?

The wooden doors on the west side of the building, at the bottom of the ramp from the parking lot, are undergoing a refinishing by Keith Moore of the Facility and Finance Ministry. Be sure to go and admire them, next time your at church. The work isn't complete, but the improvement is noticeable!

## FIRST SATURDAY DRIVE-THRU REPORTS ST. LOUIS AREA DIAPER BANK

Andrea Welnick received a postcard thanking the church for the donation of 1,575 diapers from the recent First Saturday Drive-Thru Collection. Way to go!

## WE HAVE TWO FIRST SATURDAY DRIVES COMING UP!

This Saturday from 10am-12pm we will collect NEW toys for "Helping Hand-Me-Downs." This organization "helps families break the cycle of poverty and works with them to find stability and independence, serving over 30,000 children and their families since 2011." Please generously donate the following items: board games, card games like Uno or Go-Fish, Pop-Its and fidgets, art supplies, action figures, LOL dolls, small Lego sets, puzzles, Play-Doh, Plus-Plus sets, or toys for fine motor development. Helping Hand Me Down's space is limited so please do not donate any large items. Please also leave used items and baby/toddler/preschool toys at home (they receive plenty of those and are seeking toys specifically for elementary-aged kids).

In January our "First Saturday" will actually fall on a special Monday: Martin Luther King Jr. Day, January 16th. On this Day of Service we will collect non-perishable food items (canned vegetables, soups, rice, cereal, etc) for Webster Rock Hill Ministries during our usual time frame, 10am to 12pm. This event, like December's, will be a drive-thru. Please make sure donated items are not expired!

Thank you for your generosity!

Halley Kim

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## THIRD 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.

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. Popcorn and cranberry garland is also great. Please NO Cheerios. We made the discovery that not one bird or squirrel (or any other animal) touched the Cheerios!





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

**12/4 – 10:00 AM – Second Sunday of Advent • Peace • Sacrament of Christ's Table**

**12/11 – 10:00 AM – Third Sunday of Advent: Joy; Hanging of the Greens.** Parish Life will be hosting a "Sweet or Savory Finger Foods Potluck" during coffee fellowship following Hanging of the Greens on December 11th. Please bring your snack already plated and ready to share.

**12/18 – 10:00 AM – Fourth Sunday of Advent: Love.** Oikos performs in worship.

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

**12/24 – 4:30 PM Family Christmas Eve • Live Nativity tableau, including the Baby Jesus! "Gifts for the Manger" will be collected during the service**

**12/24 – 9:00 PM – A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols.** Wassail bowl celebration following the service

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

**Sunday, December 18 at 3:00 PM**



***Featuring The Oikos Ensemble***

**Vocalists' Kim Fuller and Arianna Aerie • Cliff Aerie (Sax) • Carolbeth True (piano)  
Glen Smith (bass) • David True (drums) • Tim Osiek (trumpet)**

***The Logos Interpretive Readers***

This December 18th, 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 and jazz 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.



## MANY THANKS FROM SOUTH SUDAN

### *Update from Ghanaian military chaplain Rev. Gershon Dotse*

Last spring, our friend Gershon Dotse told us about his military unit's work as part of an African Union peacekeeping force in South Sudan. Part of peacekeeping is economic development, and Rev. Dotse's unit led with instruction in the trade of tailoring. Our monetary gifts were combined with those from other donors, so that the local citizens they trained might be given new sewing machines to work with. On September 30, Rev. Dotse reported,

I hope you are doing great by grace. By God's grace and your kind donation, our tailoring course had a great graduation. May God continue to bless you. [Here] are some pictures. Thank you. We bought a total of 13 sewing machines, one each for the participants and three for the training center to increase enrollment next time.

He also sent photos from the graduation ceremony. Enjoy!



The new tailors, their trainers, & sponsors.  
Rev. Dotse is all the way at the back in  
the corner.



Rev. Dotse announces as his unit commander  
presents a certificate to a student.



Samples of the new tailors' work.

## LADY ELECT — DECEMBER AND JANUARY



Lady Elect has “elected” to move meetings to noontime on the third Tuesday of each month, with a BYO lunch. Hostesses will provide desserts and drinks. One exception to this change is the December 13 Cookie exchange at Pat Doyle-Grace’s house, which will be a 4:30 start time. *(Lady Elect might consider late afternoon or evening meetings depending on the event.)*

Dec. 13, 4:30 PM Lady elect cookie exchange at Pat Doyle-Grace’s home. Please RSVP to either Pat or Laura Cooper. 2 dozen or a batch of cookies, along with an empty tin, are all that’s needed to enjoy this fun evening!

The January 17 meeting will be a book and media sharing event

### DECEMBER



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  
Terri Thompson – December 26

### JANUARY



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

## UPDATE ON ROOM AT THE INN

In my last article, I mentioned that Room at the Inn transformed into a 24/7 facility at their Bridgeton location at the beginning of the pandemic. The update is that the city of Bridgeton has approved RATI's permanent status to provide living space 24/7. This is very good news because it dramatically reduces the stress on clients who had to move to a different location every night. The next step is for the building in Bridgeton to be adapted, to house about 20 clients at a time until they get permanent housing.

In the meantime, our church provides financial support funded through the Benevolence Fund. This helps pay for food, clothing, transportation, and staff. During the Holiday Season, we have historically provided gift cards to the clients on Room at the Inn. I would like to make that effort easy to continue by offering to collect donations in cash throughout the Holiday Season. I will convert these donations into gift cards in the right denominations for the stores that these clients can access easily.

So, my nickname will change from "Mr. Clipboard" to "Mr. Manila Envelope". Please consider adding to this effort, to bring a special Christmas smile to those in need.

Glad to help!

Mark Cereghino

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## THE CHRISTMAS FUND

**For the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund**

Sunday, December 18, 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.





## BENEVOLENCE MISSION PARTNER: WEBSTER – ROCK HILL MINISTRIES



Webster-Rock Hill Ministries is one of many agencies supported by benevolence funds from our church. This non-profit was founded in 1982 by churches in the area and we were one of those original founders. It had been recognized that people of all ages who were in need would benefit from a community agency rather than going from church to church for assistance. Webster-Rock Hill Ministries (WRHM) offers help to people in the 63119 zipcode as well as members of local churches no matter where they live. Services available include food pantry and toiletry bags, utility assistance, home repairs, nurse and legal consultations, holiday programs, and a community garden. A tutoring program

in cooperation with the Webster Groves School District is being explored at this time as well as a summer camp. Those two programs had to be discontinued during the pandemic.

One Saturday each month a food bag drive through is available to anyone who needs it no matter where they live. Marilyn Claggett and Rosemary Hensley are our current representatives on the WRHM Board of Directors. Jane Porchey and Linda Waltz work in the food pantry weekly.

WRHM is located at 111 East Waymire Avenue in Webster Groves. If you or someone you know needs assistance, call 314-961-5082 Monday-Friday to get registered. If you wish to donate or to adopt a family, go the Ministries' website: [whrm.org](http://whrm.org).





## EARLY REGISTRATION FOR CAMP MOVAL!



Nestled amid rolling hills a few miles west of Union, Missouri, Camp MoVal has been welcoming campers of all ages to participate in a wide variety of programs and activities since 1962. We ensure every camper at Camp MoVal has an amazing and unique camp experience in a safe and fun atmosphere.

MoVal is a traditional Summer Camp with a legacy of rituals - both new and old - that are unique to them and that makes the time with them so enjoyable and enriching for their campers.

Camp MoVal is located on 280 acres that include beautiful forests, native prairie, streams, and a lake. Facilities include a dining and meeting hall, four lakeside cabins, two retreat lodges, two rustic

camping villages, high and low ropes courses, a boat and fishing dock, game and archery fields, hiking trails, and more. Come and explore, retreat and relax, and let the Camp MoVal staff assist with summer camp program.

Camp MoVal is a camp of the United Church of Christ's Outdoor Ministry. Guests can canoe, hike and enjoy the MoVal community throughout the year.

For our Outdoor Ministry Programs, campers will explore the community and what it means to be part of that community, a chance to rekindle old friendships and make new ones. They'll experience new growth opportunities through the many available activities and they'll have a chance to explore and be part of the outdoors and learning to care and respect our natural environment.

If your kids are interested in attending Camp MoVal in 2023, the church will pay half the registration fee! Sign your kids up here <https://tinyurl.com/moval-2023>. To take advantage of the church subsidy, use the sponsorship code "FirstChurch1" when registering.

### 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 Amy Byrne, know. Either will be happy to follow up for you.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 9:00am Journeymen - Parlor 6:00pm - Canterbury Bells 7:30pm Chancel Choir	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:00am - 12:00pm "First Saturday" Collection Event: Toys
<b>4</b> <b>Sacrament of Christ's Table</b> 9:00am Brown Baggers 9:45am - Nursery Care Available <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Christmas Tree Decorating Party - Jubilee Garden 1:30pm Yankee Swap	<b>5</b> 7:00pm Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room	<b>6</b> <b>10:30am Staff Meeting</b> 1:00pm Communications Team - Church Office 6:30pm Pastoral Relations Committee	<b>7</b> <del>9:30am NO Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room</del> 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room 7:00pm Adult Confirmation Class	<b>8</b> 6:00pm - Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> 7:00pm Concert: Walter Parks - Memorial Hall
<b>11</b> <b>Hanging of the Greens - Worship</b> 9:45am - Nursery Care Available <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship (Sweet & Savory Snacks Potluck)	<b>12</b> <b>2:00pm Memorial Service: Darrell Lakies</b> 7:00pm - Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room 7:00pm Three Ministries (Hybrid)	<b>13</b> <b>10:30am Staff Meeting</b> 4:30 pm Lady Elect - (Pat's House) 6:30pm Practicing Our Faith - Parlor	<b>14</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room 7:00pm Adult Confirmation Class	<b>15</b> 6:00pm - Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:45am - Nursery Care Available <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship <b>3:00pm Jazz Noel</b>	<b>19</b> 7:00pm Executive Ministry (Zoom) 7:00pm - Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room	<b>20</b> <b>10:30am Staff Meeting</b> 12:00pm Lady Elect - Pat's House (4:30 pm)	<b>21</b> <b>First Day of Winter</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>22</b> 6:00pm - 7:00pm Canterbury Bells	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 4:30pm Christmas Eve Family Worship Service 9:00pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 10:00pm Wassail Bowl Reception
<b>25</b> <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1</b> <b>New Year's Day</b> <b>Sacrament of Christ's Table</b> 9:00am Brown Baggers 9:45am - Nursery Care <b>10:00am All Ages</b> <b>Worship in Memorial Hall</b> 11:05am Coffee Fellowship	<b>2</b> 7:00pm - Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room	<b>3</b> 2:00pm - <b>Memorial Service: Rev. Wm. B. "Barney" Kitchen</b> <b>10:30am Staff Meeting</b> 7:00pm WG Al-Anon	<b>4</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room 7:00pm Adult Confirmation Class	<b>5</b> 6:00pm - Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	<b>6</b> <b>Epiphany</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 Epiphany Sunday</b> 9:45am - Nursery Care <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship	<b>9</b> 7:00pm - Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room 7:00pm Three Ministries (Hybrid)	<b>10</b> <b>10:30am Staff Meeting</b> 1:00pm Communications Team - Church Office 6:30pm Practicing Our Faith - Parlor	<b>11</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room 7:00pm Adult Confirmation Class	<b>12</b> 6:00pm - Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 Jazz Worship</b> 9:45am - Nursery Care <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship	<b>16</b> <b>Martin L. King, Jr. Day</b> <b>10:00am - Drive Thru Food Collection</b> 7:00pm Executive Ministry (Zoom) 7:00pm - Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room	<b>17</b> <b>10:30am Staff Meeting</b>	<b>18</b> 9:30am Yoga - Inglis Room 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room 7:00pm Adult Confirmation Class	<b>19</b> 6:00pm - Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	<b>20</b> <i>Covenant News deadline!!</i>	<b>21</b>
<b>22 Ecumenical Sunday</b> 9:45am - Nursery Care <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am Coffee Fellowship 11:20am Adult Education: Metropolitan Congregations United	<b>23</b> 7:00pm - Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room	<b>24</b> <b>10:30am Staff Meeting</b> 12:00pm Lady Elect - Parlor	<b>25</b> 9:30am Yoga with Jeanene - Inglis Room 6:00pm - Bridge Club - Inglis Room 7:00pm Adult Confirmation Class	<b>26</b> 9:00am - Journeymen - Parlor 6:00pm - Canterbury Bells 7:30pm - Chancel Choir	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 Heritage Sunday</b> 9:45am - Nursery Care Available <b>10:00am Worship</b> 10:15am Kids' Church 11:05am - Midwinter Potluck 11:20am - Endowment Prententatioin	<b>30</b> 7:00pm - Scout Troop 301B & 301G- Dickens Room	<b>31</b> <b>10:30am Staff Meeting</b>				



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

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