Lamentably, it is an historical fact that privileged groups seldom give up their privilege voluntarily. Individuals may see the moral light and voluntarily give up their unjust posture; but as Reinhold Niebuhr has reminded us, groups tend to be more immoral than individuals.

Martin Luther King, Jr., “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”

Centennial Christian Church Hosting MLK Jr. Observances Saturday, January 14 – (see this page and next)
While we are waiting for God’s intervention, God is waiting for our collaboration.

John Dominic Crossan

MLK Youth Fest, Saturday, January 14, 12:00 – 3:30 pm at Betty Jean Kerr People’s Health Center, 5701 Delmar


### MLK YOUTH FEST ‘23
A Community Conversation About Youth Violence & Crime

In Addition to the Hype Session & Special Performances, There Will Be A Workshop Experience For Youth & Adults

*Panel Discussion*
Facilitated By Pastor Breonna Hawkins, M.Div, MSW, Co-Pastor of Memorial Blvd. Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

*Panelist*
Keely Finney, LCSW; Rejuvenating Comprehensive Services
Dr. LeKesha Thomas-Davis, PhD, LPC, Vice President of Behavioral Health Services
Amanda Luckett Murphy Hopewell Center
Terry Wilson, Councilman City of Jennings & City Manager of Dellwood
Officer Takisha Boyd, SLMPD
William Dailey, Jr., Harvey Dailey Law Firm, LLC

*Youth Workshops*
Mental Health: Bullying, Suiciding, and Depression, Dr. LeKesha Thomas-Davis, Vice President Behavioral Health Services Amanda Luckett Murphy Hopewell Center
Interactive Presentation on Drugs – Dr. LJ Punch, MD, The T

*Adult Session Topics*
Gun Safety in the Home, Curtis Smith, 3 Tier Defense
Let’s Start For Previous Incarcerated Families By Toni Jordan & Tracy Stanton
Signs & Symptoms of Drugs & Changes of Behavior & An Advocating For Your Child
LaToya Stewart, School Counselor & Social Worker, Hawthorne Leadership School For Girls

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.

Adults & Youth
Scan QR Code Here & On The Front To Pre-Register Now!

For more Information, Contact
Centennial Christian Church
314.367.1818
Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.

Isaiah 1:17

We Receive Thank-You Letters!

Our year-end discretionary gift contributions included Doorways, a vital community partner of UACC. Doorways is an on-going recipient in our Outreach Budget and a face-to-face partner as we participate in preparing special meals and engaging with the Doorways community.

Rev. Michael Riggs received this letter from Jim Timmerberg at Doorways. We want to include the whole letter here, as Michael has followed up with us on this; encouraging a group of us to respond to this invitation by planning a visit to the new Doorways Campus. Perhaps some from the Outreach and Justice Team, and others who have been engaged with Doorways would like to visit!

Hi Michael,

Happy New Year! Thank you for Union Avenue Christian Church’s very generous year-end contribution. We deeply appreciate our ongoing relationship and partnership with Union Avenue and its members. Your gift comes at a critical time; as winter settles in more and more people seek refuge from the streets and shelters while countless others need utility subsidies to warm their homes. Thank you.

I remember that you weren't able to attend our Grand Opening because of your travel schedule, so I am hoping that we can find a time in the near future for you to visit and tour the new Campus.

I hope you are well - Happy Friday!

Jim Timmerberg
Development and Communications Director
DOORWAYS

How Does the Outreach and Justice Team Make Decisions?

As we began our work, we realized that there are so many needs and UACC cannot respond to all of them! In listening for God’s leading, we created “Discernment Questions.” Every question does not speak to every situation; but, as a whole, they can help us to stay on track. Here they are:

*How does the project or donation address the needs of the least of God’s children directly or indirectly in UACC's neighborhood?

*How does the project or donation strengthen or foster long-term working relationships with neighborhood churches, metropolitan DOC churches and churches of other denominations or General DOC church bodies and institutions as well as with neighborhood nonprofit organizations, agencies, schools and other institutions?

*What justice issues might the project or donation lead UACC into? With what partners -- locally, state-wide and nation-wide?

*How does the project or donation build on what UACC is already doing or has done in the recent past?

*How will this project or donation engage and enrich the faith of people affiliated with UACC as individuals, families, Sunday School classes and other groups within the church?

*How will the project or recipient of a donation involve UACC congregants, as workers in the project/donation recipient organization and/or at church {e.g., bible study, book group, prayers, written reports, mission moments, tours, etc)}?

*What human capacity does UACC have to start and sustain the project/relationships, including lay leadership to carry out and sustain the project/donation/relationships?

*How does the project, donation or relationship nourish UACC’s capacity to thrive in the future?
Whoever does not love, does not know God, for God is love.

1 John 4:8

Memorial Blvd Food Pantry Support and Volunteering

* On Sunday, January 22, Daniel Leach will bring a Mission Moment in worship, focusing on Food Pantry Ministry!

* A teaser: Watch for information coming soon re: an After-Worship Panel Discussion on Food Insecurity in St. Louis and Jesus’ Call to Feed the Hungry

Daniel Leach, Jacque Foster, and Rochelle Kaskowitz are volunteering with the MBCC Pantry. You are invited and encouraged to join us any time!

Planned Schedule and needs:

Daniel Leach  First Thursdays recurring assist -10 am to 2 pm
Second Thursdays, bulk delivery - recurring and other UACC members opp 9 am to 2
(Third Thursday - already staffed by Webster Groves CC, no assist needed from Union Ave Team.)

Jacque Foster - Fourth Thursdays recurring assist, other UACC members opportunity. 10 am to 2

Rochelle Kaskowitz  Jan 26th with Jacque
                     Feb 2nd with Daniel
                     March 9th with Daniel
                     March 23rd

Please bring your food and or gently used clothing donations and place them in the boxes in the UACC lobby!

UACC Representation at Metropolitan Congregations United Annual Meeting

Next Thursday, January 19 Carol Iglaur, George Stericker and Jeanne Heitman will represent us at MCU’s Annual Meeting and Member Assembly, bringing back information about this year’s priorities for the work that MCU will be about in the community and ways we can connect. You are welcome to join them!

Annual Meeting and Membership Assembly

Thursday, January 19, 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Central Baptist Church Education Building
2845 Washington Ave. 63103

We'll be gathering on Thursday January 19th as Metropolitan Congregations United to review and make decisions about our 2023 agenda. ~ ALL are invited! ~ MEMBER CONGREGATIONS are expected to send 2 voting delegates and as many additional guests as you wish. Please register now for this important event! Further details will be emailed about a week before to all who registered. And Dinner will be served at 5:30pm before the start of the meeting. Don't forget to sign up for it after registration.

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

Pantry Needs:
* canned soup,
* canned veggies,
* canned beans,
* peanut butter

Financial contributions will allow the Pantry staff to make fresh meat purchases for their hot meals.

To contribute financially, 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.
UACC is a supporter of the Arts and has supported the Prison Performing Arts Program both financially and by attending and supporting productions and thereby engaging with artists/actors.

In our need to make cuts in our Outreach and Justice Budget (for the present time), we have discontinued our financial donation to this program for this year.

A vital part of our discussion was around the fact many at UACC have gone to PPA Productions, which is a vital way to support them! We can continue our engagement with this wonderful program through active participation!

Here is an opportunity to attend the production, The Golden Record, by the PPA Alumni Theatre Company. It is January 26th thru 29th here in STL! Cost: $25 per ticket; Order Now!