

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Christ Centered *Biblical *Compassionate 101 N. Oak, California, MO 65018 Phone: 573-796-4885



What's in a Name?

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Isaiah 9:6

When we were expecting each one of our girls, we spent a lot of time deciding on a boys' name and girls' name for each baby. This was before it was common to find out the gender of the baby before they were born. Betty and I never wanted to know any way. We wanted it to be a surprise, like Christmas morning. I remember with Carrie, we had David as the boy's name. With Kelly, we had Dallas as the boy's name, and with Aimee we had Allen as the boy's name. When we were expecting Aimee, we realized all of our names had double letters in them including our last name of Cobb, so we decided to spell Aimee the way we did so she could share in our double letter tradition. Parents spend a lot of time picking out the right names so they have special meaning. Each one of my brothers and myself have a middle name that is in honor of one of our ancestors. It makes us feel special.

In Isaiah 9:6 we see some of the names that God gives his son. We will spend the month of December looking at these special names that let us know that Jesus is our counselor, the power of our life, that he will always be there, and that he brings the peace of God with him when he comes into our life. A couple of weeks ago, Betty and I spent a day checking out some antique shops north of Springfield. I found this beautiful picture of the names of Jesus from the Bible in the shape of a cross. I was all ready to buy it when Betty noticed the frame was broken and needed a lot of repair, so I put it back. But before I did, I looked at all the names that scripture gives Jesus: Bright Morning Star, Messiah, Light of the World, Lamb of God, and so many more. In Isaiah 7:14 we see another name given "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel (God with us)." I pray this Christmas season, you feel the presence of God in your life as we celebrate the gift of his Son.

In December, we will have several opportunities to worship and to give. Our Cantata will perform on Sunday morning December 17th at Salem and here in town. Our Christmas Eve program will be on the 24th at 7:00 here at the church. Salem UCC will have their traditional Christmas Eve service at 4:30. It will be filled with scripture and all of our familiar Christmas carols. Salem's Christmas program will be on Sunday night, December 17th at 7:00. Tim Forck from the Nutrition Center will be the speaker and the Sounds of Joy, from CHS, will be our musical program. Of course, we will have our traditional Christmas Day service at 10:00 with communion. You can give through Toys for Tots, the Angel Tree, Food Pantry, Veterans of the Cross, Blessing Baskets, and the glove and sock tree. It is a season filled with worship and giving. I've grown to love giving more than receiving over the years.

Our family wishes everyone a blessed Christmas filled with joy and peace that only comes from God the Father with his Son Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. Serving Christ Together, Russ





California United Church of Christ November 13, 2023 – Consistory Meeting Highlights

The meeting was called to order by Facilitator VanDee Miller at 7:00 p.m.

Reverend Cobb opened the meeting with prayer.

A quorum was establishes with Ellen Ash, Carole Barbour, Jay Bestgen, Alan Chambers, VanDee Miller, and Larry Schoeneberg present. Absent were Laura Burger and Ronnie Kissick.

Minutes of the October meeting, the Treasurer's Report, the Financial Secretary's Report, and the Stewardship Snapshot were approved. Treasurer Ellen Ash noted that the Weathercraft bill for Slate Repairs on the Bell Tower and Roof Repair over the elevator in the amount of \$11,079.00 had been paid.

Building Use Request were discussed. All requests were in the spirit of our policy and approved.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds--Jay Bestgen and Ronnie Kissick

• Oak Street and North Side Windows: Working on the frames

• Stained Glass Window Bid: Brady's gave a bid of \$36,000.00 to stabilize windows with each window repair priced individually. Immediate needs could be met as well as plans made for future work.

• SWC (Security Firm): The contract has been signed. Currently they are waiting on the availability of materials and deciding on the strategic placement of cameras.

- Dimmable Friendship Hall Light Project: Some non-fan LED lights will be installed to use for non-sporting events.
- Weathercraft: Looking at the slate Bell Tower Roof for the future and giving us an estimate to repair/replace for the needs list.
- LED lighting in the upstairs hall: New project that has been completed with the installation of a 2-foot fixture.

<u>Historical</u>--Norman Rohrbach -Veterans Display in Cabinet and updating Historical Review Timeline.

Stewardship--Larry Schoeneberg-Meeting scheduled November 28, 2023.

Worship-VanDee Miller-Scheduling families for Advent Readings beginning with families of Confirmands.

<u>Pastor Parish</u>--Larry Schoeneberg--Several people are helping Reverend Cobb make house calls including Allan Mortenson and Larry Rohrbach with others to be added.

Old Business

Insurance -Updates from Church Mutual were available. This is an important issue and an expensive one with questions about cemetery coverages and actual value of the building we are insuring. This is a work in progress.

Nominating Committee Update-Larry Schoeneberg reported that about half of the positions are filled and welcomed names of individuals to approach about serving.

New Business

- The UCC Special Benevolence Offering Calendar for 2024 was approved.
- The Financial Review Committee is being formed.
- It was suggested that the approval of the Insurance Premium and the "Needs" List be added to the Annual Meeting Agenda Items.
- Totenfest Service will be November 26, 2023.
- A notice of the Filing of the Final Settlement of the Lebeck Estate was received.
- The contracts for the Gene Haile bid for Snow Removal in the Parking Lots, the Bueker's Snow Removal Contract for the Sidewalks, and the George Kavanaugh Organ Maintenance/Repair Agreement were signed.
- The computer in the volunteer office was upgraded.
- A bid has been accepted from Sommers for two 4x6 rugs for the sanctuary entry. These rugs are bound and safe for hardwood floors.
- A letter was received from the Missouri Mid-South Conference explaining their plans and philosophy and requesting financial support. After discussion it was decided to have information available for individual giving, but not to make a pledge church wide.
- The date of the annual meeting is January 28, 2024.
- Meeting Room Samples of chairs were sat in and critiqued. Comfort and price are key considerations and we are still looking for the "perfect" chair.

• First-Aid Kits located at five areas of the church will be restocked/replaced as necessary.

Upcoming Communion Dates

December 3, 2023 (Full Communion) December 25, 2023 (Intinction) January 7, 2024 (Full Communion)

The Lord's Prayer

The Lord's Prayer prayed in unison closed the evening.





STEWARDSHIP SNAPSHOT

	October 2023	
General Fund		
Balance Brought Forward	\$ 84,982.28	\$ 76,991.24
Receipts	+ 24,568.68	+ 29,767.78
Disbursements	- 26,061.02	- 26,273.27
Balance – October 31	\$ 83,489.94	\$ 80,485.75
As of October 31, 2023		
Building Fund Balance	\$ 58,270.18	\$ 70,906.36
Local Benevolence Fund	\$ 8,806.89	\$ 8,993.79
Memorial Fund Balance	\$ 4,783.38	\$ 8,771.45
Schnuck Endowment Checking	g **\$ 35,795.28	*\$ 29,480.65
Scholarship Fund	\$ 10,329.58	\$ 9,794.63
Youth Fellowship Fund	\$ 5,130.50	\$ 2,888.91
Total OCWM Received	\$ 2,290.00	\$ 3,987.00
Other Benevolent Offerings	\$ 14,539.16	\$ 16,838.29

Note on 2023 Snapshot regarding Schnuck Endowment

*******The C. Schnuck Endowment Checking Fund balance of* \$35,795.28 *includes* \$166.49 *that is part of the original restricted gift and is unable to be expended.* \$35,628.79 *of the fund balance may be expended.*

Note on 2022 Snapshot regarding Schnuck Endowment

*The C. Schnuck Endowment Checking Fund balance of \$29,480.65 includes \$1,166.49 that is part of the original restricted gift and is unable to be expended. \$28,314.16 of the fund balance may be expended.



Angel Tree Reminder:

Please return Angel Tree gifts to the church **by Dec. 10th**

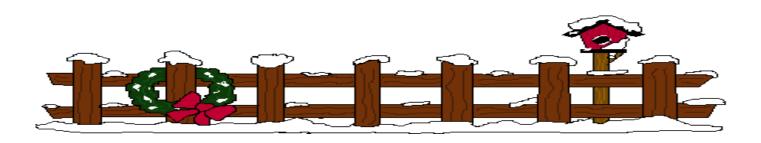




Special Benevolence—December Christmas Fund

The Christmas Fund Offering (formerly Veterans of the Cross) is an important way of sharing our joy at God's renewing and life-giving grace. The offering, which is administered by the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance of the Pension boards on behalf of the UCC. is an expression of joy and gratitude to, and for, those who serve the church. Gifts to the Christmas Fund help provide pension and health supplementation to low-income retirees, premium emergency assistance to the families of clergy and lay employees and Christmas gift checks to hundreds of annuitants. Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care. Our joy at Christmas is a response to God's promise of new life through the birth of Jesus. It is a joy we are called to share widely, through our witness and gifts, both to loved ones and to distant neighbors.

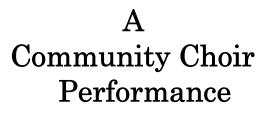
An envelope is attached for your offering. *Please make checks payable to UCC of California and put Christmas Fund on the memo line*.



Christmas Envelope

(in the offering envelopes box) goes to Sunday School to use for Vacation Bible School and for Camp expenses.





George F. Handel's

"Messiah" Sing Along

Sunday, December 3, 2023 ~ 3 p.m. California High School Performing Arts Center







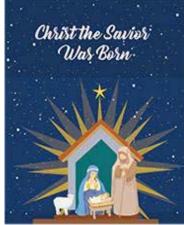
Christmas Program December 17th ~ 7:00 p.m. Featuring the Sounds of Joy

Celebrate the blessings of Christmas!

Cradle Roll

Adalynn Applegate Taylor Archer Elliott Baker Lillie Burger Baylor Coale Lincoln Gratz Hana Hill Oakleigh Imhoff Lottie Juul Caleb Leverett Emilie Mouse Hattie Mouse Kwincy Opie Myles Ratcliff

Karsyn Rowles Raelynn Rowles Sophie Schoeneberg Kyler Simmons Callan Troutman Brecken Wilson



The Cradle Roll will be recognized with a gift at the Christmas Eve Service, December 24th. Coordinator is Gerri Howard.



November 6, 2023 Sunday School Teachers & Officers

Carla Clennin called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM. Carla opened with a prayer. Those attending were Cinda Scheidt, Courtney Cassil, Rev. Russell Cobb, Peggy Liebi, Carole Barbour, Kris Ingram, Kendra Hall, Larry Rohrbach, Ronda Mortenson and Beth Chambers.

Carole made a motion to approve the October Minutes. Ronda seconded. Motion carried. Ronda made a motion to approve the October Treasurer's report. Courtney seconded. Motion carried.



Our November benevolence is the Rape and Abuse Crisis Service. They offer help for domestic violence, sexual assault, teen abuse, child abuse, and stalking. Check out their website racsjc.org.

Old Business:

Our 3rd Superintendent position has been accepted by Austin Chambers starting January 2024. Thank you, Austin.

Everyone agreed the Fall Party was a success with the food, hayride, games, and crafts. Carla thanked all those who helped in any way. We had over 80 in attendance.

Co-teacher is needed for the 1st-2nd grade class, several names were mentioned. Carla will be adding an announcement in the bulletin.

Thanks to Courtney Cassil, Steven Burger and Allan Mortenson for leading our Sunday School opening during the remaining Sundays in November.

Giving Tree - 1st Sunday of Advent on December 3. All donations will be donated to the California Elementary School. Items needed, socks, gloves, underwear, belts, coats. Kendra will be taking the donations to school. Angel Tree will be out starting November 12 for "Angels" to be taken and returned by December 10. 5 families selected.

Ronda gave update for Veggie Tales to be held Saturday, December 2, from 9:00-11:00 AM featuring The Little Drummer Boy, with crafts, games, and special guests.

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New/ Other Business:

Larry Rohrbach has decided to retire from teaching the Young Adult class. Larry stated, this has been a great group to teach, but they are a busy group. The class will continue function with various leaders teaching. Carla has asked VanDee Miller to find a contact person for the class to represent during the monthly T&O meetings.

Christmas Eve program directors Connie Bestgen and Ellen Ash – Connie said, this years' program will be mostly singing with the high school students to read during the program. They will be practicing during Wednesday evenings after R.O.K, they don't anticipate practicing during Sunday School time in less it is just to run through the program. The young kids will learn their song during Sunday School time. Christmas Eve treat bags – Cinda has agreed to fix the bags. Thank you.

Cradle Roll has 17 kids on the current rooster. Gerri Howard asked for 20 copies of *Christmas in the Manager* be purchased at 6.99 + s/h. Ronda made a motion to approve the 140 requested as presented. Beth seconded. Motion carried.

Pastor Cobb was asked by Dyan Ingram to purchase 20 Marriage Class books as they are starting a new series Wednesday, November 8. Ronda made a motion to approve as requested. Beth seconded. Motion carried. Russ thanked Larry for completing his vision of having a Young Adult Class that was starting in 2020 but then COVID hit, but Larry was persistent as the class started.

The meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM. Motion by Larry, seconded by Courtney.

Next meeting will be December 4, 2023, at 7 PM Respectfully submitted, Carla Clennin, Superintendent







UCC Women's Guild Minutes of the November 15, 2023 Meeting

Opening Procedures

President Pamela Hill opened the meeting with prayer and scripture. Carole B. presented the ninth session in the Bible study, "God with Us." The group had excellent participation and discussion on the subject of God's presence with us all as we navigate the conflicts, challenges, disappointments, and experiences of life in the current times. Thank you, Carole. Phyllis M. presented the Thought for the Day by reminding us of the poem, "Footprints in the Sand", a most appropriate reminder of God's unfailing presence. Members had opportunity to present their offering for Guild and were reminded of Benevolence opportunities this month. 15 members were in attendance.

Business Meeting

• Motion by Judy B., second by Linda S. to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Carried.

• Motion by Linda S., second by Phyllis M. to approve the financial statement as presented. Motion Carried. A copy is attached to the secretary's copy of the minutes.

• Committee #2 is up for the next Celebration of Life dinner. Team #2 reported serving about 30 guests at the dinner for the family of Dorothy Sleper. Committee #1 served 91 guests at the Juanita Meisenheimer dinner. Many thanks to Kathy Roll and Lisa Wilson for their help with this meal. Those attending both meals expressed their appreciation at having a quiet, spacious place with lovely decorations to enjoy relaxed conversation with family and friends and to be served delicious food on formal dinnerware.

• Members discussed setting up contact names and numbers of community facilities that can use excess prepared food after Celebration of Life dinners have ended.

• Mary B. reported 375 Best Choice Labels have been collected so far.

• Members signed 32 cards for the upcoming month's mailing. 31 were sent at the last mailing.

• Correspondence from the Meisenheimer family expressed heartfelt thanks for our efforts and included a generous contribution to Women's Guild.





Old Business

• Pamela H. has ordered the Bible study materials for 2024 and 2025.

• Members are reminded that we are contributing pies to the Community Thanksgiving Meal and that they should be at the center no later than noon on Wednesday, Nov. 22.

• Our Christmas Lunch will be a Linda Schneider's home on Wednesday, December 20th at noon. At that time, we will prepare our usual Christmas Gifts for Shut-ins. Each person will bring 11 bags of two cookies each for the gift bags.

New Business

• The nominating committee presented the names of Lexi Hall and Cheryl Schoeneberg as candidates for President and Vice President of Women's Guild for 2024 and 2025. Motion by Linda S., second by Brenda O. to accept the nomination. Motion Carried.

• Motion by Phyllis M., second by Carole B. to approve Christmas gifts to church staff members. (Persons and amounts will be the same as 2022.) Motion Carried.

• Motion by Clarice N., second by Joyce R., to keep the same benevolences as in 2023. Motion Carried.

- Members updated contact information for the new president.
- Birthday wishes were extended to Harriet Bryant and Carla Clennin.

• Joys and concerns included extending sympathies to Linda S. at the recent passing of her mother-in-law. Mary B. related her recent visit with Clyde Dummermuth and his delight at being remembered on his birthday.

• Pamela H. led us in the closing prayer, and all of us enjoyed fellowship together at a lovely November table with flavors and treats of the season. Many thanks to Joyce R. and Pamela H. for such tasty treats.

Our next Guild event will be the Christmas Lunch on December 20 (noon) at the home of Linda Schnieders.

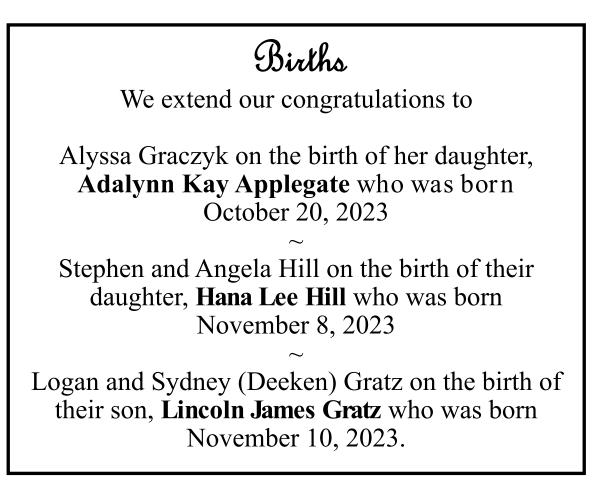
Clarice Nelson, Secretary



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
	Decembe	2R
3 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	4 6:30 PM GriefShare 7:00 PM Sunday School Teacher and Officers	5 9:00 AM Prayer 0
10 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	11 6:00 PM Consistory 6:30 PM GriefShare	12 9:00 AM Prayer 0
17 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 7:00 PM Salem Christmas Program-Sounds of Joy	18 5:00 PM Brotherhood Christmas Caroling 6:30 PM GriefShare	19 9:00 AM Prayer (
2 4 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship 4:30 PM Salem Christmas Service 7:00 PM California Christmas Program	25 10:00 AM Christmas Service	26 9:00 AM Prayer (
31 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship	Bring on the the	J

December 2023				
Thursday	Friday 1	Saturday 2 9:00 AM-11:00 AM VeggieTales Matinee 5:30 PM Christmas Parade		
7	8	9		
14	15	16		
21	22	23		
28	29	30		
	7 14 21	Thursday Friday 1 I 7 8 14 15 21 22		







E-Giving

If you would like to have your offering credited for the month of December please plan to give through easy-tithe **by December 27th** in order for the bank to process the transaction by the end of the year.



Laid to Rest

We extend our Christian sympathy to the Family and Friends of

Dorothy Mae Sleper who passed away October 28, 2023

Juanita L. Meisenheimer who passed away October 31, 2023

May God bless those who mourn in these days.

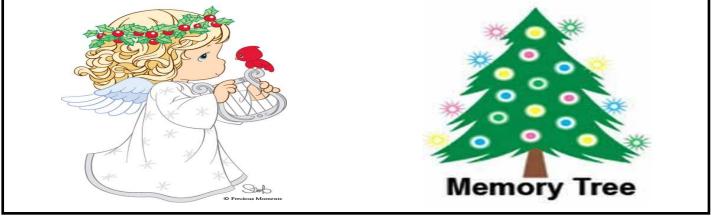




Annual Meeting scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024

Annual Reports for Committees & Organizations are due in the Church Office by December 29, 2023. Financial reports are due January 12, 2024. Thank you!

A Christmas tree has been put up in the foyer upstairs outside the elevator. We are calling it the **"Memory Tree."** It is for families to decorate with an ornament in memory of their loved one. You can stop by anytime and put your ornament on the tree. Please leave a note in the church office when you bring in your ornament so we can list your loved one's ornament in the bulletin.

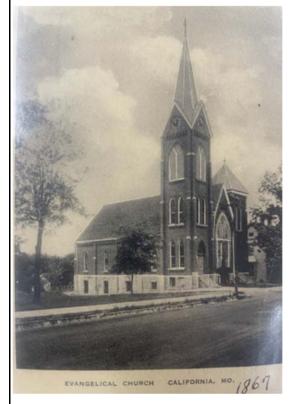






Historical Highlight

Since we have been replacing the Plexiglas over the stained glass windows on the sanctuary with glass, it is a good time to remember that the main church structure was lengthened by about a 1/3 in 1930, adding several additional stained glass windows that weren't in the original building. Note that in the photo of the church on the left as it was completed in 1895, there are only four stained glass windows on the south. Now there are six. In 1930, the church was lengthened by approximately 1/3 as you see in the photo on the right. In addition, the large windows in the middle were added with the raised pilasters and gable overhead. The addition provided room for more pews and for the alter area, choir loft and the side hallways. It's interesting to note that the brickwork and rockwork for the addition added 35 years after the original building was completed is nearly identical to the original, and the cost of the addition -- \$22,000. Other changes were also made on the front steps, etc. at the same time. We are thankful to have such a wonderful building to worship in.





Wednesday Evening Activities

6:00 p.m.—Fellowship Meal 6:30 p.m.—Confirmation, Bell Choir God's Singers, Marriage Class 7:30 p.m.—Sr. Choir



NOTE: WEDNESDAY CANCELLATIONS

December 27 No Bell Choir or God's Singers No Meal, Marriage Class, or Confirmation Class No Sr. Choir







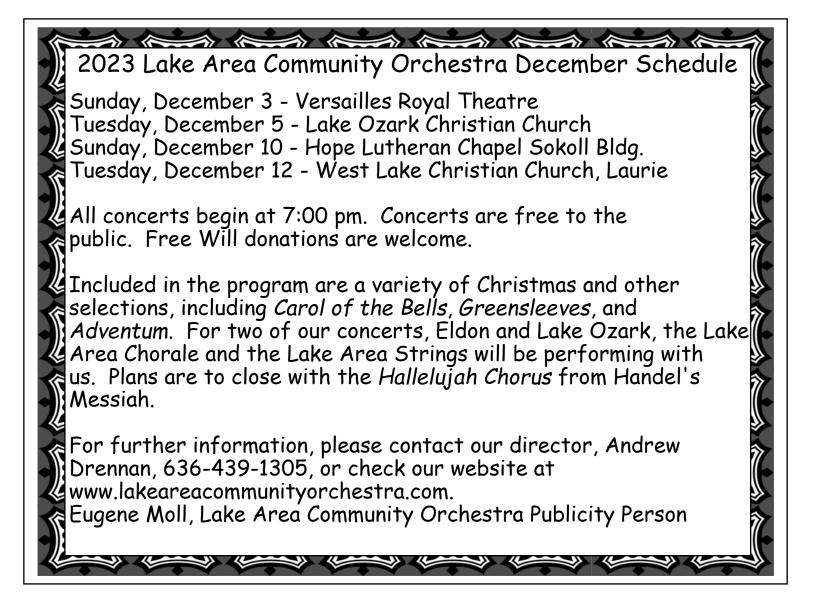
GOD'S SINGERS

December 6: God's Singers/Christmas Eve Practice *December 10: Sing in Worship* December 13: God's Singers/Christmas Eve Practice December 24: Christmas Eve Program

REMEMBER: NO WEDNESDAY SCHOOL - NO R.O.K. / GOD'S SINGERS

May the blessings of Christmas be with you today & always.









Nursery

Reagan Cain





rightnow MEDIA

To get access to Right Now Media for you and your family use the link or text to the number listed below.

Custom Registration Link - https://www.rightnowmedia.org/ Account/Invite/CALUCC

Text Registration Code - UCOC to 49775

Read the Bible on your phone. <u>YouVersion Bible</u> app. You can download this app for free at the app store



There is an Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) meeting at the Annunciation Catholic Church, 414 Patrick St., on Mondays at 8 p.m. Contact number: 660-621-2271.



Online giving is available!

Follow the E-Giving link on our website: calmo-ucc.org to give today or set recurring gifts



Note: Sunday School offering can now be done through EasyTithe.

For your viewing and listening opportunities of the weekly worship services, there are two ways of being part of the weekly services. You may request a cd or dvd from the church office. Please let Rhonda know if you are interested in obtaining one of these versions of the worship service. (796-4885)



A Time of Hope 8:15 a.m. Sunday KRLL Radio ~1420 AM



www.calmo-ucc.org



Please continue to save the Best Choice label bar codes for the SHAREFEST Gathering

MONITEAU CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES CENTER Please save your extra plastic shopping

bags to use at the Food Bank. Drop your bags off at the church. Thanks!

USED TONER & INK CARTRIDGES

<u>Please</u> save all of your used toner and ink cartridges! The church office collects used toner and ink cartridges in order to get a \$2 In-store credit per cartridge at Staples toward purchases of office supplies. Please turn in your cartridges to the church office. Thanks!

To Watch California UCC Worship Services Online:

Go to http://www.calmo-ucc.org. Scroll down and click on the "Online Services" link. (The bulletin is also available) Or: Go to youtube.com & search





01 Lauren Friedrich 01 Kent Hees 02 Mary Keil 02 Tony Barry 02 Luke Burger 04 Bobby Brandes 04 Grayden Gatlin 05 Dorothy Kirchoff 07 Matt Rohrbach 08 Jimmy Ford **10 Stuart Inglish** 11 Rowyn Hindman 14 John Overbey 14 Garrett Burger 14 Michelle Kissick 15 Betty Swillum 15 Dylan Ratcliff 16 Harold Cashion 16 Wyatt Bestgen 17 Mike Robertson 17 Brynna Hall 17 McKenzie Medlin 18 Patty Bruce 18 Bryan Lutz 20 Eleanor Hofstetter 20 Morgan Opie 21 Ruby Brockes

- 22 Pat Kiesling
- 22 Johnny Cassil
- 22 Alisha Burger
- 23 Deb McDaniel
- 24 Ron Gerhart
- 24 Carol Hall
- 24 Toni Kueffer
- 24 Brad Friedrich
- 24 Melissa Weis
- 26 Carole Schroeder
- 26 Jerry Wolfrum





26 Kathy Gerlach
26 Hayden Kilmer
28 Emma Kissick
28 Kyson Simmons
29 Ann Spillars
29 Kelly Sedgwick
29 Nora Yelton
31 Drake Schlup



December Baptisms

Through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have been received into the family of Jesus Christ through the sacrament of Baptism.



Jacob Adams—Dec. 19, 1999 Shonda Archer—Dec. 29, 2002 Aaron Burger—Dec. 15, 1991 Krystal Davis—Dec., 1978 Stephen Hill—Dec. 5, 2004 Jess Medlin—Dec. 17, 1986 David Meyer—Dec., 1961 David Pearon—Dec. 4, 1988 Peyton Peters—Dec. 5, 1999 Parker Ramsdell—Dec. 10, 2000 Drew Robertson—Dec. 27, 1991 Ross Robertson—Dec. 27, 1991 Scott Robertson—Dec. 27, 1991 Priscella Saldana-Dec. 29, 2002 Robert Schlup—Dec. 5, 1971 Drake Schlup—Dec. 31, 2017 Nora Wolford—Dec. 6, 2015 Carol Wolfrum—Dec. 14, 1958

The Tidings

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF CALIFORNIA 101 N. Oak Street, California, MO 65018 (573)796-4885 Church Office (573)796-3804 Pastor's Study Rev. Russell Cobb, Pastor rev.cobb@calmo-ucc.org Rhonda Elliott, Office Manager rhonda@calmo-ucc.org Office Hours: M-Th 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 1:30 - 4:00 p.m. Friday 8:00 to 1:00 p.m.

WEBSITE: calmo-ucc.org

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST 101 North Oak Street California, MO 65018—1744

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