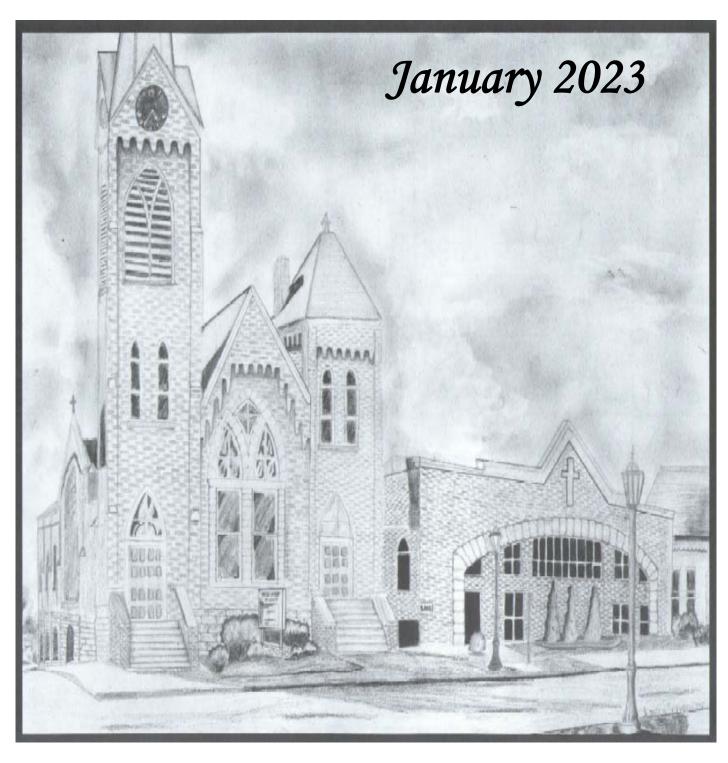
The Tidings

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*Christ Centered *Biblical *Compassionate 101 N. Oak, California, MO 65018

Phone: 573-796-4885





Focused

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus"

I Thessalonians 5:16-18

Focus on what you're doing. We've heard that phrase all our lives. It could apply to our homework when we were in high school, a chore we were doing around the house, or driving home from a long day at work. It's easy to get distracted in our daily lives. Things that seem important at the time aren't all that important later in life. All the activities our kids were involved with during their school years seemed so important at the time. They took a lot of our time and caused us stress and frustration at times. But now that they are adults, those events seem so minor compared to what they are doing now: marriage, grandkids, jobs, and facing the challenges of adulthood.

We made sure to make faith and church a big part of their growing up. I pray that it is and will pay off in their future journeys. They each will make their own decisions about faith and what is important and what they will need to focus on as they raise their families. In January we will look at the book of I Thessalonians. They were a new church being persecuted for their faith. The Apostle Paul tells them what to focus on to help them with their daily lives. I pray that it will help you as well. Only five chapters long, you'll be able to read it several times through January.

I Thessalonians 1:3 gives us the foundational thought of what to focus on "We remember before our God and Father your work produced by faith, your labor prompted by love, and your endurance inspired by hope in our Lord Jesus Christ." Work, labor, endurance, faith, love, and hope, all in Christ Jesus. If we focus on those things, we will live life that makes a difference and lives on long after we have received our crowns of glory. I look forward to going through this letter of the Apostle Paul as we start 2023.

Betty and I want to thank everyone for their cards, gifts, and well wishes during the holiday season. We treasure each one of them. We were blessed with a great Advent and Christmas season. All the families that lit the Advent candles, our Christmas Cantata, our children's program, and worshipping on Christmas morning. 2022 has been a year of growth and blessings for our congregation. I look forward to even better things in 2023. Happy New Year. May it be filled with God's presence and power for each one of us.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,

Russ



Annual Congregational Meeting of the United Church of Christ of California Sunday, January 29, 2023

The **meeting** will be held in the Sanctuary immediately following the worship service. A **luncheon** will be served by the Youth in Friendship Hall after the meeting.

California United Church of Christ December 12, 2022 – Consistory Meeting Highlights

The California UCC Consistory met for its regular monthly meeting December 12, 2022. Pastor Cobb opened the meeting with prayer.

The minutes of the November 2022 meeting, Treasurer's Report, Financial Secretary's Report, Stewardship Snapshot and Local Benevolence Report were reviewed and approved.

Reports and updates were given by committees and organizations. Evangelism participated in the Christmas parade and received 3rd place by sharing the true story of Christmas. Worship reported Advent readings going well and 46 poinsettias will decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas. Memorial met and approved the purchase of the floor cleaner for the gym floor. Historical, Stewardship and Schnuck Endowment had nothing to report.

Building and Grounds updates-

Bueker's repaired drainage system on the side of the church to route rainwater away from the foundation. Additional landscaping will be done to complete the work.

Replaced UPS in elevator

Boiler installed, state needs to inspect, commissioning done last week

Put in shelf in supply closet

Floor Scrubber and vacuum ordered for sanctuary

Wifi ran for new boiler in basement

Painting in high traffic areas (foyer, hallways, etc.) bid out at \$1000 for paint and labor and drywall is about \$1000 plus the cost of paint. (previously approved)

Mixer installed! Still working out the kinks and ensuring everything is working correctly. New choir mics are hanging.

Light Fixture replaced in the vestibule.

Organ Maintenance done on Friday. No repairs noted

Projects planned:

Waiting on replacing the VCT tile.

Stall door missing the handle in the upstairs bathroom.

Slate roof on the tower still an issue. Waiting for first of year for quote and work towards the spring.

Brotherhood and Women's Guild continue to meet with good discussions and studies. Sunday School remains active, over 50 kids planned to participate in the Christmas Program. Youth group helped with the float and plans a live nativity in December.

Pastor's Report – Rev. Cobb – November 2022. 3/3 Worship services. 28 DVD Deliveries. 23 Days in Office. 5 Prayer Cells. 1 UCC of California Consistory Meeting. 4 Recordings of Time of Hope. 3 Office Visits. 4 Birthday Card Signings. 13 Home/Work/Nursing Home/Lunch Visits. 4 High School/Middle School Sports events. 1 Salem Consistory Meeting. 1 Ministerial Alliance Meeting. 1 California Care Worship Service. 1 Ministerial Alliance Thanksgiving Worship Service. 1 Thanksgiving Worship Service. 1 Cookie Delivery. 2 Pre-Marital Counseling. 1 Western Assoc. Lunch in Jefferson City. 1 Tidings Article. 1 Yearly Evaluation. 4 Confirmation Classes and Meals.

Families are doing a great job for the Advent Sundays. Attendance is staying above pre-COVID numbers. Wednesday night meals are well attended and people enjoying fellowship together. Working to keep the website updated. Working towards the spiritual counsel team (previously care callers).

Old Business:

Building usage fees and organization discussion continued, vote on policy passed.

Nursery Attendant Discussion-Currently no applications for a nursery attendant. Rhonda is going to reach out to school counselors.

The office will close at noon on Fridays. A note will be on the door.

New Business

Communion Dates – Christmas Day, Intinction, January 8th Epiphany.

Streaming planned on Christmas Day as it is on a Sunday.

Annual Meeting Date updated to January 29th.

Salary Committee presented their recommendations which were approved.

Nominating Committee presented the slate of nominees, thank you to all who have agreed to serve.

Respectfully Submitted VanDee Miller, Secretary 12/12/22



Stewardship Snapshot

	November 2022	November 2021
General Fund		
Balance Brought Forward	\$ 80,485.75	\$ 72,900.26
Receipts	+ 22,540.71	+25,326.12
Disbursements	<u>- 29,391.27</u>	<u>-29,580.66</u>
Balance – November 30	\$ 73,635.19	\$68,645.72
As of November 30, 2022		
Building Fund Balance	\$ 23,499.78	\$ 46,292.10
Local Benevolence Fund	\$ 9,993.79	\$ 8,558.78
Memorial Fund Balance	\$ 8,771.60	\$ 13,738.29
Schnuck Endowment Checking	* \$ 29,642.02	\$ 25,846.04
Scholarship Fund Balance	\$ 9,942.16	\$ 9,969.86
Youth Fellowship Fund	\$ 3,303.67	\$ 3,175.84
_		
Total OCWM Received	\$ 4,242.00	\$ 6,105.33
Other Benevolent Offerings	\$ 17,208.96	\$ 14,641.77

* Note of 2022 Snapshot regarding C. Schnuck Endowment Checking: The C. Schnuck Endowment Checking Fund balance of \$29,642.02 includes \$1,166.49 that is part of the original restricted gift and is unable to be expended. \$28,475.53 of the fund balance may be expended.



Special Benevolence—January GIDEONS

For several years, the last Sunday in January has been designated as Gideon Sunday and all loose plate offering has been sent to the Gideon Ministry. Over 100 years ago, three men formed an organization whose only aim was to provide Bibles to be placed in hotel rooms. Since that beginning, millions of new and old testaments and other religious tracts have been distributed to men, women, children, hotels, motels, doctors' offices, prisons, army personnel, colleges, schools, and other groups. Many people have had their first encounter with Jesus Christ through a Bible or testament handed to them by a Gideon or Auxiliary member. Gideon members are nominated for membership by the local Gideon camp and approved by their local pastor and they pledge to help distribute God's word whenever and wherever they can through the world. More than 175 countries in the world have Gideon camps with thousands of members helping to spread God's message every day.



MAY THE

NEW YEAR

BRING

HEALING,

HOPE

AND

GLORY TO GOD!

2023 Special Benevolent Giving Calendar

January: Gideons

February: Local Benevolence

Lenten Services: Ministerial Alliance

March: UCC Scholarship Fund

April: Habitat for Humanity

Easter Sunday: Emmaus Homes

May: Grace Living

June: Buddy Pack

July: Rape & Abuse Crisis Service (RACS)

August: Moniteau Christian Ministries

September: CWS Blanket Fund

October: Salvation Army

November: Samaritan Purse

December: Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross)

Christmas Envelope: Camps and VBS

The UCC Men's Brotherhood got together for Christmas caroling on Monday, December 19, 2022. We started at Valley Park West and sang carols while the folks were gathered for supper and then sang carols and visited at five other homes around the community. Over twenty-five brotherhood members and guests had a great time being together. The group then enjoyed a meal of Abe's chili and hot dogs along with snacks and desserts provided by several others back at the church.

Respectfully, Norman Rohrbach, Secretary

Offering Envelope Boxes

Offering envelope boxes for 2023 have been delayed. The company we ordered from is experiencing difficulties getting them printed. We have some blank envelopes with labels for you to pick up in the back of the church on Sundays, stop by the church office or feel free to use your own envelopes until they come in. Be sure to put your name on the envelope. Keep in mind, online giving is also an option.





December 5, 2022 Teachers & Officers Meeting

Judy Burger called meeting to order at 7:00 PM with Rev. Russell Cobb opening with a prayer. Those present were Ronda Mortenson, Lauren Lawson, Cinda Scheidt, Larry Rohrbach, Courtney Cassil, Carole Barbour, Carla Clennin, David & Cressida Gattermeir and Mollie Wolford.

The November meeting Minutes and Treasurer's reports were approved.



Show-Me Christian Youth Home is compelled by Christ to Rescue and Restore Young Lives. We believe that every child deserves a home and a family, an opportunity for a better future

and an excellent eternity. Out-of-home placement services are available to children of any age at no cost to the parent or guardian. We are funded solely by contributions from individuals, churches and groups that are willing to put their faith into action to help children.

Every Child's Hope (ECH) was founded on January 20, 1858, by Rev. Louis Nollau as an orphanage for children whose immigrant parents had died from cholera outbreaks. Today, ECH is no longer an every child's hope orphanage, but caring for vulnerable children is still at the heart of each program. More than 200 staff members across St. Louis and Kansas City campuses are dedicated to preventing child abuse, treating emotional trauma and mental health issues, and providing aftercare and follow-up services. ECH

Old Business:

helps more than 1,400 youth each year.

Advent mailers – Carole stated the mailing cost about as much as the materials to purchase. 115 were mailed

Christmas Packages for Military – The group decided it was too late this year to send. Possibly, sending a package in February for Valentine's Day. This will be added to 2023 Sunday School agenda.

Christmas Eve Program – Judy reported, that Confirmation and High School students would be holding candles around the audience in a circle instead of everyone having a candle. Ellen said, they would have like to have the sanctuary lights and Christmas Tree lights on for families who would like to take pictures after the program. Larry asked, if some adults could help with greeting people as they entered. Offering will be placed in the fover area and will be announced that the offering will be going to Every Child's Hope.

Cookies and Carols – It was decided not to cancel classes, the cookies and donut holes will be available at the start of opening, so the kids can pick up items prior to Christmas Eve practice. It was decide to sing Carols for ten minutes and then go to class.



New/Other Business:

Veggie Tales event – Ronda has an event for kiddos age 3 & up who still love the Veggie Tales. It happens at 9-11 this Saturday, December 10. Bingo, making an ornament, having Shepherd relay, snack, and watch the Veggie Tales Christmas movie are activities planned for the event.

High School Room - Judy asked, about the status on the High School tables. Carla was appointed to ordered them. The side table is in classroom.

Trays for donut holes – Carla had given prices on various sizes of trays to hold donuts instead of the foam cup. It was decided that Courtney and Carla would investigate items and report back.

Classroom dividers – Ronda stated that Courtney and Lauren's classroom has the dividers for classes used back in the past to divide the room, both would like these dividers taken out. Once taken out they will need to be painted, (Ronda already has the paint). Motion was made and approved as a recommendation for the dividers be removed. This item will now go onto the Consistory agenda as this project falls under Building and Grounds.

Judy thanked everyone for all your hard work during the year and for participating in monthly meetings. Everyone thanked her too.

Courtney made motion to adjourned at 7:46 pm Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 3, 2023, at 7 PM

Respectfully submitted, Carla Clennin 2nd Superintendent



A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to Connie, Ellen, and Beth for their direction of the beautiful Christmas Eve Program! Thank you to the families who brought their children to practices, and all who attended! It was a blessing to all!! Have a blessed New Year.

Sunday School Teachers and Officers

United Church of Christ

united Church of Christ				
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday		
New Year's Day 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Special Music- Carmen Brown	New Year's Day Holiday-office closed 6:00 PM Sunday School Teachers and Officers	9:00 AM Prayer Cell		
9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Sr. Choir	9 6:00 PM Consistory	10 9:00 AM Prayer Cell		
15 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Sr. Choir	16	17 9:00 AM Prayer Cell		
9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship Bells	23 7:00 PM Men's Brotherhood	24 9:00 AM Prayer Cell		
29 ANNUAL MEETING following worship Meal to follow in Friendship Hall 9:30 Sunday School 10:30 Worship God's Singers	30	31 9:00 AM Prayer Cell		

January 2023

Jul	ruur y 2023	***************************************	
Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6	7
6:00 PM Fellowship Meal			
6:30 PM Bell Choir,Bible Study, ROK/God's Singers and Confirmation			
7:30 PM Sr. Choir Practice			
11	12	13	14
6:00 PM Fellowship Meal			
6:30 PM Bell Choir,Bible Study, ROK/God's Singers and Confirmation			
7:30 PM Sr. Choir Practice			
18	19	20	21
12:00 PM Women's Guild			3:00 PM
6:00 PM Fellowship Meal			Wolfrum/Overstreet Wedding
6:30 PM Bell Choir,Bible Study, ROK/God's Singers and Confirmation			
7:30 PM Sr. Choir Practice			
25	26	27	28
6:00 PM Fellowship Meal			
6:30 PM Bell Choir,Bible Study, ROK/God's Singers and Confirmation			
7:30 PM Sr. Choir Practice			
		۰ ۵	



HAPPY NEW YEAR

2023 R.O.K. & GOD'S SINGE WINTER SCHEDULE	RS
6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.	
January 4th: R.O.K. / God's Singers	
January 11th: R.O.K. / God's Singers	
January 18th: R.O.K. / God's Singers	A
January 29th: Sing in Worship	
February 1st: R.O.K. / God's Singers February 8th: R.O.K. / God's Singers	
February 15th: R.O.K. / God's Singers	
February 22nd: God's Singers Only (Ash Wednesday)	
February 26th: Sing in Worship	
	7

Wednesday Night Activity's Start Back January 4th









Thank You

Thank you all so much for all of the cards, visits and surprises during my surgeries! A special thanks to those who came to bless me with wonderful Christmas carols as well!

I am truly grateful, humbled and blessed!

Deb McDaniel

Birth

Congratulations to Adam and Kelci Burger on the birth of their daughter.

Lillie Elizabeth Burger

Lillie was born November 10, 2022. Congratulations!

Dedication

We rejoice with the family of **Lottie Jean Juul** on her dedication December 11, 2022. She is the daughter of William and Kennedy Juul.

Death

We extend our Christian sympathy to the family & friends of **Lenda Kay Lebeck,** who passed away December 25, 2022.



May God bless those who mourn in these days.



Women's Guild ~ December 21, 2022 12:00 noon Home of Pamela Hill

The December UCC Women's Guild Christmas luncheon meeting was held at the home of Pamela Hill. The group was treated to an excellent Advent Study from Carole B. on the O Antiphons from materials by www.thethoughtfulchristians.com. These sets of words of worship for the Advent season have been used by Christians for over 1000 years.

A prayer of thanks was given by Pamela H., and the guild members enjoyed a wonderful luncheon and conversation together.

Challenge: Members had opportunity to report entries in their Blessing Journal.

Benevolence Opportunities: Project Healing House and New Beginnings, Christmas Fund (Veterans of the Cross) and Christmas Envelope (Camps and VBS), Show Me Christian Youth Home

Business Meeting:

Minutes: Motion by Linda S., second by Phyllis M. to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Carried.

Financials: Motion by Linda S., second by Barb W. to approve treasurer's report as presented. Motion Carried.

Celebration of Life Committee: Committee #1 is up for the next meal.

Best Choice Labels: No number is available at present, but Best Choice Labels continue to be donated.

Card Ministry: 25 cards were signed today for distribution in the upcoming month.

Correspondence: None to report.

Continued on next page

Old Business:



Bible Study: Books for 2023 were distributed. (God's Promise: I Am With You)

Community Thanksgiving dinner: Our guild members donated pies and sugar. Mary Burger reported on working at the event on Thanksgiving. 170 meals were prepared and boxed for pickup. This was a year of transition and regrouping due to Covid restrictions and new staffing. The Ministerial Alliance will be looking at ideas for a comprehensive plan and organization for 2023.

Christmas gifts: Eight gift bags for Shut-ins were prepared and will be delivered by Mary B. The group discussed the need for considering dietary restrictions next year when filling gift bags. Office staff gifts have been distributed.

New Business:

Guild Booklets for 2023 were distributed.

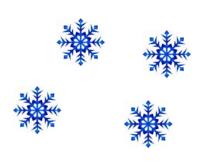
Birthday congratulations were offered to Mary Keil and Patty Bruce.

Joys and concerns were shared, as usual, with great thankfulness that the Guild is a supportive group in all matters in our lives.

Carole B. offered a closing prayer.

Clarice Nelson, Secretary

Next UCC Guild meeting is January 18.





Lay Readers

- 01 Alan Chambers
- 08 Carla Clennin
- 15 Beth Dampf
- 22 Mary Burger
- 29 Judy Burger

Acolytes

- 01 Sophie Miller & Camden Lawson
- 08 Lena & Lee Bieri
- 15 Jess Medlin & Grayden Gatlin
- 22 Meredith & Hazel Wolford
- 29 Brenyn Robertson & Brynna Hall

Nursery Volunteers

- 01 Holly Bieri
- 08 Julie Medlin
- 15 Callie Simmons
- 22 Betty Cobb
- 29 Courtney Cassil

JANUARY CHOIRS & SPECIAL MUSIC

- 01 Special Music—Carmen Brown
- 08 Senior Choir
- 15 Senior Choir
- 22 Bells
- 29 God's Singers



Children's Time

- 01 Carla Clennin
- 08 Ginnie Medlin
- 15 Pastor Russ
- 22 Anny Roll
- 29 Puppets















If you would like to have the <u>Tidings</u> sent to you
electronically and not mailed, please fill out the
information below and let the church office know.

Email_____

*Phone*_____

& 9

Thank You!!! Thank You!!

We have the most amazing and giving church family! Thanks to everyone who took Angels from the Angel Tree, your generosity was overwhelming!

Our church family has made Christmas special for 21 Angels in our community, plus we were able to pay-it-forward for gift cards for our church benevolence needs.

Carole and Carla



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. YouVersion Bible app. You can download this app for free at



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.

Giving Made Easy 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)

Notes & News

A Time of Hope

8:15 a.m. Sunday KRLL Radio ~1420 AM

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 MCMC 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
California United Church of Christ.



January Birthdays

01 Justin Selk

03 Beth Chambers

04 Tracy Cary

05 Dolores Burger

05 Susan Burger

05 Lisa Kendrick

05 Hannah Clutter

06 Lee Bieri

07 Kareigna Pruitt

07 Aaron Nelson

08 Sharon Hess

08 Rebecca Zuidervaart

08 Michelle Ajtaji

10 John Martin

10 Taylor Ratcliff

11 Rylan Robertson

13 Jerry Coale

13 Bridget Clifford

14 Mary Bueker

14 Emma Bestgen

15 Sue Porter

15 Cara Stassel

15 Dave Gattermeir

16 Melanie Fisher

16 Tammy Brandes

16 Kendall Simmons

17 Tom Steinhauer

17 Priscella Saldana

17 Landon Leonard

17 Doug Hill

18 John Hammonds

19 Logan Milligan

19 Meredith Wolford

20 Darles Walters

21 Terry Meisenheimer

21 Alexx Lewis

22 Bobby Bryant

22 Carmen Brown

23 Connie Bestgen

23 Justin Kilmer

24 Joan Stauffer

24 Kade Bolinger

25 Madison Imhoff



Happy Birthday!!

27 Anita Keil

27 Katie Young

27 Connor Crabtree

29 Diedra Volkart

29 Preston Kelly

29 Aidan Carr

30 Harley McDaniel

30 Maximus Sedgwick

31 Robert Barbour

31 Griffin Bolinger

31 Lisa Porter



January Baptisms

Melanie Adams—Jan. 7, 1973
Doug Ash—Jan. 30, 1966
Dylan Ash—Jan. 11, 1998
Lanny Ash—Jan. 25, 1992
Alisha Burger—Jan. 9, 2000
Betty Cobb—Jan. 9, 1979
Rhonda Elliott—Jan. 30, 1966
Royce Everett—Jan. 13, 2013
Gerri Howard—Jan. 2, 1972
Mary Keil—Jan. 12, 1933
Hayden Kilmer—Jan. 13, 2008
Calen Kruger—Jan. 21, 2018
Colin Kruger—Jan. 21, 2018
Carson Kruger—Jan. 21, 2018

Stacey McNay—Jan. 21, 1996 Trey Meyer—Jan. 15, 2006 Logan Milligan—Jan. 13, 2013 Ella Spieler—Jan. 13, 2013 Aaron Spieler—Jan. 17, 1982

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



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: 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

WEBSITE: calmo-ucc.org

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Organization U.S. POSTAGE PAID Permit No. 12 California, MO 65018