

The Tidings

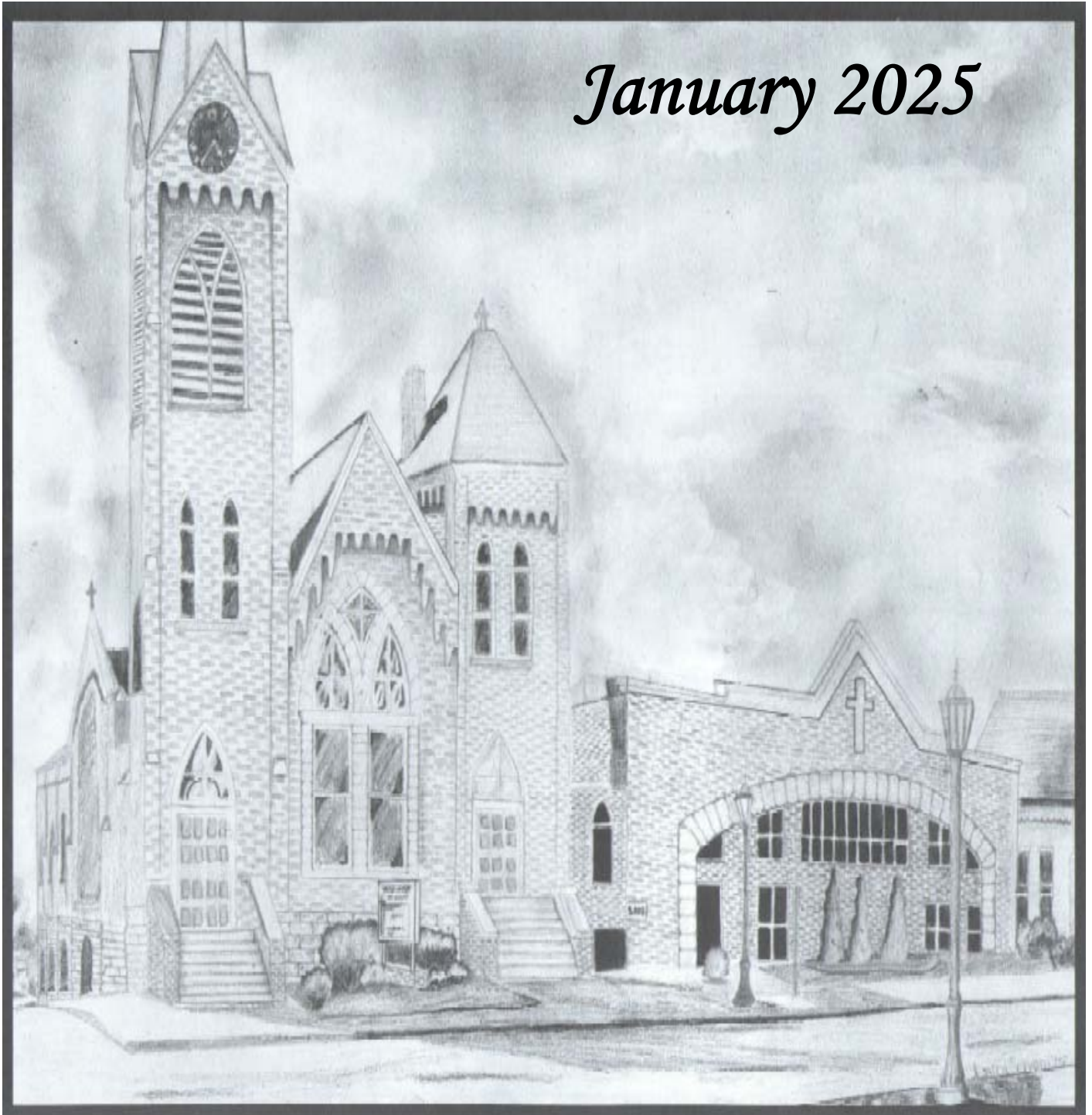
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

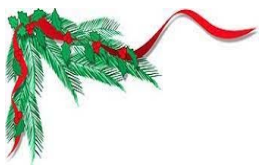
**Christ Centered *Biblical *Compassionate*

101 N. Oak, California, MO 65018

Phone: 573-796-4885

January 2025





Chosen

*“For he **chose** us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In love he **predestined** us for adoption to sonship through Jesus Christ in accordance with his pleasure and will.” Ephesians 1:4-5*

“The Chosen” is a TV series about the life of Jesus through the eyes of those closest to him. It tries to bring the words of Jesus to life for us today. It has made a great impact on millions of people. Our high school class has been watching the series during their Sunday School class. I encourage other Sunday School classes or groups in our church to watch and discuss this impactful series themselves.

In January, we will start a new sermon series called “Chosen” that will look at Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. It is one of my favorite books of the whole bible. It has wonderful and powerful prayers as well as well-known passages from chapter 2 and chapter 6 about God’s grace and the armor of God. The Apostle Paul starts off Ephesians by telling us we have been chosen by God before the world was created. He knew our names and the purposes he had for each one of us. It’s hard to wrap our minds around that amazing statement. I encourage you to start reading the book of Ephesians as we prepare for 2025.



With the start of a new year, I'm going to encourage everyone in our church body to dedicate themselves to find a daily bible reading plan that they take part in each day. You can download the "YouVersion Bible App" on your phone. It gives you a verse of the day as well as monthly reading plans on various books or topics. The American Bible Society website has a "Year with the Bible" program you can download. You can use our very own "Right Now Media" resource to watch and listen to videos on various books or topics. Make 2025, the year you dig deeper into God's Word. You will be amazed at how it will impact you and your family.

Betty and I want to say thank you to all the various people and groups that blessed us with Christmas gifts this year. It is greatly appreciated. 2024 has been another strong year for the UCC of California. Nine out of twelve months had an average attendance of over 150. If not for that dangerously cold Sunday in January, we would have averaged 150 or more in attendance in ten out of twelve months. Let's make 2025 another strong year in attendance and spiritual growth.

May God bless all of you with a wonderful 2025.
Serving Christ Together,
Russ





California United Church of Christ December 9, 2024 – Consistory Meeting Highlights

The December meeting of the Consistory of the California United Church of Christ was called to order at 5:55 by President Alan Chambers. Reverend Russell Cobb opened the meeting with prayer. A quorum was established with Ellen Ash, Carole Barbour, Jay Bestgen, Holly Bieri, Alan Chambers, Jim Deeken, VanDee Miller, and Larry Schoeneberg present.

Minutes of the November Meeting, the Treasurer's Report (Ellen Ash), the Financial Secretary's Report (Larry Schoeneberg), and the Stewardship Snapshot were approved. In the check detail, Ellen noted the final payment to Church Mutual for \$2,222.05 and a payment of \$ 3,317.00 to the new insurance carrier, Insurance Board, that covers us through the end of the year. In 2025 the church will make quarterly payments.

Financial Secretary, Larry Schoeneberg, had detailed reports that looked at income and expenses and compared them to the past two years. There were no definite trends. The numbers show that E-giving is popular. Expense involved in using e-giving is a little over 3.5%. There was no action in the CD accounts.

Correspondence consisted of a thank you from the Wingate family for the use of our Fellowship Hall during a time of bereavement.

Building use requests were approved.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds/Safe Church - Jay Bestgen/Jim Deeken

Elevator Update - As of November 20, 2024 the tank has been replaced, the new valve has been installed, and there will be a phone in the elevator by the time it is tested and inspected. Yea, Jay! We really like our elevator!

Stewardship - Larry Schoeneberg - No meeting.

Worship - VanDee Miller - No meeting, but VanDee noted that Poinsettias will be out on December 15 and other plans for Christmas are underway.

Pastor/Parish - Larry Schoeneberg - With the help of dedicated members and Reverend Cobb's efforts, our Church family stays connected. We are blessed!

Old Business

Nelson Library-Book Shelf Update- After discussion of three possibilities, the Consistory chose three sets of shelves that are three feet wide and five feet tall at a cost of \$295.00 per unit. The style and finish are not identical to the ones we have but will complement the present furnishings. These shelf units will be installed on the north wall of the Library (across the hall from the Meeting Room.)

Nominating Committee Update - Holly Bieri presented the report from the Nominating Committee. All jobs are filled! Thank you Nominating Committee--and thank you to all who have agreed to serve. Look for details in the Annual Meeting Packet in January.

Annual Meeting Format/Discussion Update- No changes to the plan of lunch in the Friendship Hall after Worship and a start of the Business Meeting when everyone has been served. Please plan to come. The promise of good food (those Youth Group parents know how to cook), the comfortable company of friends, and a good deed done by supporting the Youth Group projects is an unbeatable combination.

Nursery Attendant Update -The current Nursery Attendant's final date is December 22. Information about the job has been made available, but at this time there are no applicants. Our children are not only precious in God's eyes, but in ours as well. We want the best nursery experience possible.

New Business

California Chamber of Commerce - The Church is usually a member of the Chamber of Commerce and will continue to be in 2025. The dues are \$40.00.

Church Envelopes - The current invoice has been paid and the order renewed for 2026.

Upcoming Communion Dates

December 25, 2024, Christmas, Intinction

January 5, 2025, Epiphany, Full Communion

Your Consistory wishes you the Blessings of Christmas!
We look forward to seeing you in 2025.



Stewardship Snapshot

	<u>November 2024</u>	<u>November 2023</u>
General Fund		
Balance Brought Forward	\$ 44,864.58	\$ 83,489.94
Receipts	+ 35,749.56	+ 25,634.10
Disbursements	- 29,449.79	- 33,501.27
Balance – November 30	\$ 51,164.35	\$75,622.77
 <u>As of November 30, 2024</u>		
Building Fund Balance	\$ 103,987.11	\$ 59,118.09
Local Benevolence Fund	\$ 10,541.58	\$ 8,301.90
Memorial Fund Balance	\$ 17,117.58	\$ 7,373.73
Schnuck Endowment Checking**	\$ 12,461.66	*\$ 35,795.28
Scholarship Fund Balance	\$ 11,722.39	\$ 10,600.16
Youth Fellowship Fund	\$ 3,686.86	\$ 4,808.54
 Total OCWM Received	 \$ 2,706.76	 \$ 2,440.00
Other Benevolent Offerings	\$ 14,746.94	\$ 15,057.24

Note on 2024 Snapshot regarding Schnuck Endowment

***The C. Schnuck Endowment Checking Fund balance of \$12,461.66 includes \$166.49 that is part of the original restricted gift and is unable to be expended. \$12,295.17 of the fund balance may be expended.*

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.*

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!*

2025 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: California Nutrition Center

June: Cargill Cares Food Pantry (MCMC)

July: Rape & Abuse Crisis Service (RACS)

August: Moniteau Christian Ministries

September: CWS Blanket Fund

October: Salvation Army

November: Samaritan's Purse

December: Christmas Fund
(Veterans of the Cross)

Christmas Envelope: Camps and VBS

UCC Brotherhood Minutes

– Monday December 16, 2024

The UCC Men's Brotherhood got together for Christmas caroling on Monday, December 16, 2024. The group started at California Care Center and Valley Park West and then sang carols and visited at several other stops around the community. Approximately 20 Brotherhood members and guests had a great time being together and caroling. The group then enjoyed a meal of chili along with snacks and desserts back at the church.

Respectfully Submitted –

Dave Gattermeir, Secretary

Offering Envelope Boxes/E-Giving

Offering envelope boxes for 2025 have arrived. They will be in the back of the Sanctuary. If you do not have a box with your name on it and you want one, just let the church office know and they will get one set up for you. Keep in mind, E-giving is still available for both Church and Sunday School giving. If you need assistance with setting it up, just let the office know.

The logo for "Winter Wonderland" features the words "Winter" and "Wonderland" in a blue, bubbly, 3D-style font. The text is set against a background of white snowflakes and a light blue sky.



December 2, 2024 Teachers & Officers Meeting

Carla Clennin called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Those present were Carla Clennin, Carole Barbour, Cressida Gattermeir, Pastor Russell Cobb, Ronda Mortenson, Courtney Cassil, Peggy Liebi, Steven Burger, Kris Ingram, Lauren Mouse, and Austin Chambers.

Pastor Russ opened the meeting with a prayer.

Carole made a motion to approve November's meeting minutes, Lauren seconded, motioned approved. Lauren made a motion to approve the November Treasurer's report, Ronda seconded, motion approved.

December's benevolence offering will go to the Show Me Christian Youth Home. Christmas Eve will go to Every Child's Hope.

Old Business:

Carla and Carole stuffed and mailed out 57 advent calendars.


Courtney stated that there were 52 shoes boxes put together for Operation Christmas Child/Shoe Box.

Ronda is still putting together plans for the January 18, 2025, Veggie Tales event.

Christmas Eve program: Carla announced the Christmas Eve program would be called "Just A Little Christmas." Carla, Ellen Ash, and Lisa Robertson are leading the program. Lauren and Callie Simmons will be leading the little kids. Practices will be December 11 and 18, Dress rehearsals December 22. Carla believed there were about 40 total volunteers for the Christmas program. The Pre-K to Kindergarten kids have around 7-8 kids as of the date of the meeting. The program will last between 20-25 minutes. Following the program will be the "Circle of Light" involving the whole congregation.

Carla requested greeters for the Christmas Eve program to help in the back "Welcoming" guests. Cressida and Austin volunteered.

Volunteers needed to help make treat bags for the children. Carole agreed to volunteer to help put bags together. We will make around 40 bags filled with Peanuts, an Orange and Candy, a Christmas Eve tradition.



Gerri Howard will hand out the Cradle Roll gifts.

A volunteer is still needed to run the sound system.

Carla put up a sign-up sheet for Cookies and Carols on December 22nd. Cookies/donuts will be served after opening. There will be no classes that Sunday.

New Business:

Carla has perfect attendance through the 3rd quarter of this year. It will be decided in January whether to keep doing the perfect attendance awards.

Discussion was had on how to help Valley Park residents. Carla provided a list of items that are needed for residents (around 25). It was agreed that Sunday School will collect different items each month and deliver them to Valley Park each quarter. It was not decided which items will be collected during the next month. Steven made a motion for Sunday School to purchase up to \$125 on Toothbrushes, Toothpaste and Kleenexes for residents of Valley Park. Items will be delivered on December 16. Cressida seconded; motion approved. Carla will purchase items.

NurseServ and CMCA are putting together Christmas Blessing Baskets for California and Tipton nursing homes, nutrition center, and Vantage Supported Living. Carla recommended Sunday School provide a \$100 donation and allow NurseServ and CMCA decide what items to purchase. Ronda made a motion for the \$100 payment, Cressida seconded, motioned approved.

Prior to closing the meeting, Carla was thanked for her four-year term as a Sunday School Superintendent.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm

Next meeting will be Monday, January 6, 2025, at 7 pm

Respectfully submitted, Austin Chambers, 3rd Superintendent

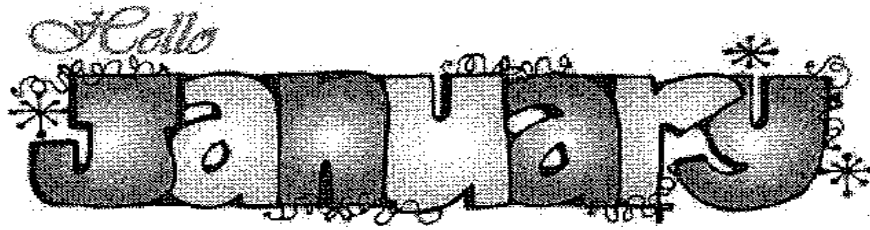





United Church of Christ

Sunday


Monday

Tuesday



<p>5</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30 Epiphany Sunday-Communion</p>	<p>6</p> <p>7:00 PM Sunday School Teacher and Officer Meeting</p> 	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 AM Prayer Cell</p>
<p>12</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30</p>	<p>13</p> <p>6:00 PM Consistory</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 AM Prayer Cell</p>
<p>19</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30</p>	<p>20</p>   <p><small>www.ucscc.org - 2043658009</small></p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 AM Prayer Cell</p>
<p>26</p> <p>Sunday School 9:30 Worship 10:30</p>  	<p>27</p> <p>7:00 PM Men's Brotherhood</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 AM Prayer Cell</p>

January 2025

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>1</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p>
<p>8</p> <p>6:00 PM Wednesday Night Meal</p> <p>6:30 PM Confirmation, R.O.K/God's Singer, Bell Choir</p> <p>7:30 PM Sr. Choir</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<p>15</p> <p>1:00 PM Women's Guild</p> <p>6:00 PM Wednesday Night Meal</p> <p>6:30 PM Confirmation, R.O.K/God's Singer, Bell Choir</p> <p>7:30 PM Sr. Choir</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>22</p> <p>6:00 PM Wednesday Night Meal</p> <p>6:30 PM Confirmation, R.O.K/God's Singer, Bell Choir</p> <p>7:30 PM Sr. Choir</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>29</p> <p>6:00 PM Wednesday Night Meal</p> <p>6:30 PM Confirmation, R.O.K/God's Singer, Bell Choir</p> <p>7:30 PM Sr. Choir</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	

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2025 R.O.K. & GOD'S SINGERS		🎵
WINTER SCHEDULE		
6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.		
January 8th: R.O.K. / God's Singers		🎵
January 15th: R.O.K. / God's Singers		
January 22nd R.O.K. / God's Singers		
<i>January 26th: Sing in Worship</i>		🎵
January 29th R.O.K./God's Singers		
February 5th: R.O.K. / God's Singers		
February 12th: R.O.K. / God's Singers		🎵
February 19th: R.O.K. / God's Singers		🎵
<i>February 23rd: Sing in Worship</i>		
February 26th: R.O.K. / God's Singers		
		🎵

Wednesday Night Activity's Start Back

January 8, 2025

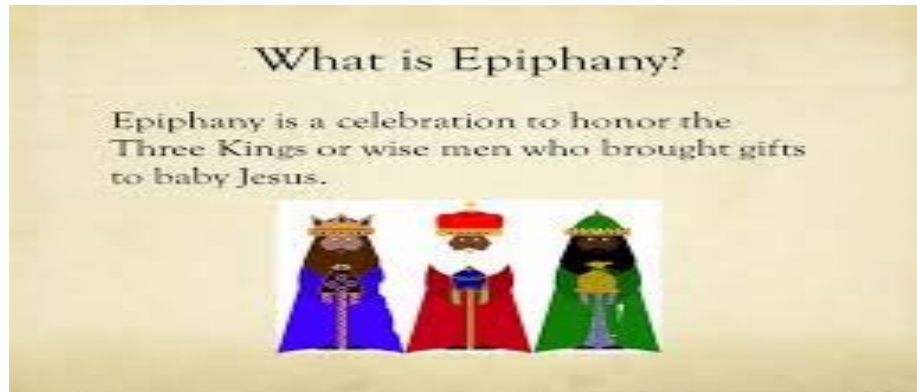
Wednesday Meals – 6:00 pm

ROK/God's Singers – 6:30 pm

Confirmation – 6:30 pm

Bell Choir - 6:30 pm and Sr. Choir– 7:30 pm





**Annual Congregational Meeting of the
United Church of Christ of California
Sunday, January 26, 2025**

A **luncheon** will be served by the Youth in Friendship Hall before the meeting.

The Consistory would like your input on some possible Capital Improvement Items..

- Stained Glass Window Repairs and Stabilization
- Church Sign on Oak Street
- Roof/Awning at Lower Entrance
- Tile Floor Replacement at Lower Entrance and Hallways

Come support the youth and help the Consistory make some decisions for the future of the Church.

Annual Reports are due if not turned in already!



Women's Guild ~ December 18, 2024



Fifteen members and guests were present for the UCC Women's Guild Christmas Luncheon at 12:00 noon on December 18, 2024. President Lexi H. gave the opening prayer and Carole B. gave the Thought for the Day, reminding us that our focus of the season should be the celebration of Jesus.

Attendees enjoyed a relaxing luncheon amidst beautiful Christmas decorations and favors. Officers provided a variety of delicious pasta dishes, a new salad treat, garlic bread, a very elegant banana pudding dessert, chocolate cupcakes, and Southern cheese crackers. Thanks to Lexi H., Cheryl S., Clarice N., and Judy B.

As the meal ended, guest speaker Tara Farmer from Operation Save the Smokies spoke at length and most eloquently about the effects Hurricane Helena had on western North Carolina. She traced the events of September 26 and the devastation that followed, detailing the destruction and life-changing events. Tara brought us up to date on the steps that have been taken to address the problems and the organizations that are providing help. If you have questions or want to contribute, contact Tara on the Facebook site, Operation Save the Smokies or call her at the Edward Jones California location.





A short business meeting was held, noting the benevolence opportunities for the month.

- Motion by Carole B., second by Phyllis M. to approve the minutes as presented. Motion Carried.
- Motion by Phyllis M., second by Carole B. to approve the verbal financial report as presented by Judy B. Judy B. recommended Guild give something to Save the Smokies. Members agreed to consider the amount in January. Motion Carried.
- Committee #1 is still in place to serve the next Celebration of Life Dinner.
- Mary B. reported 1680 Best Choice Labels are on hand currently, thanks to a coffee can size donation of 580 labels!
- Judy B. reported mailing 28 cards last month and will have 30 this month to sign.
- Lexi thanked the 2024 officers for serving and welcomed Judy Burger as Secretary for 2025-26 and Linda Schnieders as Treasurer for 2025-26. She also recognized all those who had provided pies for the community Thanksgiving dinner. Bible Study materials (What My Grandmother Taught Me) and the 2025 Guild program Booklet for 2025 were distributed.

As always, members enjoyed recognizing our birthday celebrants (Mary Keil) and expressing our joys and concerns. We were all grateful to have a support group in the UCC Women's Guild members.

Lexi H. gave the closing prayer.

Clarice Nelson, Secretary

**Reminder: Next Guild meeting is Wednesday,
January 15 at 1:00 p.m.**





Lay Readers

05 David Gattermeir
12 Beth Dampf
19 Mary Burger
26 Judy Burger

Acolytes

05 Meredith & Nora Wolford
12 Grayden Gatlin & Megan Carlock
19 Logan Milligan & Georjie Peck
26 Charley Medlin & Brynna Hall



Nursery

Volunteers

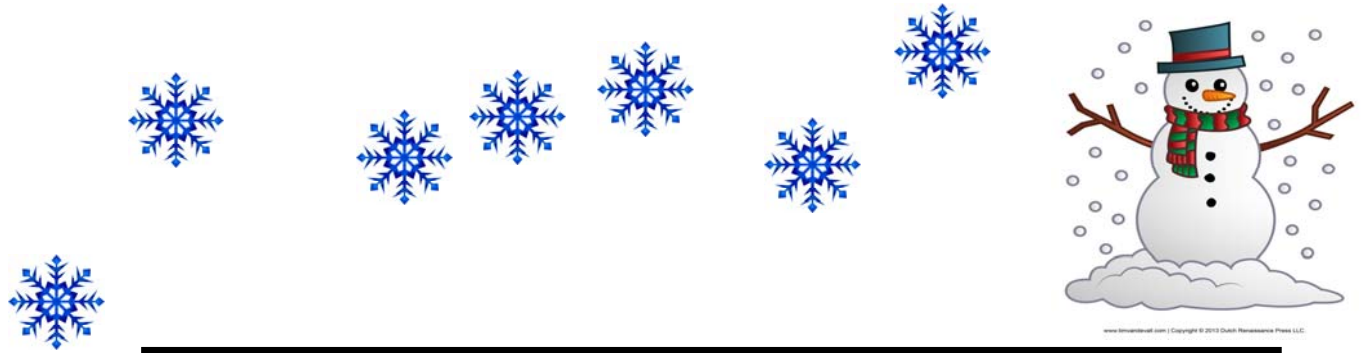
Children's Time

05 Carla Clennin
12 Ginnie Medlin
19 Anny Roll
26 Puppets

JANUARY CHOIRS

05 Senior Choir
12 Senior Choir
19 Bells
26 God's Singers





*A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to
Carla Clennin, Ellen Ash, Lauren Lawson
and Callie Simmons for their direction of the
Christmas Eve Program! Thanks to Beth
Dampf for playing the organ. Thank you to
all that participated and who all who
attended! It was a blessing to all!! Have a
blessed New Year.*

Sunday School Teachers and Officers



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.*



*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 for both Church and
Sunday School!

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



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
KRLI 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 MCMC Food Bank. Drop your bags off at the church. Thanks!

USED TONER & INK CARTRIDGES

Please 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

January Birthdays

03 Beth Chambers
04 Tracy Cary
05 Dolores Burger
05 Susan Burger
05 Lisa Kendrick
05 Hannah Clutter
06 Lee Bieri
07 Kareigna Pruitt
08 Sharon Hess
08 Rebecca Zuidervaart
10 John Martin
10 Taylor Ratcliff
11 Rylan Robertson
13 Bridget Clifford
13 Kaleb Miller
14 Mary Bueker
14 Emma Bestgen
15 Cara Stassel
15 Dave Gattermeir
16 Tammy Brandes
16 Kendall Simmons

17 Tom Steinhauer
17 Priscella Saldana
17 Landon Leonard
17 Doug Hill
19 Logan Milligan
19 Meredith Wolford
20 Darles Vernon
21 Terry Meisenheimer
21 Alexx Lewis
22 Bobby Bryant
23 Connie Bestgen
23 Justin Kilmer
24 Joan Stauffer
24 Kade Bolinger
25 Madison Imhoff
26 Paul Kirchhoff
28 Phil Lewis

29 Preston Kelly
29 Diedra Volkart
30 Maximus Sedgwick
31 Robert Barbour
31 Griffin Bolinger
31 Lisa Porter



Happy Birthday!!



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
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

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

Fridays - 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

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