

The Tidings

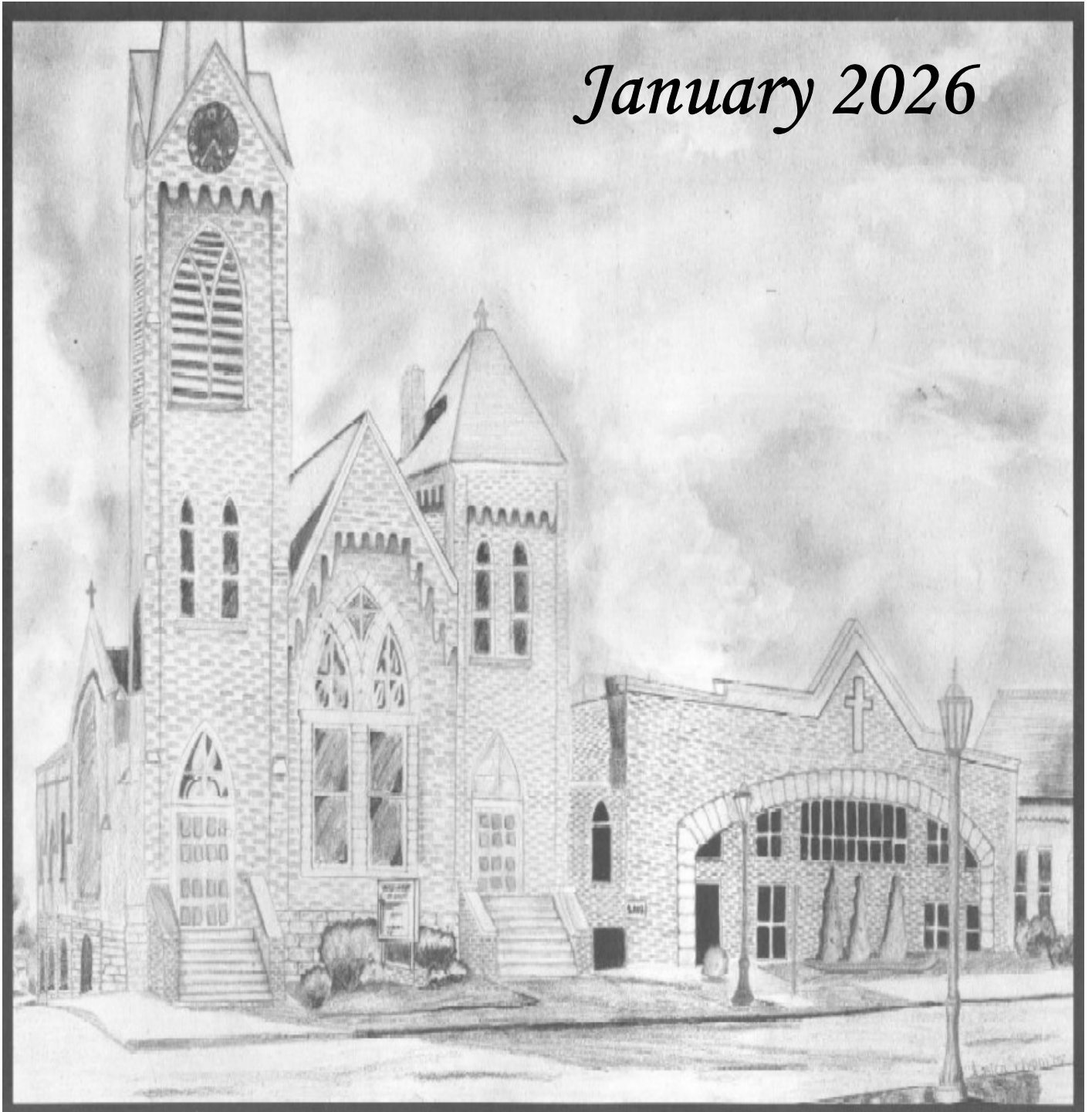
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Christ Centered *Biblical *Compassionate*

101 N. Oak, California, MO 65018

Phone: 573-796-4885

January 2026

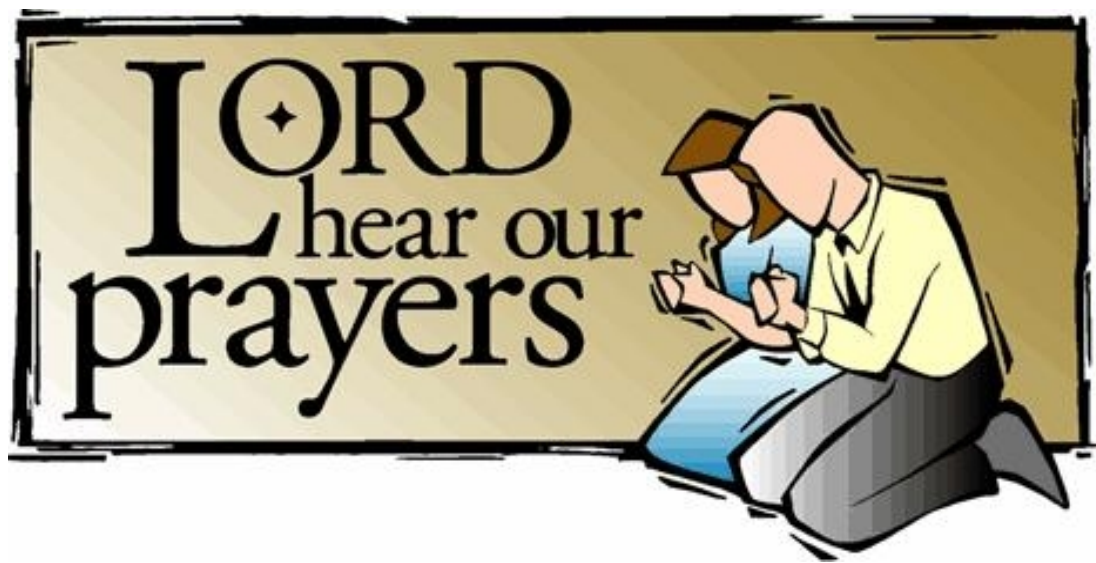


Search Committee Update

Dear Lord, we humbly come before You, acknowledging our need for a new pastor to lead us. You know the heart of our congregation and the unique challenges we face. We ask for a shepherd who will boldly proclaim Your truth, with love and compassion for All. Amen

We want to thank everyone who responded to the surveys. Your rankings and comments are very helpful and welcome. The committee is now in the process of going through those surveys and will put together a summary at the Annual Meeting in January. You will notice that we started this letter to the congregation with a prayer. We plan to include a prayer in each Sunday's bulletin to encourage everyone to continue to pray that God will send us the pastor he knows we need.

You, the Congregation, are a big part of our search. We need your active support, prayers, and encouragement. Please keep encouraging us to make this a meaningful and Christ like search.



With Christian Love, The Search Committee

Darles Vernon

Ken Wolkern

Morgan Opie

Toni Kueffer

Tammy Kilmer

Steven Burger

Larry Rohrbach



California United Church of Christ

December 8, 2025 – Consistory Meeting Highlights

The December meeting of the United Church of Christ of California was called to order at 6:02pm and opened with thoughtful prayer by Rev. Lina Eddy. A quorum was established with Jim Deeken, Jay Bestgen, Holly Bieri, Larry Schoeneberg, Carole Barbour, and Ellen Ash present. Anny Roll and Kris Ingram were absent. Reverend Lina Eddy was also present for the meeting.

Treasurer, Ellen Ash presented the Treasurer's Report and the Stewardship Snapshot Report. The balance brought forward in the General Fund was \$32,059.54. There were \$41,716.86 in receipts and \$40,281.37 in disbursements leaving a balance of \$33,495.03. There was one check noted: Check #16878 to Burgher Haus in the amount of \$1,200.00 for the food prepared for Pastor Cobb's farewell meal.

Financial Secretary, Larry Schoeneberg presented the Financial Secretary Report. Income year-to-date for 2025 was \$226,676.51 compared to income year-to-date for 2024 which was \$267,632.98. Expenses year-to-date for 2025 were \$272,128.38 compared to expenses year-to-date for 2024 which were \$252,133.02. Expenses have increased \$19,995.36 in the last year. Larry Schoeneberg informed the group that it takes approximately \$300,000 each year to operate the church.

Larry Schoeneberg also gave an update on current CD activity. The UCC Church General Account matured and was reinvested on November 12th with Bank of America, Charlotte, NC for 6 months at a rate of 3.7%.

Committee Reports

Building and Grounds/Safe Church – Jay Bestgen, Jim Deeken, and Kris Ingram

Stain Glass Window Project – Brady's Window and Glass was at the church on 12/8 working on the stain glass reinforcement and restoration project. Jay Bestgen met with Brady's Window and Glass about modifying the current scope of phase I. It was agreed that the best plan of action for the remainder of the windows in need of repair and stabilization will be to reinforce them in place instead of removing the windows completely as was previously planned. This new plan will save approximately \$23,000, will reduce the risk of damage to the already fragile windows, and will eliminate phase II.

The reinforcement of the stain glass windows on the south side of the church is almost complete. The windows in the bell tower and by the sound booth have been completed. The windows at the back of the sanctuary (along Oak Street) and the windows on the pulpit side of the church will be reinforced in the near future.

Fellowship Hall Sinks – After further investigation it was determined that the Fellowship Hall Kitchen drain line lies under the Ameren gas line. The next plan of action will be to tie the Fellowship Hall kitchen drain into the septic drain (gray water) lines from the basement in order to drain the kitchen sinks. This plan has been approved by the City of California.

Old Business

Sound Booth- We are still looking for more volunteers. Emma Kissick and Chole Mortenson have been training with Ronnie.

Webpage/Technology – The Nominating Committee will reach out to a couple of volunteers about serving on a newly appointed Technology/Communications Committee which will also include a Consistory representative. The newly appointed committee will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting.

Greeter Schedule – Holly Bieri will plan to schedule greeters for January and February then the responsibility will be passed to the Worship Committee.

Exit Interview – Carole Barbour will find around 6 church members between California UCC and Salem to attend the exit interview meeting. Carole has the questions and will provide them to the attendees.

New Business

Mike Williams will preach on December 28th and January 25th. The Gideons will also speak to the congregation on January 25th.

We will need a minister for Epiphany communion on January 4th. Rev. Moll and Rev. Buchholz will be contacted about their availability on January 4th. The Consistory agreed to cancel communion on February 1st because an ordained minister will not be performing the service.

Gene Haile Excavating Estimate – The contract from Haile Excavating for snow removal and ice treatment was approved.

Consistory Highlights continued.....

Quilters Tradition - Information about the Quilters group was provided from Clarice Nelson.

Salary Committee Recommendations & Staff Christmas Gifts – The Salary Committee provided the group with their recommendations for 2026 salaries and Christmas gifts for Staff and the recommendations were approved.

Annual Audit Committee – Ross Robertson and Larry Schoeneberg will complete the annual audit.

Annual Meeting Agenda – Annual Meeting Agenda items will include an update from the Search Committee and the newly created Technology/Communications Committee.

New Chair for Pastor's Office – A new chair will be purchased by Rhonda for the Pastor's Office.

Approve Calendar of Benevolences for 2026 – The 2026 Benevolences Calendar was reviewed and approved.

Chamber of Commerce – The 2026 Chamber of Commerce dues were approved.

Upcoming Communion Date

December 25th – Christmas Day Intinction

January 4th - Epiphany

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36pm.

The Lord's Prayer

The meeting was concluded with The Lord's Prayer prayed in unison.

Celebrating 60 Years

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Nelson celebrated sixty years of marriage on December 26th. Two decades of military service and parenting, three decades of business employment, pastoring and teaching, and one decade of retirement! We optimistically anticipate the next decade of successful, productive growth for our United Church of Christ and peaceful united government for our country.

Clarice and Dwight.



Stewardship Snapshot

	<u>November 2025</u>	<u>November 2024</u>
General Fund		
Balance Brought Forward	\$ 32,059.54	\$ 44,864.58
Receipts	+ 41,716.86	+ 35,749.56
Disbursements	<u>- 40,281.37</u>	<u>- 29,449.79</u>
Balance – November 30	\$ 33,495.03	\$51,164.35
 <u>As of November 30, 2025</u>		
Building Fund Balance	\$ 97,186.63	\$ 103,987.11
Local Benevolence Fund	\$ 9,649.49	\$ 10,541.58
Memorial Fund Balance	\$ 20,535.45	\$ 17,117.58
Schnuck Endowment Checking**	\$ 27,523.04	*\$ 12,461.66
Scholarship Fund Balance	\$ 14,770.63	\$ 11,722.39
Youth Fellowship Fund	\$ 10,382.41	\$ 3,686.86
 Total OCWM Received	 \$ 2,095.00	 \$ 2,706.76
Other Benevolent Offerings	\$ 11,764.26	\$ 14,746.94

Note on 2025 Snapshot regarding Schnuck Endowment

***The C. Schnuck Endowment Checking Fund balance of \$27,523.04 includes \$166.49 that is part of the original restricted gift and is unable to be expended. \$27,356.55 of the fund balance may be expended.*

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.*

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!

2026 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: The 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

UCC Brotherhood Minutes

– **Monday December 15, 2025**

The UCC Men's Brotherhood got together for Christmas caroling on Monday, December 15, 2025. The group started at California Care Center, Valley Park West, and Bristol Manor and then sang carols and visited at several other stops around the community. Approximately 40 Brotherhood members and guests had a great time being together and caroling. The group then enjoyed a meal of chili and potato soup along with snacks and desserts back at the church.

Respectfully Submitted –

Dave Gattermeir, Secretary

Offering Envelope Boxes/E-Giving

Offering envelope boxes for 2026 have arrived. They are 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.





December 1, 2025 Sunday School Teachers & Officers Meeting

Cressida called the meeting to order at 6:31 PM. Those present were Beth Chambers, Cressida Gattermeir, Austin Chambers, Carole Barbour, and Brittney Medlin

The meeting began with a prayer led by Cressida.

Beth motioned to approve the November 2025 minutes. Brittney seconded the motion. Motion passed.


Beth motioned to approve the November 2025 Treasurer's Report. Carole seconded. Motion passed. We need to continue to keep an eye on expenses.

Benevolence for December is the Show Me Christian Youth Home.

New Business:

Ronda has a Veggie Tales program on Saturday. Lots of things are planned including a visit from a special visitor.

Christmas Program- this is coming along. McKenzie Medlin will be the third sheep. The third child part needs to be determined. Puppeteers are needed for the puppet show- Cressida will be asking high schoolers on Sunday. Carole and Dave will be narrating during the program. Cradle Roll needed for the program- Cressida will be in touch with Gerri. Dress rehearsal is scheduled for 12/21.



Cookies and Carols- This will be held on 12/21. There will be no Sunday school classes. A signup sheet is needed to place on the bulletin board- a memo will be added this year to take home your cookies if there are leftovers.

Fall party site update- Paul from Sweet Water is interested in hosting next year. He needs to be notified of the date for the Fall party. The date for next year will be 10/11.

Tonight was Cressida's last meeting. She suggested an idea of having people interested in teaching Sunday school shadowing current Sunday School teachers. Something to possibly consider in the future, maybe when it's known that a teacher is stepping down.

Beth motioned to adjourn, Austin seconded, motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 7:34 PM.

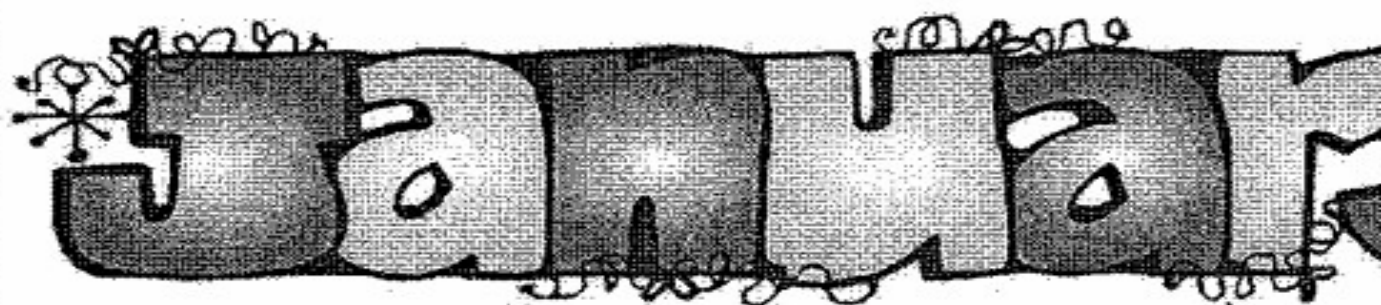
The next meeting will be Monday January 5, 2026, at 6:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Brittney Medlin, 3rd Superintendent



Sunday

Monday



4 Rev. Steve Buchholz/Communion/Ratcliff Baptism	5 6:30 PM Sunday School Teacher and Officer Meeting	6 9:00
11 Kolten Fulks-Speaker R.O.K. Sunday	12 6:00 PM Consistory	13 9:00
18 Ross Robertson-Speaker	19	20 9:00
25	26	27

		<p>1</p> <p><i>Happy New Year!</i></p>	<p>2</p>
<p>AM Prayer Cell</p>	<p>7</p> <p>6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Wed. Night Meal 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM R.O.K./God's Singers 7:30 PM Sr. Choir</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>AM Prayer Cell</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Wed. Night Meal 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM R.O.K./God's Singers 7:30 PM Sr. Choir</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>AM Prayer Cell</p>	<p>21</p> <p>1:00 PM Women's Guild 6:00 PM Confirmation 6:00 PM Wed. Night Meal 6:30 PM Bell Choir 6:30 PM R.O.K./God's Singers 7:30 PM Sr. Choir</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>



The Middle School Youth Fellowship will be having a Game Night from 3-5 pm either on January 11th or 18th. We will be reaching out by email to see which date will be the best.

Also, the MSYF will be helping serve the meal for the annual meeting after church on Sunday, January 25th.

Happy New Year!





High School Mission Meeting **January 11th**
right after church to discuss the upcoming
mission trip to Barnesville, MN July 19th to
July 25th. This is for the high school youth
and their parents. If you have questions,
see Dyan or Kris Ingram.

H
A
P
P
Y

N
E
W

Y
E
A

2026 R.O.K. & GOD'S SINGERS WINTER SCHEDULE	
6:30 p.m. to 7:20 p.m.	
January 7: R.O.K. / God's Singers	
January 14: R.O.K. / God's Singers	
January 21: R.O.K. / God's Singers	
<i>January 25th: Sing in Worship</i>	
January 28: R.O.K./God's Singers	
February 4: R.O.K. / God's Singers	
February 11: R.O.K. / God's Singers	
February 18: God's Singers	Ash Wed.
<i>February 22: Sing in Worship</i>	
February 25: God's Singers	

Wednesday Night Activity's Start Back

January 7, 2026

Wednesday Meals – 6:00 pm

Confirmation – 6:00 pm

ROK/God's Singers – 6:30 pm

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



What is Epiphany?

Epiphany is a celebration to honor the Three Kings or wise men who brought gifts to baby Jesus.

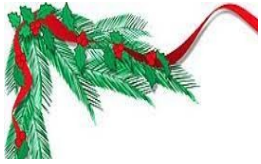


Annual Congregational Meeting of the United Church of Christ of California Sunday, January 25, 2026

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

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 17, 2025

Fifteen members celebrated together during the December meeting of the UCC Women's Guild. The highlight of this meeting was our Christmas dinner. The officers provided spaghetti with choice toppings, stroganoff, salad, parmesan bread sticks, mini cheesecakes with 3 possible topping choices, and Heavenly Hash. It was enjoyed by all.

Lexi opened the meeting with a prayer. Carole shared Christmas memories of the past.

Our benevolence opportunities for December are: Project Healing House, Christmas Fund, Camps & VBS, and Every Child's Hope.

Motion was made by Linda and seconded by Darles to approve the Secretary minutes. Phyllis motioned to accept the financial report, which was seconded by Carole. Both motions passed.

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

Mary reported that we have 665 Best Choice Labels collected so far. A big Thank You to Kenny Knipker for helping our total leap by 495! Keep saving those labels!!

Judy reported sending out 28 cards. More cards were signed for sending out in January. Keep signing your name!



New Business

Staff Christmas cards were signed by the group.

Christmas gifts and cookies for Shut-ins. 13 recipients were selected with Guild members giving 13 – 2 cookie bags each. A big Thank You to Mary, Carmen, and Cheryl for getting them delivered!

There were no Birthdays for December.

New Guild books and Devotional books were given out. We will be looking at the 10 Commandments in 2026.

A motion was made by Laura and seconded by Phyllis to limit our food choices for 2026 to dessert and drink. Motion passed.

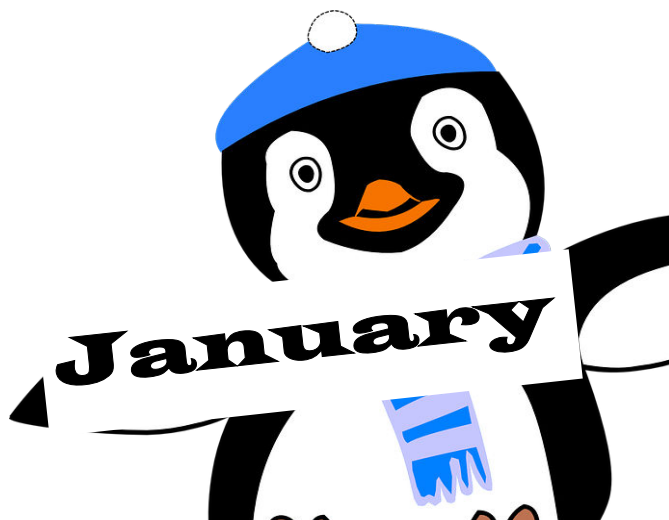
A social time was enjoyed by the group.

Officers for this year were Lexi, Cheryl, Linda and Judy.

Lexi gave a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Judy Burger, Secretary





Lay Readers

04 David Gattermeir
11 Beth Dampf
18 Mary Burger
25 Judy Burger

Acolytes

04 Sophie & Bruce Miller
11 Max Robertson & Lee Bieri
18 Nora Wolford & Georgie Peck
25 Brynna Hall & Charley Medlin



Nursery

Emma Bestgen

Children's Time

04 Carla Clennin
11 Puppets
18 Anny Roll
25 Rev. Mike Williams

JANUARY CHOIRS

04 Senior Choir
11 Senior Choir
18 Bells
25 God's Singers





*A GREAT BIG THANK YOU to
Cressida Gattermeir and all that helped with the
Christmas program and Candlelight Service.
May the new year be filled with many blessings
for all!*

Sunday School Teachers and Officers



Dean Everett Elliott

*was Baptized on December 28, 2025. Dean is
the son of Tyler and Renee (Roberts) Elliott.
Dean's sponsors are Shane and Kayla Baker*



*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
KRLL Radio ~1420 AM

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



www.calmo-ucc.org



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

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

03 Beth Chambers
05 Dolores Burger
05 Susan Burger
05 Hannah Clutter
06 Lee Bieri
08 Sharon Hess
08 Rebecca Zuidervaat
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 Landon Leonard
17 Doug Hill
19 Logan Milligan
19 Meredith Wolford
20 Darles Vernon
21 Terry Meisenheimer
22 Bobby Bryant
23 Connie Bestgen
23 Justin Kilmer
24 Joan Stauffer
24 Kade Bolinger
25 Madison Imhoff
28 Phil Lewis
29 Diedra Volkart
30 Maximus Sedgwick
31 Griffin Bolinger
31 Eric Lawson



**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
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

101 N. Oak Street, California, MO 65018

(573)796-4885 Church Office Rhonda Elliott, Office Manager
rhonda@calmo-ucc.org

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.

WEBSITE: calmo-ucc.org

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

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED