



COMPTON HEIGHTS CHRISTIAN CHURCH (Disciples of Christ)

Open and Affirming & Global Mission

Rev Dr. Jacquelyn Foster, Pastor

Ms. Vanessa Myers-Dudley
Pastoral Intern



This Month:

- One** Oil the Hinges of our Heart ...
- Two** Prayer Concerns
Happy Birthday
Community Prayer
Refreshment Folks
- Three** Tree of Warmth
Advent Events
Reindeer Games
Pastor's Open House
Snow Removal Plan
- Four** "Fearless ..." Stewards
Poinsettia Order
GMP Visit to StL A
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"By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace."

**Luke 1: 78-79
The Song of Zechariah**

Lord, oil the hinges of our hearts' doors that they may swing gently and easily to welcome your coming. **-Prayer of a New Guinea Christian**

The writer of the prayer above, said *"At Advent we should try the key to our heart's door. It may have gathered rust. If so, this is the time to oil it, in order that the heart's door may open more easily when the Lord Jesus wants to enter at Christmas."* It is true that when we have kept ourselves closed and locked, resisting God's efforts to enter our lives in new ways, we may find that even when we want to open the door, it is rusted shut. *So how do we oil the hinges? How do we open ourselves to God and God's people?*

In these precious days of Advent, we are hearing stories and voices that can open our hearts. When I see God in the face of a mother in fear and grief, her tears mysteriously become oil for the hinges of my heart. When I see the pain of one who has cancer and may lose his health insurance, the hinges of my heart are oiled with care. When I hear voices express fear in the form of anger and hatred, my heart breaks and out pours the oil that can open the door to God's courage. Just when our hearts could lock down, help us O God to open them! - Jacque



Celebrations and Concerns – In our Prayer

Winster Olter

Joan James and Audrey Tarde – Sprained ankles (let's be careful out there!!)

Jim and Sharon Clayton Royce Sykes

Everyone who has been sick with the “grunge” lately!

Rev. Chuck Lewis – Charlsi's dad, after heart surgery

Happy Birthday in December /Early January

4 th Brenda Booth	29 th Jim Clayton	1/4 Sharon Clayton
10 th Dave Boger	31 st Kathy Mead	1/4 Tina Owens
12 th Ty & Jacob Woodard	Jan 1 st Kim Litton	1/9 Susan Petri



A Community of Prayer and Presence for Peace & Justice

Our community and nation have been awakened since August by people of courage and faith who are saying ‘No more inequity in the legal system, no more racial injustice, no more brutality.’ There have been widely peaceful demonstrations by people of all races calling for an end to systemic racism.

The Church of many denominations has taken a strong and vital role in seeking to bring a peaceful presence and to de-escalate violence while calling clearly for change.

This congregation made the courageous and deeply faithful decision to actively strive to proclaim the call to justice and to work to make the protests in our community peaceful. We offered “Safe Space” for people in the community to come for prayer, conversation, counsel, and to help. We served as a space for those who wanted to protest to learn to do so peacefully and with purpose. We welcomed SLU and Wash U. students, those who trained to serve as legal observers, and those who cooked for protest groups. We helped protesters connect in constructive ways so that they would not connect with fringe groups. Greatly due to the involvement of the churches here in our community our area of the city has had predominantly peaceful demonstrations. Churches open in our area in

addition to CHCC have been St. John's Episcopal, South City Presbyterian, St. Margaret of Scotland, and the Word at Shaw. We are sick that there were still opportunistic groups that betrayed the protest by breaking the windows of some of our businesses. Yet we are glad that the organization by MCU, MORE, and the churches helped to avoid the violence that took place in Ferguson and to support non-violent demonstration and call for justice. Every person who helped this to happen seems to have been deeply moved by God's Spirit in this time. A special thanks to those who were present here: *Kathy Mead, Madeline Haraway, Marsha McGuire, Steve Randolph, Dave Boger, Jacque Foster, Bud Obermiller, Millie Slack, Jennifer & Julie Phoenix, Vanessa Myers-Dudley, Leslie Latham, Brenda Booth, Susan Petri, Norm & Judi Linville, Michael Hagemeyer, Heather Stout, Rev. Darla Goodrich, Mark Frank (Community CC, Manchester) Revs. Allyn and Jennifer Harris-Dault (Mennonite Fellowship), Eden Seminary Students: Ed Huff, Dana Salyer, and Chelsey Hillyer, and four members of St. Margaret of Scotland, a wonderful neighbor from Flora Place, and others who brought food, and supplies. Bud's business donated supplies. A very generous financial gift from a Disciples leader helped to cover extra expenses of this time. We hope we have not left anyone out!*

Congregational Refreshment Hosts for 2015 (the snack time after worship!)

During the month of December, Marsha McGuire is compiling the list for coffee hosts for 2015. Any individuals or families willing to share in this ministry contact Marsha McGuire at 314-363-4210 or send a text or email at marsha.mcguire@sbcglobal.net. You would be responsible for providing refreshments and juice approximately once every 2-3 months. More people means fewer turns!



TREE of WARMTH

Once again this Christmas season, we are “decorating” a very special Christmas Tree – the Tree of Warmth. You are invited to bring warm scarves, hats, mittens, gloves, and socks to adorn the tree in the hallway. Items for both children and adults are needed.

Then, through our Isaiah 58 Ministries, these warm items will be distributed to those in need of them.

We will begin the Tree of Warmth on December 7, and continue to cover it with warm items through the season. Then in the coldest days of winter these items will be available for those in need!

Reindeer Games! Sat. Dec 13, 5:00 pm

It's the same old story *every* time – those other reindeer laugh and call Rudolf names and they won't let him join in any Reindeer games! It's TERRIBLE. So we call for justice and peace in the Reindeer community!

EVERYONE is welcome to play Reindeer games here! Come out on Saturday, December 13 where you will find a warm welcome in the Fellowship Hall, crazy fun games for ALL ages – adults and children alike. Bring a snack to share, and expect to be a part of the community!!

Pastor's Christmas Open House

Sat. Dec 20, 5:30 – 8:30 pm

Please mark your calendar and plan to join us on Saturday, December 20, 5:30 – 8:30 for our Annual Pastor's Christmas Open House! We'll welcome you at 3669 Russell Blvd., just a block from the church. No need to bring a thing! Just yourself (and friends/family) to share in Christmas goodies, and a relaxing time around the tree! There may be some carol-singing, and there *will* be some fun conversation!

We hope to see you!
Jacque and Dave

ADVENT EVENTS –

1st Sunday of Advent – Nov 30
The Candle of Hope

2nd Sunday of Advent – Dec 7

Hanging of the Greens
The Candle of Peace
Mission Priority Lunch

Reindeer Games – Sat, Dec 13
5:00 PM Bring a snack if
you like and come have fun!

3rd Sunday of Advent – Dec 14
The Candle of Joy

Pastor's Christmas Open House -
Sat, Dec 20 5:30 – 8:30 pm at
Jacque and Dave's home.

4th Sunday of Advent – Dec 21
The Candle of Love

Christmas Eve – Wed, Dec 24

Candlelight Service 6:00 pm

Caroling in Neighborhood
for StL. Christmas Caroling
Assoc. 7:15 - followed by
Hot Chocolate/Cider and
cookies at the church.

Christmas Day, Thursday, Dec 25!
Merry Christmas and Peace on
Earth to All!

“Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow ...” and if it snows as it did last year, we could need to pay for snow removal again! We most often do our own shoveling; however when it's deep, we need help. So the decision has been made to continue our collection of donations for “lawn care” through the winter to cover snow removal! There will be a sign-up sheet on the Church Library door!



“**FEARLESS ...**” Stewardship Emphasis and Commitment for 2015

Our Stewardship Theme this year is: “**Fearless ...**” What an appropriate theme in a time when so many are feeling fearful. It is natural to feel afraid when we are trying to deal with hard aspects of life and we are being called to look more deeply at our own lives, our own beliefs, and our world. Most of us respond out of some fear and try to hold on to what feels secure.

Yet God says “Be not afraid!” The wonderful good news is that when we respond out of HOPE rather than fear, we open ourselves to the new thing that God is doing with us and in us and through us to bring God’s realm on earth.

Dave and I are striving to live and give fearlessly in this critical time in our church, city, country and world. We have witnessed the power of Fearless giving and living in these recent days, weeks, and months. We have seen people give over and above to make possible this congregation’s ministry of presence, welcome, and witness in this time when the community is seeking racial justice. We have seen people give of their own time and energy to be the Church boldly in these days.

It is Fearless ... Fearless Living, Fearless Giving. We begin on Sunday, Dec 7 as we review and renew our ministry priorities. We will reflect on our living and giving in faith though December and conclude with our Stewardship Commitment Sunday on January 11!

GMP Sharon Watkins Visits St. Louis

On Monday, Dec. 1, Dr. Sharon Watkins, our General Minister and President and Dr. Timothy James, Assoc. GMP, Mark Anderson, Pres. of Nat’l Benevolent Assoc., and Rev. Chris Dorsey, Pres. of Higher Ed. and Leadership Min. met with St. Louis area Disciples ministers to explore how our General Ministries can support Disciples here and across the country as this new level of civil rights movement unfolds. We have since been in conversation with Rev. April Johnson, Director of Reconciliation Ministry. We look forward to this prayerful support as we move forward to be the Church faithfully and boldly in this time.

CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

We have ordered a dozen poinsettias for Christmas – 6 Red and 6 White.

They are \$7.00 each and may be purchased in honor or in memory of someone, or simply because you would like to sponsor one. They will be in worship on the 4th Sunday of Advent and Christmas Eve.

You are then invited to take them home or give them as a gift to someone dear!

Marty Hughes has ordered and pre-paid for them. See Marty if you would like to ‘adopt’ a poinsettia.

ADVENT DEVOTIONAL “Lighting the Way”

Written by 5 out of SEGA Disciples congregations, this year’s Advent Devotional is available online to access online day by day:

<http://www.kennettchristianchurch.org/advent-2014>

CHCC authors are: Norm Linville, Kathy Mead, Jennifer Phoenix, Charlsi Lewis Lee, and Jacque Foster. We also have hard copies at the church!

***Sing out my soul,
sing of the holiness of God;
who has delighted in a woman,
lifted up the poor,
satisfied the hungry,
given voice to the silent,
grounded the oppressor,
blessed the full-bellied with emptiness,
and with the gift of tears
those who have never wept;
who has desired the darkness of the womb,
and inhabited our flesh.
Sing of the longing of God,
sing out, my soul.***

Janet Morley, based on Luke 1:39-53 in *Imaging the Word*, Vol 3 United Church Press, Cleveland, OH 1996



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(All events at Compton Heights CC unless otherwise noted)

SUNDAY SCHEDULE: Choir Warm-Up 9:15 am Christian Educ/Nurture for All – 10 am
Worship 11 am, Community/Refreshment Time –following worship, Choir Practice 12:30

Sunday, December 7 – 2nd Sunday in Advent - Hanging of the Greens - Peace

Following worship – Baked Potato Lunch with Mission Priority Review and Renew

Friday, Dec 12 – Happy Friday Outreach 7:00 – 8:00 am

Saturday, Dec 13 - REINDEER GAMES 5:00 pm Adults, Youth, Children – Bring a snack!

Sunday, December 14 – 3rd Sunday in Advent The Candle of Joy

Thursday, Dec. 18 – Compassionate Listening Group – for care in this season!

Friday, Dec. 19 – Happy Friday Outreach 7:00 – 8:00 am

Saturday, Dec. 20 – Pastor’s Christmas Open House 5:30 – 8:30 pm 3669 Russell Blvd

Sunday, December 21– 4th Sunday in Advent The Candle of Love

Wednesday, Dec. 24 – Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship 6:00 pm

- Christmas Caroling in the Neighborhood 7:15 pm

Thursday, Dec. 25 – Christmas Day! Have a Blessed Christmas!

Sunday, December 28 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

Wednesday, Dec 31 – New Year’s Eve

Thursday, January 1 – New Year’s Day - Happy New Year!

Friday, January 2 – Happy Friday Outreach 7:00 – 8:00 am

Sunday, January 4 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas

Tuesday, January 6 EPIPHANY Day

Wednesday, January 7 – Board of Ministry 7:00 pm

Thursday, January 8 – Prayer Shawl Knitting and Crocheting Group 7:00 pm

Friday, January 9 – Happy Friday Outreach 7:00 – 8:00 am

Sunday, January 11– 1st Sunday after Epiphany Stewardship Commitment Day

Wednesday, Dec 14 – Elders’ Circle 7:00 pm

Friday, Dec. 16 – Happy Friday Outreach 7:00 – 8:00 am



SERVING SCHEDULE Please get a substitute if unable to serve on your designated date!

	Liturgist	Communion Elders	Stewardship Elders
Dec 07	Carolyn Harry	Brenda Booth	Kathy Mead
Dec 14	Bryan Richardson	Judi Linville	Nancy Obermiller
Dec 21	Marty Hughes	Sarah Richardson	Leslie Latham
Dec 28	Joan James	Bob Lewis	Norm Linville
Jan 04	Abi Ziesemann	Kathy Mead	Judi Linville
Jan 11	Julie Phoenix	Steve Randolph	Brenda Booth

Deacons (All will serve; the first two will prepare and clean up communion.)

Dec 07	Jan Kreuger	Dave Martin	Susan Petri	Thelonius Lee
Dec 14	Darrell Hughes	Talya Perry	Arlene Arbogast	Reed Glasener
Dec 21	Kim Litton	Tom Litton	Marty Hughes	Stanley Williams
Dec 28	Dennis James	Joan James	Bud Obermiller	Carolyn Harry
Jan 04	Susan Petri	Thelonius Lee	Jan Kreuger	Dave Martin
Jan 11	Arlene Arbogast	Reed Glasener	Darrell Hughes	Talya Perry

Providing Communion Bread **December:** Arlene Arbogast **January:** Kim Litton

In-Home Communion (Two Elders and one Deacon each month to take home communion)

December Elder (A) Steve Randolph **(B)** Judi Linville **Deacon** Arlene Arbogast

January Elder (A) Leslie Latham **(B)** Kathy Mead **Deacon** Joan James

Greeter - December: Kim Litton **January:** Steve Randolph

Nursery Care

Dec 07	Darrell Hughes
Dec 14	Kathy Mead
Dec 21	Ty Woodard
Dec 28	Marty Hughes
Jan 04	Marsha McGuire
Jan 11	Brenda Booth

Coffee Hosts

Dec 07	Walt & Audrey Tarde, Susan Petri
Dec 14	Madeline H, Kathy B, Tina O
Dec 21	Bud & Nancy Obermiller
Dec 28	Joan & Dennis James
Jan 04	Judi & Norm Linville
Jan 11	Sarah & Bryan Richardson

Children, Worship & Wonder

Dec 07	Storyteller Dave Boger
Dec 14	Storyteller Dave Boger
Dec 21	Storyteller Dave Boger
Dec 28	S -
Jan 04	S -
Jan 11	S -

Income for November through November 30 \$13,888.35

YTD Income through November 30 \$144,847.51

YTD Income includes the following:

Pledges, loose and Sunday School offering, gifts:	\$100,761.56
Outreach Special Offerings: (\$672 Thanksgiving)	5,028.75
Elders Fund and Memorials:	757.25
Tuition of Girisha and Dhanush at King's School:	500.00
Offering for future India Trip:	355.71
Equal Exchange Purchases:	359.79
Fund Raising (Bazaar=\$425.50)	1,728.15
Rent and contributions toward expenses:	17,865.28
CCF Investment Interest	791.02
Withdrawal of CCF Funds	14,000.00
Transfers from Steeple Account and Insurance	2,700.00



SCRIPTURE READINGS for Upcoming Weeks

Dec 7 -2nd Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 40:1-11, Ps. 85:1-2, 8-13, 2 Peter 3: 8-15a, Mark 1:1-8

Dec 14 – 3rd Sunday in Advent

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11, Ps. 126 or Luke 1:47-55, 1 Thess. 5: 16-24, John 1:6-8, 19-28

Dec 21 – 4th Sunday in Advent

2 Sam 7:1-11, 16, Luke 1:47-55 or Ps. 89:1-4, 19-26, Rom 16: 25-27, Luke 1:26-38

Dec 28 – 1st Sunday of Christmas

Isaiah 61:10 – 62:3, Ps. 148, Galatians. 4:4-7, Luke 2:22-40

Jan 4 – 2nd Sunday of Christmas/ Epiphany Sunday

Isaiah 60:1-6, Ps. 72:1-7, 10-14, Eph. 3:1-12, Mt. 2:1-12

Jan 11 – Baptism of Jesus Sunday

Genesis 1:1-5, Psalm 29, Acts 19:1-7, Mark 1:4-11

⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord.” Luke 1

Contact Us

Online:

www.comptonheights.com

www.isaiah58ministries.org

also check us out on fb

Email:

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Pastor: jleigh55@att.net



Ministry Leaders:

Moderator: Leslie Latham

Vice M.: Larry Kreuger

Secretary: Steve Randolph

Treasurer: Jan Kreuger

Financial Sec. Judi Linville

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