

Compton Heights Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

An Open & Affirming and Global Mission Congregation



“Stay Woke” by Jacque Foster

ADVENT-CHRISTMAS, 2016 VOL64 • N09



On the first Sunday of Advent, we hear the words of Jesus to his disciples, “Keep awake” - be ready, watch because we do not know how and when Christ comes. He says “if the owner of the house had known when the thief was coming, he would have ‘stayed awake’ and not let his house be broken into.”

It is significant that this image of the coming of the Christ is spoken of with examples of scary times and threatening events, such as Noah being swept away in a flood, and a homeowner not knowing when a thief would break in.

Life-shaking events wake us up. It may be when we truly see poverty as we had not seen it before. Or when we experience loss or violation, and suddenly we see. When our eyes are really opened, we cannot ‘unsee’ what we have seen or ‘unknow’ what we now know. We cannot go

back to who we were before we were awake. (no matter how we may wish it!)

On the other hand human beings are pretty good at denial and refusing to see what is in front of us. Those who suffer in our world call us to wake up and “Stay Woke!”

- ‘stay woke’ to the systems that maintain poverty
 - ‘stay woke’ to systemic racism and white supremacy
 - ‘stay woke’ to the real devastation and spiritual injury of war
 - ‘stay woke’ to the insidious rape culture.

Because **only** when we are awake to what is broken, awake to evil, are we awake to the God of justice who comes to bring wholeness and life in Jesus the Christ.

This is the critical essence of Advent – God is coming into our midst in times and ways we would never expect. When we see danger and recognize oppression, God meets us there. As hard as it is, “Wake up and ‘stay woke!’ It is in the world’s deepest need, in places we would never expect that we see God coming!

Christ is coming now! This is the Good News, the Gospel.

Pastor Jacque

Pastor’s Christmas Open House
Saturday, December 17, 5:00 to 8:00 pm
Jacque and Dave’s home, 3669 Russell Blvd.
Don’t bring a thing! Just YOU!
Come with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love!
(and your appetite!)

What’s Inside?

Celebr/Birthdays/Welcome/Thanks	2
Christmas Pageant Preparation	2
Advent Events Schedule	3
Advent/Christmas Prayers & Hymns	4
Christmas Offering / India Mission	5
General Assembly 2017	6
Calendar/Schedule 7 / Financial	8



Children's Christmas Pageant and Program
Sunday, Dec. 18
11:00 am

We hope that every child in our congregation will be part of the Christmas Pageant and Program this year! Preparation/Rehearsals will take place on Sunday mornings in the latter part of the 10 am Church School hour between now and Dec. 18! This is a great time to be in Children's Church School!

Mini-Christmas Bazaar – Sundays Dec. 4th, 11th, and 18th

In recent years we have taken several approaches to Holiday Bazaars - large community bazaars, sharing in an Isaiah 58 Ministries Bazaar, having tables at the Parents As Teachers Bazaar, joining in the bazaar at Parkway UCC, etc. We've done it all! Last year we discovered that most of what we sold was on the Sundays when we set up bazaar tables for our own after-church group! So, with all that we have been engaged in this year, we decided to have ONLY the "After-Church-In-The-Hallway Bazaar."

Everyone is invited and encouraged to bring items you have created or food items (baked goods, canned goods, etc. go well!) The Mini-Bazaar will be set up on tables across from the Library. This is a great way to pick up those special little gifts and stocking stuffers! The bazaar is a fundraiser for our ministry!

Annual Stewardship Dedication Sunday December 4

"Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." – Matthew 6:21

We hope you were able to gather with one of the small groups this past month to share our faith and vision. We talked about what we treasure; what is vital to us in the church's ministry in this community and world. Those in every small group expressed the belief that the open, welcoming, all-embracing, love-proclaiming ministry of this congregation is needed in this community! We told our stories of connecting with God and others through Compton Heights Christian Church.

We examined what is required of us – our faith, our energy, our time, our financial support - to live out Christ's ministry of love in this place and time. We talked about our commitment to give in response to God's love and God's vision.

Someone said, *"Our stewardship is our act of hope in God's future."*

It is significant that we are making our stewardship commitments in the season of Advent. Our stewardship is one act by which we "Prepare the Way of the Lord," prepare for the church to continue to proclaim Emmanuel - "God-With-Us." Every person, in every circumstance needs to know "God-With-Us." We hope you will prayerfully make your stewardship commitment in worship on Sunday, December 4th so that our ministry together will continue to grow and strengthen in the year to come!

CELEBRATIONS & CONCERNS



Sharon Clayton, Joyce Cole
 Cathy Hutcherson, Jan Cameron,
 John Pitt, Royce Sykes



Birthdays:
 2nd Stanley Williams
 9th Peter Eliot Richardson
 11th Joan James
 14th Linda Lewis
 17th Mary Davis
 21st Roger Champ
 24th Audrey Tarde
 27th Arlene Arbogast



Birthdays:
 3rd Janie Lynn Welder
 4th Brenda Booth
 10th Dave Boger
 12th Ty Woodard and Jacob Woodard
 16th Roger Bertschausen
 Michael Hagmeier
 19th Cathy Hutcherson
 31st Kathy Mead
January 1 Kim Litton and Xavier Litton
 4th Sharon Clayton

Welcome to CHCC!

The Rev. Dr. Paul E. Hopkins joined Compton Heights CC on Oct. 23. Paul is a Disciples minister and pastoral counselor in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Paul and his wife, LaDonna are often here in St. Louis visiting their daughter and grandchildren. Paul has chosen CHCC as his Disciples home church in St. Louis. WELCOME!



"NAMES FOR THE MESSIAH"

An Advent Bible Study by Walter Brueggeman

10 am Sunday in Church Library

Begins Sunday, November 20

This study will last 8 weeks.



Sunday, November 27 First Sunday of Advent
Lighting the Candle of HOPE

Wednesday, November 30 – Advent WSPR 6 pm to 6:45
Each Wednesday in Advent we will have a special Advent WSPR in the form of Advent Evening Prayer/Vespers from the Iona/Celtic tradition.

Saturday, December 3, 10 am - Prep. for Hanging of the Greens

Come help prepare the 'greens', put up trees, and get ready for Sunday's Hanging of the Greens service!

Sunday, December 4 – Second Sunday of Advent – Light the Candle of Peace

*The Hanging of the Greens Service 11:00 am

*Stewardship Commitment Dedication Sunday – What a marvelous act – to "Prepare the Way of the Lord," to prepare for the church to continue to proclaim "God-With-Us" through our renewed Stewardship commitment on this day in Advent!

Mini-Christmas Bazaar – during Refreshment time following worship – Sundays, Dec 4th, 11th, and 18th.

You are invited to bring items you have created or baked or canned, etc for this delightful Holiday Mini-Bazaar located in the hallway outside the Church Library.



Tree of Warmth - Throughout the Advent Season you are invited to bring warm hats, scarves, gloves, mittens, and socks to "decorate" the Tree of Warmth. Through, Isaiah 58 Ministries, these are then given to those in need of them throughout the winter. Beginning on December 4, you are invited to place your items on the tree in the north hallway.

Sunday, December 11 – Third Sunday of Advent - Lighting the Candle of Joy

Saturday, December 17 – Pastor's Christmas Open House – 5:00 to 8:00 pm at 3669 Russell Blvd.

Don't bring a thing! Just come enjoy a Christmas Party with our church family!

Sunday, December 18 - Fourth Sunday of Advent – Lighting the Candle of Love

Children's Christmas Pageant and Program in worship at 11:00 am

Saturday, December 24 – Christmas Eve – Lighting the Christ Candle

Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship 5:30 pm

Christmas Caroling in the Neighborhood 6:45 (ish) pm

CHCC has an over 70 year tradition of Christmas Caroling on Christmas Eve to bring joy to our neighbors and to raise money for the St. Louis Christmas Carol Association, which funds children's services in the St. Louis area.

Plan to carol and then come back to the church for hot chocolate, doughnuts and cookies!



**I Heard
the Bells on
Christmas
Day**

Sunday, December 25 – CHRISTMAS DAY WORSHIP 11:00 am (no church school)

On Christmas Day we will have a simple, brief time of worship that is Child-Welcoming: welcoming the Christ Child and welcoming all of our children in sanctuary worship with families. The Children, Worship and Wonder story will be told in the sanctuary. It will be a simple service of music, prayer for the world, and communion.



Lord Jesus Christ, Thou Son of the Most High, Prince of Peace, be born again into our world. Wherever there is war in this world, wherever there is pain, wherever there is loneliness, wherever there is no hope, come thou long-expected one, with healing in thy wings.

Holy Child, whom the shepherds and the kings and the dumb beasts adored, be born again. Wherever there is boredom, wherever there is temptation too strong to resist, wherever there is bitterness of heart, come thou blessed one, with healing in thy wings.

From *The Hungering Dark* by Frederick Buechner

Lord, the calendar calls for Christmas. We have traveled this way before. During this Advent season we would see what we have never seen before, accept what we have refused to think, and hear what we need to understand. Be with us in our goings that we may meet you in your coming. Astonish us until we sing "Glory!" and then enable us to live it out with love and peace. In the name of your Incarnate Word, even Jesus Christ. Amen.

From *The Unsettling Season* by Donald J. Shelby

Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus

Come, Thou long expected Jesus
Born to set Thy people free;
From our fears and sins release us,
Let us find our rest in Thee.
Israel's strength and consolation,
Hope of all the earth Thou art;
Dear desire of every nation,
Joy of every longing heart.

Born Thy people to deliver,
Born a child and yet a King,
Born to reign in us forever,
Now Thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit
Rule in all our hearts alone;
By Thine all sufficient merit,
Raise us to Thy glorious throne.

Words: Charles Wesley (1707 – 1788)

In The Bleak Midwinter

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.
In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

Words: 1872, Christina Georgina Rossetti, (1830 – 1894)





The Word from the church is to Believe in a Deeper Hope that moves beyond the “wrappings” of Christmas around us. We proclaim a Hope that brings Good News, Joy and Compassion for all of God’s people.

THIS DEEPER HOPE IS MADE REAL IN ALL OF OUR REGIONS AS WE:

- Assist congregations and leaders in claiming their unique mission and ministry, and provide resources and support.
- Call, commission and ordain new pastors, and support and equip all pastors for their ministries.
- Revitalize existing congregations and plan for new congregations.
- Connect Regional Disciples to give witness to ministries of justice, hope and compassion.
- Provide camps, conferences and retreats where children and youth find hope and Christ’s love and a community of faith that embraces “everyone.”
- Make visible the care for all of God’s family through ministries of reconciliation and anti-racism.
- Call and equip passionate leaders for today’s church.
- Provide pastoral care for clergy and congregations.

The Christmas Special Day offering supports all of these and many other ministries of our Region. Your generous gifts make a difference in our shared ministries in the Regions.

2017 People to People Pilgrimage to India

Six members of *Compton Heights Christian Church* – along with two from Indiana and one from Texas - will make a People to People trip to India from **January 4 to January 20, 2017!** Compton Heights CC participants are: **Monte Abbott, Brenda Booth, Jacque Foster, Joan James, Leslie Latham, and Marsha McGuire.**



Our itinerary includes:

- Time with Global Mission Partners in Chennai
- 5 days at Family Village Farm & Kings Matriculation School – to include Medical Screenings for 500 – 700 children and adults. (We will have 3 RNs in our group, coordinating this aspect.)
- Visits to nearby Christian Medical College in Vellore, the Schieffelin Institute of Health Research and Training at Karigiri, one of three major medical centers in the world focusing on leprosy.
- Shanthigramam home for elders who have been cured of leprosy (yet cannot return to their villages or families), worship at St. John’s Church (Ft. Vellore), time in the community in Vellore.
- Travel to Madurai where we will stay at Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary - learning about education for ministry in that area, and engaging with Global Mission partners and ministries with Dalit people (those out-caste – below the caste system). in Madurai we will visit a Hindu Temple first built about 600 CE.
- Time back in Chennai, concluding with retreat.
- We also hope to visit the Roman Catholic Order – the Sisters of the Good Shepherd in Chennai. This is the order that Monte Abbott works with here in St. Louis.

Our group will share gifts of financial support for many of the ministries we visit.

Each participant pays for his or her own trip expenses. In addition, each congregation represented on this trip is encouraged to provide \$1000 to be divided among our mission partners.

Leslie Latham’s family congregation in Savannah, MO has made a contribution of \$250 to our total. We hope to take another \$750 from Compton Heights CC.

We welcome and would greatly appreciate any contribution, you may choose to make between now and December 25th!

Do you have clean, nice wearable men's clothing to pass on to a new home?



ISAIAH 58 Ministries' Thrift Store Organizer, Darryl Gray, has let us know that they are completely out of men's clothing. Everything from socks and underwear to shirts, pants, sweaters, and outer coats are needed.

If you have items to donate, they will be greatly appreciated!



UNO / YOUNN / 하나 / UN
JOHN 17: 20-21a

General Assembly 2017
July 8 – 12

Indianapolis, Indiana

Celebrate our ONEness!

In just about 7 months, Disciples from across the United States and Canada will be gathering in Indianapolis as ONE. In Jesus' priestly prayer from John 17, he prayed, "20 My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, 21 that all of them may be one." (NIV)

The General Assembly is a gathering that reminds us that the Church is more than our congregation or our region. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) includes many kinds of people and many points of view, but at our best, we are essentially and intentionally ONE in our belief in Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God.

Have you heard the African term "Ubuntu"? If you haven't, it is a concept that essentially says "I am because you are." In our individualized Western culture it is a challenge to understand, but as Disciples, we have a head start. Community is essential to our understanding of life as ONE in Christ. Paul says, "If ONE member suffers, all suffer together with it; if ONE member is honored, all rejoice together with it," in 1 Corinthians 12 (NRSV).

The 2017 General Assembly offers a chance to celebrate and rejoice as ONE and learn about the good Disciples are doing in the world. It is an opportunity to share our stories and hear from our sisters and brothers in God's ONE family. And we will hear the results of Mission First!

At this General Assembly, we will say farewell to Dr. Sharon Watkins our current General Minister and President and elect a new General Minister and President!

Get this on your calendar!

REGISTRATION for GA is now open! It is always good to register early for housing! Go to

www.disciples.org



Advent/Christmas

Sunday Schedule

9:15 Choir warmup
 10 am Classes for all
 11 am - Worship
 12:30 pm - Choir Prep

WSPR - Wed. Share & Prayer 6 pm - 7 pm
 Prayer Shawl 1st Thurs
 Compassionate Listening - 5th Tues.

Happy Friday Outreach
 7:00 - 8:00 am

What's

Nov. 27 Sun. ADVENT I
 Nov. 29 - Tuesday
 Compassionate Listening
 6:30 pm
 Nov. 30 Wed WSPR 6pm
 India Grp Mtg. 7 pm
 Dec 1 Thursday, Prayer
 Shawl Group 7 pm
 2nd Happy Friday 7-8 am
 3rd Prep for Hanging of
 Greens – 10 am
 4th Sun. ADVENT II
 Hanging of the Greens
 Stewardship Dedication!
 7th Wed. WSPR 6 p
 Ministry Groups 7 pm

Happening

9th Happy Friday 7-8 am
 11th Sunday - ADVENT III
 14th Wed. WSPR 6pm
 Elders 7 pm
 16st Happy Friday 7-8 am
 17th Saturday 5 - 8 pm
 Pastor's Christmas Open H.
 18th Sunday ADVENT IV
 Children's Christmas
 Pageant in Worship 11 am
 21st Wed. WSPR 6 pm
 23rd Happy Friday 7-8 am

Here

24th Christmas EVE
 Candlelight Worship 5:30
 Caroling 6:45 (ish)
 25th Sunday Christmas Day
 Simple Christmas Day
 Worship 11:00 am
 (no church school today
 and no refreshment time)
 27th - No Comp. Listening
 28th - No WSPR
 No Cabinet
 30th Happy Friday 7-8 am
 31st New Years Eve.
 January 1 - Sunday New
 Year's Day (No church
 school & no refreshments)

SERVING SCHEDULE - DECEMBER/EARLY JAN.

December Communion Bread: Dave Martin
Sanctuary Greeter: Bud Obermiller

Nov 27 Liturgist: Madeline Haraway
Elders: Norm Linville (Communion)
 Steve Randolph (Stewardship)
Deacons: Joan James, Stanley Williams
 Tom Litton, Dennis James
Nursery: Marty Hughes
Coffee Hosts: Charlsi and Thelonius Lee

Dec 4 Liturgist: Bob Lewis
Elders: Marsha McGuire(Communion)
 Madeline Haraway (Stewardship)
Deacons: Kim Litton, Bud Obermiller
 Heather Stout, Tina Owens
Nursery: Kathy Mead
Coffee Hosts: Walt & Audrey Tarde/ Sue Petri

Dec 11 Liturgist: Matthew Creed
Elders: Leslie Latham(Communion)
 Charlsi Lee (Stewardship)
Deacons: Susan Petri, Julie Phoenix
 Kathy Bradley, Carolyn Harry
Nursery: Darrell Hughes
Coffee Hosts: M. Haraway, K. Bradley, T. Owens

Dec 18 Liturgist: Masi Swanagan
Elders: Kathy Mead Communion)
 Nancy Obermiller (Stewardship)
Deacons: Dennis James, Walt Tarde
 Jennifer Phoenix, David Nielsen
Nursery: Marsha McGuire
Coffee Hosts: Bud and Nancy Obermiller

Dec 25 Liturgist: Dave Boger
Elders: Leslie Latham Communion)
 Judi Linville (Stewardship)
Deacons: Tom Litton, Dennis James
 Joan James, Stanley Williams
Nursery: No Nursery Christmas Day
Coffee Hosts: No Coffee Time this day

January Communion Bread: Dennis James
Sanctuary Greeter: Heather Stout

Jan 1 Liturgist Ron Hutcherson
Elders: Steve Randolph (Communion)
 Marsha McGuire (Stewardship)
Deacons: Heather Stout, Tina Owens
 Kim Litton, Bud Obermiller
Nursery: Brenda Booth
Coffee Hosts: No Coffee Time this day

Jan 8 Liturgist Bryan Richardson
Elders: Madeline Haraway (Communion)
 Norm Linville (Stewardship)
Deacons: Dennis James, Carolyn Harry
 Susan Petri, Julie Phoenix
Nursery: Ty Woodard
Coffee Time: Sarah & Bryan Richardson

Jan 15 Liturgist Cathy Hutcherson
Elders: Charlsi Lee (Communion)
 Millie Slack (Stewardship)
Deacons: Jennifer Phoenix, David Nielsen
 Susan Petri, Walt Tarde
Nursery: Dave Boger
Coffee Time: Cathy & Ron Hutcherson,
 Carolyn Harry

Compton Heights Christian Church
 2149 South Grand Blvd.
 St. Louis, MO 63104

Ministry Leaders

Rev. Dr. Jacquelyn Foster
 Pastor

Ms. Leslie Latham
 Moderator of Congregation

Ms. Kristie Welder
 Vice Moderator

Ms. Marsha McGuire
 Clerk

Ms. Judi Linville
 Financial Secretary

Kathy Mead,
 Darrell Hughes,
 Tom Litton
 Treasurers

Contact us: 314-771-5071
www.comptonheights.wordpress.com
 check us out on Facebook
www.isaiah58ministries.org
 Email: comptonheightscc@gmail.com
 Pastor: jleigh55@att.net

Financial Report – Mid - November Income and Expenses

Income report 11/13/2016	
November income	\$6,485.70
YTD total income	\$132,271.86
YTD Budget	\$136,639.88

Expense report 11/13/2016	
November expenses	\$ 4,753
YTD expenses	\$125,983
Projected deficit	\$ 7,234

YTD total Income details

Regular giving	\$101,195.00
Loose offering	1,404.27
New and gifts	2,220.00
CCF Interest	322.55
CCF transfer	5,000.00
Rent	6,000.00
Fund Raising	2,072.96
Outreach offerings	5,499.71
India tuition	441.71
Equal Exchange	1,369.60
Expense offsets	5,195.31
20th Anniversary	1,550.00



A Special Thanks to All who worked on the November Work Day!

A great group came out on Saturday, November 12 to clean up the church yard for the fall, paint north door entryway, and clean up the choir room. Prior to that day's gathering, **Dennis James and Darrell Hughes** had done days and days of work repairing the stairwell walls and beginning the painting process!

Those who worked so hard on Saturday were: **Howard Miller, Monte Abbott, Morgan Clough, Darrell and Marty Hughes, Alonzo Lewis, Jake, Jane, and Eli Schlemper, Leslie Latham, Meredith Jackson, Mike Hubbard, Madeline Haraway, and Dave Boger.**
THANK YOU TO ALL!