

*University Christian Church exists for bringing others to Christ,  
building them up in Christ, and sending them out for Christ.  
Join us for Sunday School at 9:15am and Worship at 10:30am.*

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# The UCC Connection

*A publication of University Christian Church  
Where Life Change Happens*

Steve Huddleston—Senior Minister  
Andrew Cullen—Associate/Youth Minister, Michael McDonough—Children’s Minister

Place label over this message

## listening to the lord

By Charley Gerber

Our world is like a blender, and someone keeps hitting the puree button. So, what causes us stress? It is the acrostic PETE: People, Events, Thinking and Emotions

Events can stress us out. This is not a revolutionary statement. Growing up my father often told me that I had to get my act together. This may be a surprise, but I heard this a lot from my father.

My Heavenly Father God tells me something similar. God tells me, in times of trauma and stress, I have a part to play and I must learn my part: In times of stress, I need to beware of my:

**Philosophies**—Colossians 2:8

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.”

**Attitude**—Philippians 2:5

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:”

**Character**—Galatians 5:22-23

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.”

**Theology**—Exodus 6:2

“God also said to Moses, ‘I am the Lord.’”

Let’s look at two more passages. “God reigns over the nations; God is seated on his holy throne.” Psalms 47:8 God is reigning right now!

“Is not my house right with God? Has he not made with me an everlasting covenant, arranged and secured in every part? Will he not bring to fruition my salvation and grant me my every desire?” 2 Samuel 23:5

God arranges and secures every part in his everlasting covenant with us, according to this passage. But we are responsible for our philosophies, attitude, character, and Theology! As a witness to this world, as a light to the world, be sure you play your “part” that God wants you to have well!

## Dave & Christy in North Africa

Sunday, January 31  
9am and 10:30am Service  
in-person only

Dave & Christy will be sharing with us in both Sunday morning services at 9 am and 10:30 am.  
On February 17 and 24 they will be hosting small group meetings from 6 pm-7:30 pm.

## Bible Reading Plan and Memorization

We have developed a daily Bible reading plan that you may pick up in the pass thru hall on or after December 30th. Daily readings are kept relatively brief to avoid information overload while still giving a broad overview of the Old Testament, reading through all of the New Testament, all of Psalms, and all of Proverbs twice.

Instructions on how to journal your thoughts are also available in the Bible reading plan. Be sure to pick up your copy and start the new year off right by allowing God to speak to your heart daily through His word.

## Senior Saints

The Senior Saints will not be meeting in January but plan to have a big Valentine's bash in February. Details in next months newsletter.

## GivePlus Mobile

Quickly and easily give using your smartphone. Enjoy the convenience of making credit or debit card donations as a guest user, or create an account to set up recurring donations and view your giving history. Go to the App Store or Google Play and search "GivePlus Church" to download the app for free.



## Sunday Services

We continue to have two in-person services; one at 9am and one at 10:30am (children's programs available during 10:30am service only). The 10:30am service will be Facebook Live and then will be available on our website by the following Monday. If you plan to attend one of our Sunday services, please be sure to register online by going to our website and clicking on the "Register for Sunday Service" button.

Website:

[www.universitychristianchurch.com](http://www.universitychristianchurch.com)

Remember:

- Doors open 10 minutes before service starts
- Please respect others and practice social distancing
- Masks are requested
- If you are showing symptoms or have been exposed to someone who may have COVID please stay home and worship with us online until you are no longer at risk of spreading the virus.

## Operation Christmas Child Update

University Christian Church packed a total of 1,114 shoeboxes this year. This was 8 more than last year. As a drop-off site, University Christian received 3,710 from the Muncie area and a total of 9,702 shoeboxes from the surrounding East Central Indiana area. While this was down about 2,000 boxes from last year, we had a significant increase in the number of individuals who brought shoeboxes. Many of these individuals were first-time packers! Thank you to the many volunteers who helped pack boxes, process incoming boxes, pack cartons and load the semis. It was a very different, and sometimes difficult year, but God showed He is faithful even in the difficult times. Right after Thanksgiving, seven UCC members along with seven others from Indiana and Ohio, spent two and a half days working at the OCC processing center in Charlotte, NC. With other volunteers, we processed over 150,000 boxes destined for Uganda, Burundi, and Madagascar. The experience was both humbling and inspiring - to touch 150,000 children for Jesus - and we can't wait to start building more boxes! Christmas cards you don't know what to do with? Don't throw them out, save them for an OCC craft! With a little bit of glue and a tongue depressor a beautiful fan can be created!

## Woman's Journey

If you are interested in growing deeper in your faith, growing deeper in your relationship with other women of the church, and growing deeper in your relationship with Jesus, we want you! Please contact Trisha Boyd, Rachel Grile or Joyce Neese if you'd like to participate or have any questions. If you cannot attend the first meeting, but want to participate, please let us know so we can reserve a spot for you!

## Ordination Service

Our newly elected elder, Adam Grile and newly elected deacon, Mark Stultz, will be ordained into these roles of service on Sunday, January 3.

## Contribution Statements

If you need a 2020 contribution statement please contact Carol Deiwert by cell at 765-656-1404 or by email at [finsec@universitychristianchurch.com](mailto:finsec@universitychristianchurch.com).

## This Month at UCC

Offices Closed—January 1

Men's Lunch at Puerto Vallarta—January 5 @11:30am

Women's Journey—January 7 @6pm

Elder's Meeting—January 14 5:30-8:30pm

REACH Yorktown Food Distribution—January 16 @ 9am

Journeymen—January 25 @6pm

Full Praise Team—January 20 @ 7pm

## A Note from Steve



Whew! What a year 2020 has been! It sure turned out differently than I was expecting at this time last year! Now, as we approach the dawn of a new year, there is a sense of renewed hope and anticipation that 2021 will be a better year.

Yet, if we're honest, we have to admit that there are still a lot of uncertainties. As I type this, President Trump is still pursuing legal options, so we aren't even certain who our next President will be. A vaccine is now being distributed, but we are still uncertain what the long term effects (or side-effects) will be. We still don't know how much longer things like virtual learning, contact tracing, and quarantining will be a major part of our

lives.

Now don't get me wrong. I'm not trying to depress you or dash your hopes for a bright and wonderful new year. I'm just trying to remind you of where our real hope is found. If you're depending on an election outcome to be what leads to a happy new year, your hope is in the wrong thing. If you're depending on a vaccine, or another stimulus package, or an ample supply of toilet paper to make the new year better, your hope is in the wrong thing.

I just read about a new Gallup Poll which found that Americans rated their mental health lower this past year than they ever have in the past two decades, indicating that more Americans overall are struggling with things like depression and anxiety. But the study also revealed that one group of people actually rated their mental health higher than a year ago. Do you know who that was? "churchgoers who attend services at least once a week."

Now I don't think just walking through the doors of a church is all it takes for a year full of bliss and happiness, but I do suspect that those who have continued to be faithful in worship are also people who have remembered where their true hope lies. As the old hymn puts it, "My hope is built on nothing less, than Jesus blood and righteousness; I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus' name."

If you want 2021 to be a year of peace, joy, and blessing, rather than anxiety and depression, then wholly lean on Jesus' name. He gives a peace and joy that will stay with you, no matter what Dr. Anthony Fauci says, no matter what the Governor does, and no matter who the President is. If you want the coming year to be a great one, focus on the things you can control, then let your hope in Jesus carry you through those things you can't control.

So what can you control that will help the coming year be a great one? Your prayer and worship habits; your time in God's Word, your service to others, your witness to the lost, and your attitude toward others. Focus on these things while you put your hope in Jesus Then have a Happy New Year!

All For Jesus,  
Steve



## Sanctity of Life Sunday/Baby Dedication Ceremony

Sunday, January 17 commemorates 48 years since the January 22, 1973 Roe V. Wade U.S. Supreme Court decision that legalized abortion in our country. We will be honoring the sanctity of life on this day and will also be offering a baby dedication ceremony for any of you parents who would like to publicly declare your intentions to raise your child(ren) in the Lord. Parents, if you would like to participate with your child, please contact the church office by January 5 at 765-284-0896 or email Laci Carroll at [laci@universitychristianchurch.com](mailto:laci@universitychristianchurch.com).

# January 2021



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1 Offices Closed	2
3 Elder/Deacon ordination	4	5 Men's Lunch 11:30am ECHS 1:30-4pm	6	7 Women's Journey 6pm	8	9 LC reserved—Bousman 10am-4pm
10	11	12 ECHS 1:30-4pm	13	14 Elder's Meeting 5:30-8:30pm	15	16 Reach Yorktown 9-11am (UCC)
17 Sanctity of Life Sunday	18	19 ECHS 1:30-4pm	20 Full Praise Team 7pm	21	22	23
24	25 Journeymen 6pm	26 ECHS 1:30-4pm	27	28	29	30
31 Dave & Christy Sunday morning—both services						

## Birthdays

- Jan. 1 Don Taylor
- Jan. 6 Wally Draper
- Jan. 7 Kairos Stultz
- Jan. 8 Caleb McDonough
- Jan. 12 Joshua Sexton
- Jan. 12 Lily Curts
- Jan. 14 Barbara Lowe
- Jan. 14 Phil Unger
- Jan. 15 Karen Burke
- Jan. 18 Bonnie Wehrly
- Jan. 18 Vicky May
- Jan. 20 Jim Stringer
- Jan. 21 Kristi Brumley
- Jan. 24 Terry Powers
- Jan. 26 Pat Edmonds
- Jan. 26 Laci Carroll
- Jan. 28 Charlene Decker
- Jan. 30 Jaimilyn Burns



Andrew Cullen  
Associate/Youth Minister

Do you ever feel worn out from all the information you take in? I do, and I am someone who loves to learn. Do you ever feel worn out from all the tasks you feel you ought to do? I do, and I am someone who is task oriented. In everyday conversation, we answer people's questions about *how* we are doing by describing *what* we are doing.

Many people are longing for a simpler life, and many more are gravitating towards outdoor recreation in order to get away from the complexity of 21st century western culture. Some are even willing to make significant lifestyle changes or pack their bags and move to a smaller community in search of simplicity.

On December 20, Kayla and I celebrated our one-year engagement anniversary. I am the kind of person who says, "Let's go do something fun!" But we have been learning that too much of a good thing, like time with friends, traveling to see family, and even serving others, can be counterproductive. So we set aside three days to spend together. We did not call anyone or go anywhere. We ate leftovers, watched TV shows, played the piano, worked on a couple small projects, read, journaled, prayed, and talked. It was very refreshing. When we are physically and emotionally rejuvenated, we love each other well (Ephesians 5).

Normally, newsletters are about what happened or what is coming up. Rather than give you more to think about, I want to remind you to prioritize physical and emotional rest. We need it, and other people need us to be rested. At the same time, Scripture does not affirm living off the hard work of others (2 Thessalonians 3:10). But if we push too hard, our kingdom work will be counterproductive. Being physically exhausted can make us emotionally exhausted, which makes us more prone to anger and less likely to love.

In his book, *Unoffendable*, Brant Hansen writes, "We have to actively choose a way to live, because otherwise we'll simply get swept along: hurried, stressed, status-driven, easily angered, and opting for madcap busyness without even knowing why. Living the usual way, we're prone to offense simply because people can't help but stand in the way of what we're straining to get" (56). Achievers, like myself, are so consumed with the goal that we forget the beauty of the journey.

A common verse people use to encourage others to rest is Psalm 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God." According to Hansen, the context of this Psalm is someone looking over the remains of a battlefield and God is telling him to stop fighting, let it go, and relax (59). To "be still" means to give up trying to control everything or everyone. It means to accept the outcome of the battle and know that nothing we do diminishes God's sovereignty or hinders His plan.

Do kingdom work! Work hard as for the Lord! But then go home, eat some leftovers, read a book, or take a walk. Do not sacrifice your emotional health by exhausting your physical health. Who we are in Jesus is more important than what we do for Jesus.



Michael McDonough  
Children's Minister

**Coming Up in the Children's Ministry:**

We will continue to have nursery, wee worship, and Power Station available during the second hour (10:30am). Thank you to all who have helped make this possible!

**God Sightings:**

On behalf of my family, I want to thank everyone at UCC who have shown kindness and generosity to my family throughout this year. We appreciate all of the gifts and cards we received during the Christmas season, but also throughout the year. Thank you so much!

**January Focus:**

As we go into 2021 with still a lot of uncertainty, I want us to be able to focus on how big God is, and putting a priority on prayer in all things. I would like to share a prayer for the children's ministry, and I hope that you can pray this prayer and/or agree with me as we start 2021.

"Our Dear Heavenly Father,

We come to you now with heavy hearts from a very difficult year for so many people. 2020 was definitely not what we expected, but we know that through it all, you have been faithful. We praise you for your faithfulness, your loving kindness, and your grace. We come lifting up 2021 to you. We thank you for all of the children that are a part of the children's ministry here at UCC. We pray for them right now. We pray for Your Word to fill these children's lives when they are at church and when they are at home. We pray that they would know you, and that they would come to love you.

We lift the volunteers (teachers and helpers) that help make this ministry possible. We pray for blessings for them and their families, and may they be light to these children. Use them to minister, love, care, and lead these children in a way that is pleasing to you. We pray for the parents, grandparents, and guardians who take care of these precious children regularly. Give them wisdom on how to raise these children and may your light shine brightly in their lives.

We pray that everything we do this upcoming year lifts up the name of Jesus, and lives are changed because of Jesus.

We trust you in all things.

To the King,  
To HIS Kingdom!  
Amen"

If there is anything I can do for your family, please let me know.

If you have any questions about what is going on with the kids, please contact Michael @ (765) 516-3532 or at michael@universitychristianchurch.com