



# CHRISTIAN

Strength for the Journey. Grace for the Soul.

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*We joyfully  
welcome  
and nurture  
all people  
by providing  
a vibrant  
Christ-centered  
community  
of faith,  
dedicated to  
spiritual growth  
through  
worship, study  
and service.*

## Personnel Committee Announces Staff Restructuring

As reported to the Congregational Board at its January meeting, the Personnel Committee is undertaking a restructuring of the Church's staff. The restructuring adopts the recommendations of the Alban Institute in its report on the Church's staff organization. The Alban Institute, a nation-wide congregational consulting firm, was engaged to conduct an assessment of the Church's staff organization. The Alban report made the following recommendations to facilitate congregational growth and the fulfillment of the congregation's mission and vision.

1. Reconfigure the staff structure to reduce the number of people reporting to the Senior Minister, increase the number reporting to the Senior Associate Minister and create the position of Church Business Administrator. The Church Business Administrator would have primary staff oversight in the areas of finances, endowment,

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## Nicaragua Mission Trip Q&A

Next month, the church will send a team to Nicaragua for the seventh time to conduct a medical clinic and undertake construction projects in a small rural village. For those who haven't had the opportunity to take this trip, Stephanie Pilkington, lay leader of next month's trip and veteran of six out of the seven trips, shares some insights on our experiences there.

### Why do we continue to travel to Nicaragua?

We originally chose Nicaragua due the reputation of our host agency, CEPAD, the Council of Protestant Churches in Nicaragua. We keep going back due to the great work CEPAD does. CEPAD is run by Nicaraguans and knows what the people need, rather than being a group of outsiders telling the people what they need.

### What kind of work will our team do this year?

We will set up a medical clinic in a small, remote village in any available space—a church, a school building or a home. I always tell our medical staff to anticipate working in a room with only a chair and a table. Maybe we will get lucky and have electricity. We will also be preparing and handing out home health kits to provide basic medical supplies; things you have in your medicine cabinet at home, but are either simply unavailable in rural Nicaragua or so expensive that they cannot be obtained by ordinary citizens. We will also do construction work, directed by CEPAD, in the same village.

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## State of the Church Dinner Thursday, January 27, 6:30 p.m.



Join Dr. Glen Miles as we assess where we have been as a congregation and prepare for our journey into the future. Thur., Jan. 27, 6:30 p.m., Social Hall. Call Mary Margaret

House at 816-333-4917 to make your reservation or sign up in the parlor on Sunday. Cost is \$12 per person.



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## Staff Restructuring

*continued from page 1*

information technology and facilities. This will unfortunately eliminate the positions of Director of Administration and Director of Finance, currently held by Marilyn Wimer and Jan Calloway respectively.

2. Create an executive staff partnership consisting primarily of the Senior Minister, Senior Associate Minister and Church Business Administrator. These individuals would meet regularly to maintain the Church's strategic focus and coordinate the work of the staff team with the work of the congregational board/councils. The Personnel Committee is working with Dr. Miles and Rev. Aday to restructure the organization of the staff and evaluate job descriptions and responsibilities. Particularly, a job description is being finalized for the new position of Church Business Administrator.

A search committee has been formed to undertake the process of selecting an individual to serve as Church Business Administrator. John Cockle is chair of the committee. Other members are Pat Martin, Barbara George, Marcia Berry, Wayne Heady, David Forsee and Lee Brumitt. The goal is to have the Church Business Administrator in place by July 1, the start of the next fiscal year. To read a copy of the Personnel Committee's Restructuring Report and a summary of the Alban Report, [click here](#).

## Nicaragua, *continued from page 1*

### **How will this trip be the same or different from previous trips?**

Each trip is similar and unique at the same time. Similarities include setting up the medical clinic and performing construction work. It's also similar in that we are staying in the same guest house we have stayed at in the past, which has flush toilets! The trip will be different in that we will be working in a new village, which means new village leaders to get to know and trust during our short visit. We don't know what type of a facility we will have to set up. We don't know what types of medical cases we will see nor do we know what kind of construction is needed. Additionally, there are always new members on each trip, so the unique makeup of each mission team lends itself to new and exciting adventures.

### **What's the most important thing about the Nicaragua Mission Trip?**

For me, the most important thing about the trip is the experience of the team members. Each person brings back a unique perspective on life outside of their typical day in Kansas City. While we each experience difficulties in our daily lives, when we see what the people of Nicaragua deal with on a daily basis—and how positive and joyful they are—it cannot help but change our own perspectives on our lives. We also help a number of people while we are working within the country, which only adds to the benefit of the trip on each individual person.

### **What does someone who might be interested in this trip need to know?**

That it is a very easy trip to go on. In years such as this one, we are staying in a great place with beds (a little lumpy), showers (no hot water) and flush toilets, a real luxury! We have a

great cook and a place that is very safe. We are well cared for by those we work with at CEPAD, and in case of a problem we travel with our own medical



team! We have had mission team members ranging in age from 21 to 71, and everyone is able to contribute, no matter their skills set or lack thereof. The trip will change your life in any number of ways, especially in ways you never saw coming. Bring tissues, you will laugh and cry throughout the week.

### **How you can help:**

As part of this trip, the group will be providing home health kits to local families. The church is collecting the following items for these kits: acetaminophen (Tylenol), ibuprofen (Advil), antacids (Tums), cough drops, antibiotic ointment (Neosporin), bandages, toothbrushes, adult vitamins, children's vitamins (no gummies), prenatal vitamins (no softgels). Our greatest needs are for prenatal vitamins (no softgels) and antibiotic ointment. These two items are among the most expensive items we take with us and are of great importance to the people we will visit.

Due to restrictions on what we are allowed to bring into Nicaragua, we will be purchasing soap and toothpaste in Nicaragua to include in each kit. Please place your donations of the above items [Note: All expiration dates must be no earlier than March 2012], or cash to help with the purchase of items in Nicaragua in the Parlor during January.



## On Faith

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Theologian Marcus Borg was on a plane. A woman seated next to him asked him what he does. He said, “I am a New Testament professor. I specialize in studies of Jesus.” She said, “I am much more interested in Buddhism than I am in Christianity.” Borg asked, “Why?” She said, “Because they’re about way of life, and Christianity is all about believing. I don’t think beliefs matter as much as having a spiritual path and following a way.”

Borg reminds us in his book, *The Heart of Christianity*, that the oldest names for the Christian faith are “The Way” and “The Path.” However, during the last two centuries or so Christianity has been transformed by many into a set of beliefs or truths that one is required to believe to be included in the church. Today, when you say, “Christian,” many inside and outside of the church think of a set of beliefs.

My friend Dick Wing says, “If you tell me what you believe, you have told me nothing about your faith.” I worked for Dick for seven years as his associate pastor. When he resigned to take a new church we held a big party for him. A wonderful meal was served. Champagne was offered to those who would like it. I was the MC for the event. I got up and invited Lee Regier to speak. Lee was Dick’s best friend. He was the pastor of a big Baptist church down the street. He was a marvelous preacher and a great guy. When he got to the podium though he looked irritated. He said, “I can’t believe you Christian Church people. You are serving wine at a church event!” His voice had that preacher voice sound to it, do you know what I mean? He sounded like he was revving up to give us a sermon on the evil of champagne. He looked down, paused, then he said, “I mean, y’all need to know that we Baptists drink, just not in front of each other!”

If you tell me what you believe you haven’t really told me how you live. A few years ago the *Kansas City Star* interviewed local Christian pastors on how we should respond to people of other faiths. One of the responders was my colleague Bob Hill, Senior Minister at Community Christian Church. He spoke of a willingness to enter into respectful dialogue. Another local pastor essentially said, “We have truth on our side. When you believe in the truth you must work to get others to accept it too.”

If we are following Jesus on the way, if we are with him on the path, then we are not looking to create an in group, one that guards the answers and the truths. No. We are a part of a “Y’all come on in group!” One that is ready to experience whatever new thing God is doing in our lives and in our world.

Grace and peace to you as we travel on this journey with Jesus,

*Glen*

## Visitor Information Seminar on January 29

You’re invited to the Visitor Information Seminar on Sat., Jan. 29 from 8:45-11:30 a.m. Learn more about our history as a denomination and a church and discover the multitude of ways you can be strengthened on your faith journey. Our ministers will be on hand to talk about the church’s ministries and how you can get involved. Ask questions, enjoy breakfast and meet the church’s lay leaders. Then, if you’re ready to join the church, the next **New Member Sunday is Feb. 6.** For more information or to reserve your spot at the seminar, please contact Lauren Weinhold, Director of Church Growth, at 816-333-4917 or laurenw@cccckc.org.

## Worship with us!

**Services at 9:00, 10:00  
and 11:00 a.m.**

### **The Scandal of Wisdom**

**Jan. 23**

Part 3: Changing Your Life  
*Matthew 4: 12-23*

**Jan. 30**

Part 4: Diving Deep, Finding Joy  
*Matthew 5: 1-12*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Pathways to Learning Being a Good Neighbor

Jan. 23, 30 and Feb. 6, 13



This four-part series will look at various perspectives on being a good neighbor. How is the United States a good neighbor in the world? How are Kansas City neighborhoods designed? What kind of neighbor does scripture call us to be?

What new neighborly programs are rising up in our own community? 9:55-10:55 a.m., Social Hall.

### Being a Good Neighbor...

**Jan. 23 ...What does the Bible Ask?** Dr. Harold Washington, Professor of Old Testament at St. Paul School of Theology.

**Jan. 30 ...Our Neighborhood: Legacy or Divide?** Dr. Bill Worley, historian, professor, actor and author of *J.C. Nichols and the Shaping of Kansas City*.

**Feb. 6 ...Civil Discourse.** Speaker to be announced.

**Feb. 13 ...Modern Neighbors in a New Kansas City.** Steve Weitkamp, Jewish Vocational Services.

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## College Retreat Rousing Success

More than 35 young adults gathered at Tall Oaks Conference Center Jan. 5-7 to relax with old friends and new, refresh their minds and bodies before a new semester and to grow in their spiritual lives. The attendees, representing churches from all over the Greater Kansas City Region, talked about and experienced new ways of prayer, encountering the Bible and embodied spiritual practices, such as yoga and pilgrimages. A panel of area ministers led a discussion of what it means to be growing in faith post-high school and how congregations can help foster that growth. Ben Giguere, Emily Ritter, Allison Reynolds, Matt Martiny, Drew Davidson and Rev. Steve Mason attended from Country Club Christian Church.

Many participants, leaders and Tall Oaks organizers look forward to similar events in the future. There is also a Facebook group for KC area young adults. If you'd like to be included, contact Rev. Steve Mason at [stevem@cccckc.org](mailto:stevem@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

## Couple Communication

Couple Communication is an award-winning educational program that teaches you and your partner practical communication skills. Develop confidence to communicate with your partner effectively, creating better resolutions to conflict and increasing satisfaction in your relationship. The class will meet Saturdays, Mar. 26 and Apr. 9, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Couples who were married at the church may take the course for free. Contact: Michelle Schlatter at [weddings@cccckc.org](mailto:weddings@cccckc.org) or call the church at 816-333-4917.

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## Soul Mates

This six-week class is designed for engaged and newlywed couples. The class will focus on topics and issues that are relevant to a meaningful relationship. Class participants will be encouraged to read *It Takes Two: The Joy of Intimate Marriage* by Andrew and Judith Lester. The class begins Sun., Jan. 30 and continues through Sun., Mar. 6, 9:55-10:55 a.m. For more information or to reserve a spot, contact Rev. Carla Aday or Lauren Weinhold at 816-333-4917.

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## Infant Dedication



Katherine Fife Reid with her parents, Lindsay & Alasdair Reid

## Infant and Child Dedications

We welcome new babies and young children into our congregation through special recognition during a worship service. Dedications may be scheduled as part of the 11:00 a.m. service on the following Sundays: Mar. 6, May 8, June 19. Contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn at 816-333-4917 or [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org).



## King's Legacy

by Brandon Winstead, Director of High School Ministries



It's that time of the year again. Commercials, newspapers, civic leaders, politicians, and media outlets ask us to take a day off from our duties and responsibilities to celebrate and commemorate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. At the time I'm writing this, I'm preparing to join the chorus and take some time to attend a memorial service in an effort to keep alive the memory and work of King. More than likely, at the gathering, I will clap, sing, say "Amen!" at the right moments, and second the civic leaders who will remind me of how King helped to open doors and

opportunities for others and how he led the national movement for civil rights.

In the midst of this, I'm also sure that I will wrestle with the uncomfortable reminders that the prophet King gave years ago. I will hear the words of King that actively opposed America's war against Vietnam. I will listen to the sermons and speeches of King that denounced poverty in America's inner cities and which decried his country's imperialistic, materialistic, and racist actions at home and abroad.

These words will echo and I will wonder why such proclamations do not encourage us to challenge injustices around the globe and even those in our own backyard. I will ponder why so many are silent while hundreds are murdered on the streets of Kansas City every year or why so many in our communities continue to live in luxury at the expense of those who don't have enough to nourish their bodies and minds.

These, of course, are just a few reminders. Yet, my hope is that such ruminations will move us to action long after the celebrations have passed and the commercials have faded away.

## Reception for Susie Diebold

### Longtime Manager of The Well Retiring

Susie Diebold, who has served as the volunteer manager of The Well, our church's book and gift shop, is retiring. Join us at noon on Sun., Feb. 6, in the Parlor to express your appreciation to Susie.



Susie Diebold

She has managed The Well the past eight years and prior to that managed Gifts That Make a Difference for five years. The Enrichment Council is grateful to Susie for her vision and generous service in creating and maintaining The Well.

The Well has provided spiritual nourishment to our members and friends by providing creative, thoughtful and timely Christian literature; has supported emerging economies through the sale of third world hand crafts; and has raised approximately \$75,000 for disaster relief at home and around the world as all proceeds have been donated to Week of Compassion.

Beginning in January, a new team of volunteers under the leadership of Pat Martin will assume management of The Well. In addition to those who volunteer weekly in the Well, Pat will be assisted by Nancy Lear, Sue (Icenogle) Lytton and Cindy Irey in continuing the mission of The Well.

## Service of Prayer for Healing and Wholeness

**Tues., Feb. 1 at 7:30 p.m.**

Join us for a peaceful time of song, scripture and prayer at 7:30 p.m. on Tues., Feb. 1 in Combs Chapel. This service offers an opportunity for church members and friends of our church to share prayerful concerns as well as blessings.

# Upcoming Events for Youth and their Families

## Chi-Rho & CYF Jam Sessions

The youth group is full of talented musicians and we want to provide the opportunity for these youth musicians to play music together. On the second Sunday of the month, beginning Jan. 9 youth can stay after youth group from 8:00-9:00 p.m. to jam with other youth musicians. Church member and musician Jim Sullivan will be present to support the musicians. Bring your musical instruments to youth group and stay around afterwards to show your talent. Questions? Contact Brandon Winstead at [brandonw@cccckc.org](mailto:brandonw@cccckc.org)

## CYF & Chi Rho Winter Retreat

**Feb. 18-20, 2011**

CYF and Chi Rho Youth Winter Retreat is at Tall Oaks Conference Center. Chi Rho and CYF will have their own separate programming including games, worship, and growing community! Cost: \$50. RSVP to Heather Rotter by Jan. 30 at [heatherr@cccckc.org](mailto:heatherr@cccckc.org).

## Parents of Teenagers Gatherings

We all thought being a teenager was pretty challenging – but what about parenting a teenager? There are many joys and challenges that come with the teen years and navigating them can be overwhelming at times. Country Club Christian Church is gathering parents with youth in Chi Rho and CYF once a month for fellowship, a brief topical presentation and facilitated sharing. Beginning Sun., Jan. 23 from 6:00-8:00 p.m., join other parents of teens in members' homes. The first gathering

on Jan. 23 will be hosted at the home of Dan and Shelle Jensen. Save the dates for future gatherings: Feb. 27; Mar. 27; Apr. 17; May 22.

## Parent/Son Workshop:

**Sun., Feb. 13, noon-3:30 p.m.**

Save the date for this workshop for 4th-6th grade boys, along with a parent. This is an opportunity to jointly explore age-appropriate issues related to sexuality. Exploring these topics together promotes open communication between boys and their parents. Presenters from the Education Programs of Planned Parenthood will lead us in discussions and activities. Cost is \$20/pair. Make reservations with Heather Rotter at [heatherr@cccckc.org](mailto:heatherr@cccckc.org) or 816-333-4917.

## Alternative Readings

This intergenerational group that will bring middle school students and young adults together to study the same book, from each of their particular life experiences will meet every other week from January to April. The group will first focus on Shane Claiborne's book, *Irresistible Revolution*. We will discuss two chapters each session. The group will meet every other Thursday night for seven sessions between Jan. 13 and Apr. 7, 6:30-8:00 p.m., in the Youth Center (Rm. 205). Contact Justin Zeigler at [justinz@cccckc.org](mailto:justinz@cccckc.org) or Steve Mason [stevem@cccckc.org](mailto:stevem@cccckc.org) for more information.

## Pastors' Class

Beginning Wed., Feb. 2, Pastors' Class for youth 6th grade and older will meet on Wednesday evenings until Palm Sunday. The class is designed to provide time, space, and tools to help students more clearly name their iden-

tity as Christians and their connection to this faith community. Students will have the opportunity to celebrate these insights and transformation through the ritual of baptism and church membership on Palm Sunday, Apr. 17. The class will meet from 6:30-8:00 p.m. For information, contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn at [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org).

## Souper Bowl of Caring



Chi Rho and CYF youth will be collecting donations for the "Souper Bowl of Caring" following all four morning worship services on Sunday, Feb. 6. Funds collected for the Souper Bowl of Caring are directed to the charity each Disciples of Christ congregation selects. This year, funds collected will go to the Virginia Reed Food Drive.

## Children's Musical Coming to You on Sunday, March 6

Mark you calendar for the fifth annual musical presented by the Children's and Cherubim Choirs. *Barbecue for Ben* is based on the parable of the prodigal son. We will gather in the Social Hall immediately following the 11:00 a.m. worship service for a light meal, followed by the show. Please join us!





## Uncomfortable and Messy

by Rev. Steve Mason, Pastoral Resident



It's not difficult to be vulnerable when you find yourself awaiting a chip with bean dip coming from the hand of a person you just met two hours ago. And yet, that's where I found myself Jan. 5 at the college retreat at Tall Oaks Conference Center. All 35 of us were in the middle of a love feast that was the end of the first night's worship, and we were following this ancient celebration that isn't necessarily communion, but early Christians celebrated communal meals together as an act of worship.

Today in churches we do potlucks (or hotdishes, depending where you're from). But at this love feast, we had a smorgasbord of goodies, all waiting to be tasted—the only rule was you couldn't serve yourself. Yes, we had lavishly provided a banquet but you could only enjoy it if you asked someone to feed you and you would also put your hand dangerously close to other peoples' mouths as servant.

The whole event started off with much protesting and awkwardness. No one wanted to ask for help or particularly wanted anyone else peeling their oranges or dipping celery in ranch for them...much less actually getting close enough to feed it to them. But soon the novelty wore off and people began conversing and caring for people that they maybe didn't know before worship had started. After the love feast was over and people could serve themselves, many people continued to serve and be served by their neighbor. It was a beautiful evening.

I don't know how to capture and replicate this inter-dependency in our congregational setting. We live in a world of self reliance and independence is touted as a supreme virtue. But the community Jesus created for his disciples was untidy and caused even the brightest among them to be confounded. He made them do things in groups and experience the joy of community in ways that made them very uncomfortable. Even during the Last Supper, Jesus had them share from one cup and from one loaf to remind his followers of the need for mutuality and vulnerability.

Like the college students feeding each other at our love feast, this intimacy can feel awkward, uncomfortable and can be messy. But that's the life of a Christian—uncomfortable and messy. It requires us to be servant and yet vulnerable enough to be served. Thanks be to God for this confusion.

Steve

## Children and Families

### Club Kids

#### **Snow Tubing on Jan. 30**

On Sun., Jan. 30, Club Kids will go snow tubing in Weston, MO. We will eat lunch at noon and depart for Weston by 1:15 p.m., returning to the church at 5:30 p.m. Cost is \$35 per person. Info packets and permission forms available in Children's Wing or at Club Kids. Contact Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn at [catherinesc@cccckc.org](mailto:catherinesc@cccckc.org).

#### **Feb. 6 – Souper Bowl Sunday**

On Super Bowl Sunday, Feb. 6, Club Kids will serve at Harvesters from 1:00-3:00 p.m. We will have lunch at church at noon and then depart for Harvesters to work in the warehouse as part of the Souper Bowl of Caring. We will be back at church by 3:30 p.m. This will replace our evening gathering. Space is limited so please RSVP to Karla Herrington at [karlah@cccckc.org](mailto:karlah@cccckc.org).

### Fountains of Faith Rotation

#### **The Samaritan Woman at the Well**

#### **January 9 – February 6**

The Samaritan Woman at the Well is a story of exclusion and inclusion, outsider and insider, reconciliation and transformation. Everywhere the woman looks, she is an outsider. Jesus will embrace her with the love of God, offering her the living water of full communion with God. 1st-5th graders will have the opportunity to explore this story of God's inclusive love through cooking, storytelling, role playing and more. Join us Sunday mornings from 9:55-10:55 a.m.

### Parent/Son Workshop

#### **Sun., Feb. 13 - Noon-3:30 p.m.**

This workshop for 4th-6th grade boys, along with a parent, is an opportunity to jointly explore age appropriate issues related to sexuality. See page 6 for details.

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## PROGRAM STAFF

**Dr. R. Glen Miles**  
Senior Minister

**Rev. Carla Aday**  
Senior Associate Minister

**Rev. David Diebold**  
Minister of Music

**Rev. Catherine Stark-Corn**  
Minister to Children,  
Youth and Families

**Rev. Chuck Murphy**  
Minister of Congregational  
Care

**Ms. Karla Herrington**  
Director of Children's  
Ministries

**Rev. Steve Mason**  
Pastoral Resident

**Mr. Brian Mathias**  
Associate Organist

**Ms. Lisa McCleish**  
Director of Early  
Childhood Programs

**Ms. Laine Riley**  
Associate Director of Music

**Ms. Lara Schopp**  
Director of Communications

**Ms. Lauren Weinhold**  
Director of Church Growth

**Ms. Marilyn Wimer**  
Director of  
Administrative Services

**Mr. Brandon Winstead**  
Director of High School  
Ministries

**Mr. Justin Zeigler**  
Director of Middle School  
Ministries

## Check Out Our Blogs

Two staff members are writing blogs. Take time to read them to get interesting perspectives.

Dr. Glen Miles is writing a blog on various theological issues of our time. You can find his musings on our website, [www.cccckc.org](http://www.cccckc.org). Click on About Us – Senior Minister – Blog ([www.cccckc.org/about-us/senior-minister/blog](http://www.cccckc.org/about-us/senior-minister/blog)).

Rev. Steve Mason, Pastoral Resident, is writing a blog that addresses relevant issues in a conversational manner. His blog is meant to encourage two-way communication through responses and conversations online. Steve updates his blog each Thursday with short writings varying from humorous to insightful based on a theological issue in today's world. You can read his blog on our website under Stay Informed – Steve's Blog ([www.cccckc.org/stay-informed](http://www.cccckc.org/stay-informed)).

## Food Drive on January 23

On Sun., Jan. 23, please bring your nonperishable food items for the Virginia Reed Food Drive, our collection for local food pantries that serve the hungry. Vans will be in the parking lot to receive your food or it can be placed in the barrels located at the east and north doors. Food is also purchased in case lots for the pantries, so cash donations are welcome. Please mark your donation "Food Drive."

## Our Church Family

### Memorials

#### Music Fund

#### Isabel Buehler

Dr. & Mrs. John Turley  
Laura & Dick Cray

#### Sewing Circle

#### Charlene Puhr

Merceda Larkin

### Honorarium

A Gift to the Michah Ministry in honor of Sue & Dean Dyer

LaMonte & Jan Roach

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