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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.*

Celebrate with Us This Advent Season

**What Are You Waiting For?**

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation. But for what, exactly, are we preparing? We invite you to join us each week of Advent as we prepare for the coming of God's love incarnate.



**Nov. 28** – Part One: A Mountain of Hope  
Isaiah 2:1-5

**Dec. 5** – Part Two: Peace  
Isaiah 11:1-10

**Dec. 12** – Part Three: A Life without Fear  
Isaiah 35:1-10

**Dec. 19** – Part Four: Relief from the Rush  
Isaiah 7:10-16

**Christmas at Country Club – Dec. 5**

Get into the holiday spirit by joining us for this special service. Children's and youth choirs, instruments, and readers will lead the congregation in a joyful celebration of carols, readings, and anthems. 6:00 p.m., Sanctuary.

**Chancel Choir Cantata – Dec. 12**

The Chancel Choir will be joined by orchestra and soloists to present British composer William Mathias' *Ave Rex*. 11:00 a.m., Sanctuary.

**Country Club Singers Music of the Season Concert – Dec. 19**

Join us for a program of Christmas music from around the world. 10:00 a.m., Sanctuary.

**Christmas Music for Organ and Brass – Dec. 20**

David Diebold and the Kansas City Brass present a traditional concert featuring seasonal favorites at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary.

**Christmas Eve Worship Services**

This holy evening begins with worship for children and families, followed by two traditional candlelight services. Fri., Dec. 24  
5:30 p.m. – Children and families service  
8:00 and 11:00 p.m. – Candlelight services.

**Thanksgiving Dinner Is Nov. 18**

Make your reservation now for our annual Thanksgiving Dinner celebration. We will gather at 6:30 p.m. in the Social Hall on Thur., Nov. 18 for a traditional dinner of turkey, dressing and all the trimmings.



Former Country Club Christian Church Senior Minister Dr. R. Robert Cueni will speak on "Thankful for 90 Years of Ministry."



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# Church Building in Need of Repair

By **Mary Lehoczky, Board Chair**

Recently, members of our church staff noticed that chunks of rock and masonry had fallen from the church's roof. Luckily, no one was injured, but the condition was alarming. In consultation with Dan Jensen, Chair of the Practical Services Committee, the staff hired a structural engineer to assess the building and perform necessary repairs to make the building safe. At the April congregational board meeting the engineer presented an extensive report, parts of which are briefly summarized below.

- Given the age of the building, the limestone is in remarkably good condition. However, some exterior limestone blocks need replacement.
- The bell tower, which was recently temporarily stabilized at a cost of \$30,000 (funded with Endowment funds), requires structural stabilization.
- Cast stone coping has deteriorated and needs replacement in several areas.
- Ornamental cast stone units have deteriorated and need to be replaced.
- The common cause of almost all of the deterioration is exposure to excessive moisture and freezing and thawing conditions due to gutters and downspouts being unable to handle the water, requiring significant modification to the drainage system.



This is a very brief summary of the structural engineer's report. The report is 117 pages long and includes photo-

graphs documenting the problems. A complete copy is available to read in the library.

The needed repairs are expensive. The total project cost is estimated to be \$2 million, and the repairs would take about 12 months. Another option is to perform the work in stages over many years, increasing the overall cost due to the need to reconstruct scaffolding.

Having stabilized the conditions considered to be imminently unsafe, we as a church need to consider how to proceed from here. Our building, while beautiful, is 87 years old and expensive to maintain. In today's uncertain economic environment, is this the time to initiate a capital campaign, both to shore up the building and plan for the future, or is it a time for restraint and piece-meal repairs, making the repairs more costly over the long term?

To answer this question, the church has commissioned a feasibility study with the assistance of Church Development, a consulting company that specializes in churches and is familiar with the Kansas City philanthropic community. In the course of this study, representatives from Church Development will interview many congregation members to help us as a church evaluate what our best course of action is. May each of us be in prayer for guidance and wisdom as we consider these hard decisions.

## Micah Ministry Holiday Cheer

Micah Ministry at Independence Boulevard Christian Church serves hundreds of needy individuals during the holiday season. Join us in making their Thanksgiving and Christmas a little brighter.

### Pumpkin Pies

Bake a pie to help Micah Ministry's annual Thanksgiving dinner. Sign up in the Parlor on Nov. 14 if you'd like to participate. Drop pies off at the church kitchen on Nov. 21. We need approximately 100 pies as we will serve more than 600 people.

### Christmas Stockings

Micah Ministry provides its guests with Christmas stockings each year. Our goal is to contribute over 550 Christmas stockings. Purchase pairs of tube socks from the church at a cost of 75 cents per pair, then purchase your own supplies to fill the stockings. Each stocking should be filled with items that can be used by either men or women: roll the other sock and place it in the toe and fill the stocking with small sized toiletries such as shower soap, shampoo, toothbrush, toothpaste, skin lotion, lip balm, washcloth, and hard candy. Tie filled stockings with a ribbon and bring them to church no later than Sun., Dec. 19. To sign up or with questions, contact Heather Rotter, [heatherr@cccckc.org](mailto:heatherr@cccckc.org), or Lauren Weinhold, [laurenw@cccckc.org](mailto:laurenw@cccckc.org).



## Do You Want to See God?

by Dr. R. Glen Miles



Do you want to see God? Look closely in the eyes of the ones you love and you will see an image of the divine; you will see a reflection of the very face of heaven. John wrote a letter to the early church suggesting this is true. He said, “No one has ever seen God; but if we love one another, God lives in us and God’s love is made complete in us.”

Go beyond the voice of scripture and listen to the voices of the mystics and the saints. Brother Lawrence proclaimed that, “Loving God and loving one’s neighbor are really the same thing.” Esther de Waal insists, “God addresses me in the voice of each person I meet.”

Diana Butler Bass helps us understand this idea. In her book, *Broken We Kneel*, she tells about the time she and her daughter came upon a woman in a veil walking toward them. Diana’s daughter asked, “What’s that mommy?” “That lady is a Muslim from a faraway country. She dresses like that because she loves God. That is how her people show they love God.” Her daughter considered her words, pointed at her mommy’s hair and asked, “Mommy, do you love God?” “Yes, honey, I do. You and I are Christians. We show our love for God by going to church, eating the bread and wine, serving the poor, and giving to those in need. We don’t wear veils but we love God.”

One day they were getting out of the car as their new neighbors, immigrants from Pakistan, came out of their house. Emma saw them, pointed to the woman and said, “Look Mommy, she loves God.” The neighbor was surprised. While she held back tears, this near stranger hugged Diana and said, “I wish that all Americans would teach their children so. The world would be better.”

God invites us to see the world through the eyes of that little girl. God wants us to realize that when we are able to love one another, as the old Apostle mentioned above instructs us to do, we will learn to see everyone, regardless of who they are or where they are from, as friends, sisters and brothers of the one human race we share.

Grace and peace to you,

*Glen*

## Mission Trip to Haiti in January

We have been invited to send a mission team to assist in the rebuilding in Haiti from Jan. 16-22. Our host organization is CONESPAH, the Council of Protestant Churches in Haiti, which has set priorities for this trip: construction of CONESPAH headquarters (offices, nursing school, grade school and theological school); teaching seminary students in the theological school; teaching classes in the nursing school. Glen Miles and Justin Zeigler, staff leaders, will teach theology classes. Those willing to engage in construction work, teach nursing students or those who are fluent in French are encouraged to sign up. Interested? Come to a meeting Sun., Nov. 14 at 12:15 p.m. in Room 201. Cost will be approximately \$1,300. If you cannot attend the meeting but wish to sign up, please send your \$300 deposit check to the church to Carla Aday prior to the meeting. For more information, contact Carla at 816-333-4917 or [carlaa@cccckc.org](mailto:carlaa@cccckc.org).

## Worship with us!

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

### November Sermon Series

Back to the Future Again: What Will the Church Look Like Tomorrow?

**Nov. 14**

Part 2: Something New  
*Isaiah 43: 16-21*

**Nov. 21**

Part 3: Broken and Poured  
*Luke 22: 14-23*

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# Adult Ministries at Country Club Christian Church

## Pathways to Learning November Focus Is on Money



The three-part Pathways to Learning about "Money: Faithful Approaches" concludes **Sun., Nov. 14** with Dr. Todd Adams, Associate General Minister and Vice President of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) in Indianapolis. 9:55-10:55

a.m. in the Social Hall.

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## 2011 Christian Community Camp

Sign up now for a week of rest and renewal in Estes Park, CO, Aug. 1-7, 2011. Family rooms and bunk rooms both available. Brochures and registration forms in the main office or contact Rev. Carla Aday at [carlaa@cccck.org](mailto:carlaa@cccck.org)

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## Nicaragua Mission Trip

**Feb. 20-27, 2011**

Sign up now for a life-changing trip to work with our partners in Nicaragua on medical clinics and construction projects in a rural village in the mountains. Contact Rev. Carla Aday at [carlaa@cccck.org](mailto:carlaa@cccck.org) for more information.

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## Food Drive on November 14

On Sun., Nov. 14, please bring your nonperishable food items for the Virginia Reed Food Drive, our collection for local food pantries that serve the homeless and 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."

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## Yoga: Finding Harmony During the Holidays

With the hectic holiday season upon us, you have an opportunity to take a little time out for yourself to renew, relax and recharge with yoga. Learn how to create balance in the body, developing both strength and flexibility through meditation. Certified yoga instructor and church member Susan Garner offers two classes each Monday in the Solarium (Rm. 309): a mixed level group at 9:00 a.m. and gentle yoga at 10:30 a.m. The first class is free for new participants; classes are \$10 each after that, and you may pay as you go.

## One-ders

A diverse group of singles ages 35-60-ish, where everyone is always welcome. Focusing on developing spirituality, service to others, and providing opportunities for growth through fellowship.

**Sunday School** – Join us in Rm. 303 every Sunday as we explore the Bible. 9:55-10:55 a.m.

**Cross-Lines, Nov. 20** – Cross-Lines Community Outreach, 7:00-10:00 a.m. Help prepare and serve breakfast to those in need. Located at 736 Shawnee in Kansas City, KS (corner of 7th Street and Shawnee Dr.) Contact Carol Crouch if you are available to help out (913-341-8848 or [carol.crouch@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carol.crouch@sbcglobal.net)).

**Dinner and Movie Night, Nov. 27** – Stay tuned for show and time at Merriam Cinemark and dinner at Applebees at Metcalf and Johnson Drive. For updated show time, contact Suzy Spencer, [insurance66208@yahoo.com](mailto:insurance66208@yahoo.com) 816-668-4156

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## Tall Oaks Gala 2010



Thank you to the members of the church for supporting the 13th annual Tall Oaks Gala on Oct. 8. Country Club Christian Church had wonderful auction items, table hostings, good attendance at the gala and extraordinary volunteers. Best of all, with our combined efforts we helped raise almost \$42,000. Well done! Thank you to our 2010 gala ambassadors, Tim and Vicki Lopatofsky. The annual fundraiser for the Tall Oaks Conference Center was at the Intercontinental Hotel. Among those attending were Rev. Chuck Murphy, Shirley Hansell, and Kip and Leigh Ann Kubin. Kip was emcee for the evening.



## A New Look for Email

by Lara Schopp, Director of Communications



I was fresh out of college, working in my first “real” job, when I was exposed to electronic mail. My company had just introduced an intranet, an internal network where employees could do pedestrian things like schedule meetings. Though the rest of us only had access to the internal system, the vice president over my department used the actual internet, and several times a day we’d hear the mysterious series of beeps as she logged on via her dial up connection. I remember wondering what, exactly, was this information super-highway, and how could it possibly be useful to

me.

Fifteen years later, I can’t imagine my personal or professional life without email or the internet. Both are my constant companion, at home, at work, and now everywhere else I go through my smart mobile phone. For better or for worse, I’m always connected, and for the most part, I find these technologies a useful part of my everyday existence.

For example, if you’re an email user, you probably receive emails from the church on a pretty regular basis. In times of reduced budgets, electronic communication has been one way we have continued to provide you with information about opportunities and events. The majority of you now receive the newsletter via email. Children, Youth and Families Ministries send weekly updates. During Advent and Lent, staff members offer daily devotions via email. Sometimes Glen will send a note with his thoughts on current events or upcoming sermons. Emails to the congregation are a timely way for us to provide you the information you need.

Starting soon, you will notice that emails coming from the church will look a little different. We are moving to a new system that will allow us to streamline the look, providing more consistency and more graphics in what we hope is an easy-to-read and use format. The new system should provide easier opportunities for you to sign up for events, to provide feedback, or to subscribe to updates in specific areas. We hope this will give you access to the information you need from the church in an attractive, interesting way.

If you’re not receiving emails from the church and would like to, please send your name and email address to Jane Fletcher at [jane@cccckc.org](mailto:jane@cccckc.org). Watch for the new format to roll out in the next few weeks, and feel free to let me know if you have any feedback.

*Lara*

## Breakfast with Santa

**Sat., Dec. 4 – 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

You are invited to Breakfast with Santa in the Social Hall on Sat., Dec. 5. From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., children will have an opportunity to have their photo taken with Santa by Salt Photography, enjoy pancakes by Chris Cakes and make Christmas crafts. Breakfast is served until 11:30 a.m.

Cost is \$7 for adults and children 2 and older. Tickets are available Sunday mornings in the Parlor, at the reception desk or at the preschool office.

## Dr. Miles Elected Board President for the Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition

In October, the Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition elected its first board of directors. Glen Miles was asked to serve as a member of the new board and at its first meeting was elected its president.

SSC is an interfaith group of individuals from Kansas City area faith communities that advocates sustainable living and ecological justice for all creation. It provides resources to teach, preach, advocate, and model living in a way that best cares for God’s creation. The group is thrilled to have Dr. Miles as its board president and looks forward to benefiting from his wisdom, insights, and leadership.

SSC meetings are open to anyone interested; they are held the first Monday of each month at Village Presbyterian Church in Prairie Village. For more information about the Sustainable Sanctuary Coalition visit <http://sustainablesanctuary.org>.

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# New Orleans Mission Trip Report

By Betsy Wilson

Trinity stood at the fence surrounding the playground at HUME Day School of St. Matthews United Church of Christ intently watching us as we worked.

“Whatcha doin’?” she asked. “We’re repairing this house, building walls, hammering, sawing . . .” I replied. Her next question took me by surprise. “Who wrecked your house?” she asked. I thought for a minute on how to answer that, realizing that she was too young to have experienced Hurricane Katrina, and oblivious to the destruction that forever changed the city. I said something about a really bad storm named Katrina and she nonchalantly replied “Oh, I’ve heard of her.”

In many parts of the city you have to look closely to see remnants of Katrina’s destruction. But her presence is still there in the hearts and souls of those who lived the experience. We heard stories from food servers and retail workers. We attended a neighborhood association meeting in the Holy Cross neighborhood. We met with an ecological organizer trying to revive the suffering bayou. We visited with a Make-It-Right homeowner and toured her home.

From Oct. 24-30, 10 of us from Country Club Christian Church buckled down to frame in the rear wall and bathroom of the house by HUME. St. Matthew’s owns the home and, when it’s completed, will use it for community meetings. St. Matthew’s has yet to rebuild its sanctuary, instead focusing on rebuilding their presence in the neighborhood through the day school and the meeting facility we worked on.

Indeed, New Orleans is healing very well after Katrina wrecked her house.

For more stories and pictures check out the group’s blog at <http://www.cccckc.org/stay-informed/blogs/steves-blog.html>



The church’s mission team, from left to right: Betsy Wilson, Ruth Bradshaw, Susan Garner, Donna Johnson, Dawn Murphy, Linda McDandel, Carty Johannsen, Lori McKinley, Steve Mason and Kelley Quinn.

## Growing Food to Feed the Hungry at 61st and Ward Parkway

Did you notice that this summer the church had vegetables to feed the hungry in beds where annual flowers used to grow?



Edible landscaping greeted visitors with sidewalk plantings of kale and swiss chard at the south entrance. Another area near the preschool playground was full of vegetables which preschoolers nurtured. The preschoolers sampled the fresh vegetables and then the produce was donated to Harvesters Community Food Network. They also learned to help provide healthy, fresh food for people in our community who may have no food at all.

The church’s Green Team hopes to demonstrate that it’s possible to grow a significant amount of produce in a relatively small space. This year’s efforts produced 55 bags of fresh vegetables and 38 pounds of cabbage that were donated to Harvesters.

The effort also helps to raise awareness of the problems of hunger in our area. A recently released hunger study showed more than 37 percent of households are experiencing very low food security—or hunger—in Harvesters’ 26-county service area in eastern Kansas and western Missouri. The USDA reports that Missouri ranks 6th in the nation in food insecurity and Kansas ranks 8th.

### About Plant-a-Row for the Hungry

Plant A Row for the Hungry encourages local gardeners to plant an extra row of vegetables or fruits and donate the produce to Harvesters. They then distribute the fresh vegetables and fruits to local food pantries, shelters and other feeding programs throughout Greater Kansas City. Pick-up sites are throughout the metro at local garden centers. For a list of pick-up sites, visit [Harvesters.org](http://Harvesters.org).



## Keep A Little Nothing

by Rev. Steve Mason, Pastoral Resident



“I’m too busy.” We know these words and will probably recite them much more than we want to in the upcoming weeks. In the past six months I, myself, have graduated from a master’s program, accepted a new job (as Pastoral Resident), moved across state lines, directed church camp, become ordained, gotten married and led a mission trip.

These experiences are all blessings that I treasure, but I have a feeling that they were so crammed into my life that none of them got their full due. I was so busy looking ahead to the next deadline

that I didn’t really enjoy any of them as fully as I could have. I was not faithfully present to God’s Spirit because there was always something “urgent” on my to-do list that would draw my attention away.

Writer Thomas Moore expresses some of my favorite words about finding ways to be present and aware of the joys of life. In his book *Meditations* he writes, “Withdrawal from the world is something we can, and perhaps should, do every day. It completes the movement of which entering fully into life is only one part. Just as a loaf of bread needs air in order to rise, everything we do needs an empty place in its interior...At the sight of nothing, the soul rejoices.” It may sound foolish, but sometimes to be aware of the present, we need to take time away from those things that keep us busy. Our souls need rest and our lips need to learn the words, “no thanks.”

All of us are at the beginning of that season that those of us in the church insistently call Advent. Since Halloween, I have been hearing Christmas carols on the radio, been flooded by ads for gifts and can see the Plaza lights waiting to light up midtown. But if we allow this upcoming Advent season—a time to prepare our lives and our society for the imminent arrival of God—to be just more things on our list, we risk the very same sin that I have committed: that of not being present to the places where God is in our midst.

In the upcoming weeks, enjoy the events, celebrations and worship opportunities. But in all of those, keep space for some time to reflect upon life and all its glory. Keep a little nothing on your list to invite God into your present.

Steve

## Children and Families

### Advent in Advance

**Sun., Nov. 21, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

Families are invited to prepare for the Advent season through this make-’n-take workshop. Children will have opportunities to make decorations for the home and a family keepsake ornament. A light lunch will be served. Cost is \$20 for a family (or \$5 per person). Join us in the Social Hall.

### Fill The Ark .....A Family Giving Opportunity

Fill the Ark is back! Your family can express God’s grace in your life by giving to others. Heifer International’s Fill the Ark program offers individuals and families an opportunity to offer a hand to families around the world. Fill the Ark is a daily missions-giving program that spans 4 weeks. The money our church families raise will offer real life solutions to world hunger. Heifer International provides dozens of different species of animals...from ducks to camels to llamas and geese to people in need around the world. Last year with the money raised through this project, our kids were able to provide rabbits, honeybees, chickens, fish and ducks to families. Pick up your calendar and “Ark” in the children’s wing this Sunday!

### SAVE the DATE: Caroling Party

Sun., Dec. 12 – Plan to share with others during Advent as we gather at 3:30 p.m. to carol for homebound members and residential care centers. We will conclude our caroling with a chili supper back at church. Childcare available for children 3 and under.

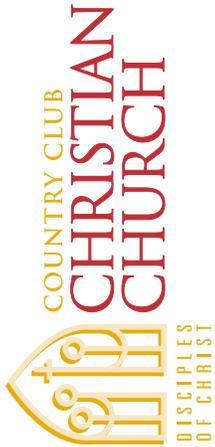
### Mom’s Group Outreach

Please join us to serve at Rose Brooks Center on Tues., Nov. 30 from 9:30-11:15 a.m. Childcare is available at church. Contact Karla Herrington for more information at [karlah@cccckc.org](mailto:karlah@cccckc.org).

### Club Kids for 3rd-5th graders

Regular session on Sun., Nov. 14

Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Kansas City, MO  
Permit No. 1498



6101 Ward Parkway  
Kansas City, MO 64113

Return Service Requested

## 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

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## Holidays at The Well

This season The Well, the church's book and gift store, will feature wonderful Fair Trade items from around the world. The mission of The Well is to present crafts from artisans all over the globe as well as books and other gifts, the proceeds of which go to week of Compassion, the disaster relief agency of The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).

Shoppers will find chocolates from Ghana, jewelry from India, baskets from Vietnam, food from Israel and the United States, and a host of other things that would be perfect gifts. A special emphasis this year will be soy-based candles with lovely holiday fragrances. Each candle you buy ensures that a child in Haiti or Somalia or some other country in hardship will be fed for one day. One special candle will feed a child for a week. Advent calendars will also be available. These are whimsical and traditional, glittery and colorful, and some even have chocolate! Pick one up soon so you and your family will be ready to mark the days before Christmas.

The Well begins the Christmas season on Thur., Nov. 18, the night of the Thanksgiving dinner. Start your holiday shopping at The Well.

## Our Church Family Sympathy

ISABEL WARING BUEHLER passed away on Nov. 4. She is survived by a son, Jay Buehler. The memorial service will be Mon., Nov. 15 at 11:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary, Rev. Chuck Murphy officiating.

JOSIE M. HANDSON passed away Oct. 31. She is survived by her daughter, Diana Black.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Steve and Caitlin Mason on their marriage on Oct. 16 in Nebraska.

## Memorials

### Claudia Bates

Nancy & Greg Lear  
Bob & Alyce King  
Cindy & Randy Irey

### Henry Burger

Edith & Charles Johnson

### Helen Yates

Bob & Alyce King

### Congregational Care

### Claudia Bates

Jeanne & Perry Cockayne

### For Michah Ministry, in honor of the Marriage of Steve and Caitlin Mason

Lee & Jarene Stanford