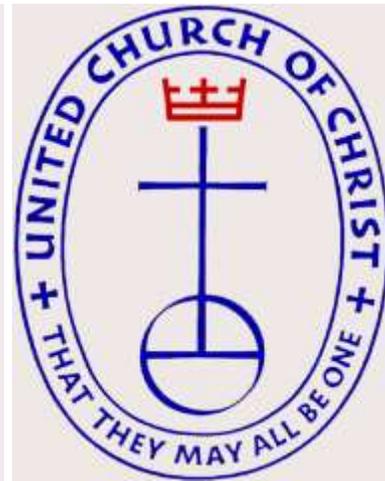


The Hilltop News



“WHITE FRAGILITY” - 1 Corinthians 12:1-13 (Selected verses)

“What I want to talk about now is the various ways God’s Spirit gets worked into our lives. This is complex and often misunderstood, but I want you to be informed and knowledgeable...God wants us to use our intelligence to seek to understand as well as we can...God’s various gifts are handed out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various ministries are carried out everywhere; but they all originate in God’s Spirit. God’s various expressions of power are in action everywhere...Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits. All kinds of things are handed out by the Spirit, and to all kinds of people! The variety is wonderful: wise counsel, simple trust, clear understanding, healing the sick, miraculous acts, proclamation, distinguishing between spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues. All these gifts have a common origin, but are handed out one by one by the one Spirit of God...The old labels we once used to identify ourselves—labels like Jew or Greek, slave or free—are no longer useful. We need something larger, more comprehensive.” **(MSG)**

Would you rather go to the dentist than talk about racism? You are not alone! However, “the gospel of Jesus Christ can help us as Christians to hear the Good News and to courageously speak in love the truth against racism and white supremacy. The gospel can help Christians with willing hearts, to engage in the spiritual battle against racism and white supremacy, even when doing so is unpopular.” These words from J. Williams, Associate Professor of New Testament interpretation at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, hit the nail right on the head.

For most white people, especially those who don’t think of themselves as racist, this is a conversation they would rather dodge. I believe this is because we don’t believe we have the right words. Our skin color has allowed us to go through life unaware of casualties of racism. This is not our fault – we have not lived with racism and we have not been taught about how racism developed. However, people of color have not had this luxury – they have the words – they have lived the words – they have been taught by their families what it means to be excluded by skin color.

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FEBRUARY 2020

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Pastor

Rev. Margaret Diz Philip

Council

Kelly Day, pres.

Stephanie Gelhot, vice-pres.

Neil Glaser, treas.

Kari Winchester, sec.

Dale Konneman, grounds

Janet Moehsmer, bldg. fund

Music Director

June Jones

Custodian

Neil Glaser

Office Admin.

Gail Schneider

Continued from page 1

So, February is Black History Month, and the Missouri Mid-South Conference of UCC has invited all UCC church members to be part of an on-line book study of Robin DiAngelo's book, "White Fragility: Why It's So Hard for White People to Talk About Racism." If you want to join in this discussion, you may do so by going to [Buy the Book](#), [Book Study](#), [Reading Guide](#), [Zoom Meeting Info](#) for more information, or by calling the conference office at: 314-962-8740. The next discussions will take place on February 6th, 13th, 20th at 3 pm.

If we claim to follow Jesus, then we must be engaged in the spiritual battle against all forms of racism and white supremacy. It may be hard, but we do know that with God we are able, and the gospel of Jesus Christ can change lives, including the lives of racists. DiAngelo suggests some contemporary tools we can use to take on this challenge. We are called by God to do so!

*Peace,
Margaret*

The National Memorial for Peace and Justice

located in Montgomery, Alabama, opened to the public on April 26, 2018, is the nation's first memorial dedicated to the legacy of enslaved black people, people terrorized by lynching, African Americans humiliated by racial segregation and Jim Crow, and people of color burdened with contemporary presumptions of guilt and police violence.

Work on the memorial began in 2010 when EJI (Equal Justice Initiative) staff began investigating thousands of racial terror lynchings in the American South, many of which had never been documented. EJI was interested not only in lynching incidents, but in understanding the terror and trauma this sanctioned violence against the black community created. Six million black people fled the South as refugees and exiles as a result of these "racial terror lynchings."



One side of four, viewed from interior contemplation garden

This research ultimately produced [Lynching in America: Confronting the Legacy of Racial Terror](#) in 2015 which documented thousands of racial terror lynchings in twelve states. Since the report's release, EJI has supplemented its original research by documenting racial terror lynchings in states outside the Deep South. EJI staff have also embarked on a project to memorialize this history by visiting hundreds of lynching sites, collecting soil, and erecting public markers, in an effort to reshape the cultural landscape with monuments and memorials that more truthfully and accurately reflect our history.

The Memorial for Peace and Justice was conceived with the hope of creating a sober, meaningful site where people can gather and reflect on America's history of racial inequality.

Learn more at <https://museumandmemorial.eji.org/memorial>

February Mission - Australia Relief through WIRES

WIRES (NSW Wildlife Information, Rescue and Education Service Inc.) is Australia's largest wildlife rescue organization. WIRES has been rescuing and caring for wildlife for over 30 years and WIRES mission is to actively rehabilitate and preserve Australian wildlife and inspire others to do the same.



WIRES is licensed to rescue and care for wildlife in NSW (New South Wales, Australia) and have over 2,500 volunteers in 28 branches. They receive around 170,000 calls to their 1300 line annually, including thousands of interstate calls where they provide rescue advice. Annually WIRES assists tens of thousands of native animals and plays a major role in national community wildlife education. Normally WIRES has several hundred thousand unique visitors to their website but in the first week of January 2020 they received well over a million unique visitors.

Following the catastrophic fires in NSW and Australia 2019 - 2020 WIRES will be focusing on increasing their capacity to rescue and care for more individual animals and pursuing additional opportunities to help wildlife more broadly, including partnering on projects to improve long-term outcomes for native animals.

WIRES began in 1985 in response to a glaring need for a native wildlife rescue service. At the time, no organization, government or conservation group could take specific responsibility for native animal rescue and care. WIRES quickly established a coordinated network of wildlife carers and rescuers and officially launched as an organization in March 1986.

From the WIRES website:

Emergency Notice

Catastrophic fires, the worst drought in history and record high temperatures are taking a tragic toll on native wildlife.

In WIRES history we have never seen a concurrent series of emergency events like those that began in November. Hundreds of fires over weeks have burnt over 4.9 million hectares of land in NSW alone. Many animals were already struggling with a lack of water and food due to the drought. With the fires destroying unprecedented amounts of habitat, food shortages have increased and lack of suitable habitat will be a significant long-term challenge for surviving wildlife.

It is impossible to know how many animals have perished and it will be many months before the impact on wild populations can be better understood but ecologists at Sydney University have estimated over 800 million animals have been affected in NSW and over 1 billion animals in Australia since September.



Summer is a frantically busy time for wildlife rescue and there are still dozens of fires burning in NSW. In December alone there were over 20,000 calls to WIRES 1300 line, a 14% increase on last year, and volunteers attended over 3,300 rescues.

Please consider giving to this worthy cause. St. Thomas will send your donation to WIRES.



CURRENT NEEDS

- Cereal – **CRITICAL**
- Jelly – **CRITICAL**
- Dinner Helpers
- Dry Potatoes/Beans/Rice
- Canned Pasta
- Feminine Care Products – **CRITICAL**

- Body Wash
- Baby Wipes
- Hand Soap
- Hand Sanitizer
- Razors



All church retreat -
March 29th.
More info to come!



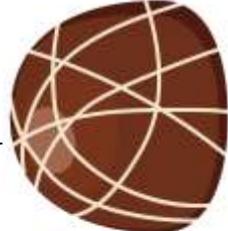
If you have knowledge of someone on the Prayer List who no longer needs our prayers, please let us know.

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COUNCIL CONTACTS

President	Kelly Day
Vice-President	Stephanie Gelhot
Treasurer	Neil Glaser
Secretary	Kari Winchester
Buildings & Grounds	Dale Konneman
Building Fund	Janet Moehsmer

FEBRUARY 2020

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 10:30am -12 AA
2	3	4	5 *Terry Schott no Ladies Guild	6	7	8 10:30am-12 AA
9 *Carol Fyock	10	11	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13	14 Valentine's Day	15 10:30am -12 AA
16 *Ken Hutchinson	17 Presidents' Day *Aaron Clark	18		20	21	22 Washington's Birthday 10:30am -12 AA
23	24	25	26 Joint Ash Wednesday Service 7pm -St. John's, Chesterfield	27	28	29 10:30am -12 AA

St. Thomas UCC
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Chesterfield, MO 63005
www.stthomasucc.org

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E-mail: ucc.st.thomas@gmail.com

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE



Worship: 8:30 (summer) & 10:00 am (all year)

11:00 am Fellowship Time

Childcare is provided during Worship.

Office Hours: 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Please call first if you need to stop by!

Office Phone: 636.532.3556

About Us

Mission Statement

We are St. Thomas UCC, a caring faith community welcoming all to share with us. You will find us supportive, nurturing, and encouraging. Our worship is traditional yet contemporary, applying scripture and Christ's teachings to everyday life. Accepting all who come as family, we are St. Thomas UCC.

Value Statement

We are a close-knit welcoming community. We cherish and honor the traditions of our 100 years past. With respect and compassion we work together. We strive to grow in our faith by serving the community. We embrace and celebrate our youth and the promise of each new generation of God's children. We seek God's blessings and wisdom in the joys and challenges of our daily lives. We grow in our understanding of Christ's teachings while being respectful of our differences.

Vision Statement

We seek to :

- Invite others to join in our faith journey
- Explore worship opportunities
- Enhance our fellowship and service outreach
- Expand our use of technology
- Increase our community involvement