

CHurch Action Opportunities for February 2025 [C.H.A.O.!]

ALL engagements in ALL areas of ministry here at Our Lord's for February.

Please:

*READ ~ PRAY ~ and then CHOOSE what God calls you to
in addition to your ongoing presence and support.*

Use designated envelope/memo line on checks/website through VANCO.

*There are many opportunities to share Christ's love and healing grace this month. Remember, the call of CHAO is to look through the opportunities prayerfully to discern how God is calling you to act. Every one of us can do something, but we are not expected to do everything. See how the spirit leads **you** this month.*

NEW THIS MONTH:

February is Black History Month! The month honors those who have enhanced centuries of struggle and those who continue to fight for civil rights.

Did you know Jane Bolin (1908-2007) was the first Black woman to attend Yale Law School in 1931? In 1939, she became the first Black Female judge in the United States. One of her significant contributions throughout her career was working with private employers to hire people based on their skills, as opposed to discriminating against them because of their race. (www.oprahdaily.com) Take the time to learn about a Black American's contribution that is new to you.

U.S. Grant Elementary School Winter Gear Collection via Beau Veit and Family will be shopping for their winter gear delivery targeted for Valentine's Day. You can give directly through Venmo @VeitLearningFLS or through Paypal @VLASamVeit or send/give Sam a check. Cash works great too! This is always a joyous project for all involved.

Missed the Friday Bible Study "What Does the Bible Say About Immigration?" No worries! You can access the study here for free: www.womenofwelcome.com You can find the bible study under the heading "Learn". The site will ask you to register and give your email so you can download the study. You can print out the study (it is 64 pages) or save your download to work through on your computer.

Women of Welcome is a partner with World Relief and while being a non-partisan organization, they do work within the political system to work toward fixing our immigration system. They offer several educational resources so take the time to check out their website.

Coming to a church TV near you: Church and Society is pursuing acquiring the documentary, "Welcome Strangers". It tells the story of Sarah Jackson, author of, *The House That Love Built: Why I Opened My Doors to Immigrant and How We Found Hope Beyond a Broken System*, and how her "Casa de Paz" (House of Peace) is a thriving ministry today. Stay tuned for a screening date/event! This book is in our church library and is highly recommended by Gwenda Szczygielski.

OVER

ONGOING ITEMS

~ Check out the **Missions Corner** located behind the Welcome Table to learn how to further support **The Cathedral Center** as well as **Rooted and Rising** through Amazon Wish List shopping. Take an information tag to assist you in accessing various opportunities to donate.

Cathedral Center: <https://cathedral-center.org/donate/>

Rooted and Rising: <https://www.rootedandrisingwp.org/donate>

https://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/1BT36JIW8CS8Q/ref=cm_wl_search_bin_1_1

~ **Continue to pray that the Israeli/Gaza cease-fire holds and all hostages will be returned safely.** Go to www.umcjustice.org to learn how to contact your legislators concerning issues of peace with justice.

~ **Have you received your copy of Our Lord's Breakthrough Prayer?** Challenge yourself to pray this prayer daily as we continue to seek God's direction during this stewardship season.

"Holy God, quiet our thoughts and open us to carefully listen, with hope. Create willingness toward action that rebuilds the church. Use our time, talent, and financial resources to draw in others. Inspire us, through worship and prayer, to love in ways that extend and expand the possibilities for ALL to do something, on the path before us. Let it be so."

~Thank you to our coffee man, Don Mains, for using biodegradable coffee cups! We can continue to help the environment by bringing our own coffee cups as well! Use the time together to talk over John Wesley's question, "How is it with your soul?"

Our Lord's Mission and Vision Statements

To actively love our neighbors and proclaim God's unchanging love and mercy in everything we do.

As a community, Our Lord's UMC seeks to transform ourselves and the world by following Christ, welcoming ALL, serving others, and promoting social justice.

***Upon this Earth and located on the ancestral homeland
of the
Potawatomi, Sioux (Ochethi Sakowin), Kickapoo, Ho-Chunk, Myaamia,
and Peoria people,
Our Lord's United Methodist Church recognizes and honors
ALL Indigenous siblings
who have and continue to call this land home.***