



# United Church of God

## *an International Association*

### **eNews from Ministerial and Member Services**

Issue 512

March 31, 2022

---

#### **Personal From the President...**

##### **The Lamb of God and You**

Without it, there simply is no plan of God for humanity. This festival opens the door for eternal salvation, for reconciliation with God to all. It makes possible a wonderful life of everlasting joy, of unfathomable things to come “which God has prepared for those who love Him” (1 Corinthians 2:9).

I write here of the deeply humbling Passover and its astonishing meaning for you and me.

It is important to comprehend that the entire Bible essentially points to Jesus Christ and His many roles. As the Creator of the Universe, Jesus was fully aware of what He would do, even at the moment of the creation of the earth long ago. As John tells us, “the Lamb [was] slain from the foundation of the world” (Revelation 13:8). During the entire course of history, Jesus had this in front of Him. Each century, each year, each Holy Day season brought Him closer to the sore trial He would face.

John the Baptist powerfully perceived this when he first saw Jesus striding toward him. Nearly 2,000 years ago, John cried out: “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29).

What does the Lamb of God mean to you?

In two weeks, we will observe the Passover ceremony described in the New Testament and based on Christ’s example. Many of you have observed it multiple times. Some will take part for the very first time as newly baptized members of the Body of Christ. Together we will observe this sobering, yet awe-inspiring ceremony, where we will take part in the washing of each other’s feet, the receiving in faith of the New Covenant symbols of the bread and wine, and the hearing of the Word of God from the book of John.

What *did* Jesus do for you and me? The book of John opens eloquently and powerfully with crucial background for comprehending the magnitude of this annual festival. John declares that Jesus Christ is both *a divine Being* (John 1:1-2) and that He eternally *pre-existed* with the One from whom we received our calling—God the Father (John 6:44). The eternally existing Word, as Jesus is described here, became flesh (John 1:14). Let’s look deeply into and consider what that means for each of us.

As we approach the Passover festival, Paul instructs us carefully to examine ourselves (1 Corinthians 11:28-30) and appropriately discern the Lord’s body. The English word “discerning” here comes from the Greek word transliterated *diakrino*, which means to “separate, make a distinction, discriminate.” We are to humbly meditate on what Jesus did and who He is, asking God for a full appreciation.

Over the next two weeks, let’s strive to achieve this. Let’s focus on and appreciate *the full dimension* of *Who* Jesus is and exactly *what* He did for each and every one of us. The apostle Paul illustrated that dimension when he wrote to the disciples of Jesus living in Ephesus that God would “grant you to be *strengthened with power* through his Spirit in your inner being” (Ephesians 3:16, English Standard Version, emphasis added throughout).

What would be the outcome of being “strengthened with power”? Paul writes plainly: “That Christ may  *dwell in your hearts* through faith” and that the disciples—including *us today*—would have the spiritual ability to *fully discern and understand* the “breadth and length and height and depth”—the full dimension—of the love that Jesus Christ has for each one of us and, further, what the full application of that means for us.

Let’s remember that Jesus’ role as the Lamb of God was well known in the first century. Paul openly declared to a gentile church in Greece that “Christ, *our Passover lamb*, has been sacrificed” (1 Corinthians 5:7, ESV). In Revelation, the capstone book of the New Testament, Jesus is identified as the “Lamb of God” no fewer than 28 times.

The book of Revelation links us with critical connectivity from the prehistory to the future. We read here the accounts of victory in what was accomplished by the blood of the Lamb that God wants to share with us.

Consider the events taking place at the very throne of God:

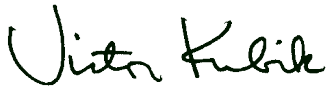
“And I looked, and behold, in *the midst of the throne* and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, *stood a Lamb as though it had been slain*” (Revelation 5:6). A powerful song breaks out within the heavenly throne room of God: “For You were slain, and have redeemed us to God by Your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth” (Revelation 5:9-10).

A major part of our worshiping is to *be in a renewed and refreshed spirit of humble repentance* before, during and after the Passover service. An unexamined mind can occlude the full benefit of the festival. I earnestly invite you to think on this: some of our sins are obvious to us and others around us. Some are known only to you and God. Secret and presumptuous sins may be known by others, but you may be clueless. The solution? Use this time of Passover preparation to ask God to open your eyes, grant you repentance, and *lead you to a path of change*.

The rewards of doing this in a good attitude have both immediate and long-lasting benefits! When the ancient Israelites sacrificed their Passover lamb, the blood on the doorframes led to their physical salvation (Exodus 12:12-13). How much more does the sacrifice of the Son of God mean to us?

The coming Passover should be a time of spiritual alignment, a time of getting in sync with God the Father, and a time of recommitment to our elder brother Jesus Christ, who lives in us today (Colossians 1:27). Let us all prepare to observe the Passover in a worthy manner!

In Christ's service,



Victor Kubik

---

## **Personal From Ministerial and Member Services...**

Dear Ministers and Brethren,

This past weekend I had the opportunity to visit the Atlanta and Buford, Georgia, congregations that were combined to host the Southeast Regional Prom. There were approximately 90 who attended this prom for ages 12-25, plus many other members and parents who gathered for services and to fellowship with one another in various ways.

The theme for this prom was "A Night in Morocco," and the beautiful and authentic decorations certainly gave everyone that feel. I even noticed a photo-op involved riding on a magic carpet!

Once again, there were parents who traveled long distances to ensure their teenagers were able to gather for the prom. A few I had also seen at the prom in Parkersburg, West Virginia, two weeks ago.

The newest camp video was played for the sermonette time. Once again, the media and camp teams did an excellent job producing this video. No doubt some of the teenagers present in Atlanta got to see themselves and their friends having a great time at camp!

Dr. Philip Aust, who pastors the Atlanta and Buford congregations, gave the sermon entitled “COVID’s Chief Lesson: Connections Count.” Dr. Aust discussed the need for teens and others to be sure to take advantage of opportunities to fellowship and interact with one another, because meaningful relationship connections really count for something very positive and vital to all human beings. He mentioned that the isolation that so many people experienced was COVID-19’s most negative effect. He emphasized that due to the pandemic’s impact over the last couple years, it is even more important to connect with one another at events like this one!

Once again, at this event, I took advantage of interacting with many members and ministers and also met some members for the first time. Being a part of God’s family at this time should encourage us to see the value in developing relationships that will strengthen us and serve others—as well as establish a foundational relationship that will last forever!

Wishing you all a very inspiring Sabbath day!

In God’s love and service,



Mark Welch, Operation Manager for MMS

---

## 2022 Phoenix Formal

All ages are invited to the 2022 Phoenix Spring Holy Day Formal Dance hosted by the Phoenix, Arizona, church family. Join us for a joyous start to the Feast of Unleavened Bread! Services will be held on April 16 at the Sheraton Phoenix Crescent Hotel. After sunset, attendees will enjoy a plated dinner followed by music and dancing. There will also be an appearance by our very own JELLY! Event and registration information can be found at the Phoenix Formal website ([ucg-phoenixformal.weebly.com](http://ucg-phoenixformal.weebly.com)). The deadline for registration is April 8. We hope you will join us!

---

## **United Youth Camps Scholarships Available**

Because of the generosity of many brethren, camper scholarships are available. So, if assistance is needed, please see your pastor. Camp registration is going well and we encourage early registration. Campers and staff may register at [uyc.ucg.org](http://uyc.ucg.org).

---

## **UYC Nursing Staff Needs**

*(please announce in U.S. congregations)*

Camp Cotubic in Ohio and Camp Pinecrest in Missouri are both looking for nursing staff able to serve this summer. Requirements for this role are a degree or license as a physician, RN, LPN, EMT, paramedic or someone currently in training or school for one of the above licenses. If you are interested, please contact Cotubic director Josh Creech or Pinecrest director Mike Phelps.

---

## **Youth Instruction Family Study Guide**

Pastors, families and instructors, our 2021-22 Family Study Guides series, “Seeing God Through Creation,” is intended to help families see God more clearly and to deepen relationships with Him by exploring the wonders of His creation.

This month’s Family Study focuses on how God is creating His eternal family. God’s overall plan and purpose is to bring humans into His family as spirit-born eternal beings, who will live forever. It is a process that begins with people believing in God and living by His way of life.

“If anyone belongs to Christ, there is a new creation. The old things have gone; everything is made new! All this is from God. . .” (2 Corinthians 5:17-18, New Century Version).

How can we be transformed from a physical creation to an eternal creation? God worked out the whole process before the Genesis 1 creation! This study can be used in preparation for the upcoming Holy Days. It can stimulate your family study and conversation.

The “Seeing God through Creation: God is Creating His Eternal Family” study guide can be downloaded from the [Family Study Guides](#) webpage.

Enjoy and have fun with this family guide as you consider and discover God’s wonderful plan for ALL humans. Have a wonderful Passover and Days of Unleavened Bread.

—Randy and Kay Schreiber, Youth Instruction Coordinators

---

## Why Ambassador Bible College?

### ABC Chorale

Have you ever wanted to be a part of something that really makes a difference? Have you ever wanted to build camaraderie with likeminded people while working together for a common goal? Have you ever wanted to know what proper Sabbath music is, and the purpose of that music from the Bible? Have you ever wanted to serve God with a musical program that brings joy in surrounding churches of God on the Sabbath? Have you ever wanted to sing in a chorale, but have no musical experience?



Ken Shoemaker poses with the Class of 2019 ABC Chorale during their visit to the congregation in Portsmouth, Ohio.

If so, then you should come to Ambassador Bible College and join our chorale! Every year, upwards of 15% of the chorale members have never sung in a group before. So, when you make a decision to come to ABC to learn about God, you can also learn to praise God and serve the brethren musically—while finding your singing voice with others of like mind!

—Ken Shoemaker, music instructor & coordinator, Ambassador Bible College Chorale

---

## Inside United Podcast



### Victor Kubik and Scott Buchanan—The Russian Invasion, Part 1

Recent Media hire Scott Buchanan joins the podcast today to flip the script and interview Victor Kubik about his close ties to Ukraine as we see the Russian invasion enter a second month.

[ucg.org/inside-united-podcast/inside-united-podcast-239-victor-kubik-scott-buchanan-the-russian-invasion-part-1](https://ucg.org/inside-united-podcast/inside-united-podcast-239-victor-kubik-scott-buchanan-the-russian-invasion-part-1)

Send us your questions, comments, or suggestions at [podcast@ucg.org](mailto:podcast@ucg.org).

Listen to past episodes: [ucg.org/inside-united-podcast](https://ucg.org/inside-united-podcast)

---

**Pray for the Gospel to Have Free Course**  
(2 Thes. 3:1 KJV)

### The Work of God in Vanuatu—Part 2

Two weeks ago in the MMS *eNews*, Derek Lewis, office manager for the United Church of God-Australia, reported about God’s work in Vanuatu. He continues:

“The economy is primarily based on small-scale agriculture, which provides an income for most of our members and much of the population. Tourism via the cruise ship industry has also added a positive economic impact. Nevertheless, COVID-19 travel restrictions have had a significant detrimental effect on the economy of Port Vila. Whereas before the pandemic it received multiple cruise ships per week, with anywhere from 500 to 4,900 guests onboard each ship, currently no cruise ships are operating.

“Regarding preaching the gospel, we have been focused on teaching and stabilizing the congregation before making a great effort to grow it. However, we do send literature (study guides, etc.) as needed and also make these available at church services. We have had a few inquiries, but the congregation has grown mostly by word of mouth.

“A very capable young man, John Tabi, has emerged to provide organizational leadership for the local congregation and Sabbath services on Efate. Ideally, we would like to send someone to live there for much of the year. If we could do this, then the Church would likely grow tremendously. There is great potential to reach many people, and with time and effort it would seem we could make a significant difference. *Please pray* for our brethren in Vanuatu, for effective local leadership through John Tabi, and for our ability to send more manpower to the country again soon.”

—Peter Eddington, Operation Manager, Media and Communications Services

---

## **Columbus (Ohio) Labor Day Young Adult Weekend**

Save the date for the Columbus Young Adult weekend! All young adults age 18-35 are invited to Columbus, Ohio, on Labor Day weekend, Sept. 2-4, 2022, for an exciting weekend of fun and fellowship. Activities will be held at the Columbus congregation’s building and include a Bible study Friday evening, Sabbath Services followed by a formal dance after sunset, and a special concert Sunday afternoon (details below). There will be a small fee to cover the cost of food prior to the dance. Housing options will be announced as we approach this weekend. We hope you can join us for this wonderful weekend and in the meantime, mark your calendars!

Concert Honoring God: Come let us sing for joy to the LORD! Music may be one of the most universally loved and at times controversial topics, but there’s no doubt that God loves when we sing praise to Him! At times we may sing the melody of a song and lose sight of the words we are singing and to Whom we are singing. The Bible tells us to make a joyful noise before Him and God commands that we worship Him in spirit AND truth, so this weekend we will give our whole hearts to doing just that! Members of all ages are welcome and encouraged to join us for a Sunday afternoon concert featuring live music to our awesome God. Whether you’ve only sung hymns at church, or you’re one who gets bored unless a song has amazing drums, this will be a truly enjoyable event that all will have an opportunity to draw closer to God.

A Facebook group will be created in the coming weeks, but if you have any immediate questions, please contact Sophie Hand at (614) 254-2879 or [sophiassnake@gmail.com](mailto:sophiassnake@gmail.com).

---

## **Job Opening: Systems Administrator/Programmer**

The United Church of God has announced a position opening for a Systems Administrator/Programmer. The position will be responsible for:



- Overseeing, maintaining and upgrading server and desktop hardware and software in a Microsoft Windows domain running in virtual environments.
- Helping coordinate corporate technology direction, development, production activities and budgeting for the Information Technology department.
- Helping with supervising, implementing and maintaining local and cloud computing systems and equipment.
- Performing and verifying backups and disaster recovery.
- Helping optimize and oversee network infrastructure and security.
- Programming using .NET and/or Microsoft Access languages.
- Providing 2<sup>nd</sup> level help desk support for local and remote users.
- Assist Information Technology Manager with special tasks and duties.

#### QUALIFICATIONS, KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

- Proficient in the latest Microsoft Windows server and desktop OSs, AD, and VMWare technologies.
- Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite and Office 365 management.
- Proficient in at least one modern programming language, preferably .NET or Microsoft Access VBA. Drupal/PHP skills are a plus.
- Strong understanding of Web technologies.
- Excellent organizational skills and attention to detail.

#### EDUCATION and/or EXPERIENCE:

College degree and one year experience, or three years related experience or equivalent are required.

Potential employees must be baptized members (in good standing) of the United Church of God. Applicants must be biblically literate and possess a thorough working knowledge of the doctrines, beliefs and practices of the United Church of God.

To request a job application or for questions about the position, please contact [human\\_resources@ucg.org](mailto:human_resources@ucg.org).