



United Church of God *an International Association*

eNews from Ministerial and Member Services

Issue 540

November 17, 2022

Personal From the President...

Good afternoon everyone,

It has been a while since I've written for the *eNews*, so in this last newsletter before Thanksgiving, let me bring you up to date on what is happening here at the home office.

Our Media, IT and MMS departments continue to work on several projects as we, under Christ's leadership and direction, position His Church to use the resources and technology available in today's world so that we effectively and boldly preach the gospel message and care for the disciples God calls.

Toward that end, the redesigned ucg.org website project continues to progress. When completed, it will be a dynamic tool that will serve the membership well and will allow people from all over the world to see what the Church believes and teaches, as well as to easily avail themselves of the video and written materials we have to offer.

Understanding the quickly changing world we live in, MMS is working on plans to assist our pastors with biblically based educational materials they can use with their congregations to help them better apply God's truth and way in their lives and families. These will take some time to develop, but again with the guidance of Christ and with help from our ministry and members, they will get done.

Your continued prayers for God's guidance and inspiration in all we do is appreciated.

As we approach the Thanksgiving holiday (in America) next week, there is a scripture that has been on my mind that I'd like to leave you with.

Last week we had the pleasure of being in Tulsa, Oklahoma, for the Sabbath and their Regional Family Weekend. Families from seven or more states gathered in Tulsa, where they enjoyed each other's company for three days, including Sabbath services, a great dinner that evening in a beautiful setting followed by a dance, then sports and games on Sunday morning.

It was a wonderful weekend. While all the activities were so well done and enjoyed by all—and we thank Ed and RaeAnn Dowd and their crew for a marvelous job in planning and coordinating the whole weekend—one thing stood out for my wife and me.

Being with the brethren and having the opportunity to meet and talk with so many was so rewarding. God's people are special. He calls us "His own special people" (1 Peter 2:9), and indeed all who live God's way are a joy and inspiration to be around.

The Bible verse that comes to mind is Psalm 133:1: "How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

Unity, of course, means that we are bound together by God's Holy Spirit; in fellowship (brotherhood) with Him and each other (1 John 1:1-3). When we are with people of like mind, it is energizing and creates joy.

It is no wonder why God established "holy convocations" and commands us to "not forsake the assembling of ourselves together." Brethren, take the opportunities God gives us to be with each other, at Sabbath services, Bible studies and other occasions. Get to know your brethren. Develop that *agape* love that leads to brotherly love for each other. It will bring joy and energy to your life, just as it brings joy to God to see His people gather before Him and as they "speak often with each other" (Malachi 3:16-17).

Being part of God's body leads to the unity and "one-ness" He desires and it leads to another attribute we need to always focus on—gratitude.

God has given us so many physical blessings that we can't enumerate them all. But the spiritual blessings He affords, which include the joy we have when we are in true fellowship with Him and each other, is cause alone for thanksgiving.

Whether you are in America as we observe Thanksgiving next week, or anywhere else in the world, put on the "garment" of thanksgiving and gratitude. "Count your blessings" as an old song used to say, and be continually thankful for all God has given us, which includes each other and the family He has placed us in (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

We certainly are thankful for all of you—God's people around the world.

Have a wonderful upcoming day of preparation and Sabbath.

In Christ's service,



Rick Shabi

No eNews Next Week

The *eNews from Ministerial and Member Services* will not be published next week. It is scheduled to resume on Dec. 1, 2022.

Launch of *Magnified*—Nov. 22

This Tuesday, we're launching a new YouTube series called *Magnified*. We began with two goals in mind: We wanted to make something that mixes entertainment with a robust biblical education, and we wanted to meet younger audiences where they are and to speak the truth in those spaces. After months of hard work, we're confident we've accomplished that. Keep an eye on our social media accounts, or just go to the *Beyond Today* YouTube page on Nov. 22.

Good Works Proposal Deadline Approaching

There's still time to submit your proposal to Good Works for projects for the first half of the 2023 calendar year! If you have a great idea for a project (local or abroad), please run it by your local pastor, and with his approval please contact Lena VanAusdle at GoodWorks@ucg.org or visit ucg.org/members/outreach/good-works for more information. Deadline for proposals is Nov. 30, 2022.

Ambassador Bible College Magnetic Yearly Calendar

The ABC Calendar is BACK! This calendar/planner features God's Holy Days and Feasts for the year 2023. The calendar is a 11 by 8½-inch glossy magnetic calendar that features a blank section on the lower portion for additional information such as reminders and lists. This calendar can be written on with any dry erase marker for your convenience.

The image displays a 2023 Yearly Planner grid. It consists of 12 monthly calendars arranged in a 4x3 grid. Each month includes a grid of days with specific observances and holidays highlighted. The observances include:

- January:** Epiphany (Jan 6), Martin Luther Day (Jan 18), New Year's Day (Jan 1), 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.
- February:** Groundhog Day (Feb 2), Valentine's Day (Feb 14), Ash Wednesday (Feb 16), Lent (Feb 17-18), Mardi Gras (Feb 23), Carnival (Feb 24-25).
- March:** St. Patrick's Day (Mar 17), Good Friday (Mar 18), Holy Saturday (Mar 19), Easter Sunday (Mar 20), Easter Monday (Mar 21), Easter Tuesday (Mar 22), Easter Wednesday (Mar 23), Easter Thursday (Mar 24), Easter Friday (Mar 25), Goodbye to Winter (Mar 26-27), Spring (Mar 28-31).
- April:** Good Friday (Apr 1), Easter Sunday (Apr 2), Easter Monday (Apr 3), Easter Tuesday (Apr 4), Easter Wednesday (Apr 5), Easter Thursday (Apr 6), Easter Friday (Apr 7), Goodbye to Winter (Apr 8), Spring (Apr 9-11), Holy Week (Apr 12-14), Holy Saturday (Apr 15), Easter Sunday (Apr 16), Easter Monday (Apr 17), Easter Tuesday (Apr 18), Easter Wednesday (Apr 19), Easter Thursday (Apr 20), Easter Friday (Apr 21), Goodbye to Winter (Apr 22-23), Spring (Apr 24-25), Holy Week (Apr 26-28), Holy Saturday (Apr 29), Easter Sunday (Apr 30), Easter Monday (Apr 31).
- May:** Memorial Day (May 1), Labor Day (May 1), Mother's Day (May 14), Father's Day (May 14), Pentecost (May 21), Pentecost Monday (May 22), Pentecost Tuesday (May 23), Pentecost Wednesday (May 24), Pentecost Thursday (May 25), Pentecost Friday (May 26), Pentecost Saturday (May 27), Pentecost Sunday (May 28), Pentecost Monday (May 29), Pentecost Tuesday (May 30), Pentecost Wednesday (May 31).
- June:** Father's Day (Jun 19), Pentecost (Jun 19), Pentecost Monday (Jun 20), Pentecost Tuesday (Jun 21), Pentecost Wednesday (Jun 22), Pentecost Thursday (Jun 23), Pentecost Friday (Jun 24), Pentecost Saturday (Jun 25), Pentecost Sunday (Jun 26), Pentecost Monday (Jun 27), Pentecost Tuesday (Jun 28), Pentecost Wednesday (Jun 29), Pentecost Thursday (Jun 30), Pentecost Friday (Jun 31).
- July:** Independence Day (Jul 4), Labor Day (Jul 10), Pentecost (Jul 10), Pentecost Monday (Jul 11), Pentecost Tuesday (Jul 12), Pentecost Wednesday (Jul 13), Pentecost Thursday (Jul 14), Pentecost Friday (Jul 15), Pentecost Saturday (Jul 16), Pentecost Sunday (Jul 17), Pentecost Monday (Jul 18), Pentecost Tuesday (Jul 19), Pentecost Wednesday (Jul 20), Pentecost Thursday (Jul 21), Pentecost Friday (Jul 22), Pentecost Saturday (Jul 23), Pentecost Sunday (Jul 24), Pentecost Monday (Jul 25), Pentecost Tuesday (Jul 26), Pentecost Wednesday (Jul 27), Pentecost Thursday (Jul 28), Pentecost Friday (Jul 29), Pentecost Saturday (Jul 30), Pentecost Sunday (Jul 31).
- August:** Labor Day (Aug 7), Pentecost (Aug 7), Pentecost Monday (Aug 8), Pentecost Tuesday (Aug 9), Pentecost Wednesday (Aug 10), Pentecost Thursday (Aug 11), Pentecost Friday (Aug 12), Pentecost Saturday (Aug 13), Pentecost Sunday (Aug 14), Pentecost Monday (Aug 15), Pentecost Tuesday (Aug 16), Pentecost Wednesday (Aug 17), Pentecost Thursday (Aug 18), Pentecost Friday (Aug 19), Pentecost Saturday (Aug 20), Pentecost Sunday (Aug 21), Pentecost Monday (Aug 22), Pentecost Tuesday (Aug 23), Pentecost Wednesday (Aug 24), Pentecost Thursday (Aug 25), Pentecost Friday (Aug 26), Pentecost Saturday (Aug 27), Pentecost Sunday (Aug 28), Pentecost Monday (Aug 29), Pentecost Tuesday (Aug 30), Pentecost Wednesday (Aug 31).
- September:** Labor Day (Sep 4), Pentecost (Sep 4), Pentecost Monday (Sep 5), Pentecost Tuesday (Sep 6), Pentecost Wednesday (Sep 7), Pentecost Thursday (Sep 8), Pentecost Friday (Sep 9), Pentecost Saturday (Sep 10), Pentecost Sunday (Sep 11), Pentecost Monday (Sep 12), Pentecost Tuesday (Sep 13), Pentecost Wednesday (Sep 14), Pentecost Thursday (Sep 15), Pentecost Friday (Sep 16), Pentecost Saturday (Sep 17), Pentecost Sunday (Sep 18), Pentecost Monday (Sep 19), Pentecost Tuesday (Sep 20), Pentecost Wednesday (Sep 21), Pentecost Thursday (Sep 22), Pentecost Friday (Sep 23), Pentecost Saturday (Sep 24), Pentecost Sunday (Sep 25), Pentecost Monday (Sep 26), Pentecost Tuesday (Sep 27), Pentecost Wednesday (Sep 28), Pentecost Thursday (Sep 29), Pentecost Friday (Sep 30), Pentecost Saturday (Sep 31).
- October:** Labor Day (Oct 2), Pentecost (Oct 2), Pentecost Monday (Oct 3), Pentecost Tuesday (Oct 4), Pentecost Wednesday (Oct 5), Pentecost Thursday (Oct 6), Pentecost Friday (Oct 7), Pentecost Saturday (Oct 8), Pentecost Sunday (Oct 9), Pentecost Monday (Oct 10), Pentecost Tuesday (Oct 11), Pentecost Wednesday (Oct 12), Pentecost Thursday (Oct 13), Pentecost Friday (Oct 14), Pentecost Saturday (Oct 15), Pentecost Sunday (Oct 16), Pentecost Monday (Oct 17), Pentecost Tuesday (Oct 18), Pentecost Wednesday (Oct 19), Pentecost Thursday (Oct 20), Pentecost Friday (Oct 21), Pentecost Saturday (Oct 22), Pentecost Sunday (Oct 23), Pentecost Monday (Oct 24), Pentecost Tuesday (Oct 25), Pentecost Wednesday (Oct 26), Pentecost Thursday (Oct 27), Pentecost Friday (Oct 28), Pentecost Saturday (Oct 29), Pentecost Sunday (Oct 30), Pentecost Monday (Oct 31).
- November:** Labor Day (Nov 5), Pentecost (Nov 5), Pentecost Monday (Nov 6), Pentecost Tuesday (Nov 7), Pentecost Wednesday (Nov 8), Pentecost Thursday (Nov 9), Pentecost Friday (Nov 10), Pentecost Saturday (Nov 11), Pentecost Sunday (Nov 12), Pentecost Monday (Nov 13), Pentecost Tuesday (Nov 14), Pentecost Wednesday (Nov 15), Pentecost Thursday (Nov 16), Pentecost Friday (Nov 17), Pentecost Saturday (Nov 18), Pentecost Sunday (Nov 19), Pentecost Monday (Nov 20), Pentecost Tuesday (Nov 21), Pentecost Wednesday (Nov 22), Pentecost Thursday (Nov 23), Pentecost Friday (Nov 24), Pentecost Saturday (Nov 25), Pentecost Sunday (Nov 26), Pentecost Monday (Nov 27), Pentecost Tuesday (Nov 28), Pentecost Wednesday (Nov 29), Pentecost Thursday (Nov 30).
- December:** Labor Day (Dec 3), Pentecost (Dec 3), Pentecost Monday (Dec 4), Pentecost Tuesday (Dec 5), Pentecost Wednesday (Dec 6), Pentecost Thursday (Dec 7), Pentecost Friday (Dec 8), Pentecost Saturday (Dec 9), Pentecost Sunday (Dec 10), Pentecost Monday (Dec 11), Pentecost Tuesday (Dec 12), Pentecost Wednesday (Dec 13), Pentecost Thursday (Dec 14), Pentecost Friday (Dec 15), Pentecost Saturday (Dec 16), Pentecost Sunday (Dec 17), Pentecost Monday (Dec 18), Pentecost Tuesday (Dec 19), Pentecost Wednesday (Dec 20), Pentecost Thursday (Dec 21), Pentecost Friday (Dec 22), Pentecost Saturday (Dec 23), Pentecost Sunday (Dec 24), Pentecost Monday (Dec 25), Pentecost Tuesday (Dec 26), Pentecost Wednesday (Dec 27), Pentecost Thursday (Dec 28), Pentecost Friday (Dec 29), Pentecost Saturday (Dec 30), Pentecost Sunday (Dec 31).

This year's ABC class has already pre-ordered and printed calendars, so they are ready to be distributed for **\$7 each**.

There are multiple ways you can purchase a calendar.

[This link](#) is a form that each congregation can print out and have available for members to place their orders. *We'd like orders to be forwarded to us by Dec. 6, to allow time for packaging and shipping before the new year.* Once the order form is filled out, please mail the form and payment (payable to "ABC Student Fund") if already collected to:

Ambassador Bible College
555 TechneCenter Dr
Milford, OH 45150

If all payments cannot be collected for the orders by the due date, late payments will be accepted on the behalf of whomever is coordinating the order.

The ABC class will ship to the pastor/congregation contact for member pickup at services.

Individual calendars can be ordered and shipped to a home address. Due to extra processing costs, an additional \$1 fee will be incurred, increasing the price to \$8/calendar. If you have questions about your order, or to order individual calendars, email ABCfundraiser@ucg.org.

Calendars will also be sold at an ABC fundraising table during Winter Family Weekend along with other items.

Thank you so much for your support of the ABC class of 2023.

—Josh Vazquez, ABC Student Body President

Winter Family Weekend Teen Dance

During the Cincinnati Winter Family Weekend, Dec. 23–27, the teen dance will be a 1980s-themed blast from the past! Get ready to dust off your old Ray-Bans and Members Only jackets! Pizza and other snacks will be provided (no Crystal Pepsi, sorry). We will have a prize for the most 80s-tastic outfit. See you there!

Everyone planning to attend the WFW (even if just for Sabbath services) is asked to register at wfw.ucg.org, whether participating in sports or attending other activities.

Growing in the Faith—Jan. 13–16, 2023

All UCG young adults are invited to join us at the 2023 Growing in the Faith weekend from Jan. 13–16 in Stewartville, Minnesota, to discuss how to prepare for a godly marriage. While single, it is the perfect time to learn and grow into the person God wants us to be, even if we haven't met that perfect person yet. Now is the time to be developing the characteristics that will help us have the successful, happy marriages that God wants us to have when that time comes.

In addition to several seminars given by David Schreiber, Ed Dowd and Brian Shaw, we will have plenty of time for fellowship, sledding, games and dancing. This will be a great chance to spend quality time with fellow brothers and sisters in the faith in a positive, uplifting atmosphere.

Please register now at growinginthefaith.com! Special pricing of \$170 includes all food, lodging, and activities for the weekend. Don't miss out on this special opportunity!

—Brian Shaw

Young Adult Winter/Ski Retreat—Feb. 17–20, 2023

We are excited to announce a Young Adult winter/ski retreat, President's Day Weekend 2023! We are hoping to forge new and deeper relationships with people of like mind. We will be eating and staying together for the whole weekend. We welcome all young adults ages 18–29, single or married.

We will be staying in cabins at Pipestem State Park in Pipestem, West Virginia. Activities will include skiing/snowboarding, sledding, hiking, swimming, bonfire, sports, and lots and lots of hanging out. More information about the activities can be found on the website.

We will also have several interactive discussions and Bible studies. The theme of this weekend will be focused on "how can young adults contribute to the future of the Church of God?"

Registration is open, so go ahead and register on the registration tab at ucgyawinterretreat.org, and we will see you there!

—Craig Scott

REMINDER: *Beyond Today* Magazine Back Issue Distribution in Waiting Rooms

As previously announced in the Oct. 27 *eNews*, pastors are welcome to order a supply of *Beyond Today* magazine back issues for their congregations' information tables. We received limited response from our pastors, so are posting this announcement again.

Brethren may on occasion want to take two or three copies to drop off at waiting rooms when they have appointments at doctor, dentist, optometrist, auto repair shops, etc., or to give to receptive friends, neighbors and family members.

Interested pastors—or an appointed member—can contact John LaBissoniere at john_labissoniere@ucg.org to request a minimum supply of 25 copies. Additional copies may be requested anytime as needed.

—Peter Eddington, Operation Manager, Media and Communications Services

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

The Work of God in French-speaking West Africa—Part 3

Tim Pebworth, pastor for congregations in France and senior pastor for French-speaking West Africa, wrote:

“After church services on the first day of the Feast of Tabernacles in Blolé, Côte d’Ivoire, Church members hosted a village-wide local evangelism event organized by local deacon Mamadou Tokpa, who is very

passionate about preaching the gospel. People from the community of 8,000 were invited to come to the outdoor event for song, dance, food and a special sermon. More than 400 people attended, including the village elders. The sermon given by our local leader, Albert Oulai, covered the wedding feast of Matthew 22, God's great plan and the meaning of the Holy Days.

“Professional Yacouba singers punctuated the evening with praise music and dance. Local young adult member, Fulgence Oulai, tailored matching traditional clothes for our members so they would be recognizable among the attendees. I was really inspired by our brethren's generosity and enthusiasm.

“In the following days, many who attended the event came to services and asked questions about the Church and its doctrines. After I visited the congregation shortly after the Feast, I met with the village elders and discussed in depth the work and mission of the Church. That visit and the now-established relationship with the community is a result of the evening hosted by local members. Please continue praying for God's blessings on all the brethren of Côte d'Ivoire as they strive to honor Him and do their best to help spread the gospel.”

—Peter Eddington, Operation Manager, Media and Communications Services