

THE COMMUNICATOR

October 2022



From the Pastor's Keyboard

“Size Matters: Conversation About Church Growth”

Dr. Lyle Schaller was once the church growth and evangelism “guru” in church circles. His denominational affiliation was United Methodist Church; however, he was widely read and heard in multiple faith circles. So prolific was he in his writing that a colleague, Ken Callahan, once said, “I don’t think Lyle Schaller has ever had an unpublished thought!”

In my relatively-brief time at Columbia UCC, there have been many direct and indirect references to church size, membership numbers, programs, and finances. This is typical of almost every church I’ve known. It is healthy to intentionally ponder the “analytics” of church organization—function, mission, vision, and leadership. It seems to me that CUCC is effectively engaged in this vital conversation and planning. Occasionally, the dialogue is framed by what is lacking, rather than by what God is calling our church to do, to become. The need for more resources (money, people, etc.) can become an impediment to continued growth and mission. “Money” can seem a four-letter word. (Jesus mentions money more than any other subject in the scripture; in fact, more than 70 times!) It is always encouraging when we can talk not about what we lack/scarcity, but by the abundance and opportunity that undergird our common life.

Schaller once observed that the two most comfortable church sizes are **under 45 and under 150 people**, likely making them two of the hardest thresholds to pass through, in addition to the 800 mark (from The Very Large Church). Congregations can plateau at certain times and levels. That is an inevitable reality that requires thoughtful, prayerful analysis, and adaptive change.

There is an old joke that asks, “How many psychologists does it take to change a light bulb?” The answer: “Just one, but the light bulb really has got to want to change!” We might ask, “How many pastors (or church consultants) does it take to change a church.” Answer: “Just one, but the church has to really want to change!” The first 100 years of history for Columbia UCC have seen abundant changes and transitions. The church is strong and vital. The church organization and structure solid. Leaders are clear-eyed and faithful in their approach. Pastor Rick shares a vision of where this community of faith is called, equipped, and sent to do ministry.

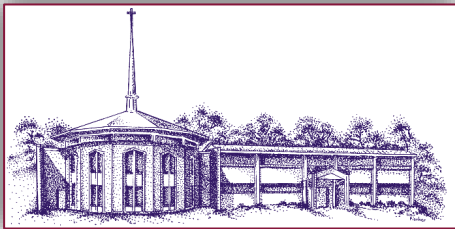
For those who might want to explore more fully the theme, go to Redeemer Presbyterian Church where you will find excellent discussion of Leadership and Church Size Dynamics. Dr. Tim Keller, pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church in Manhattan, wrote the NY Times best seller book, The Reason for God, The Prodigal God.

Church size matters. Growth and evangelism are not designed to fill the sanctuary, Sunday School classrooms, and pay the bills. Church growth and evangelism are tools for a community of faith to respond to God’s call to worship, education, mission, and service.

It is indeed my privilege to share this sabbatical time with you.

Grace and Peace.
Rev. Dale Parson
Sabbatical Pastor
816 806-0499 (cell)





**COLUMBIA
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

**3201 I-70 DRIVE NW
COLUMBIA, MO 65202**

Rev. Rick Oberle

Pastor

Rev. Dale Parson

Sabbatical Pastor

Rev. Fred Brandenburg

Pastor Emeritus

April Rothweiler

Office Administrator

Brandon Brown

Music Coordinator

Amy Crousore

Organist/Accompanist

Erika Maltsbarger

Director, Little One's Day Out

Raj Tolani

Financial Secretary

Caleb Berry

Custodian

**Fall/Winter Worship
Schedule Returns
9:00 SS – all ages
10:00 Fellowship Time
10:30 Worship**

**Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9am- 3pm**

**Phone:
(573) 445-7931**

**Email:
office@columbiaucc.com**

**Website:
www.columbiaucc.com**



COME JOIN US IN OCTOBER!

Women's Fellowship has begun a new Bible study called "Celebrating Sabbath: Accepting God's Gift of Rest and Delight." This study includes passages from the Old & New Testaments that speak to ways that celebrating the Sabbath will affect specific areas of our daily life.

We meet on the second Thursday of each month from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the upstairs Gathering Area. After a delicious brunch, we participate in the current Bible study and then hold a short business meeting. ***Our next gathering is October 13.*** All women are invited to attend. Come join us for lively discussions during each lesson.

In 2022, the **Neighbors in Need "BEHOLD!"** offering focuses on economic justice. One-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Justice and Witness Ministries use two-thirds to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations and support various justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

We will be receiving this portion of the "Five for Five" offerings of the UCC on October 9, 2022.



UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Please mark your calendars for a **Congregational Meeting** right after worship on **SUNDAY, November 13.** We will conduct both our Congregational Planning and Assessment Meeting (Visioning) and our Annual Budget Meeting to approve the CUCC 2023 Budget at that time.

MANY HANDS MAKE LIGHT WORK

You did it again! Thanks to a tribe of kind souls, I was able to take a ministry trip/vacation to Alaska for two weeks with my family. Words truly cannot express my appreciation for those who lent a hand to make my workload lighter, set my mind at ease, and left my heart feeling full upon returning from my trip. The old adage is true; Many Hands Make Light Work.

April Rothweiler, CUCC Administrator



Thank you to everyone who has helped nibble away at the "Cheese" board during our Sabbatical time. You are helping carry the load of the church staff and it shows how generous our congregation is with our time and talents.



"While the cat's away, the mice will play"
Be sure to checkout the "cheese" board in the narthex and the video on the website for more information!

Dear CUCC,

You've given folks like Noe in Honduras a better way to move about. The Departmental Association of Disabled Persons distributed a Mobility Cart to him. Your great support helped with the payments to ship carts to Sierra Leone, Kenya, and Nicaragua.

Helping others be independent,
Karen Stohlgren, Volunteer
Mobility Worldwide

ADDRESS CHANGE

Rev. Jerry Jordan
4547 Palisades Park View Apt. 211
Colorado Springs, CO 80906
719-355-3195



Dear friends,

Global Ministries thanks you for your gift, which will be used in its entirety to support ministries in Mexico. Gifts like yours support Global Ministries and global partners working together for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

Thank you for choosing to join us in the journey alongside our global partners.

Blessings,
India Bobadilla, Executive for Resource Development

"Many, many thanks to those who delivered meals, sent cards, and called the Hackmans over the past couple of months. It was a great example of the care and concern of CUCC friends when the need arises. You certainly brightened our day many times over. Thank you!!

Harold and Jolene Hackman

Dear friends at CUCC,

Thank you for your generous donation to the **UCC to support disaster relief in Ukraine**. Through your gift, families that have been displaced and are in need of shelter and basic necessities will receive support.

Your love of neighbor will be made tangible through your gift. With the help of our global partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives.

In faith,
Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer
General Minister and President

Dear Rev. Oberle and friends at CUCC,

Thank you for acting against hunger. Your recent gift and act of kindness goes a long way in making a tangible difference in the lives of people in our communities. One in seven Missourians faces food insecurity on a regular basis, and we remain committed to making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

Gratefully,
Lindsay Young Lopez
President and CEO, **The Food Bank**



THANKS
FOR BEING
SPOOK
-tacular!

We look forward to **recognizing our Veterans at church on Sunday, Nov. 13** with a breakfast meal. With the increase in members over the last year, we'd love to make sure we have included everyone. Please reply back to the church office email (office@columbiaucc.com) with a name and home address if there is a veteran we should know about. Thanks!



CROP HUNGER WALK 2022
Believe There Is Good in the World – Be The Good

The **CROP Walk** went off without a hitch on September 18 between the rain showers. Thanks to those who walked, thanks to those who donated, and thanks to those who enjoyed Shakespeare’s Pizza.

Representatives of the four local recipients of 25% of funds raised from the **WALK** spoke to those who gathered during the program before the step-off. They were Ruth O’Neill for Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, Helen Robinson for Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry, Tylisha Dade for Russell Chapel Food Pantry, and Linda Reed Brown for Fifth Street Church Community Meal. Cleo Kottwitz spoke for Church World Service, which receives 75% of donations for its global ministries. These representatives summarized the ministry of their respective organizations and thanked the **CROP Walk** for its much-needed and appreciated support.

It is not too late to donate to the **CROP Hunger Walk**. Donations will be accepted until November 1 at www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiamo Donations can also be made through Kindred Giving on the church website or by check directly to the church.

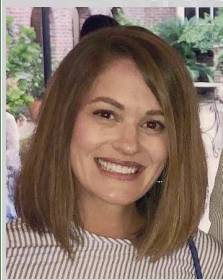
We will never know what the full impact of the **GOOD** we do will have on others locally and worldwide- but they will. Thank you for your generous support.



MODERATOR’S MOMENT

I continue to be amazed each month as I reflect back on recent happenings at CUCC. In September, this included another successful Rally Day, the start of new Sunday School offerings, and our continued participation in the CROP Walk and PrideFest, among many other things. The ways we give to our community and provide opportunities for worship and spiritual growth are truly amazing. We are off to an exciting start to a busy season in the life of our church!

We have one month to go with our Sabbatical experience. We are very grateful for Pastor Dale’s guidance and leadership, and we also look forward to Pastor Rick’s return! We have come together in amazing ways over these past several weeks to keep the ministries of CUCC going strong. Thank you for all the ways you have contributed!



I hope that each of us has experienced growth during these past few months, either through new involvement in a ministry activity or by finding new spiritual practices to make part of our routines.

On a personal note, my husband, Clayton, and I would like to thank everyone for the prayers and kind words as we begin our marriage! This is an exciting time for us and our family. Please note, I will be going by a different last name (as reflected in my signature below).

Kristy Hayward, Moderator

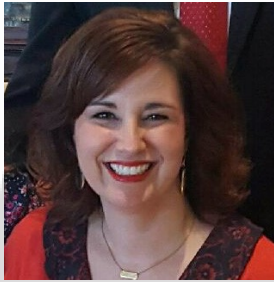
COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kristy Hayward	kristyodneal@gmail.com
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Inclusion & Affirmation:	Tricia Price	tricialprice@gmail.com
Little One’s Day Out:	Lorry Dreier	llhd01@gmail.com
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Nurture & Education:	Lydia Whitacre	lydiaawhitacre@gmail.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music:	Mike Pierson	mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com



MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

Calling CUCC CARES Volunteers! We would love to add more members to our Card Writing Ministry and Meal Train Ministry. If you would like to volunteer for these ministries, please contact Jessica Lucas, Judi Privitt, or Jolene Kirchhoff.



During Pastor Rick's Sabbatical Leave, you can contact a member of the Membership & Care Team with concerns for congregation members: meal train needs, visits or phone calls, transportation to church, celebrations or transitions to be recognized with cards, prayer ministry requests. Please contact Anne Heine, Judi Privitt, Jolene Kirchhoff, or Jessica Lucas.

Jessica Lucas,
Membership & Care Ministry Team Leader

October Birthdays to Celebrate

Laura Lentz 10/01	Noah Bredehoeft 10/02	Stephanie Lee 10/03
Eric Dreier 10/04	Gina Pierson 10/05	Hugo Wilmsmeyer 10/05
Dean Barry 10/11	Lindsey Beckmann 10/12	Jane Duncan 10/13
Taz Wells 10/13	Chris Tennill 10/13	Rebecca Holley 10/14
Dominick Lee 10/14	Ed Kaiser 10/15	Alicia Wilson 10/15
Peter Jaberg 10/16	Charles Marcks 10/16	Connor Kespohl 10/18
Hannah Wedemeyer 10/18	McKinzie Arms 10/22	Norah Schultz 10/22
Ron Tennill 10/22	Doug Oncken 10/24	Caleb Muench 10/25
Dorothy Vetter 10/25	Dale Vetter 10/25	Carissa Graves 10/26
Mariann Bullerd 10/27	Brayden Beckmann 10/28	Hazel Keithahn 10/28
	Jessica Jenks 10/28	
	<i>Happy Anniversary to:</i>	
	Sheila Sheller 10/11	

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

Music in the Air

Our church has been offered the wonderful opportunity to collaborate with the Columbia Civic Orchestra and Columbia Chorale of the Choral Arts Alliance of Missouri in a Sing-along of Handel's Messiah on Saturday, December 10 at 5 p.m. at First Baptist Church! Come represent CUCC by singing along with the rest of the audience members led by the Columbia Chorale or just come to enjoy an evening of music making. Scores will be available for purchase at this free event. As part of this partnership, I am the bass soloist and will prepare the Columbia Chorale on the choruses, so if anyone wants to attend any of the three rehearsals just let me know. Mark your calendars now and bring your family and friends!

Brandon Brown, M.M.
Music Coordinator



CHURCH COUNCIL

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES FOR SEPTEMBER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. Jessica Lucas opened with a prayer.

Present: Kristy Hayward, Kurt Heine, Brent Marcks, Sue Ann Schaefer, Mike Pierson, Tricia Price, Stefanie Zimny, Lorry Dreier, Lydia Whitacre, Keith Birkes, Jessica Lucas, Ted Dachroeden, and Alethea Tennill. Mark Duncan attended via zoom, and Pastor Dale via phone call.

Kurt Heine discussed Chapters 3 and 4 in the book, A Bigger Table, by John Pavlovitz.

Budget: The Finance and Stewardship Committee approved for the treasurer to move \$20,000 from Our Church World Funds to our checking account, so that payroll and other bills could be paid. There was a long discussion on options and suggestions. We will look at this again at the October council meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- Building Project Updates: Three HVAC systems have been replaced.
- Sabbatical Team: The team will be looking to increase our spiritual growth.
- The 100th Anniversary committee: Will meet on September 25 after church service.
- Vision Team: Kurt Heine will report on this topic at the congregational meeting November 13, 2022.
- Seminary Student Shelly Adams will be in church on Sunday, September 25.
- Snow Removal: We will contract with Jerome for our snow removal this year.

New Business:

- The 2023 budget will be approved by the council in October and will be voted on by the congregation in November.
- Security Plan: Please be thinking about ways we need to change or beef up our security plan.
- New Cleaning Service: We need to find a new cleaning service as Jerome has given notice that he will not be continuing with this service after September. If anyone knows of anybody who might be interested, please let Ted Dachroeden know. Caleb, our custodian, is willing to pick up some more hours.
- Google Calendar: All meetings and events need to be added to the church google calendar. If you do not have access to the calendar, please ask April in the church office to add it for you.

Ministry Team Reports:

- Building & Grounds: no report submitted.
- Fellowship & Hospitality: Rally Day was a success. Trunk and Treat till be Saturday, October 29.
- November 13 we will recognize our veterans.
- Finance & Stewardship: report submitted.
- Inclusion & Affirmation: report submitted. Looking for help during Pridefest on September 24 and 25. They would like more members to join their committee.
- LODO: Lorry Dreier, no report submitted.
- Membership & Care: report submitted. A new directory is in the works. Pictures will occur March 2023.
- Nurture & Education: report submitted. They are in desperate need of a nursery supervisor during church services. This is a paid position. It will be put in the Communicator and Friday's e-mail.
- Outreach & Advocacy: report submitted.
- Worship & Music: Mike Pierson led the discussion.

Pastor Dale closed the meeting in prayer.

Mike Pierson made a motion to adjourn. Ted Dachroeden seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alethea Tennill, Secretary



LODO MINISTRY TEAM

LODO NEWS

Our LODO students and staff have settled in to the new school year and are busy learning through play and structured activities each day. Friendships are beginning to blossom throughout our classrooms and on the playground. September was focused on learning about how to be a good friend, about our five senses, and how God created the world.

We had a group of over 100 celebrating fellowship at our Fall picnic that was held on Friday, September 9 at Smith Park. We enjoyed great food, playtime, and had an opportunity to meet new families and friends.

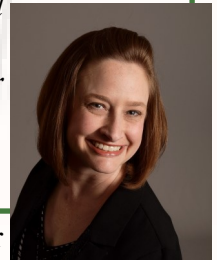
We were visited by the Columbia Fire Department for a Fire Truck Visit on Tuesday, September 20. We learned about fire safety, what fire fighters look like in their gear, and got an up close look at a fire truck! We are grateful for our community helpers!



October will be a busy month at LODO with many special events planned:

- Monday, Oct 3 & Tuesday, Oct 4 – School Pictures by Johnson Photography
 - LODO is closed Monday, Oct 10, in conjunction with Columbia Public Schools.
 - Friday, Oct 21 – LODO Pumpkin Fun Day 9:30-11:30 a.m. (**Volunteers Needed**)
Little One's Day Out will hold its annual Pumpkin Fun Day on Friday October 21. We need assistance from 9:15-11:45 a.m. to help run games and activity stations to allow the LODO Staff to focus on the supervision of students. Our fun will occur on the North Hill. If weather is inclement, the event will be held inside the church.
- If you are available to help us with this fun event, please sign-up using this [Sign-Up Genius](#), or reach out to Ms. Erika. If you have questions, please email Ms. Erika at littleonesdayout@yahoo.com.*
- Monday, 10/31 & Tuesday, 11/1—Classroom Halloween Celebrations

Erika Maltsbarger, Director



LODO CELEBRATES 20 YEARS AT CUCC

My time with Little One's Day Out began even before I became director. We started as a LODO family when my oldest son was just over 2 years old. Hunter attended only one day a week for some peer socialization. I still remember our first day. He was upset. I was upset. It was a tough transition for both of us. Ms. Erin (Kespohl) called me shortly after drop off to let me know everything was going very well. I learned immediately what a special place LODO is. In fact all 3 of my sons attended LODO. When my youngest child was 4 years old, some friends, who were members of CUCC, told me that LODO was hiring a new director. I knew I wanted keep that warm welcoming early childhood educational environment alive for more families to reap the benefits my family cherished, so I eagerly applied. I was hired in December of 2012. Instantly, I felt right at home with church staff and the LODO families who greeted me with open arms. From 2012-2016, there were 4 classrooms for children ages 1 year - 5 years old for a total of 32 children each day. Back then, I think we charged about \$26.00/day tuition for half day program. The extended day program was just beginning to thrive when I was director. We kept the traditions of a big family Thanksgiving feast in the Fellowship Hall, the St Jude's Trike-a-Thon where our little friends proudly rode their tricycles around the circle drop off area, and the annual Christmas program in the sanctuary. During the Christmas program, each class sang a song or two for the families, and then we gathered in the Fellowship Hall for cookies and milk. I will never forget when one of our newly potty-trained friends dropped his pants on stage in the middle of the performance announcing he had to go potty and ran off bare bottomed. You could always count on a smile and good laugh at LODO every day. My time with LODO inspired me and a fellow teacher to open our own full time center. Our goal was to offer the same warm home away from home early childhood education experience that we enjoyed at LODO. It truly was a treasured part of my and my sons' lives! Congratulations on 20 years enhancing the lives of preschoolers!

Annika Lunceford

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

As a member of CUCC, it's wonderful to see young children participate in Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and other learning experiences offered by CUCC! One vehicle that allows us to continue to offer learning experiences for all generations is the QCD.

What is a QCD?

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allows IRA owners over the age of 70 ½ to send a check directly to a qualified 501(c) (3) non-profit organization from their IRA Custodian (Bank or Investment firm).

BENEFITS:

If the taxpayer (owner) makes the donation as dictated by the IRS, the distribution to the Non-profit Organization is excluded from gross income. For those individuals who are taking the standard deduction and aren't able to itemize their deductions, this allows them to contribute directly to the non-profit organization and not pay taxes on the withdrawal. If eligible, this would be the same tax benefit as making a donation and then deducting it on your tax return. QCD's need to be completed through a Traditional IRA. If funds are held in a 401k account or other Retirement plan, they can be transferred to a traditional IRA and then withdrawn as a QCD.

To be eligible, you need to have achieved the age of 70 ½. You're allowed Charitable Donations of up to \$100,000 per person per year from IRAs. If you're over the age of 72 and subject to RMDs (Required Minimum Distributions), you can complete QCDs for more than your RMD amount (up to the maximum of \$100,000).



Thank you for your past, present, and future donations in helping CUCC continue to do God's work in making it a better world for all!

NOTE: For your individual situation, please seek the aid of a competent tax advisor or tax attorney for guidance.

Paula Wilson, Member of the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team

TREASURER'S REPORT — Brent Marcks

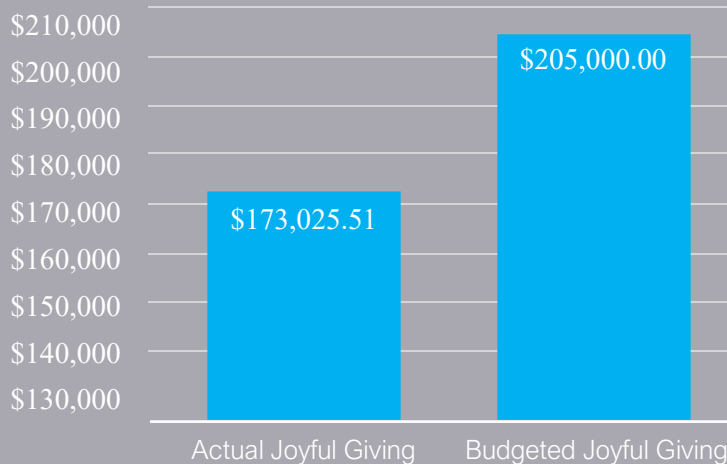
Financial Update				Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)				
August Income	\$19,012.49	\$25,500.00	(\$6,487.51)	09/04/22	85	\$2,546.32	\$8,205.22
YTD Income	\$173,025.51	\$205,000.00	(\$31,974.49)	09/11/22	118	\$5,042.00	\$8,205.22
August Expenses	\$30,341.75	\$31,106.66	(\$764.91)	09/18/22	93	\$5,329.75	\$8,205.22
YTD Expenses	\$238,645.95	\$246,147.89	(\$7,501.94)	09/25/22	83	\$9,804.00	\$8,205.22
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$10,893.19)	(\$5,023.33)	(\$5,869.86)	Total	379	\$22,722.07	\$32,820.88
Aug. Attendance	277						

CUCC ONLINE GIVING

You can now give online to Columbia United Church of Christ through our online giving partner, Kindrid!

There are several ways to make a one time or recurring gift through Kindrid:

1. Click on this link (or type into your web browser): <https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/cucc>
2. Access the Kindrid giving site through our CUCC website: www.columbiaucc.com and click on the "Donate to CUCC" button.
3. Text "GIVE" to 573-240-4041 and follow the prompts to set up your one time or recurring gift.



INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

Standing Ovation!

As we approach the holiday season, and with church members taking care of so many extra tasks while Pastor Rick is on sabbatical, we are thinking of all the volunteers who take a few moments of their day or week or month to help move CUCC towards its goal to better serve all of God's children:

All the ministry team members – that number is around 60. Some folks are on more than one ministry team.

All those who participate and/or facilitate Sunday worship: the greeters; the folks who prepare the gathering area with coffee and snacks; the Communion bread bakers and servers; those who provide the flowers and banners; the choir, bell ringers, and musicians; the lay leaders; Brandon, Amy, Pastor Dale, and Pastor Rick.

Those who educate our children: Sunday school teachers, Vacation Bible School coordinators and volunteers, Little One's Day Out teachers and volunteers, and Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School supporters.

Recurring event volunteers, such as Pridefest, CROP walk, the Food Bank, Loves and Fishes, City of Refuge, the Heifer Project, Mobility Worldwide, those who adopt families for Christmas through VAC, and the Habitat for Humanity pancake breakfast.

The administrative and maintenance staff and church council members, past and present.

The multiple behind the scenes elves who make things work: our technical support gurus, the bulletin and Communicator folders, those who set up and clean up after congregational dinners, prayer square makers and quilters, new church member sponsors, those who contact guests and visit shut-ins, those who help with member transportation needs and write notes to those in tough situations.

And, of course, the congregation members who support with their presence, offerings, prayers, and the work of this open and affirming church body.

In this current sabbatical season and the upcoming holiday season, we see you, we appreciate you, and we thank God for you!

Tricia Price will be leading a book study starting October 9 during the Sunday School hour of the book, You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey by Amber Ruffin and Lacey Lamar. It documents the everyday life of a young woman as she navigates being Black in the Midwest, but her comedian sister helps tell the story (Amber Ruffin is on The Late Show with Seth Meyers), so it may be the funniest book you'll ever read about racism. The church office will have some copies, and the public library has both the eBook and the audiobook available. (If you like audiobooks, this one is particularly good because the two sisters narrate it.)

Warning: *This book does contain adult language and may be offensive to some individuals. However, several members have read this book and found it to be very entertaining and educational in regards to what people of color deal with, currently, in Mid-America.*



A huge **thank you** from the Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry team to all our PrideFest volunteers: Jolene and Barry Kirchoff, Lydia Whitacre, Patricia Beeson, Helen Schultz, Patricia Soncasie, Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Lorry and Danielle Dreier, Linda Neale, and anyone else I may have forgotten. Having a booth at PrideFest is a great way to get the word out in the community about our Open & Affirming church. We couldn't have done it without you!

In Gladness:

Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Member, on behalf of Tricia Price, Chair

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

RALLY DAY FUN!!!

We had a very successful Rally Day on September 11! Attendance in both Sunday School and church was high! The bouncy slide was enjoyed by all! The Fish Fry was delicious! A big thank you to all who helped make this day excellent! We certainly “bounced back to church”! Now let’s keep bouncing back!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

School is in session here at CUCC! Our two youth classes, pre-K through 5th and 6th grade through 12th, have had strong attendance and participation. And so have the two adult classes! We’ve enjoyed Barry Kirchoff and Phillip Neale teaching the Adult Bible Study, and Rev. Parson teaching the contemporary issues class, “Questioning Capital Punishment.” Click [here](#) on the Adult Sunday School Calendar to see the complete fall schedule.

Have you ever considered teaching? We could always use more teachers for both the youth and adult classes!

Are you looking for another way to get involved with Sunday School that doesn’t involve teaching? We are also currently seeking volunteers for “Sunday School Greeter” to greet and direct students to their respective classrooms! Click [here](#) to sign up as a Sunday School Greeter.

NURSERY SUPERVISOR

We have not yet filled the position of Nursery Supervisor and need to do so ASAP! If you or someone you know is interested, please share the ad below with them.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

We’ve been having a lot of fun in Confirmation Class, while also doing a lot of learning! Our students are starting to work on their testimonies (to be presented on Testimony Sunday in November). If you see one of them in church, consider asking them how it’s going, or encourage them and offer advice!

OCTOBER HAPPENINGS

Halloween is just around the corner! Bring your kiddos to and share the news about Trunk or Treat! Please share the flier from the church’s Facebook page!

BLESSING BOXES

We will be sending out Blessing Boxes to college students and/or active military at the end of the month. We are seeking monetary donations to make these boxes! Please mail donations to the church or give them to an N & E Team member during church! Additionally, if you know a college student or person in the military and would like to have a blessing box sent to them, please give their name and address to the N & E Team!

Lydia Whitacre
Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair
lydiaawhitacre@gmail.com
(660) 349-0422



CUCC In Need of a Nursery Supervisor for Sunday Mornings

Columbia UCC is looking to hire a Nursery Supervisor for Sunday mornings during worship. The hours are 10:00 a.m.– 12:00 Noon each Sunday. Compensation is \$35/ Sunday. Qualifications include:

- Experience with children.
- At least 18 years of age.
- Will need to pass the Family Care Safety Registry Background Screening.

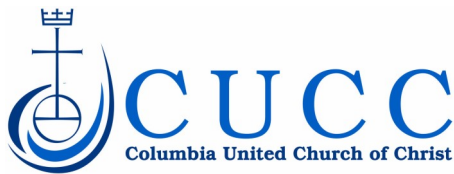
If interested, please contact me by phone at (660) 349-0422. or email me at lydiaawhitacre@gmail.com



Games, Trunk-or-Treating, and Goodies of all sorts!
Costumes welcome for kiddos of all ages!



Saturday October 29
1:00-3:00 p.m.
CUCC Parking Lot



An Open and Affirming Congregation
3201 I-70 Drive NW, Columbia
573-445-7931
office@columbiaucc.com



CUCC OPEN AND AFFIRMING/INCLUSION COVENANT

Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates God's boundless and unconditional love by intentionally welcoming and affirming all God's children.

- No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey;
- No matter where you are on your faith journey;
- No matter your sexual orientation, gender expression or identity;
- No matter your race, culture, ethnicity, nationality or politics;
- No matter your age, ability, health, relationship status or family structure;
- No matter your social, economic, educational, legal or life circumstances;
- You are welcome here!



Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

Loaves & Fishes

The September 19 meal at L&F consisted of spaghetti, salad, and cookies. The spaghetti was made by Mary Lorber-Solt and Audrey Lasley, the lettuce salad was provided by Patty Beeson, and the cookies were provided by Jolene Kirchoff. Jessica Jenks made and provided the PBJ's. Servers were Judi Privitt, Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Debby (Mary's sister), Patty Beeson, Keith Birkes, and JoEllen Grace.

It was a busy night, but we kept up with the pace. We served approximately 164 servings. Thank you to EVERYONE!! Please let [Audrey Lasley](#) know if you are interested in helping.

Come Serve at the Food Bank

The CUCC Food Bank volunteers will package food for the hungry on October 25 at 5:30 p.m. Please come join the good work!

We had a great turnout of ten people in August and hope to keep that trend going. To register, please click [here](#), or contact Mahree Skala at skalamahree@yahoo.com.

Race Onward met September 15, 2022. Much of the meeting entailed with discussion of voter registration. There are new requirements for voter identification.

Here's what's needed:

A Missouri Driver's license, a passport, a military ID or a state issued photo ID from the DMV.

You can get a State Issued Photo ID from the DMV. Contact the state license office for a list of required documents. You can get it free if you ask for a "Nondriver's license photo ID for Voting."

You will also need to be registered to vote. Call the Boone County Clerk's office 573-886-4375 for help.

There will be four amendments on the ballot. Please familiarize yourself with them before the election.

There is also a question about Missouri having a constitutional convention. This comes up every twenty years.

A local civil rights pilgrimage is planned for October 30. Columbia Cemetery is receptive to the idea. The plan is to have historical reenactors at the graves of Columbia notables.

Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary Partnership Friend Update

Below are some opportunities to support Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School. All of these opportunities will directly benefit Alpha Hart Elementary, the AHL families, and the students.

AHL PTA is selling cookie dough!

Cookie dough sales have already begun, but there is still time to get your order in! If you've ever had the pre-made school fundraiser cookie dough, then you'll know how yummy it is!

If you are interested in ordering, you can do so through this [link](#).

October 19 is the PTA "Dine to Donate" at Wendy's on Clark Lane.

Present this "[flier](#)" (*show it to them on your phone or give them the printed copy*) at the checkout window, and Wendy's will donate 30% of the paid bill to AHL!

AHL is also running a **Halloween Costume Drive**. Gently used or new donated costumes will go to AHL children for class parties, Trunk or Treat, and Halloween. Sizes 3T to 14 are needed. Donations can be dropped off at the AHL office by or before October 26.

AHL needs your trunk! **Trunk or Treat** will be held on Friday, October 28, from 5-7 p.m. Decorated trunks and lots of candy are needed to ensure this night is fun for all. Trunks can start setting up at 4 p.m. in the parking lot behind the school. If you are interested in hosting a trunk, please sign up through this [link](#).



"Thanks to all CUCC for your support of our Partner Friend, Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School. I will be meeting with their Home School Communicator and Assistant Principal in late September to further discuss joint opportunities. Also, thanks to Melba Shaffer, Mahree Skala, and Judi Privitt for their continued volunteer work in AHL's media center."

Llona Weiss, Liaison

Hello again, CUCC—

I hope you have had a great September. It has been a busy month for **Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary**. We started school on the 23rd of August and haven't slowed down since! This year our school is focused on two main programs to help our scholars to be most successful. We recently shared this information with our families at "Get The Scoop Night," so we thought you'd like to know about them as well.



The first is PBS which stands for Positive Behavior Supports.

What is it? A multi-tiered system of support that provides positive behavioral supports to students based on their needs.

What does it look like at AHL? We not only have a PBS committee, but require all staff to implement PBS practices and interventions daily in all settings. Students have PBS lessons every Tuesday in class to reinforce schoolwide expectations and procedures.

The second is AVID which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination.

What is it? Framework for seeing student potential and creating opportunities that empower students. AVID's mission is to close the opportunity gap by preparing all students for college readiness and success in a global society.

What does it look like at AHL? We utilize AVID's WICOR strategies in all of our classrooms. That stands for writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and reading. We are focused on providing opportunities for students to reflect and take ownership of their learning, promote individual goals for future, and talk about college or career ideas.



Dr. Amanda Mineau
PRINCIPAL
ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY
 5801 Arbor Pointe Parkway, Columbia, MO 65202
 (573) 214-3200

If you come to visit us at AHL, you will see signs of PBS and AVID all across the building. We are proud of the work our staff and scholars have put in to make both of these programs a success! We'd love to host you so that you can see it all in action.

FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for October. We would love to see some new faces sharing their time and talents in this capacity. Part of being in the church family is often expressed by sharing the roles that make all of our members and guests feel an extravagant welcome. If you can fill a needed role now or in the future, please let one of the leaders know. We appreciate you sharing your gifts of time and talent with our CUCC family!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
10/02	Jolene Kirchhoff	Mike Pierson Llona Weiss	Lena Muench	NEED	Judi & Doug Privitt	Judi & Doug Privitt
10/09	Audrey Lasley	Charlie Marcks	Daniel Dreier Lawson Flood-Lorber	NEED	Mike Pierson Dominick Lee	JoEllen Grace
10/16	NEED	Christine Staelens	Llona Weiss	NEED	John Graves Carissa Graves	Brent Marcks
10/23	NEED	NEED	Mahree Skala	NEED	Ted Dachroeden Josh Muench	Mona Dachroeden
10/30	NEED	John & Brenda Muench	Sue Ann Schaefer	NEED	Lorry Dreier Brent Marcks	Melba Shaffer



“Hope” in San Cristobal de las Casas

by Rev. Richard Oberle

Working with The Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, the word “Esperanza” comes up frequently in workshops and presentations.

“Esperanza” in Spanish means “Hope.”

In a culture where a history of oppression from multiple sources has fractured the very idea of community, The Institute, one of our Global Missions Partners, is a beacon of Hope. “Esperanza” for the people of Chiapas.

I am spending a month of my three-month Pastoral Sabbatical living in San Cristobal de las Casas, working with The Institute, helping to facilitate workshops among other duties. I came to San Cristobal in an effort to pluck myself out of my daily routine and immerse myself in a culture very different than my own; a culture where I could learn and reflect, reconnect spiritually, and embrace cultural dynamics from a very different standpoint.

I have come to the right place.

Daily, I walk to the marketplace, to The Institute, and to churches. Walking has become the beat of my life as I immerse myself in the culture. As I walk, I observe; and everywhere I look, I see hope.

The Church of Guadalupe is high on a hill, overlooking the Guadalupe barrio where I live. When I walk up the 80 steps to the building, I find members of the indigenous community inside, praying for guidance, communicating closely with God. Their faces reflect the hope that their faith has instilled within them.

On other occasions, I walk to the Church of Santo Domingo, a building 400 years old with ancient pews and gold leaf adorning the walls. I sit in the nave, reconnecting with God. As I do, I am joined in community with others from the indigenous community, also communing with God. The look on their faces is not one of people skeptical of religion nor starry-eyed by a megalomaniac preacher; the look on their faces is a look of genuine faith, a look of hope.

Another church I frequent is the Church of the Transfiguration, a smaller parish on the north side of town. Their chancel and precepts all contain images of Jesus transfigured on the mountain with Moses and Elijah, Peter, James, and John. They find hope in God’s message to the assemblage that day, “This is my Son, the beloved. Listen to him!”

The Institute, our Global Missions Partner, helps facilitate hope through the workshops they offer, from sustainable living initiatives to reforestation to recovering from trauma and healing the heart. All of these and other programs offered by The Institute bring healing, health, and hope to the participants. It is an infectious hope, as participants bring it back to their communities and share it with their people. The Institute trains folks to be trainers and prepares participants to be leaders. Hope shared is hope multiplied; and communities in Chiapas are changed as The Institute nurtures their already-present seeds of hope.

The Institute is served by Elena Huegel, our Global Ministries Mission Co-Worker in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. I helped her facilitate a recent workshop, “Esperanza en el Trauma” (Hope in the midst of Trauma). In this workshop, Elena taught the participants about resilience, the capacity to recuperate and thrive despite adversity. She taught them techniques to build resilience, restore dignity, and to address somatic memory issues related to trauma. The participants left with tools not only to nurture hope in the midst of their own trauma, but to be nurturers of others as well.


Nurturing hope in the midst of trauma is the work of our mission partners at The Institute distilled to its purest essence. For me, participating in this healing ministry for a month of my Pastoral Sabbatical has been a transformative experience. When I return from Sabbatical, refreshed and renewed, I anticipate my ministry to be forever enhanced by the time I have spent immersed in this culture.

My thanks to Global Ministries, The Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research in San Cristobal de las Casas, and Elena Huegel, our Mission Co-Worker, for helping me facilitate this transformative Pastoral Sabbatical and for allowing me to participate in opportunities to spread God’s message of Esperanza.



ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 World Communion Sunday 9:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	3 LODO School Picture Day 5:30pm LODO Ministry Team Meeting 6:30pm Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting	4 LODO School Picture Day 10:30am Quilters	5 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Celebration Singers 7pm Confirmation	6	7	8
9 9am Sunday School 10am Fellowship 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	10 CPS & Church Office CLOSED 10:30am Staff Meeting 6pm Fellowship Hall booked	11 10:30am Quilters 6:30pm Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team	12 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Celebration Singers 7pm Confirmation	13 6:30 Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team Meeting	14	15
16 9am Sunday School 10am Fellowship 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	17 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Loaves & Fishes	18 10:30am Quilters 5:30pm Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team 6:30 Church Council	19 5pm 100th Anniversary Committee Meeting 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Celebration Singers 7pm Confirmation	20	21 9:30-11:30 am LODO Pumpkin Patch Day	22 2-4pm Fellowship Hall in use
23/30 Reformation Sunday 9am Sunday School 10am Fellowship 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	24/31 10:30am Staff Meeting 	1	2	3	4	5

THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation- ONA #1575
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Columbia, MO 65202-3296
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

The Communicator is a publication of Columbia United Church of Christ. The stated purpose is to communicate with the congregation and our friends concerning the organizations and events of the church. It is published once each month. The deadline for articles is the 20th of each month.

October is . . .

- ⇒ Domestic Violence Awareness Month
- ⇒ Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month
- ⇒ Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- ⇒ Depression Awareness Month
- ⇒ National Bullying Prevention Month
- ⇒ Disabilities Awareness Month
- ⇒ Substance Abuse Awareness Month
- ⇒ Global Diversity Awareness Month
- ⇒ LGBT(Q+) History Month
- ⇒ Pastor Appreciation Month

Interested in Church Membership?

If you are interested in joining,
please contact [Rev. Rick Oberle](mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com).
rick@columbiaucc.com

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Columbia United Church of Christ Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant

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No matter your social, economic, educational, legal or life circumstances;
You are welcome here!

Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

LODO PLAYGROUND RESPECT

Please help us keep our playground safe for all children by following these guidelines:

- ◆ The CUCC playground is designed for, and should be used by, *only children ages 8 and younger*.
- ◆ Adult supervision is required while children are on the playground.
- ◆ Mulch must stay on the ground. When children dig up mulch it creates holes that are tripping hazards. Children should only dig in the sandbox.
- ◆ Sand should stay in the sandbox. Please do not allow sand to be carried and dumped in the playhouse or on play structures.
- ◆ Use playground equipment in the manner it is intended.