

# THE COMMUNICATOR

August 2022



## From the Pastor's Keyboard

Dear Friends in Christ:

The time has come that your pastor and teacher, Rev. Rick Oberle, has departed on sabbatical leave. This is an important time away from the duties as your pastor, enabling him the opportunity to renew, recreate and (hopefully) get some much-needed and well-deserved rest. Soon, he will back with Columbia UCC and ready to continue his journey with you.

During his time away, I am honored and pleased to serve as your "Sabbatical Pastor." I have been meeting with Pastor Rick and the Sabbatical Team to plan for the three months that I will be with you. The Sabbatical Team is a wonderful group of folks who will help guide all of us through the sabbatical time. The one question that we shall focus is this: "How are we doing in our ministry together in this moment?"

My covenant with the church is that I will be in Columbia two days a week, with one night per week lodging. Much of my preparation will be accomplished from my home office in Independence, allowing time during my two days in Columbia for worship, gatherings, calling, staff meetings. The days onsite will not always be the same two days of the week, although Sundays will definitely be included--of course! If you want to meet with me, please do contact me to set up a time. We also have Skype, Zoom, and FaceTime as useful platforms over the distance.

I will be available, upon request and as negotiated, for emergencies and pastoral visitation. The Sabbatical Team and Office Staff will coordinate the schedule. My goal is to be accessible and responsive to needs as they arise.

I will also rely heavily on the gifts and experience of the church staff. Each one knows the tasks of ministry that are needed in the position. It is a particularly talented group of individuals who work well together. I will honor and support each staff member along the way.

There will not be any major changes to worship and how things are done at Columbia United Church of Christ. We shall continue the missional focus that the congregation has embraced. I shall endeavor to prepare sermons that are descriptive of our shared reality, not prescriptive or didactic.

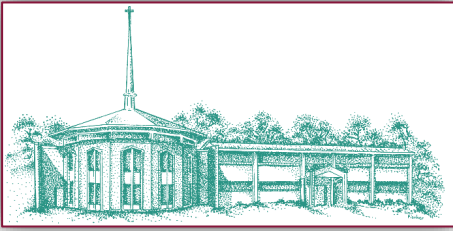
My first day at Columbia UCC will be Saturday, August 6. I am excited to share in worship with you Sunday, August 7, celebrating the Lord's Supper.

In anticipation and with thanksgiving for each of you,  
Blessings and Peace.



Rev. Dale Parson  
816 806-0499 (cell)  
816 257-2091 (home)  
[fdparson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fdparson@sbcglobal.net)





# On the Calendar in AUGUST

## COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3201 I-70 DRIVE NW  
COLUMBIA, MO 65202

[Rev. Rick Oberle](#)

Pastor

[Rev. Fred Brandenburg](#)

Pastor Emeritus

[April Rothweiler](#)

Office Administrator

[Brandon Brown](#)

Music Coordinator

[Amy Crousore](#)

Organist/Accompanist

[Erika Maltzberger](#)

Director, Little One's Day Out

[Rai Tolani](#)

Financial Secretary

[Caleb Berry](#)

Custodian

**Summer Worship Schedule**  
**9:00 Fellowship Time**  
**9:30 Worship**

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

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

**Email:**  
[office@columbiaucc.com](mailto:office@columbiaucc.com)

**Website:**  
[www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)



### COME JOIN US IN SEPTEMBER!

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

There will be time for lively discussions during each lesson. We meet on the second Thursday of each month from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. After a delicious brunch, we participate in the current Bible study and then hold a short business meeting. Our first gathering is September 8. All women are invited to attend.

**Lunch Bunch** is on break in August and will begin to meet again, contingent on a CUCC member stepping up to take lead of the group. As of now, we do not have anyone who has expressed an interest in heading up the Lunch Bunch Fellowship Group. The group usually meets the fourth Thursday of the month at noon for a carry-in meal and a guest speaker. If you are interested in taking on the logistics of this monthly Fellowship Group, please contact [April in the Church Office](#) or phone, at 573-445-7931.

### YOU ARE INVITED TO AN OPEN HOUSE AT EBENEZER UCC

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2022 @ 206 WEST OLD LEXINGTON RD., LEVASY, MO**  
**WORSHIP @ 10:30 A.M. | LUNCH AND TOURS 12-2 P.M.**

Join us for worship, lunch, and a tour of our renovated space, in honor and recognition of your much appreciated donation to our Flood Recovery Fund.

*This is our way of expressing our gratitude for the many generous gifts of time and treasure that helped rebuild Ebenezer UCC following the flood of 2019.*



### SAVE THE DATE – PRIDEFEST



Pridefest in Columbia will be September 24 this year, and CUCC has a booth! We will be handing out CUCC pop sockets, candy, and other information about our church to Pridefest attendees. We have a message of Inclusion and Affirmation that many need to hear. Join us as we share God's love!

We will be needing volunteers to staff the booth in shifts. There will be a sign up genius link in the September Communicator and Friday emails. For more information, talk to [Tricia Price](#) or [Alisa Lau Sieckmann](#) or another member of the Inclusion Team. Save the date, and be sure to attend!



Dear CUCC,

We are so grateful for your generous gift to the **CUE Seminaries of Chicago, United, and Eden**, and for your continued support for seminary education in our region. We lift up the resilience and commitment of all our seminarians who have persevered in their theological education through the pandemic era—especially the 130 graduates who will go out to serve a world forever changed by these past few years.

Your gift invests in the resilience and encourages the forward movement of the faithful into lives of service and transformative ministry. These future pastors, chaplains, counselors, and ministers will surely serve communities like yours as the future unfolds—whatever that future may bring.

God is truly present in our midst and we feel that presence in the spirit of those pursuing the many and varied paths of ministry that are reaching out into the world today. We also feel it in your gifts, your prayers, and all of your contributions to our work, which make it possible for us to equip the ministers of the future.

Blessings, Dr. Deborah Krause  
**Eden Theological Seminary President**

Dear CUCC,

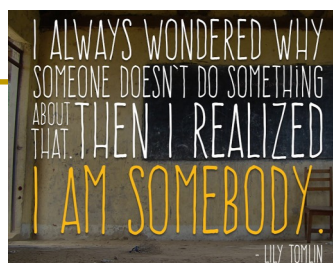
Thank you for all the support. You all have been a great family, and I appreciate everything you do.

**Morgan Lavelly**

Dear CUCC,

Thank you for the support over the last couple of years while I've been in college. I really appreciate the recognition and gifts.

**Sam Duncan**



**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**2022 COLUMBIA CROP HUNGER WALK**  
**09/18, STEPHENS LAKE PARK, GORDON SHELTER**  
**REGISTRATION 1:00 | STEP-OFF AT 1:30**

In its 27th year, the CROP HUNGER WALK continues to fight against the challenges of poor health, disaster, unemployment, and other concerns that leave our local and distant neighbors hungry. You can join the fight to help provide the food and support they need for today and sustainable food security for tomorrow.

As in past years, four local recipient partners who fight hunger through food and meal programs will receive 25% of the funds raised. Church World Service receives 75% of the funds to use in the global fight.

More details will follow, but please plan now to walk with us on September 18. To donate, organize a team, or join a team, [CLICK HERE](#).

### NEW CUSTODIAN HIRED

On June 21, the Church Council voted to hire **Caleb Berry** as our newest custodian. He began working at CUCC on June 28, and will be working an average of ten hours per week. His normal schedule will be Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 - 2, with exceptions. He will be supplementing our cleaning service, doing maintenance work beyond the scope of that contract. Make a point of welcoming Caleb when you see him!



### MEET AND GREET WITH REV. DALE PARSON

Welcome Rev. Dale Parson, our Sabbatical Pastor! Dale will be filling in for Pastor Rick while he is on Sabbatical, August 1 — October 31. Dale is well known by many at CUCC from his time as our Associate Conference Minister. Dale retired from that position in 2017 and has done interim work with churches since that time. He will be working with us part time, around 25 hours/week, leading worship on Sunday mornings, and working with the staff and Council during the week. **There will be a meet and greet for Dale before worship on his first Sunday here, August 7. Plan to come early that day to meet him!**



## MODERATOR'S MOMENT

A few weeks ago our new group of Council members met for our annual retreat. Traditionally, this is a time for getting to know each other on a deeper level and even engaging in some team-building activities. We kept things light this year as we ate together, had some discussion, then broke into teams for a scavenger hunt around the church building. Some of us are newer to the church, and others of us have been here for decades. Many of us have primarily spent time in the sanctuary or Sunday School classrooms. Pastor Rick, of course, spends a huge part of his life in the church building, and so it is no surprise his team found every scavenger hunt item on the list! It was an enjoyable time and satisfying as we worked in teams to accomplish the challenge. As we move into this Sabbatical time, we will have similar opportunities to work together. We hope and anticipate that it will be a very fulfilling experience.

Each of us will step into new roles over the next few months. In many cases, these will be small changes in our individual lives. Collectively, however, we will work to continue the mission of our church and to spread God's word, and this will be significant. We will also delve into spiritually enriching activities and exercises throughout this time that will help us grow in ways that should mirror Pastor Rick's sabbatical experience. Through all of this, we will ask for God's guidance. With the support of each other and our faith, we will move through this time and grow in ways, many of which we cannot anticipate. As a Church Council, we are grateful and excited to walk this journey with all of you.



With gratitude,  
Kristy Odneal, Moderator



## Our Sabbatical Begins

- ⇒ We have said good bye to Pastor Rick for 3 months.
- ⇒ We will welcome Dale Parson as our Sabbatical Pastor for the next 3 months., August-October, 2022.
- ⇒ You plan to attend worship regularly to stay in touch with other church members.
- ⇒ You will be praying for rest and renewal for Pastor Rick.
- ⇒ You dedicate time for yourself to reconnect with God, and rediscover God's purposes for our lives.
- ⇒ You have looked at the Cheese Board in the Gathering Area, and committed to an item to help with during the month of August to keep our church running smoothly.
- ⇒ You are wondering:
  - ↳ Pastor Rick always did this. Who is going to do it now?
  - ↳ Who can I go to with a concern about our church?
  - ↳ Who can help me with a task I need done for the church?

There will be many questions as we maneuver through our first Sabbatical together. For ANY AND ALL QUESTIONS AND CONCERNS you may have during our Sabbatical, please talk to, call, or email the members of the SABBATICAL TEAM. This is why this committee was formed.

|                  |  |              |
|------------------|--|--------------|
| Mike Pierson     | <a href="mailto:mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com">mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com</a> | 573-819-6055 |
| Judi Privitt     | <a href="mailto:judiprivitt811@gmail.com">judiprivitt811@gmail.com</a>       | 573-819-4584 |
| Kristy Odneal    | <a href="mailto:kristyodneal@gmail.com">kristyodneal@gmail.com</a>           | 573-819-4584 |
| Jolene Kirchhoff | <a href="mailto:barrykirchhoff@gmail.com">barrykirchhoff@gmail.com</a>       | 573-825-0239 |
| Pat Forward      | <a href="mailto:pdfoward@msn.com">pdfoward@msn.com</a>                       | 573-999-3992 |



Pat Forward, Sabbatical Team Member



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

**FOOD TRUCK PARTY**  
 ON A ROLL WITH GOD!  
**August 1, 2, & 3**  
**5:15 - 8:15 p.m.**

Join our "Food Truck Frenzy"  
 @ CUCC's Vacation Bible School  
 for Ages 3 — Finishing 5th Grade!  
 Dinner provided for attendees,  
 their families, & volunteers!

## MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

### August Birthdays to Celebrate

Kelsey Devenney 08/02  
 John Bernhardt 08/03  
 Diane Maxwell 08/05  
 Lisa Jaberg 08/12  
 Joe Remeika 08/17  
 Claire Kesphohl 08/21  
 Carol Stoll 08/26  
 Adriana Nieman 08/28  
 Laurie Frew 08/29

Karen Webster 08/02  
 Kim Major 08/04  
 George Zimny 08/07  
 Evelyn Grace 08/12  
 Sharon Crousore 08/18  
 Everleigh Oberle 08/21  
 Troy Bentlage 08/27  
 Andie Rapp 08/29  
 Elias Walker 08/30

Chuck Lasley 08/03  
 Judi Privitt 08/04  
 David Faust 08/08  
 Dave Forward Jr.  
 Chelsey Markway 08/19  
 Sam Duncan 08/26  
 Jolene Kirchhoff 08/27  
 Anita Sanderson 08/29  
 Harry Besleme 08/31

### Happy Anniversary to:

Ira & Carol Williams      Doug & Judi Privitt      Anne Stone-Meyer & David Meyer  
 Isaiah & Audrey Jackson-Post      Parker & April Rothweiler



Welcome new members, Dominick and Stephanie Lee and daughter, Lola! Dom is a Professor of Journalism at the University of Missouri, a career photojournalist, and a drone photographer pilot. Stephanie is an esthetician and laser technician. Dom grew up in Columbia, the grandson of Ed and Judy Kaiser, and Stephanie has lived in Columbia, Denver, and Las Vegas. They were brought to CUCC by family, and previous membership for Dom. Stephanie's hobbies include family time, traveling, spending time in the mountains, hiking, and music; Dom's hobbies include photography, music production, camping & outdoor activities, and flying drones. Their new member sponsors are Kurt and Emmalee Heine.



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM



We have all enjoyed the music ministry over the summer! Thank you to everyone that shared your gifts. The opportunity to participate as song leaders, soloists, and special music is available throughout the year, so please continue sharing your talents with us. The Chapel Ringers will resume rehearsals on August 10 at 6 p.m. and the Celebration Singers will resume on the same night at 7 p.m. All are welcome!

Brandon Brown, M.M.  
Music Coordinator

### COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

|                                      |                  |  |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--|
| <b>Moderator:</b>                    | Kristy Odneal    | <a href="mailto:kristyodneal@gmail.com">kristyodneal@gmail.com</a>           |
| <b>Vice Moderator:</b>               | Kurt Heine       | <a href="mailto:heinekurt@gmail.com">heinekurt@gmail.com</a>                 |
| <b>Secretary:</b>                    | Alethea Tennill  | <a href="mailto:atennill108@gmail.com">atennill108@gmail.com</a>             |
| <b>Treasurer:</b>                    | Sue Ann Schaefer | <a href="mailto:ssas3307@aol.com">ssas3307@aol.com</a>                       |
| <b>Recording Treasurer:</b>          | Brent Marcks     | <a href="mailto:brentmarcks@hotmail.com">brentmarcks@hotmail.com</a>         |
| <b>Building &amp; Grounds:</b>       |                  |  |
| <b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality:</b> | Stefanie Zimny   | <a href="mailto:stefanie.zimny@gmail.com">stefanie.zimny@gmail.com</a>       |
| <b>Finance &amp; Stewardship:</b>    | Keith Birkes     | <a href="mailto:kbirkes4@gmail.com">kbirkes4@gmail.com</a>                   |
| <b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation:</b>  | Tricia Price     | <a href="mailto:tricialprice@gmail.com">tricialprice@gmail.com</a>           |
| <b>Little One's Day Out:</b>         | Lorry Dreier     | <a href="mailto:llhd01@gmail.com">llhd01@gmail.com</a>                       |
| <b>Membership &amp; Care:</b>        | Jessica Lucas    | <a href="mailto:jlucas@cpsk12.org">jlucas@cpsk12.org</a>                     |
| <b>Nurture &amp; Education:</b>      | Lydia Whitacre   | <a href="mailto:lydiaa whitacre@gmail.com">lydiaa whitacre@gmail.com</a>     |
| <b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy:</b>      | Mark Duncan      | <a href="mailto:markduncan2@mchsi.com">markduncan2@mchsi.com</a>             |
| <b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>          | Mike Pierson     | <a href="mailto:mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com">mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com</a> |



## FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

### SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for August. 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   |
|-------|------------------|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|---------------|
| 08/07 | Jolene Kirchhoff | Llona Weiss | Lydia Whitacre  | NEED            | Doug & Judi Privitt           | Brent Marcks  |
| 08/14 | Helen Schultz    | NEED        | Mahree Skala    | Aidan Pierson   | Mike Pierson<br>Brent Marcks  | Melba Shaffer |
| 08/21 | Lydia Whitacre   | NEED        | Llona Weiss     | Danielle Dreier | Lorry Dreier<br>Josh Muench   | Pat Forward   |
| 08/28 | Carol Duermeyer  | NEED        | Pat Forward     | Katelin Odneal  | Carissa Graves<br>John Graves | Helen Schultz |

# CHURCH COUNCIL

## CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES FOR JULY

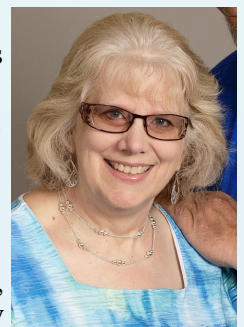
Pastor Rick discussed the book *Planning Sabbaticals*. Sabbaticals are good for the congregation and the pastor. This is a opportunity for both to learn and grow, to rekindle the reasons why we do what we do as a church and members of it, to allow time for all to refocus on God's missions.

Our next book will be *A Bigger Table* by John Pavlovitz. Trisha Price will lead the discussion on the first few chapters at our August meeting.

- ◆ Worship/Sanctuary: Carpet has been selected. We are now looking for bids for carpet and installation. Bids will also be solicited for drapery and paint.
- ◆ Building Project: Two HVAC systems have been replaced. A third one is on order. The sealing of the parking lot will happen the 2nd week of August. Fred and his crew will stripe the parking lot after it has been sealed. The floors will be refinished at the end of that week also.
- ◆ Sabbatical Team: The Sabbatical team is launching a project that has jobs needing to be completed each month. The congregation can pick a job and sign up to complete it during that month.
- ◆ April will be on vacation for two weeks in September and is currently lining up volunteers to cover the office while she is away.
- ◆ The 100th Anniversary committee: The committee currently consists of Doug Privitt, Jolene Hackman, and Melba Shaffer. Other names were suggested and will be contacted.
- ◆ Vision Team: The Vision Team meeting will be August 21 after church. Each Ministry Team needs to consider what projects they will work on this year to help reach the 5-year plans.
- ◆ Budget: All budgets are due to Sue Ann Schaeffer by August 31.
- ◆ Pastor Rick has received his yearly evaluation along with 15 responses from the Ministry Teams.
- ◆ Seminary Student: There is the possibility that we will have a seminary student from September – December. Her name is Shelly Dunham. She has recently relocated from Colorado to Columbia. Rev. Bryan Crousore will be her supervisor. She is interested in holding an adult Bible study, outreach projects, and visiting shut-ins. She will work 10 hours per week. The council approved Shelly Dunham being a seminary student for fall semester.
- ◆ Eagle Scout Project : Connor Maltsberger would like to build shelves in the back room of the Fellowship Hall as part of his Eagle Project. He will raise the funds needed to purchase the supplies. He will complete the project.
- ◆ Gift Policy Revision: The Finance and Stewardship committee has revised the Gift Policy and submitted it to the council for approval. After some discussion and a minor change the motion passed.
- ◆ Snow Removal: Even though it is hot outside, it is time to start looking for Snow Removal Companies. We are looking for bids from companies that have their own equipment.
- ◆ Council Retreat Key Points: Council members must represent the interests of the Church on behalf of the Council and the Ministry Teams. The responsibility of the Ministry Team representatives is to the church as a whole, not to their individual Ministry Team. Your first responsibility is to the church council. The governance of the Council is to set policies so that the ministry of the Church can happen. Some people are tasked with the governance of the Church, but all are tasked with the ministry of the Church.
- ◆ Financial Reports: We are typically behind in Joyful Giving this time of the year. However, this year we are \$20,000 behind more that most years. The finance team will be sending out a letter to the congregation.
- ◆ Membership & Care: We have had a few frequent visitors to our church. A new directory is in the works. Pictures will occur March 2023.
- ◆ Nurture & Education: Lydia Whitacre is looking for adult education classes for next year. If anyone has any interest, please let Lydia know.

Meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alethea Tennill, Secretary



# LODO MINISTRY TEAM

## LODO NEWS

We are excited to start our 2022-2023 school year on August 29! Enrollment continues to increase with limited spaces remaining in our classrooms, and we have new staff members to introduce in September. Help us spread the word about LODO and the loving environment we provide for our young learners.



### Class Availability

Lightning Bugs (1-2's) – Full  
Lambs (2-3's) – Full  
Lions & Leopards (3-4's) – Daily Availability  
Leap Frogs (4-5's) – Daily Availability



### LODO Important Dates

|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| Monday, August 15    | 9 a.m.-2 p.m. – Staff Planning Meeting/Staff Return to Prepare for the School Year |
| Wednesday, August 17 | 6:00 p.m. - LODO Staff CPR Training (Fellowship Hall)                              |
| Thursday, August 25  | 5:30-7:30 p.m. – Back to School/Meet the Teacher Night                             |
| Monday, August 29    | First Day of LODO 2022-2023 School Year  |



Erika Maltsbarger, Director

### [LODO Amazon Wishlist](#)

LODO now has an Amazon Wish List that will be updated throughout the year. This list includes items to replace those that have been well-loved and items that will add to our learning activities. If you are interested in contributing to the LODO Ministry, please consider purchasing an item from our list. Monetary donations can also be made, which we will use to purchase needed supplies and learning activities.

[CLICK HERE](#)

## LODO CELEBRATES 20 YEARS AT CUCC

This fall LODO will celebrate 20 years of daycare service at Columbia United Church of Christ. If you attended LODO in your young years; if you are a parent of a child who attended LODO; if you were a LODO teacher; or if you served on the LODO Board/Ministry Team, we would like to hear from you. Please share some of your favorite LODO memories with us as we prepare to honor LODO when Pastor Rick returns from Sabbatical. Jolene Kirchoff is collecting LODO memories. She can be reached by phone at 573-825-0239 or by e-mail at [jolenekirchoff1@gmail.com](mailto:jolenekirchoff1@gmail.com).

We at CUCC can all be proud of the fun, vibrant, and educational Christian ministry that LODO provides.

## MUCH ACTIVITY AT CUCC THIS SUMMER

If you have been around CUCC this summer, you may have seen a bustle of activity around the building! We are replacing three HVAC units, two that were scheduled to be replaced and one that decided to surprise us and quit. By fall, all three will be replaced. By fall, we will have had our parking lot sealed. We painted two LODO classrooms, preparing them for the fall. We also refinished the floors in the LODO classrooms, the lobby upstairs, the upstairs bathrooms, and the stairwell landings. These have all been stripped, sealed, waxed, and buffed by our regular cleaning service.

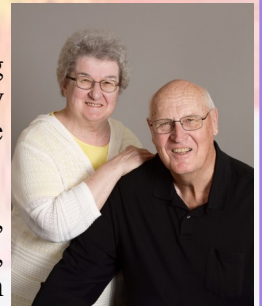
CUCC has been a beehive of activity this summer, addressing maintenance issues and prepping our building for an active program year thanks to your generous financial support. Thank you for making this care possible!



# FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Each year the challenges of meeting the church budget are always present. *As of June 30, we are behind \$35,346.85 in meeting this year's Joyful Giving budget to date.* The summer months are always slower, but as we end the summer months to get ready for the fall schedule, we need everyone's help in getting back on track.

As a member of the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team, I would ask in the coming months for you to consider what you can do to meet our budget. There are many ministry teams available that can use your time and talent to further their goals and mission of the our church.



Thank you for your continued support,  
Charlie Marcks,

Member of the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team

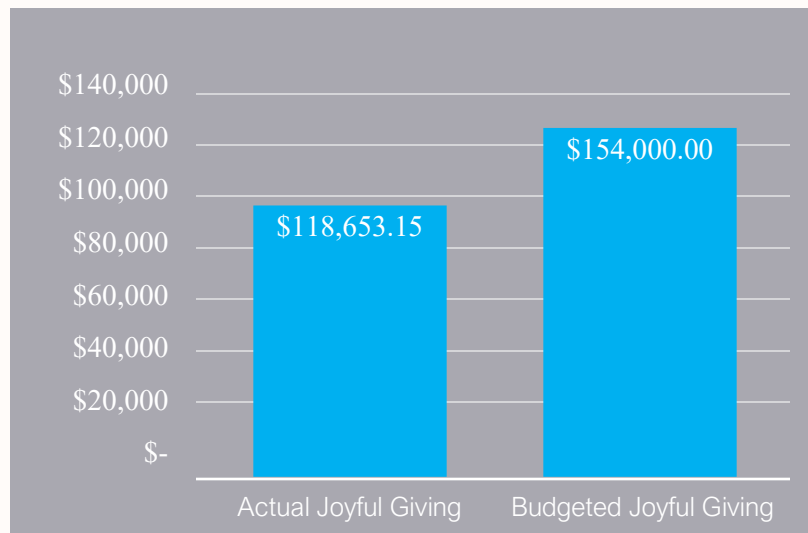
*The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*

2 Corinthians 9:6-7

## TREASURER'S REPORT — Brent Marcks

| Financial Update  |               |               |               | Date         | Attendance | Received    | Budget      |
|-------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-------------|-------------|
|                   | Actual        | Budget        | Over/(Under)  |              |            |             |             |
| June Income       | \$19,721.32   | \$26,500.00   | (\$6,778.68)  | 07/03/22     | 55         | \$7,040.32  | \$5,441.30  |
| YTD Income        | \$118,653.15  | \$154,000.00  | (\$35,346.85) | 07/10/22     | 51         | \$14,172.00 | \$5,441.30  |
| June Expenses     | \$27,850.84   | \$31,997.99   | (\$4,147.15)  | 07/17/22     | 69         | \$5,552.55  | \$5,441.30  |
| YTD Expenses      | \$168,611.25  | \$185,557.53  | (\$16,946.28) | 07/24/22     | 64         | \$2,809.00  | \$5,441.30  |
| Surplus/(Deficit) | (\$43,324.84) | (\$28,057.52) | (\$18,267.32) | 07/31/22     | —          | —           | \$5,441.30  |
| June Attendance   | 292           |               |               | <b>Total</b> | 239        | \$29,573.87 | \$27,206.50 |

As of 6/30/2022 we are **\$35,346.85 behind** in Joyful Giving for 2022.



### 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](http://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

Wow, it has been hot! The ONA Committee decided to skip a July meeting and will reconvene in August. Taking some of you on a trip down memory lane, remember the Disney movie, *Pollyanna*? It was about a young orphaned girl, whose parents had been missionaries. She was sent to live with her aunt Polly, whom she was named after.

Pollyanna was a high spirited and infectious positive bolt of light. Her aunt, on the other hand, was somber, rich, controlling, and seemed to think that life was a struggle that one must endure. She managed to pass this pessimistic thread through her whole community.

Needless to say, these two personalities collided.

Pollyanna's dad had taught her the "Glad Game." In any situation where things have gone wrong, the game was to find something in that situation to be glad about. Pollyanna was a pro at this game.

There was an elderly 'invalid' in the community who was just waiting to die. Pollyanna arrived on the scene and noticed that the crystals from the lady's bedside lamp created prisms of color in the right window. The two of them made a game of hanging those crystals and creating a rainbow of twinkling colors on her wall. It completely brightened that woman's outlook: so simple, yet so inspired.

There are many of us in this congregation and indeed this country who could benefit from playing the "Glad Game." Some of us are experiencing the 'long goodbye' of a loved one either due to cognitive or physical decline. Some are witnessing their own weakening abilities. Some are miles and miles away from family members not knowing if they are safe. The recent "Supreme" Court rulings have handcuffed individuals to situations which they didn't cause, but which will alter their lives and livelihoods forever.

So, then, where is the 'glad' in all of that? It is in the positive aspects of our humanity.

- 1) The "long goodbye" gives us a chance to cherish memories and celebrate those lucid moments together.
- 2) We can celebrate the physical blessings we retain and rejoice in having people around us to help.
- 3) For loved ones far away, we can write our local happenings on a postcard and/or phone our loved ones whenever possible.
- 4) In regards to the court handcuffs, we can protest, we can provide rides and safe havens, we can vote and make our voices heard.



To me, another word for glad would be 'thankful,' which fits right into 1 Thessalonians 5:18:

*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.*

In Gladness:

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

## PRIDEFEST

[PrideFest](#) in Columbia is BACK! Save the date: September 24. As we have in the past, CUCC will have a booth, and we will be giving away information about our church. We will need lots of volunteers for two hour shifts that afternoon. Sign up sheet will be distributed in the coming weeks.

Tricia Price continues to be our committee chair, and Tricia Soncasie continues to be our secretary. Thanks to them both!

We continue to have monthly inclusion discussions. If you have a subject you would like to see highlighted, please let us know. We are also looking for a couple more committee members. Our discussions are lively, and we would love to add your voice – contact [Tricia P](#) or [Tricia S](#), or myself, [Alisa](#).

# NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

## “Back to School”

If you’ve been to Walmart lately, you’ve probably noticed the “back to school” section already in full swing (YIKES – am I right, teacher friends?). Kiddos, parents, and K-12 teachers all over are preparing for the start of a new year next month. We, in the Nurture & Education team, are also preparing for a new Sunday School year here at CUCC. Although our programs don’t start until mid-September, it will be here before you know it!

With Sunday School classes in mind, I’d like to put out an invitation to anyone who has ever felt like they’d like to give teaching a try—we need teachers for adult classes! Even if being a teacher has never been something you’ve considered, perhaps you’ve felt a desire to help others grow in their faith. Or, maybe there is a contemporary topic concerning Christianity socially that you’ve been hoping to discuss with your peers. If your heart has been feeling a need to reach deeper into worship with your peers, now is your chance! We need leaders for adult Bible study each Sunday before worship and teachers for contemporary topics/book studies for each month, September through May! Please, reach out to me (at church or via phone or email) if you’d be interested! I would like to have at least the first “semester” of classes lined up and ready to announce in the September Communicator.

Although we already have several amazing and dedicated youth Sunday School teachers, we could always use new and excited faces! If teaching pre-K through 12 Sunday School would be of interest to you, reach out to me! Please note that if you plan to do youth Sunday School teaching, you will need to complete the Annual Healthy Relationships (Safe Church) Training. Conveniently, we are offering two sessions at CUCC. If you missed the July 24 session, don’t fret! We also have one on August 28, following the service, taught by Linda Neale. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up!

Another type of “back to school” we have here at CUCC is Confirmation Classes. During Pastor Rick’s sabbatical, Confirmation will be taught by Judi Privitt, Pat Forward, and myself. If you’d like to be involved by acting as a “helper,” please reach out to one of us!

A “last hoorah” before the summer ends will be taking place at CUCC on August 1, 2, and 3 – Vacation Bible School! This year’s theme is Food Truck Party and is sure to be a fantastically fun time for the kids, their families, and the volunteers! Although registration for this event is now closed, you can reach out to Lena Muench or Gina Pierson with any questions or comments.



In closing, our next N & E meeting will be August 21, following service. Remember that Rally Day is September 11, and we “get back to school” right after that!

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

## 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.



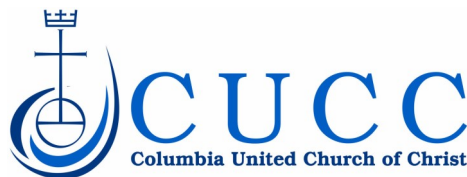
Join our “Food Truck Frenzy”  
@ CUCC’s Vacation Bible School  
for Youth Ages 3 — Finishing 5th Grade!

Dinner provided for attendees,  
their families, & volunteers!

**August 1, 2, & 3**  
**5:15 - 8:15 p.m.**

Available to all attendees at no charge by the  
CUCC Nurture & Education Ministry Team.

**Registration is open! To register go to:**  
**[www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)**



An Open and Affirming Congregation  
3201 I-70 Drive NW, Columbia  
573-445-7931  
[office@columbiaucc.com](mailto:office@columbiaucc.com)



# OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

## Loaves & Fishes

The July 18 meal at L&F consisted of chicken/broccoli alfredo made by Mary Lorber-Solt, lettuce salad and cookies made by Jolene Kirchhoff. PBJ's were made by Jessica Jenks. Servers for the evening were Darla Privitt, Doug & Judi Privitt, Keith Birkes, Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Debby (Mary's sister) and Nicole (Mary's daughter-in-law). We had a good evening serving approximately 160 meals. Thank you to everyone for your wonderful help of serving and cooking/baking!!

## Food Bank News

The CUCC Food Bank shifts will resume on August 23 at 5:30 p.m. and will be on the 4th Tuesday of each month. If you are interested in volunteering, you may do so by following the link in the upcoming Friday emails or by contacting [Mahree Skala](#).

## It's Time to Get Ready for School!

Believe it or not, school starts within a few weeks. The **Voluntary Action Center** will hold its annual Back to School Health Fair on Saturday, August 6. About 800 children will receive health screenings, school supplies, and backpacks. That's where we come in—VAC is raising funds to pay for backpacks at \$15 each. To help all children get a good start to the school year, you can donate [here](#).

## UCC Christmas Fund Special Offering on August 7



The Christmas Fund is a Special Mission Offering congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks. Please give generously on August 7.

## STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

COALITION OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

*Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit.* The [STOP Human Trafficking Coalition of Central MO](#) (CMSHTC) has been working in the local and surrounding communities, combatting Human Trafficking, for over thirteen years. Visit our [Facebook page](#) to see upcoming meetings, events, and volunteer opportunities.

**As summer comes to a close and schools resume for the 2022-2023 academic year, we give thanks for the teachers, staff, and volunteers that make each student feel welcome, safe, and loved.**

Although school is a fun and safe place for many young people to flourish, for others it is a sheer veil covering a nightmare. It is a place where some come to continue the pretense that everything in their lives is "normal." It is a place where some come to escape their own homes and realities. Throughout the last couple of school years, dealing with the COVID pandemic, this dark reality has been brought into the light. Even though many teacher and staff already knew some young people dealing with less than ideal situations, many more have discovered the brutal truth and depth of this reality. Reports of physical, mental, and sexual abuse of children and young people skyrocketed. New cases of these various types of abuse, including sex trafficking, flooded the phones and offices of local police departments, the Family Support Division Offices, and various organizations that provide safe housing and services, including the STOP Human Trafficking Coalition of Central Missouri. This dark secret has now become public knowledge and more people are stepping up to fight this horrible injustice.

As members of this community, the responsibility rests on all of us—to take action in gaining knowledge, advocating, reporting signs, and educating others. It truly does take a village to raise a child, and we are that village. The young people in our community will be our leaders some day. They are talented, innovative, generous, world changers, and they need all of us to help them grow into adulthood so they can become productive and thriving members of society. Every single young person deserves this chance—the chance to be and do something great. Let's help them get there by rallying around them with support, protection, love, and example.



**Remember, change starts with YOU!**  
April Rothweiler



## CUCC IS WORKING IN INDIA

In Hungary, Roma communities have been a part of society for centuries. Serving and ministering to the Roma people is an ongoing focus for the Reformed Church of Hungary (RCH). The RCH supports pastors serving the Roma communities in integrating the Roma and Hungarian communities together. This is done to move away from prejudices and stereotypes and toward a community of understanding. The RCH also engages in mission including refugee ministries, homeless ministries, prison chaplaincy, marriage and family counselling, ministries with the hearing and visually impaired and more. The RCH ministries are important parts of God's mission.

RCH is a Global Missions Partner of Columbia United Church of Christ through Global Ministries, our shared mission agency with the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ. Global Ministries provides foundational support for this organization and support for their ongoing efforts. During the month of July, please keep Global Ministries and RCH in your prayers!

**In August, please keep these UCC/DOC Global Ministries missionaries in your prayers:**

**August 1-6**  
**Sean Amato**  
**Working in Egypt**



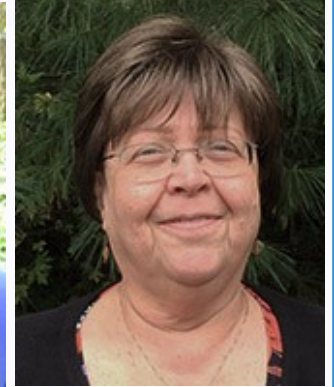
**August 7-13**  
**Rachel Webster**  
**Working in Jamaica**



**August 14-20**  
**Bosela Eale**  
**Working in Kenya**



**August 21-27**  
**Maria Bakalian**  
**Working in Lebanon**



## CUCC IS WORKING WITH WOMEN IN CHIAPAS

*(condensed from [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org))*

The International Service for Peace (SIPAZ) was founded in 1995 and is a permanent program supported by an international coalition of civil organizations and religious groups. SIPAZ plays a role in preventing socio-political violence in the communities of the Mexican state of Chiapas and the states of Oaxaca and Guerrero in southern Mexico. SIPAZ operates from a perspective of non-violence that stresses the construction of positive peace.

SIPAZ has identified three primary areas of work:

- **Accompaniment of women and/or women's groups in rural areas of southern Mexico**
- **Generate increased attention on women's roles in peace processes**
- **Generate an integral gender perspective within SIPAZ's activities**

Although many SIPAZ workshops are exclusively for women, the presence of men is also encouraged. Having men in the workshops creates a positive exchange of ideas between women and men, bringing interesting insights to the discussions and reflections. Language is frequently a difficulty because not all SIPAZ staff persons speak the region's indigenous language, which is ch'ol, and many of the indigenous women do not speak Spanish. The project plans look for women in the communities who can help, both with the preparation and evaluation of the workshops and translation.

SIPAZ is just one of four mission agencies in Chiapas that are supported by CUCC through our relationship with GI.



## ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN **August**

|  | Mon   | Tue  | Wed  | Thu  | Fri                            | Sat |
|--|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------|-----|
|  | 1<br><b>Pastor Rick's Sabbatical Starts</b>   | 2<br>5-8pm VBS                                 | 3<br>5-8pm VBS   | 4  | 5<br>6:30pm First Friday Films | 6   |
| 7<br><b>9:30am Worship</b><br>Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a>  | 8<br>5:30pm LODO Ministry Team<br>6:30pm Worship & Music<br>Ministry Team Meeting                 | 9<br>10:30am Quilters                          | 10<br>6pm Chapel Ringers<br>7pm Celebration Singers                          | 11<br>6:30 Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team Meeting       | 12                             | 13  |
| 14<br><b>9:30am Worship</b><br>Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a> | 15<br>9-2 LODO Planning Meeting in Fellowship Hall<br>LODO Teachers Back<br>10:30am Staff Meeting | 16<br>10:30am Quilters                         | 17<br>6pm LODO CPR Training<br>6pm Chapel Ringers<br>7pm Celebration Singers | 18   | 19                             | 20  |
| 21<br><b>9:30am Worship</b><br>Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a> | 22<br>10:30am Staff Meeting   | 23<br>10:30am Quilters<br><b>CPS FIRST DAY</b> | 24<br>6pm Chapel Ringers<br>7pm Celebration Singers                          | 25<br>5:30-7:30pm LODO Back to School Night in Fellowship Hall | 26                             | 27  |
| 28<br><b>9:30am Worship</b><br>Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a> | 29<br>10:30am Staff Meeting<br><b>LODO First Day</b>  | 30<br>10:30am Quilters                         | 31   | 1  | 2                              | 3   |

# THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Congregation- ONA #1575  
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573-445-7931



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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.



### Interested in Church Membership?

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

**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

### Columbia United Church of Christ 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.

### 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.