

THE COMMUNICATOR

November 2020



From the Pastor's Keyboard

As I write this message, I'm reflecting on our very successful and safe "Falloween" here at CUCC. With 30+ volunteers working together to put on the event and 100+ participants, it was a wonderful day for everyone. The fall weather was crisp and the costumes were fun. It was a safe way to celebrate our community together. There were strict guidelines from the City of Columbia that were followed. We had to submit a request to the City for permission, a document that detailed all of the precautions we were planning. There were several emails back and forth from the City to ensure that safety protocols would be practiced, but in the end, permission was received and all was well. It is good to know such standards are in place to keep our community safer.

In many ways this event was emblematic of how, as people of God, we can learn to live as God's children in a Coronavirus world. Those who choose to do so can gather safely, and community can happen with socially distanced guidelines observed and safety measures (such as wearing masks) practiced. ***Of course, this is not the right choice for everyone. Those with compromised immune systems or other vulnerable conditions are wise to choose to remain more isolated.*** But for those who choose to participate in community, it is well and good that we as a church and we as a greater Columbia community are safely providing that option.

The numbers here in Boone County show us the fruits of our safety practices. We have gone from a 5-day average of **143** new cases of COVID on September 5 to a 5-day average of **38** new cases of COVID on October 20, and 5-day averages continue to drop. Our prevention efforts and slow emergence into community are making a difference. We see that it is possible, for those who are not in the most vulnerable population and who choose to do so, to live in a Coronavirus world in relative safety.

The knowledge that we can learn to live in a Coronavirus world is encouraging, because despite sensationalistic predictions that it will just disappear, or that a vaccine will cure everything instantly, the reality is that it is not going anywhere for a while, even when a vaccine is found. We will be living with the Coronavirus for a long time, just as we have lived with other viruses for a long time, and like other viruses, we will also learn how to live with the Coronavirus safely.

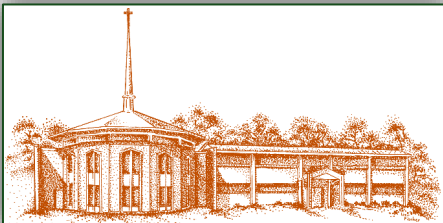
This Coronavirus has caused such anxiety in our world over the past year because in recent generations we have adopted a false sense of immortality. We believe that nothing bad can or will happen to us. If we get sick, we take a pill. If we don't like our body, we sculpt it. If we need more energy, we have special drinks for that. We feel like we can live forever and then get extremely anxious when our idea of immortality is threatened.

When we think our physical bodies are immortal, we forget about what truly is immortal, our eternal existence with God, here on this earth and beyond. We forget about our existence as spiritual beings on a temporary physical journey. When we think our bodies are immortal and focus solely on feeding our bodies, we forget to feed our souls, we forget to nurture our spiritual selves.

But the good news is that when we repent, when we turn back to God, God is waiting to welcome us. In a recent pastoral letter Dr. Ginny Brown Daniel, our Conference Minister, stated, ". . . *take heart, we are not alone. Jesus Christ went before us to embody how we are to love our neighbor in frightening moments; and God, our Creator, created us in God's image in order to build the Beloved Community in the midst of trials and tribulations.*" Even in these frightening times, in the midst of these trials and tribulations, we are called to be secure in the knowledge that God is giving us strength and encouraging us to be faithful.

We all will emerge into community at different times, when we are ready and feel we can safely do so, but whether we are in quarantine or in controlled public spaces, we are all still part of God's Beloved Community and the community of faithful Christians that has been established in this time and this place. You are never alone. Your spirit is ever connected to God and to all the Saints of the Church, those who have gone before us and those yet to come. Hopefully, in that reality, you can find some solace in these anxious times.

-Pastor Rick



**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

Ed Rollins
Music Coordinator

Amy Crousore
Organist/Accompanist

Erika Maltsbarger
Director, Little One's Day Out

Raj Tolani
Financial Secretary

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00am- Sunday School
for all ages

10:30am- Worship

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9 a.m.- 3 p.m.

Phone:
(573)-445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com

CUCC LIVESTREAMING TO CONTINUE

The COVID pandemic has not only brought anxiety to our world, it has also brought a share of positive innovation, not the least of which is the opportunity to livestream our worship services at CUCC and reach a new demographic of viewers anxious to hear the Good News of our Savior, Jesus Christ!



We plan to continue livestreaming our worship services indefinitely; but for those of you who have been watching at home, you know the quality of the feed has been challenging. Limitations in technology and internet service have made some livestreams spotty and challenging.

But the best is yet to come! On Tuesday, September 22 the Church Council approved purchasing new technology for livestreaming our services, including two PTZ cameras with optical zoom that will be fixed in the rear of the sanctuary, a video switcher, preview monitor, network hub and more, all from Nelson Audio in Eldon, MO. They are the company that also installed our new sound system.

This technology is not inexpensive (around \$7500, installed and serviced) but it will make Sunday Morning "Couch Church" more transformative for all our viewers, both within and outside of the congregation!

Please be patient. Technological advances are coming soon! *We just found out last week that the equipment has started to arrive at Nelson Audio*; as soon as it all arrives, they will schedule an installation date. We are hoping to have it all installed by mid-November and have this project completed by Advent. Livestream viewers, keep watching! You should see a significant improvement by mid-November.



**PLEASE HELP US KEEP OUR
PLAYGROUND SAFE FOR ALL
CHILDREN BY FOLLOWING THESE
GUIDELINES:**

- ◆ The CUCC playground is designed for, and should only be used by, 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.

SAVE THE DATES FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

November 8– Congregational Budget Meeting hosted by the Church Council and the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team. We will ask the Congregation for approval of the 2021 Church Budget. The Proposed Budget was approved at the October Council meeting and presented to the Congregation two weeks prior to the Congregational Meeting, on October 25.

May 16, 2021– Annual Congregational Meeting hosted by the Church Council. This will be our first Annual Meeting under our new structure! Lunch will be served prior to the meeting. Mark your calendars!

Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship will continue to meet virtually, through Zoom, for at least the new few months. **The next meeting is scheduled for Sunday, November 8, 2020.**

The annual meeting is scheduled for May 16, 2021. The breakfast to benefit Habitat for Humanity, 2021, will be cancelled due to COVID. In lieu of a breakfast, we will fundraise in January and February in order to make our yearly donation to HFH.

Veterans Day Celebration!

We are very excited to celebrate and honor our Veterans this year for Veterans Day. We will be observing Veterans Day in worship on November 15. Although things look a bit different, we have a very special day planned for them. We will have pictures of Veterans that are close to our hearts, that we will use in a PowerPoint to show during worship. Jo Ellen Grace is putting this event together, along with [Stefanie Zimny](#). If you have any questions, or would like your Veteran included, talk to one of them! Thank you for helping us make this a wonderful event.

CUCC LUNCH BUNCH

CUCC Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, NOVEMBER 19, in the Fellowship Hall at noon with a carry-in meal. This group is open to everyone regardless of age or any other determining factor. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our own April Rothweiler will be speaking for the STOP Human Trafficking Coalition of Central MO. Come learn how human trafficking affects your community and how you can be a part of the solution!

All are welcome to join us! Bring a dish to share, or a sack lunch if you wish. Wear your mask! We will practice social distancing and hygienic serving procedures. Come join the Fun!

Women's Fellowship Update

Women's Fellowship will be held on **Thursday, NOVEMBER 12, at 9:30 a.m.** in the Gathering Area upstairs.

There is a light brunch provided on a rotation. The current book study is "Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament." All women are welcome. Come join us as we dive into the true meaning of "lamenting."

NEW TRANSPORTATION FUND ESTABLISHED

At the October Church Council Meeting, the Council heard a recommendation by the Membership & Care Ministry Team, the Inclusion & Advocacy Ministry Team, and the Finance & Stewardship Ministry team to establish a new Designated Fund– the Transportation Fund. After discussion, the Council voted to establish this fund with \$10,000 from the Alan Mader Estate.

The primary purpose of this fund is to accumulate donations that can be used for purchasing or renting transportation, specifically a church van or bus, as well as maintaining and insuring such a vehicle. This fund could also be used for short term rental goals to transport members to and from church or for special church trips or other special projects identified and authorized by the Church Council.

Approval to utilize this fund to purchase vehicles will require specific ministry plans and schedules attached which designate usage, maintenance, and amortization. This means that no purchases can be made from this fund until all details are worked out and listed exhaustively, including the items mentioned above.

This fund is open to contributions from fellowship groups or individuals through estate planning, recurring gifts, or one-time donations. For this fund to grow, it is up to individual members to make it happen.

We have several church members with transportation challenges, especially our homebound members. This fund could, if it grows, be used to help address these challenges, whether we purchase a vehicle, rent vehicles on occasion, or come up with some other creative option to provide transportation options to care for our members.

For years, some in the congregation have lamented our inability to provide transportation options to our homebound members, youth, fellowship groups, and others. This is your chance to make these dreams a reality! To contribute to this fund, check with [Sue Ann Shaefer](#), [Brent Marcks](#), [George Zimny](#), or another member of the Church Council. We can make this happen if we all work together!

Thank You!

CUCC Outreach Team & Church Members,

Thank you for your gracious support of our students. **Alpha Hart** is lucky to have you as Partner Friends. From coats and boots to school supplies and hygiene products, you have unquestioningly given your hearts along with these donations. You have allowed us to meet the most basic needs of our students, and we are so grateful for it.

Thank you for all you do!
AHL Faculty & Staff

Dear Congregation of CUCC,

Thank you for your generous donation to the **Western Association** for use by the Association in promotion of Christ's work in the education programs and gatherings of our Association. We always invite all members to take part in these gatherings so they might fill a void in their Church Life.

Again, thank you for your gift that is a reminder of God's all-inclusive love.

Blessings, Dennis Zeller, Treasurer
Western Association MMSUCC

Dear CUCC,

Thank you so much for your kind donation to **Turning Point**. Your gift helps us continue providing much needed services to our unsheltered neighbors who are especially vulnerable during this crisis. Because of you, we can protect our volunteers and provide for our community through the pandemic. We are so grateful for your sponsorship of the Turning Point ministry and mission. With your continued support, we can provide dignity and hope to those struggling in our community.

Blessings, Turning Point Staff

GIVING TUESDAY

GET READY FOR GIVING TUESDAY – DECEMBER 1, 2020

Giving Tuesday is a grassroots non-profit campaign the Tuesday after Thanksgiving each year to lift up churches and other non-profits serving the community in the midst of the Holiday Season. It is a way to express Thanksgiving for all they are doing and to make Advent more meaningful. It is a day to give back after the excesses of Black Friday and Cyber Monday. This year, CUCC will be participating in Giving Tuesday; and we invite you to plan now to be part of it!

Here is how it works: On Tuesday, December 1, simply to to our [CUCC Website](#) and click on the **“Donate”** tab. Select “Giving Tuesday” in the dropdown menu, and make your donation. It is that easy! You can also give to CUCC on Giving Tuesday by texting the word “GIVE” to 573.240.4041 and then follow the prompts.

We have an ambitious goal for Giving Tuesday- **\$20,000!** Yes, you heard that right. As a congregation, we need to bring in \$90,000 in November and December to make our budget for this year; and by donating to CUCC thru “Giving Tuesday,” you will help us reach it!

Here is how the funds designated for “Giving Tuesday” will be allocated:

- **80%** of what is received on Giving Tuesday will be allocated for “Joyful Giving;” the funds needed to meet our budget goal for 2020 (\$90,000 is needed between now and December 31)
- **10%** of what is received on Giving Tuesday will be allocated to our **Little One’s Day Out preschool ministry**, to help offset their shortfall this year due to COVID-19
- **10%** of what is received will be given away. In keeping with the Biblical mandate to Tithe 10% of our blessings, we will allocate 10% of Giving Tuesday receipts to the Voluntary Action Center, to help fund their Christmas Drive

This is an ambitious goal, but CUCC has always lived up to this sort of challenge! *You will be hearing much more about this in the month to come!* (Watch for our videos on social media!) **Thank you in advance, CUCC!**

-[George Zimny](#), Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Chair

LODO MINISTRY TEAM

LODO Fall Service Project: Winter Coat Drive Helping Children Stay Warm

LODO will be collecting items to donate to students at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary (CUCC Partnership Friend). Let's help children stay warm this winter. We will be collecting items from Nov 4- 20. Items must be new or in excellent/clean used condition. A donation box will be available in the Fellowship Hall and Upstairs.

Please consider donating child sized items such as:

Coats (Sizes 7/8, 10/12, 14/16)

Winter Hats

Mittens/Gloves

Scarves

Ear Warmers

Tennis Shoes (Sizes 4-8)



Warm a Heart with a
Winter Coat

THE LODO ADVISORY BOARD IS NOW THE LODO MINISTRY TEAM!

With the passage of the new CUCC By-Laws at our Congregational Meeting on September 20, the LODO Advisory Board is now officially a CUCC Ministry Team! Lorry Dreier is our Chair, and Linda Evans is our Secretary.

Living into this new identity will mean several changes to the way we function, including a revision of our operating documents. We will be working on these and presenting them to the Council in the months to come.

Please continue to keep the LODO ministry of CUCC in your prayers in the months to come!

October was full of Fall Fun at LODO! We learned about Creation, Apples, Pumpkins and The World God Made: Camping/Forest Animals/Nature; and finished off the month with Halloween! LODO provided each child a treat bag for Halloween, and our classrooms had celebrations on Thursday Oct 29 and Friday October 30. We loved seeing so many of our LODO families at the CUCC "Fall-o-ween" Trunk or Treat!

We look forward to our Fall Parent/Teacher conferences the week of Nov 16 – 20! We love having time to meet with each family to discuss their student's development and achievements!

We continue to give thanks for the many families and staff that make Little One's Day Out a loving preschool for children to play and learn!

November Themes

Teacher's Choice Week
Fall/Leaves

Stars & Stripes/ Patriotic
Thanksgiving

LODO will be CLOSED:

- Monday, November 2
- Tuesday, November 3
- Friday, November 13
- Wednesday—Friday, November 25-27

Thankfully, Ms. Erika

Gobble, gobble, gobble,
It's time to do a trot...
and to say a little thanks
for all that you have got!

Gobble, gobble, gobble,
It's time for me to say...
Stuff yourself with fun & food
And have a
Happy Turkey Day!



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VICE-MODERATOR'S MOMENT

FROM THE VICE-MODERATOR

Greetings CUCC!

Despite our restrictions, we have found ways to do so much in the past month! The Fallween event was a huge success thanks to the Fellowship and Hospitality Team . . . especially Lena and Gina, who worked incredibly hard to make sure it was safe for families and in compliance with local requirements. What a great way to integrate church members, LODO families, and others in the community for a fun celebration!

We continue to make progress on the final 50 for 50 projects, including updating our church alarm system and replacing the shelter house floor to increase usability of that outdoor space. The church council has approved next year's budget, which is now ready to be presented to the congregation on November 8th. The Vision Team, in collaboration with all the Ministry Teams, is finalizing Implementation Plans, which were discussed in the adult Sunday school class and presented this past week, as well.

Our focus on discipleship continues with the upcoming testimonies of our newest confirmands and the start of another confirmation class. We also continue to reach out to our congregation members with the newly established transportation fund and visiting ministry and to the larger community through our connection with Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary and our contributions to the women's prison kits for the Festival of Sharing.

Each member has been working hard to make sure we can continue to gather in a way that is safe during COVID-19. Thank you! It is important that we continue to practice the necessary precautions . . . including mask-wearing, persistent hand washing, social distancing, not touching others, and staying home if you are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19 or have been near someone who is experiencing symptoms. Please continue to remind each other that this crisis is not over and know that it is okay and welcome to participate in church virtually.

Thank you for your continued support of our church family!

-Kristy Odneal



FELLOWSHIP TIME DURING THE PANDEMIC

The Kitchenette and Gathering Space upstairs will be temporarily closed at this time, due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we will still have Fellowship Time from 10:00-10:20 in the Fellowship Hall, hosted by our Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team. We will be implementing several safety protocols, including serving the coffee/drinks to you and having individually wrapped snacks. Coffee will be ready at 9:00 for those who wish to attend the Adult Sunday School Class in the Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in helping serve, please contact [Stefanie Zimny](#), Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team Chair!

INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

Happy Fall to everyone! I'm hoping for extended fall weather and a mild winter (with little snow).

The Inclusion Team is now a full ministry team thanks to the diligence of CUCC members in attending the in person and virtual congregational meeting. Thank you. Our new status comes with a new name: The Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry. Our main focus, however, has not changed. We will continue to partner with other teams and the congregation to welcome all God's children to join us in worship and service.

We will be hosting a movie documentary Nov 6. It is called "13th." It is about race and justice. People can watch with Pastor Rick in the fellowship hall or you can watch it from home. After the movie, there will be a zoom opportunity to discuss and review.



And, remember to vote November 3!

In Peace, Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Chair

10 Tips On How To Talk To Your Kids About Race

By: Deanna Singh & Justin Ponder

1. Prioritize your kids.

Don't overwhelm them with your own feelings. Ensure conversations give them space to work through their emotions. Process your experience enough so the conversation with your kids can focus on them more than you.

2. Ask them what they know.

In the Information Age, your children probably already know more than you think. Respect them enough to assume they understand a lot. Start your conversation by letting them teach. Then, use their perceptions to form your discussion.

3. Provide facts, not editorials.

After asking them what they've heard, work together to discover credible facts. Then give them space to connect the dots for themselves. Instead of controlling their thinking, ask questions that help them connect pieces of information.

4. Use age-appropriate words and examples.

Consider your children's character, education, and interests. Start with personal experiences then widen to social issues. For example, with younger children, instead of asking, "What do you think about violent protests?" begin by asking, "What do you do when you're ignored?"

5. Let them ask questions.

The point of these conversations is not for you to teach your children but to create an environment where everyone learns. Make inquiry a two-way street. And remember one of the best answers of all: "I don't know, let's learn together!"

6. Curate content.

Show your children enough information to incite critical questions but not so much that it overwhelms them. Monitor how much your children can handle. Deliver enough to spark compassion but not so much that you exhaust them.

7. Be proactive.

Talk to your kids about race often, even when there aren't moments of grave racial injustice. Regularly consume media about race so your children have a broad vocabulary regarding these issues so they are more eloquent when it comes time to process traumatic events.

8. Show your work.

As your children struggle to improve their understanding of race, foreground your own difficulties. Foreground the mistakes, failures, and errors you've made and highlight the shortcomings you still have. Doing so will encourage your children to improve.

9. Share your values.

American society tells children the world is just. Prepare them for injustice by creating a family mission statement that prepares them to anticipate unfairness and obligates them to fight for equity.

10. Repeat.

No garden thrives when weeded once. No conversation worth having ever ends. Impress on your children that we must keep returning to these deep discussions. Emphasize that creating a just society is a continual process.

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.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

STEWARDSHIP AT CUCC IN 2020

2020 has been a challenging year, but it never ceases to amaze me what CUCC contributes to this community and beyond. My role as treasurer gives me a closer view of not only the financial support that we provide to others, but also the efforts and time that is given by our congregation. There are too many good ministries to list fully, but here are just a few that come to mind:

Crop Walk, Loaves and Fishes, Neighbors in Need, CWS Blankets, Camp Mo Val, Food Bank, The Youth programs, The Church Music program, 50 for 50, Church World Services, Sunday School, Vacation Bible School

Thank you for your generosity! We need your continued support to continue to do God's work.

Sue Ann Schaefer, CUCC Treasurer



CUCC HAS 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 directions on the text you receive back to set up your one time or recurring gift.

ALAN MADER FUNDS DISTRIBUTION

The Church Council, acting on recommendation of the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team, voted at their October 20 meeting to allocate some of the funds received from the Alan Mader Estate. This past summer we received \$125,000 as a partial distribution from that estate, and after some deliberation and discernment, have decided to allocate some of those funds to the following CUCC Designated Funds:

- \$10,000 to establish a Transportation Fund (see separate article)
- \$30,000 to the Building & Grounds Fund, to provide a cushion for anticipated Major Repairs that we know are in our future (specifically replacement of our 17 HVAC units that are all 21 years old)
- \$50,000 to the CUCC Scholarship Fund, to maintain its viability into the future, providing scholarships to CUCC students continuing their education (we had two recipients this year, and anticipate 6-7 recipients each year in years to come; each recipient receives \$1000)

The Church Council will be deciding how to allocate the remaining funds once the estate is settled. Through these Designated Funds, the legacy of Alan Mader lives on in many great ministries. If you are not familiar with the CUCC Designated Funds, email the [Church office](#) for a copy, or pick one up at church. These funds are a great way to leave a lasting legacy that will enable ministry opportunities for generations to come!

TREASURER'S REPORT *Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer*

Financial Update				Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)				
Sept. Income	\$20,230.34	\$27,238.13	(\$7007.79)	10/04/20	54	\$5,390.00	\$6,973.39
YTD Income	\$207,480.93	\$232,120.04	(\$24,639.11)	10/11/20	56	\$9,566.87	\$6,973.39
Sept. Expenses	\$26,701.18	\$32,256.42	(\$5555.24)	10/18/20	41	\$5,142.22	\$6,973.39
YTD Expenses	\$232,685.92	\$247,241.16	(\$14,555.24)	10/25/20	45	\$4,335.00	\$6,973.39
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$25,204.99)	(\$15,121.12)	(\$10,083.87)	Total	196	\$24,434.09	\$27,893.56
Sept. Attendance	228			As of Sept. 30, we are behind by \$24,639.11			

STEWARDSHIP MOMENT– FROM THE FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

The following report was given by Sue Ann Schaefer in worship on October 11:

Good morning! My name is Sue Ann Schafer, and I am your Church Council Treasurer. I am also a member of the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team, and over the next several Sundays, we are going to be highlighting several of the ways your faithful stewardship is impacting the lives and ministries of our congregation.

Today we are going to look at the 50 for 50 fundraising campaign.

Last year, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of this building, we introduced a campaign we called “50 for 50.” The goal was to raise \$50,000 for upgrades to our facility, in honor of the 50th anniversary. The campaign started last September and ended in November, and in six weeks, we blew that goal out of the water! ***We raised over \$66,000, 130% of our goal!***

The funds were to be used for five specific projects: to enhance the sound and lighting in the Sanctuary, to cover the exterior eaves surrounding the Sanctuary, to enhance the beauty of our grounds through professional landscaping, to upgrade our current security system, and to fix the floor of the Shelter House. We also committed to practicing good Stewardship of our resources by giving away a Biblical Tithe — 10% of whatever we raised- to ministry agencies we have historically supported.

Well, I am here to tell you- GOOD JOB, COLUMBIA UCC!

Thanks to you, this year, this work is being completed. Check out these pictures!

- Our beautiful landscaping is done! After receiving four bids, we contracted with Mill Creek Landscaping to enhance the beauty of our church through landscaping work. I hope you agree, it looks beautiful!
- Our sound technology is done! Thanks to Jason Schoeneberg and Mike Pierson who are remodeling the sound booth, we have a great new sound system for our Sanctuary. We received bids from three companies, and settled on the bid from Nelson Audio to install our equipment. There is more equipment to come to enhance our livestreaming feed, and more lighting improvements to be done later, but the sound is fantastic, don't you agree?
- In keeping with the Biblical model of tithing, we divided \$6,600 among these four agencies that we have historically supported: Emmaus Homes, Eden Seminary, ECH, and Camp MoVal. They were all grateful for our support.
- We also completed our eaves project, enclosing the eaves under the Sanctuary exterior to protect our facility from the elements.
- We are not done yet! We have three bids for upgrading our security system to consider at our November Council meeting, and we anticipate having three bids for the floor of the Shelter House to consider, as well. We hope to have these projects all completed by the end of 2020.

This campaign was a huge success thanks to your faithful stewardship. You are all a blessing, and we thank you for your support! ***However, I would be remiss if I did not mention that Joyful Giving for 2020 has significantly decreased. At this point, after September finances are closed, we need to take in a total of \$134,000 by the end of the year in order to meet our budget. That is three months, or an average of \$45,000 per month.*** We can do this! Just as we blew our 50 for 50 goal out of the water, we can do this too, but it will take dedicated and focused financial support from our entire family.

You are all blessings to so many, and I am sure that you will continue to be blessings as we give faithfully of our time, talents, and treasures in this last quarter of 2020. Thank you, and God bless each and every one of you!

-Sue Ann Schaefer, CUCC Treasurer



OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

ALPHA HART ELEMENTARY VIDEO

On Thursday, October 22, De'vion Moore, the Principal of Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School, our "Partnership Friend" school, was scheduled to meet with Lunch Bunch to discuss our partnership and the ways they approach education at Alpha Hart. Due to the reopening of Elementary Schools that week, he was unable to be here in person, but he did send an interesting video! The Lunch Bunch attendees were able to watch that video and learn more about Alpha Hart and our partnership.

If you would like to see the video, it is on our [CUCC Website](#), on the front page. Check it out! There is also a video there from Darrin Morton, the Executive Director of Turning Point ministries.

RMD HOUSE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are excited to welcome back meal providers to the House! Meal providers can now cook in groups of four or less in the [Ronald McDonald House](#) kitchen.

When you provide a meal, you not only nourish families, but you also give the gift of time. Time parents do not have to spend cooking or washing dishes becomes time spent with their sick child or time for rest to get ready to face another difficult day.

LOAVES AND FISHES UPDATE

The October 19 meal at L&F consisted of spaghetti, salad (provided by Patty Beeson), pulled pork (donated by Harold & Jolene Hackman), and cookies (provided by Anne Heine, Llona Weiss, Brenda Muench, and Melba Shaffer). Jessica Jenks again provided the PBJ sandwiches. Servers were Judi Privitt, Patty Beeson, Anne Heine, Keith Birkes, and Seth, Kelly, Lucy & Lillian Smith.

We thank each and every one of you SOOOO much! We served approximately 123 servings.

CUCC Assists CoMo Helps in Meeting the Needs of Columbia Families and School Children

The CoMo Helps Fund was created to meet local needs caused by the pandemic. They recently announced a \$50,000 grant to Columbia Public Schools to purchase school supply kits for children. This funding (and the generous online contributions of individuals) allows CPS to make sure all children have the things they need to learn in this difficult new environment. CUCC donated \$5,000 from our 2020 Special Mission Project budget to CoMo Helps.

Other recent grants were awarded to Phoenix House for rent assistance for its outpatient clients and to the Columbia Homeless Outreach Team to provide survival essentials like tents, sleeping bags, etc. to homeless people facing fall and winter outdoors. Thank you for your generosity in supporting these essential needs.

VAC CHRISTMAS DRIVE—THE NEEDS ARE GREATER THAN EVER!

At Christmas time we share our joy in Christ's birth and our love for family and friends. This year is going to be a little different for many of us. But it's going to be a real challenge for those who have been ill, lost jobs or had their hours cut, struggled to put food on their tables, been unable to pay their utility bills, and gone without health care and the services their children normally receive at school.

Those of us who are blessed with abundance can really make a difference when we act to help the "least of these." That's why CUCC has pledged to sponsor gifts, necessities and food for 40 people in families screened by the [Voluntary Action Center](#) (VAC). It's a stretch goal but one we can surely meet.

As with everything in our world right now, we're changing it up a bit. While we're used to shopping for gifts and household supplies, this year VAC is prioritizing gift cards and monetary contributions. Cards for stores like Walmart, Target, or grocery stores can be used to buy gifts and necessities. The goal is to collect \$65-\$90 per recipient for gifts and holiday food by December 6.

For those would still like to "adopt" an individual, names and wish lists will be available soon. Anyone who would like to shop instead of donating cards or money can just email Mahree Skala at skalamahree@yahoo.com and specify whether you'd like to buy for a child (or children), parent, or disabled adult and she'll send you the info you need.

We'll receive gift cards in a Christmas box in the gathering area, through the offering basket, or by mail to the church office. You may also use Kindrid to donate funds that will be used to buy gift cards and food vouchers.

With God's help we can make Christmas a better time for 40 people here in Boone County.

Share the Warmth

The Voluntary Action Center is not able to hold the Warm Up Columbia drive this year, but there are several local organizations that receive donations of warm winter items — especially coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and socks.

Please consider donating your gently used warm gear to one of the following agencies. VAC recommends you contact them prior to dropping off donations.

- o **Refugee and Immigration Services:** (573) 442-7568
- o **Columbia Public Schools:** 573-214-3111 ext. 33451 (Leslie Thalhuber)
- o **The Wardrobe:** (573) 442-3260
- o **Great Circle:** (573) 874-8686
- o **Coyote Hill:** (573) 874-0179 – Ask for Sarah
- o **Phoenix Programs:** (573) 875-8880 ext. 2204 (Amanda Haynie)
- o **Salvation Army:** (573) 443-2786

WEST COAST FIRE EVACUATIONS TAKE TOLL ON UCC CHURCHES, CAMPS

By Hans Holznagel; published on September 15, 2020 at www.ucc.org

As wind-whipped wildfires continue to take lives and destroy forests, homes, and businesses on the West Coast of the United States, United Church of Christ congregations are in stages ranging from evacuation to recovery to post-traumatic stress syndrome.

In the two hardest-hit UCC Conferences – [Central Pacific](#) and [Northern California-Nevada](#) – several congregations and church camps await word on the fate of their buildings. Others, evacuated days or weeks ago, are ministering to families and communities that escaped damage or are returning to inspect it. Daytime skies range from smoky gray to eerie orange to black as night.

“It feels like the whole coast is on fire,” said Pastor Kimberly Williams of [Grace Community UCC](#) in North Fork, Calif., which got evacuation orders on September 6, her first official Sunday as pastor. In affected areas, “it’s terrifying,” she said. “Everybody is looking out their windows with this look of horror, but then realizing, OK, this is the reality, we’ve got to keep on going.” Amid it all, pastors say they value how colleagues are checking in on each other, offering mutual support, advice and prayer – a response borne of years of relationship-building within each Conference.

At this writing, Oregon faces the most continuing damage and danger to population centers, with 10 deaths and 22 missing persons reported statewide as of Monday, September 13. “Right now, we’re in the shock-and-awe phase,” said the Rev. Tyler Connoley, Conference minister in Central Pacific. “Lots of members displaced. A few have lost homes, but no injuries that I’ve heard about. A couple churches and our camp are still in danger, but so far untouched.”

Southern Oregon has been especially hard hit. There, fast-moving flames ravaged 3,200 acres and several communities September 7, killing two people and destroying some 600 homes and 100 businesses, many in the small towns of Talent and Phoenix, between Ashland and Medford, where two UCC congregations are aiding relief efforts. “One chaplain in Medford lost his home, and our pastor in Medford was in a neighborhood that burned, but thinks from some photos she saw on the internet that her house is still standing,” Connoley said.

In a message to the Central Pacific Conference, Connoley responded to questions about where to send donations: “Remember that the UCC responds to a natural or human-made disaster once every three days through our Disaster Ministries and [One Great Hour of Sharing](#),” Connoley told the Conference. “Those systems are in place because of the money you gave in the past to prepare for just such a time as this.” UCC Disaster Ministries is monitoring the situation and has set up a 2020 Wildfires relief fund, [found here](#).

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

We would like to thank our Sunday School Leaders who have volunteered to lead Sunday School this year:

- ◆ Preschool/Kindergarten – Audrey Lasley, Paula Wilson, Pat Forward
- ◆ 1-4 grade – Kim Oberle, Gina Pierson
- ◆ Middle Youth, 5-8 grade – Lena Muench, Jessica Lucas, John Tummons
- ◆ High School Youth, 9-12 grade – Lauren Helmreich, Kristy Odneal, Kurt Heine

Children's Christmas Program December 20, 2020

This year, each Sunday School class will be presenting their own skit or play to tell the story of Christmas.

Teachers will be practicing with their classes on December 6, 13, and 20, during the Sunday School hour.

Please let your child's Sunday School teachers know if your child will be participating.

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS NEEDED

If you have a gift, talent, or desire to work with children, we would love to have you help out with Sunday School. If you don't feel qualified to teach, just remember, that sometimes best teachers learn alongside their students! There are openings for teachers in several of our classes, and opportunities to lead small 4-6 week sessions in our Adult class (meeting in the Fellowship Hall).

If you are interested in helping out in this ministry of CUCC, please contact [Pat Forward](#).

NURTURE & EDUCATION PLANS WITH COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS

SUNDAY SCHOOL:

- Teachers and all youth over age 10 will be required to wear masks.
- We will move classes outdoors as much as possible.
- Classrooms will be assigned as they have been typically in the past:

Preschool-Kindergarten	Room 205
1st thru 4th Grade	Room 204
5th thru 8th Grade	Room 206
High School	Room 100
- The Adult Class will meet in the Fellowship Hall and practice social distancing.
- Each Classroom will be supplied with cleaning materials and hand sanitizer.
- Children will use hand sanitizer as they arrive and before they leave.
- Teachers will thoroughly sanitize their classroom each Sunday following class.
- Classrooms will be locked after class and not used until the following Sunday, or if they are used during the week, they will be sanitized after.
- Classrooms will receive additional sanitizing each Thursday morning from our contracted cleaning service
- Prepackaged snacks only will be distributed, purchased by the Nurture & Education Ministry Team, with special consideration for allergies.

NURSERY: (Room 203)

- The Nursery will be locked until 10:00am, when the nursery attendant arrives. The nursery may NOT be utilized by church members prior to 10:00.
- The Nursery will have a 6-child maximum capacity. If there are more than 6 children, the Adult Volunteer for that Sunday will bring some of the children into the Preschool Sunday School classroom; this room will also have a maximum of 6 children.
- Parents will be required to sign their children into the nursery, acknowledging that their child is in good health. Parents will be required to list their cell number, as well.
- Nursery staff (Amanda Dwyer & Samantha Forward) will sanitize the nursery each Sunday following use, along with the Preschool classroom, if used.
- The Nursery will be locked following use.
- The Nursery will receive additional sanitizing each Thursday morning from our contracted cleaning service.

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

NEW SIGNS, NEW MEMBERS, AND A NEW DIRECTORY

The Membership & Care Ministry Team has several new items to report!

- **New Signage:** Our parking lot directional signage has recently been installed! The new signs are in the same theme as the big sign at the road and provide clear direction around our parking lot.
- **New Directory:** Our new Pictorial Directory has arrived! We will be handing them out on Sundays, prior to Worship Service. If you are not attending in person and would like a directory, you can pick up your copy at the Church Office Monday—Friday between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Don't forget, this directory is also online! The link was sent out a while back, so if you do not have it saved, email the [church office](#).



The Membership & Care Ministry Team has also been focused on calling church members during this time of social isolation, offering a friendly voice and words of comfort. Each of our Ministry Team members (and a few helpers) are focused on this task, trying to be a word of encouragement to our church family as we learn new ways to live in a Coronavirus world. If you have any suggestions on projects for our team, let us know!

-Jessica Lucas, Ministry Team Chair

Have you seen the new entry rug by the Main Office doors?

If not, you should check it out! It encompasses the type of Welcome we want to extend to everyone.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

FROM YOUR MUSIC COORDINATOR

Give Thanks

Each breath is borrowed air,
not ours to keep and own,
and all our breaths as one declare
what wisdom long has known:
*to live is to receive
and answer back with praise
to what our minds cannot conceive:
the source of all our days.*



Thomas Troeger, retired professor of Homiletics at Yale Divinity School, poet, musician (flutist) and gifted hymn writer, wrote the hymn text above, "Each breath is borrowed air." What a marvelous description of our relationship to the source of all our days. With each breath we answer back in praise. With each breath we answer back in love. With each breath we answer back in thanksgiving.

This month, more than any other, we think about what it is that we are thankful for, what it is that we think of when breathing out praise and thanks. What is it that you are thankful for today? I have discovered that in this time of pandemic we are surrounded by negative news, feelings of dismay and the depression of realizing that life is no longer like it was. And yet, every day we awaken to new possibilities. The sun rises in bright splendor, the rains fall rejuvenating our earth, the moon glows in wonder, the mountains rise in majesty – we breathe in God's goodness and breathe out our praise. Everyday people around our globe challenge the despair with acts of amazing courage and hope. We as human's breathe in God's goodness, it inspires us to keep moving forward, and then we breathe out thanks to God who has not disappeared, but is still giving us hope and love.

This month, practice breathing and with each breath, offer God praise and thanks for always being with us.

Ed Rollins, Music Coordinator



YOU CAN HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT CUCC VIRTUAL WORSHIP

Most of you know that your CUCC worship service is livestreamed each Sunday, but here are a few ways that you can more fully appreciate that worship service and share it with others in the community! With your help, we can spread God's Word exponentially!

- **Watch it later!** Even though the CUCC Worship Service is livestreamed each Sunday, you don't have to watch it live! You can come back and watch it at other times, or watch it again if you want to recall something that was said. Past livestreamed services are all on the CUCC Website and on Facebook.
- **You can host a "Watch Party!"** Select a worship service from Facebook and set up a "Watch Party." Invite several of your Facebook friends to watch it along with you at a time of your choosing. You can all comment together about elements of the service (just remember, the comments are public).
- **You can "share" the worship service on your Facebook page!** If you "share" it on your page, all of your friends will see it, too. If everyone in our church family would do this, our ministry reach would increase exponentially.

In this time of Coronavirus and social isolation, there are many ways to stay connected with CUCC, and there are also many ways to share CUCC with your friends through social media. Spread the Good News!

Sunday Volunteer Schedule for November

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for November. As you can see, we are in need of some spots to be filled and other spots to be shared with new faces. Part of being in the church family is often expressed by sharing the roles that make all of our members and guests feel welcome. If you believe you have the gift of hospitality, we would love to have you help make CUCC welcoming for all. If you can fill the needed role or a role in the future, please let one of the leaders know. We appreciate you, and we're glad you have chosen CUCC as your church!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Sound Booth	Hospitality
11/01	Judi Privitt	N/A	Mahree Skala	Matthew & Molly Baker	Brent Marcks	Helen Schultz
11/08	Carol Duermeyer	N/A	Pete Jaberg	Lilly Smith	Doug Privitt	Connie Loveless
11/15	Jessica Lucas	N/A	Matt Lucas	NEED	John Graves	Audrey Lasley
11/22	Jessica Lucas	N/A	Confirmation Students	Abby Dennis	Phillip Dennis	Helen Schultz
11/29	Jolene Kirchhoff	N/A	Jessica Lucas	Lilly Smith	Pete Jaberg	NEED

CORONAVIRUS AND CUCC REOPENING UPDATE

After a spike in Coronavirus cases on September 5, Boone County has seen a significant decline in new cases through the end of September. We have gone from a 5-day average of **143** new daily cases on September 5 to a 5-day average of **38** new daily cases on October 20. Vigilant attention to the safety protocols enacted by the Columbia City Council have paid off, and our strict observation of these protocols at CUCC are part of that action.

CUCC continues to maintain in-person worship with an option of online worship at the choice of each congregation member. We have implemented standards to create a very safe worship space, maintaining social distancing and practicing safety protocols (including mask wearing). This reopening has gone very well, and church members should be commended for their attention to these safety protocols. We will continue these procedures into the fall, but we also will be watching the numbers closely and will revisit our plan and adjust as necessary.

Moving forward, we want to remind people of a few safety measures:

- Please continue to practice social distancing in the Sanctuary and in other areas of the church.
- Please do not sit in "blue taped" chairs in the Sanctuary.
- Please keep at least two (or three) chairs between your family and the next family in the Sanctuary.
- Please continue to wear masks at all times in the church building (unless eating) and observe social distancing.
- **Please do not "visit" with one another in the Sanctuary after Amy starts playing!** This is a time for quiet meditation and reflection, not "visiting" (and sharing germs). The Gathering Space, Fellowship Hall or outdoor areas allow more opportunities to visit while practicing social distancing.

(Please see separate article for new Sunday School protocols on page 12.)

CUCC IS WORKING IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE

Gaza has approximately 2 million residents, 75% of which are Palestinian refugees. Amidst difficult realities, including the ongoing Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, Global Ministries partners continue to work to provide services for the people of Gaza. Run by Global Ministries Partner the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, Al-Ahli Hospital provides health care services to refugees and residents there. It has responded to the emergency needs of the people. Resource shortages, increased patient load, patients unable to pay for services, and disruptions in utilities and services are ongoing challenges for hospitals in Gaza. The inhabitants of Gaza continue to experience severe hardships, deprivation, and violence creating even more challenges. While these are daunting, the services Al-Ahli Hospital provides to the community are making a significant impact.

Al-Ahli Hospital is a mission 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. Please keep Global Ministries and Al-Ahli Hospital in your prayers!

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

November 1-7
Bryan Parrish
Working in D.R.Congo

November 8-14
Kelsey Riebel
Working in Ecuador

November 15-21
Andrew Larsen
Working in Philippines

October 25-31
Paul Santiago-Rivera
Working in Puerto Rico



MEL AND BARBARA WEST MOBILITY CART CENTER OPEN

The Mel and Barbara West Mobility Cart Center (home of the PET project) is now open on 4823 E. Meyer Industrial Drive 65201! This has been an ongoing project for some time, frustrated even more by the COVID pandemic. But now they are in their new, bigger space and ready to serve even more people in need through their many ministry projects!

Check out pictures of the new center on the [Mobility Worldwide Website](#)

Looking For a Place to Serve Locally?

Human trafficking is a form of modern-day slavery in which traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to control victims for the purpose of engaging in commercial sex acts, labor services against his/her will, and/or the sale of organs on the black market.



The Central Missouri STOP Human Trafficking Coalition (CMSHTC) has been serving the local and surrounding communities for over twelve years, providing assistance to victims, survivors, and their families, in many holistic ways. We want to give a voice to the voiceless and empower the powerless.

If you haven't decided on who you will give to this year for CoMoGives, please consider the CMSHTC. CMSHTC is a non-profit organization that uses 90% of their donated funds to serve victims and survivors of trafficking. The other 10% helps cover administrative costs and fees. You can help us reach our goal of \$7,500, which will help provide shelter, health, and mental health services for individuals who have faced the reality of the modern day slave trade. You can give [here](#). Thank you for considering giving to help fight

YOUTH MINISTRY

HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES THIS FALL

Pastor Rick, Lena Muench, and Lauren Helmreich are working to put together a schedule of Middle School and High School activities for this program year. Planning during a pandemic is not easy. We are not sure what our program year will look like! We would appreciate suggestions from anyone (not just youth)!

Are there activities you want to do or ideas you have for creative programming?

If so, contact Lena (Middle School) at: cfg323@yahoo.com
or Lauren (High School) at: lauren@downtownappliance.com

MIDDLE SCHOOL EVENT NOVEMBER 8

We will be gathering after church on Sunday, November 8, for "Poppies, Pizza, and Puzzles." We will be making poppies for use on 11/15 when we celebrate our Veterans during worship.

We'll make sure that everything we do is nice and socially-distanced . . . thinking maybe puzzle races may be in order! Wear your masks! If we have nice weather, we will do what we can outside.

Please RSVP either way, whether you can come or not, using the link below, so that we know for sure that you've received this. **The RSVP deadline is Wednesday, November 4. Any questions?** Talk to [Lena Muench](#).

RSVP Link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49ADA72FAAF49-poppies>

CONFIRMATION KICKOFF OCTOBER 26

Calling all 8th graders (and 9th graders who have not been confirmed yet): Confirmation has begun!

The first gathering for our 2021 Confirmation Class was Monday, October 26, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (downstairs) with practiced social distancing. This is a big class. We have ten students this year! This class will be confirmed on November 28, 2021 (the first Sunday of Advent that year). Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on this journey. We will meet on Mondays during the Academic Year at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Do you have a friend who does not go to this church but would like to participate, too? Bring them along! All are welcome! For more information, talk to [Pastor Rick](#).

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2020 WORKING HARD!

The Confirmation Class of 2020 is heading into the final classes of their journey! Lily Jaberg, Hazel Keithahn, and Brandon Lavelly are in their final trimester and will be preparing their testimonies to share with the congregation this month! Testimony Sunday is November 22, and they will be confirmed on the First Sunday of Advent, which is November 29 this year. Make sure you are present to share in their joy on these two special days!

POINSETTIAS FOR THE SANCTUARY

If you would like to donate a poinsettia for the Sanctuary this Advent Season, please email (or snail mail) [April](#) in the church office by December 6.

Please include the following information:

- Is it in honor of (passed away) or in memory of (living) the person you are recognizing?
- The name of the person you are recognizing
- Your name (as you want it printed)

Cost for poinsettias are \$8.00 each. We will have them in the Sanctuary by December 13, and will keep them up thru the 11:00 Christmas Eve service. You can pick up your poinsettia on Christmas Eve if you would like; or donate it to a homebound member!


"HANGING OF THE GREENS"

The Worship & Music Ministry Team will be coordinating a decorating party on November 28 at 9:00 a.m. to decorate the Sanctuary for Christmas! We will be putting up the tree, the garland, and other Christmas décor to get our Sanctuary ready for this special season.

We are limited in the number of people we can have in attendance, due to COVID safety precautions; and everyone helping will be asked to wear a mask and gloves. If you can help, or have any questions, contact [Pete Jaberg](#), Worship & Music Ministry Team Chair.

We need to have an accurate count for safety reasons; so if you are planning to help, please let Pete know!

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 All Saints Day 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	2 10am Staff Meeting LODO CLOSED	3 LODO CLOSED	4 6:30 Confirmation Testimony Practice	5 6:30pm Book Study How to be an Anti-Racist	6 6:30pm Inclusion Team Movie Night "13"	7
8 Grayson Oberle Baptism 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website Congregation Budget Mtg	9 10am Staff Meeting 5pm Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team 6pm Confirmation	10 6:30pm Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	11 6:30pm Confirmation Testimony Practice	12 9:30am Women's Fellowship 5:30pm Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	13 LODO CLOSED	14
15 Veterans Day Celebration 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	16 10am Staff Meeting 6pm Confirmation	17 6:30pm Church Council	18 6-8pm MOPS in Youth Room 6:30pm Confirmation Testimony Practice	19 12pm Lunch Bunch 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team	20 Communicator Articles Due	21
22 Testimony Sunday 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	23 10am Staff Meeting	24 5:30pm Music & Worship Ministry Team	25 LODO CLOSED 6:30pm Confirmation	26 LODO CLOSED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	27 LODO CLOSED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	28 9am Hanging of the Greens
29 Confirmation Sunday 9am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	30 10am Staff Meeting	1	2	3 6:30pm Clergy Personnel Committee	4	5 8:00-4:00 Fellowship Hall Booked - Scouts

THE COMMUNICATOR

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

**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.