

THE COMMUNICATOR

May 2020



From the Pastor's Keyboard

“A Brave New World”

Over the past seven weeks our world has changed. We are no longer living in the same world that we were living in when I wrote my last Communicator article. We are living in a world that has been through trauma, has had the light of revelation shined on many aspects of our society, and is waiting for the next thing to happen. This is a world not unlike the world of the first century followers of Jesus. They, too witnessed the light of revelation shining on the disparities of their world, experienced trauma, and spent time waiting for the next thing to happen.

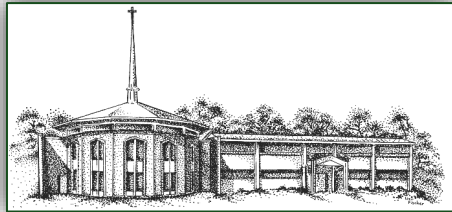
Jesus' ministry illuminated the disparity of the first century world. He lifted up those who were being oppressed by the systemic evils of their culture, not just to offer “hopes and prayers” to them, but to call for justice. He protested the narcissistic tendencies of the Roman puppets and the Roman system of retribution and called for reform. He spoke out against the way religious systems were being used to oppress people. He shined a light on all that was wrong with society; and was killed for doing so. After his Ascension and the Pentecost event, his disciples worked to reform the world, based on the disparities Jesus' life and ministry illuminated.

We are arriving at this same moment in our world. The cultural reaction to the global pandemic has illuminated the disparities in our world. The past seven weeks have shined a light on the systemic injustices of our society. Racial injustices have been illuminated as we have seen how black and brown people have been disproportionately affected by the coronavirus. Climate change science has been verified, as we have seen how reducing our carbon emissions has already resulted in lower pollution levels in the world. The negative effects of nationalism have been highlighted, and we have come to realize that we are all part of one global community succeeding together or failing together.

Like the first century disciples after the Pentecost moment, we are soon going to be charged with rebuilding a new society. They built that new society based on the wisdom Jesus shared with them and the light Jesus shined on the injustices of the world. We have seen things in this time and place that cannot be unseen. The events surrounding the coronavirus have illuminated the disparities of our culture and they are glaring. If we are truly Jesus' disciples, the world we build post-coronavirus must be a world that addresses those injustices and alleviates the oppressed. We cannot go back to the “old normal;” we must create a “new normal” that is more reflective of God's passion for Justice, Righteousness and Shalom.

Pentecost Sunday is May 31. We hope to be meeting in person again by that time. As we contemplate Pentecost in our context, remember that Pentecost 2000 years ago when the Apostles went out and recreated a new society. Let us do the same.

-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

Kristin Veteto
Music Coordinator

Amy Crousore
Organist/Accompanist

Erika Maltsbarger
Director, Little One's Day Out

Raj Tolani
Financial Secretary

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. - Coffee and Fellowship

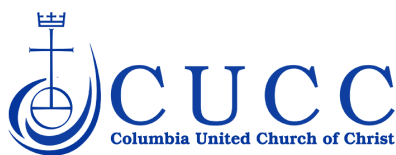
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship in Sanctuary

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

Phone:
(573)-445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

UPDATE: CLEAN UP COLUMBIA HAS BEEN CANCELED.

Message from City of Columbia:
Columbia Volunteer Programs will follow up with all registrants once some normality has returned and will support those who wish to schedule a cleanup at a time convenient to their group.

We will keep you updated if we decided to schedule a date to "clean up" the road leading to the church after everything is settled. Thank you for being flexible!

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The CUCC Church Council had called a special Congregational Meeting for May 17 after worship to propose ratification of a new Constitution and By-Laws for Columbia United Church of Christ. However, with the closure of church due to the global pandemic of the corona virus, this meeting will have to be postponed. Once we know our opening dates, we will set a new meeting date (probably in June).

However, the Church Council did approve the proposed Constitution and By-Laws at their April 21 meeting, and these proposed documents are available on the Columbia United Church of Christ website under the "about" tab. We invite you to look these over to familiarize yourself with the proposed documents.

We will also have several Zoom meetings in May with the Constitution/By-Laws Team to discuss the proposed changes. Watch your email for these meeting dates. We want everyone to be informed about the new documents well in advance of the Congregational Meeting. Some of the significant changes include:

MEMBERSHIP: We are suggesting ways to allow people to join the church that are more inclusive based on participation in worship, communion, and support of our ministry, rather than assent to a doctrine or test of faith.

PROGRAM YEAR: We are suggesting that we begin our program year in June, the Annual Meeting be moved from January to May, and election of Council members take place at that Annual Meeting in order that new officers and team leaders will be in place in time to plan for the coming academic year when program activity picks up.

CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL: We are suggesting that the LODO Advisory Board and the Inclusion Team become Ministry Teams, giving each a seat on the Church Council.

PASTORAL CALL AND TENURE: We are suggesting an expanded section relating to the Pastor. We especially worked on how to handle the occasion when a pastoral vacancy happens, or when tensions arise between pastors and the congregation.

Look over the documents on the website, and be prepared to discuss them at our Zoom meetings in May, and watch for a date for the Congregational Meeting to be set!



END OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR ANNUAL PICNIC AND BBQ MAY 31

Our CUCC Sunday School year will end May 31, and we will have our traditional Picnic and Games! Come for Sunday School and participate in the games planned by the Nurture and Education Ministry Team; then after worship, stay for a picnic planned by our Fellowship and Hospitality Team!

***Games *Worship *Food *Fun**

We will also honor this year's Sunday School Teachers and lift up the online classes that have continued to meet this year. This will be a fun Sunday of Celebration! Don't miss it!

(all May plans are tentative pending the state of our social isolation protocols at that point)

***Beginning June 7, Worship time changes to
9:30 a.m. for the summer***

HONORING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

We have Seven High School Seniors in our Congregation who are grieving. All of the Senior Year Activities that we remember so dearly are not going to be part of their life. Prom, Graduation, and just walking the halls of your school as a Senior are all essential rites of passage that the Coronavirus has stolen from them. It is essential for them to know that their church family loves them and is celebrating their graduation with them.

To that end, we will be having a special event in worship on June 14; Senior Sunday! We will be honoring all of our High School Seniors on that day and recognizing their graduation. We will have a meal afterward, recognizing them and their contributions to our family life here at CUCC.

We would also like to ask you to send them a card. During the month of May, shower them with cards from their church family, congratulating them on their accomplishments! Our CUCC High School Seniors are:

Payton Bach	4007 Granite Springs Ct.	65203
Hayley Dennis	2507 Quartz Lane	65202
Marcella Dolezal	114 Redwood Road	65203
Mason Jaberg	1920 Creasy Springs Rd.	65202
Hope Keithahn	6575 S. Arrowhead Lake Dr.	65203
Imani Kibaro	6416 Day Crew Loop	65203
Isis Piersee	2205 Baldwin Place	65202

Thank you for sharing the love of this wonderful congregation with our High School Seniors!

50 for 50 Funds at work at CUCC

Even though our building is closed for public use, we are using this opportunity to take care of some of the 50 for 50 projects planned last fall. In honor of the 50th anniversary of our current building, we set a goal to raise \$50,000 for building improvements. In a great display of CUCC generosity, this congregation raised \$66,292.40!

At our March Council Meeting, we agreed to a spending plan. As promised, we have given \$6629.24 (10%- a Biblical tithe) away equally to four institutions we have historically supported- Eden Seminary, Camp MoVal, Emmaus Homes and Every Child's Hope. These checks were sent in late May.

We also agreed to spend \$25,000 on Sanctuary sound and lighting improvements; \$15,000 for work on the eaves and guttering around the Sanctuary; \$5000 for security upgrades and \$10,000 for landscaping. Work on the eaves has been completed; the Sanctuary upgrades will be coming soon. We are still waiting on some adjustments on our Security and Landscaping bids, then they will happen as well!

It has been difficult dealing working within isolation protocols as we solicit bids and work through this process; but the work is getting done! The CUCC finance team is keeping close track of the 50 for 50 funds and will let you know more as they are used to enhance our physical facility.



SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY AT CUCC

June 14 will be Senior Sunday at CUCC! We invite everyone to come and join in the fun as we honor our High School Seniors for reaching this milestone moment in their lives! They will all be recognized in worship, and the liturgy of the day will reflect their commencement and their reorientation toward something new. This is a great time of celebration!

After worship, we will have a celebration dinner for them in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to offer speeches honoring these Seniors and the integral part of our church they have been; and they will have an opportunity to share with us as well. We will wrap things up around 1:00. Special cards and gifts for the Seniors will be accepted if you wish.

We have seven High School Seniors at CUCC and we are proud of each one of them. Plan on coming to church on Senior Sunday, June 14 and stick around for lunch. This has been a challenging year for them; let's give them love! For more information talk to Lauren Helmreich or Pat Forward.

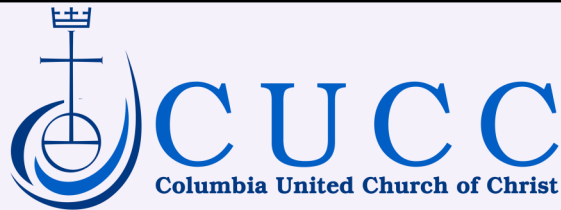
SENIOR HIGH PROM AT CUCC

One of the tragic losses for our High School Seniors this year is the loss of their Senior Prom. While we cannot hope to recreate such a special event, we will try to come close- with a Senior Prom here at CUCC!

June 12 from 7:00-10:00pm our High School Students (not just the Seniors) and their guests are invited to dress up in your formalwear and celebrate at CUCC! We transform our Fellowship Hall into a dance floor with a DJ, fancy lighting and snacky foods.

We need your help to make this a success for our Seniors. We will be asking for contributions of snacky foods (appetizers, etc.) and CHAPERONES! If you can help, we will ask you to arrive at church by 6:00pm that day. If you can't stay until 10:00, that is okay, but we could use all the help you are willing to give! For questions, talk to Lauren Helmreich, Pat Forward or Pastor Rick.





Trivia Night



Saturday, June 20

Trivia Starts at 7pm; doors open 6pm
Sponsored by the CUCC High School Youth

Tables of 8 may be purchased for \$80 (\$10/person)
by contacting Columbia UCC: office@columbiaucc.com
Individual tickets are \$10 each.

Limited tables available, so make your reservations NOW!
All profits will help fund our mission trip this summer

Coffee, soda, iced tea, and popcorn will be available for purchase.
You may bring other snacks.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

BUILDING AND GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM

Building Grounds Update

New fascia and guttering has been installed on the sanctuary portion of the Church. The ceiling in the Fellowship Hall and bathrooms has been replaced with acoustical tile. Research is being completed on security system upgrades and further research on landscaping is being done. We are in the process of replacing the thermostats with programmable thermostats.

Respectfully submitted,
John Bullerd

Dear Emmaus Homes Friends,

Thank you for your recent donation to men and women of Emmaus! Many people with developmental disabilities find it hard to live independently. With your gift, Emmaus is able to provide services so that the men and women of Emmaus can be in control of their own life and live like you and me.

Pastoral care is one of the services Emmaus provides that is not supported through government funding. Pastors Cindy Bumb and Andrea Asselmeier facilitate Bible study classes, preside over Sunday services, see clients in their homes, and visit clients in the hospitals. They provide comfort, hope, and prayer, as well as celebrate the many joys of life. With your support, we are able to continue to provide exceptional service.

Sincerely,
Lisa Key, Chief Development Officer

Dear CUCC friends,

Thank you for your donation for PATCH, not for profit organization, that helps children and their incarcerated mothers keep the connection during times of separation. Your contribution will help PATCH continue to provide parenting classes, enhanced visitation, support groups, and transportation for children and their incarcerated mothers at Chillicothe Correctional Center.

Thank you for making a difference for Missouri families,

Mary Quinn



CUCC,

We would like to thank you for your generous gift toward our Capital Fund. Your commitment and support are sincerely appreciated. Donations like yours help make Camp MoVal a more accessible place, help economically disadvantaged youth have a place to camp and experience dynamic programs in a safe, caring, and top notch facility.

Camp MoVal has been providing outdoor ministry, faith exploration, and worship experiences for over 50 years. MoVal is here to be enjoyed by churches, children, youth, and adults within the Missouri Mid-South Conference and surrounding community. The mission of MoVal is to plant and nurture the seeds of faith and transform lives. Thank you for your support to continue this mission.

Gratefully,
Jeremy Force, Outdoor Ministries Director

CUCC,

Thank you so much for the use of your fellowship hall on March 14. The girls had a lot of fun and gave many compliments on the space. We will definitely be in touch for use again in the future!

Thanks again,
Adrienne Hamlin,
CoMO Girl Scouts

THANK YOU TO KRISTIN VETETO

On April 18, with peace and profound sadness, Kristin Veteto formally announced her resignation as Music Coordinator at Columbia United Church of Christ, effective August 15, 2020. Kristin will continue all position duties through that date, schedule special music and choir functions through the end of August, and has offered to help transitioning her replacement, as appropriate.

In her resignation letter, Kristin expressed that when she took this position three years ago, she did so understanding that if the responsibilities of her family and business life changed and she was unable to give 100% to this position, she would step back. As her life has evolved these past three years, she has found her roles as mother, music therapist, and small business owner to be claiming much more of her time, and with prayerful discernment, she feels stepping back from this position is in everyone's best interests.

Kristin will continue to be a vital part of our music ministry as a lay person in the church, offering her talents in music direction as well as spiritual offerings. In her resignation letter she states, "This church is our home and family. We look forward to continuing to serve our church for many years to come by guiding smaller groups and serving in other capacities where God leads."

Kristin has brought an incredible life and vitality to the music program at CUCC over the past three years, and will continue to do so in the future in different ways. The Church Council will be planning next steps in the weeks to come, as we search for her replacement; as well as appropriate ways to honor Kristin in the summer months. We offer our blessings to Kristin as she continues her ministry in different ways!



MODERATOR'S MOMENT



Greetings and Blessings to Everyone,

These last few weeks have been challenging for all. I am so grateful for a church community that, despite the current health crisis, has been there for each other. Being members of our faith community for almost 20 years has brought so many blessings into our lives. I don't know where I would be without this "Quranteam!"

Your Church Council is hard at work and continues to monitor the COVID-19 situation. I want to extend a heartfelt thanks to Sue Ann Schaefer, Christine Staelens, Raj Tolani, and Brent Marcks for the hard work helping us procure PPP (Paycheck Protection Program) funds through the Small Business Administration Loan program. These funds (delivered in a loan at 1% interest and most of which should be forgiven) will help make sure that we can meet payroll obligations for all of our employees. Thank you for your hard work, research, and commitment to make this happen.

Streaming our online church services and other technological means will continue to be a way that we connect with each other for worship, Sunday School, and church meetings. Even after we can begin to return to our "normal," we will want to continue this vital outreach for those that are health compromised and can not join us in person. I believe that our online ministry will also be a way for us to reach out to those that are looking to find a church home where all are welcome.

Our 50 for 50 funds are being put to excellent use. The eaves at the church have been repaired, we are working on improving our sound system and preparing for a small lighting upgrade, and buildings and grounds continue to explore the best security and landscaping improvements we can make with the funds that remain.

Finally, don't hesitate to reach out to me or any members of our church council to express concerns, celebrate joys, or share ideas. Thank you for your continued commitment to CUCC and the work we do in ministry for Christ together.

Warmly, James Melton



CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES ON CUCC WEBSITE

During this time of isolation, there are many resources to help nurture your spiritual soul on the CUCC Website! Have you checked it out? Go to www.columbiaucc.com and click on the "CUCC and COVID-19 Resources" tab. It will take you to a link that is filled with resources, including a reading list, coloring and activity sheets, and Pastor Rick's Chancel Chats.

CUCC AND THE CORONAVIRUS

The Columbia United Church of Christ Church Council continues to prayerfully and carefully consider the social climate surrounding the COVID-19 global pandemic, as well as recommendations from the state, county, and the CDC. The City of Columbia has extended the stay at home order to May 3, stating that there will be some reopening of businesses starting May 4. With that in mind, the CUCC Church Council has determined to suspend all physical gatherings at our church until at least May 4. This date will be revisited in early May.

We have not determined how we will begin to resume our physical gatherings. At our April 21 Council Meeting, we discussed a document containing 24 points of consideration related to reopening procedures and what practices may have to be adjusted. In the next week or so, the Council Executive Team will be meeting to devise an opening up plan for CUCC. This plan will be announced the first week of May.

We anticipate a slow opening. Even when people are allowed in the Sanctuary on Sundays for worship, we will be instituting practices that limit physical contact and allow for some social distancing. We will also continue to livestream, so that those who want to continue to practice a greater level of social distancing may do so.

Watch your emails for more information about how and when we will be reopening our in-person gatherings at CUCC. We are considering all the parameters, and will work to keep everyone informed, safe, and healthy.

INCLUSION TEAM

The team did not meet this month. Hopefully we will get together in May.

There is so much that people are dealing with right now, personally, locally, nationally, and worldwide. Huge disparities are being reported on how the Corona Virus is affecting marginalized groups of people: people of color, the poor, the homeless, and those in institutions. It is heartbreaking.

But, as Mr. Rogers said: *When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, "Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping."*

As the followers of Jesus, we are those helpers. But, what can we do?

1. Make calls to a neighbor, family, or friends in nursing homes, etc.
2. Order pizza for a First Responder group.
3. Donate to United Way, the local food bank, or Community Foundation of Central Missouri.
4. Send notes to those living alone.

You may recall that the Inclusion team has unofficially adopted the mantra:

Diversity is a fact. Inclusion is an act.

In this time of crisis, perhaps we can add . . .

Faith is a fact.	Sharing is an act.
Fear is a fact.	Comforting is an act.
Loneliness is a fact.	Connecting is an act.
Change is a fact.	Adapting is an act.
Need is a fact.	Service is an act.



May we in an inclusive way share, comfort, connect, adapt, and serve during this challenging time. Oh, and praying is always an act!



In Peace, Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Chairman

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 takes many forms, and one that is particularly meaningful to me is volunteering to help those less fortunate. There are many ways members and friends of CUCC can help those in our community who have unmet needs. The pandemic we are currently experiencing has changed the traditional ways we help in many ways, but there are still opportunities, and we know that we will return to normalcy in the future, and we'll be able to resume more traditional efforts.

Two very meaningful activities CUCC supports are the Foodbank of Central and NE Mo and Loaves and Fishes. The Foodbank traditionally uses volunteers to package food which is distributed to those in need. Usually we volunteer once a month to package food, and Mahree Skala organizes our group, and we spend several hours dividing bulk food into individual size packages. Because of the pandemic, for the next several months, groups will not be able to help, but individuals who are not in endangered categories can volunteer directly with the Foodbank. Please contact the Foodbank through their web site to check qualifications and times.

Loaves and Fishes is in a similar situation, and our normal group volunteers who are coordinated by Audrey Lasley will not be helping because of social distancing restrictions. Loaves and Fishes will be serving pick up meals to those in need, but the city of Columbia is directly handling the preparation and distribution of meals. Again, individuals who qualify can volunteer directly with the city to help with this and many other volunteer opportunities. Please consider these volunteer opportunities if you qualify.

The members and friends of CUCC have always been very generous with your time, talent, and treasure. Please be patient and if possible, consider individual opportunities, otherwise we hope things will return to normal in the months to come. Your generosity in all respects is very important, and your community and your church are very grateful. Thank you!

Keith Birkes

CUCC NOW 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.

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Mar. Income	\$27,926.22	\$26,170.62	\$1,755.60
YTD	\$57,435.69	\$77,337.66	(\$19,901.97)
Mar. Expenses	\$32,998.79	\$29,478.36	\$3,520.43
YTD	\$32,998.79	\$29,478.36	\$3,520.43
YTD Income	(\$4,504.55)	(\$2,762.91)	(\$1,741.64)
YTD Expenses	\$77,967.34	\$77,844.40	\$122.94
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$19,017.92)	\$1,127.75	(\$20,145.67)
Mar. Attendance	0		

TREASURER'S REPORT *Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer*

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
04/05/20	0	\$3,610.00	\$6,600.57
04/12/20	0	\$4,470.26	\$6,600.57
04/19/20	0	\$12,660.00	\$6,600.57
04/26/20	0	\$5,501.96	\$6,600.57
Total	0	\$26,242.22	\$26,402.28

As of March 31, we are behind by \$19,901 in Joyful Giving for 2020.

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM



April Food Bank News

In this time of uncertainty, one thing is for sure—people still need to eat! With schools and many child care facilities closed, and many workers experiencing reduced hours or outright layoffs, our community's food needs are more acute than ever. Many people rely on the Food Bank, which relies on volunteer labor, including lots of students who have now gone home.

The Food Bank is in need of monetary donations to continue meeting local and surrounding communities food needs. Please prayerfully consider helping out. More information is at: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E164454&id=77>

We will keep you updated on CUCC's next serve night.

NEW PARTNERS—CUCC AND ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY

We are thrilled to be in partnership with Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School, but just as our partnership was about to begin in earnest, the Coronavirus hit, closing down all schools for the rest of the academic year.

However, our partnership is still there! We plan to hit the ground running in the fall with new opportunities to be in ministry with our friends at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary. The Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team will be working with De'Vion Moore, the Principal of the school, early next August to have plans in place for the fall.

Watch for ways that you can be part of this exciting partnership! More details to come in the August issue of the Communicator!

Loaves and Fishes Update

In observance of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the City of Columbia has stepped up to provide meals for those in need through Loaves and Fishes. Currently L&F is serving carryout meals, which has been working well, with the exception of increased litter in the parking lot and surrounding areas.

We will keep everyone updated as to when CUCC's next opportunity to serve will be. Thank you for your continued support of your local community.

Audrey Lasley

One Great Hour of Sharing

The OGHS Special Offering is an opportunity to support the many missions of the Church World Service, which supports disaster, refugee, and sustainable development ministries throughout the world.

The human toll of the pandemic will be unimaginable in areas already experiencing refugee crises and disasters. If you haven't already done so, please use Kindrid to donate to this special offering. For more information see <https://www.ucc.org/oghs>.

The CUCC "Recipes and Remembrances" Cookbook is now available!

The hard-bound CUCC Anniversary Edition Cookbook, "Recipes and Remembrances," is available for purchase in the Gathering Area, as well as in the Church Office. The cost is \$15 and the proceeds benefit the local community through donations made by Women's Fellowship to various organizations. You may submit your cash or check to Jan Barry (Women's Fellowship Treasurer) or April Rothweiler (Church Office Administrator).



American Red Cross Urgently Needs Blood Donors

Due to the cancellation of Red Cross blood drives for social distancing, there is a severe shortage of blood for trauma and surgery patients. You can make an individual appointment to donate blood at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/local-homepage/location/columbia-american-red-cross-2.html>.

Please help save a life!

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY



SAVE THE DATE to join us for a **GREAT (& Free!)** week of FUN @ CUCC's Vacation Bible School 2020 for those ages 3–finishing 5th Grade! Not to mention lots of hands on deck needed to volunteer! We'll even take care of dinner for all! Registration for all begins April 15.



Join the Action
Aug 2–Aug 6

Click here to register! <https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/>

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Are you interested in learning more about the Bible? Have you wondered about the Gospels and how they came to be? Have you ever thought about attending a Bible Study but were nervous about stepping into a classroom? Well during this time of social isolation, you have the opportunity to take advantage of online Bible Study!

Utilizing Zoom technology, Rev. Bryan Crousore is hosting a Bible Study each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. You can participate from the comfort of your own home! (And you can choose whether or not to turn on your camera!) They are currently studying the Gospel of Mark, and will concentrate on the Passion narratives in the coming weeks.

Pastor Rick sends out an email each Saturday with the Zoom link for that week's class. All you have to do is click on the link on Sunday morning and join in the class! No previous Bible experience is necessary; this class is for all who are eager to learn, or who are even just curious! Take advantage of the gift of time we have been given during this crisis, and get closer to God through God's Holy Word!

Children & Youth Sunday School Curriculum

Faith experienced at an early age is the foundation for all other growth. The good news we share with our children has the power to transform lives and revitalize communities. So, let's prepare the ground for a new tomorrow, sending down roots anchored in love. Let's sow in them seeds of mercy and plant them by the river of life.

Let's teach our kids to shine in this world.

CUCC uses *Shine: Living in God's Light*, a dynamic Sunday school curriculum that engages Christian communities and families in their life together by:

- calling children to experience the transforming power of God's love
- nurturing trust in God and inviting children to follow Jesus
- encouraging imaginative, interactive biblical storytelling
- exploring the meaning of the Bible within the gathered community
- cultivating the inner life of the Spirit through spiritual practices
- expressing faith through lives of compassionate peacemaking and service

During this time of isolation, this Sunday School curriculum is being emailed home each Saturday. We hope you will use it at home!

CUCC Middle & High School Youth Meetings

Until further notice, we are still offering social gatherings via Zoom for Middle and High School Youth.

Lena Muench is gathering with our Middle School Youth via Zoom each Sunday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. for a Sunday School lesson and discussion!

Lauren Helmreich is gathering with our High School Youth via Zoom each Sunday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. also for a Sunday School lesson and discussion!

Pastor Rick and Lauren are gathering with High School Youth and Young Adults each Wednesday evening from 8:00-9:30 p.m. for faith formation and discussion, too.

We are sending out Zoom links to these youth each week. If you are not getting one, let us know!

CUCC LUNCH BUNCH MAY GATHERING

On the fourth Thursday of each month, a hearty group of Columbia United Church of Christ members and friends get together for a noon carry-in meal that we like to call the CUCC Lunch Bunch. This group is open to everyone regardless of age or any other determining factor. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring a dish to share. After our meal at noon, we have a guest speaker who presents a program from 12:30-1:30 on topical issues in our community.

We will resume CUCC Lunch Bunch on May 28. A representative from Heifer Project will be sharing about their ministry. Bring a dish to share and join us!

CONFIRMATION 2.0

During the month of May, Pastor Rick will be teaching, "Confirmation 2.0." This class is especially designed for High School Seniors (but others are welcome, too) to reinforce what they may (or may not have) learned in Confirmation. We will meet via Zoom each Wednesday in May, from 8-9:30 p.m. (A Zoom link will be emailed on Wednesday mornings.)

All are welcome, even if you have not been confirmed! If you are interested in attending, talk to Pastor Rick!

According to the Bible, we are never too young to learn about God. We can support our young children's spiritual growth using these tips.

1. Read to children about God and Jesus. Simple Bibles for toddlers such as board books about God's creation, animals, and family are great choices; an illustrated Bible for young children; You Tube videos of Bible stories for older children.
2. Talk often about God and Jesus.
3. Tell children constantly that Jesus loves them.
4. Use teachable moments to highlight spiritual truths.
5. As children learn to talk, help instill words of our faith such as God, Jesus, Bible, and pray in their vocabulary.
6. Include infants and toddlers in spiritual activities such as worship and prayer.
7. Know that young children really do learn at church.
8. Take children to special worship occasions such as Christmas Eve, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, etc.
9. Encourage parents to include their children during prayer times at home.
10. Explain that prayer is talking to God.
11. Make prayer a part of your daily routine.

Remember that children discover God from infancy. Paul wrote to Timothy "from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures" (2 Timothy 3:15).

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

From Your Music Coordinator

Did you know that singing improves your overall health? Singing can strengthen the immune system, improve posture and sleep, lower stress levels, improve mental alertness, and boost confidence. Singing can do MANY positive things for your mind, body, and soul when practiced regularly. We typically get a chance to sing together multiple times a week, but as that is not the case during this time of social isolation, it is important to continue to practice singing at home.

Choir members . . . I miss you dearly! I miss working on music with you, hearing you sing, and of course, I miss our weekly fellowship. My heart aches to be singing with you, and each time I sing here at home, I am reminded how much I miss making music with you!

This time of social isolation will end, and we will make music together again! I am looking forward to this and hope these resources will be helpful to keep our minds, bodies, and voices healthy until we sing together again.



Follow all the singing updates at www.columbiaucc.com/sing.

Missing each and every one of you, Kristin Veteto

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

Membership and Care Announcements

- The free 8x10 pictures from Life Touch are in (if you had your picture taken for the church directory). We'll distribute them as soon as church resumes normal services in the building.
- Our Bring a Friend Sunday has been postponed to fall, but we encourage you to bring new friends all summer long!
- Please help us welcome our new members:



Welcome David Meyer and Ann Stone-Meyer! They were drawn to CUCC because of Pastor Rick and his sermons. Ann grew up in Michigan, and David has lived in many places including Michigan, Colorado, Canada, Alabama, and Ohio! They have 2 daughters and a granddaughter. David is an Associate Professor of Management, and Ann is a retired special education and reading teacher and an adjunct professor. They both enjoy hiking and traveling. Doug and Judi Privitt are their new member sponsors.



Welcome Vena Long! Vena was drawn to CUCC because it affirms her understanding of the teachings of Jesus. Vena grew up in Sullivan County, Missouri. She is a retired professor of mathematics education. Vena has 2 sons and 4 grandsons. Her husband of 52 years recently passed away. Vena enjoys mathematics, reading, and travel. Vena's new member sponsor is Melba Shaffer.



Welcome Jess Wolfe and Ed Rollins! They were brought to CUCC by an invitation from Steve Keithahn and the opening, welcoming, and affirming ways of the church. Jess has lived in Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri, and Ed is from Maryland. Jess is a teacher with Columbia Public Schools. Ed served as a long-time Associate Pastor of Music and Administration at First Baptist Church of Columbia and is the Interim Executive Director of Handbell Musicians of America. They have 4 children. They both enjoy gardening and outdoor sports and exercise. Their new member sponsor is Steve Keithahn.



CUCC SERMONS ONLINE

Did you miss a Sunday? You don't have to miss the sermon! Catch up online . . .

Each Monday, the sermon from that week is uploaded to the CUCC website and to the CUCC Facebook page (also Pastor Rick's Facebook page). Check out what you missed!

Website: <https://www.columbiaucc.com/sermons>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Columbia-United-Church-of-Christ-145805378800233/>

(Just search "Columbia United Church of Christ" on Facebook)

LODO HAPPENINGS

The halls of Little One's Day Out have been quiet since March 18, and we look forward to the day when the music of little voices graces our building again. During our closing staff have continued to work hard to stay in communication with families and provide enrichment activities during the Stay-at-Home order.

- Teachers have sent activities to our families via email, postal delivery, and porch drop-off to keep kids on track with building early learning skills. Teachers have also had a few FaceTime calls with their students.
- Ms. Erika posts circle time videos via YouTube daily for the children and includes learning activities.
- Ms. Janessa is creating mini-motor lab videos for the families of LODO.

The staff of LODO continues to amaze me each and every day in the love they show for our students and families!

Ms. Erika's Circle time videos and activities are available to any preschooler that you may know! Links to the videos are available on the CUCC website, and links are also posted to the Little One's Day Out Facebook page. Feel free to share these with families of young children.

LODO will continue to enroll families for our 2020-2021 school year, scheduled to begin on Monday, August 31, 2020. Interested families can find information on our program on the LODO website, or by emailing Erika Maltsbarger at littleonesdayout@yahoo.com.

With Love,
Erika Maltsbarger

Emotions Visual Chart

https://drive.google.com/file/d/12Qlur5EnbzWOa4UB3UhX_JtWPIorNp2Z/view?usp=sharing

Calm Down with Take 5 Breathing

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3ondZPpW1RRc2IzckQxclZSRzg/view?usp=sharing>

S.T.A.R/Balloon/Pretzel/Drain/Bunny Breaths

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13k9z9xj01bHoi39EicfTRbd_BPkxJFjq/view?usp=sharing



During the COVID-19 pandemic, CUCC has been livestreaming our worship services each Sunday. If you have had the opportunity to watch these services, you may have gained an appreciation for the production work that is put into them. James Melton, our Church Council Moderator, has been the driving force behind putting these services online. Utilizing Mevo Technology, James has put together a production studio each week at the foot of our chancel. Many thanks to James for putting this together and his dedication each week to making this happen!

This global pandemic has given us the push we needed to utilize livestreaming services; and the analytics have been amazing. We have had people from all over the country (and beyond) watching our worship services; including our members who are away for the winter or are in care facilities and unable to make it in person on Sunday mornings. This opportunity has opened up new possibilities for our congregation, and it is something we plan to continue even after this global pandemic is over.

James Melton and Mike Pierson are researching technology possibilities for continuing to livestream our services, including a camera more applicable to our setting and a dedicated computer for this purpose. They are tying this in with the other Sanctuary upgrades proposed by the Music and Worship Ministry Team so both will work together seamlessly. Though we may be together in person soon, we will continue our livestreaming outreach as well. Many thanks to all who are making this possible!

CUCC IS WORKING IN MOZAMBIQUE

In Mozambique, rural areas are in need of pastors, but pastors assigned to rural parishes are faced with challenges serving congregations that are spread out far from their homes and offices. Pastors of these parishes serve approximately 200 families per month, often on foot or bicycle. This means that some communities go for long periods of time without pastoral care or communion. To respond to the transportation need, long-standing Global Ministries partner the United Church of Christ in Mozambique (UCCM) has developed a project to purchase motorcycles for pastors who serve rural parishes. With this project, the UCCM reduces one challenge that the pastors face as they serve the families in their churches.

The United Church of Christ in Mozambique is a Global Missions Partner of CUCC 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 UCCM in your prayers!

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



May 3-May 9	Rosalind Gnat	Working in Germany
May 10-May 16	Bosela Eale	Working in Kenya
May 17-May 23	Leda Zakarison	Working in Lebanon
May 24-May 30	Carlos Sediles-Real	Working in Mexico

HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP/NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT



2020 NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT

The CUCC High School Youth will be participating in a Mission Trip July 19-25, 2020. We will be going to West Lafayette, Indiana for two days of mission work and then four days participating in the National Youth Event!

The National Youth Event will be four days of Spirit filled worship, education, and fun with 4,000 United Church of Christ Youth, Youth Leaders, and other leadership from around the country (and even some international guests). It will be held on the campus of Purdue University starting Wednesday, July 22.

We will leave CUCC on Sunday, July 19 after the worship service and spend the 2½ days prior to NYE doing mission work in Indiana. There are several sites we are considering and we hope to have the details nailed down soon.

This will be an expensive trip! We anticipate the cost to be around \$600/participant. This is more expensive than our usual mission trips, because of the NYE component. In order to defray the cost of this trip, our High School Youth will be hosting several fundraising events this year. We will host a Trivia Night on June 13 to raise money for our Mission Trip. Plan now to attend! More details will follow in emails, on Facebook, and in next month's Communicator.

TRIVIA NIGHT JUNE 20- YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER

We are hopeful that by June 20 our social distancing protocols will be lifted and we will be gathering together again! In anticipation of that, our CUCC youth are hosting a Trivia Night! This will be a fundraiser for their Mission Trip this summer.

We are selling tables of 8 for \$80/each; individual tickets are \$10/person. We will have soda, tea, and lemonade available, as well as some snacks; you are encouraged to bring food to share with everyone! More information will be shared about how to sign up online, or you can RSVP by emailing office@columbiaucc.com.

Come and share a night of fun and fellowship and help the CUCC youth participate in their mission trip!

MELEL XOJOBAL: A MISSIONARY'S JOURNAL
WRITTEN BY ABIGAIL FATE ON APRIL 13, 2020 (EDITED FOR LENGTH)

Abby Fate is the Global Missions Intern working at Melel Xojobal ("The True Light") in San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico; one of our mission partners and a mission agency that has received direct support from Columbia United Church of Christ. This is the most recent post from her blog.

In December, Melel Xojobal hosted the Second National Child Workers Retreat in San Cristóbal. My team of three had spent the weeks before the retreat in helpful but harried preparation. While we were still spending half our day working in markets around the city like normal, the other half of the day was jam-packed with planning activities for the retreat.

The lack of sleep and weeks of hard work were all worth it for the three days that we spent at this retreat. The children drew pictures to detail the ways they exist in the world, paying special attention to both risk factors and protective factors that they face as children who work. We discussed the similarities and differences between their experiences, considering the differences in their ages, genders, type of work, and location. We realized that despite these differences, they could relate to each other's life experiences as child workers. We also played soccer and had hula hoop relay races. We sang songs, acted out plays, roasted marshmallows, and told scary stories around a bonfire. We had a cultural night, where children from each region shared their unique traditional foods, sweets, songs, and dances. And we ended the weekend with a march and public demonstration in downtown San Cristóbal, calling attention to child workers' rights.

There are moments from this weekend cemented in my mind. For example, when I walked into the dining room at dinner and saw the group of 10-year-olds that I work with at the markets yelling my name and wildly gesturing me over, our breath visible in the cold mountain air. Marching down the main street in San Cristóbal, we chanted and sang. We talked about how their strategies against oppressive forces include human rights, dignified work, playing games, and organizing together.

The night before the march, I sat with a few of the younger girls as we made posters to carry the next day. "What should I write?" one asked me. "Think of it like this," I replied. "There are going to be people in the street tomorrow who don't know anything about you and don't know anything about this retreat. What do you want them to know about you, about us, or about child workers?" They all sat, thinking for a moment, then diligently picked up their posters and markers and got to work. Slowly and painstakingly, messages appeared on these poster boards.

Six months ago, I thought that children should not work. I thought that child labor was, as a rule, wrong and immoral. I certainly never thought I would be at a retreat with smart, thoughtful, determined children, or that I would be marching with them in defense of their right to work. There's a lot to know about this issue, and much that I am still learning. I'm learning about the difference between safe, dignified work and exploitation. I'm learning that school and work are not mutually exclusive, that children can be both passionate students and diligently work afternoons and weekends with their families. I'm learning about the indigenous worldview, and how in indigenous communities, working alongside one's family is an integral component of being a part of the family. I'm learning about the systemic oppression of child workers by local and national governments. And I'm learning about the complexities and realities these children and their families face each day.

As is so often the case, the more I learn, the more questions I have. If anything, my first six months as a Global Mission Intern has made me painfully aware of how much I don't know. But perhaps this is the greatest lesson that I've learned so far that all I can hope to do is keep an open mind, ask questions, and be ready to learn.




Looking For a Place to Serve Locally?

The Central Missouri STOP Human Trafficking Coalition is looking for volunteers who can give rides, deliver groceries, help at events, and more.



If you are over 18, have a vehicle, and a heart for those who have survived the harsh reality that is Modern Day Slavery, contact [Nanette Ward](#) at 573-289-1842 with any questions you may have, or to volunteer.

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN MAY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:00am Sunday School via Zoom 10:30am Worship via live stream on CUCC Website	4 6:30pm Fellowship & Hospitality via Zoom	5	6 NO Confirmation	7	8	9
10 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship <i>(If we are not back released from Social Distancing, we will continue via Zoom and live stream on CUCC Website)</i>	11 6:30pm Inclusion Team Meeting via Zoom	12	13 6:30pm Confirmation	14	15	16
17 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship <i>(If we are not back released from Social Distancing, we will continue via Zoom and live stream on CUCC Website)</i>	18	19 6:30pm Council Meeting	20 May Communicator articles due	21 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team Meeting	22	23 FH Reserved 11-2 Graduation Party
24 9:00am Sunday School 9:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship	25 	26	27 6:30pm Confirmation	28 12pm Lunch Bunch (Heifer International)	29	30
31 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am SS 10:30am Worship All Church Picnic						

THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ
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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**

ATTENTION! If you are in the Church building after office hours and the office staff (or another person) is still downstairs, please let the office (or that person) know so the alarm is not set while you are still in the building. We have had numerous alerts and calls from our security system team due to the alarm going off while someone was still in the building. We are charged if the police show up to check the premises, even if the alarm goes off by mistake.

Also, please make sure you check the building prior to setting the alarm and be sure it is set and all the church doors are locked prior to leaving. Thank you for your attention to this matter!



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.