

THE COMMUNICATOR

July 2019



From the Pastor's Keyboard

"The Lord's Prayer"

During the month of July, we will be looking at various ways Jesus encouraged his disciples to encourage his disciples to focus on God and put the ways of the world behind them. On July 7, we will look at the ways the early church leaders were called, by Jesus and then by Paul, to sow seeds of Peace in contrast to the war-like ways of the world. On July 14, Jesus tells a parable encouraging a lawyer to defy the law and instead love his neighbor, no matter who that neighbor is. On July 21, we will look at Jesus' interaction with Mary and Martha and his challenge to focus on what truly matters in life.

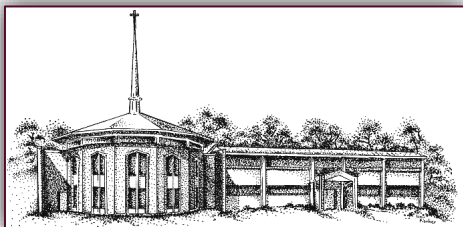
Then, on July 28, we will hear Jesus instruct his disciples on how to pray. He introduces them, in Luke 11 and Matthew 6, to the prayer that we now call the Lord's Prayer. In this section, Jesus is not fixated on words, he is focusing on instructing his disciples in a way to develop a relationship with God, communicating with God, not for God's sake, but for the sake of the community. This prayer is an exercise in community development among the early disciples, as well as an exercise in communal development with God.

Many do not realize that this prayer has a very Jewish structure. It consists of an introduction, seven petitions and a Doxology ("for thine is the...") although the doxology is not in Luke's Gospel and was added to Matthew's Gospel at a later date. The introduction and seven petitions have several parallels in the books of Ezekiel, Isaiah, Obadiah, 1 Samuel and Proverbs; as well as reflection in several Jewish prayers and the Kaddish. So, while the instruction to pray was an important wisdom lesson, the structure of the prayer was not original; it had its basis in Jewish tradition.

Over the years, translations and adaptations of the prayer have brought new life and insight into communities around the world. Adapting "sins" into "debts" or "trespasses," adding on the ending doxology ("for thine is the..."), and eliminating masculine references ("Father" becomes "Creator") or defunct language (changing "thine" to "Your" and "which" to "who") are all ways communities of faith have made this exercise in community and communion applicable to their context while still reflective of communal traditions.

The Lord's Prayer is a tool to get closer to God, not a god itself. As a tool that Jesus advocated, it will always change and adapt to the context in which it is used, even as it is reflective of the traditions that inspired it. What matters is not the words, but the WORD; the Wisdom that Jesus shared about communing with God in ways that are authentic and attuned to God's ever-present love. Be here in church on July 28 when we talk more about the Lord's Prayer and examine the Wisdom we receive when we pray.

-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

Lloyd Viehland
Building Monitor

Raj Tolani
Financial Secretary

Sunday Worship Schedule NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 a.m. - Coffee and Fellowship

9:30 a.m. - Worship in Sanctuary

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

Phone:
(573)-445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com



NEWS & EVENTS

LOTS OF ITEMS UP FOR GRABS

Lloyd has cleaned house! There are surplus items from shelves to CD's to carpeting, etc. These items are in the Fellowship Hall, waiting to be claimed.

Come shop the CUCC Fellowship Hall "sale" today!
No donation too small.

Collecting Recipes for the 50th Anniversary Cookbook

If you have a recipe you'd like shared in the cookbook, please submit it in the pot outside the sanctuary labeled "Recipes," or e-mail your recipe to the church office at office@columbiaucc.com by **July 31**.



Save the Date—Sunday, September 22

We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of CUCC at this location!

If you have stories or memories you'd like to share, please send your thoughts to the church office no later than July 31.

Unique CUCC experience Saturday, September 21, 2019

Keep your calendar clear for the first CUCC-MU
TAILGATE PARTY!

We will begin the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the church structure Saturday afternoon.

This event will take place either before or after the MU-University of South Carolina ball game. Watch this space for specific times depending upon the football schedule.

50th Anniversary Catered Dinner

Sunday, September 22
Following Worship Service



Silent (Quilt) Auction

This vintage quilt top was hand-pieced by staunch New Englanders, then hand-quilted by our CUCC quilters.

Donated by Corinne Remeika, the quilt has been on display outside of the Sanctuary, along with bidding sheets. Bidding ended on June 30. The highest bid will be announced soon!

Dear Columbia UCC,

Thank you for your generous donation and your continued faithful support of this ministry. Your gift will help 17 people around the world with mobility.

In 2012 and 2014, full shipments were sent to Rev. Georgian Ugah, National Coordinator for Assemblies of God NSSM, with the help of the US Navy. In April, we sent another full load (212 Carts—162 Large, 30 Small, 20 Pull) to Nigeria through MedShare in GA.

With our support this year, more will be given a new life in their communities. We look forward to your continued partnership in 2019 as we celebrate our 25th Anniversary year!

Lives bloom through Mobility Carts,
Karen Stohlgren, Volunteer



Dear friends,

On behalf of the students and faculty of Eden Theological Seminary, it is my pleasure to acknowledge your gift representing the May benevolence.

Please do know how much your support of Eden means to us! Churches are at the core of our culture and faith, and we appreciate the work you do. More than anyone, you know how important it is to prepare the next generation of ministers and leaders, so we are especially grateful for your help in maintaining Eden as an ecumenical center for the progressive Christian movement.

Grace and peace,
Rhonda Lally,
Development Coordinator



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.

Moderator's Moment

Summer has arrived at CUCC. Vacations are in full swing for many families. The heat and humidity will soon be unbearable (or so it seems!). Worship service time is now 9:30 a.m., and Sunday School is on break. You would assume that things are pretty slow at church. But that is not the case. Your Church Council and its ministry team leaders continue to take care of the church's needs and plan activities and programs. The Nurture and Education Team, led by Pat Forward, will have a Root Beer Float sale on July 21 to raise funds for our camp scholarship program. They will host our Vacation Bible School beginning July 28. Pastor Rick and Lauren Helmreich will be transporting our high school youth on their summer Mission Trip to Ohio beginning July 21. There will be a **parents meeting** for all youth on August 21 to plan the school year's activities and to engage in a conversation about commitments to the youth programs. There will also be Safe Church Training on August 25 for all church youth teachers, staff and church leaders. So, if you think Nurture and Education is taking the summer off, don't tell that to Pat Forward and her team members! What a great job they are doing!

Our Inclusion Team, now chaired by Alisa Lau-Sieckman, has been meeting to organize with their new team members to plot the church's path to living into our Open and Affirming ministry. At the June meeting of the Conference Annual Gathering here in Columbia, CUCC was recognized as one of the newest ONA churches in the Missouri Mid-South Conference. The team is planning to have a presence at the August Pride Fest in Columbia.

Pastor Rick leads inspiring services every Sunday morning. If you missed and want to hear his weekly sermon, just go to CUCC's website or on our Facebook page and you won't miss a word. By the way, be sure to like and share the posts on Facebook so your friends and followers can discover what's great about our church!

The word is getting out about CUCC! If you notice new faces on Sunday morning, please go and introduce yourself and welcome them. Remember, we welcome and affirm all of God's children. God created you in God's image, and we welcome you just as God created you! Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

In faith,
John Graves
john@downtownappliance.com
573-999-2087

Greetings from the newly formed Inclusion Team!

Our current members include: Lindsey Oberle, Ally Jaberg, Lena Muench, Isaiah Jackson-Post, Claire Kespohl, Tricia Price (elected Secretary), Steve Keithahn, Elaine Trout, Pastor Rick, James Melton as Counsel representative, and myself.

We will be prayerfully building a network with the congregation and ministry teams to fully realize our commitment to be completely open and affirming to all God's children.

Several items under discussion include:

- ♦ Participation in Pridefest August 24
- ♦ Celebrating Open and Affirming Sunday June 30th
- ♦ Observe calendar events such as Black History Month and Mental Health Awareness Month, etc.
- ♦ Host more educational activities that encourage strength in diversity
- ♦ Identify and implement ways to publicly declare our welcome to all who wish to join us in worshipping the living God.

If you have suggestions, questions or comments, please contact one of the team members.

Respectfully submitted by Alisa Lau-Sieckman, elected Inclusion Team Chair

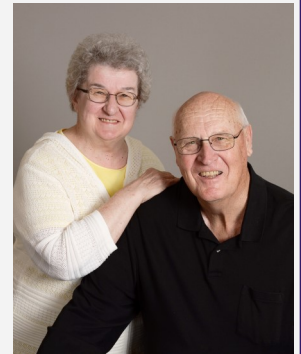


FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

From the Finance and Stewardship Team

Why do we give our time, talents, and treasures to the church?

When Evelyn and I and our three boys joined the church in 1975, we immediately enjoyed a common bond with a loving and caring congregation. Because of the strong youth program and need for the many special work projects of a new church building and outdoor shelter area, it was easy to become involved with lives of the people of the church and church activities. I consider myself a worker rather than a leader and have enjoyed being involved with Building and Grounds activities of the church, local mission projects, as well as being active in Men's Fellowship.



Beside the normal operating costs of the church, our church budget provides numerous opportunities for local mission projects, as well as a growing youth and young adult program.

The love, support, and fellowship shared with the church family has been very important to our life. We are glad to be a part of the mission of the church.

Charlie Marcks

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
May Income	\$23,718.99	\$26,288.53	(\$2,569.54)
YTD	\$130,889.41	\$124,770.88	\$6,118.53
May Expenses	\$30,122.27	\$26,715.56	\$3,406.71
YTD	\$127,226.97	\$127,145.30	\$81.67
YTD Income	\$130,889.41	\$124,770.88	\$6,118.53
YTD Expenses	\$127,226.97	\$127,145.30	\$81.67
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$3,662.44	(\$2,374.42)	\$6,118.53
May Attendance	502		

TREASURER'S REPORT Doug Privitt, Recording Treasurer

Date	Attendance	Actual	Budget
06/02/19	137	\$2,604.00	\$6,572.13
06/09/19	106	\$5,181.01	\$6,572.13
06/16/19	88	\$4,568.00	\$6,572.13
06/23/19	98	\$1,993.50	\$6,572.13

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: <https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/cucc>
(or type it into your web browser)
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.

Give it a try! Text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041 and check it out!

LODO HAPPENINGS

Our summer friends had an amazing time during our June summer program! We laughed, we played, we learned!! We still have a few spaces remaining in our classes for 2019-2020. Please help spread the word and direct interested families to our website at www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome.

LODO has employment opportunities available for the 2019-2020 school year. Learn more about our Preschool Aide and Afternoon Preschool Aide positions on our website or visit: https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nf3rg5fO7i0JNA1Wh_Oo1AzQdq1cQIyJ/view?usp=sharing

Little One's Day Out is now on Instagram and Twitter! We hope you will follow us on social media!

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/littleonesdayout/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/LittleOnesDayO1>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LittleOnesDayOutPreschool>

With love and laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger

SUMMER

• ENJOY EVERY MOMENT •



Come play and learn
at
Little One's Day Out

Spaces available for children
ages 1-5 years for the 2019-2020
School Year!

August 26th-May 15th

Schedule your tour at
littleonesdayout@yahoo.com

Additional information available at
www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome

DATES TO REMEMBER

- | | |
|-----------|--|
| August 15 | LODO staff returns for planning/staff meeting |
| August 22 | LODO Back to School Night and meet the teacher 5:30-7:30 |
| August 26 | First Day of LODO—students return |



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY

Christmas in July—Help Meet the Needs of UCC Employees and Retirees

Many people who serve the church do so with great love but small financial compensation. This is especially true of retired clergy and their spouses. The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards.

Funds from this offering provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks.

Please give generously to the Christmas Fund Special Offering on July 28.

Loaves N Fishes

The June 17th meal at L&F consisted of chicken, broccoli and noodle casserole, chili mac, fried chicken (leftover from church luncheon), corn, salad and brownies. The brownies were donated from Bob Murphy, Brenda Muench, Brenda Schupp, Jane Duncan, Lorry Dreier, Mariann Bullerd, Christine Staelens, Elaine Trout, Connie Loveless and Jolene Kirchhoff. Hope I didn't overlook anyone!

The salad was donated from Patty Beeson. Servers/dishwashers were Bob Murphy, David Martin, John & Brenda Muench, Patty Beeson and two of her students, Bahati and Albertine. We served approximately 55 firsts and 63 seconds and carry outs. Thanks so much to everyone!

Back to School Collection—July 7-21

It seems like we just finish one school year when we need to start preparing for the next. Do you remember having those new crayons with sharp points? The smell of a new backpack? Those pink erasers, and more? Well, now is your chance to make a difference in some school child's experience by donating to Voluntary Action Center's “Boone County Back to School Health Fair.”

Columbia UCC will be collecting school supply items in the Gathering Area in a shopping cart between **July 7-21, 2019**. Please consider giving generously, because we have so many children in need in all our schools.

If you can fill a backpack, that is terrific! If you can donate some notebooks and pencils, that is wonderful! If you can purchase and donate glue sticks, markers, and paper, that is great!

We want our students to start the next school year with the resources they need to learn. Thank you for your consideration and generosity. Working as a substitute in the Columbia Public Schools, I have seen the need, and it is great! Thank you!

Llona Weiss
CUCC Outreach Committee

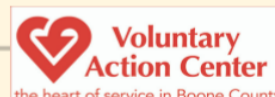
BOONE COUNTY BACK TO SCHOOL HEALTH FAIR

School Supply Collection List

We are currently seeking donations for the following items:

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Backpacks | • 8 Pack #2 Pencils |
| • Dry Erase Markers | • Blue & Red Ballpoint Pens |
| • 24-Pack Crayons | • Composition Notebooks |
| • Pink Erasers | • 10 Pack Washable Markers |
| • Scissors | • Glue Sticks |
| • Earbuds | • 12 Pack Colored Pencils |
| • 1 Subject Spiral Notebooks | • Highlighters |
| • Loose-Leaf Paper | |

If you are interested in donating any of these items or hosting a school supply drive, please contact Olivia Little at (573) 874-2273 or sw3@vacmo.org.



NURTURE AND EDUCATION TEAM

VBS ROAR!

VBS is for kids, 3 years old through completion of 5th grade. We would love to have our 6th, 7th, and 8th graders be volunteers at VBS this year. Come and see what the "ROAR" is all about!

Bake Sale Success!

The Pentecost Bake Sale on June 9, 2019, raised \$212 for Camp Scholarships. Thank you for bringing baked goods, and buying them. Thank you to Aimee Dennis for coordinating.

Safe Church Training

Sunday, August 25, 2019 following worship.

This training is for all adults who volunteer with the children and youth at church and church sponsored activities.

The children and youth are helping Ronald McDonald House by bringing aluminum can tabs to CUCC.

Adults can bring tabs too! Please put your tabs in the boxes in the gathering area.

Pastoral Relations Committee

This committee is made up of 3 members (one selected by Church Council, one selected by the congregation, and one selected by Pastor Rick) along with Pastor Rick. We meet quarterly to discuss celebrations and concerns and to have an opportunity for reflection on the goals of the pastor and the church.

Members include:

Jessica Lucas (jlucas@cpsk12.org)

Pete Jaberg (petejaberg@gmail.com)

Judi Privitt (jprivitt@cpsk12.org).

If you have concerns or celebrations you would like the Pastoral Relations Committee to be aware of, please contact any member.

MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS GATHERING

Parents of our Middle School and High School students, mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 21, 2019, 6:00pm at Columbia United Church of Christ. The Nurture and Education Ministry Team will be hosting a Parents Meeting for the parents of all Middle School & High School Youth.

The purpose of this meeting will be to prioritize and plan youth ministries for the coming year, September 2019-August 2020. Next year parents are expected to plan and help facilitate the activities and events you want your children to engage in, and help your children prioritize where their Christian Education activities will fit into their own activity schedule for the coming year. Dinner will be provided. Our planning session will start after dinner and will finish by 8:00.

Watch for more information in August; but save the date today! The future scope of Youth Ministry in the coming year will be dependent on your input. For more information, questions or input, talk to Pat Forward.

CUCC LUNCH BUNCH

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.

July 25 –



"Lunch Bunch will be on summer hiatus in June and July, but we will reconvene on August 22 with Rev. Sally Robertson talking about the activities of the Columbia Older Adult Ministry."

NEW SERVICE TEAMS WORKING HARD!



Inclusion Team: The CUCC Inclusion Team includes Claire Kespohl, Ally Jaberg, Steve Keithahn, Elaine Trout, Tricia Price, Lindsey Oberle, Isaiah Jackson-Post, Lena Muench, Alisa Lau-Sieckman (chair), James Melton (representing the Church Council) and Pastor Rick. This team has met twice already this summer, planned the Open and Affirming celebration that was held on June 30, and is working on logistics for our CUCC booth at the Columbia Pridefest on August 24. They are also looking at other ways CUCC can live into our new Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant. (see separate article on page 4)

Heritage Team: Ed Kaiser, Walter Schroeder, Barry Kirchhoff, Melba Schaffer, Jolene Hackman, David and Liz Fisher, Doug Privitt (chair), John Graves (representing the Church Council) and Pastor Rick have met twice already this summer to plan the 50th anniversary celebration of our current location, and begin curating documents for historic preservation. Keep September 21-22 open for the celebration!

By-Laws Team: A daunting task before them, this team is beginning by imagining how ministry can work in new and exciting ways, and will be proposing By-Laws changes to reflect this imagination. They hope to have recommendations to the Church Council by the fall, to forward to the congregation in January for approval. This team has already met twice this summer and consists of Rev. Bryan Crousore, Keith Birkes, Brent Marcks, Lauren Helmreich, Judi Privitt, Jim Loveless, James Melton (representing the Church Council) and Pastor Rick.

Technology Team: This team has been meeting this summer to look at the Sanctuary and worship services and imagine how those could be enhanced by addressing the technological challenges and opportunities we face. They will be consulting with an outside firm to learn more about the opportunities available to us. This team consists of Harry Beckett, Doug Privitt, Kristin Veteto, Pete Jaberg, Steve Keithahn, James Melton, Mike Pierson, Amy Crousore and Pastor Rick.

Banner Team: A subgroup of the Worship & Music Ministry Team, this group designed and implemented the worship space for Pentecost, and is looking at the long-term aesthetics of the Sanctuary, to create visual design to enhance our worship services. Lea Marienfeld, Connie Loveless, Jolene Hackman, Melba Schaffer (chair), Jo-Ellen Grace, Peter Jaberg, Lisa Jaberg and Pastor Rick are all contributing to this team.

If this work sounds exciting to you and you would like to participate, talk to John Graves, James Melton, or the chairs of one of these teams! They would love to have your input.

CUCC Men's Softball Schedule

Come out and cheer on your CUCC Men's Softball Team!

CUCC vs Alive in Christ Luthern	July 11, 9 p.m.	Cosmo Park: Rainbow Purple
CUCC vs Midway Heights Baptist	July 18, 9 p.m.	Cosmo Park: Rainbow Yellow
CUCC vs Grace Bible Church	July 25, 8 p.m.	Cosmo Park: Rainbow Blue
CUCC vs Knights of Columbus	August 1, 7 p.m.	Cosmo Park: Rainbow Green
CUCC vs Forum Christian	August 8, 8 p.m.	Cosmo Park: Rainbow Orange
CUCC vs Alive in Christ Lutheran	August 15, 7 p.m.	Cosmo Park: Rainbow Purple
CUCC vs Midway Heights Baptist	August 22, 9 p.m.	Cosmo Park: Rainbow Yellow

The primary purpose of the Memorial Education Fund is to encourage theological or Christian education in the United Church of Christ. The fund is to provide financial aid in the form of grants to any woman or man in the congregation who is preparing for ordained ministry or other religious vocations. Persons are to be (1) encouraged by the church to pursue their religious educational goals, and (2) will be assisted financially as funds will allow.

Funds may secondarily be used to support youth and college groups within the church and to support the education and training of teachers and leaders of Christian Education within the church as the committee shall determine on a case by case basis.

Over the past 44 years the fund has

- 1) provided support to five seminary students,
- 2) funded church school training,
- 3) supported 35 campers, funded the purchase of Bibles for the Sunday School students,
- 4) funded the Youth Leader's attendance of the National Youth Event.

Please contact the church office to get an application or for more information.



Pentecost Party!

Thank you to the Banner Team and Lloyd Viehland for decorating our sanctuary for Pentecost on June 9! The flames and the red/orange color scheme were very mindful of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Special thanks to Lisa Jaberg for making the little flame statuettes that decorated the space!

General Synod 32

by Pastor Rick

As I am writing this, the General Synod 32 is in its final day. It has been an exciting and exhausting event; full of life and energy and most importantly, the Holy Spirit. In everything that is said and done, in the presentations, the business, and even in the display space, God's Holy Spirit is very evident; and the gathered delegates, visitors and presenters are visible embodiment of that Spirit in action.

General Synod, the biennial national gathering of the United Church of Christ, is a five-day event; Friday-Tuesday. Many people think of General Synod as "all about business" but the truth is that the essence of the event is so much more. The inspiration and education that Synod visitors experience far outweighs the business that is conducted. This year was no exception.

But we did participate in many business sessions. We re-elected Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer as the General Minister and President of the denomination for a second 4-year term. We also elected Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson to a four-year term as an Associate General Minister. We elected members to the Board of Directors, approved a budget, and said farewell to retiring church leaders including Rev. Jim Moos, who led Global Ministries for the past eight years and Don Hart, who was the President of United Church Funds.

And then there were the Resolutions. There were 22 Resolutions in all, brought to General Synod by interested parties in the church such as Congregations, Associations and Conferences. The scope of the Resolutions dealt with issues such as affirming our relationship with our counterpart churches in Puerto Rico, restructuring of the New England conferences, revising the United Church of Christ by-laws to include non-binary gender language, speaking out against our national escalation toward nuclear war, declaring support of the "New Green Deal" and affirming the intersectionality of climate change issues with all other justice issues, and focusing on Jesus' call to "follow me." (All of these Resolutions can be viewed using the link on our CUCC website.) Each one of these Resolutions was debated passionately, theologically and faithfully. As the delegates debated, God's Spirit was ever present; challenging and inspiring each one.

General Synod 32 is over; but you will be hearing much more in the next two years about General Synod 33. It will be in Kansas City July 16-20, 2021. I am on the planning team; and we will be looking for volunteer helpers. This will be your chance to participate in this Spirit-filled adventure! If you ever doubted God's presence at work in the world, come to General Synod; God's presence is very evident in the life of the United Church of Christ.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule for July

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for July. 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 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 home!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Sound Booth	Hospitality
07/07	NEED	Ally Jaberg Llona Weiss	Isaiah Jackson-Post	Aidan Pierson	John Graves	Sue Ann Schafer
07/14	NEED	Hugo Wilsmeier	Bryan Crousore	NEED	Brent Marcks	Helen Schultz
07/21	NEED	NEED	Llona Weiss	NEED	Carissa Graves	NEED
07/28	NEED	NEED	5 youth from mission trip	NEED	Doug Privitt	NEED

WHY CELEBRATE INDEPENDENCE DAY?

By Rev. Rick Oberle

To begin with, this holiday is not “The Fourth of July,” it is “Independence Day.” Renaming it the former can cause us to forget about the latter, the meaning behind this celebration. This is a celebration of freedom, independence and the birth of a new nation based on liberty for all, and the term “Fourth of July” is not comprehensive of this understanding.

But why do we continue to celebrate this day, 241 years after we declared our independence from the systemic oppression of England?

The reality is that most of our ancestors were not here in 1776. Those of us with German Heritage can probably trace our migration to this country to the great German immigration of 1820-1870; other ethnic groups (Irish, Asian, African etc.) to other time periods probably not coinciding with the colonial era. Yet on July 4 each year, we come together as one, celebrating Independence Day with barbeques and fireworks. Most of our ancestors were not among those freed from British tyranny; yet we, as immigrants, have adopted this passion as our own, which is a fine and wonderful thing to do. But in doing so, it is important to reflect on why this day came to be such a celebration.

Think about the people who celebrated the first Independence Day in Philadelphia on July 4, 1777 (the one-year anniversary of the US Declaration of Independence). They were at war with a great empire; tired, worried, unsure of their future, with a history of systemic oppression still in active memory; and in truth, still pervasive in their lives. This day held great importance to them as it became a chance to claim their self-value, claim their identity as a new nation, and remember their historic struggles. For a community that had been (and continued to be) oppressed and disenfranchised by the majority, Independence Day was a chance to reclaim their lost sense of dignity.

Times have changed, and that rag-tag group has become arguably the most powerful country in the world, truly a superpower. But as we celebrate Independence Day, we must not forget from whence “we” came. As other historically oppressed groups struggle to claim their self-value, identity and dignity and remember their historic struggles through significant observances and focused holidays, just as our ancestors did, the faith of our ancestors and the spirit of Independence Day is embodied in their observances, as well.

Have a safe and Happy Independence Day; and keep the Independence Day spirit of self-value, identity, dignity, and historic struggle alive as we enable all of God’s children to claim their God-given dignity and worth.

COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST IS WORKING IN MOROCCO

The Evangelical Protestant Church in Morocco (EEAM) serves Christ in a land at the crossroads of both the North and South (Africa and Europe) and the East and West (Arab world and Western World), as well as the crossroads of religion (Islam and Christianity).

With ten congregations in Morocco served by four pastors and several pastoral interns, EEAM has a membership representing more than 35 nationalities and dozens of varieties of Protestant traditions. Recognizing their diversity, EEAM sees welcoming the stranger as one of its principal ministries. They are committed to offering hospitality toward those who come to live and worship in Morocco, as well as toward those who are passing through the country as migrants.

The vast majority of the members of EEAM are young people who have come as students from Sub-Saharan Africa. EEAM is a family of faith committed to the living God, gathering as a diverse people in one body for praise, proclamation, prayer, outreach and service in the name of Christ. EEAM is one of the Mission Partners of the United Church of Christ through Global Ministries, our shared mission agency with the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ.

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

July 1-6	Cindy Moraga	working in Mexico
July 7-13	Carmelo Alvarez	working in Venezuela
July 14-20	Fritz-Gerald Joseph	working in Morocco
July 21-27	Victoria Peagler	working in Botswana
July 28-August 3	Marilyn Cooper	working in Ecuador



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP TO HIRAM FARM

What is Hiram Farm? Go to www.hiramfarm.org and check it out! This is where our High School youth will be this summer, July 21-25, working with adults with developmental disabilities. We have a great trip planned, including a “fun day” in Cleveland and a visit to the Amistad Chapel at the National Offices of the UCC and maybe the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame!

Five of our High School youth will be going, along with Pastor Rick and Lauren Helmreich. This promises to be a life-changing adventure for the youth who are attending, learning more about God’s call to service and Inclusion in the world. You will hear more about this trip when the youth return, as they present opportunities in worship and outside of worship for you to learn more about this mission and this trip.

If you would like to help fund this mission trip, you can do so through your offering by designating a special gift to the Youth Ministry Historic Fund or by selecting “Youth Ministry Fund” from the dropdown menu if you give through the CUCC website or thru Kindrid. For more information on giving to this fund, talk to Christine Staelens or Doug Privitt. Thank you for your support!




In 2008 a dedicated group of parents and professionals came together to fulfill a dream of providing enriching day services for their adult children with autism. Hiram Farm program opened in June of 2009 on a 120-acre organic farm under lease. Six adult workers with autism were served by the program at that time. In the first year, a one-acre organic garden was

planted, twelve small garden plots were made available to gardeners living in the Hiram community, the livestock program began, and a small greenhouse was constructed.

By our second anniversary in June 2011, the program expanded to include 22 adults with autism. Construction work on the barn continued and the farm purchased a house adjacent to the existing property to serve as the administrative offices and program space. Meanwhile, our community garden project doubled in size and the Hiram Farm participants and staff developed a number of craft projects and grew seedling plants to sell to the public.

Over the years, our facilities expanded and we began to welcome adults with other developmental disabilities, in addition to autism, into our programs. In 2017, we welcomed our 31st individual.

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 9am-1pm Quilters	3	4 Church Office Closed 	5 Church Office Closed	6 10-12 Chinese Choir
7 9:00am Fellowship 9:30am Worship BACK TO SCHOOL COLLECTION HS Camp @ MoVal	8 No Staff Meeting 6:30pm Membership & Care HS Camp @ MoVal	9 9am-1pm Quilters 6:30pm Building & Grounds NO Food Bank HS Camp @ MoVal	10 6pm Finance & Stewardship HS Camp @ MoVal	11 6:30pm Music & Worship HS Camp @ MoVal	12 Church Office Closed HS Camp @ MoVal	13 10-12 Chinese Choir
14 9:00am Fellowship 9:30am Worship BACK TO SCHOOL COLLECTION 11am Nurture & Education MS Camp @ MoVal	15 No Staff Meeting 4:30pm Loaves & Fishes MS Camp @ MoVal	16 9am-1pm Quilters 6:30pm Council MS Camp @ MoVal	17 MS Camp @ MoVal	18 MS Camp @ MoVal	19 MS Camp @ MoVal	20 10-12 Chinese Choir Communicator Articles Due
21 9:00am Fellowship 9:30am Worship BACK TO SCHOOL COLLECTION N & E Root Beer Floats HS Mission Trip	22 No Staff Meeting HS Mission Trip	23 9am-1pm Quilters HS Mission Trip	24 HS Mission Trip	25 HS Mission Trip	26 HS Mission Trip	27 10-12 Chinese Choir HS Mission Trip
28 9:00am Fellowship 9:30am Worship VBS	29 No Staff Meeting VBS	30 9am-1pm Quilters VBS 6:30pm Outreach & Advocacy	31 VBS	1 VBS		

THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation- ONA #1575
3201 I-70 Dr. NW
Columbia, MO 65202-3296
573-445-7931

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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 so, please contact
Rev. Rick Oberle
for further information
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.