

# THE COMMUNICATOR

March 2022



## From the Pastor's Keyboard

*"COVID and Ash Wednesday"*

Well after two years of pandemic, I finally got it— on Saturday, February 12, I tested positive for COVID-19. I had no symptoms at the time, and I never did develop symptoms. Had I not gotten tested, I never would have known that I had COVID. Kim and I were preparing to travel, and my test was a mandatory pre-flight COVID test. As you may imagine, we did not fly the next day as planned.

Kim wound up testing positive as well, and her only symptom was a mild cough. We both observed quarantine for five days, time to read and reflect; and emerged from quarantine feeling fine. But Kim and I both were vaccinated, and we both received our vaccine booster (and we will every year). I have known several who have not been vaccinated and had much more severe reactions to the virus. To me, this illustrates the importance of getting vaccinated. Not only is it our civic duty, to get this virus under control once and for all, it is also for our own good. Getting vaccinated is the key not only to beating this virus, but to surviving it.

I recently read an analogy that I feel is most apt. The COVID vaccine was equated to a bullet proof vest that a police officer or first responder might wear. A bullet proof vest is not going to keep a person from getting shot, but it has a good chance of keeping them from getting killed. Our COVID vaccines did not keep us from getting COVID, but they did keep us from severe, perhaps fatal, consequences.

The COVID pandemic is just about over. We are entering a managed phase of living with the COVID virus; but in order to live with the virus, we must observe sensible protocols. Part of those protocols will be getting booster vaccines every fall, along with our flu vaccine. Part of those protocols will be masking when cases rise. Part of those protocols will be quarantining when we do get the virus. But ignoring it will not bring this managed phase about. Facing the limitations of our relationship with COVID will allow us all to live more harmoniously.

In some ways, this is part of the lesson of Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday we are confronted with our own limitations, and our own mortality. We put ashes on our forehead and say, "from dust we come, and to dust we shall return." That is a powerful statement; and it is kind of frightening. But it is the reality of our existence. We don't often want to face it, but our existence here on earth is finite. God created us for a limited lifespan and when that span is over, we will be gone. We are not eternal, and nothing we do will last forever.

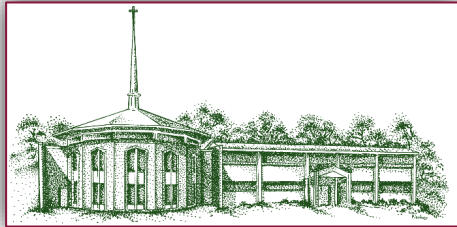
But while we are here, we are called to live purposefully. As Yusef Salaam said, "We were born on purpose and for a purpose." God Created us intentionally and God has intention for our lives. This is what Ash Wednesday is about, this is what the COVID vaccine is about. We are finite; but our call as finite beings is to live that finite time with purpose as best we can. Take advantage of things that will keep you healthy, physically and mentally. Eat well. Exercise. Pray. Meditate. Get vaccinated. Live the finite life God has given you with purpose, on purpose; a purpose that is aligned with God.

We will celebrate Ash Wednesday here at CUCC on Wednesday, March 2 with a worship service at 7:00pm. At that service we will have the traditional imposition of ashes. Those who wish to can come forward and receive ashes from me on their forehead or on their hand and I will remind them that we are created from dust, and to dust we shall return. I hope you will join us for this somber but important service.

Ash Wednesday is also the beginning of Lent; the 40-day time period where we walk intentionally with Jesus to Jerusalem and the crucifixion. During Lent, we will be looking at ways Jesus calls us to "change the world" by being true to the Good News message Jesus brings us. Many Christians choose, during Lent to take up new practices; intentional practices to bring them closer to Jesus. Some focus on Bible Study, some on meditation, some on just faithfully coming to worship. What will you do to follow Jesus more closely this Lent? See you in church!



*-Pastor Rick*



# Mark Your CALENDAR



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—THURSDAY, MARCH 10

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, March 10, at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Area at CUCC. We will continue the Bible Study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me," learning from the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus.

A light brunch is provided on a rotation basis. The Women's Fellowship Gathering is open to all women. Join us and invite a friend! If you have any questions, please contact [Linda Evans](#), [Melba Shaffer](#), or [April Rothweiler](#) for more information. Hope to see you there!

## LUNCH BUNCH—THURSDAY, MARCH 24

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, March 24. Rev. Sally Robinson, the Director of Columbia Area Older Adult Ministries, will be with us to talk about the role of this particular ministry in caring for the older adults in our community. This is a ministry CUCC helped begin two decades ago, and has been going strong ever since. Come be part of the discussion!

Lunch Bunch is open to everyone of all ages. Bring a dish to share for the community meal or, if you prefer, bring a sack lunch. We gather at noon in the Fellowship Hall. It is always a great time for fun, fellowship, and education! Hope to see you there! **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

## FASTNACHT—TUESDAY, MARCH 1



Fastnacht is BACK! This German-style meal is a CUCC tradition that disappeared in 2017; but now it is returning with a whole new look! Fastnacht is the German version of "Fat Tuesday" or "Mardi Gras," a time to celebrate and eat good foods before Lent begins and before Christians traditionally observe some sort of "fasting." Fastnacht is the "night before the fast," a time to feast before we fast!

We will be serving traditional German Food, including "Fastnachts" (German donuts) at 5:30 that evening in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage you to arrive by 5:30, as we will also have music and other fun activities! We are asking everyone to RSVP so we know how much food to prepare, and so we can observe COVID protocols for safe hygiene. To do so, click here: [RSVP](#).

We will also need help on March 1 preparing the food, serving it, and cleaning up after. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact [Stefanie Zimny](#), [Audrey Lasley](#), [Melba Shaffer](#), or [Lena Muench](#)! Happy Fastnacht— the return of a great CUCC tradition!

## ANNUAL MEETING — May 15 @ 11:30 a.m.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be combined with a fellowship meal on May 15, following Worship Service. We will review the 2021 activities, make plans for our Centennial Year, elect leadership for 2022-2023, and celebrate our ministry together. Put it on your calendar now so you are sure to be there!

## COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3201 I-70 DRIVE NW  
COLUMBIA, MO 65202

### [Rev. Rick Oberle](#)

Pastor

### [Rev. Fred Brandenburg](#)

Pastor Emeritus

### [April Rothweiler](#)

Office Administrator

### [Brandon Brown](#)

Music Coordinator

### [Amy Crousore](#)

Organist/Accompanist

### [Jeremy Sturm](#)

Custodian

### [Erika Maltsbarger](#)

Director, Little One's Day Out

### [Raj Tolani](#)

Financial Secretary

## Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 Sunday School for all  
ages

10:00 Fellowship Time  
10:30 Worship

### Office Hours:

Monday through Friday  
9am- 3pm

Phone:  
(573) 445-7931

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

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



Thank you!



Dear Church Family,

Thank you for the many ways you helped me celebrate my 91st birthday! I had an eventful, happy week, and enjoyed all you did for me. Each card was appreciated, and the cake at Lunch Bunch was a real surprise!

Thank you again, **Alice Moon**

Dear Pastor Rick and CUCC,

Thank you for your gift. Your generosity makes an impact in the lives of the individuals that VAC serves daily through our FISH Fund. In 2021, the FISH Fund provided additional financial support to around 1,000 individuals in 500 households. We couldn't continue to do what we do without your ongoing support of VAC and our mission.

Sincerely,  
Ed Stansberry, Executive Director

Thank you for your support of **City of Refuge** and the work we do on a daily basis. Because of your donation, we are able to do more — build relationships and trust, and help refugees in Mid-MO navigate a new way of life. Without gifts like yours, this wouldn't be possible. Thanks for investing in the lives of our neighbors!

Debbie Beal, Executive Director

**Notes from two (out of many) sponsored VAC Christmas Drive families:**

Thank you! This means so much to me. Your kindness gives me hope! Bless you and your family. — Daisy

Dear Sponsor,

My family gives you thanks. We greatly appreciate you for making our Christmas wonderful. Honestly, with me not having a job, this time of year is very hard. I really thought I wouldn't be able to give my family the Christmas they needed. You are a blessing in every way! We thank you again for everything.

Sincerely, Lakreisha & family

Dear Reverend Oberle and CUCC,

Food insecurity is not a single-faceted issue. It is complex, like the situations which lead people to become insecure. We work to end hunger, whatever the cause. At the root of that effort is you.

Your recent generous gift to the **Food Bank** will help us continue to operate the Central Pantry in Columbia, which is one of the largest food pantries in the state. It is a crucial part of our grand operation of giving. Thank you for help making it possible.

Gratefully,  
Lindsay Young Lopez, President and CEO

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous gift to the **CWS Blankets** program. As families and communities around the world recover from emergencies and struggle in the face of unprecedented challenges, you are standing with them. Now more than ever, we are so grateful for your support.

Your contribution provides warmth, comfort, and hope to neighbors near and far. It provides a tangible reminder to migrant families that they are not alone as they seek safety. It wraps refugees in warmth as they arrive in the United States to build a new future. It provides comfort to our neighbors who have lost homes or are struggling in the face of extreme challenges. Around the world, your support means relief and hope.

Because of you, **Church World Service** is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed. Thanks to your compassion, we can, and will, change lives.

Sincerely,  
Rick Santos, President and CEO

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation to **Growing Hope Globally**. We are grateful that you have joined us in growing lasting solutions to hunger. For more than 20 years we have worked alongside our partners, helping people around the world to improve their incomes and food security. Your gift means even more people will experience the dignity and hope of providing for themselves!

Thank you for loving your global neighbors,  
Max Finberg, President and CEO

Dear Friends,

Your recent gift will make an immediate difference in the lives of the abused women and children served at Lydia's House, many of whom arrive full of fear and uncertainty about the future. We give women and children the time and resources necessary to rebuild their lives in the wake of domestic violence. Imagine for many of them, a life free from the fear of abuse!

A strength of **Lydia's House** is our open and inclusive atmosphere, and our investment in spiritual growth and healing, which honors women wherever they are, and ultimately supports their independence. You help us to continue to be a bridge to freedom for women and children who seek to escape violent homes.

Gratefully, Karen T. Kirk, President and CEO

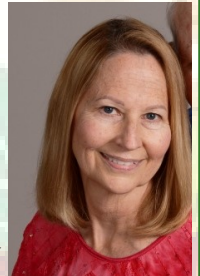
# CHURCH COUNCIL

## CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

The Church Council met on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. Those present in person were Kristy Odneal, Kurt Heine, John Bullerd, Lorry Dreier, Keith Birkes, Tricia Price, Linda Neale, Sue Ann Schaefer, and Audrey Lasley. Pastor Rick joined the meeting by Zoom.

- Keith Birkes led discussion on the first chapter of the book, *Neighborhood Church*.
- Empty spots were filled for Council Steward duties for the rest of February and part of March.
- No new update on the chancel lighting in the sanctuary.
- Still waiting for Tiger Security to install parts on the south basement door.
- The sealing for the driveway is done and rest of parking lot will be finished in the Spring/Summer.
- COVID-numbers are going down! Masks are still available to those who wish to wear one.
- A Sabbatical committee of 5 members is being formed.
- Still in the process of creating a policy to address virtual voting at Congregational meetings.
- LODO presented their new sign design and it was approved by the Council. One will go at the church entrance and another above the LODO entrance door.
- The Nominating Committee will be forming soon.
- The snow removal company that we are currently using does not seem to be getting the job done sufficiently. After much discussion, it was decided to see how they do if we have another snow in the near future.
- The Council approved the Finance & Stewardship team recommendation to transfer four of the Designated Funds to United Church Funds. Those funds are the Memorial Fund, Nurture & Education Fund, The Young Adult/Campus Ministry Fund and the Youth Ministry Fund. Council also approved their recommendation to close the existing money market account at Central Bank and move to the General Account of United Church Funds.
- Pastor Rick reported that job hunting for a custodian is not going well.
- Pastor Rick reported that Camp MoVal will be open this year and he will be there for a one week camp.
- Ministry team reports were given and/or reviewed.
- The next Council meeting is March 15.

Respectfully submitted,  
Audrey Lasley, Secretary



## SABBATICAL PLANS COMING ALONG

Our upcoming Sabbatical time is getting close. Pastor Rick begins his Sabbatical on August 1, and the Congregation of CUCC will be on Sabbatical, too. As he takes time off to focus in sabbath and renewal, the Congregation of CUCC will participate in activities that focus on renewal as well. As he spends time working with our mission in Chiapas, the Congregation will learn more about Chiapas and our relationship with Global Ministries as well. This is more than just time off for Pastor Rick; it is a time of renewal for us all.

Biblically, Sabbath Time was not just “a day off.” Sabbath was about renewal; of the land, of the community, of the faith and of the people. This is the theme for our Sabbatical Time as well; a time of renewal. We will be looking at new ways to learn, new ways to worship and new ways to serve as we explore our relationship with Global Ministries and welcome new pastoral leadership for a time. Pastor Rick will be gone August 1-October 31.

The Church Council has appointed a Sabbatical Team with intentional representation from the Worship & Music, Nurture & Education and Membership & Care Ministry Teams, as well as from the Clergy Personnel Committee. [Mike Pierson](#), [Pat Forward](#), [Anne Heine](#), [Judi Privitt](#) and [Kristy Odneal](#) (Moderator) will comprise this team. They will be meeting semi-monthly from now through November to plan for the Sabbath, guide us through the Sabbath, and plan a return from Sabbath and future evaluation. Their task will not be an easy one, but they will be united in work to not only keep the ministries of CUCC going, but thriving during the Sabbath.

If you have any questions about the upcoming Sabbatical, feel free to contact a member of the team!



# MODERATOR'S MOMENT



Our Church Council just began a new book study. We typically read a chapter each month then discuss what we can take away and how it applies to our church ministries. *Neighborhood Church*, by Kris Van Tatenhove and Rob Mueller, provides a vision for how congregations might shift toward more outward engagement and become a "powerhouse for mission."

As many of us know, this has always been a strength of CUCC. It's one of the reasons I am filled with gratitude when I reflect on being part of this church family. Our inclusion initiatives, preschool offerings and outreach to those in need in our community are just some of the ways we direct our time and gifts outward. It's exciting to think there may be ways we can reach beyond our current missions through an "outlook of abundance." In doing this, we will help our community and the world around us, and we will also move forward in our own faith journeys. As our book points out, "Often, we do mission with the perception that those on the receiving end are the ones in need. The truth, however, is that those most in need of conversion are often the givers..."

Thank you for being an important part of our church family, as we continue to carry out our mission together.

Gratefully,  
Kristy Odneal, Moderator



## March is Women's History Month! Here are some fun (or not so fun) facts about Women throughout history:

The first observed Women's History Day was held in 1909, but didn't become an observed month until 1987.	Every year holds a different "theme" for WHM. <b>The 2022 theme is, "Women Providing Healing, Promoting Hope."</b>
Wyoming was the first territory to allow women the right to vote, in 1924, <b>but the 19th Amendment (passed in 1920) only allowed white women to vote.</b>	Women make up 57.8% of the workforce, yet still suffer from workplace discrimination (especially during pregnancy and as a woman of "color") and unequal pay compared to men.

For more facts, visit <https://www.womensday.com/life/a34908026/womens-history-month-facts/>.

## CUCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Did you know there is a Scholarship Fund at CUCC? By definition, scholarships awarded from this fund are available to all *active* members of the congregation who are pursuing an education beyond High School. There is an application process and qualification criteria. Application forms are available in the church office. All applications are due by April 1, 2022 and will be considered by a team composed by the Vice Moderator, the Nurture and Education Ministry Team Chair, the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team Chair, and Pastor Rick. Awards from the fund will be disbursed after July 1 for the fall semester.

To receive an application or if you have any questions, contact [April Rothweiler](#), [Pastor Rick](#), [Kristy Odneal](#) (Moderator), [Kurt Heine](#) (Vice Moderator), or one of the Ministry Team Chairs listed below.

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	Kristy Odneal	kristyodneal@gmail.com
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Audrey Lasley	aklasley@centurytel.net
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sue Ann Schaefer	ssas3307@aol.com
<b>Recording Treasurer:</b>	Brent Marcks	brentmarcks@hotmail.com
<b>Building &amp; Grounds:</b>	John Bullerd	jbullerd51@gmail.com
<b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality:</b>	Stefanie Zimny	stefanie.zimny@gmail.com
<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship:</b>	Keith Birkes	kbirkes4@gmail.com
<b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation:</b>	Tricia Price	tricialprice@gmail.com
<b>Little One's Day Out:</b>	Lorry Dreier	llhd01@gmail.com
<b>Membership &amp; Care:</b>	Jessica Lucas	jucas@cpsk12.org
<b>Nurture &amp; Education:</b>	Linda Neale	lnealej@aol.com
<b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy:</b>	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
<b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>	Mike Pierson	mpierson@cpsk12.org



## FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

The Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team met on January 18 to make plans for the Spring. There will be many events coming up that you will be hearing about including FASTNACHT (March 1) and a Game Night (April 30). We will organize the Potluck for our Annual Congregational Meeting (May 15) and the Sunday School Picnic (June 5).

We are trying something new — First Friday Films! Starting April 1, we will be showing family friendly movies at CUCC on the First Friday of every month. Some will be outdoors on the “Big Screen” and some in the Fellowship Hall. Watch for more information about this!



Our next meeting will be March 15 at 5:30 p.m. to plan more fun and games! Come join the team, all are welcome. We have a lot of fun together!

Stefanie Zimny,  
Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team Chair

### 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!

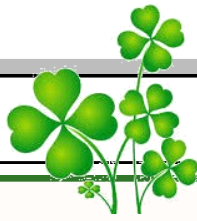
Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

### SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

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

We appreciate you sharing your gifts of time and talent with our CUCC family!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
03/06	Susan Durham	Mark & Jane Duncan	Confirmation Class	Confirmation Class	Lorry Dreier Matt Lucas	Jo Ellen Grace
03/13	Anne Heine	Jim Loveless	Lydia Whitacre	Abby Dennis	Josh Muench Brent Marcks	Melba Shaffer
03/20	Helen Schultz	Christine Staelens	Seth Smith	Raelyn Zimny	Carissa Graves Judi Privitt	Stefanie Zimny
03/27	Carol Duermeyer	Fred & Carolyn Malicoat	Judi Privitt	<b>NEED</b>	Ted Dachroeden Doug Privitt	Helen Schultz



# LODO MINISTRY TEAM

## LODO NEWS

February brought us a few snow days as the area was blanketed in snow and ice. That also meant lots of playtime inside. We learned lots about kindness, bucket filling, love and Valentine’s Day in our classrooms! We celebrated Valentine’s Day on February 14 and 15 with cards for our friends and special treats.

We are looking forward to more outside time in March as we head into Spring! Our learning themes will focus on Science/Sensory Activities, Dental Health/Health/Nutrition, St. Patrick’s Day/Rainbows/Noah’s Ark, and Spring/Bugs/Flowers.

### Math & Science Night – Thursday, March 3, 6:00-7:30 p.m.

LODO will host our first Math & Science Night on Thursday March 3 from 6:00-7:30pm! Activities will be spread out in our LODO classrooms and Fellowship Hall for families to rotate through and enjoy activities focusing on math and science. We welcome volunteers from the CUCC congregation to assist our staff at each station.

### 2022-2023 Enrollment

Our current families began enrollment for Fall 2022 on Sunday, February 27. Enrollment for remaining spaces will open to new families on Monday, March 7.

#### March Important Dates:

Mar 3	Math & Science Night
Mar 4	LODO CLOSED (CPS Closed)
Mar 7	2022-2023 Enrollment Opens for New Families
Mar 11	LODO Closed (Professional Development Day)
Mar 16	LODO CLOSED (CPS Closed)
Mar 21-25	Parent/Teacher Conferences
Mar 28-Apr 1	LODO Closed (Spring Break)

#### 2022-2023 Enrollment August 29, 2022 — May 19, 2023

Additional Information about the LODO Program is available at [www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome](http://www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome).

**Lightning Bugs Class:** 1 year old before Aug 1, 2022  
(hours are 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.)

**Lambs Class:** 2 years old before Aug 1, 2022

**Lions/Leopards Class:** 3 years old before Aug 1, 2022

**Leap Frogs / Leopards Class:** 4 years old before Aug 1, 2022

*\*Our Leopards Classroom will be assigned and utilized for the age group that has the most need for extra classroom space.*

Contact our Director, [Erika Maltsbarger](#), for information, to find out about openings, to schedule a tour, and to enroll!



With Love and Laughter,  
Erika Maltsbarger, Director







## INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY

We just completed our observance of Black History month and now transition into Women's History month. As Pastor Rick mentioned in his February Communicator note, some people wonder why we observe these particular months. There are some stats below that demonstrate why:

- There are 100 US Senators: 0 Black Women, 24 White Women meaning that women have only 24% representation in that body. (There are only 3 Black Men in the Senate.)
- There are 435 House of Representatives: 26 Black women, 125 White Women making that representation 35%. (There are only 34 Black Men in the House.)
- Current Supreme Court: 0 Black Women, 1 Black Man, 1 Hispanic Woman, 5 White Men and 2 White women.
- Just over 50% of the total US population is female, yet they are hugely underrepresented in the USA Branches of Government as are African Americans.

The lack of representation in government isn't the only issue:

The actress Geena Davis was watching cartoons with her 2-year-old daughter. She immediately noted that female characters were very few to none-at-all in that programming. She spoke to multiple studio heads (all of them men), regarding lack of female representation in all programming. Every one of them said, "Oh that used to be a problem, but we fixed it." In other words, they really didn't listen.

Ms. Davis decided to take matters into her own hands. She created the "Geena Davis Institute on Gender in Media." For 2 years the institute personnel meticulously collected data specifically on children's programming. This is what they found:

- 72% of speaking parts were male
- 4 out of 5 narrators were male
- Overall, in 2017, only 17% of characters were female

(Think about this: name characters from Sesame Street.... Burt, Ernie, Big Bird, The Count, Grover, Animal, the cook, the scientist and his side kick Beaker, Kermit. All are male except, of course, Miss Piggy.)

Why does this matter? 80% of all programming in the world is created in the US. The numbers above give the perception, subliminally to both boys and girls, that females are inconsequential, uninteresting, unimportant and that their existence is to orbit around the male characters, if females are there at all.

Ms. Davis has created a mantra for her study on gender bias in children/youth media: "If she can see it, she can be it." There are multiple examples of that being true – one came after the 2012 movies "Brave" and "The Hunger Games" were released. Both of these films happened to show women archers. After their release, there was a 105% increase in girls and women taking up the sport.

Another example can be seen on the TV screen. It is called, "The CSI Effect." After seeing a woman as a crime scene scientist/pathologist, there was an increase in women going into that field. Now, in real life, 50% of individuals in that field are women.

The next Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team Meeting  
will be on March 29 at 6:30 p.m.  
If you are interested in joining the team, contact us today!

In Justice, Equality, and Peace,  
Tricia Price, Chair  
Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Member





## WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM



For Women's History Month I would like to honor some of the women that helped make me into the musician I am today.

Of course, my mom, Vanessa Brown, has been there every step of the way aside from being my biggest supporter, she was my chauffer to rehearsals and concerts, and made sure I had a wide range of cultural experiences.

The Minister of Music at the church where I grew up, Regina Taylor-Sligh, saw something special in me and asked me to direct the youth choir. It was during that time I cultivated my skills as a choir director, learned to sing and teach each part by rote, and improved my gospel singing.

The beginning of my classical training was with Josephine Poelinitz, who was the Director of the All-City Elementary Youth Chorus. My brother was in the choir, and I went with him to rehearsal. Ms. Poelinitz asked me to sing and invited me into the choir when I was in the third grade, and I stayed there through ninth grade. The choir was for fourth to eighth graders. In All-City I was the section leader and a featured soloist. Josephine is well-known for her song, "City Called Heaven," which the Celebration Singers will perform.

I owe a debt of gratitude to these women, and many others, who molded me into the singer and director I am today.

Brandon Brown, M.M.  
Music Coordinator



### Worship & Music Notes

At the February Council meeting, the Church Council approved hiring two section leaders for the Celebration Singers for a three month time period. This has been a request from both our former and current Music Coordinator/Choir Director to provide leadership in a couple of the sections of the choir as it is being successfully implemented in several other churches across Columbia. Pay for the positions will be \$30/session (rehearsal, worship); \$60/week. \$1560 (maximum) was allocated for this for the term (\$120/week x 13 weeks) from the Worship & Music Designated Fund. The integrity and professional discernment the Council (and we hope, the Congregation) is seeing in our current Music Coordinator, Brandon Brown, was a factor in their decision to go ahead with this plan. Council is looking at this as a "new idea" that they want to try for a period and see how it works; and if they like the results, look for ways to make it happen again this fall. If this program is successful this semester, they will bring it to the Congregational Meeting on May 15 for the Congregation's approval.

Phase two of the update to the sanctuary technology will begin this spring. New lighting will be installed to better illuminate the chancel, organ, and bell choir areas. These areas have long been the least lit areas when they naturally should be the brightest areas. The addition of these lights will also improve the picture quality in our streaming, allowing the cameras to zoom in closer without the image getting "grainy." These lights will be similar to theatrical lighting and be suspended from the ceiling on two sides of the center aisle.



Phase three of the update to the sanctuary including carpet, windows, window coverings, other flooring, handrails, etc. is still in the works.

Mike Pierson,  
Worship & Music Ministry Team Chair

# FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

## WHAT IS A QCD AND AM I ELIGIBLE?

Are you over age 70 ½ and have an IRA or Inherited IRA? If so, you have another option available to contribute to Joyful Giving at CUCC. This is called a Qualified Charitable Distribution or QCD.

Certain IRA holders have the opportunity to make tax-free distributions from their IRAs to qualified charitable organizations. For tax-free eligibility, the Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) must be sent directly from the IRA payable to the receiving qualified non-profit organization.

### **Eligibility and Donation Limit:**

Although the SECURE Act raised the required minimum distribution age to 72, IRA holders can continue to make QCDs at age 70 1/2. In addition, beneficiaries of inherited IRAs who meet the age requirement can also take advantage of QCDs. For those who qualify, the maximum IRA charitable distribution is limited to \$100,000 per individual per tax year.

### **Benefits of a QCD :**

If a taxpayer makes the donation as prescribed by the IRS, then the distribution will be excluded from gross income and counts toward the taxpayer's \$100,000 exclusion limitation for the year the distribution occurs, and the taxpayer's required minimum distribution (RMD) for the current year. With the increase in the standard deduction for 2022 to \$28,700 for married filing jointly age 65 or older and \$14,700 for single filers age 65 or older, more Americans will be using the standard deduction rather than itemizing deductions on their tax returns. **Please consult your accountant or tax professional for tax-related advice.**



Paula Wilson,  
Church Member, Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Member

*Christian Stewardship: The Belief that everything we have is a gift from God; and we are just stewards of it.*  
— Rev. David Lewis Beebe

## TREASURER'S REPORT — Brent Marcks

As of 01/31/2021 we are **\$6,157**  
behind in Joyful Giving for 2022.

### Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Jan. Income	\$18,831.22	\$25,083.33	(\$6,252.11)
YTD Income	\$18,831.22	\$25,083.33	(\$6,252.11)
Jan. Expenses	\$28,980.59	\$29,166.20	(\$185.61)
YTD Expenses	\$28,980.59	\$29,166.20	(\$185.61)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$10,149.37)	(\$4,082.87)	(\$6,066.50)
Jan. Attendance	279		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
02/06/22	69	\$2,410.80	\$7,171.83
02/13/22	62	\$5,305.00	\$7,171.83
02/20/22	58	\$3,165.00	\$7,171.83
02/27/22	72	\$2,602.32	\$7,171.83
<b>Total</b>	261	\$13,483.12	\$28,687.32

## CUCC ONLINE GIVING

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

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

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



## SPRING FORWARD INTO STEWARDSHIP– MARCH 13

Our annual celebration of Stewardship will be March 13, with a guest speaker in worship and a pot luck meal after worship. At this celebration: we will discuss the financial picture of the church, including the status of our Designated Funds; invite members to make a commitment to the active life of the church through financial goals and time and talent opportunities; talk about events and activities coming up in the life of the church, including Pastor Rick's Sabbatical; and discuss ways to be active in the life of the church beyond financial stewardship.

Rev. Bob Atkinson, UCC Pastor and Leader in the Western Association of the Missouri Mid-South Conference, will be our speaker. Since this event is about Stewardship, we are currently planning to make this a "Pot Luck" meal. Everyone is asked to contribute something to the meal — a main dish, side dish, and/or dessert. The Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team will also provide a main dish to supplement the offerings brought by the congregation.

This event will be about Stewardship, but it is also about Fellowship, a chance for us all to gather together and celebrate the life of the church, our individual roles as members of the Body of Christ, and our communal role as Christ's Body, the church. If you have any questions, talk to [Keith Birkes](#), Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Chair.

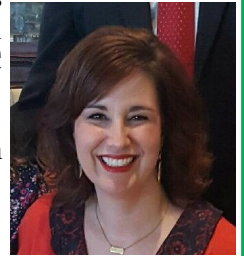
## MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

**We have a place for your talents and passions! Join a CUCC CARES Ministry!**

Our Note Writers, Meal Ministry, Shawl Ministry, and Prayer Ministry members have been busy showing their care and love. We'd love to have you join one of those teams, and we're still seeking volunteers for our Transportation Ministry. Can you volunteer once a month or so to pick up a church member who has difficulty getting to church on their own? Join one (or more!) of our CUCC CARES (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) Ministries.

Follow this [link](#) to sign-up. You can also email or talk to [Judi Privitt](#) or [Jessica Lucas](#) to sign up.

Jessica Lucas, Membership & Care Ministry Team Chair



### March Birthdays to Celebrate!

Steve Keithahn (03/01)	Tim Soncasie (03/01)	Jim Buesing (03/02)
Katie Marienfeld (03/03)	Linda Graves (03/05)	Gary Sieckman (03/05)
Jonathon Schultz (03/06)	Alan Bernhardt (03/07)	Steve Camden (03/07)
Fred Brandenburg (03/09)	Katelin Odneal (03/09)	Paul Sanderson (03/10)
Dalane Camden (03/11)	Linda Simmons (03/11)	Emily Malicoat (03/12)
Sophia Schupp (03/12)	Dori Marcks (03/13)	Laura Gartner (03/13)
Sue McDaniel (03/13)	Sharon Rapp (03/14)	Janet Shepard (03/14)
Adelynn Zimny (03/16)	Phillip Neale (03/18)	Chris Schupp (03/18)
Jessica Lucas (03/20)	Jason Schoeneberg (03/20)	Harold Hackman (03/21)
Marcia Crousore (03/23)	Christine Mseke (03/23)	Lena Muench (03/23)
Edie Diel (03/24)	Susan Dunham (03/36)	Rusty Monhollon (03/26)
Aidan Pierson (03/27)	Trevor Pierson (03/27)	Ron Schmidt (03/28)
	Larry Elliott (03/31)	

**Happy Anniversary to: John & Elizabeth Tummons and Travis & Tiffany Brookshire!**



# OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

## LOAVES & FISHES

The February 21 meal at L&F consisted of spaghetti, salad (provided by Patty Beeson), and cookies (provided by Jolene Kirchhoff). PBJ's were made and provided by Mahree Skala.

The servers for the evening were Patty Beeson, Anne Heine, Keith Birkes, Pastor Rick, and Whitney Wipfler. We served approximately 136 servings. Thank you so much to everyone! March 21 at 4:30 p.m. is CUCC's next commitment. If you are interested in serving with us, contact [Audrey Lasley](#).

## FOOD BANK NEWS

The January Food Bank crew packed "Love Boxes" with staple foods for distribution through nonprofit agencies. The time went fast with our great crew-Cliff Beckman, Keith Birkes, Anne Heine, Connie Loveless, Phillip Neale, Melba Shaffer, Mahree Skala and Tricia Soncasie.

The March shift will be on March 22 at 5:30 p.m. Please register in advance using the link in the Friday email. If you have any problems, please contact [Mahree Skala](#) at skalamahree@yahoo.com or 573-474-2195.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES- ROOM AT THE INN

Room At the Inn provides a warm and safe place for our homeless to sleep during the winter months (thru March 12). Volunteers (must be 18 years or older) can assist in a number of different ways depending on availability, and there are paid staff working onsite with you. Each night is broken into several shifts with specific duties. Shifts are: 5:30—7:30 a.m.; 5:30—6:30 p.m.; 6:00—9:30 p.m. [CLICK HERE](#) to volunteer, or to find out more information. We are all one community, and it's cold outside! Thank you!

## "AHL — CUCC FOOD DRIVE"

AHL is in need of food stuffs to keep its Pantry supplied for the school children in need during the remainder of this school year, in addition to youth pants. Please consider donating the following:

### Easy-open lids:

- |            |                 |
|------------|-----------------|
| Vegetables | Chicken         |
| Fruit      | Tomato sauce    |
| Soup       | Spaghetti sauce |
| Tuna       | Ravioli         |

### Packages of:

- |                       |                                |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Applesauce            | Oatmeal                        |
| Noodles               | Granola bars                   |
| Ramen noodles         | Cereal bars                    |
| Peanut butter & Jelly | Peanut butter & Other crackers |

### Youth Pants:

Boy & Girls size 7/8 & up

*The "AHL — CUCC Food Drive" ends MARCH 20, 2022.*

THANK YOU for any donation, to support our public education students, teachers and staff during these challenging times!!! You are amazing CUCC!!

Llona C. Weiss  
Liaison for CUCC to AHL-Partner Friend





# STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

COALITION OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

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

## March is Women's History Month, and the theme is Women: Providing Healing, Promoting Health.

What better way than to support other women through acts of service and love! We are providing survivors of Human Trafficking in the Columbia area and surrounding areas with "Women Are Power" baskets/bins. Each basket/bin will have items that encourage them and equip them with HOPE. If you want to be a part of this awesome surprise, contact me to find out what we need and how you can help.



We are also in need of volunteers that can provide rides to and from appointments, jobs, and give assistance with grocery shopping. It is a rewarding and challenging volunteer position that you won't regret. This is one way you can be a part of the solution to an age old, but continually growing and tragic reality for many. Will you join me in supporting and loving women in our community that need an uplifting voice and presence in their lives? Change starts with you! — April Rothweiler

If you would like more information about how you can volunteer with CMSHTC, please contact [me](#).



## Ronald McDonald House Charities® Mid-Missouri

### BIG MOVES ARE AFOOT AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

*(condensed from a letter to CUCC by Terri Gray,  
Executive Director of COMO Ronald McDonald House)*

As you may be aware, MU Healthcare made the decision to move Children's Hospital from Keene Street back to their main medical campus. While we understand their need to consolidate facilities, we firmly believe families should be within steps, not miles, of where their child is receiving treatment. Because of this, our Board of Directors has made the decision to sell the existing RMD facility and construct a NEW Ronald McDonald House close to where the new Children's Hospital Tower will be located.

We have a buyer for our current facility! St. Raymond's Society will take ownership of the house in early 2023. We are working with MU Healthcare to secure a temporary location to serve families until construction of our NEW Ronald McDonald House is complete.

Based on current construction estimates, less net proceeds from the sale of our existing facility, we will launching a campaign to raise an additional \$4 million for the NEW Ronald McDonald House. Located on the northeast corner of College Ave. and Stadium Blvd., the 27,000 square foot home will include 24 bedrooms, more communal areas, private spaces to relax and ample outdoor living space. The new facility will have six more bedrooms than our current house and will increase our space by 9000 square feet. This will allow us to serve more of our community in need. Plan now to participate in our "**Building Love, Expanding Hope**" campaign to raise the funds needed for this NEW Ronald McDonald House.

Families come to Ronald McDonald House in search of a place to stay within steps of their child receiving critical medical treatment. The Ronald McDonald House keeps families together near the care they need and that gives them hope— hope for a positive recovery, for seeing their child smile again, and for taking their child home. This move and expansion will allow us to serve more families and keep them close to their hospitalized children.

We will keep you posted on our progress; and you can keep track of what is new with our mission by visiting our [website](#) (rmhcmidmo.org). Please consider becoming a member of our [RED SHOE SOCIETY](#). For only \$65/year, you can support Ronald McDonald House and receive regular news and updates about our work.

*(Note from Pastor Rick: Ronald McDonald House in Columbia is a private, not-for-profit agency that is partners with the McDonalds Corporation, but is not owned or operated by them. They receive philanthropic support from McDonalds franchisees in this market and from donations made at the counter in McDonalds restaurants; but that only accounts for around 20% of their income. The rest of their annual income comes from fundraising events, such as pull tab collections, dinners, and from private donations and grants. Some people believe that RMD House is fully funded by McDonalds— it is not. 80% of their operating budget comes from sources other than McDonalds. They are truly a community organization!)*

# NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM



**The Souper Bowl of Caring Fundraiser**, following Worship on Sunday, February 13, raised \$244! Thank you to Abby and Hayley Dennis for helping. And thank you all who participated! Proceeds will be donated to Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School (our Partnership Friend).

**Thank you to Judi Privitt** for leading the Adult Sunday School book discussion “Holy Chaos.” It was extremely thought-provoking and promoted lively discussion and insight into possible ways of improving conversations between people with opposing views on current societal issues.

Lena Muench has presented **an exciting opportunity for our Youth**, entitled “Float Your Boat.” It sounds like a spectacularly fun activity which involves building a boat out of cardboard and “sailing” it at the lake behind “Bass Pro,” the purpose being to fundraise for a worthwhile cause.

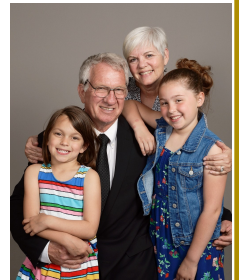


We are temporarily combining Preschool through 5th grade Sunday School classes and Middle School and High School Classes until attendance picks up again. There will be two teachers for each combined class.

Peace and Love, Linda Neale  
Nurture & Education Ministry Team

## Sunday Morning Adult Classes 9:00 — 10:00 a.m.

We are excited to **welcome Phillip Neale** as our new Adult Bible Study Discussion Leader. This class is meeting in the Adult classroom upstairs.



## RESPONDING TO CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM



Pastor Rick will be leading a class from March 6-27, called “Responding to Christian Nationalism.” Christian Nationalism is a serious problem in the US as people attempt to combine church with state and come up with an idea of Christianity that is very much unlike Jesus. This four-part series will give us an opportunity to define Christian Nationalism, discuss why it is problematic, and reflect on how Christians should respond to this threat to our faith. We will watch several video clips from authoritative theologians discussing this problem, and discuss Biblical passages that address this issue. Join Pastor Rick for the four Sundays of March to discuss Christian Nationalism and how it is eroding our faith today.

## HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS

April Rothweiler will be leading a three week class discussing Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention, beginning April 24 and continuing through May 8.



## WHAT IS CHRISTIAN NATIONALISM?

*AND MORE IMPORTANTLY— WHY SHOULD WE WORRY ABOUT IT?*

*By Pastor Rick*

On January 6, 2021, people around the world were shocked to see a display of cowardice cloaked in the American Flag as insurgents tried to overthrow democracy and assassinate elected leaders of our country. While this was shocking in itself, perhaps more shocking was the presence of Christian symbolism among the terrorists, claiming that their actions were in God’s name and divinely authorized. One stance of note was the placards that proclaimed “Jesus 2020” as if the Messiah was a candidate to be elected and who would govern our nation.

Other evidence of Christian Nationalism in our culture are movements to insist that children pray in school in ways that are choreographed by Christian Fundamentalists; movements to insist that courthouses display religious iconography such as the Ten Commandments; and movements to insist that the government declare the US a “Christian Nation.” These movements are perversions of Christianity, an attempt to force one particular understanding of faith (Fundamentalist Christianity) on everyone, using the Christ as a weapon.

The danger of Christian Nationalism is not only the damage it is doing to our country, but the damage it is doing to our faith. Emerging generations see the extremist views of Christian Nationalism and define Christianity by these expressions; this causes them to reject Christianity outright. If this is how Christians behave, emerging generations want no part of it. Join me (Pastor Rick) for four Sundays in March as we examine how Christians should react to Christian Nationalism. For more information and a YouTube Video [CLICK HERE](#).



Churches of the Missouri Mid-South Conference have travelled to Chiapas four times in the past six years, working alongside the Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research, one of our Global Ministries Mission partners in Chiapas. We have worked alongside them in towns and villages, learning about the people of Chiapas and the ways of life in the communities of Chiapas. We have also helped construct a new facility on the grounds at [The Institute](#), a facility that has more than tripled their institutional capacity and ability to do ministry with the people of their communities.

[The Institute](#) is not the only Global Ministries Mission partner in Chiapas. On our last trip, we had the opportunity to work with another one of our Mission Partners, [Melel Xojobal](#), an agency that works solely with children in need. [Melel Xojobal](#) means “True Light” in the indigenous Tzotzil language, and they focus on being a light of hope for children whose only other alternative is the dark of hopelessness.

The work of Melel Xojobal can be broken into three areas: early childhood work, support and advocacy for the rights of child workers, and work with young people. Melel Xojobal’s early childhood work focuses on girls and boys from 0 to 4 years old. Melel Xojobal works with children and their parents to address topics such as nutritional, physical, and social skills. Their work with child workers seeks to defend the rights of indigenous children who work in the streets, markets, and public areas of the city. Melel Xojobal seeks to see the children's working conditions improved through self-care strategies and risk reduction. Melel Xojobal also works with young people ages 13 to 18 to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles and self-protection strategies that revolve around prevention of substance abuse, as well as finding dignified work.

**Our next “Mission Trip” to Chiapas will be summer, 2022! We will leave St. Louis on July 8 and return on July 15.** While we are in Chiapas, we will spend most of our time in the city of [San Cristobal](#), working with The Institute and Melel Xojobal. We will have the opportunity to see several indigenous museums, including the Chocolate Museum, and immerse ourselves in the culture of Chiapas. We will spend time in the marketplaces, and worship at an indigenous church. We will learn about the life and context of the Indigenous Mayan communities that make up Chiapas, and we will even do some work; but work is not the focus of the trip. Education and relationship is the focus. The work will be suited for all abilities; all are welcome to come along, from age 16 up to age 90+! (Due to the nature of the trip, we are not encouraging anyone under 16 to participate.)

The cost for this trip is \$1450. This includes airfare, lodging for 7 days and 6 nights, food for that timeframe, transportation to and from the airport in Tuxtla Gutierrez and other transportation, and other incidentals. All expenses are included in that price, except souvenirs you may wish to buy. For a week long mission trip, it is very economical. **Everyone who participates must be able to show proof of COVID vaccination**, and have a current passport. We may have to take a COVID test before returning home, as well.

**There is a limit of ten people for this trip – so make your commitment early!** Due to transportation issues, we cannot have more than this number. If you would like to go, talk to Pastor Rick. He has packets with detailed information and registration materials. Registrations must be turned in by March 1. We will be purchasing tickets at that time, so get yours in early! Registration will include the completed registration form, a copy of your passport, and a copy of your COVID vaccination card.

This will be an amazing, life-changing experience! Make plans now to come along!







## CUCC IS WORKING IN HONG KONG

The Hong Kong Christian Council (HKCC) is the ecumenical body of Christian churches, organizations and institutions in Hong Kong. While most social services were suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic, HKCC and its service unit, Hong Kong Christian Service (HKCS) never stopped serving the community. They maintained basic services like a medical clinic, where procedures were put in place to protect both colleagues and patients. Their integrated Home Care Service Teams continue to provide meal delivery and escorting services to help the elderly live with ease during this challenging time. The mission of HKCS is to develop fellowship and promote projects and activities among the churches and Christian organizations in Hong Kong. HKCC is a symbol of Christian Unity that speaks to and acts on issues affecting the religious, moral, economic and social life of the community.

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

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

**March 6-12**  
**Brigitte Eale**  
**Working in Kenya**



**March 13-19**  
**Raul Santiago-Rivera**  
**Working in Puerto Rico**



**March 20-26**  
**John Campbell-Nelson**  
**Working in Indonesia**



**March 27-April 2**  
**Emmanuela Loccident**  
**Working in Morocco**



## CUCC IS WORKING IN MEXICO

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

The Round Table for Mission Development in Mexico, a Global Ministries partner, consists of three UCC/DOC partner congregations united in service. Since 2006, the Round Table has been a space for the three churches to do God's mission and live out God's reconciliation in a united way within the volatile context of Mexican churches and society.

Projects that the Round Table for Mission Development in Mexico have developed include projects by women of the three member churches. These projects are micro-credit efforts through which women take out loans at a low interest rate for family income-generation projects. Then, they pay back the loans from the proceeds of their project in order to benefit additional women with loans.

One project included a couple who has purchased 32 goats with a loan provided by the project. From these goats they will sell the goat's milk and meat as they reproduce. Another micro-credit project is of pig-raising. Pastor Claudia and her husband have adult and baby pigs. They will keep some to reproduce and others will be sold for meat. Another project involves Karen and her husband. They purchased 15 sheep that were expecting and 20 young males. They are fattening the sheep and selling the lambs for meat. Other micro-credit projects include a woman who sells items at a bazaar, two women who cook and sell food from their home, and another woman who makes tamales using the church's kitchen and sells them.

Looking towards the future, The Round Table hopes to increase and develop its capacity for more projects and conferences, in order to enrich, empower, and sow solidarity between women and their communities around the world.







	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10am Quilters	2 Ash Wednesday	3 6pm LODO Math & Science Night in Fellowship Hall	4 Pastor Rick's day off <b>LODO &amp; CPS Closed</b>	5
6 7:30am Men's Fellowship <b>9:00am Sunday School</b> 10:30am Worship 11:30am Nominating Committee Meeting Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a>	7 10:30am Staff Meeting	8 10am Quilters <b>International Women's Day</b>	9 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Celebration Singers	10 9:30am Women's Fellowship 6:30pm – Sabbatical Team	11 Pastor Rick's day off <b>LODO Closed—</b> Fellowship Hall in use for LODO Professional Development Day	12
13 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a> Spring Forward into Stewardship Pot Luck	14 10:30am Staff Meeting	15 10am Quilters 5:30pm Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team 6:30pm Church Council	16 Pastor Rick @ the Bluffs <b>LODO &amp; CPS Closed</b> 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Celebration Singers	17 	18 Pastor Rick's day off	19
20 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a>	21 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30 Leaves & Fishes 6:30 Nurture & Education Ministry Team	22 10am Quilters 6:30pm Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting	23 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Choir	24 12pm Lunch Bunch 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team	25 Pastor Rick's day off	26 Fellowship Hall in use 8:00am-5:00pm
27 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a>	28 10:30am Staff Meeting <b>LODO Spring Break</b> 6:30 Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	29 <b>LODO Spring Break</b> 6:30pm Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	30 <b>LODO Spring Break</b> 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Choir	31	Apr 1 April Fools Day	Apr 2

# 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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## 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.



### 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.

### 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.