

THE COMMUNICATOR

June 2021



“New Beginnings”

From the Pastor’s Keyboard

*This is a Day of New Beginnings
Time to remember and move on
Time to believe what love is bringing,
Laying to rest the pain that’s gone...*

This is a Day of New Beginnings . . . We sang this hymn in worship on Pentecost, the birthday of the church, to celebrate and remember the power God has given to us through the Holy Spirit. Reflecting on Pentecost, we discussed how God poured out God’s Holy Spirit on those First Century Apostles and they were renewed.

This Pentecost Season is a time of New Beginnings for us, as well. On Pentecost Sunday a new Church Council was installed to do the leadership tasks of the Church. This gathered body will be ensuring that God’s Will is carried out in this place through policy and empowerment; but they can only lead if you are willing to work with them.

This sounds daunting, but what can be more joyful than ensuring God’s will is fulfilled? There is great joy in this task, and it is a joy that is shared. Our call as a Church Members is to work together, following the leadership of the Council, and as we divide the responsibilities, the joy is multiplied. Working together, God’s Will is Done.

Time to remember and move on . . . At our Annual Meeting on May 16, we celebrated all that this church has done together during the pandemic. While other churches were shutting down, we were continuing to be in ministry. Many Council members were instrumental in keeping things going and thriving as a Church during this time. Their leadership was invaluable during the pandemic; and now, as we move beyond the pandemic, it is not time to rest. We take our memory of their leadership during this time and use it to formulate the new and powerful ways God’s Holy Spirit is calling us to be in 2021-2022. Moving on, post-pandemic, we remember what was accomplished and are inspired by this moment in time.

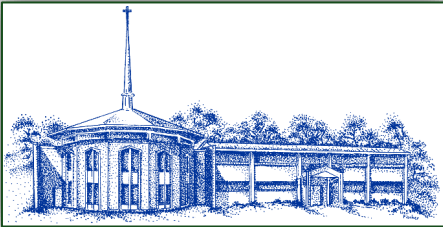
Time to believe what Love is bringing . . . This is the hard part; ***believing***. It is easy to believe in God intellectually, but do we believe in our hearts? Do we believe that God is giving us clarity and leadership skills equal to this task? Do we have the same faith in ourselves that God has in us? If we doubt, the journey is tougher for everyone.

Laying to rest the pain that’s gone . . . There is always pain in a New Beginning. Sorrow over what was, opportunity cost for what could have been, fear about what is waiting for us. Many in our congregation will have pain, fear, longing for what is gone. It will be up to us to acknowledge that and put those fears to rest as we move on in our work.

The last line of this song is, ***“Our God is making All Things New!”***

This is our joy and our inspiration as members of CUCC. Our God IS making all things new; and we get to be part of it. I am looking forward to seeing what joys and challenges this next year in ministry will bring us at Columbia United Church of Christ!

-Pastor Rick



COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3201 I-70 DRIVE NW
COLUMBIA, MO 65202

[Rev. Rick Oberle](#)

Pastor

[Rev. Fred Brandenburg](#)

Pastor Emeritus

[April Rothweiler](#)

Office Administrator

[Ed Rollins](#)

Music Coordinator

[Amy Crousore](#)

Organist/Accompanist

[Erika Maltzberger](#)

Director, Little One's Day Out

[Raj Tolani](#)

Financial Secretary

Sunday Worship Schedule

Summer Schedule begins
June 13:

9:00 Fellowship Time
9:30 Worship

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9am- 3pm

Phone:
(573)-445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com

Website:
www.columbiaucc.com

June dates to remember . . .

- June 6** VBS Preview in Sunday School
Adult Ed Class on Conversion Therapy
Graduates Recognition before and during worship
Sunday School Picnic after worship
- June 10** Women's Fellowship
- June 19** Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team Movie Night
- June 20** **Father's Day!**
- June 24** Lunch Bunch with Pastor Rick
- June 27** Open and Affirming Sunday- reception after worship



Doughnuts and Diplomas – June 6, 2021

Please join CUCC in congratulating Graduates on Sunday, June 6, 2021. There will be a reception in the Gathering Space during Fellowship Time from 10:00-10:30 a.m. to recognize and congratulate them, along with recognition during Worship.



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Women's Fellowship will gather on **Thursday, June 10, at 9:30 a.m.** in the Gathering Area upstairs.

Our time together begins with a light brunch, supplied by two of the women on a rotational basis. The food is always good! After we eat, we begin our Bible Study. The current study is based on the topic of lamentation throughout the Bible. We use a curriculum titled, "Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament." After Bible Study and prayer, we have a short business meeting to plan for upcoming activities.

All women of the church are invited to join us — no matter your age or who you are! This is a great time to make new friends, to renew old acquaintances, and to reconnect with God through the scriptures. For more information, contact [Mariann Bullerd](#), [Melba Shaffer](#), or [April Rothweiler](#).

CUCC Lunch Bunch

CUCC Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, June 24, in the Fellowship Hall at noon with a carry-in meal. This group is open to everyone regardless of age or any other determining factor. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Pastor Rick will talk about Summer Camp, Outdoor Ministries, and the future of Camp MoVal!

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

ADVENTURE ISLAND

Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2021 – Save the Date

Monday-Wednesday evenings August 2, 3 & 4, 2021.
(see page 13)



I would like to thank everyone for the thoughts and prayers I received during my illness. All of the cards were appreciated. I am home now. Hoping that soon we can all get together and worship.

Donna Wilmsmeyer

Dear friends in Christ,

Thank you for your generous donation to The **United Church of Christ** to support International Emergencies. Because of your kindness, we are able to help people rebuild their communities and bring comfort to their lives.

Aid provided to individuals from the early days of recovery and relief through the long-term recovery phase makes a big difference. Communities faced with devastating challenges find strength and hope in knowing that you care.

May God's grace sustain you!

Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, General Minister & President

Thank you for **Cleaning up Columbia!**

A record number of CUCC volunteers (27 people) picked up a record amount of trash near the church on April 24. We started the morning with a light drizzle, but it soon stopped, and we retrieved **48** bags of trash plus several bulky items like car parts and a tire. We especially want to thank our young, strong helpers—Riley Hayward, Caleb and Landon Muench, Katelin Odneal, and Danielle Dreier—along with the rest of the crew listed below:

Cliff Beckman, Keith Birkes, Ted & Mona Dachroeden, Lorry Dreier, Pat Forward, Jo Ellen Grace, Anne Heine, Barry & Jolene Kirchhoff, Audrey Lasley, Connie & Jim Loveless, Lena & Josh Muench, Linda Neale, Kristi Odneal, Darla Privitt, Mahree & Karl Skala, Ginny Van Hove, and Llona Weiss.

We enjoyed a delicious lunch in the shelter house afterwards, provided by the Fellowship and Hospitality Team via Audrey Lasley and Stefanie Zimny.

ANITA'S STORY, FROM HABITAT FOR HUMANITY:

In 2001, five churches partnered with Anita to make her dream of owning her own home come true. One of those churches was Columbia United Church of Christ. This month, Anita officially paid off her mortgage! She wanted Habitat for Humanity to reach out to the churches that supported her in 2001 and express her sincere gratitude and tell everyone she held up her end of the bargain. Anita paid a zero-interest mortgage over the last 20 years. Her home is now hers- debt free!

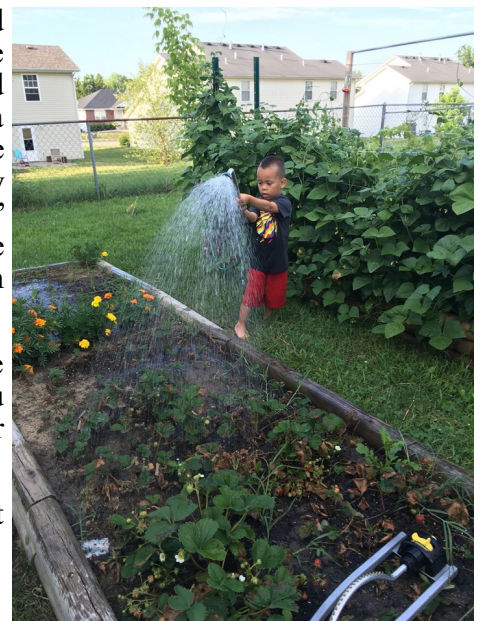
Anita and her two children had a pretty rough home life before they moved to Columbia. Anita retired from the US Navy and married a man that she would come to know as abusive to her and her children. To escape the abuse, Anita moved her family, even though it meant they would have to live in a homeless shelter for almost a year. She believed that God would protect her and her children and set them on the right path. Anita started classes at the University of Missouri and was able to live on campus. That is where she heard about Habitat for Humanity. She recalled the groundbreaking ceremony for her home being very emotional. She said the church members spent the day praying over her and the land, singing songs and getting to work. She felt so blessed. She said, "The home just anchored us as a family."

Throughout the years, she and her daughter have remodeled and repainted. They even spent one Thanksgiving together tiling the whole home. Every change, adding a little bit more of their personality and pride in their home. She has spent years turning her back yard into a vegetable garden. Her grandson loves to help his grandmother in the garden! Anita loves that her whole family can gather and feel completely safe and at home in their Habitat home. She wants to say "Thank you" again for the support and energy each church member put into the place she has called home over the last 20 years. It would not have been possible without you!

Your church has been a loyal partner with Habitat for Humanity over the years and we want you to know how much we appreciate you! Thank you for making service to the Columbia community a big part of your churches mission!

A huge THANK YOU to: Calvary Episcopal; Christian Chapel; First Presbyterian; Trinity Presbyterian; **Columbia United Church of Christ**

Pictured: Anita's grandson helping in the garden



CHURCH COUNCIL

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

Secretary's Report *(from our May 18 meeting)*

The Church Council met for a meeting to transition from retiring council members to incoming council members at **6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 18**. We continued our discussion of the book, *Piloting the Church*. The author, Cameron Trimble, encourages churches to make a "Heroic Journey" by following the example of Jesus. Trimble believes that finding the courage to stand up to wrongs in our society and to make a difference in the world can help congregations find life-giving energy and authenticity.

Work on the Shelter House floor has been delayed by the cool, wet weather, but we are hopeful this will be completed before the end of May. LED lighting fixtures are scheduled to be installed downstairs in the summer, with current fixtures being moved to a different spot for better energy efficiency.

Interviews will be held for a part time custodian later this week, and we hope to have a new custodian to welcome in June. We were able to tour some of the security upgrades that have recently been installed, including the placement of video cameras in places throughout the church, including the sanctuary. Enhancements also allow some of the doors to be locked and unlocked remotely.

The council voted to sponsor two raised bed gardens near the shelter house to use for teaching our LODO children. A call is out for anyone who wants to be a part of a CUCC garden club!

The Heifer Project goal of raising \$5000 was surpassed on Mother's Day, along with raising awareness of the many ways that the Heifer Project changes lives.

We discussed modifications we will use, beginning on Pentecost, to distribute the elements for altar communion in a way that is safe as regards disease prevention. We will continue to wear masks for the present, even as we look forward to a time when more of the population, including our children, are fully vaccinated.

Finally, we voted to renew the apprenticeship of our organ scholar, Lucy Smith, for the coming trimester, and to fund continuing education for her at a pipe organ retreat for youth this summer. We also approved a new iPad for the use of our music department as more music resources move to digital formats.

Posters showing the many ways that members of CUCC engaged in ministry during the pandemic are on display near the sanctuary. It is heartwarming to see the many ways that CUCC members were able to stay in touch with each other and remain faithful stewards during the pandemic.

Connie Loveless, Interim Secretary



COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kristy Odneal	kristyodneal@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Secretary:	Jessica Jenks	Jessica.jenks@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Sue Ann Schaefer	ssas3307@aol.com
Recording Treasurer:	Brent Marcks	brentmarcks@hotmail.com
Building & Grounds:	John Bullerd	jbullerd51@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Stefanie Zimny	stefanie.zimny@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship:	George Zimny	gzimny@pbfirm.com
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Tricia Price	tricialprice@gmail.com
Little One's Day Out:	Lorry Dreier	llhd01@gmail.com
Membership & Care:	Jessica Lucas	jluucas@cpsk12.org
Nurture & Education:	Linda Neale	lnealej@aol.com
Outreach & Advocacy:		
Worship & Music:	Mike Pierson	mpierson@cpsk12.org



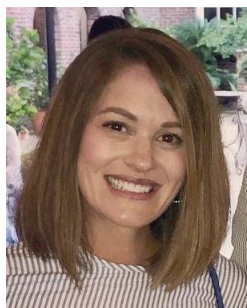
MODERATOR'S MOMENT

Greetings CUCC Family and Friends!

Serving as CUCC's Vice Moderator over the last term has been an honor, and I am excited to now serve as Moderator in our new program year. As a Church Council, we hope to continue to guide and support our congregation in ways that align with our faith and the mission and vision of CUCC. Please join me in thanking James Melton and all our outgoing Council members and those who are continuing to serve for all their dedication.

As we turn this corner into a new dynamic and begin a new program year, we think back on our experiences over the past year and, at the same time, look forward to what is to come. We have faced many challenges across our global community, and there have been some devastating steps along the way, but we have also realized our strength and our ability to persevere with new awareness and appreciation for all God's gifts.

Also check out our "God Was Still Speaking in 2020" poster (to the right, and on the counter in the Church Office) to take a look at the variety of



ways our ministry teams made an impact on our congregation and our local and global community throughout the past program year. When other churches were closing in 2020, we were going strong!

Please consider joining in the efforts to ensure that we can continue these important ministries. If you find something that interests you, please reach out to the leaders or members of the ministry teams.

Peace and blessings to all of you.
With gratitude, Kristy Odneal, Moderator

In 2020

God was still speaking...
and we were still working to spread God's word.



Amidst a global pandemic, Columbia United Church of Christ...

Outreach & Advocacy

- Organized 17 volunteers to spend 2 hours picking up 35 bags of trash from the roadway
- Raised \$2,761 for the Church World Service CROP Walk to fight hunger
- Helped 66 low-income people enjoy a Merry Christmas by donating \$6,570 for gifts and holiday food
- Contributed \$5,000 to CoMoHelps to help families pay for their needs and provide outreach & supplies for homeless people



Finance & Stewardship

- Gained approval for \$65,700 from the Paycheck Protection Program/Cares Act, for possible loan forgiveness
- Distributed 50 for 50 campaign funds to the five mission agencies totaling \$6,629.24
- Awarded college scholarships to two recipients, Marcella Dolezal and Carissa Graves
- Set and exceeded our Giving Tuesday goal, collecting \$23,765; \$2,376 was donated to LODO and \$2,376 to Voluntary Action Center

Worship & Music

- Installed live-streaming technology
- Initiated the Organ Scholars Program
- Added a confidence monitor & lobby display
- Provided special music through recordings, small groups and solos to maintain a safe worship experience



Inclusion & Affirmation

- Responded to racial tensions by hosting a book study, movie night and presentation by community group, Race Matters, Friends
- Contributed a rainbow Christmas tree, rainbow banners and a rainbow stole for Pastor Rick
- Began establishing a relationship with Hickman High School's Gay Straight Alliance
- Started a Facebook page for MONA (Mid-MO Open and Affirming)

Membership & Care

- Activated a phone tree to check on CUCC members during the COVID-19 lock-down
- Shared COVID-19 vaccine information and provided transportation for members to receive vaccinations
- Ordered and installed new directional signage for the church

Nurture & Education

- Mailed over 20 Blessing Boxes to college students and military members to express our support
- Presented bibles to 6 third graders as they approach their Confirmation journey
- Held virtual Vacation Bible School for 60 children from our church and community



LODO

- Organized a safe Halloween Trunk-or-Treat with 14 LODO families and many other congregation members
- Donated 138 items for the Winter Coat Drive for Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School
- Facilitated free KidSight Vision Screenings to identify students in need of further evaluation

Fellowship & Hospitality

- Recognized our high school seniors and honored our Veterans with yard signs
- Facilitated a virtual trivia night
- Celebrated Rally Day with a socially-distanced outdoor picnic
- Mailed a Christmas ornament to each family in the congregation to remember fellowship during Advent

Buildings & Grounds

- Improved landscaping, the driveway, fascia and guttering
- Installed an acoustical ceiling in the fellowship hall
- Enhanced security features for LODO and Sunday School classrooms



LODO MINISTRY TEAM

LODO NEWS

The 2020-2021 school year was a year of new challenges and great successes! LODO welcomed families back to preschool on August 31, 2020, and through the diligence of staff and families remained open for the entire school year while navigating new protocols due to COVID. LODO will be closed for the summer, and we look forward to starting our 2021-2022 school year on August 30, 2021, with returning and new families.



CONGRATULATIONS!!

2021 LODO Graduates: Alex, Mason, McKenzie, Maggie, Scarlett, Abe, Jonathan, Haesol, Finley, Makayla, and Jacee. We wish you all the best as you leave LODO and leap into kindergarten!

Our graduates were celebrated in a commencement ceremony on Thursday May 20th! We enjoyed hearing each student's answers to their graduation interviews, enjoyed a wonderful slideshow celebrating our graduate's years at LODO, and had fellowship afterwards with a cookie reception.

2021-2022 School Year

Please help us spread the word that space still remains in our classrooms for the 2021-2022 school year! Tours can be scheduled by contacting LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com. You can also help by sharing our social media posts regarding enrollment on Facebook and Instagram.

Have a wonderful summer!
Erika Maltsbarger



The LODO program just finished a truly unique year. LODO opened last fall during a time in the pandemic when many schools did not. Last Thursday I had the wonderful privilege to attend Pre-K graduation. I hung out in the room listening and watching while the soon to be Kindergarteners dressed in their caps and gowns, buzzing around the room with much excitement and energy. Director Erika and the teachers had a wonderful program with words of wisdom and descriptions of the graduate's life plans as they move to the next chapter in their lives. We laughed and shed a few tears. It is amazing to watch and experience how caring and dedicated Director Erika and our teachers are. A bid Thank You to each of you. I am grateful for all that you do to make the program a success.

Kurt Heine continues to lead the Garden Project. Church council approved the construction of two raised garden beds and along with the \$500 grant secured from Scotts GrowMoreGood Grassroots we are ready to break ground. Once the beds are constructed, we will start slowly, and hope to have pumpkins growing for the children to experience when they return from summer break. A few people in the congregation have expressed interest in joining our garden club and there is still time and room for others to join. To volunteer and for any questions, please contact Kurt directly at heinekurt@gmail.com.

Respectfully, Lorry Dreier

INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

Summer is fast approaching. COVID-19 is slowly receding. The Church's new business year is here, and the Inclusion/Affirmation Ministry, along with all the other ministries, is ready to dig right in.

Tricia Price will become the new Chair as of June 1. Thus, this will be my last note as Chair. It has been wonderful to work with the other members and the congregation to expand our knowledge, outreach, and advocacy for all God's children, especially those who experience oppression, racism, and marginalization.

I want to thank the ministry members for their insights and support: Elaine Trout (retired from the committee), Isaiah Jackson Post, Lindsey Oberle, Jess Wolfe, Steve Keithahn, Pete Jaberg, Lena Muench, Tricia Price, and (of course) Pastor Rick. Tricia has been our secretary for the past two years (and has done an outstanding job). As she is taking on the role of Chair, Jess Wolfe has graciously agreed to step up to the secretary position. Special thanks to you both!!

I will remain an active member because I totally believe in our ONA Covenant which concludes with the following statement: "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 the congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together."

On that note, please be reminded that we will watch "Boy Erased" about a young man whose parents send him to conversion therapy for being gay. We will view from the Fellowship Hall Saturday June 19 at 6:00 with a discussion at 8:00 in the hall and on zoom. Please plan to attend as this is an important and timely subject.

This journey is an ever-expanding learning experience. There will be bumps along the road, as there always is. This congregation has proven that it can face those challenging bumps with grace, perseverance, faith, hope, and love. And as always, the greatest of these is love.

In joyful thanksgiving,
Alisa Lau-Sieckman



MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND PRIDEFEST IN COLUMBIA AUGUST 28

The Mid-Missouri Pridefest will take place at Rose Music Hall on August 28, 2021. Make plans now to attend! The theme of this year's event is "Pride Lives On." This event is a great time to celebrate God's inclusive love for all of God's children, including and especially those who have been disenfranchised and oppressed by others. Columbia UCC will have a booth there, as we have in years past, and will be sharing the message of God's Inclusive Love with all who attend. We will be looking for people to staff the booth. If you are interested, contact [Alisa Lau-Sieckman](#), [Tricia Price](#), or [Pastor Rick](#)!



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.

A MATTER OF DIGNITY– BANNING “CONVERSION THERAPY” IN THE US

This July, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ will meet using Zoom technology to do the business of the church, one of which is to speak to Social Justice issues prevalent in our society today. This year there are 11 Resolutions that will be discussed and shared with Local Congregations for their discussion, as well. All eleven Resolutions can be read in their entirety by clicking here: [GS RESOLUTIONS](#)

One of the Resolutions that we will be discussing here at CUCC in June is a Resolution calling for a ban on the practice of “Conversion Therapy” in the US. The text of that resolution can be read in its entirety here: [GS BAN](#)

General Synod Resolutions of Witness do not speak FOR local churches; they speak TO local churches. They provide us with a theological framework to address Social Justice Issues in our communities, as the Prophets of our traditions spoke to the people of Israel about similar issues. It is up to us to process these issues and act as we feel the Spirit is moving us. We will be doing just that here at CUCC in June. An edited synopsis of the General Synod resolution is copied below:

Conversion therapy has existed in one form or another since the late 19th century. While the practice has caused demonstrable harm to the mental and physical health of LGBTQ+ persons, conversion therapy continues to be legal throughout the United States. According to practitioners of conversion therapy, the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBTQ+ persons is a disease, defect or developmental disorder. This claim has been repudiated by every professional association in the field of health care, many of which have advocated for a ban on the discredited practice.

According to a report published the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law (June 2019), 698,000 adults in the United States have experienced conversion therapy, and 20,000 LGBTQ+ youth will be subjected to conversion therapy if state legislatures refuse to act. Also, according to the Williams Institute (June 15, 2020), LGBTQ+ people who were subjected to conversion therapy have shown a greater risk of suicidal thoughts and attempted suicide than LGBTQ+ people who had never experienced this therapy, including

- 92% greater odds of lifetime suicidal ideation
- 88% greater odds of attempting suicide
- 75% greater odds of planning to attempt suicide.

The consensus of the mental health care profession was summed up in the “Position Statement on Attempts to Change Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression” released by the American Psychoanalytic Association in 2012. They found: “Psychoanalytic technique does not encompass purposeful attempts to “convert, repair, change or shift an individual’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Such directed efforts are against fundamental principles of psychoanalytic treatment and often result in substantial psychological pain by reinforcing damaging internalized attitudes.”

BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE: *Biblical tradition affirms that all human beings are made “in the image of God.” (Gen. 1:27) The church’s witness affirms that “in Christ Jesus, you are all children of God through faith” and that “all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal. 26-28) We are therefore to “love our neighbor as ourselves” (Lev. 19:9-18 and Matt. 22:40) and act with empathy towards all others. The capacity to love and seek love is God’s gift to all human beings. Human love in its many expressions is therefore God’s design for humanity, and is offered to all without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. The psychological and spiritual damage inflicted by “conversion therapy” on LGBTQ+ people, especially youth, violates the image of God that is embodied in every human being, harms our neighbor, and denies to others the grace we claim for ourselves.*

THEREFORE: (this is the part that is calling local churches to action, if they so choose) *The Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ, affirming the dignity and worth of all people, deplores the practice of “conversion therapy” or “reparative therapy” that denies LGBTQ+ youth and adults the opportunity to experience the blessings of love and human integrity, and urges parents, authorized ministers and care-givers in the United Church of Christ to protect those in their care from any practice or program that purports to “cure” their sexual orientation or gender identity, and urges congregations and all other settings of the church to advocate for state and federal laws protecting adults, youth and children from “conversion therapy” by banning the practice, and urges congregations and other settings to strengthen their efforts to reach their LGBTQ+ neighbors, especially youth, with the Good News that their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression are gifts from God.*

Have questions about this or other General Synod Resolutions? Contact [Pastor Rick.](#))

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Time and Treasure—Investing in the Future of CUCC

by Keith Birkes

There are many good things happening at CUCC, which are apparent as we gradually return to in person services and activities. Our physical facilities are an essential part of our church experience. Those facilities are over fifty years old. Much has been repaired and updated over the last two years, and more is in progress or will be soon. Our sanctuary sound system and livestreaming equipment have been updated and or replaced, our grounds have been beautified with new plants and landscaping, the sanctuary eaves have been encased, new concrete flooring has been laid in the shelter house, and big improvements in our security system are some of things we've been able to see come to fruition. These improvements were made possible by our very successful 50 for 50 fund in 2019. Additionally, the Building Fund will provide for replacements of our very tired HVAC system, resealing our entire parking lot, and new carpeting for our sanctuary.



Of course all of these improvements are only possible because of the generous stewardship of CUCC members and friends. Our relatively small congregation is very generous and continues to meet the call for necessary funds to accomplish the important work our church undertakes. There is much more than just physical property improvements and expansion that we pursue, and you can read about the other amazing work being done by CUCC throughout The Communicator. Stewardship allows all these important activities to proceed, and our congregation comes through with the funds needed on a consistent basis. Currently we are a bit behind in our Joyful Giving, but we always meet or exceed our needs, and I know we will this year also. On behalf of our Ministry Team thank you very much for your generosity of both time and treasure!

50 FOR 50 PROJECTS COMPLETED THANKS TO YOUR STEWARDSHIP!

After a year and a half long campaign, the last 50 for 50 Project was completed on May 25! Next time you are at church, check out the new floor in the Shelter House! A total of \$66,292 was raised in the fall of 2019 to complete projects around the church. This is the last one. With a price tag of \$8,600 for this project, our 50 for 50 funds are all spent, with great results. Thank you to the CUCC Congregation for your support of these projects! A more detailed 50 for 50 report will be included in the July Communicator with details of each project.



TRANSPORTATION FUND ESTABLISHED, READY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

We have several church members with transportation challenges, especially our homebound members. Our new van, donated by the Gregory Family, will be used to help address these challenges, utilizing the resources of this fund. We can also use this fund to purchase another vehicle when the time comes, to rent other vehicles on occasion, or to come up with some other creative option to provide transportation options to care for our members. This fund could also be used for short term rental goals to transport members to and from church or for special church trips or other special projects identified and authorized by the Church Council.

The Membership & Care Ministry Team, over the next few months, will be coming up with a usage plan and schedule for utilizing this new vehicle. Also, the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team will be working with them to develop a growth plan for the Transportation Fund. Watch this space for more information!

For years, some in the congregation have lamented our inability to provide transportation options to our homebound members, youth, fellowship groups, and others. Their dreams for equity are becoming a reality! To contribute to this fund, check with [Sue Ann Shaefer](#), [Brent Marcks](#), [George Zimny](#), or another member of the Church Council. And thank you again to the Gregory Family for their donation!

TREASURER'S REPORT

-Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer

Financial Update			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Apr. Income	\$25,450.86	\$28,795.81	(\$3,344.95)
YTD Income	\$85,691.36	\$112,396.93	(\$26,705.57)
Apr. Expenses	\$23,848.16	\$27,015.57	(\$3,167.41)
YTD Expenses	\$104,459.09	\$113,589.24	(\$9,130.15)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$18,767.73)	(\$1,192.31)	(\$17,575.42)
Apr. Attendance	343 (395)*		

*(attendance, Holidays included)

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
05/02/21	71	\$4,161.00	\$5,880.02
05/09/21	79	\$3,567.24	\$5,880.02
05/16/21	82	\$15,027.00	\$5,880.02
05/23/21	89	\$3,075.00	\$5,880.02
05/30/21		*\$3,569.86	\$5,880.02
Total	321	\$25,830.24	\$29,400.10

As of 05/23/2021 we are **\$23,959.73** behind in Joyful Giving for 2021. *(*needed to meet May goal)*

CUCC HAS ONLINE GIVING!

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

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

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

June Birthdays to Celebrate!

Alex Oberle (06/01)	Elizabeth Tummons (06/02)
Jackie Arms (06/04)	Helen Keithahn (06/04)
Tracy Evans (06/05)	Rick Oberle (06/05)
Mark Duncan (06/06)	Kibaro Kakozi (06/06)
Davis Erickson (06/10)	Don Helmreich (06/10)
Isis Piersee (6/10)	Mark Hall (06/11)
Emily Marcks (06/11)	John Tummons (06/11)
Garett Walker (06/11)	David Meyer (06/14)
Neal Sprick (06/15)	Jaime Rapp (06/17)
Josh Wedemeyer (06/17)	Riley Bach (06/19)
Corey Grace (06/20)	Raelyn Zimny (06/21)
Lauren Helmreich (06/25)	John Bullerd (06/26)
Hazel Jaberg (06/26)	Kelly Major (06/26)
Tricia Soncasie (06/27)	Andrew Privitt (06/29)

DESIGNATED FUNDS UPDATE

If you read the CUCC Annual Report for 2020, you may have noticed the Designated Funds Activity Report (page 61). It detailed the amounts that were received and disbursed from our Designated Funds in 2020. A more thorough explanation of Designated Funds Disbursements was also included on page 15. To highlight, some of the funds that were working for you in 2020 include the following:

50 for 50 fund: This fund received **\$66,292** in 2019, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of this building. It was designated for five projects. So far we have spent **\$50,474** on three of those designated projects: Sanctuary technology, sound system, and livestreaming equipment, **(\$26,036)**; Landscaping Improvements **(\$10,544)**; and encasing the Sanctuary eaves **(\$7,265)**. We also donated a Biblical Tithe to four mission agencies **(\$6,629)**. The two final projects, replacing the Shelter House floor **(\$8,600)** and upgrading our security system **(\$7,741)**, were completed as of 5/25/21! The 50 for 50 fund projects are all completed! *A final report for this fund will be in next month's Communicator.*

Scholarship Fund: We awarded two scholarships in 2020 to Marcella Dolezal and Carissa Graves, totaling **\$2,000**. We added **\$50,000** from the Mader Estate to this Fund, and with unrealized gains and growth, the fund total at the end of 2020 was **\$147,574**. This Fund will be used for more Scholarships in the future, as well as our Organ Scholar Program.

Building Fund: We have been growing this Fund in 2020 with contributions from members, a directed amount from 2020 Joyful Giving (3%), and directed Funds from the Mader Estate. As of the end of 2020, this fund totaled **\$55,716**, but more gifts in 2021 have been received. We are anticipating major repairs and replacement of HVAC units in the next few years, as well as a need to reseal our entire parking lot. Growth in this fund will allow those projects to happen.

We have Ten Designated Funds for Special Projects at CUCC. For a complete description of each fund, contact the

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

The May 17 meal at **Loaves & Fishes** consisted of pork & turkey, baked beans, cole slaw, rolls (all of which was left from the 5/16 church luncheon), spaghetti, lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson), and a variety of desserts (from the 5/16 luncheon) and cookies provided by Jolene Kirchhoff. PBJ sandwiches were made and provided by Jessica Jenks.

Servers were Judi Privitt, Patty Beeson, Lena Muench, Pastor Rick, and some of the 2021 confirmands: Kennedy Lucas, Brandon Schoeneberg, Sadie Tummons, and Abby Dennis.

We served approximately 123 firsts and seconds. Thank you to everyone, especially the confirmands, who dealt with the rain! Your hard work and dedication is appreciated!

Thanks to Your Generosity, CUCC Met Our Heifer International Goal: An Ark (and Then Some)!

Thanks to you, CUCC exceeded our goal to provide an “ark” to Heifer International to support their important work to eliminate hunger and poverty around the world. **\$5,900** was collected between Easter and Mother’s Day. Your generosity is appreciated more than you will ever know.

A Gift Ark includes two water buffalo, two cows, two sheep, and two goats, along with bees, chicks, rabbits and more. A Gift Ark changes the lives of many families in a community.

Food Bank News—Back in Business!

Four CUCC members; Phillip Neale, Brenda and John Muench, and Tricia Soncasie, worked at the Food Bank on April 27.

They felt comfortable with the social distancing setup, and it was great to be able to help hungry people again.

To sign up for future shifts, watch for information in the Friday emails or contact Mahree Skala at skalamahree@yahoo.com or 573-474-2195.

The Food Bank has decided to operate under summer hours this year. This means they will not be hosting an evening shift. The summer schedule is below, and volunteers are welcome to sign up for shifts during the daytime.

Volunteer Room (2101 Vandiver Dr.) Help repack food, pack up food boxes and sort through donations.

Monday (35 volunteers/shift):
8:30-10:30 a.m.; 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; 1:30-3:30 p.m.;
and 3:30-5 p.m.

Tuesday-Friday (35 volunteers/shift):
8:30-10:30 a.m.; 11 a.m.-1 p.m.; 1:30-3:30 p.m.;
3:30-5:30 p.m.;

A BLANKET FOR JUST \$10 – WHAT A DEAL! — HELP BLANKET THE WORLD WITH LOVE

CUCC will Celebrate Church World Service Blanket Sunday on June 20. When difficult times happen, a kind and loving response can make all the difference. That’s why the CWS Blanket program was created – to give a compassionate and tangible response to someone facing tough times, reminding them that they are not alone and showing love and caring. Just \$10 for a blanket that does all that – what a deal!

CWS blankets are sent around the world. They show up at homeless shelters and wrapped around refugees. They are handed out at food banks. Blankets are distributed after storms to people who must abandon their homes, leaving everything. Sometimes a blanket provides shelter from the sun or used as a big bag to carry belongings. They are provided to families impacted by the pandemic, hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, or other crisis. A blanket and all it represents for just \$10. Truly, truly what a deal.

In addition to blankets, CWS also distributes school kits, emergency cleanup buckets, and hygiene kits. *In 2020, almost 101,500 kits and blankets were distributed globally.* That is spreading a lot of love!

To donate to CWS Blanket program access Kindred giving on the CUCC website. Click “Donate” and select “CWS Blankets” in the dropdown. You may also mail a check to the church office or drop a check in the offering basket in the sanctuary. Thank you for your support.

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Safe Church Training – Sunday, August 29, 2021 – 10:30 am

Plan to stay following worship for this Annual one-hour training for everyone who volunteers with children and youth in any capacity at CUCC – Sunday School, VBS, Nursery, transporting to and from church, and church activities, etc. Refreshments will be served.

CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2021!

2021 Confirmation Class is well on its way! We have six students this year. Our students meet with Pastor Rick at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (downstairs) with practiced social distancing. This class will be confirmed on November 28, 2021 (the first Sunday of Advent). Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on this journey.

Faith-Building Idea #1. Doodle Prayers

Carry a Magna Doodle drawing toy in your vehicle. On the way to school each morning, have one of your kids be responsible for doodling prayer requests for the day. After you drop off your kids at school, pray for their needs. When you pick them up at the end of the day, let them know you prayed for them, and ask how things went.

2021 Graduates Sunday – June 6, 2021

All 2021 Graduates will be recognized and celebrated in worship on 6/6/2021.

Please let [Linda Neale](#), Nurture & Education chair, know about your 2021 Graduates: high school, college, military, etc. CUCC wants to share in your family's joy.

Children & Youth Sunday School for June 6, 2021 9:00-10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hall

June 6 VBS Kick Off! —

VBS 2021 will be August 2, 3 and 4, 2021.

Sunday School will resume on Rally Day, September 12, 2021.

Adult Sunday School Class for June 6, 2021

9:00-10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

Pete Jaberg will speak about the flaws and traumas of "Conversion Therapy."

YOUTH PARENT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 6:00 P.M. – DINNER SERVED

If you have a child in grades 6-12 for the 2021-2022 school year, the Nurture & Education Ministry Team would like for you to attend. The future of the Middle School Youth program, grades 6-8, and the High School Youth Program, grades 9-12, will be planned around the parents' need and desire for their child's involvement at CUCC.

Do you want Sunday School available at CUCC for your children? Do you want them involved in a youth group at CUCC? What are your expectations for your child's Christian education at CUCC? Do you want Sunday school and Youth Group to be part of your child's weekly/monthly plans? If so, please attend this Parent Meeting September 1! For more information, talk to [Lena Muench](#), [Lauren Helmerich](#) or [Linda Neale](#)!



Hi! My name is Linda Neale. I am the new Nurture and Ed chair. I would like to tell you a little bit about myself.

I have been a member of CUCC for around 32 years. I have 2 children (Rob and Kristy), and 4 grandchildren (Laynee, Riley, Katelin, and Braden). I recently retired from CPS as the K-12 Adaptive Music Specialist. I have worked with children's choirs, liturgical dance groups, sung in the vocal choir, played handbells and flute. I've taught Sunday School, led the singing at Sunday School Openings, directed Sunday School Christmas programs, and worked with VBS during the summer.

I am very much looking forward to this new venture! It should be an exciting time in the life of CUCC.

Sincerely, Linda Neale, Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair

Welcome to the Adventure!
VBS 2021– ADVENTURE ISLAND!
August 2-4, 2021
5:15 - 8:15 each evening



SAVE THE DATE to join us for a **GREAT (& free!)**

3 evenings of **FUN @ CUCC's**

Vacation Bible School 2021

for those ages 3-finishing 8th Grade!

Lots of hands on deck needed, so come volunteer!

(We'll even take care of dinner for all.)

Registration for Participants and Adult Volunteers begins June 15.

Registration at www.columbiaucc.com after 6/15

QUESTIONS OF FAITH 2021

In the month of May, Pastor Rick asked members of the Congregation to submit ideas for sermons this summer. Calling this series “questions of faith” he solicited contributions from church members in worship and online. Based on these contributions, we will be addressing the following subjects in worship in June and July:

1. **May 30** What are we to think of other faith expressions? Could our God be the same God in other faith expressions, with just a different name?
2. **June 6** How can Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 (a time for everything) give us hope for the future today?
3. **June 13** How do I reconcile fact and fiction in the Bible?
4. **June 20** What is Substitutionary Atonement and what is the historical application of it to our common theology?
5. **June 27** Are other faith expressions just as valid?
6. **July 4** Discuss in depth: “The Fruits of the Spirit?”
7. **July 11** How should we pray the scriptures for our loved ones?
8. **July 18** Discuss the Ten Commandments and their relevance in 2021 and beyond.
9. **July 25** How is the story of Noah and the flood relevant today?

This is a different way to approach worship; a new experience for the summer months. Don't miss a Sunday; and remember, you can always catch up on CUCC worship online through our website: www.columbiaucc.com!

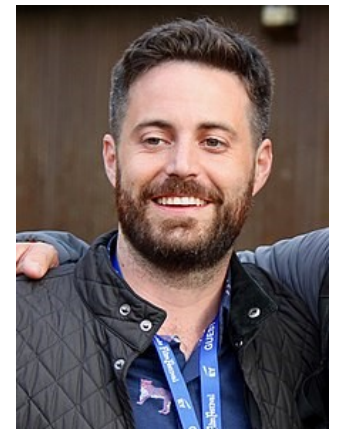
“BOY ERASED” VIDEO TO BE SCREENED AND DISCUSSED AT CUCC

“Boy Erased” is a movie based on the Autobiography of Garrard Conley, an LGBTQIA activist and author who wrote his memoir about his experience with Conversion Therapy.

Conley (pictured here) was raised in Arkansas; his father is a Southern Baptist Preacher and his mother a hairstylist. When Conley affirmed his Sexual Orientation to his parents, they condemned him and enrolled him in a “Conversion Therapy” camp.

The Conversion Therapy camp used manipulative tactics on him and others, claiming that Homosexuality was the result of poor parenting, and that if these boys would disavow their families, they could claim their true identities.

On June 19 at 6:00pm, we will watch this movie in the Fellowship Hall and discuss it after. All are invited to attend to watch and discuss. This event is sponsored by the Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team. For more information, contact [Tricia Price](mailto:Tricia.Price@columbiaucc.com) or [Pete Jaberg](mailto:Pete.Jaberg@columbiaucc.com).



WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

Lessons Along the Way – Sing!

Nearly 20 years ago, I had the amazing opportunity to spend ten days in the Berkshire mountains of Massachusetts with one of the world’s most recognized choral names, Alice Parker, later called Alice Parker Fellows. Ten of us met in her home to talk and sing and create music. Now in her 90’s, she is still actively writing and making music. She may best be known for her 30-year alliance with Robert Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony Chorus.

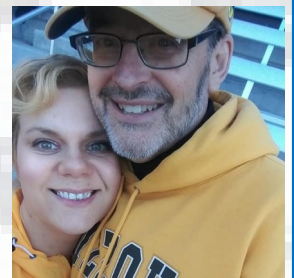
Our first full day in the small hamlet of Hawley, MA, near her family home, Alice expected that we would join her to sing in the choir of her church. Alice attended a Congregational church that might have had 40 people in attendance with only six in the choir. This worldwide legend shared her voice with God and her church every Sunday that she was in town. This was her calling. To make music to glorify God and to bring others closer to God, no matter the size of the choir. It was unexpected and inspiring. I learned much those ten days, but I think what has stayed with me the most is that she was dedicated to serving in her local church, as much as she was working in music around the world. She had a relationship with God that she fostered by singing and finding joy in a six person choir.

One of the most effective small groups in churches are those groups that make music together to serve God. There is community, inspiration, hope, shared experiences, fellowship, love and so much more. We have missed those things during this past year, but beginning in August, we will be back to join in sharing our lives and voices for God and each other. Even if you’ve never sung in the choir, this might be the year you may want to add your voice.

Handbell Boot Camp

A Time to Experience Bells

Coming in late June or early August we will be holding a Boot Camp for anyone who has interest in discovering the joy of handbell ringing. This is for anyone and all ages (fifth grade to senior adult), even if you have never had a musical moment other than singing along with the radio. You don’t have to read music – you don’t have to necessarily want to join the bell choir. Just come – learn about handbells and experience the joy. Dates will be set shortly but start planning to join us.



Ed Rollins

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for June. We need some spots to be filled and we’d 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 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 are here!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
06/06	Jessica Lucas	NEED	Judi Privitt	Abby Dennis	Mike Pierson Phillip Dennis	Stefanie Zimny
06/13	Helen Schultz	NEED	Jessica Lucas	Abby Dennis	Kristy Odneal	Judi Privitt
06/20	Audrey Lasley	NEED	Isaiah Jackson- Post	Sadie Tummons	Carissa Graves John Graves	Audrey Lasley
06/27	Jessica Lucas	NEED	Seth Smith	Lilly Smith	Brent Marcks James Melton	Lena Muench

CORONAVIRUS VACCINE INFORMATION

The Boone County Health Department has a very helpful website with COVID-19 Vaccine information, answering questions about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines and dispelling misinformation that is being spread. You can use this [link](#) to read up on the vaccine and hopefully answer any questions you may have. You can also schedule a vaccine at [Hy-Vee by clicking here](#) or at [Wal-mart by clicking here](#).

It has been said that we are in a race between vaccinations and variants. The Coronavirus, like all viruses, will mutate, with new variants showing up all the time. If we can reach a standard of immunity before variants emerge, we will win the battle. The more the public resists vaccines, the more the likelihood of virus mutation.

We have been given a precious gift from God, the ability to create vaccines to fight viruses that threaten the health and safety of our community. We have been blessed with vaccines; let us be blessings by getting vaccinated. Let's all do our part to get **EVERYONE** vaccinated and manage the COVID-19 virus once and for all!

CORONAVIRUS AND CUCC UPDATE

The pandemic is almost over, and we are beginning to emerge into a managed existence with the COVID virus. ***As the month of May draws to a close, the 5-day average for new COVID cases in Boone County has remained at 10 new cases/day!*** This was the average at the end of April, as well. For most of May, the 5-day average was in single digits. This is down from our high of 168 new cases/day, reached on November 8 when we decided to close our Sanctuary for in-person worship for the time being. ***Currently, there are only 56 active cases of COVID in our county of 180,000 people.***

Throughout this pandemic, the leadership of CUCC has been very vigilant, never lax in their monitoring and response efforts. The congregation has been exemplary, as well, following our new hygiene standards admirably, thereby limiting the transmission of the virus and keeping CUCC a safe place. As we move towards emergence together, let us continue to be vigilant in our efforts at living with the Coronavirus.

Moving forward, we will continue to wear masks at CUCC into the month of June, to keep our worshipping environment as safe as possible.

There is one way for us to fully emerge safely from this pandemic — vaccination. We hope that everyone in our CUCC family receives their COVID vaccine to bring the risk of community infection to even lower levels. For information about vaccination options, [CLICK HERE](#).

The More You Know

Did you know that Human Trafficking, also known as Modern Day Slavery, is happening right here in Columbia, MO? Have you ever had the desire to know more about Human Trafficking and what you can do to help fight against it? Do you want to know how to see the signs of a victim or trafficker and how to safely report it?

The STOP Human Trafficking Coalition of Central MO (CMSHTC) offers free educational sessions about all of this and more. If you are interested in attending a “training,” please contact [April Rothweiler](#). The CMSHTC is looking for interested parties to “host” an educational session at their house or a public space (like CUCC!). What does this look like?

- Choose a date that works for you and contact CMSHTC ([April](#)) to set it up.
- Invite some friends and family that are interested in getting educated with you.
- Make yummy snacks for attendees and be encouraged that you're going to make a difference!!

Change starts with you!

STOP
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COALITION OF CENTRAL MISSOURI



CUCC IS WORKING IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Located in Boca Chica, a beach resort town on the Dominican Republic, Caminante provides a safe space where hundreds of youth and their families receive counseling and participate in recreation and programs. Caminante literally means, “One who walks the path.” Their mission is to encourage empowerment and personal growth for healthy families, schools, peers, and community environments with shared

values such as solidarity, honesty, respect and peace. Their vision is to walk with children, adolescents, and young people as they grow and help support the development of their potential. The hope is that they will create a new community of future leaders who will make space for the rights of all. Caminante provides fun recreational activities as a tool to teach alternatives to unhealthy recreation. They also promote education and provide vocational training. Caminante defends the rights of children, adolescents, and their families to create a better future for their communities.

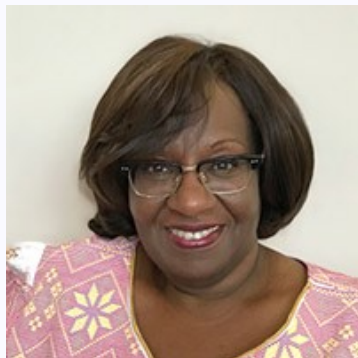
Caminante is a Global Missions Partner of Columbia United Church of Christ through Global Ministries, our shared mission agency with the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ. Global Ministries provides foundational support for this organization and support for their ongoing efforts.

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

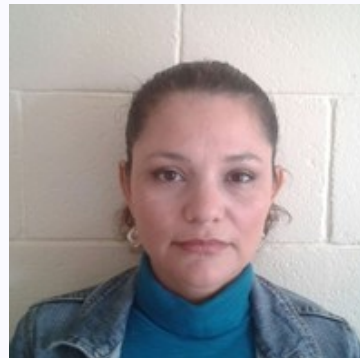
June 6-12
Nishan Bakalian
Working in Lebanon



June 13-19
Phyllis Byrd
Working in Kenya



June 20-26
Cindy Moraga-Selva
Working in Mexico



June 27-July 3
Martha Mensendiek
Working in Japan



CUCC IS WORKING WITH CHURCHES IN MEXICO *(condensed from www.globalministries.org)*

The Theological Community of Mexico (TCM) is a Mission Partner of the United Church of Christ through Global Ministries. Cindy Moraga-Selva is our Global Ministries Missionary working with TCM on our behalf. Besides us, Five Mexican seminaries and one non-profit organization participate in the Theological Community of Mexico: the Augsburg Lutheran Seminary of the Lutheran Church in Mexico; the Baptist Seminary of Mexico of the Baptist Church in Mexico; the Saint Andrew Seminary of the Anglican Church in Mexico; the Dr. Gonzalo Báez Camargo Methodist Seminary of the Methodist Church in Mexico; the Latin American School of Reformed Theology of the Presbyterian Church in Mexico; and the non-profit organization, the Mexican Association for Rural and Urban Transformation.

TCM’s mission is to offer biblical, theological, pastoral, ecumenical, intercultural, and interdisciplinary formation in order to propose alternatives of action for the transformation of reality to the values of God’s Reign. TCM offers diplomas (for part-term students), undergraduate and Master degrees in various areas of biblical studies, theology, pastoral care, liturgical music, and liberal arts areas.

For several decades, TCM has been committed to peace-building in several contexts in Latin America and the Caribbean. Particularly in Mexico, TCM has been an institutional factor that has accompanied processes like the peace agreements in Chiapas in 1994. In 1997, along with other non-governmental organizations, religions, and Christian churches, they founded the Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity. In 2012, after a violent series of incidents in Mexico, TCM helped to organize an initiative called “Churches for Peace” along with other ecumenical institutions and Christian churches, raising their voices about the need to look for the disappeared, as well as the cessation of violence sponsored by organized crime.

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN JUNE

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 1pm Quilters	2 6:30pm Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	3	4	5 Fellowship Hall Reserved
6 Sunday School Picnic Donuts and Diplomas 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	7 10-1:30 Confirmation	8 1pm Quilters	9 6-8pm Youth Room Booked	10 9:30am Women's Fellowship	11	12
13 Summer Schedule Starts 9:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	14	15 1pm Quilters 6:30pm Clergy Personnel Meeting	16	17 6:30pm Music & Worship Ministry Team	18	19 6pm Inclusion Ministry Team Movie Night "Boy Erased"
20 9:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	21 COMMUNICATOR ARTICLES DUE 4:30pm Loaves & Fishes	22 1pm Quilters	23 6-8pm Youth Room Booked	24 12noon Lunch Bunch	25 Church Office Closed	26
FATHER'S DAY						
27 Open and Affirming Sunday 9:30am Worship in person Worship also Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	28 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team	29 1pm Quilters	30			

THE COMMUNICATOR

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