

THE COMMUNICATOR

March 2021



From the Pastor's Keyboard

“Come Away, Rest Awhile”

“The apostles gathered around Jesus, and told him all that they had done and taught. He said to them, “Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while.” For many were coming and going, and they had no leisure even to eat. They went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. (Mark 6:30-32)

Often in scripture, Jesus advocates a time of rest, a time of retreat, a time of personal reflection. In Mark 1:12, Jesus goes into the wilderness for 40 days to fast and reflect, communing with God and developing his faith, even though he is tempted by the Devil. In Mark 6:30 (referenced above) he encourages his disciples to take time out of their busy schedules, retreat with him and rest awhile. Mark 7:24 sees Jesus taking refuge in a house in Tyre, looking for a bit of rest. John 4:6 has Jesus resting by Jacob’s well, “tired out by his journey.” For Jesus, rest and retreat was an important part of faith development.

The season of Lent, which began on February 17 and continues through the entire month of March, is structured around this idea. Modeled after Jesus’ 40 days in the wilderness, this season is designed to give us a chance to retreat from the hectic pace of our lives, to put aside the distractions that keep us from God, and at least recharge, if not actually rest (although one Lenten discipline should be allowing yourself time to rest). Reconnecting with God as Jesus did in his times of retreat and rest is paramount in our lives, and Lent is our committed time to do this.

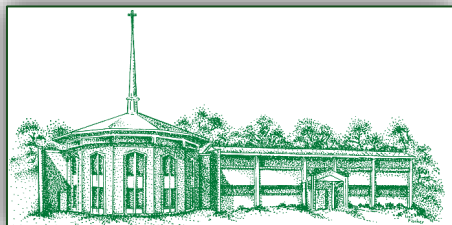
One opportunity for rest and retreat provided by our Missouri Mid-South Conference over the years has been Camp MoVal. Camp MoVal has, since 1962, been a place where intentional outdoor ministry programming happens, and people from all over the world are invited to come and reconnect with God. Retreat, Rest, and Renewal have been thematic for Camp MoVal as campers and rental groups investigate where God is in the midst of their hectic lives and how God is calling them to be. Many people are “too busy” to avail themselves of this opportunity. That “busyness” the key challenge to living fulfilled Christian lives; the key challenge that MoVal addresses; the lesson of Lent. When we lead lives that are “busy,” we forget about God. When we don’t have time to rest and retreat, we don’t have time for God.

Lent has already begun, but you still have the whole month of March. It is not too late to begin a Lenten discipline of un-busy your lives. Let go of the distractions that keep you from walking fully with Jesus. Spend time just being, without electronic devices to distract you. Sit on the deck with no agenda, with your I-pad inside the house. Go on retreat. Walk in the woods (without ear buds). You may not be able to spend 40 days “at camp” like Jesus did, but Lent does provide you with an excuse to “come away, rest awhile.”

-Pastor Rick

CAMP MOVAL UPDATE

Camp MoVal, which has served the members of the Missouri Mid-South Conference for almost 60 years as a place for intentional spiritual programming, will not be opening this summer for camps, nor did they open last summer. At this point in our Conference life, the future of this “thin space” in our world is uncertain. The Conference Council will be hosting listening visits this summer to hear the concerns of Conference Members (you) and act on those concerns. Watch your emails and this Communicator for more details as those are scheduled. Also, a Camp MoVal Coalition of Concerned Constituents is being formed to work *WITH* the Conference Council in this discernment process. If you would like to be a part of that Coalition, contact me (Pastor Rick) and I will add you to the list of constituents. Working together with the Conference Council we will discern a new path for Camp MoVal and continue to provide an avenue for the important Outdoor Ministries of this Conference to continue!



**COLUMBIA
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
3201 I-70 DRIVE NW
COLUMBIA, MO 65202

[Rev. Rick Oberle](#)

Pastor

[Rev. Fred Brandenburg](#)

Pastor Emeritus

[April Rothweiler](#)

Office Administrator

[Ed Rollins](#)

Music Coordinator

[Amy Crousore](#)

Organist/Accompanist

[Erika Maltsbarger](#)

Director, Little One's Day Out

[Raj Tolani](#)

Financial Secretary

Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday School
9:00am for all ages

10:30am- Worship
Online and in-person

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9am- 3pm

Phone:
(573)-445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com

Website:
www.columbiaucc.com

Women's Fellowship Update

Women's Fellowship will gather on **Thursday, March 11, 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, MARCH 25, in the Fellowship Hall at noon with a carry-in meal. This group is open to everyone regardless of age or any other determining factor. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Our own Christine Mseke will be speaking about her family's experience in a refugee camp prior to coming to the U.S. Come learn the reality that many refugees face in these "helpful" transitional camps.

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!

SAVE THE DATE TO CLEAN UP COLUMBIA!

(Or at least I-70 Drive NW)
Mark your calendars for **April 24, 9-11 a.m.** as we will "Clean Up [our portion of] Columbia!"

CORONAVIRUS VACCINE INFORMATION

The Boone County Health Department has released the COVID-19 Vaccine information. You can use this [link](#) to read up on the vaccine and hopefully answer any questions you may have.

UPDATES ON CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

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

2021 BUDGET — The 2021 Budget was approved unanimously at our Budget Meeting on November 8. This Budget calls for a modest 5.2% increase in spending for 2021. If you would like a copy of the 2021 approved budget, contact [April](#) in the church office, and she will send you a copy. (Our fiscal year is still the calendar year; it did not change when the By-Laws changed the programming year to an academic schedule. The programming year is now June 1-May 31.)

Dear Friends,

I want to tell you how much I appreciated all your kind notes, thoughts, and prayers as I recovered from my back surgery on January 18. They were all so comforting and helped me through that difficult time. The first few days after surgery were a bit painful, but I am doing very well now and will begin a few weeks of physical therapy soon. I'm up and around, and Sue has been so caring, and I am so very grateful for that. We just got our COVID shots on February 6, and we are so relieved about that. Hopefully now life can go on somewhat normally. Thanks for all your caring!

Cliff Beckman

Dear Pastor Rick, Staff, and Volunteers,

We would like to thank you for working so hard on the lovely Christmas Eve Services, the Christmas goody sacks, and the weekly virtual services. We know this takes many people working diligently behind the scenes, and we appreciate all the coordination and effort.

We would like to wish you all a healthy and happy 2021!
Jane & Harry Beckett

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous donation to **Growing Hope Globally**. We are grateful. To date, we have helped over *two million* people with the training and resources they will need to find lasting solutions to hunger. Your gift means even more people will experience the dignity of providing for themselves.

With deep gratitude,
Max Finberg, President & CEO

Dear Friends and Family of **Wilkes Blvd. UMC**,

Frankly, I was deeply concerned about the financial impact of the pandemic on Wilkes Blvd. UMC in 2020. I should have known better. I should have known YOU ALL better. The faithfulness, generosity, and support of our church members, community partners, and individual givers throughout this challenge has been nothing short of miraculous. So, on behalf of Wilkes Blvd. UMC and Turning Point Day Center, THANK YOU!

We will continue offering dignity and hope to our unsheltered neighbors through the provision of daily basic needs and social services support in 2021. We can't do it any other way than us all working together!

Psalm 27:13, Rev. Brad Bryan

Dear CUCC,

What a beautiful surprise when so many of you joined in the parade of cars for my 90th birthday! It was a joy to see your smiling faces, and it helped to make my day "one to remember."

Thank you,
Alice Moon

Dear CUCC,

Thanks to the many friends for their thoughts, prayers, cards, and visits after my heart attack. I am hoping to be "back in action" before too long! You made it a special Valentines ("Heart" Day) for me. May God's richest blessings be with each of you!

Love, Lloyd (of London) Viehland

Dear CUCC,

From the bottom of our heart, we thank you for your generous donation to **Show-Me-Central Habitat for Humanity**.

In 2020, we finished our 161st home in Columbia! YOU are giving a family the ability to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through home ownership. We look forward to partnering with several new families in Columbia in 2021 with your support.

Sincerely,
Ashley Switzer, Director of Community Outreach

Dear Pastor Rick and CUCC,

The VAC family would like to thank you for your generous gift to our Holiday Program. Because of your gift, we were able to help our neighbors who are struggling by providing vouchers or gift cards to purchase gifts for their families. Thanks to sponsors like you, VAC served 970 families during the Holiday Program, despite COVID-19!

As we move into 2021, VAC will continue to provide services via appointment only. and our lobby will remain closed at this time. We hope to open our lobby in a limited capacity by April. We encourage you to stay connected to us through our Facebook page or through our website at www.vacmo.org.

Sincerely,
Ed Stansberry, Executive Director &
Heather Stewart, Director of Development

CUCC LIVESTREAMING— NEW EQUIPMENT UPDATE



Our new livestreaming equipment was installed December 1, and over the past two months, James Melton and Mike Pierson, along with Brent Marcks, Pete Jaberg, and others have been honing their skills at using it.

Our two new cameras are controlled from the Technology Booth (formerly the Sound Booth) remotely to Zoom in on worship leaders. What was once a one person job in the old Sound Booth has quickly evolved into a three person job; one on sound, one on cameras, and one advancing slides.

If you are interested in learning how to operate this equipment, contact [Mike Pierson](#) or [James Melton](#). They are putting together training videos and would love to do some personal training for interested parties. With the new process, it will be more important than ever to expand our pool of volunteers.

UPDATE: At the February Council meeting, the Church Council approved spending **\$2349** for a third PTZ camera and a gradient microphone to pick up ambient sound in the Sanctuary, as well as wiring, connectors, and labor. This will make the livestreaming experience even better for those watching from afar! Stay tuned for an even better livestreaming experience!

Improved Home Heating Bill Assistance Through LIHEAP Energy Crisis Intervention Program

Governor Parson announced that the [Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program](#) (LIHEAP) Energy Crisis Intervention Program will improve assistance offered to eligible low-income Missourians.

When a household's energy source has been shut off or is at risk of disconnection, the winter Energy Crisis Intervention Program (ECIP), which runs November through May, pays the minimum amount needed on the fuel bill to get the household out of crisis. Starting this winter, ECIP will pledge the maximum disconnect amount (up to \$800) toward an eligible participant's owed balance.

In FY2020, Missouri provided \$78.6 million in LIHEAP assistance to over 108,000 households. In addition to meeting the income criteria, low-income Missourians must also meet the following criteria to be eligible for winter heating assistance through LIHEAP:

- Be responsible for paying home heating costs,
- Have \$3,000 or less in bank accounts, retirement accounts, or investments, and
- Be a U.S. citizen or legally admitted for permanent residence.

To learn more about the LIHEAP program, view this [short video](#). Missourians can submit the [LIHEAP application form](#) online.

NEW TRANSPORTATION FUND ESTABLISHED, READY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2021, the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team will be working with the Membership & Care Ministry Team and the Church Council to set parameters for our new Transportation Fund and begin marketing it. We hope to set a "goal" for growth of this fund so we can begin utilizing it to meet transportation challenges in the congregation. This fund is open to contributions from fellowship groups or individuals through estate planning, recurring gifts, or one-time donations. For this fund to grow, it is up to individual members to make it happen.

VAN CONTRIBUTION RECEIVED— FUND TO START WORKING!

We are pleased to announce that the Gregory Family has donated their Handicapped Accessible Minivan to the church, and the church has accepted it! It is here! Ongoing maintenance for this van could come from the new Transportation Fund, after we establish the parameters for it. We have also received donations to this fund already from several members. Many thanks to the Gregory family and to members of CUCC who have made this new ministry a priority in the life of the church!

We have several church members with transportation challenges, especially our homebound members. The 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 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.

For years, some in the congregation have lamented our inability to provide transportation options to our homebound members, youth, fellowship groups, and others. Those dreams 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!

MODERATOR'S MOMENT



Greetings, Many Blessings, and Lots of Love,

Today (2/17/21) was cold; in fact, we set a record. We have been setting records all through this year and last. We are likely mighty uncomfortable with these records because it feels so out of our norm. Still, from my perspective, it has pushed our boundaries and asked us, now more than ever, to listen closely to Jesus' vision for our lives and to hear the voice of God.

In listening for that voice and as we reach the close of Black History Month, I thought I would share a recent reflection where I heard in my head the refrains of the linked performance (use the QR Code) by Nina Simone. I didn't become familiar with her artistry and story until I was older (you can watch an excellent documentary now available on Netflix, *What happened, Miss Simone*). Every time I hear a recording or watch the performance linked with the QR Code, I am physically shaken by the depth of what she shares. Through her skill and musical talents, she sets us at ease. It makes us comfortable, and then she begins to explore all the ways that oppression, hate, abuse, mental illness, and manipulation have kept her caged. Then in a moment of triumph and brilliant improvisation, she unlocks her cage (even if for a brief moment during this performance)—such a powerful sonic journey.

What have you uncovered this month? How are you helping others unlock their cages and tell their story? A direct way to honor Black History Month's possibilities is to begin asking ourselves questions about our practices and how we move forward to a more equitable present and future. As you think about the questions below, how can we move beyond Black History being limited to a month, but rather the opportunity to understand that Black History is American History?

1. What groups have been historically and/or are currently being marginalized in our church or community?
2. What does it mean to acknowledge that a group has been and/or is currently being marginalized in our church or community?
3. How does data support this? How has CUCC contributed to or helped fight against this marginalization?
4. How have our beliefs and actions contributed to this?

These are difficult questions to answer with no readily available solutions. However, exploring them and thinking about possible solutions speaks to our commitment as a congregation to indeed welcome all. By honoring Black History, recognizing marginalized voices, and thinking deeply about improving our obligation to love and include all in our community of faith, we make the sum of Black History Month (all 28 days) impact the whole year (all 365 days).



Nina Simone

In Christ, James Melton

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY HOMEOWNERSHIP APPLICATION



HOW TO APPLY

- Print an application from the Habitat for Humanity Website during the month of March-
www.showmehabitat.org

- Pick up an application during the month of March at the Habitat Restore at 1305 Business Loop 70 E in Columbia, MO



ORGANIZE YOUR DOCUMENTS

- Drivers License or Government ID
- Social Security Numbers
- Banking Information
- 3 Years of Household Income History (wages, SSI, disability, food stamps, etc.)
- Various Debts/Loans



MARCH 2-31

- Applications will be available for the month of March.

- Bring \$25 or a copy of a recent credit report with your application

- The Deadline to turn in your application is March 31st



EASY APPOINTMENT SIGN-UP

- Due to COVID-19, we will not be able to host application workshops

- If you need assistance, you must make an appointment with Habitat Staff at:
573-499-1202
ashley@showmehabitat.com
1305 Business Loop 70E
Columbia, MO 65201

Habitat for Humanity Homeowner Opportunity

Need affordable housing? Want to own your own home? Habitat for Humanity will host open applications for the month of March. Applications can be picked up at the Restore located at 1305 Business Loop 70 E or downloaded from the Habitat website at www.showmehabitat.org. Due to Covid-19, no application workshops will be held. Call 573-499-1202 to set up an appointment if you need help with any part of your application! Deadline to apply: March 31

LODO MINISTRY TEAM

LODO NEWS

LODO learned about friendship, bucket filling/kindness, love, and Valentine's Day throughout the month of February. Many activities helped students feel the joy of being kind and helpful to others and see others' happiness when they did things to show them love and appreciation.

We celebrated the world God created during the last two weeks of February and learned about various cultures. This was an exciting time to learn more about some of our student's native countries, as well as other cultures around our wonderful world.

Snowy, cold weather brought a few snow days and lots of time indoors. We created many fun obstacle courses for gross motor play and enjoyed yoga to keep students moving and active while the playground was closed for inclement weather. Our KidSight vision screenings were canceled due to unsafe road conditions, but will be rescheduled for the Spring!

Little One's Day Out Important March Dates

- ♦ Mar 8 – 21/22 Enrollment begins for New Families.
- ♦ Mar 10 – LODO CLOSED/CPS Closed
- ♦ Mar 12 – LODO CLOSED for Professional Development
- ♦ Mar 22 – 26 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- ♦ Mar 29 – Apr 2 – LODO CLOSED for Spring Break

March Learning Themes

Author Spotlight: Eric Litwin

Teacher's Favorite Author

St. Patrick's Day/Rainbows/Noah's Ark

Spring/Bugs/Flowers

2021-2022 Enrollment August 30, 2021-May 20, 2022

Enrollment for the 2021-2022 school year will begin for new families on Monday, March 8. If you or someone you know is looking for a loving preschool for next year, please let them know that NOW is the time to tour and get enrolled. Additional information about the LODO program is available at www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome.

Lightning Bugs Class: 1 year old before Aug 1, 2021

Lambs Class: 2 years old before Aug 1, 2021

Lions Class: 3 years old before Aug 1, 2021

Leap Frogs Class: 4 years old before Aug 1, 2021



**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 schedule a tour, or to enroll!

littleonesdayout@yahoo.com  **573-445-2661**

With love and laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger, Director

INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

The Inclusion and Affirmation committee welcomes Pete Jaberg as a retuning committee member. We are so glad to have him back! We also said farewell to Elaine Trout who has been on the committee, I believe, since its inception. We will miss your voice and insight, Elaine. See you in church soon, though!

We had a lively discussion regarding education and advocacy items. There is so much right with our state and federal governments and so much that can be improved on. Over the next few months, we will be taking a deep dive into controversies/inequalities. Possible items include: inequalities in the 'for profit' prison system; Senate bill 55 which promotes taking money from public schools and giving that, thru vouchers, to privately owned schools; funding shortages that affect children and adults with developmental challenges such as those residents at our own Emmaus Home; investigating the pros and cons of the sheltered workshop environment. In March, the UCC General Synod Planning Team will publish this year's General Synod Resolutions, some of which we may consider, as well.

In a very positive vein, Austin Hartke will be the keynote speaker at the virtual St. Louis ONA Convocation on March 6. Sign up information and schedule is at: www.gatewayona.com. We would love for as many congregation members as possible to join this Zoom program.

We continue to investigate getting church service DVDs to folks without computers or internet.

Future congregational events include: June 27 is Open and Affirming Sunday in the United Church of Christ. Plans are in the works to celebrate here at CUCC. Columbia's Pridefest is scheduled for August 28, and we will have a booth. Plan now to work the booth with us!

Good Health, Peace, and Joy to everyone, and have a blessed Lent.
Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Chair



AMISTAD AND THE UCC

Some of you may be familiar with the story of the Amistad, the ship that was transporting slaves from Africa in 1839 when the slaves revolted and took over the vessel. The story has been lifted up in movies and other media. But did you know the UCC connection?

The slaves sought Sanctuary in the US, but were arrested and tried for mutiny. However, United Church of Christ Congregations (then Congregational) heeded the call for Inclusion of these oppressed individuals (the Mendi slaves) and took up their defense. They gave them shelter and comfort, and paid for both their legal defense and, after they were exonerated of any wrongdoing, their passage back home. For two years the UCC (Congregational) churches stood firm, defending the Amistad slaves. We have a long history in our denomination of standing with the oppressed, even when society stacks the odds against them. Inclusion of all God's children is part of our UCC heritage!

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.

**GONA/HONA OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONVOCATION
MARCH 6, 2021– ONLINE ONLY!**



Austen Hartke is the author of *Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*, a book on theology and personal narratives published by Westminster John Knox Press in 2018. He is also the founder and director of [Transmission Ministry Collective](#), an online community dedicated to the spiritual care, faith formation, and leadership potential of transgender, nonbinary, genderqueer, and gender-expansive Christians.

From 2015 to 2018 Austen created one hundred videos for the *Transgender and Christian* YouTube series, which sought to share parts of the Bible that relate to gender identity and the lives of transgender individuals.

He is a graduate of Luther Seminary's Master of Arts program in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies, and is the winner of the 2014 John Milton Prize in Old Testament Writing from the same institution. He has spoken at conferences all over the country, including events for The Reformation Project, Gender Spectrum, Evolving Faith, Q Christian Fellowship, the Philadelphia Transgender Health Conference, and the Why Christian Conference.

Austen is a [2019 Bush Foundation Fellow](#), and is currently researching the use of online ministry as support for gender-expansive Christians. As a transgender person of faith, Austen's greatest passion is helping other trans and gender-expansive people see themselves in scripture.

Welcome to the 10th Annual Open and Affirming Convocation. This year's Convocation will be completely online!

Planning:

This year's planning committee has consisted of representatives from **GONA**- Gateway Open and Affirming (St. Louis), **HONA**- Heartland Open and Affirming (Kansas City), and by representatives of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Location:

On Zoom from a comfortable seat of your choice. The whole day will be presented on Zoom, including workshops, which will be offered in Zoom breakout rooms.

Program:

Austen and others will be presenting a program based on Isaiah 43:14-19. We will begin gathering virtually at 8:30 a.m., and Worship will begin at 9:00. We will break into workshops starting at 10:30, and there will be several workshops offered. The day will end with closing worship at 2:30 p.m. We will be celebrating communion, so have your elements ready at home!

Registration:

Registration is all online; click on this link: [REGISTRATION](#). The registration fee is \$15.00 per person, to be paid in advance when you register. If anyone needs help registering, or paying for the event, talk to [Pastor Rick](#).

You will make workshop choices when you register, but you will be able to change your workshop choices before the registration deadline.

Registration Deadline is Firm:

Registrations **must** be received by 11:59 p.m. (CST) on **Wednesday March 3, 2021**.

For any questions, or for help registering, talk to [Pastor Rick!](#)

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

KINDRID

Church work is very rewarding and comes in many forms - helping in worship, on the grounds, the building, the community, with church programs, or bringing someone to worship. CUCC members have done a great job participating and supporting our Church. Traditionally the financial support has come from donating cash or a check. However, methods of giving are changing right along with today's electronic society. Credit Cards or electronic transfer now are the norm for transaction these days. This is where Kindrid can help. CUCC has been using the Kindrid platform for a few years. CUCC members can give to the church by using a credit card or making an electronic transfer from a bank account. It can be set up for weekly or monthly automatic withdrawals. If you would like to set this up, go to the CUCC website and follow the prompts, or text "GIVE" to 573-240-4041 and follow the prompts. If you have any additional questions or would like help setting up Kindrid, please contact [Doug Privitt](mailto:dprivitt@cucc.org) (573-819-7020) or [Brent Marcks](mailto:bmarcks@cucc.org) (573-819-5145).

Doug Privitt
Finance and Stewardship



CUCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Did you know there is a Scholarship fund at CUCC? The Memorial Education Fund, established in 1972 by Professor H. H. Krusekopf, and contributed to over the years by many others, was redefined in 2019 as "The Columbia United Church of Christ Scholarship Fund." (The definition of this fund is available on request; copies have been available for the past year on the wooden rack by the Sanctuary doors.) 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, 2021*, and will be considered by a team composed of 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.

If you would like to learn more about the application process for the new Scholarship Fund, you can request a copy of the definition, criteria, and application by contacting [April Rothweiler](mailto:arothweiler@cucc.org), [Pastor Rick](mailto:rick@cucc.org), [James Melton](mailto:jmelton@cucc.org) (Moderator), [Kristy Odneal](mailto:kodneal@cucc.org) (Vice-Moderator), or one of the Ministry Team Chairs listed above.

2020 YEAR END FINANCIAL UPDATE

By Brent Marcks

The spirit of stewardship is very much alive in this congregation! In a year that has been largely uncertain, one thing that has been certain is the spirit of faithful stewardship in this community. As we entered March, we were already significantly behind in our budgeted Joyful Giving amount. Throughout the year, we closed the gap, and we ended year having met our Joyful Giving budgeted goal for 2020.

Our **FINAL** Joyful Giving total for 2020 was \$353,970! Our **BUDGETED** Joyful Giving total was \$330,223, so we **EXCEEDED** our goal by \$23,747, or 7%! We exceeded our 2019 Joyful Giving total by \$30,159.

I want to take this time to thank each member of the congregation for their generosity and for finding new and faithful ways to support the church when, most of the year, we couldn't place our offerings in the offering plate. I also want to encourage this faithful stewardship to continue into 2021. Like last year, January and February have already been low giving months. It is time to catch up. Hopefully in 2021, we won't be playing catch up all year, like we did last year! I am looking forward to seeing what 2021 will bring for our congregation.



TREASURER'S REPORT

-Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Jan. Income	\$17,820.96	\$26,122.10	(\$8,301.14)
YTD Income	\$17,820.96	\$26,122.10	(\$8,301.14)
Jan. Expenses	\$26,676.91	\$26,324.18	\$352.73
YTD Expenses	\$26,676.91	\$26,324.18	(\$8,653.87)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$8,855.90)	\$381.91	(\$9,237.81)
Jan. Attendance	N/A		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
01/31/20	N/A	\$4,562.00	\$5,550.66
02/07/20	N/A	\$5,155.00	\$6,854.39
02/14/20	N/A	\$5,673.00	\$6,854.39
02/21/20	N/A	\$2,643.96	\$6,854.39
Total	N/A	\$18,033.96	\$26,113.83

As of 01/31/2021, we are **\$8,301.14** behind in Joyful Giving for 2021.

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.

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 (**\$7,000**) will complete the 50 for 50 projects this spring (hopefully both will be done before the Congregational Meeting).

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 Church office, or ask [Sue Ann Schafer](#), [Brent Marcks](#), or [Pastor Rick](#).

LOAVES AND FISHES UPDATE

The February 15 meal at L&F consisted of spaghetti, bread, salad, and cookies. Patty Beeson provided the salad, and Mahree Skala made PB&J's to give out. Servers were Patty Beeson, Judi Privitt, Anne Heine, and Keith Birkes. Approximately 75 were served. Thank goodness that Room At the Inn and Turning Point have stayed open for people in need since it has been bitterly cold. Seeing those in need certainly helps us appreciate what we have. Thank you to everyone who helped.

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING SPECIAL MISSION OFFERING

Joshua Mumbi used to spend much of his time collecting water. When it rained, he would collect water running in the streets. Often he would spend much of the day walking to a local water source and carrying back buckets. Sometimes he would even travel to the water source with his family the night before, spending the night there so that they could bring back water in the morning. His mother, Josephine, did not like to make the journey alone; it was not safe. There was not much time to go to school. And when he did go to school, Joshua Mumbi was very tired during the day. It was hard to focus; it was hard to learn.



But thanks to your gifts through One Great Hour of Sharing, Joshua Mumbi and his family — and all of the other families in his village — have a safe, clean water source close to home. With a new solar-powered borehole well, they have water for cooking, water for drinking, water for bathing and keeping things clean and sanitary. Because you let love flow, water brought new life to a whole community. Now children like Joshua Mumbi and his siblings can go to school every day, and a whole world of opportunity is open to them. Now the whole community is empowered to provide for their needs, plan for their future, and pursue new opportunities for growth.

On March 14, we will be collecting for One Great Hour of Sharing, reaching out so that more communities can experience this new life. Please give generously, and let love flow! One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of The United Church of Christ.

BACK TO SCHOOL

As a Partnership Friend with Alpha Hart Lewis (AHL) Elementary School, the CUCC Outreach team worked with the school on their needs for returning to in-seat classes in January.

CUCC provided additional iPad chargers and school supplies for students in need. Thank you, members and friends of CUCC, for your support. AHL is so thankful for our "Friendship!"

FOOD BANK NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

The Food Bank has resumed in-person volunteering, with strict limitations on the size of the group. Tasks will be performed with social distancing and masking required. It will be wonderful to get back to work!

If you're interested in resuming CUCC group Food Bank volunteering, please email [Mahree Skala](mailto:Mahree.Skala), and she'll follow up with you. If you'd like to sign up for a shift on your own, the link is [Volunteer — The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri](#).

LET'S SUPPORT FUNDING FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION

The UCC General Synod has declared that "Health is harmony with self and others, the environment, and with God—a continuum of physical, social, psychological, and spiritual well-being." Health insurance coverage is essential to achieve that harmony—people without it often have poorer health and shorter lives.

Missourians, including many committed Christians, voted last August to expand Medicaid coverage to include 275,000 more low-income, uninsured people, with or without children. Most of the newly covered people are workers in low-paying jobs that do not provide insurance. The new coverage is set to start on July 1, 2021.

The next step is for the legislature to appropriate funding for it. Fortunately, Governor Parson included the funds in his budget request, and he was still able to balance the budget without any tax increase or cuts to other programs (despite opponents' fears about the potential cost). 90% of the costs will be covered by our federal tax dollars. The state will also benefit from the increase in jobs and economic activity that results from the expansion.

The legislature may try to cut the Governor's funding proposal, so we'll keep you informed as the debate occurs beginning in March. Please consider contacting your legislator (by phone, email or letter) to encourage them to support full funding for Medicaid expansion in accordance with the Governor's recommendations. Legislator contact information can be found at:

<https://lwvcbc.org/voter-information/elected-officials/house-and-senate/>.

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Our 2021 Lenten
Sunday School Adventure...

CLOSER TO GOD

(6 FEET APART FOR THE REST OF US!)

- For ages 3-12th grade. Everything will be multi-age friendly!
- 6 Sundays of fun: 2/21, 2/28, 3/7, 3/14, 3/21, 3/28
- 9-10 a.m.- each week a different theme!
- COVID protocols in place
- **Everyone MUST sign up to attend** (sign up for as many weeks as you're able!)
- To sign up: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0E49ADA72FAAF49-cucc1> or scan this:
- **Questions?** Please e-mail Lena Muench (cfg323@yahoo.com)



Sunday School During Lent – February 21- March 28, 2021

21 children and youth attended the first Sunday of Lent VBS on February 21, 2021. Please plan to bring your children to the remaining classes.

Lena Muench and Gina Pierson have put together a wonderful, interactive curriculum, all about Lent for kids of all ages.

Lenten Fun!

Children, youth, and young adults—this is for you! Follow this [link](#) for a Lenten adventure.

VBS 2021 Is Coming! Discovery on Adventure Island!

Thank you to Lena Muench and Gina Pierson for coordinating this Annual Event! More details will be coming.

ADULT EDUCATION SERIES – YOUR BIBLE

Have you ever wanted to participate in a basic, beginner's level Bible Study? A "Bible 101" that takes you back to your first steps in Biblical knowledge and reintroduces you to the basics? Have you ever felt that you don't know enough about the Bible to go to a Bible Study class, that before you can study the Bible you need to start at the beginning?

Pastor Rick is leading a "beginner's Bible Course" in February and March! For six Sunday mornings, we will share a course called, "Your Bible – the Study Begins." This is a Kerygma series that introduces participants to the Bible on a very beginning level, but enjoyable even for more advanced students.

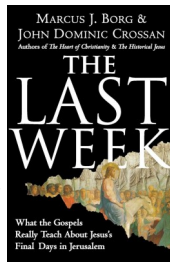
The Series outline is broken up into several units:

- "What is the Bible?"
- "How Did the Bible Come to Be?"
- "What is the Old Testament About?"
- "What is the New Testament About?"
- "How Has the Bible Been Preserved and Handed On?"
- "How Shall We Study the Bible?"
- "What is the Place of the Bible in Our Lives?"

By exploring these topics with the [Pastor Rick](#) and the class, you can lay the foundation for a much more comprehensive understanding of the Bible. The class will meet Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m. in the downstairs Fellowship Hall starting February 21 and running thru March 28 (Palm Sunday).

LENTEN BOOK/BIBLE STUDY— THE LAST WEEK

Join Pastor Rick for six Wednesdays during Lent as we take a look at the last week of Jesus' life and the crucial events that took place that week. We will be focusing our study around the book "The Last Week" by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan. Other materials will be incorporated, as well, and we will be looking at and comparing Gospel narratives.



We started on Wednesday, February 24, looking at Palm Sunday, Jesus' entry into Jerusalem, and what that meant to the first century world. The next five Wednesdays (March 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31), we will look at each day of Jesus' last week, examining what these Gospel narratives would have meant to first century readers, and what wisdom these narratives hold for us today.

We will meet at 6:30 each Wednesday in the Fellowship Hall, socially distanced, wearing masks. Copies of the book can be purchased on Amazon for \$10.99 and can also be found at local booksellers. While you can certainly join the discussion without having read the book, it is recommended that you do so to get the full impact of the class. Pastor Rick will be sending out a Study Guide before each class to get us started (and also a Zoom link, if anyone wants to join that way).

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. For more information, talk to [Pastor Rick](#).

Valentine's Day Bags

Thank you to Paula Wilson, Audrey Lasley, Judi Privitt, Pastor Rick, and Pat Forward for delivering the Valentine's Bags to the 65 children and youth on our Sunday School Roster. The bags included Valentine's Day and Lent fun, information and treats.

Parenting Resource:

Positive Parenting and the Seven Essential Life Skills for Children!

www.mindinthemaking.org



ATTENTION:

There will be no camping opportunities at Camp MoVal for Summer, 2021.

SOUPER Bowl Fundraiser

\$290 was raised at this year's SOUPER Bowl Fundraiser for the Central Food Pantry in Columbia. Thank you for everyone who donated, and thank you to the [Confirmation Class for their video](#) promoting the event.

Invest in the Anti-Trafficking Movement Globally

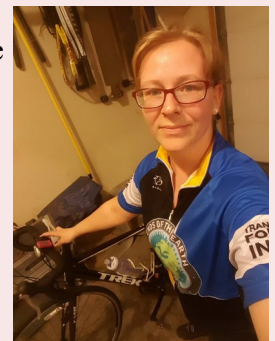
In less than four weeks I will be riding 300+ miles, from Fort Myers, FL, through the Everglades, and on to Key West. Myself, along with a couple dozen others, will [#prayedarepeat](#) over 47 bridges, one of which is 7 -miles long, with Ends of the Earth Cycling (a ministry of New International). This will be done in Jesus' name for the youth of Romania. We are riding to raise prayers, donations, support, and awareness for the wonderful ministry called Missio International (MI). <https://missiointernational.org/>

MI provides wholistic services for children and youth who live in rural or marginalized areas and have little-to-no education, in a country that still suffers from the realities of the aftermath of a Communist rule. **Romania is second in the top countries-of-origin** (the country where a trafficked person came from before being trafficked) **for victims of human trafficking in the EU**. Many of the youth served by MI are incredibly susceptible to falling into the hands of traffickers. MI's Children-At-Risk programs currently serve *over 750 marginalized children and youth annually*, meeting the spiritual and material needs of these at risk children and youth.

If you can and want to support the miles I am riding for Missio International (the ride beneficiary—meaning all funds, minus administrative costs, go to Missio International), you can do so at

<https://newinternational.org/.../key-west-bike-ride-2021>. I'd also love your prayers and encouragement during this journey. Thank you for your support!

April Rothweiler



WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

THIS IS MY STORY, THIS IS MY SONG

Acts 16:25 – “About midnight, Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them.”

Love God, love neighbor. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus was asked what the two greatest commandments are. Simply put, they are to love God and to love your neighbor. While music is constantly referenced in scripture, Acts 16:25 is an amazing story that quietly expresses the power and purpose of prayer and music, to love God and to love others. To offer glory to God and to uplift, enlighten or build up our neighbors.

Paul and Silas were thrown into a Roman prison for healing a slave of her power to foresee the future – basically, her owners lost a source of income, and they were upset. While in jail, this one verse describes how they continued in prayer and song to praise God...and the prisoners were listening to them. Can you imagine the impact that their song had on the other prisoners who were listening to them, especially as you go on to read about the earthquake and their calming presence? Can you imagine the impact of your song when others are listening? We all have a song to sing, and you will never know how you might impact another person for good.

My first memories of church and faith happened when I was a young boy in Phoenix, AZ. I remember my dad and my grandfather singing in the church choir, and on Sunday night, my dad directed the hymns and the special music. At that same church, I was in the Primary Choir – if we had perfect attendance and memorized a hymn, we would, at the end of the year, receive a hymnal with our name engraved on it. I still have and treasure this hymnal. While I do not remember the names of the Primary Choir leaders, their song impacted my life in ways I may never fully understand.

My first memories of our youth group in Silver Spring, Maryland, were centered on the choir, led by an energizer bunny who loved us and taught us the joy of service to others through music. From that choir, there are five full-time ministers working around the country and the world. Our choir director's name was Rayma, and as we listened to her song, we began to sing our own.

During my ministry here in Columbia, I would go once a quarter to The Terrace retirement community to help lead a service of communion. Virginia Edens is a wonderful friend of our family, and she is one of the most faithful servants for God that I have ever known. Her mother lived at The Terrace and was an Alzheimer's patient. During the service, we would sing some old hymns, and Virginia's mother, though she could not remember my name, knew every verse of every hymn, and she sang them with great delight. These hymns were the story of her faith, and she sang them so that others would listen and believe.

This is our story and our song – to use our voices in whatever way we can, to sing God's glory, and to hope that others are listening.

-Ed Rollins, Music Coordinator



WELCOME MIKE PIERSON and CONNIE LOVELESS

The Music and Worship Ministry Team has a new chair! Mike Pierson has been appointed to fill the unexpired term that will be up for election in May, 2022. He brings to the team a wealth of knowledge, including working in music production for many years in education. He has great knowledge in the technical aspects of production, as well as the expressive aspects. We welcome him to this leadership position, and the Council seat that accompanies it. If you are interested in being part of the Music and Worship Ministry Team, you are invited to be a part! We meet monthly, usually with a Zoom option; and all input is welcome. Our responsibility includes all aspects of worship; from music to banners to technology and the structure of the worship space. We work with Pastor Rick in all of these efforts.

We also welcome another great Worship & Music Leader, Connie Loveless, to the Church Council as Secretary. Connie is filling an unexpired term that will be up for election in May, 2021. She is filling the term until that time. She brings great skills to the Church Council and exemplifies leadership in the Congregation. Welcome to Council, Connie!

YOU CAN HELP SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT CUCC VIRTUAL WORSHIP

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

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

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

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for March. 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 have chosen CUCC as your church!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
03/07	Judi Privitt	N/A	Sue Ann Schaefer	Lilly Smith	Mike Pierson	Melba Shaffer
03/14	Audrey Lasley	N/A	Pat Forward	Abby Dennis	NEED	Jo Ellen Grace
03/21	Jolene Kirchoff	N/A	Confirmands	Kennedy Lucas	NEED	Audrey Lasley
03/28	Anne Heine	Mahree Skala	Darren Lasley	Lilly Smith	NEED	Connie Loveless

CORONAVIRUS AND CUCC UPDATE

The pandemic is not over yet, and we must continue to be vigilant and safe as we slowly emerge into more in-person activities and public gatherings. However, *as the month of February draws to a close, the 5-day average for new COVID cases in Boone County has dropped to 22 new cases/day!* 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. In September and October, when we were worshipping in person, the 5-day average was 60-70 new cases/day. We hope that everyone investigates opportunities for vaccination, to reduce the risk of infection to even lower levels. For information about vaccination options, [CLICK HERE](#).

With this data in mind, the CUCC COVID Response Team and the Church Council decided to reopen our Sanctuary to in-person worship on February 21, with appropriate precautions, including social distancing and mask wearing. Our reopening resulted in 55 people in worship, and others participating in Adult Sunday School class and our Lenten Bible School Program. (For reference, our pre-COVID average Sunday morning attendance was around 140.)

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.

CUCC IS WORKING IN LESOTHO

The Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA) is one of Africa's oldest Protestant churches. LECSA, a partner church of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ through Global Ministries, has approximately 580 primary and secondary schools in the country. In many classrooms, students are crowded around a single desk, sitting on benches, or sitting on the floor without a place to work and take notes. Teachers have no place to set teaching materials. Fortunately, LECSA also operates the Leloaleng Manufacturing Centre (LMC), which builds school furniture. LECSA partners with LMC to build school furniture, giving the community increased employment opportunities. LECSA seeks to provide teacher tables, student desks and chalkboards to improve learning and teaching.

The LECSA 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. Please keep Global Ministries and LECSA in your prayers!

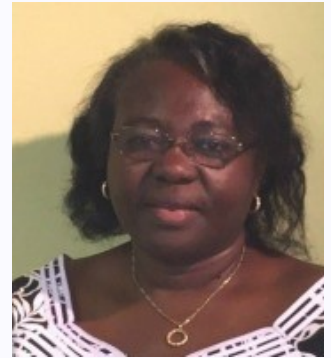
In March, please keep these UCC/DOC Global Ministries missionaries in your prayers:

March 1-6
Leda Zakarison
Working in Lebanon

March 7-13
Anne Gregory
Working in Thailand

March 14-20
Raul Santiago-Rivera
Working in Puerto Rico

March 21-28
Brigitte Eale
Working in Kenya



CUCC IS WORKING IN MEXICO

(condensed from 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.



ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN MARCH

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 10:15am Staff Meeting	2 5:30pm Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team 6:30pm Nurture & Education Ministry	3 6:30 Book Study	4	5	6 Online ONA Convocation with Austen Hartke
7 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	8 10:15am Staff Meeting 6pm Confirmation	9 6:30pm Music & Worship Ministry Team	10 LODO CLOSED 6:30 Book Study	11 9:30am Women's Fellowship 6:30pm Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	12 LODO CLOSED Professional Development Day	13
14 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	15 10:15am Staff Meeting 6pm Confirmation	16 6:30pm Church Council	17  6:30 Book Study	18 April gone	19 April gone	20 COMMUNICATOR ARTICLES DUE
21 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship in person Worship also Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	22 10:15am Staff Meeting April gone 6pm Confirmation	23 April gone 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team	24 April gone 6:30 Book Study	25 April gone	26 April gone	27
28 Palm/Passion Sunday 9:00 Sunday School 10:30am Worship in person Worship also Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	29 NO Staff Meeting LODO & CPS Spring Break 6pm Confirmation	30 LODO & CPS Spring Break	31 LODO & CPS Spring Break 6:30 Book Study	1 Maundy Thursday LODO & CPS Spring Break Worship at 7:00pm	2 Good Friday LODO & CPS Spring Break Worship at 7:00pm	3

THE COMMUNICATOR

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

The Communicator is a publication of Columbia United Church of Christ. The stated purpose is to communicate with the congregation and our friends concerning the organizations and events of the church. It is published once each month. The deadline for articles is the 20th of each month.



Interested in Church Membership?
If you are interested in joining, please contact [Rev. Rick Oberle](mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com).
rick@columbiaucc.com

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

**Columbia United Church of Christ
Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant**

Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates God's boundless and unconditional love by intentionally welcoming and affirming all God's children.

No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey;
No matter where you are on your faith journey;
No matter your sexual orientation, gender expression or identity;
No matter your race, culture, ethnicity, nationality or politics;
No matter your age, ability, health, relationship status or family structure;
No matter your social, economic, educational, legal or life circumstances;
You are welcome here!

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

LODO PLAYGROUND RESPECT
Please help us keep our playground safe for all children by following these guidelines:

- ◆ The CUCC playground is designed for, and should be used by, *only children ages 8 and younger*.
- ◆ Adult supervision is required while children are on the playground.
- ◆ Mulch must stay on the ground. When children dig up mulch it creates holes that are tripping hazards. Children should only dig in the sandbox.
- ◆ Sand should stay in the sandbox. Please do not allow sand to be carried and dumped in the playhouse or on play structures.
- ◆ Use playground equipment in the manner it is intended.