

THE COMMUNICATOR

November 2019



“Beatitudes”

From the Pastor’s Keyboard

On November 3, we will be celebrating All Saints Day and remembering all who have died this past year; the Saints of the Church who are no longer with us. As we do, we will hear what we have come to call “The Beatitudes” presented in Luke’s Gospel (Luke’s version differs from Matthew’s version in a few significant ways).

In this Gospel, Jesus seems to articulate a binary view of humanity. He lifts up those who are poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, reviled and defamed, telling them that surely their reward is great in Heaven. He appears to polarize them against those who are rich, who are full, who are laughing, and those who are highly regarded by society. Reading this, I tend to fall in the category of the latter. By worldly standards (half the world’s population lives on \$2/day or less), everyone in our church is rich, full and enjoying the privileges of a highly regarded society. Does that polarize us against the former group?

This dichotomy that Jesus sets up was not intended to polarize. Jesus wanted us to think. Specifically, in preaching this sermon, Jesus wants us to think more intentionally about God’s Kingdom in our midst and our ability to enable it.

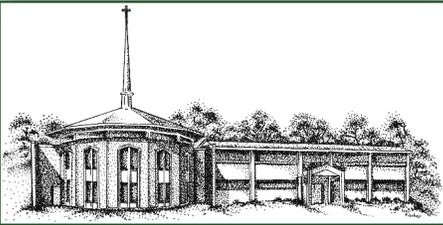
We are blessed; and we have the ability to be blessings to others. By focusing on those who are in the first grouping Jesus mentions, we have the ability to make the Kingdom of God a reality in the world. This is our primary purpose and call; to be blessings to the poor, the hungry, the weeping, those who are hated, excluded, reviled and defamed; to mend the gap that separates us. When we start hoarding our riches unto ourselves, we become as Jesus warned; woeful.

On All Saints Day, we will be remembering the Saints of the Church who have died this past year; but we also will be recalling that we are all the Saints of the Church. We have inherited a mantle from those who have left us to restore the Kingdom of God in this place; to give and to love. As Saints of the Church this is our duty; this is our call. We must never waver in our efforts to “feed the hungry, quench the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the sick and in prison” as Jesus commands (Matthew 25:34) for when we fail to heed this call, we are no longer Christ’s church.

Instead of polarizing the Beatitudes, maybe we should look at them this way: “Blessed are those who *care for* the poor, hungry, weeping, hated, excluded, reviled and defamed;” for as we are blessed, we are called to be a blessing. This is the call of the church.

-Pastor Rick





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

Rev. Rick Oberle
Pastor

Rev. Fred Brandenburg
Pastor Emeritus

April Rothweiler
Office Administrator

Kristin Veteto
Music Coordinator

Amy Crousore
Organist/Accompanist

Erika Maltsbarger
Director, Little One's Day Out

Lloyd Viehland
Building Monitor

Raj Tolani
Financial Secretary

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. - Coffee and Fellowship

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship in Sanctuary

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

Phone:
(573)-445-7931

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News and Events

save the date

Celebrating Missouri's Heifer Story
Join us as we celebrate 75 years of doing good.
Saturday, November 9, 2019
1:30-3:30 p.m.
Broadway Christian Church
2601 W. Broadway, Columbia, MO



for more information, e-mail MOHeifer75@gmail.com

Veterans Day, November 11

Grab your favorite Veteran, or "adopt" a Veteran and take them to a meal! Here are some places that serve FREE or discounted meals to Veterans. Let the Church Office know if you would like to receive the complete list, with meal option information, through email or mail.

Applebee's	Bob Evan's	Buffalo Wild Wings
Cici's Pizza	Denny's	Dunkin' Donuts
Fazoli's	HyVee	IHOP
Olive Garden	Red Lobster	Ruby Tuesday's
Texas Roadhouse	TGI Friday's	Golden Corral

Congregational Budget Meeting

The Annual Budget Meeting will be November 10 after church. The 2020 budget was distributed after worship on October 27. The Church Council will be presenting this for approval to the congregation at the Annual Budget Meeting; stick around and help determine the direction and future of your church!

Testimony Sunday

Testimony Sunday for our 2019 Confirmation Class will be November 24 during worship. This will be a great opportunity to hear about the faith journey our three confirmation students have taken this past year, and share in their testimony of faith!

Confirmation Sunday

Confirmation Sunday is December 1, the First Sunday of Advent. Come and celebrate the beginning of a wonderful faith journey on the part of our three confirmation students! This year's confirmands are: Ember Piersee, Andie Rapp & Ryan Schoeneberg.

Christmas Cantata and Christmas Banquet

The Choir Christmas Cantata and the Annual CUCC Christmas Banquet will be on December 8 this year. Come hear and worship as the choir prepares us for the Christmas season to come; and then share in Christmas Fellowship with your CUCC family at the Annual Christmas Banquet!



Children's Christmas Program

The Sunday School Children will prepare us for the upcoming Christmas season by sharing the gift of wisdom that is Jesus' nativity on Sunday, December 15 during the worship service. We will also observe the CUCC tradition of cookie sharing at this time. Plan on attending and sharing in the fun with our Sunday School Students!

Pastor's Open House

The Oberles will be hosting an Advent Open House at their home on Friday, December 20 from 5:00-8:00pm. Come and go as you wish; there will be plenty of food for everyone! All are welcome to come and visit and share in the joy of the season.

Christmas Eve Worship

Christmas Eve Worship this year will be the same times as last year: 4:00pm (children-themed service with cookie communion), 7:00pm (special music ensemble), and 11:00pm (Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers playing). The 7:00 and 11:00 service will feature "Silent Night" sung by candlelight. Invite your friends!

Dear CUCC,

Thank you for your recent donation of fruit, salad, and dressing to the Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-MO. Every gift matters and our Guest families at the house appreciate your generosity so much!

Thanks again,
Shelby Boze, Volunteer Coordinator



Congratulations to parents;
Ashley & Stephen Scott
and proud grandparents:
Mahree & Karl Skala

on the birth of
Penelope Jean Scott
born @ 1.09 p.m. on October 17

welcome little one!



E-mail Address Changes

Ginny Van Hove
vanhoveg77@gmail.com

Wash Your Hands and Say Your Prayers because Jesus and Germs are Everywhere

Women's Fellowship will be having their annual craft sale in both November and December. This year they've added homemade soap to the list of awesome items that will be available for purchase!



Scents include:

- ◆ Lavender Vanilla
(made with real lavender petals)
- ◆ Cinnamon Coffee
(made with real coffee grounds for exfoliation)
- ◆ Coconut Orchid

Be sure to watch for updates of when the sales will be held. *All proceeds from sales go back into the local community through generous donations and involvement from Women's Fellowship.*

Dear CUCC family,

Thank you so much for everyone's support of the Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk! Our team raised over \$900, far surpassing our original goal of \$500. The walk as a whole raised over \$57,000 to provide services and activities for people with Down Syndrome in mid-Missouri. We really appreciate all the support and prayers-- it was a great day!

from Tricia Price, Jonathon and
Norah Schultz

Dear Emmaus Homes Friends,

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

Pastoral care is one of the services Emmaus provides that is not supported through government funding. Pastors Cindy Bumb and Andrea Asselmeier facilitate Bible study classes, preside over Sunday services, see clients in their homes and visit clients in the hospital. They provide comfort, hope, and prayer during times of crisis and celebrate the many joys of life. With your help, we are able to continue to provide this service. We would not be where we are today without the generosity of our church family, thank you!

Sincerely,
Lisa Key, Chief Development Officer

MODERATORS MOMENT

Moderator's Moment

I'm deeply indebted to the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team, chaired by George Zimny, and to Christine Staelens, Treasurer and Doug Privitt, Recording Treasurer. These volunteers have worked extremely hard with Pastor Rick this year, and especially these past few months, to keep faithful watch on the church's finances and to lead several projects that have needed their time and attention. One project that they are leading is the 50 for 50 Fundraising Campaign. In appreciation of the hard work and dedication of those who built this church before us, we committed to raise \$50,000 over 50 days to help fund a number of upgrades to our building that was constructed 50 years ago. They have each stood up during a Sunday service to help explain what the church's needs are and how these upgrades will help us continue the great ministry work that happens as a result. Let me take this opportunity to thank all of you who have made a commitment to the 50 for 50 Campaign and please know that your Church Council will faithfully utilize these funds for the projects listed in the campaign.

Another project that was undertaken by the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team, with leadership from Pastor Rick, is the creation of a new Designated Funds Policy Manual. These were formerly called the Historic Funds. By working with connected Ministry Teams, funds were renamed, in some instances to properly identify with their purpose, each were given a definition of that purpose, and specifics were stated about how disbursements must be approved. This was given final approval by the Church Council in October. We hope you find it a clear and understandable manual of all our Designated Funds.

In addition to the aforementioned projects, the F&S Ministry Team is charged with preparing the budget that is presented to the congregation on November 10 following worship. This can be a lengthy process of consulting with each Ministry Team and asking each to present their proposed line items for review. That proposed budget was then brought to Council for discussion and approval. That was accomplished at our October meeting.

So, as you see, they are a busy group of faithful volunteers. The team consists of Sue Ann Schaefer, Paula Wilson, Charlie Marcks, Barry Kirchoff, Keith Birkes, Christine Staelens and George Zimny. Please thank them for their service to our church!

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

CUCC NOW HAS ONLINE GIVING!

You can now give online to Columbia United Church of Christ through our online giving partner, Kindrid! There are several ways to make a one time or recurring gift through Kindrid:

1. click on this link: <https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/cucc>
(or type it into your web browser)
2. Access the Kindrid giving site through our CUCC website: www.columbiaucc.com
and click on the "Donate to CUCC" button.
3. Text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041 and follow the directions on the text you receive back to set up your one time or recurring gift.

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

INCLUSION TEAM

November is the month that our nation officially observes Veterans Day. Everyday we owe our Independence and Freedoms (of which there are many) to the brave men and women who have served to ensure those blessings. We honor them, not only in November, but all year long.

The Inclusion team has been working on long term vision goals as well as short term observances such as our ONA Anniversary in January and the observance of Black History Month in February.

Due to scheduling challenges, we will not meet in November, but will gather together again in early December. As always, we want to hear ideas and suggestions from the congregation as to how we can improve and strengthen our collective resolve to be a totally open, affirming and welcoming fellowship.

In Peace, Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Inclusion Team Chair



CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant:

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

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



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

CHIAPAS TRIP 2020

In 2018, a group of 11 travelled to Chiapas, Mexico for our first ever CUCC Immersion Experience with our Global Ministries partners there. It was a fun and educational experience for all who went; and it helped develop a relationship with Chiapas that exists to this day. We hope to enhance that experience with another trip in 2020.

The dates for our next trip are June 30-July 7, 2020. While we are there, we will be working with the Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research, one of our Global Ministries Mission Partners in Chiapas, who will provide our room and board for the week. We will also work with Melel Xojobal, another Global Ministries Mission Partner; and participate in a special work project involving Chiapas children and youth!

Pastor Rick will be presenting more information about this trip in the weeks to come, and will have a special information session in early January. The cost of the trip will be \$1400, which will include airfare, transportation and almost all in-country expenses including lodging and food. Pastor Rick has full packets available with information for interested parties; email him to receive your packet today rick@columbiaucc.com and watch for more information in November, December and January.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST PUTS FAITH IN ACTION

Almost 6,000 families on the South Side of Chicago have had their medical debt forgiven through a collaborative effort of local, Conference and national bodies of the United Church of Christ and other partners. UCC leaders announced Oct. 20 that church donations have wiped out \$5.3 million in medical debt for 5,888 Chicago families.

Thanks to a campaign led by UCC Justice and Local Church Ministries and Chicago's Trinity UCC, qualifying residents in three Chicago neighborhoods are now receiving letters telling them that their medical debt, averaging \$907 each, has been forgiven. The Rev. Traci Blackmon, UCC associate general minister for JLCM, and The Rev. Otis Moss III, Trinity's senior pastor, teamed up to initiate the project earlier this year and enlist other contributors inside and beyond the UCC.

In a Sunday-afternoon news conference and celebration at Trinity, church leaders said the debt was purchased in September in three communities identified by ZIP codes: 60621, 60628 and 60636. The church bodies raised \$38,000 over the summer and then worked with the New York-based nonprofit RIP Medical Debt to buy the debt at pennies on the dollar. In addition to lead gifts from Trinity and JLCM, generous contributions came from the UCC Illinois Conference, St. Pauls UCC in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago and Covenant UCC of South Holland, IL.

"Today we thank all the supporters of this beautiful vision," Moss said. "Because of your generosity, thousands of families in Chicago will now be free to pursue dreams and celebrate this holiday season without the weight of medical debt."

The urban neighborhoods were chosen because of their demographics, said the Rev. Traci Blackmon, the UCC's national associate general minister for Justice and Local Church Ministries. Qualifying debtors were those earning less than two times the federal poverty level; in financial hardship; or facing insolvency, with debts greater than assets.

"When medical debt piles up, families have to make difficult financial decisions, sometimes cutting back on food, clothing or other basic household items," said the Rev. Justo González II, interim leader of the UCC Illinois Conference.

"Sometimes it seems there is very little grace in the world," said the Rev. Matt Fitzgerald, senior pastor of St. Paul's. "Or at least, we don't give each other much grace. What joy to open a letter saying, 'Your debt has been forgiven,' instead of a letter saying, 'We're coming after you. Pay up.' Saint Paul's is so happy to be part of this effort. I hope what is happening here inspires other churches to buy up medical debt. It's like Jesus feeding thousands of people from a few loaves of bread and two fish. We just watched \$38,000 become more than \$5 million."

SPECIAL MISSION FUNDS TO HELP CHIAPAS

When the Church Council put together the 2018 budget, they decided to "dream big" and budget \$10,000 for a special mission project. After Congregational discernment, it was decided that project would fund the renovation of a cabin at Camp MoVal. That renovation has become a reality, and the newly renovated cabin will be in use this fall.

In our 2019 Budget, the Church Council decided to repeat this expression of faith and budgeted \$5,750 for a "Special Mission Project." After two months of Congregational discernment, the Church Council voted to donate that money to our Global Missions Partners in Chiapas, distributed as follows:

\$3,000 to INESIN for their ongoing programs, including their reforestation program
\$2,750 to Melel Xojobal for their work with the children of Chiapas.

Both of these are agencies we visited and worked with on our last Mission Immersion Experience in Chiapas and have historic connections to the United Church of Christ. Pastor Rick will be speaking about these organizations at Lunch Bunch on January 23, 2020, and we are organizing a trip to see them in action this summer (June 30-July 7). We are thrilled to be able to support the ministries of these incredible organizations!



50 for 50 Fundraising Campaign

For 50 years, Columbia United Church of Christ has stood on this hill, a round beacon of hope for those searching for God’s presence in their lives. Our round building symbolizes the never-ending circle of God’s love, present in this place and emanating outward in waves, challenging and transforming the world. But this 50-year-old facility is in need of some upgrades as we move into our next 50 years. Among these upgrades are:

Security upgrades: New security upgrades for LODO and the Church Office, **Evangelism enhancement.** New signage at the entrance to our property and directional signage around the parking lot. **Outdoor education:** Enhancement of the Shelter House, including electrical work and addressing safety issues with the floor. **Stewardship of Creation:** Devising and maintaining a landscaping plan for our building and grounds that would include new foliage and greenspaces. **Enhancing our Worship:** Updating and upgrading our sound system (mixing board), sound booth computer, and purchasing livestreaming equipment. **Caring for our property investment:** encasing the eaves around the Sanctuary roof with soffit to provide maintenance free care for the underside of our new roof.

The Church Council, working with the Building & Grounds, Membership & Care, Finance & Stewardship and Music & Worship Ministry Teams, has vetted each of these projects and is soliciting comprehensive bids. The expense to complete these projects is *in excess of* \$50,000.

To help enable these projects, in this 50th year, we are asking members and friends of Columbia United Church of Christ to give over and above their usual annual giving, to a special anniversary collection we are calling “50 for 50.” We would challenge you to observe the 50th anniversary of this congregation by giving something in recognition of that event. Perhaps you are inclined to give \$500 or \$5,000; or maybe you give \$50 for each member of your household. ***This campaign began on our Anniversary Sunday, September 22, and will run for 50 days, through November 10.*** All gifts marked “50 for 50” during this timeframe will be used for the purposes mentioned above.

Caring for the community: In keeping with a Biblical model of Stewardship, 10% of the funds raised will be given away to historic CUCC Outreach agencies that we have supported over the past 50 years, in consultation with the Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team.

Have fun with the “50” and help us raise \$50,000 for these ministry enhancements. You can give by selecting “Donate to CUCC” on our website or through Kindrid and selecting “50 for 50” from the dropdown menu; you can give by texting “give” to 573.240.4041, you can mail a check to the church with “50 for 50” in the memo line; or drop a check or cash in the offering plate. If you have any questions, talk to John Graves, CUCC Church Council President or Christine Staelens, Treasurer. Thank you in advance for your gift!

Update on 50 for 50 Campaign

Since late September, \$19,351.00 has been given toward the 50 for 50 Campaign. There have been articles in The Communicator and presentations during church outlining the purpose for the funds raised. In addition to facility improvements and upgrades, we will give 10% of the amount collected to historic UCC Outreach agencies.

I hope you will consider a gift to the 50 for 50 fund!
Christine Staelens

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Sept. Income	\$22,396.88	\$29,752.96	(\$7,356.08)
YTD	\$222,540.72	\$227,062.14	(\$4,521.42)
Sept. Expenses	\$32,087.16	\$29,958.06	\$2,129.10
YTD	\$230,826.41	\$241,102.52	(\$10,276.11)
YTD Income	\$222,540.72	\$227,062.41	(\$4,521.42)
YTD Expenses	\$230,826.41	\$241,102.52	(\$10,276.11)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$8,285.69)	(\$14,040.38)	\$5,754.69
Sept. Attendance	667		

TREASURER’S REPORT Doug Privitt, Recording Treasurer

Date	Attendance	Actual	Budget
09/29/19	88	\$2,529.00	\$5,672.13
10/06/19	115	\$3,717.00	\$6,652.25
10/13/19	114	\$7,908.61	\$6,652.25
10/20/19	131	\$2,149.00	\$6,652.25
10/27/19	126	\$6,057.30	\$6,652.25

CUCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Memorial Education Fund at Columbia United Church of Christ was established in 1972 by CUCC member Professor H. H. Krusekopf to memorialize his wife, Nancy Krusekopf, on her passing. Over the years, this fund has evolved in purpose and expanded to include donations honoring Professor Krusekopf on his death, as well as to memorialize Elsa Nagel, Seth Brandenburg, Wesley Kirchhoff and Rachel Kirchhoff. The historic purpose of the fund has been primarily to encourage theological or Christian education in the United Church of Christ and secondarily to support youth and college groups within the church and to support the education and training of teachers and leaders of Christian Education within the church.

This fund has grown significantly over the years, and in an effort to expand the use of this fund to enable education for more of the congregation, the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team, working with the Brandenburgs, the Kirchhoffs and the Church Council, have redefined this fund as the **Columbia United Church of Christ Scholarship Fund**. The new definition for this fund can be found in the CUCC Designated Funds Policy Manual, approved by the Church Council October 15, 2019.

This fund is now open to **ACTIVE** members of Columbia United Church of Christ to apply for Scholarships to cover continuing education expenses beyond High School. Applications will be available in early 2020 for students seeking fall scholarships. Full details are available in the Designated Funds Policy Manual, copies are available in the church Gathering Area, or email the church office for electronic copies.

Contributions to this fund are encouraged to enable its growth and service to the continuing education of our youth and young adults.

It is our hope that this expansion of definition will enable this fund to grow and to serve more of the congregation in the spirit of continuing education that was the basis for this fund when Professor Krusekopf started it 47 years ago. Praise be to God for this great ministry opportunity and for the blessings of our forerunners in faith, who laid the foundation for this ministry to thrive!

CUCC DESIGNATED FUNDS POLICY MANUAL

Columbia United Church of Christ has historically established special funds for ministry purposes, but over the years the intent of those funds has not been clarified, resulting in confusion and, at times, disagreement about how these funds should be used. What we have called “Historic Funds” in the past were defined over the years by the current Church Council and were spent wisely, but lacked ongoing definition to maintain consistency.

To rectify this, the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team has been working for the past year on defining and consolidating what we are now calling our “Designated Funds.” With the Church Council’s approval and endorsement, we have worked with our Ministry Teams over the past year to look at the former “Historic Funds” and repurpose or define them to suit our current ministry needs as “Designated Funds.” Currently, they have been defined in nine different funds:

1. Building and Grounds Fund
2. Chiapas Mission/Mayan Ministries Fund
3. Memorial Fund
4. Nurture and Education Ministry Fund
5. Outreach and Advocacy Fund
6. Scholarship Fund
7. Worship and Music Ministry Fund
8. Young Adult/Campus Ministry Fund
9. Youth Ministry Fund

These funds are defined in our “Designated Funds Policy Manual” which was approved by the Church Council on October 15, distributed to the Congregation at the Estate Planning Workshop on October 20, and is available at the usher’s station in the Gathering Area at church (copies are on the wooden podium between the Sanctuary doors). Electronic copies can also be sent upon request thru the church office or ask a Church Council member.

It is our hope that by clearly defining these funds, we not only enhance their use for ministry goals, but we can also offer them as possible places for donations and estate planning. As members and friends of the church plan their estate and annual giving, these ongoing specific funds could be a place of comfort for their particular passion in ministry. Pick up your copy of the Designated Funds Policy Manual next time you are at church (or request an electronic copy) to see what great ministries are happening at CUCC!

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

Next Food Bank Volunteer Opportunity is November 12



Ten volunteers from CUCC enjoyed light duty the evening of October 8, packaging family-size bags of chocolate graham bars. We all craved chocolate by the time we left!

Helpers included Pat and Dave Forward, Connie Loveless, Alice Moon, Lena Muench, Melba Shaffer, Mahree Skala, Tricia Soncasie, Ann Stone-Meyer, and Paula Wilson.

Our crew along with other volunteers bagged over 1,900 pounds of treats. Please plan to join the fun at 6:00 pm on Tuesday, November 12.

Shoelaces, Belts, and Ponchos, Oh My!



The male clients at Turning Point, the homeless day center CUCC supports, are in need of the above three items.

There are constant requests for longer shoe laces, belts of all sizes (used are just fine) and rain ponchos.

Thanks in advance for any items you can provide. There will be a box in the gathering area, or you may drop off items at the Church Office Monday through Friday, 9-3.

Thank you to everyone who gave so generously for "Warm Up Columbia!" CUCC gave eight large bags to VAC! You are helping keep those with little or no shelter warm this winter!

If you missed the opportunity to provide for those in need this winter, you can still do so! Operation Safe Winter (OSW) is collecting gently used: coats, hats, gloves, jeans, long sleeved shirts, socks, sweatpants and sweatshirts, blankets, sleeping bags, and tents. They will pick it up from your doorstep! Just post your address in a message to OSW's Facebook page and on Friday, November 1, they will pick up your donations. Please put your gently used gifts in a bag labeled OSW and set them on your porch by 8 a.m. Just click on the link below to give!

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2906942479333574/>

Help Make Christmas a Joyful Time for Someone—Participate in the VAC Christmas Drive



The extra expenses of Christmas time can be too great for many low-income people. Fortunately, we can help by sharing a gift or two, some simple household items, or a holiday meal. Your generosity can make the holiday bright for someone who would otherwise go without.

CUCC has pledged to sponsor gifts, necessities and food for 35 people in families screened by the Voluntary Action Center (VAC). Please consider "adopting" a child, parent, or disabled adult. Names and "wish lists" will be available in the gathering area early in November, so be on the lookout!

VAC suggests we purchase at least one new gift or household item (\$50-75 per person), and/or contribute \$15 per person for their holiday meal. If you plan to spend more, please consider adopting more than one person so we can help as many as possible.

It's simple to be a sponsor. Just select a card, sign and leave the attached slip, and pick up an information sheet with the details. **Deadline for return of gifts and food money is December 8.** Your generous expression of Christian love will make a big difference in someone's life.

Loaves N Fishes

The October 21 meal at L&F was a smorgasbord. There was beef left from the anniversary luncheon that was fixed as beefy noodles. Ham was also leftover from that same Sunday, and that was served with macaroni and cheese, green beans and German potato salad. Deli sandwiches, PB&J sandwiches, chicken spaghetti, beef ravioli, a lettuce salad, and a variety of desserts were also served.

Servers/helpers were: Patty Beeson, David Martin, Anne Heine, John and Brenda Muench, Riley Hayward, Mindy Hayward, Alex Oberle, and Pastor Rick. It was a very busy evening in which we served approximately 100 firsts and 50 seconds and carry-outs. Thanks to everyone for all of their hard work!

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

50th Anniversary Fun!

September 22, 2019, Columbia United Church of Christ celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the dedication of our current building. What a celebration it was! Honored guests included Rev. Jerry Jordan, Rev. Fred Brandenburg, Rev. Sally Robinson, Rev. John Yonker, Rev. Coletta Eichenberger, Koren Kerr (daughter of Rev. Bill Kerr), and Virginia (Rathert) Zetterberg, as well as our own CUCC members, Rev. Dr. John Bracke and Rev. Ken Beckman, who led this church in the most recent interim period.

Our worship service was a reflection of the original dedication of this Sanctuary on September 21, 1969. Hymns and liturgies from that day were reflected, and we sang together a song that Virginia Rathert and Jerry Jordan wrote in 1969 to celebrate that day, "Arise, All People, Meet Our God." Jerry and Fred were given certificates of appreciation for leading our congregation faithfully during their tenures, and we re-dedicated the Sanctuary to God's glory.

After worship we joined together in a catered meal, served by the Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team. Rev. Jordan and Rev. Brandenburg shared memories with us, as well as Ed Kaiser, Donna Marsh, Sue Beckman, Virginia (Rathert) Zetterberg, Doug Privitt, and others. We were also treated to a musical parody offered by Harry Beckett, Jolene Kirchhoff and Connie Loveless.

It was a wonderful day of celebration and a great way to reflect on the past while looking forward to the future. There are more pictures from this day on the CUCC website, as well as the scriptures and sermon, shared by Revs. Jordan, Brandenburg and Oberle. Check them all out at www.columbiaucc.com.



Sunday School

This Fall we have four Sunday School classes for our children and youth: Preschool/Kindergarten Grades 1-4, Grades 5-8, Grades 9-12.

If you would like to help lead our young people's Sunday School classes, contact Pat Forward, Chair of Nurture & Education Ministry Team at pdfoward@msn.com.

Bible Study 101

We invite you to join us in an adventure of reading and understanding the Bible. The Adult Bible Study group meets upstairs in one of the Sunday School Classrooms each Sunday beginning at 9 a.m. Come and learn about what God is *still speaking* to us about!



VETERANS FOCUS FOR LUNCH BUNCH IN NOVEMBER

The CUCC Inclusion Team is focusing on Veterans for their Inclusion topic in November (*see page 5*), looking at the issues that Veterans face assimilating back into society, and the struggles that often exclude them from our life together. One of those struggles is homelessness. According to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, there are over 40,000 homeless Veterans in the United States including over 500 in the State of Missouri alone.

Welcome Home is an agency in Columbia that addresses this epidemic, providing a community for Veterans, restoring dignity to the lives of Veterans, and addressing needs of transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and finding employment. The motto for Welcome Home is "no one left behind" in their efforts to end Veteran homelessness, honor Veterans, and restore lives.

On November 21, Michelle Vogt, the Director of Development for Welcome Home, will be the featured speaker at Lunch Bunch. We will have lunch together at noon, then hear from Michelle at 12:30. We are an Inclusive gathering. All are welcome no matter who you are or how old you are! Bring a dish to share at noon and stick around for our Lunch Bunch gathering!

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

◆ Children's Sunday School Offering Going to Heifer International

Please send Offering each Sunday morning with your children to Sunday School. Lloyd Viehland has created Offering Collection Jars for each of the children's Sunday School classrooms to collect our offering.

◆ Hanging of the Greens – Sunday, November 24

Many hands make light work! Join your fellow CUCCers in decorating the Church for the upcoming holidays. There will be a light lunch provided for all who help, and activities to keep the kids busy while the adults "hang the greens."

◆ Confirmation Reception on Confirmation Sunday – Sunday, December 1, 2019

Please join Nurture & Education for refreshments to honor our 2019 Confirmation students, during Fellowship Time on this Sunday morning.

◆ Cookies By the Pound Fundraiser – December 8, 2019

This was a HUGE fundraiser for our Camp Scholarship Fund last year. Begin thinking of the cookies you would like to bring to this year's event! Cookies will be \$6/lb. Purchase as many as you would like. Please bring only home-baked cookies to sell please. Please contact Pat Forward at pdforward@msn.com if you have any questions.

◆ CUCC Children's Christmas Program – December 15, 2018 during Worship

Jessica Lucas will be directing this year's Christmas Program for our Children and Youth. Linda Neale, Lisa Jaberg and Paula Wilson will be assisting her. Practices will be held on Sunday mornings during the Sunday School hour, beginning in mid-November. Please contact Jessica if you have any questions, at JLucas@cpsk12.org More information coming soon!

◆ Jesus' Birthday Party during Sunday School on December 22, 2019

The children's Sunday School classes will join together on this day to celebrate Jesus' birthday.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

From Your Music Coordinator

Well, the Fall is in full swing, and Advent is quickly approaching. That said, we have many special services between now and then. The Special Ensemble will share music in November and December.

If you are interested in being part of this diverse group, please reach out to me. The Older Youth Choir is starting to take shape and will share a lovely tune for Testimony Sunday on November 24th.

Mark your calendars: **the Christmas Cantata has moved up a week this year to December 8th.**

In this creative and diverse program, we will look at the birth of Christ and the impact that had on the world through music and dance.

If you are interested in being part of the Advent/Christmas celebrations, please reach out. We are always looking for new members to share their gifts and join in glorifying God! Please also be on the lookout for Christmas Caroling details as we will celebrate this tradition again this year! If you haven't joined in the holiday music celebrations before, please plan to do so this year. It is TO God and FOR God that we sing! Come join us!

Kristin

kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com

(309) 221-3198

Missouri Mid-South Conference
High School Youth Event (CYE) 2020
"Embracing Our Stories"

February 15-17, 2020 at Camp MoVal
Featuring Keynote Speaker and Workshop Leader

Marcus Engel

Registration information can be found
at www.mmsuccyouth.org
and in the MMS Conference e-Courier.

Registration deadline: January 24, 2020.

Cost: \$140

For more information, contact
Cindy Birkner cindy@mmsucc.org

Marcus Engel grew up in High Hill, Missouri and spent his youth attending Missouri Mid-South Conference events, youth activities, and camping at MoVal. Marcus grew up attending the Conference Youth Event every year. His life was changed his Freshman year of college when a sudden car accident impacted his life forever.

Marcus speaks from experience. It's not theory, it's not academic, it's reality. It's a journey that isn't always pretty, but one that helps health care professionals understand their vital role in a patient's experience. Marcus holds a B.S. in sociology from Missouri State University and a Master's Degree in Narrative Medicine from Columbia University. He has authored four books which are being used by scores of nursing schools and allied health care programs to teach strategies for excellent patient care. Marcus and his wife, Marvelyne, are the co-founders of the "I'm Here" Movement, a 501(c)3 non for profit changing the culture of care through two simple words. He lives in Orlando, Florida with Marvelyne, and his Seeing Eye dog, Elliott.



MarcusEngel.com

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

Yoga Fitness

Membership and Care is creating a way for members and guests to become involved in an activity after church one Sunday a month. Yoga is a great way to stretch, move and feel connected to your body. There are lots of speculations about if one can 'do' yoga or not. I always ask people if they can breathe. If the answer is yes, you can do Yoga! It doesn't take flexibility, balance or strength, just your breath and an open mind to giving it your best shot!

The next “Yoga Sunday” is on November 3.

Looking forward to sharing yoga with all of you!

Stefanie Zimny, Chair
Membership and Care Ministry Team



CUCC SERMONS ONLINE

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

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

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

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

HAVE YOU TOURED THE CUCC WEBSITE?

Have you been to the Columbia United Church of Christ website? Take a minute to check it out at www.columbiaucc.com and see what content we feature. There is much to offer!

- ◆ The home page features information about CUCC front and center including our worship times, contact information, and what is happening currently at your church.
- ◆ There are links to click on that page detailing more about what it means to be an “Open and Affirming” congregation of the United Church of Christ, pictures from our 50th anniversary, and Sunday's bulletin
- ◆ There are exciting videos from Audrey Lasley and George Zimny; and a photo slideshow of our High School Youth Group Mission Trip
- ◆ Tabs on our home page will take you to links featuring:
 - ◆ The Mission, History and Staff of Columbia United Church of Christ
 - ◆ Information about Ministry Teams and Fellowship Groups at CUCC
 - ◆ Pastor Rick's sermons from almost every Sunday this year
 - ◆ The current and past issues of the Communicator
 - ◆ Our CUCC calendar, with all upcoming events listed
 - ◆ Information about LODO, our preschool program
 - ◆ Access to our “Donate Now” page to fund the ministries of the church

Take a moment to check out our website and learn more about Columbia United Church of Christ! *(We try to keep it updated weekly; but let us know if we miss anything! Extensive websites like this are hard to keep current. Email the church office with any suggested website changes or corrections!)*

FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

UPCOMING EVENTS

Lots of fun and fellowship are being planned by your Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team. Mark your calendars for these upcoming good times—

Sunday, November 10 - Veteran Recognition – An all church breakfast honoring our CUCC Veterans. We hope our Veterans will share service mementos and maybe a story or two. Men’s Fellowship will assist with breakfast preparations, and there will be a patriotic theme throughout.

Sunday, November 24 – Hanging of the Greens – Expanded this year to include more kid friendly activities. Please join us for a light lunch after church followed by activities for our young people, and a transformation of the sanctuary and surrounding areas. Many hands make light work, and we can use yours as we ready the church for Confirmation to be held the following Sunday, and ready our hearts for the coming of the Christ child. **If you have an idea or craft that you would like to share, please let Jolene or Val know.**

Sunday, December 8 – Christmas Banquet – Free and open to all – details in the works. **All these activities are better if you’re there. Please make an effort to be a part of them.**

KITCHEN UPDATE – Our Church kitchen could use some new items. If you’re interested in purchasing something, but would like to shop from home, please click the attached link:

www.walmart.com/lists/view-events-registry-items?id=f7321ea6-a473-49df-a37d-dcfe1ca4bf83

The items will be sent directly to the Church. Thanks to Val for setting this up.

The children and youth are helping Ronald McDonald House by bringing aluminum can tabs to CUCC. Adults can bring tabs too! Please put your tabs in the boxes in the gathering area.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule for November

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for November. As you can see, we are in need of some spots to be filled, and other spots to be shared with new faces. Part of being in the church family is often expressed by sharing the roles that make all of our members and guests feel welcome.

If you can fill the needed role or a role in the future, please let one of the leaders know. We appreciate you and we’re glad you have chosen CUCC as your church home!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Sound Booth	Hospitality
11/03	Carol Duermeyer Helen Schultz	Brent Marcks Charlie Marcks	Pat Forward	Riley Howard	Jamie Rapp	Jolene Kirchhoff
11/10	Anne Heine Stefanie Zimny	Pat Forward NEED	Jim Loveless	NEED	Brent Marcks	Val Schoeneberg
11/17	John & Brenda Muench	Llona Weiss John Graves	Mahree Skala	Abby Dennis	Phil Dennis	NEED
11/24	Audrey Lasley NEED	Doug Privitt NEED	Ember Piersee Andie Rapp Ryan Schoeneberg	Katelin Odneal	Matt Lucas	NEED

LODO HAPPENINGS

October was full of Fall Fun at LODO! Our themes included Camping/Forest Animals/Nature, Pumpkins, Fire Safety/Transportation, and Halloween. We also had a week for each teacher to choose their own favorite theme. Students had a chance to measure pumpkins, sort pumpkins by size, create a rocket, make a graham cracker fire truck, and much, much, more!

We had a great time at our 7th annual Pumpkin Patch Day on Friday October 11! The cold and rainy day moved our activities inside, but it didn't spoil our fun. Check out pictures of our day on Facebook! Many thanks to the volunteers who helped make the day run so well: Pastor Rick, Mariann Bullerd, Christine Staelens, Alexander Oberle, Lorry Dreier, Bonnie Whitmore, and Melba Shaffer.

November Themes:

Miracles of the Bible

Stars & Stripes/Patriotic Week

Fall/Leaves/Thanksgiving

LODO will host its annual Thanksgiving Feast for LODO families the evening of Thursday November 14.

LODO will be collecting items for Rainbow House through November 14! If you would like to contribute to help children at Rainbow House, there are several ways to give! *If you choose to donate cash or gift cards, please give them to Erika Maltsbarger for safe keeping until we deliver donations (do not place in the donation boxes.)*

Bring in items from the Rainbow House Wish List

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JuuGW8tBE7yGZZppi8vp1vvzgHuvgsUS/view?usp=sharing>

Donate Items from the Rainbow House Amazon Wish List

<https://www.amazon.com/registry/wishlist/HRJ0705R4WV>

Donate Funds Electronically

<http://www.rainbowhousecolumbia.org/>



We look forward to teaching our LODO students about the importance of service and giving. During our Thanksgiving Feast, students and their families will make Christmas cards for the children at Rainbow House.

With Thanks,
Erika Maltsbarger



Important Dates to Remember

- ⇒ LODO Thanksgiving Feast is Thursday, November 14 at 6 p.m.
- ⇒ LODO is closed on Friday, November 15
- ⇒ Thanksgiving Break is November 27-29
- ⇒ Thursday, December 19, the LODO children will present their Christmas Program to the CUCC Lunch Bunch at noon
- ⇒ Thursday, December 19, the LODO Children will perform their Christmas Program for family and friends in the CUCC Sanctuary at 6:30 p.m. (*Please have your child to their classrooms by 6 p.m.*)
- ⇒ Christmas Break is December 23—January 3

CUCC IS WORKING IN LEBANON

The Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East is comprised of 17 congregations rooted in the long history of Armenian Christianity. Located in seven countries, the congregations and institutions of the Union have been in mission and presence through the Middle East’s political and social strife. From its inception, the Armenian Evangelical Church has stressed the importance of education. It operates 23 schools and four high schools and owns the only university in the Armenian Diaspora, Haigazian University, with an enrollment of 650 students. In spite of grave problems of emigration and persecution, the Union continues to function with a growing awareness of its mission.

The Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches is a Global Missions Partner of CUCC through Global Ministries, our shared mission agency with the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ. Global Ministries provides special support for the projects of this organization, and support for their University. Please keep Global Ministries and the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in your prayers!

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

November 3-9:	Mark Knowles	working in Lesotho
November 10-16:	Maria Bakalian	working in Lebanon
November 17-23:	Emanuela Loccident	working in Morocco
November 24-30	Larry Colvin	working in Ghana



HIGH SCHOOL EVENT- CYE 2020

The CUCC High School Youth will be participating in the Conference Youth Event February 15-17, 2020 at Camp MoVal. They are in for a treat. This year’s Keynote Speaker will be Marcus Engel!

Marc grew up in High Hill, MO and spent his youth attending Missouri Mid-South Conference events, youth activities and camping at MoVal. His life was suddenly changed his freshman year of college when a car accident impacted his life forever.

Marcus speaks about his journey from experience, not theory. He is not academic, he is real. He speaks to High School students and physicians on the same level, one that relates to them and draws them in to his experience. He is the author of several books that examine life from “The Other Side of the Stethoscope.”

Our youth will have their lives changed forever after hearing Marcus speak. Spots will fill up fast for this one, We need to register by December 1. If your High School youth has not registered yet, talk to Pastor Rick, Lauren Helmerich, Kristy Odneal or Kurt Heine asap!

HIGH SCHOOL SECOND SUNDAY– NOVEMBER 10

Our CUCC High School Youth meet the Second Sunday of each month at someone’s house for games, food, and reflection on scripture or the challenges life is bringing them. This month, we will gather at Pastor Rick’s house from 5:00-8:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 10. All High School Youth are invited to attend!

We are also having a High School Lock-in at church on November 15-16 from 7:00 p.m.-7:00 a.m. All High School Youth are invited to attend- and bring a friend! If you have any questions, ask Lauren Helmreich, Kurt Heine, Kristy Odneal or Pastor Rick!

Looking For a Place to Serve Locally?

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



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

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN NOVEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 Yoga Sunday All Saints Recognition 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12pm Assemble Blessing Boxes for College Students	4 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team	5 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4:30-8:30pm Literacy Action Corp. Meeting Fellowship Hall in use 4-6pm Chinese Choir	6 5:45pm LODO Board 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30/7pm Confirmation 7:30pm Celebration Singers	7 10:30 am Youth Leaders @MoVal 6:30pm Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Meeting	1 All Saints Day LODO & CPS Closed Church Office Closed	2 10-2 Associate Conference Minister Search Committee Meeting Fellowship Hall Booked
10 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12pm Congregation Mtg 12pm Nurture & Ed. Ministry Team 5-8pm Youth Group	11 9am Women's Fellowship making bean soup 	12 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir 6pm Food Bank 6:30pm Music & Worship	13 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30/7pm Confirmation 7:30pm Celebration Singers	14 9:30am Women's Fellowship 6pm LODO Thanksgiving	15 LODO & CPS closed High School Lock-in	16 High School Lock-in
17 New Member Sunday 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	18 10am Worship @ The Bluffs with Pastor Rick 11:15am Worship @ Mill Creek w. Pastor Rick 4:30pm Loaves & Fishes	19 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir 6:30pm Council	20 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30/7pm Confirmation 7:30pm Celebration Singers	21 12pm CUCC Lunch Bunch	22 5pm High School to Shakespeare's Pizza	23
24 Testimony & Thanksgiving Sunday 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Decorating the Church	25	26 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir	27 LODO & CPS Closed 6:30pm Chapel Ringers NO CONFIRMATION 7:30pm Celebration Singers	28 LODO & CPS Closed 	29 LODO & CPS Closed	30

THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation- ONA #1575
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Columbia, MO 65202-3296
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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 so, please contact
[Rev. Rick Oberle](mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com)
for further information
rick@columbiaucc.com

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**



ATTENTION

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

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



Columbia United Church of Christ Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant

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

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

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