

THE COMMUNICATOR

February 2020



“One Year”

From the Pastor’s Keyboard

One year ago, at the 2019 Congregational Meeting, the congregation of Columbia United Church of Christ voted overwhelmingly to affirm the Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant prayerfully articulated by 100+ members of this congregation in special educational forums and congregational sessions. This bold step forward was done with much prayer, much discernment, and even some fear of the unknown; but as a congregation, we courageously united behind the direction God called us to go and the ministry of reconciliation and peace first exemplified by Jesus. As we articulated this call, we had no idea where it would lead us; and as we embarked upon the journey, there was even some worry about the path ahead.

One year in, the journey has just begun. We have just begun to scratch the surface of the exciting possibilities in store for us, but we have already transformed into an even more loving, united, and affirming congregation; and others have already been transformed because of our intentional ministry. Instead of questioning who we are and who we are becoming, we have articulated it; and as a result, we are stronger as a family of faith, with clear ministry goals ahead of us.

In the past year, we have made a focus on affirming all God’s children the foundation of everything we do. We have explicitly expressed this in our affirmation of the diversity of sexual orientation and gender identity in God’s Creation by celebrating Open and Affirming Sunday in June and Pridefest in August, as well as in our educational activities surrounding Down Syndrome Awareness Month in October and Veterans Inclusion Issues in November; but we have also implicitly expressed this idea in the way we have structured our interactions with each other and with the world. In this implicit interaction, we are truly taking the identity of affirmation into our lives and living it as Jesus intended us to do.

In the end, it is all about love. Jesus calls us to love everyone and celebrate the diversity of all God’s children, just as he did; and to do so in the midst of oppressive forces who would deny them their affirmation; just as he did. Fully expressing Jesus love (as best we are able) is fearful at times and it does take courage. But those whom we love fully are transformed as they come to know God through this Christ-like love; and that manifestation of grace is worth the fear and the summoning up of courage it takes to truly live into Jesus’ call to love.

As a family of Christians, we will have many more expressions of faith in the months and years to come. Our “Love Contract” is one year old and it has already changed lives. We are in for a wonderful journey as God’s blessed and beloved children; let’s share the joy of that journey together!

-Pastor Rick

UPCOMING EVENTS

ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP AT CUCC

by Pastor Rick

As we enter into February, there are two traditional Church holidays that were being celebrated long before Punxsutawney Phil gained national celebrity status with his fickle shadow. The first is Candlemas, traditionally celebrated on February 2 to commemorate Jesus being presented and dedicated in the Temple, and the praise offered by Anna and Simeon on that occasion. Celebrated still by Anglicans, Roman Catholics and other traditions, mainline Protestantism has not been very observant of this traditional church holiday for some time.

The other Church holiday (Holy Day) that is usually in February is Ash Wednesday. This year, we will be celebrating Ash Wednesday on February 26. Ash Wednesday is the beginning of the Lenten Season, 40 days before Easter when we intentionally focus on Jesus and his journey to Jerusalem and the cross. Entering the Lenten season, Ash Wednesday is typically a somber time when we remember our own mortality and the fragile nature of our creation. We remember the second Creation parable in Genesis 2, where God breathed into lifeless dust and brought forth humanity, as we participate in the imposition of ashes.

“Remember that you are dust; and to dust you shall return.” This is the theme; but what will we do with that dust to dust existence? How will we live our short lives reflecting the glory that God has given us? And how will we enter into Salvation at the end? **Join us for worship on February 26 at 7:00 p.m.** as we examine these themes, and how they enliven our existence as God’s servant leaders on earth.

“FROZEN SUNDAY” AT CUCC FEBRUARY 2

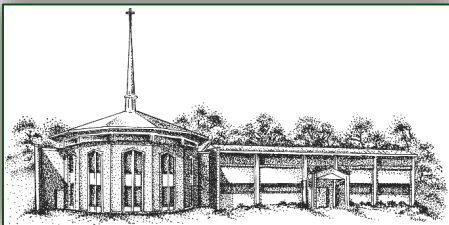
by Pastor Rick

“Frozen” is currently one of the most popular Disney movies. Children and Adults both know who Elsa, Anna and Olaf are; and have enjoyed the themes of the movie, including themes of sacrifice, redemption, reconciliation, deliverance and overturning deceptions. It also touches on themes of rejection, fear, the lust for power and human imperfection (or sinfulness). Moreover, it is one of the only Disney films that really gets what love truly is. Are there parallels in the Gospels? You bet!

On Sunday, February 2 we will celebrate Frozen Sunday in worship. The Sanctuary will be decorated in a Frozen theme, our Youth and Young Adult Choir will have a special rendition of “Love is an Open Door” and our Interpretive Dance Team will be praising God in their own wonderful way. We will also have communion that Sunday.

Our scripture lesson that day is from Matthew 5:1-12; what we call “The Beatitudes.” This is a perfect tie in with the movie “Frozen” as it embodies the entirety of Jesus’ ministry and echoes the themes from the movie. Our youth will be worship leaders and ushers that Sunday, as well. After worship, we will celebrate “Souperbowl Sunday” collecting donations for local Food Pantries in soup pots in the Gathering Space.

Feel like dressing up? Go for it! Dress as Anna, Elsa, Olaf, Kristoff, or whomever you’d like. It will be a fun Sunday! We hope to see you on February 2! (Even if you have not seen the movie, you will appreciate the service. Watching the movie is not a prerequisite!)



**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

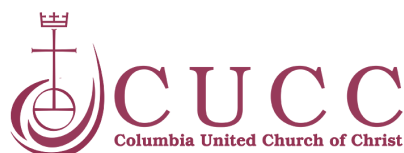
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship in Sanctuary

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

Phone:
(573)-445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com



- ⇒ Leap days are needed to keep our calendar in alignment with the Earth's revolutions around the Sun. It takes the Earth approximately 365.242189 days – or 365 days, 5 hours, 48 minutes, and 45 seconds – to circle once around the Sun. This is called a tropical year. Without an extra day on February 29 nearly every four years, we would lose almost six hours every year. After only 100 years, our calendar would be off by approximately 24 days.
- ⇒ Roman Dictator, Julius Caesar, first adopted a Leap Day concept in 45 BCE for his calendar. It actually occurred on February 24, not February 29, and February was the last month in the calendar year.
- ⇒ People born on February 29 are called “leaplings” or “leapers.” There are more than 4 million leap-year-babies in the world.
- ⇒ The odds of being born on a leap day are 1 in 1500.
- ⇒ Rarer still is the possibility that three children in the same family would be born on three consecutive Leap Days, but that’s exactly what happened with the Henriksen family of Norway.
- ⇒ A tradition of women proposing to men on Leap Day began in the 5th Century and the day became known as Bachelor’s Day or Sadie Hawkins Day.

Dear Friends,

Your financial gift will make an immediate difference in the lives of abused women and children at Lydia’s House.

May of our women come to Lydia’s House full of fear and uncertainty about the future. At Lydia’s House, we give women and children the time and resources necessary to rebuild their lives in the wake of domestic violence.

Your gift helps provide housing for up to two years in a safe and stable environment while women begin the healing process.

Gratefully,
Karen Kirk, Executive Director



Dear CUCC,

Thank you for your generous donation to Fun City Youth Academy. We are incredibly grateful for your support.

Sincerely,
Fun City Students, Staff, Volunteers, and Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

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

There are many different ways to learn more about our work, including travelling with us overseas to visit our programs, participating in one of our U.S. based Growing Projects or checking out our website (growinghopeglobally.org). Thank you again.

With deep gratitude,
Max Finberg, President and CEO

Dear Friends,

Global Ministries thanks you for your gift. Your donation will be designated, in its entirety, to Melel Xojobal and INESIN. Gifts like yours support the ministries of global partners who address critical issues in their current contexts, such as forced migration.

Thank you for your support of ministries of acceptance and welcome around the world.

Sincerely,
Rev. Jane Sullivan-Davis, CFRE
Executive for Resource Development

Dear Pastor Rick and CUCC,

On behalf of the Voluntary Action Center, thank you so much for your donation. Your generous contribution supports vital services for many Boone County families, helping them get through difficult times.. Your support is critical as we continue VAC’s important work!

With hope,
Nick Foster, Executive Director



Dear Friends,

Thank you for generously supporting Love INC in 2019. It is because of donors like you that we are able to help those in need.

Thank you for your continued support in 2020! We will continue sharing success stories at Love INC through our monthly email and quarterly newsletters.

Gratefully,
Jane Williams,
Co-founder and Program Director
Pat McMurry,
Co-founder and Executive Director

Dear CUCC,

Thank you for your generous gift to Back Bay Mission! Your gift to **Friends of the Mission** makes it possible to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Your gift is already at work strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives. You’re helping a homeowner stay in their home, providing homeless families with apartments, making sure people have enough food, and giving people the support they need to make their lives better. Most importantly, your gift is making sure Back Bay Mission is here to provide a safe and welcoming place for everyone who comes through our doors. Thank you for partnering with us.

Grace and Peace,
Rev. Alice Graham, Ph. D., Executive Director

MODERATOR'S MOMENT

Moderator's Moment

At our Congregational Meeting on January 26, the following people were elected to serve for the coming year on Council:

Moderator:	James Melton
Vice Moderator:	Kristy Odneal
Treasurer:	Sue Ann Schaeffer
Recording Treasurer:	Brent Marcks
Membership & Care Ministry Team Chair:	Jessica Lucas
Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Chair:	George Zimny (Second term)

As we embark upon a new year in Council, I feel very excited to be your Moderator. It is always exciting to start something new, but in so many ways our purpose remains the same. There are new faces on council and leadership has shifted, but we are all here for the same purpose. We will work alongside each other in Christian fellowship to love all those who God puts in our path, help those whom we don't easily see and go about keeping our church family together.

Thank you for the opportunity to worship and work alongside you. Blessings and opportunities abound in this next year.

Yours in Faith,
James Melton

A NEW SIGN AT CUCC!

Have you seen our new sign? The new CUCC sign has been a work in progress for over 18 months, starting with the Building and Grounds Ministry Team, then the Membership and Care Ministry Team. During this time we talked to seven sign companies, received three firm bids, and considered dozens of variations on the design. It was completed on December 23; a Christmas miracle!

The new sign is intentionally very concise. Its purpose is to draw attention to our church and mark our location, letting people know we are here, directing them to our website to learn more detail. Our name and website are prominently displayed. It also conveys the message that everyone is welcome here, especially those who have been turned away from other churches. The words, "No matter who you are...you are welcome here" and a rainbow comma convey this message to all who need to hear it. In this way the new sign is not just a sign, but a reflection of our very identity as followers of Jesus.



We still need to take down the old sign, which has served this church well since 1974, and run electricity to the new sign so it is permanently lit at night. Those tasks will be done soon. Many thanks to Stefanie Zimny, Rev. Bryan Crousore, Steve Keithahn, and Pastor Rick who worked with many sign companies, and to Paul Sanderson who got the ball rolling in the beginning. May this sign always be a beacon of hope, inclusion and welcome to all who are yearning for God's Word!

SUNDAY MORNING SNOW POLICY

In case of inclement weather on Sunday mornings this winter, please keep an eye on the cancellations listed on KOMU and KMIZ Television stations, as well as the CUCC website and Facebook.

INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION



If cancelling worship is in question, the Pastor, Moderator, and Vice Moderator will make that call by 7:00 a.m. on Sunday morning. They will then notify the media, send out a mass email to the congregation, and put notice on the church's Facebook page and website immediately. This information will be posted by 7:15.

If worship is cancelled at our facility, an abbreviated worship will be livestreamed on Facebook; at least the scriptures, sermon, and prayers. Please join with the congregation worshipping virtually as we livestream and join together in virtual community.

If worship is not cancelled, but you feel unsafe venturing out, please stay home. We may do some livestreaming on Sundays when worship is not cancelled at our facility, if it looks like a large portion of the congregation is unable to attend due to weather conditions. We hope not to cancel worship this winter, but your safety is paramount!

INCLUSION TEAM

We have a couple of activities/celebrations coming up this month:

- There will be information in the bulletins and during Worship Service about observance of Black History Month.
- On February 21, and 22, CUCC is helping to sponsor Austen Hartke at First Baptist Church. Austen is transgender and will be sharing his personal story and how it relates to his faith and studies as a theologian. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend. There are flyers available around the church for more info and times.
- We are planning a group discussion of Austen's presentation during Sunday School on March 15.

The team discussed other signing possibilities to highlight our dedication to inviting all of God's children to join us in worship.

As always, we would love suggestions and feedback from the congregation.

In Peace,
Alisa Lau-Sieckman, 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.



CHRISTIANITY AND TRANSGENDER INCLUSION

On Friday, February 21, and Saturday, February 22, Columbia United Church of Christ will co-sponsor an event at First Baptist Church featuring Transgender Theologian Austen Hartke. Austen is a graduate of Luther Seminary with a Master of Arts Degree in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies, and the author of the book, "Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians." He is also the creator of the YouTube series, "Transgender and Christian" which features 100 short videos on how the Bible and being Transgender intersect. To access his videos, if you are reading this online, click here: [Transgender and Christian](#) or search "Austen Lionheart" on YouTube.

All are invited and encouraged to attend the February event. This event will be very informative to all who may be questioning how to reconcile Biblical interpretation with diverse sexual orientation or gender identity, and will help bring healing to the division that has existed for years, driving a wedge between the gender non-confirming community and their faith.

This event originated with First Baptist Church. Their pastor, Rev. Carol McIntyre, called together churches in Columbia who are Open and Affirming and suggested we sponsor this event together. With this event, these churches have come together for the first time to unify their work expressing God's Love for all God's Children.

Christianity and Transgender Inclusion

Featuring Transgender Theologian Austen Hartke

February 21-22, 2020

at First Baptist Church

1112 East Broadway, Columbia MO

Columbia United Church of Christ, in partnership with First Baptist Church and several other churches in the Columbia area, is co-sponsoring this event *at First Baptist Church* featuring Transgender Theologian Austen Hartke (check him out on YouTube).

This two-day event will feature an opening worship service from 6:30-7:00pm, a seminar led by Austen titled, “*Transgender and Christian: A Coming Out and Coming Home Story*” from 7:15-8:30pm and another seminar Saturday morning from 10:00-11:30am led by Austen titled, “*The Bible and Transgender Christians*.”

All are welcome to attend these FREE events to explore the issue of whether the gender non-conforming community needs to choose between their identity and their faith, or if the two can intersect harmoniously; as well as how cisgender Christians can help construct a theology more expressive of God’s Inclusive Love, especially for communities that have been disenfranchised or because of their sexual orientation or gender identity. For more information, talk to Pastor Rick or Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Inclusion Team Chair.

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 creator of the YouTube series [Transgender and Christian](#), which seeks to understand, interpret, and share parts of the Bible that relate to gender identity and the lives of transgender individuals.

Austen 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-non-conforming people see themselves in scripture.



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Stewardship of Time, Talent and Treasure

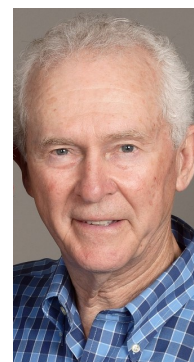
CUCC is very fortunate to have a membership which is generous with their time, talent and treasure. Our small congregation manages to generate a disproportionate quantity of service to our community and to our church. We are never at a loss for volunteers to serve our ministry teams and to provide leadership on our church council.

Sharing our treasure to help run our church is another example of the disproportionate generosity of our members and friends. Our recent 50 for 50 fundraising drive to repair some of our aging infrastructure was completely successful and exceeded our goal. Similarly, our joyful giving met and exceeded our budget goals, and the work of our church both within and outside our church community is well funded for the next budget year.

As to the work of our church which supports outside charities and service projects, there is one which I help with which is particularly satisfying to me. Under the leadership of Audrey Lasley, our congregation once a month serves dinner at Loaves and Fishes. My experience of helping prepare food for and clean up after some of the neediest citizens of our community is very rewarding. Those who have dinner at Loaves and Fishes are mostly homeless, unemployed and often impaired by various needs and circumstances. Many are carrying their life belongings with them, sometimes with young children, and are often suffering from illness and misfortune. All are cold and hungry during the winter and appreciate the food and friendly faces we provide. This is but one of the many service projects CUCC assists with in our community.

I am proud and grateful to every member and friend of our church for their sharing and generous attitude. Thank you very much.

Keith Birkes



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 (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 directions on the text you receive back to set up your one time or recurring gift.

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Dec. Income	\$70,382.41	\$45,484.92	\$24,897.49
YTD	\$331,529.46	\$323,532.00	\$7,997.46
Dec. Expenses	\$35,299.36	\$28,388.02	\$6,911.34
YTD	\$319,692.60	\$323,531.67	(\$3,839.07)
YTD Income	\$331,529.46	\$323,532.00	\$7,997.46
YTD Expenses	\$319,692.60	\$323,531.67	(\$3,839.07)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$11,836.86	\$0.33	\$11,836.53
Dec. Attendance	919		

TREASURER'S REPORT

Doug Privitt, Recording Treasurer

Date	Attendance	Actual	Budget
01/05/19	144	\$5,352.00	\$6,561.85
01/12/19	106	\$3,025.61	\$6,561.85
01/19/19	148	\$2,577.41	\$6,561.85
01/26/19	153	\$2,646.64	\$6,561.85

CUCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Did you know there is a new fund at CUCC? The Memorial Education Fund, established in 1972 by Professor H. H. Krusekopf and contributed to over the years by many others, has been redefined as “The Columbia United Church of Christ Scholarship Fund.” (The new definition of this fund is available on request; copies are on the wooden rack by the Sanctuary doors.) With this new 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, 2020, and will be considered by a team composed by the Vice Moderator, the Nurture and Education Ministry Team Chair, the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team Chair, and Pastor Rick. Awards from the fund will be disbursed after July 1 for the fall semester.

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, Pastor Rick, James Melton (Moderator), Kristy Odneal (Vice-Moderator), or one of the Ministry Team Chairs listed above.

MISSOURI MID SOUTH CONFERENCE UCC ABOLISHES \$12.9 MILLION IN MEDICAL DEBT FOR 11,000 FAMILIES IN POVERTY

(originally published in the St. Louis Post Dispatch by Jesse Bogan 1/20/2020)

FLORISSANT, MO — In a broader effort to push for Medicaid expansion in Missouri, United Church of Christ congregations and the Deaconess Foundation on Saturday announced they'd paid pennies on the dollar for \$12.9 million in medical debt that they are giving away.



More than 11,000 families from across dozens of ZIP codes in St. Louis and St. Louis County will receive yellow envelopes in the mail this week notifying them that lingering medical bills have been paid. The average reimbursement is \$1,166.

“Please note that we only addressed those who are living at or below poverty — people who should not have to worry about the cost of health care anyway,” the Rev. Traci Blackmon told a gathering at Christ the King United Church of Christ in north St. Louis County. She alluded to a Good Samaritan theme that Martin Luther King Jr. often employed in speeches, saying the charitable campaign should “sound the alarm about our Jericho Road in health care.”

Fourteen UCC congregations raised about \$60,000 and the Deaconess Foundation matched \$40,000 for the campaign. With the help of RIP Medical Debt, a New York-based nonprofit organization, the money bought \$12.9 million in debt relief that typically would have been purchased by a debt collection company.

United Church of Christ Pastor the Rev. Starsky Wilson, president of the Deaconess Foundation, described the effort as “good philanthropy” because it addresses the need for “systems change.” He said the loss of health care and ballooning costs are keeping people in poverty.

“How better could our \$40,000 have been invested in campaigns in this community?” he said. “How better could the churches of the United Church of Christ have spent the more than \$60,000 that they have invested in this campaign? How better could \$12.9 million be put on purpose in our community so that our children live in a better world?”

Teara Norris, 34, one of the recipients, said she wasn't aware how much of her debt was going to be forgiven, but she owes about \$10,000, mainly for frequent hospital stays and blood transfusions. She said she was born with sickle cell anemia, a blood cell disorder. “I feel like it's going to be a life-changer for me and my family,” said Norris, of St. Louis, who has two children. “I am going to be able to not worry and stress about the medical bills that I have . . . It's going to prepare me to take care of my family.”

The Christmas Eve offering at Columbia United Church of Christ was also donated to medical debt relief, as part of a larger program encompassing the whole state through the Missouri Mid-South Conference. This program will culminate in June, 2021 with a goal of purchasing millions in Medical Debt and forgiving it. Our CUCC Christmas Eve offering is being used as the seed money for this larger, state-wide debt relief program. Watch for more details as this program is rolled out!

2020 Vision

March 1, 2020

How can you help CUCC live into a New Vision for Ministry in the third decade of this century?



Featuring Guest Speaker Lisa Key

Lisa Key is the Chief Development Officer for Emmaus Homes, a faith based non-profit agency in St. Charles County that ministers to the needs of adults with developmental disabilities. Lisa, who was raised in the United Church of Christ, has been with Emmaus Homes for 12 years. One of her goals as Chief Development Officer is to fully engage family members and donors to help Emmaus Homes continue their work, advocating for the clients they have been entrusted to serve. Lisa will be talking to us about Stewardship and how we can fully care for all the blessings God has given us.

Come Join us on March 1!

Our Annual Stewardship Program will begin in worship at 10:30, where Lisa will join us to talk briefly about our mission with Emmaus Homes; then we will gather after worship for lunch, catered by our Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team! After Lunch, Lisa will speak to us about Stewardship and our call to be Stewards of all God has given us; and the benefits of having 2020 vision as we plan our Stewardship goals. We will have presentations from our Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team regarding Stewardship opportunities in 2020 and beyond; and share together our 2020 Vision for Columbia United Church of Christ. All are welcome!



Catered Lunch
Served at Noon

For more information contact
George Zimny at
gzimny@pbfirm.com or visit
www.columbiaucc.com



OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM



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.

Room at the Inn Needs You More Than Ever!!

We've had some brutally cold nights this year, so people who have no homes need Room at the Inn more than ever. Volunteers staff this short-term homeless shelter nightly throughout the winter. Cots are set up in large church gyms on a rotating basis. Many volunteers are needed for a variety of tasks— setup, preparing and serving food, greeting and interacting with the guests, cleanup, transporting laundry, etc. Monetary donations are also appreciated. You can get more information and sign up for evening or early-morning shifts at <https://roomattheinncomo.org/>.

Loaves N Fishes

The January 20th meal at L&F consisted of ham and potato casserole (potatoes and ham from baked potato luncheon), chicken spaghetti (chicken from luncheon), lettuce salad (donated from Patty Beeson) and brownies. Brownies were donated by Anne Heine, Melba Shaffer, Sue Ann Schaefer, Lorry Dreier, Kim Oberle, Aimee Dennis, Jane Beckett and Mariann Bullerd.

Thank you so much and hope I got everyone listed. Servers/dishwashers for the evening were David Martin, Anne Heine, Whitney Wipfler, Patty Beeson, Lorry and Danielle Dreier, Keith Birkes, Hayley and Philip Dennis and Judi Privitt. What a great crew!! We served approximately 72 firsts and 48 seconds and carryouts.

Help Feed the Hungry on February 11

Our next opportunity to package food for food pantry customers will be on February 11, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Food Bank.



The January crew (Cliff Beckman, Alice Moon, Melba Shaffer, Mahree Skala, and Tricia Soncasie), along with a few other community volunteers, bagged 3,200 pounds of frozen balls of pizza dough. That was a new one! Join the fun in February by signing up after worship or e-mailing Mahree Skala at skalamahree@yahoo.com.

New Partnership with Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary

Pastor Rick and Llona Weiss met with De'Vion Moore (Principal), Kyra Yung (Assistant Principal), and Molly Delgado (CPS Community Relations Specialist) at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School on January 6, 2020. We discussed a Columbia Public School Partnership Friend arrangement with CUCC.

We talked about the school and their vision statement, which included valuing each individual by empowering students with opportunities that ignite interests and cultivate capacity. The Principal was very interested in service learning opportunities for the students; they are teaching them to be helpers, learners, and leaders. Alpha Hart has approximately 405 students, and has very transient population. Alpha Hart's PTA has a new executive board and has been building itself and its finances for a couple years.

We talked about the announcement of a Partnership Friend between Alpha Hart and CUCC to be at their PTA meeting on Tuesday March 31, 2020 at 6:00 p.m. and would welcome any CUCC members to attend. We also talked about their needs and that CUCC wanted to be a Friend by filling their needs or gaps. One idea was to start a donation drive at CUCC for Alpha Hart Elementary School by collecting Kleenex, Clorox wipes, sanitizers (Germ-X), and shoes and boots (especially for the K-2 students) from our congregation members, and then to bring that collection to the announcement kickoff on March 31.

Alpha Hart has a Carnival Event night on May 8 and it was suggested that volunteers from CUCC help work the booths and hand out items. This would allow the parents to be with their children during the Carnival Event instead of having to work the Carnival themselves. There are short forms that our congregation volunteers would need to complete and sign. We will work with Pastor Rick and the school to get that accomplished. This is similar to what is already done when working with LODO. We have had a number of interested CUCC congregants who want to volunteer with our Partnership Friend. If you have not already talked with Llona or Pastor Rick, please do so. We are very excited about this wonderful outreach opportunity with our youth and the public schools!

Thank you, Llona Weiss

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Children's Sunday School Offering

We collected \$45.00 in the first trimester of Sunday School this fall, September-November, in the Children's Sunday School Classes for Heifer International. Let's see if we can double that this next trimester, December through February!

Valentine's Day Bake Sale Sunday, February 9 beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Please bring some yummy goodies for the sale. Buy some for yourself or as Valentine's Day gifts.

All proceeds go towards the Camp Scholarship Fund for our children and youth.

Souper Bowl Sunday February 2, 2020

Mark your calendar! The youth will be collecting donations in Soup pots following worship, with all proceeds collected going to the local food bank or pantry.

Lenten Plans for our children and youth!

Beginning on Sunday, March 1, and for the next five Sundays of Lent, Pastor Rick will meet with all of the children and youth Sunday School classes, 9:00-9:10 am, in the sanctuary, to share about the meaning and importance of the season of Lent. Everyone will then go to their classrooms for the rest of the Sunday School hour.

Children & Youth Sunday School Curriculum

Faith experienced at an early age is the foundation for all other growth. The good news we share with our children has the power to transform lives and revitalize communities. So, let's prepare the ground for a new tomorrow, sending down roots anchored in love. Let's sow in them seeds of mercy and plant them by the river of life.

Let's teach our kids to shine in this world.

CUCC uses *Shine: Living in God's Light*, a dynamic Sunday school curriculum that engages Christian communities and families in their life together by:

- calling children to experience the transforming power of God's love
- nurturing trust in God and inviting children to follow Jesus
- encouraging imaginative, interactive biblical storytelling
- exploring the meaning of the Bible within the gathered community
- cultivating the inner life of the Spirit through spiritual practices
- expressing faith through lives of compassionate peacemaking and service



Adult Bible Study



We invite you to join some new and some experienced Bible students in February to walk through the Gospel of Mark.

Why Mark? Mark was the first Gospel to be written and is, in our opinion, the most immediate, the most approachable, and the most human book in the Bible.

We learned that Mark was written at about 65 A.D., in a time of conflict, both within the Followers of the Way and from without by the Roman Empire. We have discovered that the first chapters of Mark are filled with a series of healing stories and miracles. Taken together, they say to us that all are welcome in the church and that the leadership of the church need not worry about the Roman persecution, but just to ignore the storm and sail the boat.

Come join us. We meet in the last room on the left in the Sunday School corridor each Sunday at 9 a.m. Food and drink are welcome, and so are questions, wonderments, disagreements, and agreements. We are walking with Jesus in the words of Mark's Gospel.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We began a series, viewing and discussing historian Simon Schama's, "The Story of the Jews," on the first Sunday in January.

Schama presents the extraordinary story of the Jewish experience from ancient times to the present day. Both deeply historical and utterly contemporary, this is a compelling film about distinctiveness and difference, separation and isolation, tolerance and prejudice. It is also a celebration of the ways in which Jewish thought, imagination, and achievement have transformed the world for us all. This will provide historical context for the world known to Jesus.

At the conclusion of this series, we will begin a series looking at the roots of Christianity as we view and discuss a series on "From Jesus to Christ-The First Christians."

Come join us in the Library at 9:00 on Sundays. All are welcome!

WHY CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH?

By Pastor Rick

February has been a time to focus on Black History in the United States since 1926, when Carter G. Woodson began a campaign to recognize it. Originally a week was proposed; the second week of February. This included the Birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln (the great emancipator) on February 12 and Frederick Douglass (the former slave and activist in the cause for abolition of slavery) on February 14. Expanded to a whole month by President Gerald Ford in 1976, Black History month has become a time to celebrate the achievements of black and brown Americans in the development of our country.

But why the need for Black History Month? Some debate this question, including some black and brown American scholars who claim that designating one month as "Black History Month" actually encourages the segregation of Black History from the common curriculum. Proponents of Black History month argue that although the contributions of black and brown Americans should be integrated into the entirety of our historical curriculum, there is still a need to give Black History its due to focus specifically on their contributions in light of the neglect Black History has received over the years.

I tend to fall on the side of the later argument, and I see the celebration of Black History month as important for the same reasons observe every other celebration all year long: History, Identity and Dignity (Value). The origins of every holiday we celebrate are shrouded in these three factors, from Christmas to St. Patrick's Day and even our more personal celebrations. When we celebrate, we are recalling the **historical** significance of that date, we are articulating our **identity** as people of that event or practice, and we are claiming and elevating our **worthiness and dignity** as we set that day aside. Christians celebrate history, identity and dignity when we celebrate Christmas; Jews celebrate history, identity and dignity when they celebrate Passover; and we all celebrate history, identity and dignity when we celebrate our birthdays. All celebrations are really about those three elements. Black History Month is no different; and no less valuable.

The Inclusion Team at CUCC will be celebrating Black History Month all month long in February, with special bulletin inserts and observances in worship; but on February 9, we will have a special celebration as the Inclusion Team leads the worship service, focusing on "Hidden Figures in Black History." Join us all month long to celebrate Black History Month!

CUCC LUNCH BUNCH FEBRUARY GATHERING

On the fourth Thursday of each month, a hearty group of Columbia United Church of Christ members and friends get together for a noon carry-in meal that we like to call the CUCC Lunch Bunch. This group is open to everyone regardless of age or any other determining factor. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring a dish to share. After our meal at noon, we have a guest speaker who presents a program from 12:30-1:30 on topical issues in our community.

On February 27, Llona Weiss will speak about the partnership between CUCC and Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary. Come join us!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

From Your Music Coordinator

"In God's house there is room for all. Every child, a child of light. We're all precious in God's sight. In God's church, is there room for all? Do our eyes and arms and hands bear the truth that understands? In God's house there's no room too small. God's prepared a room for ALL!"

I'm taken back by the wisdom in this song that was shared during Worship on January 26 (written by Lorraine Nelson Wolf, entitled **Room For All**). As I sit with these words replaying in my heart I am reminded again that as musicians in the church.....THIS IS OUR CALL! To use our eyes, our arms, our hands, and our voices to share the truth that there is room for ALL in God's church!



Know YOU are welcome....whoever you are....whatever music experience you have or don't have....you are welcome here!

Blessings,
Kristin Veteto,
Music Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR NAME

This February, you will have a chance to be part of the updated CUCC directory, as we strive to create an even more welcoming community!

Were you in our 2018 directory, but would like your picture taken again? Perhaps your children are older, new babies have been born, or maybe

you just would like a new family photo? Maybe you did not make it in the 2018 directory or have started attending this church since then? Now is your chance to be in our UPDATED directory!



Be included in our directory!

Lifetouch

[Photography February 21 & 22](#)

Click on the above link to reserve your photography session. If you were in the 2018 directory and are happy with your photo, that one will stay. But if you would like a new one, now is your chance! Photos will be taken by Lifetouch and packages will be available for purchase. Questions? Talk to Stefanie Zimny!

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/>

(Just search "Columbia United Church of Christ on Facebook)

Membership and Care Ministry Team Notes

by Stefanie Zimny

The Membership and Care Ministry Team is moving ahead in 2020 with 2020 Vision for the call of our team! As we move ahead here are some exciting things coming up:

- **Greeters-** Last year we implemented an intentional greeter program, and it has worked well! Would you like to be a greeter at CUCC? If so, let me know!
- **Yoga Sunday February 2-** after worship! The Membership and Care Team is working to promote healthy activities in our congregation; Yoga is one of these! Anyone can do Yoga- as long as you can breathe! Stay after worship on 2/2 and do Yoga with Stefanie!
- **New Sign-** have you seen our new sign? It looks great! Thank you to Steve Keithahn, Bryan Crousore, Paul Sanderson and Pastor Rick who worked with me to get it done. Our next steps will be to install lighting for the sign, and then talk about landscaping. Look for more improvements on our sign in the months to come (as well as an "entrance" sign to be placed at the end of the drive).
- **Directional Signage-** as we move into the Spring, we will be installing directional signage around our facility as well, to help guide people to LODO, the Church Office and to the Sanctuary; as well as "One Way" signage on the one-way exit from the upper parking lot. Our goal is to make our facility more easily navigable to our guests. Watch for our new signs!
- **Pictures-** we are updating our church pictorial directory! Photographers from Lifetouch will be here February 21 and 22 to take pictures of our congregation members to update our last directory. If you are satisfied with your last picture, no worries; but if you want a new one taken, or if you were not included in our last directory, now is the time to book it! You can book your own appointment by clicking here: <https://booknow-lifetouch.appointment-plus.com/b65rmn6e/> or talk to a member of Membership and Care.
- **New Members-** are you interested in coordinating programs that involve caring for our members, as well as reaching out to the community and advertising our church? We would love to have you on our team! Just come to a meeting or talk to me, [Stefanie Zimny](#)! Our next meeting is February 18 at 6:30 p.m.

FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

Hospitality makes Church a place where everyone feels Welcome and Loved.



For the past two years, the Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team has been led by Jolene Kirchhoff and Val Schoeneberg. Jolene and Val have done a fantastic job of keeping the traditional CUCC Fellowship gatherings going (such as the Christmas Banquet and Trivia Night) as well as adding new pieces (“Heritage Night” and “Advent Workshop”) and expanding on the foundation set by others (Veterans Breakfast). They have also supported endeavors by other groups in the church, kept our Sunday morning Fellowship Time supplies stocked, and worked behind the scenes to keep the kitchen in tip-top shape. Their term chairing the Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team is concluding this month, although they will continue to inspire and share their wisdom with us. Please be sure to thank them both when you see them for their leadership these past two years!

The Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team will convene in February to make plans for the coming year. Watch for more information in the months to come about exciting Fellowship opportunities at CUCC!

Habitat for Humanity Breakfast

When: Saturday, February 22 from 7-11 a.m.

Where: Columbia United Church of Christ Fellowship Hall
3201 I-70 Drive Northwest
Columbia, MO 65202



Cost: Adults \$6
Children, aged 6-12 \$3



To get tickets or more information, contact the Church Office @ office@columbiaucc.com.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule for February

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for February. 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 believe you have the gift of hospitality, we would love to have you help make CUCC welcoming for all.

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
02/02	Carol Duermeyer Helen Schultz	Andie Rapp Ember Piersee Ryan Schoeneberg	Hazel Keithahn Lilly Jaberg	Polly Fuller	John Graves	NEED
02/09	Sue & Cliff Beckman	Don Helmreich Doug Privitt	Inclusion Team	Riley Hayward	Dennis Froeschner	NEED
02/16	Judi Privitt Stefanie Zimny	Charlie Marcks Brent Marcks	Llona Weiss	Raelyn Zimny	Doug Privitt	NEED
02/23	Bryan & Sharon Crousore	Llona Weiss Mahree Skala	Connie Loveless	Katelyn Odneal	Pete Jaberg	NEED

LODO HAPPENINGS

January has been busy for LODO students! We returned from break on Monday January 6 and spent the week reviewing school expectations and learned about Acts of Kindness. Additional learning was focused on themes of Winter/Winter Animals/Hibernation, Author Spotlight: Mo Willems, and Outer Space.

February Themes

- Dental Health/Health & Nutrition
- Love/Valentine's Day
- Friendship/Love/Ruth & Naomi
- Science/Sensory Activities



KidSight visited LODO on January 15 and 16 to provide free vision screenings for our students. KidSight is a valuable service that detects vision concerns early. Early detection allows parents to seek further consultation with an eye doctor, often resulting in the need for glasses. It is amazing to see a little one's face light up when they begin to see the world with clear vision and have the ability to truly see their learning environment! If you would like to contribute to this non-profit organization, you can make a donation at www.kid-sight.org/give or drop a check in the LODO payment box in the Fellowship Hall made out to KidSight – I will take care of mailing any contributions to the program.

Important February Dates:

Feb 12 & 13 – Classroom Valentine Celebrations
Feb 14 – LODO CLOSED
Feb 17 – LODO CLOSED
Feb 23 – 2020/2021 Enrollment Begins for Current LODO Families
Feb 28 – LODO CLOSED
Mar 2 – 2020/2021 LODO Enrollment Begins for New Families

2020-2021 Enrollment (*Aug 31, 2020-May 21, 2021*)

Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year will begin for current families on Sunday February 23. New families may begin enrolling in available spots on Monday March 2. 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 registered. They may contact Erika Maltsbarger at littleonesdayout@yahoo.com or 573-445-2661. Additional information about the LODO program is available at www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome.

Lightning Bugs Class: Student must be 1 year old before Aug 1, 2020

Lambs Class: Students must be 2 years old before Aug 1, 2020

Lions Class: Students must be 3 years old before Aug 1, 2020.

Leap Frogs Class: Students must be 4 years old before Aug 1, 2020.

2020 LODO Summer Camp

LODO will offer a Summer Camp June 1 through June 26 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Enrollment is currently open. Contact Erika Maltsbarger at littleonesdayout@yahoo.com or 573-445-2661 for information and to check on available spaces.

Lambs Class: Students must be 2 years old by June 1, 2020.

Lions Class: Students must be 3 years old by August 1, 2020.

Leap Frogs Class: Students must be 4 years old by August 1, 2020.

With Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger, Director



CUCC IS WORKING IN MEXICO



The Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research (INESIN) is a center of study dedicated to the education and growth of the people of Chiapas, Mexico. A Global Ministries Mission Partner, INESIN strives to contribute to peace in Chiapas through projects focused on domestic violence prevention, conflict transformation, migration, spiritual growth, Biblical translation and community relations. Their vision is that their society would be one in which religious and cultural diversity enriches their coexistence through bonds of justice, respect, tolerance and solidarity. INESIN believes that diversity is a tangible and varied manifestation of God's grace.

INESIN is a Global Missions Partner of CUCC through Global Ministries, our shared mission agency with the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ. Global Ministries provides foundational support for projects of this organization and support for their ongoing efforts. Please keep Global Ministries and INESIN in your prayers!

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

February 2-8	Abigail Fate	working at Melel Xojobal, in Chiapas!
February 9-15	Fiyori Kidane	working in Greece
February 16-22	Abigail Hernandez	working in Japan
February 23-29	Dustin Riebel	working in Ecuador



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP/NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT



The CUCC High School Youth will be participating in a Mission Trip July 19-25, 2020. We will be going to West Lafayette, Indiana for two days of mission work and then four days participating in the National Youth Event!

The National Youth Event will be four days of Spirit filled worship, education and fun with 4000 United Church of Christ Youth, Youth Leaders and other leadership from around the country (and even some international guests). It will be held on the campus of Purdue University starting Wednesday, July 22.

We will leave CUCC on Sunday, July 19 after the worship service and spend the 2½ days prior to NYE doing mission work in Indiana. There are several sites we are considering, and we hope to have the details nailed down soon.

This will be an expensive trip! We anticipate the cost to be around \$600/participant. This is more expensive than our usual mission trips, because of the NYE component. In order to defray the cost of this trip, our High School Youth will be hosting several fundraising events this year. We will host a meal on March 15 and another event in May. Watch for more details and keep the youth of CUCC in your prayers!

YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER MEAL

Stick around after worship on March 15. The High School Youth will have another fundraising meal! We have not decided what we will have yet, but it will be good!

This will be another fundraiser for the High School Youth to attend the National Youth Event at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana this summer (see article above). Donations are appreciated, too! You can donate online by going to: www.columbiaucc.com and clicking on the "Donate Now" tab. Select "Youth Ministry Fund" from the dropdown menu. All donations will go into the Youth Ministry Designated Fund, which is what we use for our trips. Thank you! We appreciate your help!

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](mailto:Nanette.Ward@cmsttc.org) at 573-289-1842 with any questions you may have, or to volunteer.

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN FEBRUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 Yoga Sunday Frozen Sunday 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	3 6pm Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team	4 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir 6:30pm Building and Grounds Ministry Team	5 Pastor Rick on Vacation 6:30pm Chapel Ringers NO CONFIRMATION 7:30pm Celebration Singers	6 Pastor Rick on Vacation	7 Pastor Rick on Vacation	8 Pastor Rick on Vacation
9 Pastor Rick on Vacation Inclusion Sunday 7:30am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	10 Pastor Rick on Vacation 5:45pm LODO Board	11 Pastor Rick on Vacation Vacation 9am-1pm Quilters NO Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir 6pm Food Bank	12 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Celebration Singers	13 9:30am Women's Fellowship 7pm Inclusion Team Meeting	14 April on Vacation LODO & CPS Closed 	15 Conference Youth Event @ MoVal
16 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Conference Youth Event	17 April on Vacation LODO & CPS Closed 4:30pm Loaves and Fishes 6:30pm Music & Worship Ministry Team	18 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir Team 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team	19 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Celebration Singers	20 Feb Communicator articles due	21 Life Touch Picture Retakes 2-9pm 6:30pm Austin Hartke Event @ First Baptist	22 7-11 am Habitat for Humanity Breakfast Life Touch Picture Retakes 10-5 9am Austin Hartke Event @ First Baptist
23 New Member Sunday Camp Sunday 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	24 10am Pastor Rick leads Worship @ the Bluffs & 11:15am Worship @ Mill Creek 6pm Finance & Stewardship Ministry	25 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir 6:30pm Council Meeting	26 NO CONFIRMATION 7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Worship	27 12pm CUCC Lunch Bunch (Lona Weiss to speak about partnership between CUCC and Alpha Hart)	28 LODO & CPS Closed	29 9-3 Fellowship Hall reserved for Conference Council Event

THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation- ONA #1575
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Columbia, MO 65202-3296
573-445-7931



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Interested in Church Membership?

We will be receiving New Members on February 23. If you are interested in joining, please contact [Rev. Rick Oberle](mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com).
rick@columbiaucc.com

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

HAPPY
LOVE DAY!

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.

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!

New Year's Resolution #1:

Be More Awesome than last year.

