

THE COMMUNICATOR

September 2021



From the Pastor's Keyboard

Walking for Water

It is September . . . and that means CROP Walk time! My family and friends have gotten used to the fact that every September they are going to receive an email or two from me asking for contributions to the CROP Walk. For the past dozen years or so, I have participated in the CROP Walk, both in person (by walking) and online, through their digital giving platform. You can check out my online CROP Walk page by clicking here: [PASTOR RICK'S CROP WALK](#).

The CROP Walk has many facets to it that are beneficial in God's Kingdom, but one benefit I see is the ability to use this fundraising platform to educate non-church goers about God's work in action. Believe it or not, some of my friends are not church people! But when I send them the email about the CROP Walk, it gives them the opportunity to explore the amazing work [CHURCH WORLD SERVICE](#) does and to see the positive impact Progressive Christianity has on the world as we put our faith in action.

The CROP Walk also gives us the opportunity to see ecumenism at work. CROP is a fundraiser event for Church World Service, which is an ecumenical organization of thirty-seven different faith groups. Thirty-seven faith groups all working together; that is a realization of Jesus' prayer in the Garden of Gethsemane, "That All May Be One." CROP is Christ's prayer realized on earth.

So, the CROP Walk is an evangelism tool and an example of ecumenism. However, those aspects are not why I am so passionate about the CROP Walk. What really motivates me is the impact we have on people in need.

The UCC church I served previously was very active in the CROP Walk, as well. One year, they set a goal of raising \$5,000 for CROP, earmarked for digging a deep well in Africa. The money was raised, and the following year one of our church members, Laura Shore, got to travel to Africa to see the well that was funded by our church's efforts and visit with the people of that village.

Laura saw firsthand the people whose lives were changed forever by our CROP walk donation. She heard stories of the impact that resulted from our donation, and received volumes of thanks from the community members for changing their lives forever. She brought back cards and pictures from that African community, thanking us for providing them with a deep well.

Most notably, they took her to visit their old water source. It was a rough-hewn cistern, catching rainwater and exposed to the elements. The water was nasty, with no protection from contaminants. Laura brought back two vials from this community, a vial of water from the new well and a vial of water from the old cistern. The former was crystal clear; the latter looked like mud. That was what they drank every day before our donation.

In many communities, people have to walk miles just to get clean water; there is no deep well to reach the aquifer. I walk because they walk, and I walk so one day they won't have to.

Please give generously to the CROP Walk by clicking on the link above or by sending a check to the church office. As a church, we have a goal of \$3,000 this year. Won't you join in the effort?

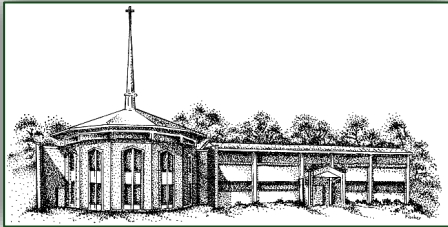
-Pastor Rick

EVENTS

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

Middle School and High School Youth and Parents will be meeting on Wednesday, September 1, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall to discuss youth activities for the coming year. We will be asking parents to discuss and provide input regarding our youth programs, activities, classes, etc. There will be a meal catered by Dickies BBQ, and we need an accurate count, so please let us know if you plan to attend. Invitations were sent out the week of August 16, with a self-addressed and stamped envelope for an RSVP. These were due by August 25. If you have not sent in your reply yet, please contact [Linda Neale](#).

Direct your questions about upcoming youth programming to [Lena Muench](#), [Kristy Odneal](#), or [Linda Neale](#).



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

[Rev. Rick Oberle](#)

Pastor

[Rev. Fred Brandenburg](#)

Pastor Emeritus

[April Rothweiler](#)

Office Administrator

[Ed Rollins](#)

Music Coordinator

[Amy Crouse](#)

Organist/Accompanist

[Erika Maltsbarger](#)

Director, Little One's Day Out

[Rai Tolani](#)

Financial Secretary

[Jeremy Sturm](#)

Custodian

Sunday Worship Schedule

Fall Schedule starts 9/12:

9:00 Sunday School for all ages

10:00 Fellowship Time

10:30 Worship

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
9am- 3pm

Phone:
(573)-445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com

Website:
www.columbiaucc.com

WALKING FOR A HEALTHIER WORLD

On Sunday, September 19, the **Columbia CROP Hunger Walk** will step off at 2:00 p.m. at the Clary-Shy Park, 1701 W. Ash (Columbia Ag Park). This year's theme is "Walking for a Healthier World," focusing on nutritious food, clean water, and supporting peoples' efforts for healthier living and providing for themselves.

There are several ways to participate and help achieve this goal:

- WALK in person with our Columbia neighbors at the Ag Park on Sept 19. *Registration begins at 1:00 p.m., Program at 1:30, and Step Off at 2:00.*
- If you feel safer, due to COVID, WALK at a time and location of your choice.
- Be a SPIRIT WALKER. Financially support a person or team without walking or leaving your home.
- Make a cash or check donation at the Ag Park on CROP Walk Day.
- Use Kindred Giving on the CUCC website to make a donation.
- Mail a check to the church office: 3201 I-70 Dr. NW, Columbia, MO 65202.
- Drop a check in the offering basket in the sanctuary on Sunday.

To join the CUCC Team of walkers, to donate, or to start your own team, go to: <https://events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/columbia-united-church-of-christ>.

Help CUCC meet this year's goal of \$3,000!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, September 9, at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Area at CUCC. We will be starting the Bible Study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me," learning from the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. It sounds very interesting and includes: Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary, and more!

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

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of **Eden Theological Seminary**, thank you for your donation in support of the Annual fund.

It is already shaping up to be a busy summer at Eden! We have prepared classrooms on campus for a “hi-flex” method of teaching and learning. Those that choose a digital option for attending courses will experience a creative and innovative atmosphere, just as the students who choose to attend physically. And, as we continue to expand our social media capabilities, we anticipate you noticing even more posts and announcements fueled by incoming student excitement.

You have been a vital part of making this happen. Your support, that allows us to continue innovating and collaborating with others that share a passion for the Progressive Christian Movement, is so important, and we are grateful for your engagement with Eden.

Thank you again for your part in equipping leaders with the tools necessary for God’s redemptive work in the world.

In Gratitude, Mary Schaller Blaufuss, VP of Institutional Advancement

Attention: Address Changes

Isaiah & Audrey Jackson-Post
3415 Bonny Linn Dr. Apt. A
Columbia, MO 65202

Ed & Judy Kaiser
2605 Face Rock Ct.
Columbia, MO 65203



No one screamed for ice cream on **Missouri’s Bicentennial Anniversary** at CUCC. We had plenty. We estimate around 50 people attended. We had a great time socializing, playing 1821 games, and coloring pages of state symbols.

Your next opportunity for Central Dairy ice cream at CUCC is **Rally Day**. We will also have a meal. Come join us for fellowship, food, and fun on 9/12/21.

Dear Rev. Oberle and Friends,

Pediatric illness doesn’t stop, and neither does our work at the Ronald McDonald House for the families who need us.

Thank you for supporting our Share a Night program. Your generosity provides the most basic necessities for families as they face obstacles with their child’s health, letting them focus on getting well together.

Your recent gift helps ensure the **Ronald McDonald House** is available to families who travel long distances for medical procedures, doctor appointments, therapy sessions, and more. And thanks to the generosity of a wonderful RMHC Mid-Missouri donor and volunteer, your gift is going twice as far to help provide for families with the comfort of a home away from home!

With gratitude,
Terri Gray, Executive Director

Thank you for your recent donation of tabs to RMHC of Mid-Missouri. We appreciate it, and you! And keep them coming!

Sincerely, your friends at RMHC



Dear CUCC,

Thank you for your kind donation and continued partnership with **Mobility Worldwide**. Your gift will help people around the world receive mobility carts.

In July, our 19th load of 191 carts and 50 Mini-Marts shipped to Kenya/PFC. Your great support has enabled us to continue helping persons in need.

Helping others be independent,
Karen Stohlgren, Volunteer

Lunch Bunch—Thursday, September 23

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, September 23! Our guest speaker will be Kelly Van Doren, the Extra Mile Coaching and Transitional Housing Coordinator for Love Columbia (formerly known as Love, INC).

Love Columbia works at the intersection of needs and resources, providing anyone in Columbia who is struggling to provide for their basic needs a path forward. Many of those being served have nowhere else to turn. Without intervention, many of their situations would have a negative domino effect. Love Columbia steps into that situation and provides support, as able.

Come to Lunch Bunch and hear from this important agency! Bring a dish to share for the community meal, or, if you prefer, bring a sack lunch. We gather at noon, and our speaker starts at 12:30. It is always a great time for fun, fellowship, and education! All are welcome!



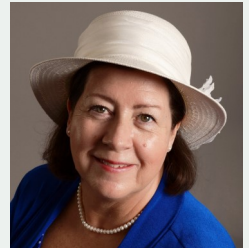
CHURCH COUNCIL

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

... from the 8/24 meeting

After Pastor Rick's opening prayer, Jessica Jenks gave a summary of Chapter 6 of Piloting Church. In order to fulfill a mission statement, author Cameron Trimble says a congregation needs four distinct systems working together: Theology System, Purpose System, Program System, and Performance System. Trimble closes with a suggested strategy checklist to be used when considering new programs and priorities to ensure a congregation is being strategic and not just busy.

- LED lighting in the Education wing is complete. Dimmers were installed in the office and the LODO classrooms.
- Mike Pierson reported the chancel renovation team did not meet in July. He is still looking for additional team members. Temporary lighting for the chancel is beginning considered.
- With regard to COVID-19, the current 5-day average is 54, which is down from 69 last month. CUCC will not change its current mask policy at this time.
- Pastor Rick's sabbatical is scheduled for the fall of 2022. He will submit an official proposal next month. The needs of the church for a pastor while Pastor Rick is gone were discussed.
- Kurt Heine reported that the Vision Team reviewed and edited the previous 5-year plan. Now, the Ministry Teams will submit their ideas for a new 5-year plan.
- Pastor Rick anticipates there will be 7 or 8 new members this fall. Many guests are interested in participating in church activities. He encouraged all members to wear name tags.
- Ed Rollins has resigned as Music Coordinator effective the end of September.
- Council will be developing a job description for Council Members.
- Van transportation guidelines were approved.
- 2022 budget requests from Ministry Teams are due by 9/1.
- LODO will be selling T-shirts as a fundraiser. The shirts will feature both the LODO and CUCC logos.
- Council approved accepting a bid to reseal the parking lot at a cost of \$15,145. The job is to be done Oct 28 & 29.
- Pastor Rick reported he is getting bids to add remote security access to the south basement door to coincide with the remote access to the LODO door and office door.
- John Bullerd reported the HVAC units are in need of replacement. There are 17 units. Suggestion to replace two units per year at a cost of approximately \$10,000 per unit. Building & Grounds Team will review.
- Pastor Rick reported that the Ministry Teams did well in their presentation Sunday, which focused on time and talents. He serves on a Camp Mo-Val team, working through ways to make the camp sustainable. It is scheduled to reopen for campers next year.
- Sue Ann Schaefer reported there is still a \$30,000 deficit in Joyful Giving.
- John Bullerd reported the sanitizer was repaired, but a new one may be needed soon.
- Jessica Lucas encouraged members to sign up for tasks to help with CARE activities.
- Tricia Price reported we need one more volunteer for our booth at Pridefest.
- Linda Neale reported on information about Rally Day.
- Next Council meeting is 9/21 at 6:30.
- Pastor Rick ended the meeting with prayer.



Jessica Jenks, Secretary

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

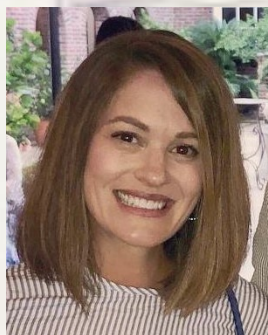
Moderator:	Kristy Odneal	kristyodneal@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Secretary:	Jessica Jenks	Jessica.jenks@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Sue Ann Schaefer	ssas3307@aol.com
Recording Treasurer:	Brent Marcks	brentmarcks@hotmail.com
Building & Grounds:	John Bullerd	jbullerd51@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Stefanie Zimny	stefanie.zimny@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship:	George Zimny	gzimny@pbfirm.com
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Tricia Price	tricialprice@gmail.com
Little One's Day Out:	Lorry Dreier	llhd01@gmail.com
Membership & Care:	Jessica Lucas	jucas@cpsk12.org
Nurture & Education:	Linda Neale	lnealej@aol.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music:	Mike Pierson	mpierson@cpsk12.org



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

September marks a transition for many of us, a change of pace and a new routine! At CUCC, we begin a busier time of year. Sunday school resumes, and our worship service moves to a different time. It's a time of excitement and an opportunity to start fresh with new endeavors and a renewed sense of motivation! As a Church Council, we are viewing this as a time to assess and think creatively about ways we might carry out our mission.

We encourage each person in the congregation to reflect upon your interests and gifts and to consider how you might support church ministries in ways that are fulfilling for you. The variety of opportunities is great, and our ministry team and council members are happy to talk with you to answer questions or provide more information. Are you interested in helping with Sunday School, partnering with our preschool program, getting involved with finance and stewardship, or participating in advocacy and outreach activities? Would you enjoy working to promote our inclusive and affirming culture, joining in our membership and care activities, sharing your musical talents, helping with fellowship and hospitality events, or being part of our building and grounds team?



It is when we bring our individual gifts together that we are able to carry out our mission! CUCC Celebrates God's boundless love by Welcoming all God's People, Nurturing Faith and Spiritual Growth, Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship, Building a supportive church family, Transforming both the congregation and community through service and outreach.

I am grateful for God's guidance as we discern ways to become more active in our congregation, our community, and the world.

Kristy Odneal, Moderator

MEET OUR NEW CUSTODIAN!

Jeremy Sturm began working for CUCC on July 13 as our new custodian! We are thrilled to have him on board. Jeremy will be complementing the work that is done by our cleaning service, who are here on Thursday mornings. Jeremy will be available for special projects and organization projects around the church, as well as general maintenance and custodial duties.

Jeremy is working here ten hours/week, usually Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday. He is also an Assistant Manager at Harbor Freight Tools, so his schedule here will fluctuate according to his schedule at Harbor Freight. He previously worked as a Department Manager at Westlake Ace Hardware.

Be sure to welcome Jeremy as you see him working around the church, and if you have a special need for his attention, leave a note in his church office mailbox.



MEMBERSHIP AND CARE

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



Please consider joining one or more of our CUCC CARES (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) Ministries! These are task-oriented, hands-on ministries that provide care for our congregation members in times of celebration and need. They include Note Writers/Cards, Handy Helpers, Visits to Church Members, Bereavement, Flowers, Meals, Shawls, Transportation, and Prayer Ministries. You can sign-up [here](#).

If you'd like a paper copy of the sign-up, ask Jolene Kirchoff, Judi Privitt, or Jessica Lucas. Share your love and care through a CUCC CARES Ministry.

September Birthdays to Celebrate!

Vena Long (09/01)	Kaden Lucas (09/01)	Nick Evans (09/02)
Kim Oberle (09/03)	Matthew Baker (09/04)	Bea Gordon (09/04)
Lance Markway (09/04)	Rev. John Bracke (09/05)	Beth Walker (09/08)
Diane Privitt (09/09)	Walter Schroeder (09/09)	Roselynn Lentz (09/11)
Kieran Piersee (09/11)	Lily Jaberg (09/11)	Ryan Schoeneberg (09/11)
Ace Devenney (09/14)	Doug Privitt (09/14)	Ember Piersee (09/15)
Shelby Oberle (09/18)	Sheryl Oncken (09/19)	Glenn Duermeyer (09/21)
Becky Gordon (09/23)	Yvonne Piersee (09/24)	Don Privitt (09/24)
Micah Bredehoeft (09/25)	Dennis Froeschner (09/25)	Mike Hall (09/25)
Ally Jaberg (09/25)	Sue Beckman (09/26)	Melissa Bernhardt (09/27)
Llona Weiss (09/29)		Lea Marienfeld (09/29)

FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for September. We need some spots to be filled, and we'd love to see some new faces sharing their time and talents in this capacity. Part of being in the church family is often expressed by sharing the roles that make all of our members and guests feel welcome. If you can fill the needed role or a role in the future, please let one of the leaders know. We appreciate you!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
09/05	Carol Duermeyer	Mahree Skala	Audrey Lasley	NEED	Josh Muench Brent Marcks	Helen Schultz
09/12	Anne Heine	Llona Weiss	Confirmation Class	Confirmation Class	Pete Jaberg Phillip Dennis	Lena Muench
09/19	Jolene Kirchhoff	NEED	Mahree Skala	NEED	John Graves Carissa Graves	JoEllen Grace
09/26	Helen Schultz	NEED	Seth Smith	Lilly Smith	Matt Lucas Mike Pierson	Melba Shaffer



GOD'S WORK. OUR HANDS.

As stewards of God's gifts to us we are called to do God's work here on earth serving and loving our neighbors. How do we respond to God's call to serve and love our neighbors? We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us. Although some think of stewardship as only a financial response to God's love, stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is about how we use all that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents, and our treasures — to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls and our homes. Giving isn't an obligation. It's an opportunity.

LODO MINISTRY TEAM

LODO NEWS

LODO Staff and Families are so excited to be back at school! Our year began on Monday, August 30, and we have jumped right into learning school rules and routines, practicing sharing, and making new friends! We can't wait to make wonderful memories this year!

Throughout our days, we will help children to identify their feelings and guide them through managing emotions in a safe way. Children will build their independence while knowing that our staff is available for help. Students will learn how to communicate with peers using kind words and behaviors to share and take turns while playing. We will also introduce concepts of shapes, colors, numbers, letters, and much, much more! Our days are full of learning and growing through the love of God, and our love of God.

We have an amazing team for the 2021-2022 School Year!

Lightning Bugs Teacher: Charlotte Underwood

Lambs Teacher: Ashley Mills

Lions Teacher: Lena Muench

Leopards Teacher: Janessa Gaughan

Leap Frogs Teacher: Kadee Thompson

School Aides: Meredith Burgio & Christine Bell

Afternoon Aides: MWF – Cara Lause & T/Th – Charlotte Underwood



Volunteer Opportunities

We are planning on the return of our various LODO Family Events this year! We often need additional assistance to make our events run safely and smoothly.

The first opportunity to volunteer is our Annual Pumpkin Patch Day on Friday, October 15, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. The LODO Pumpkin Patch is created on the North Hill of CUCC. We will have various game and activity stations where we need assistance. We need lots of volunteers to make this happen, so we hope you will help out!

We are also always looking for members of the congregation to be special guests to share hobbies with our students, or guest readers to come in and share our love of literacy! If you are interested in volunteering, or would like more information, please contact Ms. Erika at littleonesdayout@yahoo.com or 573-445-2661.

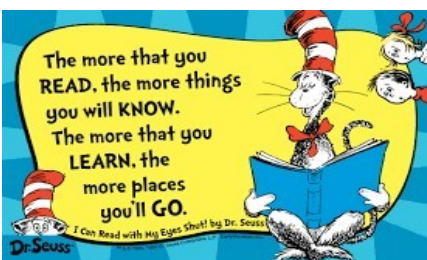
READING FOR
6 MINUTES A DAY
REDUCES STRESS
BY 68%.



With Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger, Director

August/September Learning Themes:

Back to School/Friendship/Manners
Emotions and Feelings
All About Me/My Five Senses
Transportation/Fire Safety
Creation



Did you know that reading to children helps develop their brain by improving memory, focus, concentration, social skills, vocabulary, writing, and communication skills, as well as enhancing imagination and decreasing stress and depression? LODO loves to have church members and family come to share in story time. If you would like to read to a LODO class, contact Erika to set up a day and time.

INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

This Ministry Team wants to again thank those who participated in Pridefest whether in person or in spirit. It isn't just a weekend or week or month event. Inclusion of all God's children is a 365/24/7 mindset and practice of being kind, understanding, and welcoming.

I want to digress a bit and write about trials. We all have them, large and small. They challenge us, they test us, they cause us to question. Sometimes we experience anger, disbelief, sadness, and the notion that, "It just isn't fair."

There is a wonderful book called The Last Lecture by Randy Pausch. He was a professor who developed pancreatic cancer in his early 40's. He had three small children. When people would comment that it wasn't fair that he had cancer, his response was, "Why not me?"

That, he stated, was not what was unfair. His children growing up without him, that was unfair.

Challenges can be of many varieties: family discord, lost of a job, mental or physical illness, the death of a loved one, poor grades even though you've tried your best, being ostracized just because of who you are, the list goes on.

We at CUCC are a church family. We are a support system, as well as a worshipping body. Let this family know if you are in need of a shoulder to cry on, a pastoral visit, a sympathetic ear, a meal delivery, comic relief, whatever. This is part of being an open and affirming, inclusive, loving congregation.

Why is this on my mind right now? I've been in contact, recently, with multiple friends and family who are going through life-altering challenges. All of us have said, "It just isn't fair." Followed by, "No one promised life would be fair."

Yet, we have God's promises to lean on, such as:

Isaiah 40:31... *"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint."*

Amen.

Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Member

Tricia Price, 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.

INCLUSIVE THEOLOGICAL EXPRESSION THROUGH GRAPHIC ARTS

Have you ever looked at a reproduction of the classic painting of “The Last Supper” by Leonardo da Vinci and wondered where the Bible says that Jesus and his friends were all white Italians? Most people do not think about it and take the painting at face value. When the artists of the Renaissance, most of whom were white Europeans, interpreted their faith through art, they painted through their white lenses. There is nothing wrong with that, but just as we are diverse in our identity as God’s Children, there is a diversity of artistic theological expression, as well. One of the programs of the Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team is to bring that diversity of expression to Columbia United Church of Christ, so our artwork may more fully represent our inclusive identity. We are an Open and Affirming Congregation, and our artwork should reflect that identity.

To that end, one of our projects was to commission Lisa Jaberg to come up with three paintings capturing our identity as an Inclusive Congregation. After discussion with her last May, she came up with three project ideas which amazed our team. We gave her the green light to go ahead, and she spent this summer working on the projects, which you see represented below. These were presented as a gift to the congregation in worship on August 22, when we celebrated our Time and Talents.

These will hang in the Gathering Space for all to see and appreciate our identity as an Open and Affirming Congregation, celebrating the love of Jesus Christ with all who gather in our midst.

Inclusion and Diversity Art — *created by Lisa N. (Koch) Jaberg*

The art consists of three acrylic paintings, 36"x48" on canvas, at the request of the Columbia United Church of Christ Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team. The goal of the requested art was to convey CUCC's commitment as an Open and Affirming congregation. I hoped to capture the spirit of community, growth, transformation, and rebirth. The stained glass in the paintings are intended to represent the traditions and majesty of the church. The window theme invites the viewer to either "look in" or "look out."



'Community' **[Hands interlocking]**

The interlocking hands and arms represent unity in Christ, across diverse peoples, demonstrating our commitment to welcoming all.



'Joy' **[Flowers and butterflies]**

The iconic UCC "still speaking" symbol is featured alongside images of birth, growth, and transformation. The painting is a celebration of the joy that comes with life.



'At the Foot of the Cross' **[Tree and Pride Flag]**

Although the fall season can represent harvest and death, the tree represents the cross and the promise of new life that comes with the changing of the seasons. The painting was intended to capture the feeling of solemn worship.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

CHALLENGES AND STEWARDSHIP

Each year, the challenges of meeting the church budget are always present. As of July 31, 2021, we are \$30,429 behind in Joyful Giving, which is the major part of our Church Budget. Sunday morning offerings, checks mailed to the church, and online giving, unless directed elsewhere, all fall into the “Joyful Giving” category. Money is a tool used for Ministry, and budget shortfalls make those ministry plans more challenging.



As a member of the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team, I would ask that in the coming months you consider what you can do to help us meet the Budget Goals that were approved for the 2021 Budget. As we start our fall worship time schedule, if you have not filled out a Time and Talent Sheet, please consider doing so. There are many mission and service areas that are available and need your Time and Talent to further the goals and mission of the church.

Thank you for your continued support!
Blessings, Charlie Marcks

TIME AND TALENT SHEETS

On August 22, we celebrated our Time and Talents in worship at CUCC. Members of our Ministry Teams came forward and talked about the work they are doing, presenting examples and inspiring gifts of service. Part of that worship time was an appeal to the congregation to look for ways that you may be interested in serving; on a Ministry Team or other area of service. At Children’s Time, Pastor Rick showed a “CUCC Puzzle” and talked about how each of us is a piece of that puzzle. It is not complete unless all the pieces are there.

Where would you like to serve? Music & Worship? Building & Grounds? Fellowship & Hospitality? Nurture & Education? Each of these teams and the tasks associated with them are part of the puzzle that is CUCC. You are an integral part of that puzzle.

Have you filled out your Time & Talent Sheet yet? There was one included in the Friday email last week. You can also get one by [emailing April](#) in the church office. We encourage you to fill it out and figure out how you can be part of the ministries of this community of faith!

PARKING LOT PROJECT TO COME FROM INVESTMENT FUND

Have you noticed the wear on our parking lot at CUCC? It is time to repair cracks and seal the whole lot. At the last Church Council Meeting, we approved a bid from Christensen Construction Company to do just that. The cost will be just over \$15,000. We plan to do this project October 28 & 29.

We also have 17 HVAC units that are 22 years old. Several of them are falling into disrepair, and it is getting harder to maintain them. The Building and Grounds Ministry Team is working on a plan to replace two of these each year, at an approximate cost of \$10,000 each. We will start with the first two this fall.

Where is the money coming from for these projects? Out of our Building & Grounds Designated Fund, one of our investments with United Church Funds. We currently have \$113,000+ in this investment account, but with \$170,000 in HVAC units needing replacement in the years to come, this fund could be depleted quite quickly. When an HVAC unit goes out, the need for replacement is urgent. We hope to increase the balance of this fund in the next year, so we can have funds ready for emergency situations. Currently, 3% of our Joyful Giving is put in this fund every month to help increase its value.

If you would like to contribute to the Building and Grounds Designated Fund to make ministry happen at CUCC, talk to [Sue Ann Schaefer](#), [Brent Marcks](#), or [Kristy Odneal](#)! Many projects are coming up, and we need you to help make them happen!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Update			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
July Income	\$25,700.53	\$25,077.18	\$193.78
YTD Income	\$192,295.37	\$193,559.98	(\$1264.61)
July Expenses	\$29,263.63	\$28,088.31	\$1,175.32
YTD Expenses	\$190,028.42	\$200,589.67	(\$10,561.25)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$2,266.95	(\$7,029.69)	\$9,296.64
July Attendance	241		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
08/01/21	73	\$8,982.00	\$4,643.59
08/08/21	47	\$2,151.00	\$4,643.59
08/15/21	59	\$7,823.96	\$4,643.59
08/22/21	72	\$	\$4,643.59
Total	251	\$	\$18,574.36

As of 07/31/2021 we are **\$30,429.41** behind in Joyful Giving for 2021.

CUCC HAS ONLINE GIVING!

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

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

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

MUHAMMAD ALI- THE DOCUMENTARY KMOS SCREENING AT CUCC

The new Ken Burns documentary about Muhammad Ali brings to life one of the best-known and most indelible figures of the 20th century, a three-time heavyweight boxing champion who captivated millions of fans throughout the world with his mesmerizing combination of speed, grace, and power in the ring, and charm and playful boasting outside of it.

Ali achieved fame as a great boxer, but many are unaware of the racist abuse he endured in his career. This documentary examines that abuse and how it affected his life and choices.

This documentary will be premiering on KMOS-TV in Columbia in September, but we will be previewing it with the Columbia community on September 9 at 7:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Representatives from KMOS will be showing clips from the movie and discussing it with the community. The gathering will last about an hour. This event is open to the general public; CUCC members are encouraged to attend! Watch Friday emails for more information, or talk to [Pastor Rick](#).

CUCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT WORK

The Columbia United Church of Christ Scholarship Fund is a new fund, created in October 2019, by repurposing the former Memorial Education Fund.

The original fund was established in 1972 by Professor H. H. Krusekopf as a memorial to his late wife, Nancy. Over the years, significant contributions to this fund were made in memory of Professor Krusekopf, Elsa Nagel, Seth Brandenburg, Wesley Kirchoff, and Rachel Kirchoff.

The new fund was established to enable continuing education endeavors among all members of this congregation, expanding the range of financial opportunities to continuing education in general, beyond the scope of ministry. Applications for scholarships are due by April 1 each year and are reviewed by a team consisting of the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Chair, the Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair, the Vice Moderator of the Council, and the Pastor. All applicants must not only be church members, but be active in the life of the church.

This year, for our second class of recipients, we had three applicants: **Carissa Graves, Hayley Dennis, and Lindsey Oberle**. All three applicants were heartily approved. Each one received a \$1,000 scholarship to make their college education more affordable.

This fund is invested with United Church Funds, one of ten Designated Funds that make ministry matters happen in earnest in this congregation. It is open to contributions. To donate, talk to [Sue Ann Schaffer](#) or [Brent Marcks](#).

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

LOAVES & FISHES

The August 16 meal at L&F consisted of sloppy joes, PB&J sandwiches, chips, salad, and brownies. Food was provided by the Kirchhoffs, Judi Privitt, Jessica Jenks, Patty Beeson, Brenda Muench, Anne Heine, Jolene Hackman, Val Schoeneberg, and Linda Graves. Servers and kitchen crew for the evening were Ellen (an MU medical student), Anne Heine, Keith Birkes, Laurie Frew, Mark Duncan, Patty Beeson, Judi Privitt, Tiffany Brookshire, Kalyn Brookshire, Barry and Jolene Kirchhoff. We served over 100 meals with 70 firsts and 32 seconds. Thanks to everyone. Many hands make light work and helping others helps us. If interested in volunteering, please contact [Audrey Lasley](#), and while you are at it, be sure and thank her for her tireless efforts for this ministry.

Come join the fun at the FOOD BANK!

We will be working from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, September 28.

Look for the signup link in the Friday email, or contact [Mahree Skala](#). Come join us as we help prepare nutritious food for people who need it!

2021 CROP Hunger Walk—Walking for a Healthier World!

On Sunday, September 19, the Columbia CROP Hunger Walk will step off at 2:00 at the Clary-Shy Park, 1701 W. Ash (Columbia Ag Park). This year's theme is "Walking for a Healthier World," focusing on nutritious food, clean water, and supporting peoples' efforts for healthier living and providing for themselves. The Clary-Shy Park is the perfect location. The park showcases sustainably growing/harvesting good food, education, providing food to our neighbors (CCUA Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture), accessing healthy food (Columbia Farmers Market), and maintaining a healthy body (The ARC).



The CROP Walk is sponsored and organized by Church World Service and many Columbia churches and organizations. Funds raised help alleviate hunger right here in Columbia (25%) and across the US and around the world (75%). Locally, four ministries receive grants for their food programs. They are (1) Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, providing a nightly community meal program, (2) Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry, (3) Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry, and (4) Fifth Street Christian Church, providing a monthly community meal program.

Last year, 2020, even in the face of a pandemic, the CROP Walk raised \$17,013.29, exceeding its 2019 contributions. Amazing! Columbia UCC and Broadway Christian shared the Top Fundraiser Trophy with a virtual tie, collecting \$2,761 and \$2,741 respectively. CUCC goal this year is \$3,000.

Sign up now to Walk or Give to the annual CROP Walk by going to www.events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/columbia-united-church-of-christ and joining the CUCC CROP Walk Team (or start your own team)!

Since 1995, our local CROP Walk has raised almost \$295,000 to help those experiencing food insecurity. The faithful work goes on as we continue to walk to **FIGHT HUNGER ONE STEP AT A TIME**.

Be the Change

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit.

The STOP Human Trafficking Coalition of Central MO (CMSHTC) has been working in the local and surrounding communities, combatting Human Trafficking, for over a decade. They offer a monthly meeting to learn more about and get involved in the fight against human trafficking, free educational sessions, and free services to survivors as they move toward a "hope and a future." The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **August 5** via Zoom. If you'd like a link sent to you, please let April know.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the CMSHTC, please contact [April Rothweiler](#). Change starts with you!

STOP
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COALITION OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

Columbia CROP Hunger Walk

Sunday, September 19

Registration begins @ 1:00; Program @ 1:30; Step-off @ 2:00

Clary-Shy Community Park (Ag Park)

Farmer's Market Pavilion – 1701 W. Ash



WALKING for a HEALTHIER WORLD

“Walking for a Healthier World” – nutritious food, clean water, and supporting people’s efforts to healthier lives and providing for themselves.

The Clary-Shy Park is an ideal place to celebrate our theme because it showcases sustainably growing/harvesting good food, education and providing food to our neighbors (CCUA), access to healthy food (the Farmers Market), and maintaining a healthy body (The ARC).

Walking together again...

WALK with your Columbia neighbors on Walk Day for our in-person Walk at the Columbia Ag Park on a route designed especially for CROP.

WALK on Walk Day or at a time of your choosing if you feel safer; choose one of Columbia’s fantastic parks, a parking lot, room-to-room in your house, or around the block.

SPIRIT WALKERS – support the Columbia CROP Hunger Walk, or find a person or team that you would like to financially support without walking or leaving your home. Go to the [Columbia CROP Web Page](#) or contact our local treasurer listed on the back.

STREAMING WALKS: FACEBOOK LIVE / INSTAGRAM – “go live” when walking to let your friends and Team-mates know you’re walking for our most vulnerable neighbors.

Shakespeare's Pizza

Fundraiser all day on Sept 19

go to one of Shakespeare’s three locations and get 15% of your food total donated to our Walk.

Coupon required: go to our Web page

Walk on the Web...

PERSONAL WALKER PAGE – create your own fundraising page on the [Columbia CROP Web Page](#)

A TEAM OF WALKERS – Recruit friends, colleagues, and church folks to try to win the Top Fundraiser Trophy for 2021 (*more info on the back*). Register your Team at the [Columbia CROP Web Page](#)

Set up a **FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER**. Go to the Church World Service Facebook page at www.facebook.com/churchworldservice. Click “create fundraiser” on the lower left column. Your personal Facebook account will carry notifications to your contacts. Don’t forget to send “thank you” notes.

TAG CHALLENGE. Post your walking videos using your own social media pages and also on #EndHungerNow and #VirtualCROPHungerWalk.

Tag your friends and potential donors in the posted text and include your personal/team fundraising page link.

COLUMBIA CROP FACEBOOK
<https://www.facebook.com/comocrop>

COLUMBIA CROP WEB PAGE
www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiamo

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Amy Crousore is going to lead a class on **Music History in the Church** this fall. More information to come so stay tuned (*pun intended*). It sounds fascinating—make sure you don't miss it!

Confirmation

Confirmation Class (9th graders) resumed on Aug 23, 2021. They will be meeting the first three Mondays of each month and will be confirmed in November, 2021.

The 2022 Confirmation Class (8th graders) will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021.

Adult Sunday School

James Melton will be leading a book study entitled “Living Your Strengths” for Adult Sunday School in the Fall. It should be very enlightening! It will be a 9 to 10 week study.

Sunday School Classes will be divided up as follows:
Preschool - Grade 1, Grades 2 - 5,
Grades 6 - 8 and grades 9-12

VBS was a huge success! Thank you to Lena Muench and Gina Pierson and all the volunteers who made it all possible! The kids had a wonderful time learning about and experiencing God's love.

Living Your Strengths – A Clifton Strengths Program

“Churches in the US are experiencing a power shortage, as people are not harnessing the power of their innate gifts,” say the directors of the Clifton Strengths program. “But it does not have to be this way. Living Your Strengths shows all members of a congregation how to use their innate gifts to enrich their congregations—right now. It teaches you how to identify and affirm your talents and how to use them for growth and service.”

What are your strengths? Connectedness? Individualization? Strategic? Responsibility? Belief? Or another assortment of 34 Signature Themes? How can you use these strengths to enhance the church, and your life in general?

For ten weeks this fall, starting September 12, Clifton Strengths Certified Coach [James Melton](#) will lead members of CUCC on an assessment of their Clifton Strengths (Signature Themes) and discuss how they all connect together as parts of Christ's body. Join us each Sunday at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall!

RALLY DAY!

Our Fall Sunday School schedule begins on September 12 with classes for Preschool through Adults. We will be using a brand new curriculum with lots of exciting ways of learning about and experiencing God's love.

Nursery

There will be nursery supervision during Worship all Summer long, from 9:30-10:30. Thank you to those who volunteer!

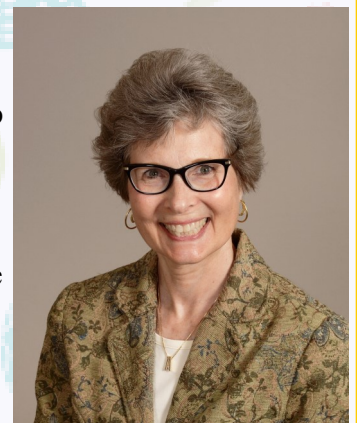
Sunday School (Preschool - Adult classes) will resume on Rally Day, Sept 12, 2021.

Update on CUCC's Partnership Friend with Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary (AHL):

We are looking forward to the new school year 2021-2022, with students starting in-person again in August. First, we have a new Principal at AHL, Principal Brian Rehg. He replaces Principal De'Vion Moore who accepted a position in CPS Administration as Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education. Ms. Kelly Isenogle remains as the Assistant Principal at AHL. We are very excited about working with all the folks at AHL. Pastor Rick and I plan to meet with Principal Rehg and others on September 7 to discuss our partnership for the upcoming school year.

Thank you again for supporting our public schools, especially our CUCC—AHL Partnership Friend. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Llona Weiss,
Liaison for CUCC with AHL Partnership



WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

JUSTICE AND PEACE

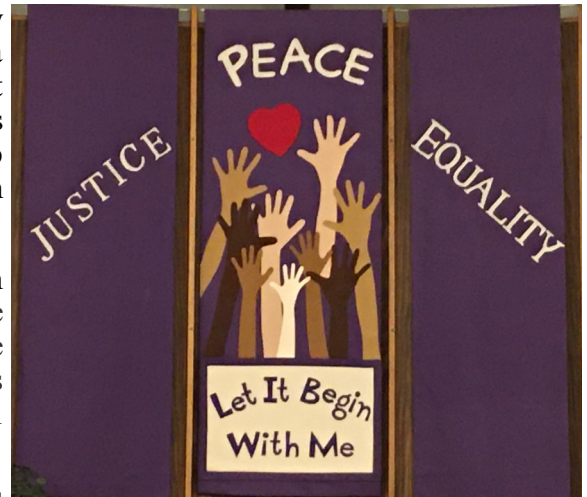
by Connie Loveless, Banner Team member

Diversity, unity, and personal responsibility! You have probably noticed the new banner in our Sanctuary. If not, please take a moment to check it out as we begin an uplifting new season at CUCC. The design for the banner arose out of Pastor Rick's challenge in January to members of the worship team to come up with a new banner which would honor the vision of Martin Luther King, Jr.

To respond to the challenge, we attempted to come up with an idea that would speak to Dr. King's words, such as "Now is the time to make **justice** a reality to all of God's children." We looked for an image showing a diverse group of individuals raising their hands to volunteer to help build a just & peaceful world, working together in love.

Members of the worship team contributed creative ideas, and ultimately Jo Ellen Grace (head of the banner team), Melba Shaffer, Lea Marienfeld, and Connie Loveless assembled the banner, with assistance from Jolene Hackman. The banner evolved as we worked, but we pray that it conveys a feeling of the joy and energy that is created when all people work together in love and unity.

Each Sunday as we conclude our services we sing "Let there be Peace on Earth and Let It Begin with Me." Speaking on behalf of the banner committee, we hope that this banner gives enhanced meaning to the words of that song as we sing it together once again—in perfect harmony!



FAREWELL TO ED



At our August Church Council meeting, we regretfully accepted the resignation of Ed Rollins, our Music Coordinator. He will be leaving this position September 30. Ed has been in this position for just over a year, coordinating our music program during a very difficult time. We have been blessed to benefit from his leadership.

Ed has also been working part time as director of the Handbell Musicians of America. They have offered him a full time position, which would make it very difficult to fully perform the duties of our Music Coordinator position, as well. Coupled with family responsibilities, Ed felt it was time to step back. He will still be an active participant in our music program as a lay leader. Blessings to Ed as he continues to serve at CUCC, in a different capacity!

We wish the best to both Ed and Jess as they continue to discern how God is Speaking to them in their lives, and how they can share their talents with us as active members of Columbia United Church of Christ.

In the meantime, the Choir is back and so are the Chapel Ringers! They will be practicing with Ed Wednesdays in September at 6:30 (bells) and 7:30 (choir). Ed will also be working on some special music coming up, to ease the transition to the next Music Coordinator.

We will be accepting resumes over the next few weeks, and hope to have a candidate for this position by the end of September. If you have any questions, or know of anyone interested in this position, contact [Kristy Odneal](#), [Mike Pierson](#), or [Pastor Rick](#)!



CUCC IS WORKING IN EAST JAPAN

Since the 2011 earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster in Fukushima, Japan, nearly 50,000 evacuees still can't return home due to contamination. This includes thousands of non-Japanese migrants, two-thirds of whom are women, who still struggle for equal access to resettlement services. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ partners with the United Church of Christ in

Japan (UCCJ) and the Korean Christian Church in Japan (KCCJ) through Global Ministries. The two church partners have a history of speaking out for minority rights in Japan and have provided services to those affected by the 2011 disaster. Families displaced by the disaster have all experienced challenges. The UCCJ and KCCJ have been committed to working with this marginalized community through the Fukushima Immigrant Women Support Network (EIAWAN) providing training in language, counseling, education, camps for children, and other services.

EIAWAN, the UCCJ and the KCCJ are Global Missions Partner of Columbia United Church of Christ through Global Ministries, our shared mission agency with the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ. Global Ministries provides foundational support for these organizations, and support for their ongoing efforts.

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

September 5-11
Rachel Pellett
Working in Jamaica

September 12-18
RJ Howard
Working in Fiji

September 19-25
Mark Knowles
Working in Lesotho

September 26-30
Raul Santiago
In Puerto Rico



CUCC IS WORKING FOR PEACE IN COLOMBIA

(condensed from www.globalministries.org)

The Christian Centre for Justice, Peace, and Nonviolent Action (Justapaz) seeks to embody non-violence through programs to transform Colombia into a just and peaceful state. Since its establishment in 1990, Justapaz has promoted non-violence, peace-building, and the positive transformation of conflict. It has developed a broad range of training, organization, and action for conflict transformation at local, regional, national, and international levels.

Justapaz, which means 'a just peace,' was created by the Colombian Mennonite Church in response to violence and injustice across Colombia. It was and continues to be a necessary religious response from the Mennonites, as the Church itself is based on values established during sixteenth-century peaceful and egalitarian social movements.


Remaining true to its non-violent and organizational objectives, Justapaz focuses on the practical training of like-minded churches, communities, and individuals in the practice of non-violence. It seeks to create structures and ways of life that it believes can ultimately lead to real peace in Colombia.

Justapaz carries out training programs and workshops to combat the normalization of violence in society. It seeks to enable the peaceful mediation of conflicts existing in communities, demonstrate what psychological support can be given to victims, and facilitate legal cases. The projects carried out by Justapaz are grouped into the following areas:

Training; Communications; Collaboration with churches and organizations; Political advocacy; Technical and administrative services.



ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN SEPTEMBER

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6pm Youth/Parents/Youth Leaders meeting 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 7:30pm Choir	2 6:30pm Music & Worship	3	4
5 9:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	6 LODO/CPS CLOSED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	7 10am Quilters	8 6:30pm Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 7:30pm Choir	9 9:30am Women's Fellowship Church Office Closed— April on Vacation 7:00pm Muhammad Ali Documentary in FH	10 Church Office Closed—April on Vacation	11
12 RALLY DAY! 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	13 6pm Confirmation 7:30pm Clergy Personnel Meeting	14 10am Quilters	15 10am Pastor Rick @ the Bluffs 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 7:30pm Choir	16	17	18
19 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	20 Communicator Articles Due 6pm Confirmation	21 10am Quilters	22 LODO/CPS CLOSED 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 7:30pm Choir	23 12noon Lunch Bunch With Love Columbia 5:30pm LODO Ministry Team Mtg	24	25 Tipton, MO Sharefest
26 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website 12pm Healthy Relationship Training	27 Youth Gathering 1pm CRCP Walk 7:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team Mtg	28 10am Quilters 5:30pm Food Bank 6:30pm Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	29 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 7:30pm Choir	30	1	2

THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Interested in Church Membership?

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

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Columbia United Church of Christ Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant

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

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

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

LODO PLAYGROUND RESPECT

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

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