

# THE COMMUNICATOR

July 2021



“Freedom”

## From the Pastor’s Keyboard

One of the challenges in Biblical Scholarship is placing yourself in the context of the world in which the narrative was written. To understand the intended meaning of the authors, the reader has to understand the world in which the authors lived, their lives and agendas, and view the narrative through those lenses. Yes, it is important to apply those narratives to our current context, but before we do that, we have to understand the narrative in the context in which it was written.

The same principle can be applied to the rest of our lives, as well. To truly understand the writings of another culture in our current time, the reader has to understand the world in which it was written. To interpret writings of others through our own lenses causes distortion and mistrust. We can’t understand the author until we have “walked a mile in their shoes” or at least attempted to learn more about their world.

We tend to do this when we talk about the American Revolution and the concept of “freedom.” We view it through lenses developed in the 20th century and refined in the 21st century. The 20th century was a time of evolution for our country, much of it not in step with the teachings of Jesus. Though Jesus taught humility and empathy, our US culture grew more arrogant and detached from humanity. The 20th century saw the rise of individualism, often to the point of isolationist policies rooted in narcissism and xenophobia. People began believing that the freedoms we share as United States citizens are rooted in individual freedom instead of communal freedom. The idea that individual freedom was more important than community responsibility began being trumpeted by many, especially those who knew they could use that narcissistic idea to consolidate their power.

This practice led directly to the actions of the extreme right-wing militants who committed acts of domestic terrorism in our Nation’s Capitol on January 6. Their justification was that the Capitol belonged “to the people” so they could occupy it as they wished, and do what they wished. They were wrong. Their actions were an affront to the people, and to the idea of freedom. The Capitol does not belong to individuals, it belongs to the community; it belongs to the people, not to individual persons.

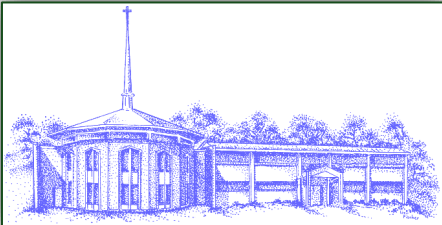
This is not what the framers of our country had in mind when they talked of freedom. Their idea of freedom was freedom of the community, not freedom of the individual. They believed in the freedom of the community to act in the best interests of community. They did not believe in the freedom of the individual to do whatever they choose. Our nation was built on freedom, but not the freedom of the individual; the freedom of the community (country).

Martin Luther wrote about this in 1520 in a treatise called, “On the Freedom of a Christian.” His goal was to link the ideas of spiritual freedom and servitude, and he began his treatise by laying down two seemingly contradictory principles. He wrote, “A Christian is the freest lord of all, subject to none; a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone.” He then explains that though our faith in God frees us from sin and offers us salvation, freedom also binds us to Christian principles of love, service, and humility. Though free, we are duty bound to each other by the ties of Christian love. The same ties that free us also bind us.

As we celebrate Independence Day this month, this principle is also applicable to the secular community. The same freedoms that form the basis for our community (country) are also what binds us. Our freedom as a community (country) is not based in doing whatever we want to whomever we want to please our own self interests. Our freedom as a community (country) is based on serving each other, serving other communities (countries) as we are able, and in being dutiful servants of all in the world, just like Jesus.

Martin Luther King Jr. said, “No one is free until we all are free.” This is something we would do well to remember this Independence Day. Who is not free in our community, and how can we share the gift of freedom with all, as we serve one another?

*-Pastor Rick*



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

**Rev. Rick Oberle**

Pastor

**Rev. Fred Brandenburg**

Pastor Emeritus

**April Rothweiler**

Office Administrator

**Ed Rollins**

Music Coordinator

**Amy Crousore**

Organist/Accompanist

**Erika Maltsbarger**

Director, Little One's Day Out

**Rai Tolani**

Financial Secretary

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

*Summer Schedule:*

9:00 Fellowship Time  
9:30 Worship

**Office Hours:**  
**Monday through Friday**  
**9am- 3pm**

**Phone:**  
**(573)-445-7931**

**Email:**  
**[office@columbiaucc.com](mailto:office@columbiaucc.com)**

**Website:**  
**[www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)**

**July Birthdays to Celebrate!**

Nancy Schultz (07/01)	April Rothweiler (07/01)
Harry Beckett (07/02)	Marsha Beckmann (07/03)
Kurt Heine (07/06)	Ed Walker (07/06)
Megan Hall (07/07)	Linda Evans (07/08)
Mike Pierson (07/08)	Alex Tennill (07/08)
Anabelle Veteto (07/09)	Linda Batson (07/10)
Corinne Remeika (07/11)	Jo Ellen Grace (07/12)
Lillyann Lentz (07/12)	Linda Neale (07/13)
Grace Williams (07/13)	Jack Hall (07/14)
James Loveless (07/15)	John Muench (07/15)
Karen Schmidt (07/15)	Sharon Elliott (07/17)
John Graves (07/17)	Adam Veteto (07/17)
Hilary Oncken (07/18)	Tom Schupp (07/18)
Gary Ehrhardt (07/19)	Helen Graves (07/20)
Mary Bracke (07/22)	Harrison Keithahn (07/23)
Audrey Lasley (07/23)	Dorothy Williams (07/23)
Erin Markway (07/24)	Alan Wedemeyer (07/24)

**WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE**

Women's Fellowship is planning a field trip to visit the Women's (State) Historical Society in Columbia, on July 8. Collections in the holdings at the State Historical Society of Missouri reflect the evolution of gender roles and women's status over the course of the state's history. There may be a lunch stop involved. Anyone is welcome to join. If you are interested, please contact [Linda Evans](#), [Melba Shaffer](#), or [April Rothweiler](#) for more information. Carpooling may be available.

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



**SAVE THE DATE** to join us for a GREAT (& free!)  
3 evenings of FUN @ CUCC's Vacation Bible School 2021  
for those ages 3-finishng 8th Grade!

Lots of hands on deck needed, so come volunteer!  
(We'll even take care of dinner for all.)

**Registration for Participants and  
Adult Volunteers ends July 15! Sign up today!**

**Registration at [www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)**

Dear CUCC,

Thank you for supporting the **Emmaus** golf tournament! We were able to raise \$43,000!

Mackenzie Barber

Dear CUCC family,

Thanks for the support and comfort that you extended to our family after the recent death of my mother, Juanita Zeiler. She so loved attending church here during her final years, and we are grateful to everyone for being so welcoming.

We are also grateful to Pastor Rick and the Church Council for keeping our church safe during the pandemic. Leadership during uncertain and dangerous times is especially challenging, and their decisions maintained our congregational spirit without putting members at undue risk.

Steve and Mari Ann Keithahn



### Attention: Address Change



John & Mary Bracke  
6209 O'Conner Street  
Raleigh, NC 27617

## MEMBERSHIP & CARE MINISTRY TEAM

Coming this Fall! More ways to show our love and care for our each other! The **Membership & Care Team** will be launching an initiative this fall to organize our care ministries under one umbrella. Enjoy cooking? Want to help make meals for church families during difficult times? Enjoy sending notes? You won't get scolded by the teacher this time, but our congregants would love to receive a hand-written note from you to celebrate a special event or to brighten their spirits. Love to visit? Can you help make calls or visits to care facilities? Handy? Could you help with simple tasks around the home for someone in need? We have a place for your talents and passions! Look for a survey around Rally Day to see how you can share your love and care with our congregation!

Jessica Lucas, Chair



## GENERAL SYNOD 33, JULY 11-18

General Synod is the gathering every other year, of the members of United Church of Christ who are involved in every setting of the church. Clergy and lay members from all across the US and even other countries attend, offering workshops and educational incentives, participating in transformative worship, making prophetic witness to social justice issues of our day, and doing the business of the church. A typical General Synod brings 8000-10,000 people together in one place to celebrate, worship, learn, and serve.

Due to COVID concerns, General Synod 33 will be entirely online. If you would like to participate, you can do so by registering online at this link: [GS 33](#) or by going to [www.generalsynod.org](http://www.generalsynod.org). The General Synod website has registration information, agendas, biographies of worship and workshop leaders, and more. Even if you are not able to participate in the online experience, the website has much information to offer.

One of the aspects of General Synod is the Resolutions that are discussed. There are 11 Resolutions that will be discussed at GS 33, speaking about issues such as: the injustice of the Bail Bond System; Calling for Just Peace in Israel/Palestine; Declaring Racism a Public Health Crisis; and the one we have been discussing at CUCC, A Call to Ban the Practice of Conversion Therapy (see page 8). These resolutions speak to the churches, not for the churches, and challenge us to be in conversation about them. Copies of all General Synod Resolutions are available in the church office, or you can [request to have them emailed to you](#). For more information about General Synod or the Resolution process, talk to [Pastor Rick!](#)

# CHURCH COUNCIL

## CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

*(from the June 22 Meeting)*

After Pastor Rick's opening prayer, Kristy Odneal gave a summary of Chapter 4 of Piloting Church. The book emphasized the importance of developing strong teams and good leaders. Good leaders equip others to get things done and are clear about their mission. A good leader inspires, directs, and gives feedback, then lets others "fly." The book also emphasizes the importance of celebrating success, even small ones. Also, it is important to debrief everything to clarify improvements and importance. Trust is paramount in a healthy congregation. Council discussion expressed that CUCC does well in some areas, but can improve in others.

- Council members reviewed their duties when opening and closing the building on Sundays and when serving communion. Clarified that communion stewards need not be Council members.
- The Executive Committee recommended, effective immediately, that masks are optional for vaccinated adults and are encouraged for unvaccinated adults. Recommendation carried by common consensus.
- LED lighting in the Education wing will be completed in July.
- Mike Pierson is putting together a committee to organize the renovation of the sanctuary. He still needs two more members. The first meeting will be in early July.
- Pastoral evaluation has been completed.
- Sue Ann Schaefer reported the financial audit is complete.
- The Vision Team will meet in July. This is earlier than usual because a new 5-year plan needs to be developed.
- Pastor Rick is scheduled for a three month sabbatical, August through October, 2022. His tentative plan is for 4 -6 weeks in Guatemala and Mexico. The remaining weeks will be spent in theological reading and study. A committee will be formed to coordinate church coverage in Pastor Rick's absence.
- Jolene Kirchoff and Jo Ellen Grace were approved as LODO Ministry Team members.
- Mike Pierson presented a recommendation from the Worship and Music Team to purchase two sound monitors for the chancel area costing \$573.75. Recommendation was approved.
- Pastor Rick reviewed the names of several guests who are attending church. He wants to ramp up our ministry for possible new members in the fall. We need to make their experience "spectacular." There will be a Fall Back to Church theme to bring members back to church in the fall.
- On July 15, the missionary from Chiapas will speak at CUCC. She will review the work being done in Chiapas. We will have a Mexican Dinner that evening.
- Sue Ann Schaefer reported a bit of headway made in the joyful giving totals. Brent Marcks plans to send out a mid-year giving statement.
- The Ministry Team reports were submitted and reviewed.
- Mike Pierson reported that Lucy is stepping back as organ scholar until September.
- Next Council meeting will be on July 20 at 6:30 p.m.

Jessica Jenks, Secretary



## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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



## MODERATOR'S MOMENT

Summer is in full swing for our community and at CUCC! Just like every year, we are shifting gears to a slightly more relaxed format for a few months and an earlier worship time of 9:30 on Sunday mornings. The Ministry Teams and Church Council are continuing to meet regularly and are doing some exciting work this Summer. Sunday School may be out until the Fall, but our Nurture and Education Team is planning away for a lively Vacation Bible School the first week of August. We have also begun to enjoy our new Shelter House floor and hope to make use of it for many more outdoor fellowship activities! Another Summer endeavor is the CUCC garden, which is being organized by Kurt Heine as an educational opportunity. He was able to secure funds from Scott's Miracle Grow and the Community Garden Coalition for this project. We hope that you will let us know if you would like to get involved in any of these ministries.



I hope each of you has a wonderful Summer!  
Kristy Odneal, Moderator

## CLERGY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Clergy Personnel Committee (consisting of Judi Privitt, Pat Forward, and John Graves) met June 15, 2021 for their quarterly meeting with Pastor Rick. The discussion centered around the recently completed Annual Pastoral Evaluation which was requested from members of all Ministry Teams and members of the Executive Committee. The Clergy Personnel Committee redesigned the evaluation format and was pleased with the number of responses returned, as well as the quality of feedback contained within the evaluations. Also discussed was the pulse of the congregation concerning, specifically, the pandemic and how it has had an effect on attendance and on-line viewing of church services. There were also discussions on wider church issues (conference, association), as well as relational issues with staff, council, and congregants. Finally, there was continued discussion about Pastor Rick's upcoming Sabbatical in 2022 and how both the church and Pastor Rick will begin preparing for that time of renewal. The committee will meet again in September, 2021.



Respectfully Submitted, John Graves

## CLERGY SABBATICAL

Sabbath is a gift from God, because rest is as important as work for the health of all Creation. The Seventh Day was consecrated as a day of rest, and God ordered all of Creation to cease from work on the Sabbath. Jesus frequently left his followers and his disciples to pray by himself, spending time reflecting on his call, listening to God's voice, and receiving strength and direction for his ongoing ministry.

Rooted in these Biblical commands for Sabbath, a Sabbatical is a significant time of rest, renewal, and refreshment for Pastors. For Pastors, the Sabbatical time is a time to nourish their relationship with God, recommit to their call, and provide renewed vision and focus for ministry. A Sabbatical is not vacation, but it does provide time away from the daily work of ministry. Sabbatical leave may include study or a project, but its first goal is reconnecting with one's sense of vocation through rest, reflection, and prayer.

Clergy Sabbaticals encourage longer pastorates, refocus ministries, contribute to pastoral and congregational spiritual growth, prevent burnout, establish new patterns for self care for both pastors and congregations, and promote the self sufficiency of a congregation. Clergy are not the only ones who benefit from a Sabbatical; a Sabbatical done well brings new life and vitality to a congregation, as well.

Typical Clergy Guidelines call for Pastors to receive a three month Sabbatical after five years of service. This is part of Pastor Rick's Call Agreement with CUCC. On September 1, 2022, Pastor Rick will celebrate five years of ministry with CUCC, so the Church Council and the Clergy Personnel Committee are working to negotiate a Sabbatical Plan for Pastor Rick and CUCC. This Sabbatical will probably take place in the fall of 2022. Watch for more details as plans unfold!

## LODO MINISTRY TEAM

### LODO NEWS

Preparations are under way for the 2021-2022 LODO school year, and we can't wait to see our returning students and meet new families at the end of August!

Limited spaces are still available in our classes for the 2021-2022 school year. Information about the program can be found on the website at [www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome](http://www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome). Please spread the word and have interested families contact Erika Maltsbarger at [LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com](mailto:LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com). You can also help by sharing our Facebook and Instagram posts about enrollment on your page or to groups that might find the information helpful.

Our staff looks forward to starting the new school year on August 30!

With Love and Laughter,  
Erika Maltsbarger, Director



The church is quiet while the LODO staff and children enjoy their summer break. Director Erika continues to work behind the scenes, anticipating the fall school year. The **LODO Ministry Team** wishes to thank Kim Oberle and Kurt Heine for their service as they recently completed their terms. We welcome Jo Ellen Grace and Jolene Kirchhoff and look forward to them joining our team. A big Thank You to each of you.

Respectfully,  
Lorry Dreier

Did you know that reading to children helps develop their brain, ability to focus, concentration, social skills and communication skills? LODO loves to have church members and family come to share during story time. If you would like to read to a LODO class, contact [Erika](#) to set up a day and time.

## FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

### SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JULY

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

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
07/04	Jolene Kirchhoff	NEED	Sue Ann Schaefer	Lil Smith	Brent Marcks John Graves	Elaine Trout
07/11	Jessica Lucas	NEED	Matt Lucas	Abby Dennis	Josh Muench James Melton	Lena Muench
07/18	Carol Duermeyer	NEED	Llona Weiss	Lil Smith	Phil Dennis Carissa Graves	Brent Marcks
07/25	Anne Heine	NEED	Bryan Crousore	Sadie Tummons	Judi Privitt Doug Privitt	Sue Ann Schaefer

## INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

Hello again. With Ministry Team Chair Tricia Price's permission, I will be continuing to contribute to the Communicator for this team.

In July we celebrate the anniversary of 'The Americans With Disabilities Act' becoming law. One in four adults is living with some type of disability in the US. The stats break down like this:

Almost 14% have difficulty with mobility  
Almost 11% have cognitive difficulties  
Almost 7% have difficulty doing errands alone  
Almost 6 % have a degree of deafness  
4.6% have trouble seeing  
Almost 4 % cannot take care of themselves



The law ends discrimination in regards to housing, education, health care, transportation, public access, voting, etc. for the disabled. However, according to the CDC, one in three individuals with a disability either do not have a routine health care provider or have unmet healthcare needs due to cost. One in four have not had a routine check-up in the past year. (Thankfully, the Supreme Court upheld the Affordable Care Act, again.)

What can we, as individuals and as a church, do to support those with these challenges? CUCC is blessed in that this congregation is already "doing." We have a crew that works the foodbank. We support a local elementary school. We have used our voice, via voting, to: support an increase in public services and personnel to implement those services; we have written legislators urging them to support bills that positively impact the health and safety of individuals with challenges. There are members of CUCC who routinely provide rides to those who, otherwise, wouldn't be at church. We offer zoom church services and internal programs so as many as possible can join.

We have members and regular attendees that do all of the above items and more to support our community and the world. CUCC is so blessed. The Spirit of the Living and Loving God is active in this congregation. And, as Pastor Rick says every Sunday, "Go out into the world and (continue to) be a blessing. Amen.

Submitted by Tricia Price, Chair and Alisa Lau-Sieckman, member

### MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND PRIDEFEST IN COLUMBIA AUGUST 28

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



### CUCC OPEN AND AFFIRMING/INCLUSION COVENANT

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



## FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM



Summer is here, and many of us are planning vacation time. The lazy days of summer can turn in to a hectic time of activities and travel. As you make your plans, consider taking God on vacation with you. Stopping to admire the beauty that God has provided for us, giving thanks for the enjoyment of family and friends, visiting another church during your travels can all be ways to keep God on vacation with you. CUCC has church online that you can watch on Sundays or when you want. There are online giving options if you are out of town or aren't physically at church. Vacations can be renewing and enjoyable. especially if you have God with you during the trip.

-Sue Ann Schaefer, CUCC Treasurer

### BUILDING AND GROUNDS FUND AT CUCC

Did you know that we have a Designated Fund at CUCC specifically for facility renovation projects and major repairs? The Building and Grounds Fund at CUCC was created in October, 2019 by the Church Council by combining the former Building and Major Repairs Fund and the former Building Fund II. Since that time, donations have been received by several individuals, some of whom contribute regularly.

Monies from this fund are held in our investments with United Church Funds. We currently have a balance of over \$112,000 in this fund, but we also have several major repairs coming up in the next few years that will deplete this (including replacing 17 HVAC units and resealing our parking lot/driveway). If you would like to make a contribution to this fund, talk to [Sue Ann Schaefer](#), [Brent Marcks](#), or [Kristy Odneal](#) for more information!

### 50 FOR 50 PROJECTS COMPLETED THANKS TO YOUR STEWARDSHIP!

*The 50 for 50 campaign, which began in September, 2019 is officially over!*

We started the 50 for 50 campaign on September 22, 2019, with a goal of raising \$50,000 in 50 days in celebration and recognition of the 50th anniversary of the dedication of our current church building (September 7, 1969). We blew that goal out of the water! By November 10, we raised \$66,292; 32% more than we anticipated raising! Our stated purpose for the campaign was to fund five renovations around the church facility and give a Biblical tithe (10%) to our historic mission agencies.



In January 2020, we entered the project phase of this campaign, soliciting bids (three for each project) and managing labor. There were some extenuating factors (including COVID), but the final project was completed in May 2021, and the bill paid in June. The final reporting on the 50 for 50 campaign is as follows:

\$1,657	was given to Eden Seminary to celebrate our historic connection with them.
\$1,657	was given to Emmaus Homes for their work with Adults with Developmental Disabilities.
\$1,657	was given to Every Child's Hope (formerly Evangelical Children's Home).
<u>\$1,657</u>	was given to Camp MoVal to continue their important ministry work.
<b>\$6,629</b>	Total given away— a Biblical Tithe (10% of what we collected).
\$10,894	was spent on new landscaping for the church grounds.
\$25,597	was spent on Sanctuary technology upgrades, including our new livestreaming technology.
\$ 7,265	was spent to enclose and protect the eaves around the Sanctuary.
\$ 7,741	was spent to enhance the church security system (keypads, cameras, entry buzzers, etc.).
<u>\$ 8,166</u>	was spent on our final project, replacing the concrete floor in the Shelter House.
<b>\$59,663</b>	Total spent on church facility renovations from 50 for 50 funds.

The amazing success of the 50 for 50 campaign was due to the spirited vision and faithful stewardship of each member of this congregation. Your ability to see beyond what is and dream about what can be made this possible! Thank you to each and every one of you, and Keep Dreaming!

- the CUCC Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team

## TREASURER'S REPORT

-Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer

Financial Update			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
May. Income	\$33,094.11	\$28,795.81	\$4,298.30
YTD Income	\$118,785.47	\$141,192.74	(\$22,407.27)
May. Expenses	\$25,337.99	\$29,468.95	(\$4,130.96)
YTD Expenses	\$130,101.92	\$143,058.19	(\$12,956.27)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$11,316.45)	(\$1,865.45)	(\$9,451.00)
May Attendance	387		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
06/06/21	90	\$5,473.00	\$6,473.55
06/13/21	66	\$1,772.00	\$6,473.55
06/20/21	65	\$5,995.74	\$6,473.55
06/27/21	83	\$4,128.00	\$6,473.55
<b>Total</b>	304	\$17,368.74	\$25,894.20

As of 06/27/2021 we are **\$30,932.73** 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](http://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.

### FALL BACK INTO CHURCH

**Make plans now to be in church on August 22 & 29 for "Fall Back Into Church"**

This event, hosted by the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team, will be an exhibition of our Ministry Team work, a celebration of the impact we had on the world during COVID, and a chance to rededicate ourselves to the continuing work and worship of CUCC!

CUCC Members are encouraged to reach out and contact church friends who have not been here in a while and invite them to come back to church. We will also be inviting CUCC Members to bring a friend to church on these days to share the joy of CUCC and our expression of God's Inclusive love.

We will have a meal after worship on August 22 to share in fellowship together, and we will have an opportunity to celebrate our talents as we learn about the exciting work of our Ministry Teams. Make plans now to recommit yourself to the work of this church August 22 & 29 as we **FALL BACK INTO CHURCH!**

### 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 will receive 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 June 21 meal at L&F consisted of spaghetti, salad, and cookies (provided by Jolene Kirchhoff). I believe that I forgot to mention last month that Tim & Christine Staelens donated several pounds of hamburger to be used for L&F. It was truly appreciated!

Servers for the evening were Barry & Jolene Kirchhoff, Darla Privitt, Connie Loveless, Phillip Neale, and Brenda & John Muench. It was a wonderful group! Peanut butter & jelly sandwiches were provided by Jessica Jenks. We passed out approximately 103 first and second servings.

## MISSIONARY VISIT TO CUCC!

On July 15, Elena Huegel who is our Global Ministries Missionary to Chiapas, Mexico will be with us for one night of celebration and information at CUCC!

We will celebrate with Elena and all who wish to join in the fun by sharing a Mexican Meal together and then listening to her stories and sharing pictures together. She will share what she is doing on our behalf in Chiapas, Mexico.

Come with an appetite and stay for the presentation! Festivities will start at 6:00 p.m. and finish around 7:30 p.m.

## 2021 CROP HUNGER WALK COMING UP!

The 2021 CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk is coming up! It is scheduled for September 19, 2021, at Stephens Lake Park.

The CROP Hunger Walk is one of the largest annual fundraising efforts of Church World Service, an interfaith organization formed in 1946 to address hunger and poverty issues around the world in the aftermath of World War II. At that time, 17 Christian denominations came together “to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone.” Currently, 34 faith groups participate in the work of Church World Service.

CROP Hunger Walks began in 1969 by youth who wanted to do something tangible to enhance the work of Church World Service. Teens in Bismarck, North Dakota and York County, Pennsylvania started the first CROP walk that year, and they have grown ever since. CUCC has been participating in CROP Walks here in Boone County for decades.

Last year, CUCC was the top fundraiser for the Columbia CROP Walk, raising \$2,761. **This year, our goal is to top \$3,000!** We will need your help to do it. Sign up now to raise money for the annual CROP Walk by going to [www.events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/columbia-united-church-of-christ](http://www.events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/columbia-united-church-of-christ) and joining the CUCC CROP Walk Team! For more information, talk to [Pastor Rick](#) or [Jessica Jenks](#).

## The More You Know

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

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

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

Change starts with you!

**STOP**  
**HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
COALITION OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

# NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

## Safe Church Training – Sunday, August 1, 2021 – Following Worship

Safe Church Training has been moved to Sunday, August 1, 2021 following Worship. This training is needed for anyone who volunteers with children/youth in any capacity at CUCC. It will last one hour. Pastor Rick will lead this training.

### Confirmation

Confirmation Class (9th graders) will resume on Aug 23, 2021, 6:00—7:30 p.m., meeting the first three Mondays of each month. They will be confirmed in November, 2021.

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

**Thank you** to Pete Jaberg for leading the Adult Sunday School class on the flaws and traumas of "Conversion Therapy." It was eye-opening!

### Nursery

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

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

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

*If you have a child in grades 6-12 for the 2021-2022 school year*, the Nurture & Education Ministry Team would like for you to attend the Youth/Parent meeting on **Wednesday, September 1, at 6:00 p.m.**

We need and value your input in planning for the future of these very important programs.

Dinner will be provided. For more information, talk to [Lena Muench](#), [Lauren Helmerich](#) or [Linda Neale](#)!

### Faith-Building Idea #2 God Sighting Sticks

Use these sticks to spark conversations with your kids after school. Use a fun container to store these paper strips with conversation prompts to get kids talking about God sightings throughout their day. To make the strips more durable you can glue strips to craft sticks. Use the sticks during after-school snacks or at dinner to help your kids see how God works in their world.

*I showed someone God's love today when . . .*

*I experienced God's power today when . . .*

*Today God helped me at school when . . .*

*I trusted God today . . .*

*I know God loves me because today . . .*

### QUESTIONS OF FAITH 2021

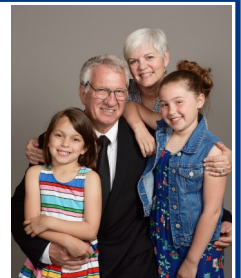
In the month of May, Pastor Rick asked members of the Congregation to submit ideas for sermons this summer. Calling this series "Questions of Faith" he solicited contributions from church members in worship and online. Based on these contributions, we will be addressing the following subjects in worship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

- ♦ **July 4** Discuss in depth: "The Fruits of the Spirit."
- ♦ **July 11** How should we pray the scriptures for our loved ones?
- ♦ **July 18** Discuss the Ten Commandments and their relevance in 2021 and beyond.
- ♦ **July 25** How is the story of Noah and the flood relevant today?

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

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

I have been a member of CUCC for around 32 years. I have two children (Rob and Kristy), and four grandchildren (Laynee, Riley, Katelin, and Braden). I recently retired from CPS as the K-12 Adaptive Music Specialist. I have worked with children's choirs, liturgical dance groups, sung in the vocal choir, played handbells and flute. I've taught Sunday School, led the singing at Sunday School Openings, directed Sunday School Christmas programs, and worked with VBS during the summer. I am very much looking forward to this new venture! It should be an exciting time in the life of CUCC.



Sincerely, Linda Neale, Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair

# WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

## Pride Month and Music

Many colors paint the rainbow arching over land and sea.  
Many colors form the fabric of our human tapestry.  
God, with joy and hope you made us by a pattern you had planned,  
Weaving varied threads together with a skilled and loving hand.

Many faces round the table wait for Christ, the Risen Lord,  
For he comes with love to meet us in the loaf, the cup, the Word.  
All are welcomed, none rejected, bound by Christ in unity.  
Naming other sisters, brothers, in a worldwide family.

Herman Stuempfle, Jr.

On ONA Sunday, the choir sang this particularly moving text about the unity that Christ brings to our world. A place where all are welcome, none rejected. While we long for this type of world, we are not there yet, but through months like June, where we celebrate “Pride,” we come closer to understanding our neighbors and Christ’s call of acceptance. One fascinating part of the song comes in the last few pages when the choir sings, “Free our hearts of hate and discord, till our lives in concert blend. Alleluia, alleluia be our anthem without end.” At this point in the music, the arranger has the choir sing several pages of alleluias. What’s so interesting is that the alleluias are random and varied, and rarely in unison. I think that this celebrates the fact that we are all different and that our individual alleluias are not just like our neighbors. We are diverse, yet unified in Christ.

It may also be of interest to note that Herman Stuempfle, hymn writer and theologian who died in 2007, dedicated his life to stances on social issues. He created day care centers; served on the Gettysburg, PA interchurch social action committee, helped create and support prison ministries and a homeless shelter, and was a tutor for young people after school. He literally worked to paint a beautiful rainbow through his life.

## Handbell Boot Camp

Ever wanted to see what handbells are all about?  
Ever wanted to feel the joy of ringing without pressure?  
Ever just wanted to make a joyful noise?

Well, here’s your chance!! On August 11 from 5:30-7:00, we’re going to show off, ring off, experiment, and have an all around good time experiencing the joy of handbells. Whether you’ve played for years or never played, this is the chance to have some fun and maybe even learn a few things you never knew. Boot camp is open to those in middle school through young at heart. Plan now to have a ringing good time.

Ed Rollins



## CUCC SUMMER 2021 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP

**We will be going to Blue Springs Terrace near Kansas City, July 21-24, to do some work with the residents there, and have some fun while we are at it. Our plans even include a trip to Worlds of Fun Amusement Park!**

We have been asked by the chair of the volunteer committee at Blue Springs Terrace to come for a few days and help them with painting, power washing, and light carpentry work! We will work during the day, and do fun/faith building activities in the evening. We will have full access to one of the houses at Blue Springs for sleeping, eating, and recreation. We will leave CUCC at 8:00 a.m. on 7/21 and return by 8:00 p.m. on 7/24.

**Commitments are required by Sunday, July 4. If you are a High School student interested in attending, please email [Pastor Rick](#) to let him know you are coming! Our commitment, with numbers, is due to Blue Springs Terrace that week.**



## CUCC IS WORKING IN THE DOMINICAN ESWATANI

The Council of Swaziland Churches (CSC) is a long standing partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ through Global Ministries. It is located in the country of eSwatini, formerly known as Swaziland. They seek to build self-reliance within churches by providing training in programs that help relieve and reduce poverty, especially in rural areas. CSC

also plays a key role in raising awareness among the population on important issues like the environment, gender and HIV/AIDS. Additionally, the Council provides training in rural communities so that people can develop the skills they need for sustainable, income-generating projects. These efforts are important contributions to poverty reduction outside the urban centers. CSC has also been involved in building schools and providing clean water to communities. Global Ministries has a history of accompanying the CSC in these valuable endeavors.

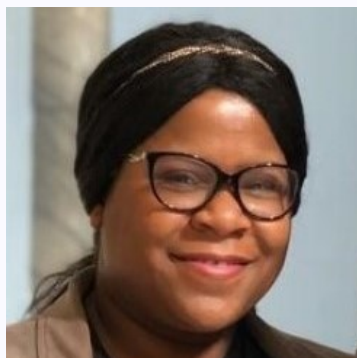
CSC is a Global Missions Partner of Columbia United Church of Christ through Global Ministries, our shared mission agency with the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ. Global Ministries provides foundational support for this organization and support for their ongoing efforts.

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

**July 4-10**  
**Andrew Larsen**  
**Working in Philippines**



**July 11-17**  
**Emmanuela Loccident**  
**Working in Morocco**



**July 18-24**  
**Bosela Eale**  
**Working in Kenya**



**July 25-31**  
**Martha Mensendiek**  
**Working in Japan**



## CUCC IS WORKING WITH WOMEN IN GUATEMALA

*(condensed from [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org))*

The National Coordinator of Widows of Guatemala (CONAVIGUA) is a Global Ministries partner, founded in 1988 as a response to the suffering of women in rural areas amid the internal armed conflict of Guatemala. These widows were women whose husbands, sons, and daughters had been either killed or had disappeared during Guatemala's civil war. They organized to fight to alleviate and solve the most immediate and urgent needs of food, medicine, housing, and clothing.

In their current advocacy, they work to address several issues. Much of their advocacy is centered on making the Guatemalan government accountable for their actions. This includes demanding that the government assures the education of all children by offering economic support and school supplies when needed. They also demand that the government create laws of protection for widows and mothers. Further, they ask the government to ensure that international aid falls into the correct hands, instead of the pockets of corrupt institutions and opportunists.

CONAVIGUA also works on a local level by developing projects that help Guatemalan women, allowing opportunities for women to contribute to addressing societal problems. They also work heavily in exhumations of mass graves of victims of armed conflicts. They then offer dignified Christian burials that allow family and friends to honor those who have passed.

In all of this, they demand that their voice is heard and recognized in the political, economic, and social life of Guatemala as they advocate on behalf of those who are oppressed and marginalized.



**ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN JULY**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6pm Council Executive Committee	2 Church Office Closed	3
4 9:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a>	5 Church Office Closed	6 10am Quilters	7 6-8pm Youth Room Booked	8 9:30am Women's Fellowship Field Trip	9	10
11 9:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a>	12	13 10am Quilters	14	15 6pm Chiapas Event in Fellowship Hall	16	17
18 9:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a>	19 4:30pm Loaves & Fishes	20 10am Quilters	21 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP 6-8pm Youth Room Booked	22 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP	23 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP	24 HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP
25 9:30am Worship in person Worship also Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a>	26 6:30pm Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team Meeting	27 10am Quilters	28	29 5:30 LODD Ministry Team Meeting	30	31



# 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?

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