

# THE COMMUNICATOR

June 2020

YODA BEST  
DAD



LOVE YOU I DO

## From the Pastor's Keyboard

“Pentecost People”

Many mainline Progressive Christians like to refer to themselves as “Easter People.” By doing so, they are referring to the fact that Jesus has risen from the dead and that in their lives, they try to embody the hope of Resurrection rather than the guilt and complicity of crucifixion. I have often cringed when I heard that because there is so much more to being a Christian than just the joy of Resurrection. It is almost like defining your life focused only on the happy times. Without times of sorrow, longing, and pain, your life would be void of much meaning.

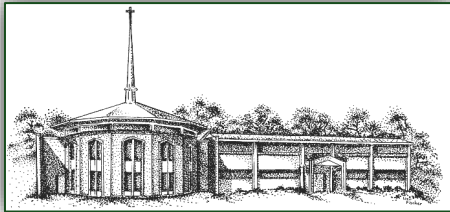
I think it is more accurate for Progressive Christians to speak of ourselves as Pentecost People, active in the world *because of* the experiences we have had with Jesus and *because of* the presence and provision of God's Holy Spirit filling us up and firing us up. We have learned (and continue to learn) at Jesus' feet as disciples, but we have also been fired up (and continue to be fired up) by God's Holy Spirit, which enables us to do all things. As Pentecost People, we are active in God's world; working for social justice, working for God's vision of Righteousness, and the healing hope of Shalom.

But what does that mean in a Coronavirus world? I think we need not look any further than Acts 2:43-47 to understand what our role is in all of this. Acts 2:43-47 talks about what I like to refer to as “the perfect church.” They were empowered by the Holy Spirit and, because of that power, they had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the Temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people.”

We may not be “spending much time together in the Temple” in this time of Coronavirus; but the rest of this verse does have wisdom that can be applicable to us. As Progressive Christians fired up by the Holy Spirit, we are charged with acting like that first century early church community; having glad and generous hearts, having the goodwill of all the people paramount in our lives, and acting on those intentions by working to change God's world for the better. To that first century early church community, it was never about “me” it was always about “we.” How can “we” build a better world together, just like that early church community did?

Some say this Coronavirus has changed the world; other say this Coronavirus simply revealed the world that always was, hidden by privilege. I think there is some element of truth in both of these statements. Now it is time to focus on the world that will be; and, filled with the power of God's Holy Spirit, it is incumbent upon us to make it a world more reflective of God's vision and less reflective of our own. Let us be inspired by the “perfect church community” and have glad and generous hearts, the goodwill of all people paramount in our lives, and change God's world for the better.

-Pastor Rick



**COLUMBIA  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

**3201 I-70 DRIVE NW  
COLUMBIA, MO 65202**

**Rev. Rick Oberle**  
Pastor

**Rev. Fred Brandenburg**  
Pastor Emeritus

**April Rothweiler**  
Office Administrator

**Kristin Veteto**  
Music Coordinator

**Amy Crousore**  
Organist/Accompanist

**Erika Maltsbarger**  
Director, Little One's Day Out

**Raj Tolani**  
Financial Secretary

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

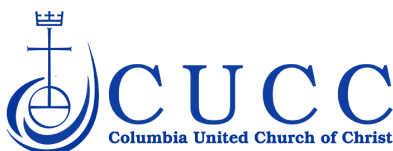
10:30 a.m. - Worship in  
Sanctuary

Starting June 7:  
9:30 a.m.—Worship in  
Sanctuary

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

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

**Email:**  
**office@columbiaucc.com**



**WHY CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH**

by Rev. Rick Oberle

*... when they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God saying, "then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life." -Acts 11:18*

In worship on May 3 we examined how Peter's proclamation of the Good News to the Gentiles, a community excluded by religious orthodoxy because of who they were and how God created them, were brought into the full life of the new Christian Community. Even though their paths and voices differed, both communities agreed to journey in faith together, heeding God's call to full inclusion.

In our culture, due to political and religious polarization in the 1800s, religious orthodoxy and powerful elite have often intentionally sought disenfranchisement of the LGBT+ community based on narrow scriptural interpretation; the same type of behavior condemned by God in the vision God gave to Peter in Acts 10. God commands that all should be included; but those who have been intentionally excluded, especially in the LGBT+ community, know that **"all does not mean all."** In fact, they have learned that **"all does not include us."**

Disenfranchisement of the LGBT+ community was largely accepted in our society for decades; but perhaps the most insidious aspect of this exclusion was loss of dignity among LGBT+ people. Being told that you are not valued by your family, your community and your church damages a person's dignity; and being told that God does not love you because of the way God created you destroys a person's pride.

***Our mission, as Christians, is to restore each one's dignity and save each one's pride.***

One way that dignity and pride is restored to the LGBT+ community is through intentional affirmation during Pride Month each June. Like St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day, Black History Month and other holidays, observances that were created by oppressed communities to claim self-value, claim identity and remember historic struggles, Pride Month is a chance for the LGBT+ community to claim their self-value, claim their identity, and remember their historic struggles. For a community that has been (and continues to be) oppressed and disenfranchised by the majority, Pride Month is a chance to reclaim their lost sense of dignity.

As allies, cisgender people have the opportunity to help restore the dignity of those who have been and continue to be oppressed; and save the pride of those who continue to be oppressed by intentionally affirming that God has given, ***even to everyone, no matter who they are,*** the blessings of God's Steadfast Love. Pride Month is not just for the LGBT+ community; it is a month of celebration for Christians everywhere.

*...and they'll know we are Christians by our Love...  
yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love...*



Summer worship time will change to 9:30 a.m. starting Sunday, June 7.

## TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FROM NEW FUND

This past fall, the Church Council, acting on the request of the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team, redefined and renamed The Memorial Education Fund (established in 1972 by Professor H. H. Krusekopf and contributed to over the years by many others) as “The Columbia United Church of Christ Scholarship Fund.” (The new definition of this fund is available on request; copies are on the wooden rack by the Sanctuary doors.) With this new definition, scholarships awarded from this fund are now available to all active members of the congregation who are pursuing an education beyond High School.

Applications for scholarships were solicited from the congregation in the first quarter of this year; and were due by April 1. All applications were reviewed by a team consisting of the Nurture and Education Ministry Team Chair, the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team Chair, the Church Council Vice-Moderator and the Pastor. We had two applicants, and both were awarded scholarships of \$1000 each. These two successful applicants were Marcella Dolezal and Carissa Graves. They will both be receiving scholarships on Senior Sunday, June 14.

As we move on through the years, we anticipate many more CUCC students availing themselves of this fund. However, funds available are limited. If you would like to leave a legacy of education for CUCC youth, please consider donating to this fund or even remember it in your will. In this way, we can continue to serve the youth and young adults of CUCC for many more years to come! If you have any questions, feel free to ask Pat Forward, George Zimny, Kristy Odneal or Pastor Rick.

## HONORING OUR HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

We have **eight** High School Seniors in our Congregation who are grieving. All of the Senior Year Activities that we remember so dearly are not going to be part of their life. Prom, Graduation, and just walking the halls of your school as a Senior are all essential rites of passage that the Coronavirus has stolen from them. It is essential for them to know that their church family loves them and is celebrating their graduation with them.

To that end, we will be having a special event in worship on June 14; Senior Sunday! We will be honoring all of our High School Seniors on that day and recognizing their graduation. We will have a meal afterward, recognizing them and their contributions to our family life here at CUCC.

If you were unable to send a card in May, you can still do so! Our CUCC High School Seniors are:

Payton Bach	4007 Granite Springs Ct.	65203
Hayley Dennis	2507 Quartz Lane	65202
Marcella Dolezal	114 Redwood Road	65203
Mason Jaberg	1920 Creasy Springs Rd.	65202
Hope Keithahn	6575 S. Arrowhead Lake Dr.	65203
Imani Kibaro	6416 Day Crew Loop	65203
Isis Piersee	2205 Baldwin Place	65202
Rachel Erickson	3005 Red Bay Creek Rd	65203

Thank you for sharing the love of this wonderful congregation with our High School Seniors!

## 50 for 50 FUNDS BEING SPENT

Last year, in honor of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our current location, the congregation of Columbia UCC raised \$66,292.40 for specific building and ministry upgrades, with the understanding that we would give a tithe (10%) to mission agencies with whom we have had a historic relationship.

We have begun distributing these funds. We have given \$1657 each to Eden Seminary, Camp MoVal, Emmaus Homes and Every Child's Hope. (We have already received thank you noted from Emmaus Homes and Every Child's Hope, printed elsewhere in this Communicator.) We have also completed work on the Sanctuary eaves; this came in considerably UNDER budget; we spent \$7265 on that project. We have also placed a down payment of \$9000 for our new Sanctuary audio system using 50 for 50 funds. This system will be installed this summer by Nelson Audio, with Sound Booth renovations being done by PCE Inc.

We have several more projects in the pipeline, all designated last fall when our 50 for 50 campaign began. Among these are security upgrades, landscaping, and work on the Shelter House. We have several bids on all these projects and are discerning the specifics as we negotiate with contractors. Isolation protocols have made this difficult over the past few months, but we expect to see more progress in June.





### HIGH SCHOOL PROM AT CUCC

One of the tragic losses for our High School Seniors this year is the loss of their Senior Prom. While we cannot hope to recreate such a special event, we will try to come close- with a High School Prom here at CUCC!

June 12 from 7:00-10:00 p.m. our High School Students (not just the Seniors) and their guests are invited to dress up in your formalwear and celebrate at CUCC! We transform our Fellowship Hall into a dance floor with a DJ, fancy lighting and snacky foods.

We need your help to make this a success for our Seniors. We will be asking for contributions of snacky foods (appetizers, etc.) and CHAPERONES! If you can help, we will ask you to arrive at church by 6:00 p.m. that day. If you can't stay until 10:00, that is okay, but we could use all the help you are willing to give! For questions, talk to Lauren Helmreich, Pat Forward or Pastor Rick.

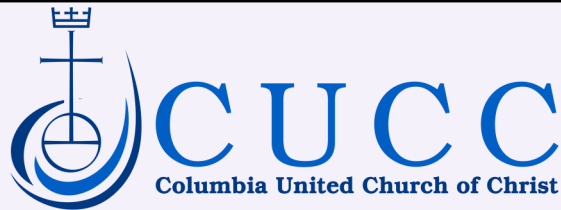
### SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY AT CUCC

June 14 will be Senior Sunday at CUCC! We invite everyone to come and join in the fun as we honor our High School Seniors for reaching this milestone moment in their lives! They will all be recognized in worship, and the liturgy of the day will reflect their commencement and their reorientation toward something new. This is a great time of celebration!

After worship, we will have a catered celebration dinner for them in the Fellowship Hall. You are invited to offer speeches honoring these Seniors and the integral part of our church they have been; and they will have an opportunity to share with us as well. We will wrap things up around 1:00. Special cards and gifts for the Seniors will be accepted if you wish.

We have eight High School Seniors at CUCC and we are proud of each one of them. Plan on coming to church on Senior Sunday, June 14 and stick around for lunch. This has been a challenging year for them; let's give them love! For more information talk to Lauren Helmreich or Pat Forward.





# Trivia Night



**Date Change: Saturday, June 27**

Trivia Starts at 7 p.m.; doors open 6 p.m.

Sponsored by the CUCC High School Youth

Tables of 8 may be purchased for \$80 (\$10/person)  
by contacting Columbia UCC: [office@columbiaucc.com](mailto:office@columbiaucc.com)

Individual tickets are \$10 each.

*Limited tables available, so make your reservations NOW!*

*All profits will help fund our mission trip this summer*

Coffee, soda, iced tea, and popcorn will be available for purchase.

You may bring other snacks.

All are welcome and encouraged to attend!

## **BUILDING AND GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM**

### **Building Grounds Update**

New fascia and guttering has been installed on the sanctuary portion of the Church. The ceiling in the Fellowship Hall and bathrooms has been replaced with acoustical tile. Research is being completed on security system upgrades and further research on landscaping is being done. We are in the process of replacing the thermostats with programmable thermostats.

Respectfully submitted,  
John Bullerd

Dear friends,

Thank you for your generous donation to Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Missouri. As we are all facing these challenging times, we appreciate your thoughtful support of our guest families.

We remain focused on our mission and will continue doing all we can to serve families with ill children.

Ashlee P. Smith, Senior Director of Development

Dear Emmaus Homes friends,

We are blown away by your continued generosity. Your support is making it possible for us to respond to this pandemic with care, thoughtfulness, and quality.

A mother of one of our clients shared this; “I have never been more proud of the Emmaus organization & the staff at Brett’s house than during this crisis!”

This kind of response doesn’t come by accident, but through the thoughtful and consistent investment by partners like you, who show up in a big way when we need it most. We are forever grateful.

Sincerely, Lisa A. Key, Chief Development Officer



Dear friends,

Thank you for your generous donation to Every Child’s Hope. Your gift allows us to help the children, youth, and families we serve have hope for a better future.

I hope you and your congregation are remaining safe and healthy during this crisis. We are continuing to work hard to provide hope for children and families even now, when it is more important than ever. We are only able to do this through partnerships with people like you.

Sincerely,  
Michael P. Brennen, CEO

Dear partners and supporters of our ministry,

I pray blessings upon you and our community. I think that it’s important that you know that, while I put no limits on the mysterious power of God to work in and through our lives and communities, “blessings” aren’t a magic trick. I believe God’s Spirit and grace gift us with the capacity, abilities, resources, and energy to bring blessings to life in our community.

The “State of the Church” is strong; faithful to God’s leadership, we continue to do this work—to be this community—at a sacrifice, a “net loss,” to Wilkes Blvd. UMC. Our success and our security continue because of the vital participation and support from our members, partners, and community.

In grace and peace,  
Brad Bryan, Pastor

### THANK YOU TO KRISTIN VETETO

On April 18, with peace and profound sadness, Kristin Veteto formally announced her resignation as Music Coordinator at Columbia United Church of Christ, effective August 15, 2020. Kristin will continue all position duties through that date, schedule special music and choir functions through the end of August, and has offered to help transitioning her replacement, as appropriate.

In her resignation letter, Kristin expressed that when she took this position three years ago, she did so understanding that if the responsibilities of her family and business life changed and she was unable to give 100% to this position, she would step back. As her life has evolved these past three years, she has found her roles as mother, music therapist, and small business owner to be claiming much more of her time, and with prayerful discernment, she feels stepping back from this position is in everyone’s best interests.

Kristin will continue to be a vital part of our music ministry as a lay person in the church, offering her talents in music direction as well as spiritual offerings. In her resignation letter she states, “This church is our home and family. We look forward to continuing to serve our church for many years to come by guiding smaller groups and serving in other capacities where God leads.”

Kristin has brought an incredible life and vitality to the music program at CUCC over the past three years, and will continue to do so in the future in different ways. The Church Council will be planning next steps in the weeks to come, as we search for her replacement; as well as appropriate ways to honor Kristin in the summer months. We offer our blessings to Kristin as she continues her ministry in different ways!





## VICE MODERATOR'S MOMENT

The resilience, flexibility, and dedication of our church family has come to light more than ever over the past few months. As we adapt to the current circumstances we face as a church, local and even global community, we continue to make connection and caring for each other a priority. We are so fortunate to have the support of our congregation during this time.

Thanks to the leadership and tireless efforts of Pastor Rick, we have been able to continue many of our traditional church activities - just in new ways. Through his chancel chats, weekly discussion groups with adults and youth, and Sunday services, we have maintained our sense of fellowship and worship. Pastor Rick has consistently modeled the flexibility and problem-solving skills that have become necessities during this time of uncertainty, and we are very grateful for that. Thank you as well to James Melton for developing and continuously refining our system for live streaming each week's Sunday service. He has recently gained the help of some young members of our congregation, who have volunteered to help make sure this can remain an option for all of us. We are thankful for our many talented church members who enhance our services by providing musical offerings, serving as worship leaders, and taking on other important roles for our services.



Members of the church council have had frequent virtual discussions (We are very thankful for Zoom!) to consider and anticipate the many aspects of COVID-19 that impact each of our members in various ways. As each of us continues to develop our own framework for making decisions for the safety and wellbeing of ourselves and our families, CUCC hopes to provide a variety of choices and options for everyone. This includes the opportunity to attend church in-person while social distancing and adhering to community guidelines, as well as to participate in services and fellowship activities virtually. Members of CUCC continue to be encouraged to weigh the unique risks and benefits, given their personal circumstances, to determine the best way for them to worship and stay connected to the church. We hope each person has felt supported in making these individual choices.

The church council continues to hold virtual meetings to make sure regular church business - including collaboration and planning for LODO's next school year, updates to our building and grounds, and the important work of all our other ministry teams - continues as well. There is great excitement about the plans and direction of CUCC, and we continue to look toward the future with hope.

In Christ,  
Kristy Odneal, Vice Moderator

### CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES ON CUCC WEBSITE

During this time of isolation, there are many resources to help nurture your spiritual soul on the CUCC Website! Have you checked it out? Go to [www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com) and click on the "[CUCC and COVID-19 Resources](#)" tab. It will take you to a link that is filled with resources, including a reading list, coloring and activity sheets, and Pastor Rick's Chancel Chats.

### CORONAVIRUS AND CUCC UPDATE- GRADUATED REOPENING

Due to the continually low number of COVID-19 cases in Boone County since the week before Easter, the CUCC Church Council decided to begin a graduated reopening of CUCC which started on May 17. On that Sunday and the Sundays following, we allowed people to enter the Sanctuary for worship following strict guidelines; and encouraged the most vulnerable members of our congregation to consider staying home for a bit. We also allowed Ministry Teams, Confirmation, and Fellowship Groups to begin meeting in person if they choose starting with that date.

Our "soft opening" worked very well. More vulnerable members chose to stay home, our numbers were low, and those who attended were respectful of our requested safety practices. We continue to livestream our services and Ministry Team meetings to all who choose to participate in that way, respecting everyone's comfort level in this time of global pandemic.

Watch your emails for updates. If COVID-19 cases rise precipitously in Boone County, we may have to revisit our reopening procedures and take a step back. Your Council leadership will be monitoring the situation closely, and keeping you posted.

## INCLUSION TEAM

We had our first Zoom meeting in May. Everyone was able to join, which was great!

The Inclusion Team has several projects in the early stages:

- ♦ researching the need for a PFLAG (Parents/Family of Lesbians and Gays) group in our area to support the families of LGBTQ children
- ♦ creating a more inviting church space for handicapped individuals
- ♦ continuing to highlight diverse and/or marginalized groups throughout the year, and
- ♦ creating a regional coalition to support humanity in all it's (our) diversity.

### Open and Affirming Sunday is June 28.

We will again celebrate with cake, sherbet, and punch. It will be a party, please join us!

Mark your calendars for Pridefest on August 29. This is a family friendly fun event in downtown Columbia. There will be more details in the coming months.

Every family has been affected, in some way, by the COVID-19 virus and lockdown. This time is not only physically challenging, but also emotionally trying. Please contact any of our team members, council members, or church staff if you have a need that we can address. We are here for you.

In Peach and Love and Hope,  
Alisa Lau-Sieckman Chairman.

Inclusion Team Members include: Pastor Rick Oberle, Lena Muench, Lindsey Oberle, Steve Keithahn, Tricia Price, Isaiah Jackson-Post, and Elaine Trout.



COME CELEBRATE ON A SUNDAY WITH CUCC ON  
JUNE 28 IN WORSHIP, WITH A RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.  
ALL ARE WELCOME! WE HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE!



### 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.

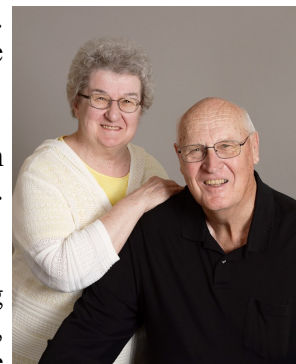


# FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

## WORKING TOGETHER

by Charles Marcks

Hi, I am Charles Marcks, member of the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team. This is my third year of serving with the team. Other areas of interest for me are the Building and Ground Ministry Team and the Men's Fellowship.



We have some challenges ahead of us this year with the coronavirus pandemic and an aging facility, along with opportunities to serve our church through its mission work. Our budget is strong in mission opportunities for the world and local community.

I am hoping everyone will do what they can financially, as well as physically, by being active in several of the mission teams of the church. With everyone working together, doing what they can, we will meet these opportunities and challenges in furthering the mission of the church.

If you have concerns or comments please let any member of the team know.



## CUCC NOW HAS ONLINE GIVING!

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

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

## TREASURER'S REPORT *Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer*

Financial Update			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Apr. Income	\$29,774.42	\$27,418.47	\$2,355.95
YTD Income	\$88,723.84	\$106,390.62	(\$17,667.78)
Apr. Expenses	\$19,270.29	\$25,371.96	(\$6,101.67)
YTD Expenses	\$97,237.63	\$103,216.36	(\$5,978.73)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$8,513.79)	\$3,174.26	(\$11,688.05)
Apr. Attendance	0		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
05/03/20	0	\$3,815.00	\$5,578.84
05/10/20	0	\$2,750.51	\$5,578.84
05/17/20	0	\$4,935.00	\$5,578.84
05/24/20	0	\$7,345.00	\$5,578.84
<b>Total</b>	0	\$18,845.51	\$22,315.36

As of April 30, we are behind by \$17,463 in Joyful Giving for 2020.

# OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM



## June Food Bank News

In this time of uncertainty, one thing is for sure—people still need to eat! With schools and many child care facilities closed, and many workers experiencing reduced hours or outright layoffs, our community's food needs are more acute than ever. Many people rely on the Food Bank, which relies on volunteer labor, including lots of students who have now gone home.

The Food Bank is in need of monetary donations to continue meeting local and surrounding communities food needs. Please prayerfully consider helping out. More information is at: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E164454&id=77>

We will keep you updated on CUCC's next serve night.

## NEW PARTNERS—CUCC AND ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY

We are thrilled to be in partnership with Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School, but just as our partnership was about to begin in earnest, the Coronavirus hit, closing down all schools for the rest of the academic year.

However, our partnership is still there! We plan to hit the ground running in the fall with new opportunities to be in ministry with our friends at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary. The Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team will be working with De'Vion Moore, the Principal of the school, early next August to have plans in place for the fall.

Watch for ways that you can be part of this exciting partnership! More details to come in the August issue of the Communicator!

## Loaves and Fishes Update

CUCC will resume service for Loaves and Fishes on June 15. Stay tuned for more details closer to that date.

## Strengthen the Church

The Strengthen the Church offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill on its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

The offering is June 7. Be sure to bring your generous hearts and give as these funds extend into our own local community and ministries.

**American Red Cross Urgently Needs Blood Donors**

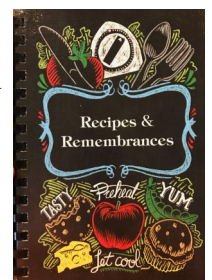


**American Red Cross**

Due to the cancellation of Red Cross blood drives for social distancing, there is a severe shortage of blood for trauma and surgery patients. You can make an individual appointment to donate blood at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/local-homepage/location/columbia-american-red-cross-2.html>.

## The CUCC "Recipes and Remembrances" Cookbook is now available!

The hard-bound CUCC Anniversary Edition Cookbook, "Recipes and Remembrances," is available for purchase in the Gathering Area, as well as in the Church Office. The cost is \$15 and the proceeds benefit the local community through donations made by Women's Fellowship to various organizations. You may submit your cash or check to Jan Barry (Women's Fellowship Treasurer) or April Rothweiler (Church Office Administrator).



**Blanket the World With Love!**  
**Church World Service Blanket Sunday June 21**

On June 21, Father's Day, CUCC will collect a special offering for the Church World Service Blankets program. In the midst of crisis, faith guides a loving response. That's how the CWS Blanket program started, and that's why our gifts mean so much this year. Through our generosity, vulnerable neighbors can keep warm with fresh linens and clean sleeping quarters. Over 59,000 blankets were distributed to disaster victims and refugees in 2019. We can help fulfill the most basic need of all, for warmth and shelter from the storm. Please give generously!

## NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM



**SAVE THE DATE** to join us for a **GREAT (& Free!)** week of FUN @ CUCC's Vacation Bible School 2020 for those ages 3-Finishing 5th Grade! Not to mention lots of hands on deck needed to volunteer! We'll even take care of dinner for all! Registration for all begins April 15.



Join the Action  
Aug 2-Aug 6

Click here to register! <https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/>

### We Appreciate you!

Nurture & Education Ministry Team would like to send a sincere thank you to:

- Pastor Rick – For sending out Sunday School stories and lessons for the children and youth every Sunday by email
- Lena Muench and Lauren Helmreich – For hosting middle and high school youth Sunday School classes each Sunday by ZOOM
- Bryan Crousore – For hosting Adult Sunday School each Sunday morning by ZOOM
- Gina Pierson – For creating the beautiful bookmarks that all the women of CUCC received for Mother's Day
- April Rothweiler – For mailing all the bookmarks
- Pastor Rick and Lauren Helmreich – For keeping our graduating seniors in our thoughts and helping them with a very different end to their high school career
- Erika Maltsbarger – For leading our LODO Ministry in such an extraordinary way
- To all the teachers of Sunday School for 2019-2020 – For giving your time and talent to leading our Sunday School classes

You help make CUCC welcoming for all!

### HIGH SCHOOL AND YOUNG ADULTS

During the month of June, Pastor Rick and Lauren will be meeting at church with our High School Youth and Young Adults each Wednesday at 8:00 p.m. We will meet in the upstairs Confirmation classroom and talk about faith issues, then do some planning and prep work for June activities. All High School youth and Young Adults are welcome! We will start at 8:00 p.m. and leave by 10:00 p.m.. (or whenever you have to go).

### NEW BIBLE STUDY IN JUNE

We will be gathering in hybrid fashion the four Wednesdays in June for Bible Study, centered around the Book of James. Each Wednesday we will gather at noon both in person and via Zoom. Those who wish can come to church and meet with Pastor Rick; others may join via Zoom. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall.

Why James? This letter is one of the most controversial in the New Testament. There are those who claim that James, who talks about the work of a Christian, contradicts the wisdom that Paul shares in his letters, affirming that Salvation comes through faith, not works. There are those who claim that James' letter is not as scholarly as those attributed to Paul. Martin Luther and Thomas Jefferson both had a problem with the Book of James, and many over the years have expressed distaste for the book because it does not fit many of the parameters that are placed on other New Testament works.

The Book of James has great practical application for the life of a Christian; especially in a time such as this. Reading and understanding the Book of James will bring more light and truth to how we can apply our faith to our daily lives; something we are in need of in our world today. Sharing the five short chapters of the Book of James together, we can learn from each other what God has in store for us.

June 3, 10, 17 & 24 we will gather together with Pastor Rick at noon- come join us!



According to the Bible, we are never too young to learn about God. We can support our young children's spiritual growth using these tips.

1. Read to children about God and Jesus. Simple Bibles for toddlers such as board books about God's creation, animals, and family are great choices; an illustrated Bible for young children; You Tube videos of Bible stories for older children.
2. Talk often about God and Jesus.
3. Tell children constantly that Jesus loves them.
4. Use teachable moments to highlight spiritual truths.
5. As children learn to talk, help instill words of our faith such as God, Jesus, Bible, and pray in their vocabulary.
6. Include infants and toddlers in spiritual activities such as worship and prayer.
7. Know that young children really do learn at church.
8. Take children to special worship occasions such as Christmas Eve, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, etc.
9. Encourage parents to include their children during prayer times at home.
10. Explain that prayer is talking to God.
11. Make prayer a part of your daily routine.

Remember that children discover God from infancy. Paul wrote to Timothy "from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures" (2 Timothy 3:15).

### CUCC LUNCH BUNCH



**CUCC Lunch Bunch will take a break for the summer.** We will resume our gatherings in August. Keep an eye out for what's to come! Enjoy your summer break.

### Women's Fellowship Update

Women's Fellowship will meet on June 11 at 9:30 a.m. to finish the bible study on the Ten Commandments. There will be a light brunch. Come fellowship with us! All women are welcome.



## WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

### From Your Music Coordinator

Happy June to you all!

The decision was made in early May to postpone all music ensembles at CUCC until, at the earliest, September, in an effort to ensure the safety of our church family. This was a decision made from research and much deliberation. I am deeply saddened not to have the opportunity to make music with each of you these last few months of my service as Music Coordinator, but know my heart is praying and singing for each of you.

This is certainly a strange time we are living. A unique time for us to turn our attention, fears, and praise to God. In Ephesians 5:19 we are encouraged to "*Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord.*" In such a time as this we are encouraged to speak to one another and share God's love with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Even though we are not making music together in person, we can still make music for each other. We are still offering music each week at CUCC in the form of solos, duets, and small family ensembles in person and/or recordings. I know the power of music to bring people together when nothing else can. Please consider sharing a music offering for your church family this summer.



Reach out to me at [kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com](mailto:kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com) or via phone at (309) 221-3198 to speak more about sharing music. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sending you blessings and gratitude,  
Kristin Veteto



## MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

- Did you know CUCC has an Instagram page? Follow Columbia United Church of Christ on Instagram!
- Just a reminder that we won't have greeters at the door for the next few weeks. We care about you and want to keep you safe! We're spreading our love and care from a safe distance at this time (and don't forget you can still watch the livestream Sunday service if you're more comfortable worshipping that way).
- If you have a need that our Team can help with, please contact Pastor Rick or Jessica Lucas.

### CUCC VIRTUAL CHURCH OPTIONS

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

- Even though the CUCC Worship Service is livestreamed each Sunday, you don't have to watch it live! You can come back and watch it at other times, or watch it again if you want to recall something that was said. Past livestreamed services are all on the CUCC Website and on Facebook.
- You can host a "Watch Party!" Select a worship service from Facebook and set up a "Watch Party." Invite several of your Facebook friends to watch it along with you at a time of your choosing. You can all comment together about elements of the service (just remember, the comments are public).
- You can "share" the worship service on your Facebook page! If you "share" it on your page, all of your friends will see it too. If everyone in our church family would do this, our ministry reach would increase exponentially.
- You can do all this with "Chancel Chats," too! Pastor Rick is going to take a break from "Chancel Chats" in June and July; but previous "Chancel Chats" are all on the CUCC Website and on Facebook. "Share" them with others or host a watch party using "Chancel Chats!"
- Have lunch with Pastor Rick! Pastor Rick's "Chancel Chats" from March 18-May 30 are all on the CUCC Website; each one is 10-15 minutes long. If you are eating lunch alone, why not watch them while you eat and have lunch with Pastor Rick! You can always "share" these "Chancel Chats" on Facebook, too.

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

### Sunday Volunteer Schedule for June

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for June. As you can see, we are in need of some spots to be filled, and other spots to be shared with new faces. Part of being in the church family is often expressed by sharing the roles that make all of our members and guests feel welcome. If you believe you have the gift of hospitality, we would love to have you help make CUCC welcoming for all.

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

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Sound Booth	Hospitality
06/07	Judi Privitt	N/A	Ally Jaberg	NEED	Jamie Rapp	N/A
06/14	Sue Beckman	N/A	Audrey Lasley	Abby Dennis	Carissa Graves	N/A
06/21	Audrey Lasley	N/A	NEED	NEED	Pete Jaberg	N/A
06/28	Carol Duermeyer	N/A	Pat Forward	Raelyn Zimny	Doug Privitt	N/A

## LODO HAPPENINGS

The 2019-2020 LODO school year officially ended on May 15. We missed our time away from our students this spring and look forward to returning to halls full of love and laughter in the fall!

**Congratulations to the LODO Class of 2020! We wish you luck as you move on to Kindergarten!!**

Our graduation celebration looked a bit different this year. We were unable to celebrate our Pre-K students in a traditional Graduation Ceremony, but we would not let that stop us from acknowledging their accomplishment! LODO Staff visited each of our graduates on May 14 and 15 at their homes. Each graduate received a “Little One’s Day Out Pre-K Graduate” yard sign, took pictures in their cap and gown, and received personalized bags with a Kindergarten Toolkit to prepare them for next year. They also received “Kindergarten, Here I Come!” and other treats.

We continue to hope for an in-person graduation ceremony for LODO at the end of July if re-opening orders allow us to gather.

**2020 LODO Graduates:** Bella, Isaac, Jaxon, JC, Avery, Reagan, Jack, Amelia, Jonathan, Doha, Justin, Nathan, Toby, Cash, and Everly.



On Wednesday May 20, LODO held a “Goodbye Drive-Thru Parade” for families to say goodbye, pick up belongings, and receive end of the year gifts from teachers. It will never replace the goodbye hugs of previous years, but we were overjoyed to have our families participate in our day.

LODO will be closed June, July, and August with teachers returning August 17 to prepare for the 2020-2021 school year. Students will return for another fun filled year on Monday, August 31! We still have space available for 2020-2021! Contact me at [littleonesdayout@yahoo.com](mailto:littleonesdayout@yahoo.com) for information or to schedule a tour!

With love and laughter,  
Erika Maltsbarger

### CUCC LIVESTREAMING TO CONTINUE

During the COVID-19 pandemic, CUCC has been livestreaming our worship services each Sunday. If you have had the opportunity to watch these services, you may have gained an appreciation for the production work that is put into them. James Melton, our Church Council Moderator, has been the driving force behind putting these services online. Utilizing Mevo Technology, James has put together a production studio each week at the foot of our chancel. Many thanks to James for putting this together and his dedication each week to making this happen!

This global pandemic has given us the push we needed to utilize livestreaming services; and the analytics have been amazing. We have had people from all over the country (and beyond) watching our worship services; including our members who are away for the winter or are in care facilities and unable to make it in person on Sunday mornings. This opportunity has opened up new possibilities for our congregation, and it is something we plan to continue even after this global pandemic is over.

James Melton and Mike Pierson are researching technology possibilities for continuing to livestream our services, including a camera more applicable to our setting and a dedicated computer for this purpose. They are tying this in with the other Sanctuary upgrades proposed by the Music and Worship Ministry Team so both will work together seamlessly. Though we may be together in person soon, we will continue our livestreaming outreach as well. Many thanks to all who are making this possible!

## CUCC IS WORKING IN INDONESIA



The Evangelical Christian Church in Timor (GMIT) is the second largest Protestant church in Indonesia. GMIT's members are mainly sustenance farmers who experience inadequate educational, health, transportation, communication and energy systems. GMIT supports farmers through the Kompastani program that trains farmers in organic farming and marketing methods to sell their produce. The women who participate in the program work to support their households while their husbands are away as migrant workers. Members of GMIT offer their land to the program for the cultivation of produce. The farmers, church members and GMIT all work together in developing a sustainable livelihood for communities in Indonesia.

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

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

June 1-6	Anne Gregory	Working in Thailand
June 7-13	Rachel Pellett	Working in Jamaica
June 14-20	Emmanuela Loccident	Working in Morocco
June 21-27	Jeff Wright	Working in Israel/Palestine
June 28- July 4	Eleazar Fernandez	Working in Philippines



## HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP: CHANGE OF PLANS!

The CUCC High School Youth were planning to participate in the National Youth Event in July, and mission work before that event; but plans have changed. Due to COVID-19, the National Youth Event has been cancelled; but the Mission Trip remains!

We will still be going on a trip that weekend; but the destination is not nailed down yet. We looking at three possibilities, and should know by June 1 which one will work for us. We still plan on leaving July 19 and will probably return July 24.

This trip will not be as expensive as NYE would have been; but it will still be a costly event. We are anticipating the total cost of the trip to be around \$3500 for 12 participants. We have already had several successful fundraisers this year to help pay this expense; but our June Trivia Night will help, too. Keep us in your prayers as we discern our new mission destination!

## TRIVIA NIGHT JUNE 27 – **NEW DATE** YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER

We are hopeful that by June 27 our social distancing protocols will be lifted and we will be gathering together again! In anticipation of that, our CUCC youth are hosting a Trivia Night! This will be a fundraiser for their Mission Trip this summer.

We are selling tables of 8 for \$80/each; individual tickets are \$10/person. We will have soda, tea, and lemonade available, as well as some snacks; you are encouraged to bring food to share with everyone! More information will be shared about how to sign up online, or you can RSVP by emailing [office@columbiaucc.com](mailto:office@columbiaucc.com).

Come and share a night of fun and fellowship and help the CUCC youth participate in their mission trip!



## COVID-19 IN CHIAPAS

By Pastor Rick & Elena Huegel

Some of you may be aware that we had to cancel our trip to Chiapas this year, because of the COVID-19 global pandemic. We hope to go next year; but this update from Elena Huegel, our Global Ministries Missionary in Chiapas, helps to inform us about how they are handling the Coronavirus.

In the rural communities around San Cristóbal de las Casas, where most people have good reasons to be suspicious of anything coming from either the federal or state governments, many do not believe the warnings about a health crisis; it is just another strategy of a corrupt government to control and take advantage of Chiapas which has one of the poorest populations in the country but is rich in natural resources.

Four weeks ago, the leaders of the Zapatista movement which maintains open opposition to the federal government because of stated injustices as well as human rights abuses, closed their communities to protect some of the most vulnerable indigenous populations in the state from becoming infected. Once the Zapatistas made their announcement, more and more people began to take notice and listen to the social isolation directives from the Federal government; but these directives can only be partially enforced when so many people survive on a day to day basis. If they don't sell their wares, clean a house, or find an odd job, then their families don't eat.

The Institute (the agency we work with in Chiapas) has outlined the following actions in response to the global pandemic:



- One of the primary programs of the Institute has long been community development and food sovereignty. During the pandemic, 500 families in rural and semi-urban communities will receive seed packets of fast-growing vegetables along with basic information about how to plant and care for a family garden. The message is for everyone who can to plant food now so as to strengthen the local capacity to provide for basic food needs. This program is also producing short radio messages and flyers in Spanish as well as the Mayan languages to help provide trustworthy information in isolated communities.
- Another primary program at the Institute involves "healing of the heart" in preparation for the short and medium effects of the pandemic. Plans have also been laid out to strengthen networking and communication, especially in the Mayan languages.
- Roots in the ruins: hope in trauma is a more recent program at the Institute. This program is providing information, videos and webinars on healing practices, resilience and dignity awareness development, compassion fatigue, moral injury, processing grief, and emotional care for children, youth, the elderly and shut-ins to facilitators in Chiapas and Oaxaca, other parts of Mexico and several Latin American countries.

While we have the luxury of being able to practice social isolation here in the US, remember that same luxury is not shared by all. Please keep the people of Chiapas in your prayers as they navigate this time of global pandemic.

### Looking For a Place to Serve Locally?

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

If you are over 18, have a vehicle, and a heart for those who have survived the harsh reality that is Modern Day Slavery, contact [Nanette Ward](#) at 573-289-1842 or April Rothweiler at 573-239-5777 with any questions you may have, or to volunteer.





**ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN JUNE**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	6pm Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	6:30pm By Laws Informational Meeting	12pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation	11am By Laws Informational Meeting 6:30pm Clergy Personnel Committee Meeting		
7 <b>9:30am Worship</b> <i>Livestream will still be available for those who wish to continue social distancing from home.</i>	8	9	10	11	12	13
			12pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation	9:30 am Women's Fellowship 5:30pm Music & Worship Ministry Team	<b>7-10pm Prom</b>	
14 <b>Senior Sunday</b> 9:30am Worship <i>Livestream will still be available for those who wish to continue social distancing from home.</i>	15	16	17	18	19	20
	6pm LODO Advisory Board	6:30pm Council Meeting	12pm Bible Study 6:30pm Confirmation	6pm Inclusion Team Meeting		<b>May</b> <b>Communicator</b> <b>articles due</b>
21 <b>FATHER'S DAY</b> 9:30am Worship <i>Livestream will still be available for those who wish to continue social distancing from home.</i>	22	23	24	25	26	27
		6:30pm Council Meeting	12pm Bible Study 6-9:30pm Fellowship Hall Reserved	6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team Meeting		<b>7pm Trivia Night</b>
28 <b>ONA Sunday</b> 9:30am Worship <i>Livestream will still be available for those who wish to continue social distancing from home.</i>	29	30				
		6:30pm Nurture & Education Ministry Team				

# THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Congregation- ONA #1575  
3201 I-70 Dr. NW  
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.

### ATTENTION

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

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



### 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.