

THE COMMUNICATOR

January 2020



“2020 Vision”

From the Pastor’s Keyboard

What is your 2020 Vision?

Over the past five years this church has come a long way, but it did not happen by accident. In 2016, this church put together a four-year plan (2016-2020) and made significant progress toward implementation. With that plan as our foundation, we articulated a five-year plan in 2018 (2018-2023) to envision the direction we, as a congregation, would like to be headed. Since articulating that vision, we have assessed the plan frequently; adopting implementation goals and making progress toward our congregational mission.

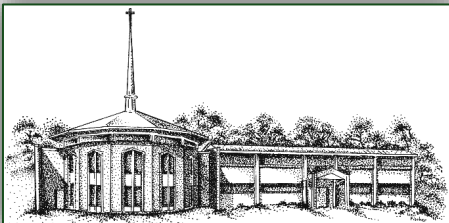
This past fall, the Church Council and Ministry Teams, along with the LODO Advisory Board and the Inclusion Team, articulated Implementation Plans for 2020 based on the CUCC 5-Year Strategic Plan. Those Implementation Plans will guide us through this next year, charting our course as we enhance our integrity as prophetic witnesses to God’s Inclusive, Steadfast Love. *(If you have not seen our 2020 Implementation Plans, you can access them on the church website or request an electronic copy.)*

A wise person once said, “If you don’t know where you are going, don’t complain when you get there.” What this means is that planning is essential to maximize your potential; or, in the case of a group on a particular mission, such as a church, planning is essential to maximize your impact in God’s world. If a church wants to fully live into the potential God has instilled within them, they must plan ahead. It is not about being overly rigid; it is about authenticity and intentionality. To be authentic, we must be intentional about our actions. Or, as a friend of mine once put it, “only 20% of the people you meet have any idea what they are doing; the other 80% are just bouncing off the walls.”

As a church, Columbia UCC is doing a great job of planning ahead; of setting realistic goals and living into them intentionally. This intentionality and planning mentality has set a foundation of integrity at CUCC that is going to pay off in the years to come with growth, focus, and impact as we live into the identity we are forging today. But to truly be transformative as a church, this intentionality must spill over into the lives of our congregation members as well, in their relation to the church. So I ask of you, what is your “2020 Vision” for your involvement in CUCC? What is your “5-year plan” with the church? Do you know where you are going in your spiritual life?

A well-planned life realizes a person’s potential to the fullest. But a well-planned spiritual life is even more important; to yourself, and to the church. Think about your spiritual plan for your life and your plan for how you will maximize your church involvement. What is your 2020 Vision? What is your 5-year plan? CUCC is here for the long haul, transforming this world into an ever more present reflection of God’s Wisdom. How will you be part of this transformation?

Happy New Year!
-Pastor Rick



**COLUMBIA
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

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

Rev. Rick Oberle
Pastor

Rev. Fred Brandenburg
Pastor Emeritus

April Rothweiler
Office Administrator

Kristin Veteto
Music Coordinator

Amy Crousore
Organist/Accompanist

Erika Maltsbarger
Director, Little One's Day Out

Lloyd Viehland
Building Monitor

Raj Tolani
Financial Secretary

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 a.m. - Coffee and Fellowship

9:00 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship in Sanctuary

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

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

**Email:
office@columbiaucc.com**



Thanks to everyone who made our Christmas Banquet a success; the youth for setting up tables and making centerpieces, the cooks, bakers, cleaner-uppers, and all 135 of you who came and enjoyed the food and fellowship. That's what makes our ministry more fun than work.

The Hospitality Team,
Jolene and Val



Thank you to Jessica Lucas and her committee; Paula Wilson, Lisa Jaberg, Linda Neale, along with Pete Jaberg, Doug Privitt, and Kristin Veteto, for their leadership in presenting this year's Children's Christmas Program, "The Symbols of Christmas," on December 15.

Thank you to the Men's Fellowship for the Treat Bags they made for all the kids.

**Cookies/Candy By the Pound
Fundraiser**

We raised \$728 at the Cookies & Candy by the Pound Fundraiser for the camp scholarship fund!! Thank you to everyone who brought candies and cookies.

Thank you to Lorry Dreier, Mariann Bullerd, Gina Pierson, and Philip Dennis for all their help with the sale.

**CROP Hunger Walk –
Feeding Hungry People**

CUCC members donated \$2,280 to the 2019 CROP Walk; the fourth largest amount of any group in Columbia. More hungry people here and around the world will be fed because of your generous caring. Thank you!

VAC Christmas Drive—A Merry Christmas for 34 People!

Members and friend of CUCC gave generously to spread the joy of Christmas to others this year. Thanks to your support, 34 people from 9 families received gifts and food money. Your monetary gifts also helped an additional 7 people with holiday food.

We have received numerous thank-you notes. Here are some samples:

“Thank you so much. You just made two little kids that has never had a Christmas before to be able to have one this year!! Thank you more than words can say! God Bless.”

“Thank you and God Bless You for taking the time out and showing my kids and self a good holiday.”

“You helped make my Christmas the way it is supposed to be. Me and my boys (cats) are thankful. God Bless You and your family.”

“Thank you. Because of you we had a wonderful Christmas. We hope and bless you and your family.”

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Columbia United Church of Christ will be Sunday, January 26, after worship. We will gather in the Fellowship Hall for our annual Chili Cook-Off, and then convene our Congregational Meeting after lunch.

Our business will include; receiving financial reports, reports from our ministry teams, LODO Board, pastor and staff, as well as any updates from our fellowship groups. We will receive the nominating committee report and elect new Council members for the 2020-2022 term. The 2019 Annual Report will be available after worship on January 12.

All members of Columbia United Church of Christ are encouraged to attend and let your voice be heard in the operations of the church. If you are interested in being in a leadership position at CUCC, contact James Melton, Council Vice-Moderator.

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

Women's Fellowship has homemade soap in three scent options (Lavender Vanilla, Cinnamon Coffee, and Coconut Orchid) and bean soup available for sale in the coat room outside of the Sanctuary!

All proceeds from sales go back into the local community through generous donations and involvement from Women's Fellowship.

Address & Phone Number Changes

Jeff & Laura Koepke & family
2865 Gopher South Dr.
Columbia, MO 65201

George & Stefanie Zimny & family
4201 Stone Grove Ct.
Columbia, MO 65203

Carol Duermeyer
573-228-8969



MEL AND BARBARA WEST CENTER COMING

(from the December, 2019 issue of "Mobility Worldwide Missouri;" edited for length)

Volunteers and visitors to the Mobility Worldwide Missouri (Columbia) workshop who are used to dodging carts and working in cramped quarters will be delighted to know relief is on the way. Construction has begun on a new, larger workshop, with the transition expected to occur in Summer, 2020.

The facility will be located on Meyer Industrial Drive, off Highway 63. At 12,500 square feet, the building will be significantly larger than the current facility with improved loading docks, larger assembly areas, and a greatly increased capacity for storage. The site also allows for future expansion.

Even before construction, the facility already has a name: "The Mel and Barbara West Cart Center." The Wests started Mobility Worldwide 25 years ago, committed to providing mobility to the disabled. Now there are 22 workshops around the US and two in Africa. Volunteers have built and shipped over 80,000 carts to 106 countries. Naming this building for Mel and Barbara is a way to honor their vision while reminding us all to commit ourselves as they did, to serving those in need around the world.

"We are excited to see the new facility become a reality," Executive Director Gary Moreau exclaimed. "We have made the best of our tight spaces for years, but now we will have room to grow and increase our production."

Plans for the building include a new feature: a welding workshop. To date, all welding has been done offsite. The new building will include the space and ventilation to allow much of this work to be done in-house. The Container Project and The Sewing Project will also move to the new building. The new workshop will also include improved office spaces and a conference room, along with a paved parking area.

Funding for the purchase of the land and construction of the building was provided by very generous benefactors. A gift was bequeathed in Herbert Sauer's will several years ago, which provided the seed money; the balance was provided by Judy and Jim Wall. As a result of these generous gifts, Mobility Worldwide will no longer have to pay rent, which means that monthly expense can now be reallocated to building more carts. A ribbon cutting ceremony and move-in date will be announced in the spring.



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

Moderator's Moment

Here we are in a new decade of worship at CUCC. How time flies when we are on a journey of faith together! As I look back on this past year, I realize how much time and effort are expended by so many people to accomplish all the good things we do as a congregation. Remember back in January 2019, when we came together and voted to live out our mission as an Open and Affirming church. As we still learn what that means for us as a congregation, we are fulfilling our Inclusion covenant, "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."

This past fall we also came together and accomplished a fundraising project that we called "50 for 50." The goal was to raise \$50,000 in 50 days, ending at Advent, to fund improvements, upgrades and technology for our church's future. Over \$60,000 was raised during this drive and, once again, we proved that our love for our church knows no bounds. We also pledged a 10% tithe of our fundraising goal towards 4 Missouri UCC missions. These accomplishments help us "Transform both the congregation and community through service and outreach," part of our Mission Statement.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone that has contributed toward making the year 2019 a successful and faithful journey together. The Church Council that I serve with: Vice Moderator James Melton, Treasurer Christine Staelens, Recording Treasurer Doug Privitt, Council Secretary Jane Duncan, Worship & Music Team Leader Pete Jaberg, Outreach & Advocacy Team Leader Mahree Skala, Fellowship & Hospitality Co-Team Leaders Jolene Kirchoff and Val Schoeneberg, Nurture and Education Team Leader Pat Forward, Finance & Stewardship Team Leader George Zimny, Membership & Care Team Leader Stefanie Zimny, and Building and Grounds Team Leader John Bullerd. The staff of CUCC: Office Administrative Assistant April Rothweiler, Financial Secretary Raj Tolani, Music Coordinator Kristin Veteto, Building Monitor Lloyd Viehland, Organist/Accompanist Amy Crousore and LODO Director Erika Maltsbarger. And, of course, Pastor Rick Oberle, who is the captain of our ship (along with being the oars and the rudder), who has tireless energy and enormous optimism. He has become a good friend and mentor in my one year term as your Moderator.

And a final thank-you to our entire congregation, who have responded to every request for their time and treasure with a resounding YES. To all of you; thank you for your patience and love and let God bless our journey together in the new decade!

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

SUNDAY MORNING SNOW POLICY

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

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

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

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

**INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION**



INCLUSION TEAM

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from the CUCC Inclusion Team!

It has been wonderful to be celebrate the birth of Jesus in an environment that strives to embrace all of God's children. Hallelujah!

We met in early December with a full agenda:

- ◆ We discussed several areas where we can work with other churches to further our shared goal of inclusion. One such event will be February 21-22. We will be co-sponsoring a speaker, Austen Hartke. His topic is "Christianity and Transgender Inclusion."
- ◆ We plan to celebrate our first anniversary of being an Open and Affirming Inclusive Congregation on January 26, along with our Annual Chili Cook-Off. This is a Sunday you won't want to miss!! Food and Fun for everyone!
- ◆ Black History Month observance plans are being formed.
- ◆ We will participate in the COMO Values Diversity Breakfast on January 16. This is an educational and networking opportunity

Our next meeting is January 14. The team welcomes input from the congregation -- questions, suggestions, etc.

Peace and Joy in the New Year!
Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Chair

CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant:

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

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



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

CHRISTIANITY AND TRANSGENDER INCLUSION

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

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

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

Christianity and Transgender Inclusion

Featuring Transgender Theologian Austen Hartke

February 21-22, 2020

at First Baptist Church

1112 East Broadway, Columbia MO

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

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

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

Austen Hartke is the author of [*Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*](#), a book on theology and personal narratives published by Westminster John Knox Press in 2018. He is also the creator of the YouTube series [*Transgender and Christian*](#), which seeks to understand, interpret, and share parts of the Bible that relate to gender identity and the lives of transgender individuals.

Austen is a graduate of Luther Seminary’s Master of Arts program in Old Testament/Hebrew Bible Studies, and is the winner of the 2014 John Milton Prize in Old Testament Writing from the same institution. He has spoken at conferences all over the country, including events for The Reformation Project, Gender Spectrum, Evolving Faith, Q Christian Fellowship, the Philadelphia Transgender Health Conference, and the Why Christian Conference.

Austen is a [*2019 Bush Foundation Fellow*](#), and is currently researching the use of online ministry as support for gender-expansive Christians. As a transgender person of faith, Austen's greatest passion is helping other trans and gender-non-conforming people see themselves in scripture.



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

20/20 Vision

The Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team will be spending time in early January reflecting on 2019 giving trends and setting goals for 2020 and beyond. Among those financial goals will be marketing and growing our Designated Funds to sustainable levels, to continue the ministry of CUCC well into the future. You will be hearing more about these and other endeavors in the months to come.

But for now, mark your calendars for March 1. This Sunday will kick off our annual Stewardship Drive with a dinner after worship, a guest speaker in worship and at our after worship gathering, and a chance for you to contemplate your Stewardship goals (not just of money, but of time and talent as well) for the new year.

We are asking you to have “2020 Vision” in 2020. To do this, we are asking you to clear away the obstacles that cloud your vision of what Columbia UCC can be as a beacon for hope in the world and see clearly the vision God has in store for us. Realizing that 20/20 Vision, how can you articulate your goals to make that vision a reality?



2020 Vision: see clearly what God has in store for you and for CUCC this year. How can you help make this vision come into focus? Have a great 2020 CUCC! If you have any questions, contact George Zimny at gzimny@zealfinance.com.

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.columbiucc.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.

CUCC 2019 JOYFUL GIVING (ANNUAL FUND)

As the January 2020 Communicator is being finalized Christmas week 2019, our CUCC Joyful Giving total is cautiously optimistic! It looks like we may meet our 2019 Joyful Giving total of \$313,624; but it will be close! The books will close on 2019 giving December 31, 2019. Any last-minute donations are appreciated. If you would like to make a donation before December 31, 2019 and have questions, contact Christine Staelens, Doug Privitt or George Zimny.

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Nov. Income	\$24,168.03	\$23,833.63	\$334.30
YTD	\$267,485.08	\$278,047.08	(\$10,562.00)
Nov. Expenses	\$29,597.08	\$28,995.57	\$601.51
YTD	\$284,393.24	\$295,143.65	(\$10,750.41)
YTD Income	\$267,485.08	\$278,047.08	(\$10,562.00)
YTD Expenses	\$284,393.24	\$295,143.65	(\$10,750.41)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$16,908.16)	(\$17,096.57)	\$188.41
Nov. Attendance	504		

TREASURER'S REPORT Doug Privitt, Recording Treasurer

Date	Attendance	Actual	Budget
12/01/19	141	\$3,001.82	\$8,988.52
12/08/19	186	\$6,504.43	\$8,988.52
12/15/19	124	\$4,618.61	\$8,988.52
12/22/19	131	\$29,329.18	\$8,988.52

CUCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Did you know there is a new fund at CUCC? The Memorial Education Fund, established in 1972 by Professor H. H. Krusekopf, and contributed to over the years by many others, has been redefined as “The Columbia United Church of Christ Scholarship Fund.” (The new definition of this fund is available on request; copies are on the wooden rack by the Sanctuary doors.) With this new definition, scholarships awarded from this fund are available to all active members of the congregation who are pursuing an education beyond High School.

There is an application process and qualification criteria. Application forms are available in the church office. All applications are due by April 1, 2020 and will be considered by a team composed by the Vice Moderator, The Nurture and Education Ministry Team Chair, the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team Chair, and Pastor Rick. Awards from the fund will be disbursed after July 1 for the fall semester.

If you would like to learn more about the application process for the new Scholarship Fund, you can request a copy of the definition, criteria, and application by contacting April Rothweiler, Pastor Rick, John Graves (Moderator), James Melton (Vice-Moderator), or one of the Ministry Team Chairs listed above.

CUCC BY-LAWS

The Columbia United Church of Christ By-Laws Team has been meeting for several months to examine the Constitution and By-Laws of Columbia United Church of Christ and recommend changes or revision.

After much discussion and work, the By-Laws Team has proposed documents they will be presenting to the Church Council at their January 28 Council meeting. Pending Council approval/revision, a Congregational Meeting will be scheduled for this spring for ratification. There will be some operational changes reflected in the new documents, so several educational forums will be held the weeks prior to the proposed ratification.

For questions or comments, talk to Rev. Bryan Crousore, Chair of the By-Laws team; James Melton, Council Vice-Moderator; John Graves, Moderator, or Pastor Rick.

CUCC DESIGNATED FUNDS POLICY MANUAL

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

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

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

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

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

THE KING PHILOSOPHY

by Rev. Rick Oberle

This month we will be celebrating the birthday of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King. 51 years after his assassination, he has become a figure larger than life in many ways; inflated by some as even more of a force than he was, and deflated by others who unfairly attach falsehoods to his name and draw attention to his human challenges. But this holiday is about more than one man or his actions. At its heart, it is about the philosophy that drove Dr. King to be the world-changing servant that he was. On January 19, MLK weekend, we will be looking at The King Philosophy and the Wisdom the King Philosophy holds for such a time as this.

The King Philosophy is focused on Peace through non-violence. This philosophy states that the Triple Evils of Poverty, Racism, and Antagonism are forms of violence that exist in a vicious cycle, interrelated to each other, serving as a barrier to the dream of Beloved Community. (We will talk in more detail about these Triple Evils and what they mean in our worship service on January 19.) To work against the Triple Evils, one must develop a non-violent frame of mind, as described in King's "Six Principles of Nonviolence," and use a model for social action such as King's "Six Steps for Nonviolent Social Change."

SIX PRINCIPLES OF NONVIOLENCE;

- Nonviolence is a way of life for courageous people
- Nonviolence seeks to win friendship and understanding
- Nonviolence seeks to defeat injustice, not people
- Nonviolence maintains that suffering can educate and transform
- Nonviolence chooses love instead of hate
- Nonviolence believes that the universe is on the side of justice



What does this have to do with the Gospel? Our Gospel Lesson for that day is Matthew 4:1-11, Jesus' Temptation by the Devil. In like manner, we are all tempted by the systemic allure of the Triple Evils and how they are intertwined in our lives. Jesus' humble, nonviolent approach to resisting evil in this passage, as well as the entirety of Jesus' ministry, is embodied in the philosophy developed by Dr. King and the King Institute.

In a world full of violence, partisan bickering, polarization, and binary exclusivity, how can we embody the King Philosophy in our lives?

(Some information about the King Philosophy was gathered from data supplied by The King Institute, Atlanta Georgia. For more information go to www.thekingcenter.org)

A NEW SIGN AT CUCC!

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

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



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

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

Shoelaces, Belts, and Ponchos, Oh My!



The male clients at Turning Point, the homeless day center CUCC supports, are in need of the above three items. There are constant requests for longer shoe laces, belts of all sizes (used are just fine) and rain ponchos.

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

Room at the Inn Needs You!!

Room at the Inn provides a warm and safe place to sleep during the winter months from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. It is a volunteer ran and supported community service that literally saves the lives of people who have nowhere else to go. The shelter is set up in large church gyms on a rotating basis. You can help in many ways; with setup, intake, cleanup, by preparing and/or serving food, greeting, and interacting with the guests, etc.

Monetary donations are also appreciated. You can get more information and sign up for shifts at <https://roomattheinncomo.org/>.

Loaves N Fishes

The December 16 meal at L&F consisted of beefy noodles (made with beef leftover from the Christmas Banquet), turkey and noodles (made with turkey donated from LODO), ham sandwiches (made with ham donated from LODO), salad provided by Patty Beeson, cookies, and desserts from the Christmas Banquet.

Thanks for all of the food donations!! Servers/dishwashers were; Patty Beeson, Judi Privitt, Pastor Rick, Kim Oberle, Keith Birkes, and Anne Heine. We served approximately 100 firsts and 30 seconds and carry-outs. Thanks to everyone and hope you've had a Blessed Holiday Season!!

Food Bank News



Mark your calendars for our first Food Bank shift of 2020, which will be on January 14 at 6:00 pm at 201 Vandiver Drive. We never know what food we'll be working with, but you can count on fun, fellowship, and the satisfaction of knowing you are helping others meet their food needs. Sign up after worship or e-mail Mahree Skala at skalamahree@yahoo.com.

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

Coyote Hill Foster Care Services

STARS Foster Parent Training Classes

Saturday mornings 9-noon
beginning January 18th
OR
Monday nights 5:30-8:30pm
beginning February 3rd



Changing the
landscape of
foster care in
mid-Missouri

Coyote Hill is offering a great opportunity for anyone thinking about fostering and/or adoption. These informational classes come with no commitment beyond the time to come hear about and learn what fostering in Missouri looks like. It is never too late to invest in a young person's life!

RSVP to Aubrey Ash
(573) 228-8521
or on our Facebook Page
www.facebook.com/coyotehill/

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Children's Sunday School Offering

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

Coming Up!

January 26 is Camp Sunday! Come learn about the camping opportunities in Summer, 2020, for kids and youth of all ages. The church helps support all children and youth who attend camp. Camp is an opportunity everyone should experience during their youth.

Congratulations to our new congregation members; **Ryan Schoeneberg, Ember Piersee, and Andi Rapp;** completing their Confirmation journeys on December 1.

Mark Your Calendar!

February 2 is SOUPER Bowl Sunday. We will collect funds to support our local food bank/pantry.

Adult Bible Study

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

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

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

Come join us. We meet in the last room on the left in the Sunday School corridor each Sunday at 9 a.m. Food and drink are welcome, and so are questions, wonderments, disagreements, and agreements. We are walking with Jesus in the words of Mark's Gospel. Join us. It's fun and no homework."

Rev. Bryan Crousore, Lehrer and Dr. Rebecca Holly, Lehrerin



Children & Youth Sunday School Curriculum

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

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

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

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



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We will begin a series of viewing and discussion on historian Simon

Schama's, "The Story of the Jews," beginning the first Sunday in January.

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

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

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

COMING UP ON THE CALENDAR

- January 5- Epiphany Sunday:** We will be talking about the Magi and their Visit.
- January 12- Baked Potato & Salad Bar:** The Youth will be hosting a fundraiser for their Mission Trip this summer. Stay after worship for a Baked Potato & Salad Bar to benefit their trip. They will be going to West Lafayette, Indiana for the National Youth Event, plus mission work .
- January 16- COMO Values Diversity Breakfast:** The Inclusion Team is sponsoring a table at this annual event, celebrating Columbia's efforts toward Inclusion of all people. If you would like a place at the table, contact Alisa Lau-Sieckman. The event starts at 7:00am and features many great speakers. Please arrive by 6:45.
- January 19- Pastor Rick Leads Adult Gathering on Chiapas:** The Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team is sponsoring another trip to Chiapas this Summer, and Pastor Rick will be speaking during the Sunday School hour about his previous trips, and what to expect on this trip. All are welcome!
- January 23- Lunch Bunch:** Pastor Rick will be leading the discussion at Lunch Bunch about Chiapas and the work we are doing there. This will be different from the Sunday morning presentation, so come to both!
- January 26- Annual Congregational Meeting and Chili Cookoff:** The Annual Congregational Meeting and Chili Cookoff will be held in the Fellowship Hall right after worship. If you would like to submit your chili for the competition, sign up in the gathering space or talk to Charlie Marcks!
Inclusion Covenant Anniversary: The Inclusion Team will be leading us in observing the one-year anniversary of the ratification of our Inclusion Covenant. We will be celebrating how we have grown as a congregation in this past year and how we are living into God's call to love all people.

CUCC LUNCH BUNCH JANUARY GATHERING

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

On January 23, Pastor Rick will share about the upcoming Chiapas Mission Trip. Come join us!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

From Your Music Coordinator

Welcome to 2020! The year of perfect vision!

I won't claim that 'perfection' will be the goal this next year for the music at CUCC, but I will guarantee we will continue progress on our vision goals to extend music outside of our church community and into the world. We will continue to improve and expand the music offerings at CUCC, including more from our Young Adult Choir, young and mature interpretive dance groups, and much more. Above all I can guarantee we will continue to seek God's vision in the music and creative arts offerings here at CUCC; to show God's love to the world.



Music can change the world and it only takes one voice! Here's to 2020; a year of vision, of progress, and above all, love!

Blessings,
Kristin Veteto,
Music Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

WHERE EVERYONE KNOWS YOUR NAME

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

Were you in our 2018 directory, but would like your picture taken again? Perhaps your children are older, new babies have been born, or maybe you just would like a new family photo? Maybe you did not make it in the 2018 directory or have started attending this church since then? Now is your chance to be in our UPDATED directory!



Be included in our directory!

Lifetouch

[Photography February 21 & 22](#)

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

CUCC SERMONS ONLINE

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

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

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

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

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

HAVE YOU TOURED THE CUCC WEBSITE?

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

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

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

FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

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



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

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

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

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

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

Men’s Fellowship

Please make note of the following upcoming events as we will need help to make them successful:

- ◆ The Men’s Fellowship Breakfast will be on January 12 at 7:30 a.m. in the CUCC Fellowship Hall.
- ◆ The annual meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2020. We will plan to have our chili cookoff in conjunction with this meeting.
- ◆ The pancake breakfast, which raises money for Habitat for Humanity, is scheduled for Saturday, February 22, 2020.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule for January

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for January. 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
01/05	Carol Duermeyer Stefanie Zminy	NEED NEED	Pat Forward	Katelin Odneal	Jamie Rapp	NEED
01/12	Donna Marsh Helen Schultz	NEED NEED	Josie Arms	Katelin Odneal	Brent Marcks	NEED
01/19	Cliff & Sue Beckman	NEED NEED	Marcella Dolezal	Raelyn Zimny	Carissa Graves	NEED
01/26	John & Brenda Muench	NEED NEED	Mahree Skala	Raelyn Zimny	Matt Lucas	NEED

LODO HAPPENINGS

The staff and families of Little One's Day Out wish you all a Happy New Year! December was full of Christmas joy as we celebrated the season with Gingerbread, Christmas, and Nativity activities throughout our classrooms. Our hearts were full of love for our students and Jesus at our Christmas program on December 19. Our Lions and Leap Frogs were grateful for the opportunity to perform their portion of the Christmas program at December Lunch Bunch.

Thank you to Corinne Remeika for sharing her joy of storytelling on December 11! Our students enjoyed having a special guest reader and loved the Christmas themed books! We are always happy to have special guests come to LODO to read to our students, or share a hobby with the children. Please let me know if you are interested in scheduling a time to visit LODO!

We are looking forward to returning from Christmas Break on January 6 and jumping into learning. KidSight will visit LODO on January 15 and 16 to administer eye exams for our students. Each year KidSight has alerted parents to vision concerns so that they could seek a complete exam. It's amazing to see what a difference proper vision makes in a child's learning and behavior!

January Themes:

- * Acts of Kindness
- * Winter/Winter Animals/Hibernation
- * Author Spotlight: Mo Willems
- * Outer Space

Wishes for a wonderful New Year!
Erika Maltsbarger, Director



WHAT'S YOUR 2020 VISION WITH LODO?



Little One's Day out preschool has been a life-changing and affirming ministry of Columbia United Church of Christ for almost two decades! Over the years, they have grown and evolved to serve the Columbia community in the most effective way. They are not a separate entity, as some church preschools are; they a ministry of Columbia United Church of Christ, and as a ministry of CUCC their programming is enhanced by church volunteers sharing their gifts.

What can you do with LODO in 2020? What is your 2020 Vision for LODO? Is there a talent you can share? Do you have a passion for science, music, cooking or crafts? Do you have a talent you would be willing so share with the children in this ministry? One talent that is always appreciated is sharing the gift of books. LODO would love to have you come in and read to the students on a given day. Even 30 minutes of time once a month would be remembered and appreciated by the children.

In 2020, think about your 2020 vision for the church; and don't forget to include LODO! What is your 2020 vision for LODO? Share your vision with [Erika Maltsbarger](#) and maybe she can work you in to their schedule!

The Giving Tree

Thank you to all who adopted child or young person for Christmas through the Giving Tree. Over 200 kids and young people who are currently in or are awaiting a foster home were served through the generosity of those who gave. Those 200 individuals were able to receive not just gifts for Christmas, but also feel the love given with those gifts. Thank you for spreading the magic and joy of Christmas with others!



CUCC IS WORKING IN THE PHILIPPINES

Located in Dumaguete City, Philippines, Dumaguete Kalauman Center for Development spreads God's love through services and programs, health services and Christian Education. Known as Kalauman, meaning "from where you draw hope," it is a Child and Elder Sponsorship partner of Global Ministries. The money received by Global Ministries from sponsors is used for the children's education expenses, medical assistance, and to establish a college or trade school savings fund for each child. Kalauman also works to strengthen partnerships with nearby communities to promote opportunities for children and families to participate in their communities, and to connect parents of children at Kalauman to employment opportunities.

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

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

December 29-January 4	Judy Chan	working in Hong Kong
January 5-11	Victor Makari	working in Israel/Palestine
January 12-18	Victoria Peagler	working in Botswana
January 19-25	Ricardo Mayo	working in Guatemala
January 26-February 1	Pricilla Yang	working in Hungary



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP/NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT



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

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

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

This will be an expensive trip! We anticipate the cost to be around \$600/participant. This is more expensive than our usual mission trips, because of the NYE component. In order to defray the cost of this trip, our High School Youth will be hosting several fundraising events this year. The first one will be a Baked Potato and Salad Bar on January 12 (details below). We will also host a meal on March 15 and another event in May. Watch for more details and keep the youth of CUCC in your prayers!

BAKED POTATO AND SALAD BAR JANUARY 12- YOUTH FUNDRAISER

Stick around after worship on January 12 for a Youth Group Fundraiser meal! We will be hosting a baked potato and salad bar with all the trimmings!

We will have it all: baked potatoes with every topping you can imagine (including meat) and salad for those who are carb-conscious! You will fix your own potato and your own salad so you can make it as healthy (or not) as you wish!

This is a fundraiser for the High School Youth to attend the National Youth Event at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana this summer (see article above). Donations will be joyfully accepted! We hope to see you in and after worship that Sunday!

Looking For a Place to Serve Locally?

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

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



ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 Epiphany Sunday 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	6 6pm Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team	7 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir	8 6:30pm Chapel Ringers NO CONFIRMATION 7:30pm Celebration Singers	9 9:30am Women's Fellowship	10 	11
12 7:30am Men's Breakfast 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12pm Nurture & Ed 12pm Baked Potato Bar	13 6:30pm Music & Worship Ministry Team	14 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir 6pm Food Bank 6:30pm Inclusion Team Meeting	15 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Celebration Singers	16 7am CoMO Values Diversity Breakfast 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team	17 	18
19 New Member Sunday 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship	20 Feb Communicator articles due 10am Pastor Rick leads Worship @ the Bluffs & 11:15am Worship @ Mill Creek 4:30pm Loaves & Fishes	21 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir 6pm Finance & Stewardship Ministry	22 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Celebration Singers	23 12pm CUCC Lunch Bunch	24 	25
26 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Annual Congregation Meeting & Chili Cook-Off	27 	28 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir 6:30pm Council Meeting	29 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30pm Confirmation 7:30pm Celebration Singers	30 	31 	



THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation- ONA #1575
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Interested in Church Membership?

If so, please contact
[Rev. Rick Oberle](mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com)
for further information
rick@columbiaucc.com

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**



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

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

Columbia United Church of Christ Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant

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

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

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

