

THE COMMUNICATOR

April 2020



“Fear Not”

From the Pastor’s Keyboard

“Fear Not!” This is a familiar phrase that we hear often in the Bible. In fact, “fear not” is the number one most often repeated phrase in the entire Bible. One Biblical scholar claims that you will find this phrase 365 times in the Bible; one for each day of the year! I am not going to go thru and count for myself; I will take her at her word.

God told Abram to “fear not” when leaving his homeland behind to follow God. God told Hagar to “fear not” in Genesis 21. God told Isaac, Joseph, and Moses to “fear not” when they faced times of challenge. All throughout the Gospels angels appear to startled human beings and the first thing they say is “fear not.” Even Jesus tells us to “fear not.”

But these days, we are a very frightened people. With due reason.

We are frightened by a microscopic bug that has invaded our world and changed the very way we function as a culture. We are afraid that we are going to become ill with the Coronavirus. We are afraid for our vulnerable loved ones. We are afraid about what is going to happen to the economy. We are even afraid we might run out of toilet paper!

I know the Bible says to “fear not,” but really, a bit of fear can be healthy. Healthy fear keeps us from doing things that would hurt us; healthy fear keeps us safe. Even though the Bible tells us 365 times to “fear not,” I don’t think we are really being told to be completely void of fear. I think we are being challenged to discern the difference between healthy fear and irrational fear; between caution and hysteria. This lesson is especially important in our world today as we navigate the complexities of this coronavirus.

Healthy fear will help us observe proper social distancing and common-sense isolation protocols; an irrational fear could (and has) caused some to lash out at other people, make impractical snap decisions, unfairly judge others and hoard toilet paper (among other things). In a time such as this, it is important that we balance the healthy fear that is beneficial to survival with the unhealthy fear that causes us to lash out at others. Everyone’s nerves are frayed, social isolation is causing tensions to run high, and a loss of routine is causing unexpected grief; especially at this time of the year when we should be experiencing new life and re-Creation.

God is with us, even in such a time as this. We must be cautious and practice safe distancing protocols; but even so, we are not alone. “Fear not;” for we are never alone.

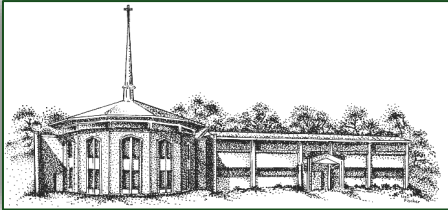
-Pastor Rick



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Events

CLEAN UP COLUMBIA HAS BEEN POSTPONED.
We will keep you updated on the rescheduling of this important event.



**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

9:00 a.m. - Coffee and Fellowship

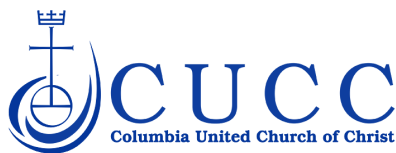
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School

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



WHAT IS LENT?

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, lasts 40 days, and ends just before Easter.
- In most Protestant traditions, Lent ends on Holy Saturday evening, but in some traditions Lent ends on Maundy Thursday evening.
- Sundays are not “included” in the 40 days of Lent.
- During Lent, we remember Jesus in special ways.
- Lent is a time to think about Jesus’ life; to think of some ways we can be more like Jesus.
- Lent is a time to give to others to remind us of what Jesus gave to us.
- Lent is a time to remember Jesus’ last week; from his Triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through his betrayal, arrest and crucifixion, through the Resurrection of Easter.
- Lent is a time to make sacrifices, to spend time reflecting on Jesus’ ministry with us and to be humble, remembering God is God and we are not.
- Lent is also a time we can take on something new, instead of sacrificing. What are some new things you can take on? Maybe more time spent in prayer, journaling or studying the Bible?
- Just as Advent prepares us for Christmas, Lent prepares us for Easter (which is April 12 this year).

Mens Slow Pitch Softball

It is time to sign up for the Men's slow pitch softball on Thursday night! The season will start in mid-April. Must be at least 16 years old. Contact Doug Privitt if you are interested in playing. privittauto@centurytel.net or 573-819-7020.

Congratulations To:

John & Mariann Bullerd
on the birth of their grandbaby,

ISAIAH THOMAS WILLIAMS

Proud Parents:

Tim & Coleen Williams

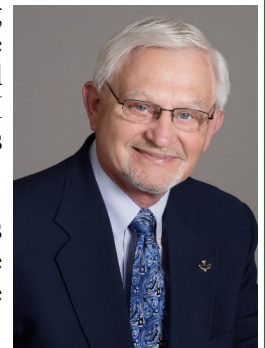
Big Sister:

Arya Williams

HAPPY RETIREMENT!

When Lloyd Viehland took a part time job in 1990 working at the church he loved, he had no idea he would work in that position for 30 years! But here it is, 30 years later and Lloyd has decided that it is time to retire. Lloyd said, “After serving 30 years in this position and having reached the big ‘80’ I feel it is time I should take some time off. I have enjoyed doing what I have contributed and greatly appreciate the support I have been given. I would say ‘thanks’ to all who supported me, as this has been my ‘personal form of ministry.’”

Lloyd’s last day of work at CUCC was March 31. We, as a congregation, thank Lloyd for all he has done over the years! He has taught us all many lessons about service and devotion. Blessings to Lloyd in his retirement!



SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MAY 17

The CUCC Church Council has called a special Congregational Meeting for May 17 after worship to propose ratification of a new Constitution and new By-Laws for Columbia United Church of Christ. After a year of deliberation among the By-Laws Revision Task Force and the Church Council, we should have proposed documents ready for the congregation by late April. These documents will be presented to the congregation in special educational forums on May 3 after worship and May 10 during the Sunday School hour. We will then ask the congregation for ratification on May 17. The meeting will be in the Sanctuary immediately after worship ends.

Some of the significant changes include:

MEMBERSHIP: We are suggesting that we define membership in the most open way possible. Membership is based on participation in worship, communion, and support of our ministry; not based on assent to a doctrine or test of faith.

PROGRAM YEAR: We are suggesting that we begin our program year in June, the Annual Meeting be moved from January to May and election of Council members will take place at that Annual Meeting in order that new officers and team leaders will be in place in time to plan for the coming year when school begins, and program activity picks up.

CHANGES TO THE COUNCIL: We are suggesting that the LODO Advisory Board and the Inclusion Team become Ministry Teams. This would give them each a seat on the Church Council.

PASTORAL CALL AND TENURE: We are suggesting an expanded section relating to the Pastor. We especially worked on how to handle the occasion when a pastoral vacancy happens.

Plan to be present on May 3 and/or May 10 to learn more about the proposed changes to our current Constitution and By-Laws. We are hopeful that the new Constitution and By-Laws will make our ministries more effective, as they provide a stronger framework for more effective ministries in the future. All documents will be available electronically after the final versions are officially approved at the April 21 Council Meeting.

EASTER WORSHIP AT CUCC AMID COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The CUCC Church Council leadership met via Zoom on March 26 and made the hard decision to extend the closure of our building until April 20. This includes the most Holy time of the year for a Christian, Holy Week: Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter.

However – Easter is not cancelled!

We will be livestreaming our worship services on Palm Sunday and Easter, as we did in March. We will have full services for both of these days. You are invited to watch, accessing the service on our CUCC Website. (You can also access it on Facebook, but the quality is not as good.) Join in starting at 10:15 a.m. and hear an extended prelude prior to the services.

Our Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services will be presented utilizing Zoom technology. This will be an interactive service, as several members of the congregation will participating from their own homes. We will have an interactive foot washing remembrance on Maundy Thursday, interactive communion, and an interactive Tenebrae on Good Friday. Pastor Rick will be sending out Zoom links on Wednesday of Holy Week (and reminders on Thursday and Friday). All you have to do is click on the link!

EASTER MAY 3

We are hopeful that we are back in our Sanctuary together, meeting face to face by May 3. With optimistic anticipation, we are planning to celebrate Easter that day! May 3 will be a fine day of Easter fun with an Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School, our traditional balloon release during worship, and an Easter service to celebrate our community, our life together, and the Good News of Jesus' resurrection.

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY AND LUNCH MAY 3

To celebrate Easter on May 3, the Membership and Care Ministry Team will be hosting a "Bring a Friend" Sunday and Lunch after worship! Plan on sticking around for lunch; and Bring a Friend! May 3 will be a joyous reunion in our Sanctuary after many weeks apart! Come, celebrate Easter with us on May 3!

(all May plans are tentative pending the state of our social isolation protocols at that point)

Dear CUCC,

Thank you so much for your generous contribution to the success of future home owners in the Habitat Program. YOU are giving families in your community the ability to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through home ownership.

We recently also received a gift from the Women's Fellowship from your church. We invited them, and will extend the same offer to the rest of your church family, to come build with us on a date that is convenient for you. We would like to say thank you and show you the tangible fruits of your financial gifts. You are making a difference!

Sincerely,
Show Me Central Habitat for Humanity

Dear Valued Turning Point Supporters,

All of us here at Turning Point, staff, volunteers, and our friends experiencing homelessness, would like to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous support. We could not continue our mission, provide services, and make continuous improvements to our organization without your support.

We have had some awesome changes happening over the course of the last year at Turning Point. We started a weekly Bible study for our friends and staff to engage in. We began sharing a movie and eating lunch together once a week, just to continue building relationship and community here at Turning Point. We are also starting a bi-weekly bingo game to provide an opportunity for friendly competition and team building among our friends.

We have continued to grow in our operations and have added a Services Coordinator and Support & Compliance Coordinator to our staff. We are so excited to continue our work with these two new staff on board.

One of our goals for 2020 is to get our own van, so we are able to assist our friends in getting to various appointments, court dates, getting to and from camps, and more.

We hope you will continue to partner with us in our mission to offer dignity and hope to our friends experiencing homelessness.

With Deep Appreciation,
Darren Morton, Managing Director



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your generous contribution to help strengthen communities worldwide.

Through your support of Church World Service, you are helping fight the connected challenges of hunger, lack of access to safe water, and improved sanitation and extreme poverty. Here's how:

- You are helping more children to reach their fifth birthday through programs focusing on food security and those providing families with additional income and better nutrition.
- For communities who lack access to safe drinking water, you are helping dig wells, build gravity-fed water systems, repair pipes, elevate hand pumps, and implement solutions using rainwater.
- You are providing educational opportunities for both children and adults, so women can start and grow businesses and children can have a bright future.

The men, women and children with whom CWS works are both strong and determined. They are building the futures they deserve, and we are proud to help them as they do. I am so moved by the determination of generous people like you, who are standing in solidarity with families in need in the United States and around the world.

May God bless you for your support,
Rev. John L. McCullough, President & CEO

Dear CUCC,

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

Sincerely,
Fun City students, staff, volunteers, and Board of Directors

Dear Friends,

As one of Global Ministries 2019 top donors, we are extremely grateful for you.

There is so much to celebrate today in global mission, and we look forward to sharing with you the hopes and joys of global partners.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, Co-Executive
Rev. Dr. Julia Brown Karimu, Co-Executive

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.



MODERATOR'S MOMENT



Greetings.

I am writing this message from my living room during a spring break that has been so different from many others. I find myself feeling grateful for the comforts of my home, family, and friends. At the same time, I thank God for these privileges in my life, and in my family, I am not quick to forget those in our community that are struggling and will struggle during the days, weeks, and maybe months of quarantine that are ahead. Please continue to pray for all our leaders and pray for all those impacted during this health crisis.

As you can imagine, we are continuing to monitor all that is happening with COVID-19; and with the city's recent announcement of a shelter in place order, we are going to go some more time without being able to worship and fellowship together. We will be keeping everyone informed with the communicator, email, and website. Make sure to check these frequently.

If you haven't recently received a phone call from a church member, you can expect one shortly. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this time. Share your thoughts and stay in touch. I know that after speaking with everyone on my list, I was uplifted and engaged to keep anyone from feeling lonely during this time. With this in mind, think of those that might not be on our lists or are friends that may not have a church home and reach out to them. Invite them to join us for virtual worship, but most importantly, keep them connected. We are all in this together.

May God's Blessings Keep You,
James Melton
Council 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 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.

CUCC AND THE CORONAVIRUS

The Columbia United Church of Christ Church Council has carefully and prayerfully considered the current social climate surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as recommendations from the CDC that public establishments model prudent social distancing for a period of time. To that end, the Council has determined to suspend all physical gatherings at our church until April 20. On or before April 20, the Council will determine how much longer social isolation protocol must continue.

Church and ministry operations will not be suspended; we will continue all our ministries, but they will be online. To stay abreast of all the new ministry opportunities we are extending in this time, be sure to frequently visit our church website: www.columbiaucc.com. That website has COVID-19 resources and materials for your edification in this time and place. Also, visit our church Facebook page, where Pastor Rick is sharing scriptural reflections each day at 10:30 a.m for the duration of our social isolation protocol.

As of the publishing of this Communicator, we are unsure of the timeline of this pandemic. We are making plans to have Easter Services in a whole new way. Innovative ideas are springing forth every day, and we will celebrate the Resurrection; although it may be in an entirely different form. Check our website daily and stay tuned to communications from CUCC to hear what is happening next!

INCLUSION TEAM

Llona Weiss, Pastor Rick, and I attended the Gateway ONA Convocation in St. Louis on March 7. There was a wonderful worship service to begin our day and several very interesting workshops to pick from. The focus ranged from: how to help youth who are struggling with identity and finding acceptance, to supporting individuals with mental health issues, to comforting and assisting LGBTQ seniors near their end-of-life journey.

The team met with Oasis this month as well. We wanted to investigate how we as UCC churches could work together in lifting up marginalized communities in our combined areas. Oasis's primary focus is the LGBTQ community as they are the only open and affirming (ONA) church within their community. CUCC has a more diverse focus. Thru discussion we decided to combine forces as a consortium to focus on the LGBTQ community.

Our goals include: contacting other ONA churches to gauge their interest, community outreach, serving as resources for mid-Missouri churches considering becoming ONA, providing educational opportunities on LGBTQ issues, and offering a progressive theological view (and being advocates) for legislative issues affecting the LGBTQ community.

This has been a very exciting month! Our team will have its regular meeting in early May.

In Peace and Joy. 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.



On behalf of the Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ, I'm writing to personally thank you for your generous support - both spiritual and financial - in 2019. Your gift has already made an impact in our efforts to co-create a Beloved community.

Your contribution makes it possible for us to meet new challenges at a time when, more than ever, we need a strong voice for inclusion and justice in Christ's church. We are proud to announce that we recognized the 1600th church certified on social media in late December. And, we know that congregations that have already taken the ONA journey need our support more than ever. Helping every church and organization live into their Open and Affirming covenant is one of the priorities we will be focusing on in 2020.

We invite you to consider becoming a sustaining donor of the Coalition - setting up a monthly or even yearly gift pledge. If that is something that interests you, you can make a pledge at <https://openandaffirming.networkforgood.com/projects/92847-sustaining-donors>.

However you choose to express your generosity in the future, we know that the United Church of Christ is a very different place because of the Coalition and because of faithful leaders like you. As we approach our 50th birthday, we continue to seek new ways to proclaim in word and action the Gospel of God's gracious and all-embracing love for humanity, for each of us. Thank you for your gifts in 2019, which are helping us move confidently into that future.

With deep gratitude,
Andrew G. Lang, Executive Director

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

FAITHFUL STEWARDSHIP AT CUCC

When I think about being a good Steward, I think of Audrey Lasley. She is passionate about CUCC and it shows in her efforts. We are fortunate to have her donate so much of her time. When I started listing the activities she accomplishes, it's even more evident that she is one to emulate.

1. Organizes, cooks, serves, and coordinates volunteers for the Loaves and Fishes each month
2. Volunteers to serve as a worship leader for Sunday Morning Worship
3. Helps teach Preschool-K Sunday School Class
4. A member of *four* or more Committees which meet monthly (I lost count!)
5. Volunteers at the Food Bank
6. Coordinates the ushers who volunteer each Sunday morning prior to worship
7. A member of the Chapel Ringers and the Celebration Singers

We appreciate all you do Audrey!

If you're interested in volunteering, please contact any Stewardship & Finance member or complete your Time and Talent sheet to indicate your interests.

In Christ,
Paula Wilson



CUCC NOW HAS ONLINE GIVING!

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

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

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Feb. Income	\$14,706.12	\$27,267.69	(\$12,561.57)
YTD	\$30,420.01	\$52,256.70	(\$21,836.69)
Feb. Expenses	\$23,362.72	\$24,213.95	(\$851.23)
YTD	\$23,362.72	\$24,213.95	(\$851.23)
YTD Income	\$30,420.01	\$52,256.70	(\$21,836.69)
YTD Expenses	\$44,927.42	\$48,366.04	(\$3,438.62)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$14,507.41)	\$3,890.66	(\$18,398.07)
Feb. Attendance	559		

TREASURER'S REPORT *Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer*

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
03/01/20	112	\$4,169.00	\$5,076.08
03/08/20	109	\$5,767.22	\$5,076.08
03/15/20	86	\$4,536.00	\$5,076.08
03/22/20	0		\$5,076.08
03/29/20	0		\$5,076.08
Total	307	\$14,472.22	\$20,304.32

As you can see by the two graphs above, Joyful Giving for 2020 has been significantly lower than budgeted. While December 2019 was the largest month for giving in the past five years, January and February 2020 have been the lowest two months for giving in the past five years. As of February 29, Joyful Giving was behind by \$21,836.69. As of March 15, we were \$758 below anticipated Joyful Giving for March. With the effects of the Coronavirus impacting our society, your church leadership is keeping a close eye on the bottom line! We are hoping for improvements in Joyful Giving in the months to come.

CUCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

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

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

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

HOLY WEEK BOOK STUDY “THE FIVE PEOPLE YOU MEET IN HEAVEN”

Though we won't be celebrating Holy Week in our usual way, we will spend time together that week in a different way— through online book study. Each day of Holy Week at noon, Pastor Rick will utilize Zoom technology to lead a Book Study on Mitch Albom's book, “The Five People You Meet in Heaven.” This book contains many lessons about relationships and how we construct a beneficial life in the midst of challenge. We will begin at noon on April 6 talking about Eddie and the first person he meets in Heaven. Purchase your book today from your favorite online bookseller, and have it delivered to your house. Start reading and be ready to talk about this great story on Monday! Pastor Rick will send out a Zoom link for the meeting.

CUCC BOOK STUDY- “TRANSFORMING”

After hearing transgender theologian Austen Hartke at First Baptist Church in February, members of Columbia United Church of Christ decided to study his book more closely! In March, we began reading “Transforming: The Bible and Transgender Christians.” We gathered each Wednesday in March around this book and the very important topic of God's Love shared with all.

We will continue our discussion on Wednesdays in April (April 1, 15, 22, & 29) gathering via Zoom at Noon each Wednesday. Our gathering always starts out with scripture, discussed through the lenses of a transgender Christian; then we proceed to discuss Austen's book. It has been a very lively discussion!

Join us each Wednesday in April! Pastor Rick will be sending out a Zoom link on Tuesday afternoons. Click on the blue link at noon on Wednesday (or a little before) and join in the conversation!

The CUCC “Recipes and Remembrances” Cookbook is now available!

The cookbook committee met many times in 2019 to collect recipes, organize, and send off design ideas for the CUCC Anniversary Edition Cookbook, “Recipes and Remembrances.” The hard-bound cookbook includes yummy recipes, stories, and remembrances, and is now 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).



Thank you to Jolene Hackman, Marianne Bullerd, Brenda Muench, and Melba Shaffer for your hard work in making this happen! Thank you to Gene and Deb Koepke for underwriting the cost of printing.

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM



April 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 soliciting volunteers and they have taken steps to enhance volunteer safety. If you are not elderly or at high risk due to a medical condition, please prayerfully consider helping out. More information is at:

<https://sharefoodbringhope.org/news/2020/3/16/how-the-food-bank-is-responding-to-covid-19>.

CUCC's next regular volunteer night is April 14, and we'll keep you informed about that when the time gets closer.

The March 10 volunteers again packaged over a ton of Cheezits! Thank you to all the helpers, including Jo Ellen and Tim Grace, Anne Heine, Connie Loveless, Lori and Addison Melton, Alice Moon, Brenda and John Muench, Melba Shaffer, Mahree Skala, Tricia Soncasie, Sadie and John Tummins.

Loaves N Fishes

The March 16 meal at L&F consisted of Mexican casserole (made from Chipotle luncheon leftovers), baked chicken, mashed potatoes, green beans, corn, and macaroni & cheese left from Youth Group luncheon, lettuce salad, and a variety of desserts.

Servers/dishwashers were Anne Heine, Keith Birkes, Patty Beeson, Jo Ellen Grace, and Mark Duncan. Approximately 80 firsts were served and 33 seconds and carry-outs. Thanks so much for everyone's help!

The Men's Fellowship will be providing the dinner options for the Loaves and Fishes meal on April 20.

The menu will be pulled pork, baked beans, chips, and cookies. Volunteers are needed to work our shift. If you are able to help, contact Brent Marcks or Audrey Lasley.

One Great Hour of Sharing

The OGHS Special Offering is an opportunity to support the many missions of the Church World Service, which supports disaster, refugee, and sustainable development ministries throughout the world. The human toll of the pandemic will be unimaginable in areas already experiencing refugee crises and disasters. If you haven't already done so, please use Kindrid to donate to this special offering. For more information see <https://www.ucc.org/oghs>.

American Red Cross Urgently Needs Blood Donors

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>. Please help save a life!

NEW PARTNERS—CUCC AND ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY

We are excited about our new partnership with Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary! De'Vion Moore is the Principal and Kyra Yung is the Assistant Principal. They have a population of about 405 students. Their vision statement includes valuing each individual student by empowering them with opportunities that ignite their interests and cultivate learning. Principal Moore is very interested in partnering with CUCC to provide service-learning opportunities.

During the month of March, CUCC members collected items for distribution in the school; but in this time of crisis, they could use more. If you would like to donate shoes and/or boots for Kindergarten through second grade students, they would love to have our donations! We will bring them to Alpha Hart as soon as normal operations resume.

As of now, plans for Carnival night are still a go! Alpha Hart will have a Carnival Night on May 8. All CUCC members are invited to volunteer to help at this Carnival Night, taking tickets and staffing the booths so parents can mingle with their children.

There are volunteer forms that need to be filled out before helping at the school; these forms can be found in the church office or online at our [CUCC website](#). This new ministry endeavor by CUCC is an exciting venture; come be part of the excitement!

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY



SAVE THE DATE to join us for a GREAT (& free!) week of FUN @ CUCC's Vacation Bible School 2020 for those ages 3-finishng 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

Children & Youth Sunday School Curriculum

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

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

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

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

During this time of isolation, this Sunday School curriculum is being emailed home each Saturday. We hope you will use it at home!

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Are you interested in learning more about the Bible? Have you wondered about the Gospels and how they came to be? Have you ever thought about attending a Bible Study but were nervous about stepping into a classroom? Well during this time of social isolation, you have the opportunity to take advantage of online Bible Study!

Utilizing Zoom technology, Rev. Bryan Crousore is hosting a Bible Study each Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. You can participate from the comfort of your own home! (And you can choose whether or not to turn on your camera!) They are currently studying the Gospel of Mark, and will concentrate on the Passion narratives in the coming weeks.

Pastor Rick sends out an email each Saturday with the Zoom link for that week's class. All you have to do is click on the link on Sunday morning and join in the class! No previous Bible experience is necessary; this class is for all who are eager to learn, or who are even just curious! Take advantage of the gift of time we have been given during this crisis, and get closer to God through God's Holy Word!

CUCC MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL ONLINE!

Middle School and High School Youth feeling socially isolated? Well, here is your opportunity for social interaction!

Lena Muench is gathering with our Middle School Youth via Zoom each Sunday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. for a Sunday School lesson and discussion!

Lauren Helmreich is gathering with our High School Youth via Zoom each Sunday from 9:00-10:00 a.m. also for a Sunday School lesson and discussion!

Pastor Rick and Lauren are gathering with High School Youth and Young Adults each Wednesday evening from 8:00-9:30 p.m. for faith formation and discussion, too.

We are sending out Zoom links to these youth each week. If you are not getting one, let us know!

Thankful for our Leaders!

As we enter our last Trimester of Sunday School for 2019-2020, please help thank the teachers and leaders of our Sunday School Classes. These wonderful leaders are:

Adult Sunday

School: Bryan Crousore, Rebecca Holley and Mark Duncan

Young Adults: Alex Oberle

Preschool/K: Paula Wilson, Audrey Lasley, Pat Forward

First—Fourth: Kim Oberle, Linda Neale, Gina Pierson, Tricia Price

Fifth—Eighth: Lena Muench, Jessica Lucas, Tracy Evans

Ninth—Twelfth: Lauren Helmreich, Kurt Heine, Kristy Odneal

CONFIRMATION 2.0

During the month of April, Pastor Rick will be teaching, "Confirmation 2.0." This class is especially designed for High School Seniors (but others are welcome, too) to reinforce what they may (or may not have) learned in Confirmation. We will meet via Zoom each Wednesday in April, from 8-9:30 p.m. (A Zoom link will be emailed on Wednesday mornings.)

All are welcome, even if you have not been confirmed! If you are interested in attending, talk to Pastor Rick!

CUCC LUNCH BUNCH APRIL 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.

We have tentatively moved the April Luncheon to April 30 in observance of the COVID-19 Quarantine. On April 30, a representative from Heifer Project will be sharing about their ministry. Bring a dish to share and join us!

Easter Bake Sale

Sunday, **May 3, 2020**
9:00 a.m. in the Gathering Area

The funds raised will go toward Camp Scholarships for our children and youth. Come browse and buy some delicious goodies!

Souper Bowl Collection

\$49.99 was collected in Sunday School offering jars for Heifer International December through February. We made our goal of collecting more than the previous trimester. Thank you to Men's Fellowship for matching this trimester's collection. Women's Fellowship will be matching our last trimester of Sunday School's offering, to be collected in March, April and May.

Annual Easter Egg Hunt

10:00 a.m. - Easter Sunday Celebration, **May 3, 2020**

Bring your Easter basket!
Thank you to Lauren Helmreich and the CUCC Youth for organizing.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

From Your Music Coordinator

"When in doubt...make music!" This is my motto lately. It is more important now than ever that we make music. Music is one of those things that stretches across language barriers and social boundaries. Our bodies are making music right now. The beat of your heart is God-breathed rhythm and your voice, melody. In this time of social distancing I encourage you to listen to music, make music, and maybe even pull out pen and paper and write music lyrics.

Listen to music when you are feeling isolated and run down. Make music with your family with the instruments you have in your home. Make instruments out of paper plates, rice, and tape, or grab out the good ole pots and pans. Open the window and listen to the song birds sing. Take time to notice the music around you. Music is a language we hear, see, and feel everyday. So take a few moments everyday to thank God for the music around you and in you.



Over the next days and weeks I will be working alongside other musicians in the church to share music inspiration each week via email and social media so stay tuned. In the meantime, take a deep breath and listen to your favorite song.

Blessings, Kristin Veteto

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

Membership and Care Announcements

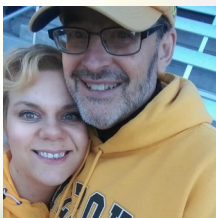
- The free 8x10 pictures from Life Touch are in (if you had your picture taken for the church directory). We'll distribute them as soon as church resumes normal services in the building.
- Please note: there will be no Yoga Sunday in April.
- CUCC will host Bring-a-Friend Sunday on May 3 with lunch afterward. Please bring a friend (or two) to enjoy our service and fellowship!
- Please help us welcome our new members:



Welcome David Meyer and Ann Stone-Meyer! They were drawn to CUCC because of Pastor Rick and his sermons. Ann grew up in Michigan, and David has lived in many places including Michigan, Colorado, Canada, Alabama, and Ohio! They have 2 daughters and a granddaughter. David is an Associate Professor of Management, and Ann is a retired special education and reading teacher and an adjunct professor. They both enjoy hiking and traveling. Doug and Judi Privitt are their new member sponsors.



Welcome Vena Long! Vena was drawn to CUCC because it affirms her understanding of the teachings of Jesus. Vena grew up in Sullivan County, Missouri. She is a retired professor of mathematics education. Vena has 2 sons and 4 grandsons. Her husband of 52 years recently passed away. Vena enjoys mathematics, reading, and travel. Vena's new member sponsor is Melba Shaffer.



Welcome Jess Wolfe and Ed Rollins! They were brought to CUCC by an invitation from Steve Keithahn and the opening, welcoming, and affirming ways of the church. Jess has lived in Minnesota, Iowa, and Missouri, and Ed is from Maryland. Jess is a teacher with Columbia Public Schools. Ed served as a long-time Associate Pastor of Music and Administration at First Baptist Church of Columbia and is the Interim Executive Director of Handbell Musicians of America. They have 4 children. They both enjoy gardening and outdoor sports and exercise. Their new member sponsor is Steve Keithahn.

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)

BRING A FRIEND TO CHURCH Day

**Sunday, May 3 will be
Bring a Friend Sunday
At CUCC!**

**Bring a Friend to Worship
And stay for Lunch!**

May 3 is going to be a great day of celebration!

We will be celebrating Easter that day, and we are inviting you to bring a Friend!

We will have an Easter Egg Hunt during Sunday School.

We will be releasing balloons in our Sanctuary during worship.

We will share communion together.

**The Membership and Care Ministry Team is putting together a lunch
after the worship service.**

**Bring a friend to church on May 3; and stay for lunch afterward!
Share the fun and fellowship of your church family at CUCC!**

(all May plans are tentative pending the state of our social isolation protocols at that point)



END OF THE SUNDAY SCHOOL YEAR ANNUAL PICNIC AND BBQ MAY 31

Our CUCC Sunday School year will end May 31, and we will have our traditional Picnic and Games! Come for Sunday School and participate in the games planned by the Nurture and Education Ministry Team; then after worship, stay for a picnic planned by our Fellowship and Hospitality Team!

***Games *Worship *Food *Fun**

We will honor our High School Seniors in Worship on May 31, also; as well as our college graduates and those who have taught Sunday School this year. This will be a fun Sunday of Celebration! Don't miss it!

(all May plans are tentative pending the state of our social isolation protocols at that point)

**Beginning June 7, Worship time changes to
9:30 a.m. for the summer**

FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY MEETING

The Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team will have their organizing meeting of the year on April 6, utilizing Zoom technology. Stefanie Zimny, the elected chair, will send a Zoom invitation a few days before the meeting. If you would like to participate, send Stefanie an email at stefanie.zimny@gmail.com. We will be making plans for the end of year picnic, as well as events this summer and fall. Come be a part of the party committee! We will have fun times together!

LODO HAPPENINGS

“Helping your preschooler during the response to COVID-19”

Limbo: An uncertain period of awaiting a decision or resolution; an intermediate state or condition.

Staff and families of Little One’s Day Out currently find ourselves in a state of limbo. We have every intention of reopening our doors to the children we love as soon as possible, but until then, we are left to wait and see how COVID-19 affects our ability to welcome families safely back into our classrooms. On day one, staff wonders what “our” children are doing, how are they feeling, what will be the long-term effects on young children’s social/emotional growth as we socially distance from others? Staff was not ready to have this time away from doing the work we love. We had many plans to help children grow, learn, and blossom. Over the next few weeks we will be readjusting our educational plans, and determining how to best help children when they return. The impact of our closure is not taken lightly by our staff that is dedicated to early education.

Many of us, as parents, are feeling overwhelmed as we become parent and educator to our children. Regardless of our children’s ages, we are placed in new territory. We will do our best to meet the needs of our children, needs that vary from child to child. During our preschool closing, children can be best supported by giving them time to move and play, learn through play, crafts, and activities, and by focusing on their emotional learning.

Acknowledging the feelings and emotions of toddlers and preschoolers is imperative to their social/emotional growth. While they may not understand the details of COVID-19 and the impacts it will have on society, they will **feel** that something is different in their lives. Young children often do not know what to do with these feelings and you might find that your child begins to show new behaviors or regress in areas of development. Many young children are unable to verbally identify their feelings, but a visual chart of emotions will allow them to point to the one that matches their feeling, which helps adults to talk further about why they feel that way and what may help them feel happy/safe/calm.

Emotions Visual Chart

https://drive.google.com/file/d/12Qlur5EnbzWOa4UB3UhX_JtWPIorNp2Z/view?usp=sharing

When faced with strong emotions/behaviors, the best thing you can do is to share **your** calm. Breathing exercises can help children and adults reach the calmness required to talk through an undesired behavior. The following are links to examples of breathing exercises used at Little One’s Day Out:

Calm Down with Take 5 Breathing

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B3ondZPpW1RRc2IzckQxclZSRzg/view?usp=sharing>

S.T.A.R/Balloon/Pretzel/Drain/Bunny Breaths

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13k9z9xj01bHoi39EicfTRbd_BPkxJFjq/view?usp=sharing

Taking the time to work through strong emotions can be challenging, even those that do it multiple times a day. Keep in mind that young children will be taking in everything around them, including how those in their lives respond to the uncertainties and challenges related to the actions necessary to minimize the spread of COVID-19. Parenting is challenging in itself, and additional stressors make it more so. Reach out to other parents, family, friends, and mental health professionals for support during this time.

Erika Maltsbarger, Director



CUCC IS WORKING IN ITALY

The Mediterranean Sea has a high death rate for migrants trying to escape hardships and threats at home by seeking a better life in Europe. Children are especially vulnerable. “Mediterranean Hope” is a refugee program of Federation of Evangelical Churches in Italy (FCEI), of which Global Ministries is a partner. Many refugees arrive at its base on Lampedusa, which is an Italian island close to the continent of Africa. Mediterranean Hope has developed a program to allow vulnerable refugees to arrive by air in Italy with visas. Once in Italy, the refugees can apply for asylum and are supported during the legal process by Mediterranean Hope. The most important goal of the project are to avoid tragedies at sea, interrupt human trafficking, grant those in vulnerable conditions legal entry, and manage immigration. Mediterranean Hope provides a measure of safety for both refugees and Italian residents.

Mediterranean Hope 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 Mediterranean Hope in your prayers!

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

April 5-11	Kaitlin Thompson	Working in the Dominican Republic
April 12-18	Tom Liddle	Working in East Timor
April 19-25	Nishan Bakalian	Working in Lebanon
April 26-May 2	Kahala Cannon	Working in eSwatini



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP/NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT



2020 NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT

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

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

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

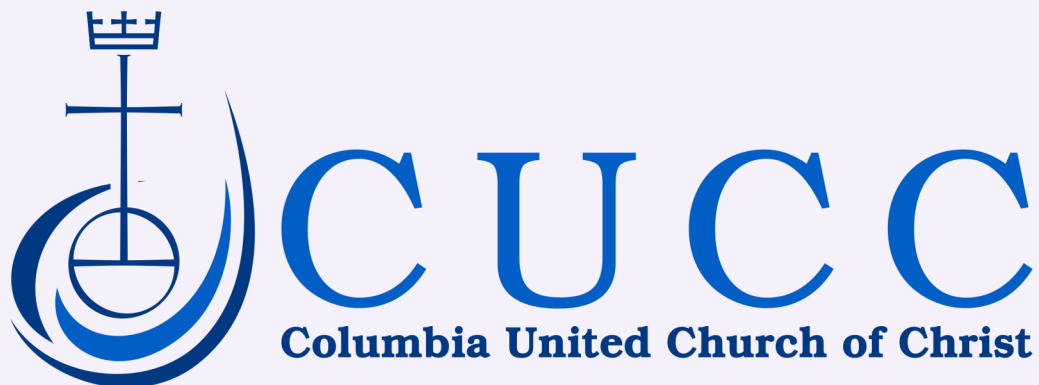
This will be an expensive trip! We anticipate the cost to be around \$600/participant. This is more expensive than our usual mission trips, because of the NYE component. In order to defray the cost of this trip, our High School Youth will be hosting several fundraising events this year. We will host a Trivia Night on May 9 to raise money for our Mission Trip. Plan now to attend! More details will follow in emails, on Facebook and in next month’s Communicator.

TRIVIA NIGHT MAY 9– YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER

We are hopeful that by May 9 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.

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



Trivia Night



Saturday, May 9

Trivia Starts at 7pm; doors open 6pm
Sponsored by the CUCC High School Youth

Tables of 8 may be purchased for \$80 (\$10/person)
by contacting Columbia UCC: 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!

(all May plans are tentative pending the state of our social isolation protocols at that point)

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN APRIL

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	LODO/CPS CLOSED UNTIL APRIL 27		1 Zoom Book Study- "Transforming" 12:00pm 6:30pm Confirmation 2020 8pm Confirmation 2.0 Both via Zoom	2	3	4
5 PALM SUNDAY 9:00am Sunday School via Zoom 10:30am Worship via live stream on CUCC Website	6 Zoom Book Study 12:00pm Music & Worship Zoom Meeting- 5:30pm Fellowship & Hospitality Zoom Meeting- 6:30pm	7 Zoom Book Study 12:00pm	8 Zoom Book Study 12:00pm 6:30pm Confirmation 2020 8pm Confirmation 2.0 Both via Zoom	9 Zoom Book Study 12:00pm 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service via Zoom	10 Zoom Book Study 12:00pm 7pm Good Friday Worship Service via Zoom	11 Zoom Book Study 12:00pm
12 EASTER 9:00am Sunday School via Zoom 10:30am Worship via live stream on CUCC Website 	13	14 Food Bank- 6:00pm	15 Zoom Book Study- "Transforming" 12:00pm 6:30pm Confirmation 2020 8pm Confirmation 2.0 Both via Zoom	16	17	18
19 9:00am Sunday School via Zoom 10:30am Worship via live stream on CUCC Website	20 May Communicator articles due Loaves and Fishes 4:30pm	21 6:30pm Council Meeting	22 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30pm Confirmation 2020 7:30pm Celebration Singers 8pm Confirmation 2.0	23 Membership & Care Ministry Team Meeting 6:30pm	24	25
26 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship (If we are not back in the Sanctuary by then, we will utilize Zoom and livestreaming) Nurture & Education- 12:00pm	27	28 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir	29 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30pm Confirmation 2020 7:30pm Celebration Singers 8pm Confirmation 2.0	30 12pm Lunch Bunch (Heifer International)		

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