



THE COMMUNICATOR

August 2020

BACK TO SCHOOL
← keep your distance →

From the Pastor's Keyboard

“How are the Children?”

There is a tribe in Africa called Masai whose traditional greeting to each other is “Casserian Engeri.” It means, “**how are the children?**” They do not ask each other, “How are you?” or “How's your day?” but rather they ask about the next generation. Rev. Traci Blackmon, Associate General Minister of the United Church of Christ, uses this standard as a guide for her ministry. “How are the children?” she frequently asks when confronted with polity or policy questions regarding the church. It is a question we should all be asking ourselves every day: “**How are the children?**”

One of the struggles of this coronavirus time is how children are disproportionately affected. Since schools closed down mid-March child abuse cases have skyrocketed, schools report a record number of students not reporting in for online classes, and as we move forward towards the new academic year, a staggering number of students have simply dropped out of sight; not enrolled for online school, in person school, or any education plans. Many students who depend on school for food and even hygiene assistance now have no place to turn; some are even showing up at homeless shelters and day programs, such as Turning Point.

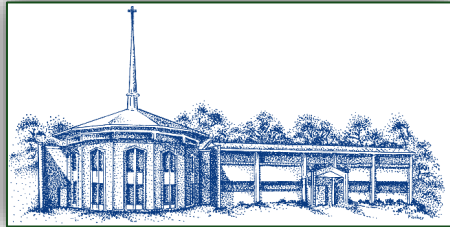
A recent NPR program devoted to this issue brought to light the many disparities of this situation, weighing the mental health and physical well being of children returning to school against the statistically unlikely occurrence of them being exposed to the coronavirus. There are many layers to this issue, but the general consensus of experts who work daily with children (at least the experts who contributed to the discussion on that particular show that day) was generally speaking, with all factors considered, children are much safer going back to school this fall in person than staying home.

The implications of this are shocking. This reveals a society so fractured that without the structure of the daily institution of school, our children (generally speaking) suffer to a degree that even possible exposure (however unlikely) to the coronavirus is preferable to staying home. How has our society devolved to this degree?

There are many disparities the coronavirus has not caused, but has revealed. This is just one of them. But this is a revelation that can be addressed and remedied, if we turn our attention to it. What measures can we implement as a society to raise the standards of living for children in our communities? How are the children, and what can we do to make their lives better? (Passage of Amendment 2 on August 4 is one step in addressing this situation, as this will help provide more healthcare options to tens of thousands of Missouri children, but this is just one step.)

“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.” -Matthew 19:14 NRSV

-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
& Ed Rollins**

Music Coordinators

Amy Crousore

Organist/Accompanist

Erika Maltsbarger

Director, Little One's Day Out

Raj Tolani

Financial Secretary

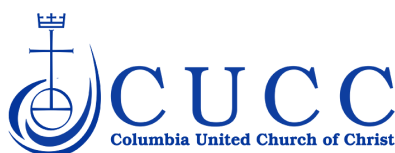
Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m.—Worship in
Sanctuary

10:30 *Worship resumes on Rally
Day, September 13*

Office Hours:

**Monday through Friday
9 a.m.- 3 p.m.**



CUCC LIVESTREAMING TO CONTINUE

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



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

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

ACADEMIC YEAR SCHEDULE TO RESUME ON RALLY DAY—SEPTEMBER 13



Rally Day will be September 13. We will welcome the new Sunday School year and new worship opportunities!

Starting September 13, our Academic Year Schedule resumes:

9:00 a.m. Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. Worship in the Sanctuary

We are planning to begin Sunday School on September 13, though we will be making some adjustments due to COVID-19.

We will begin the year with a meal after Worship on Rally Day. Stay tuned as more details are to come!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 20

We will have a Congregational Meeting on September 20 after worship to discuss ratification of the proposed new CUCC Constitution and By-Laws. If you have not had a chance to look them over, they are on our CUCC Website.

The new Constitution and By-Laws make a few substantive changes, such as emphasizing the Academic Year (September-May) as the focus of our ministry work by adjusting Council Terms to reflect this; making the Inclusion Team and the LODO Advisory Board official “ministry teams” with a seat on Council, adding some more detailed language to Pastoral Call and Tenure, and more inclusive structure to our membership process.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact [James Melton](mailto:jwmelton@gmail.com), Council Moderator at jwmelton@gmail.com!

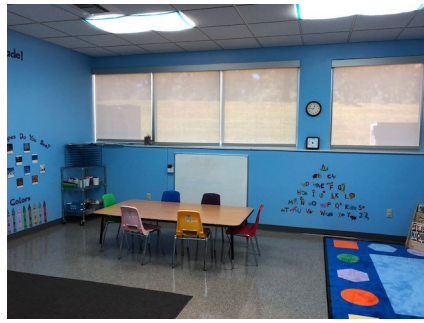
Library Renovation to a New LODO Classroom



With the exciting growth of our preschool program, Little One's Day Out (LODO), the Library has been renovated into an additional classroom.

The furniture, books and materials that were in the library have been relocated:

- The conference table and two bookcases are now located in the youth lounge, downstairs.
- The three bookcases are now located upstairs; one in the middle youth classroom and two in the adult classroom.
- The books are boxed up and stored under the stairs next to the office at this time.
- The historical information is boxed up and stored under the stairs also. The Heritage Committee will need access to this information for its committee's work.
- The chairs were donated to Turning Point.



THE CHRISTMAS FUND (FORMERLY "VETERANS OF THE CROSS")



On July 26, CUCC members were asked to donate to "The Christmas Fund," one of the four special offerings of the United Church of Christ. "The Christmas Fund" offering goes to help retired and low income clergy and other church workers in times of crisis by providing financial assistance and gift checks at Christmas. Edie Diehl offered testimony in worship that day about how, as the daughter of a pastor, she witnessed the Christmas Fund (at that time it was called "Veterans of the Cross") help her father and her family. The following is a copy of the testimony Edie offered in worship that day:

My name is Edie Diehl & clergy seems to be our "family business." My father, my uncle, my grandfather, & my niece all followed the call. When I was nine years old, my family was in an automobile accident. My father's neck and back were broken and his spinal cord severed. So, no more parsonage for us. We moved out to a place called Minister's Row in Bensenville, IL. It was a row of 7 houses, strictly for retired ministers or their widows. The rent was definitely affordable & every year at Christmas we'd get a check from the Pension Boards, Veterans of the Cross, or now "The Christmas Fund." It always made a difference in the gift department. It was a real Godsend and a very merry place to live for a 9-year old little girl. It was an excellent example of how God's love is reflected back to those who care for the flock. I always think of donating to The Christmas Fund as a tax-deductible way to send my Mom money. Thank you all for your generosity in supporting your "not-so-local" ministers!

You can still contribute to The Christmas Fund using the dropdown menu on Kindrid ("Christmas in July") or by sending a check to the church office.

Address Change: Elaine Trout
9 E. Thurman St.
Columbia, MO 65202

Email Change: Judi Privitt
judiprivitt@gmail.com

Dear Pastor Rick and CUCC,

On behalf of Voluntary Action Center (VAC), thank you so much for your generous donation to the FISH Fund. Your contribution supports vital services for many Boone County families. We are so pleased to serve with you in this good work!

VAC continues to provide services during the COVID-10 crisis, and we are determined to continue to do so as we serve many who are most vulnerable at this time. Your donation will help us continue to provide food, hygiene and household cleaning supplies, diapers, prescription co-pays, and other services at this critical time. We remain vigilant to respond in other ways as circumstances unfold.

To remain open and protect staff, services are being provided by appointment only. We continue to evaluate processes on a daily basis in order to maximize the number of households we serve each day. Thank you again for your continued support.

With hope,
Nick Foster, Executive Director

How to Help Your Child Adapt to Wearing a Mask

7 Quick Tips for Parents **BITS**

- Explain WHY**
Use easy-to-understand language and positive phrasing. For example, "Many people are sick right now. Wearing a mask will protect you from germs."
- Take a Picture**
Ask family members or friends to take pictures of themselves wearing masks. You can even arrange a virtual get together so everyone can show off their masks.
- Practice Makes Perfect**
Shape the behavior by breaking it down into smaller steps. Then practice & reinforce each step.
 1. Holding the mask.
 2. Putting it against his or her face.
 3. Securing the elastic.
- Let's Pretend**
Integrate masks into your favorite pretend play schemes. Encourage your child to dress up as a doctor, nurse, or veterinarian.
- Get Creative**
Allow your child to decorate their mask using crayons or markers. If you are planning to make a DIY cloth mask, allow him/her to pick the fabric color or pattern.
- Stuffed Animals & Dolls Need Masks Too**
Put a mask on your child's favorite stuffed animal or doll as a reminder that we are all in this together!
- Start with Familiar Clothing**
Choose clothing that your child already wears and turn it into a mask. Some ideas include: a scarf, balaclava or bandana.

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT BITSBEHAVIORAL.COM OR FOLLOW @BITSBEHAVIORAL ON SOCIAL MEDIA © 2020 BEHAVIORAL INTERVENTIONS AND SOLUTIONS, LLC KIDS WEARING MASKS CLIPART BY: BUNNY ON A CLOUD

Dear CUCC family,

Thank you to all the wonderful people who have reached out to us in the past few months while we have been grieving the loss of our beloved Nicholas.

We appreciate and love our church family at CUCC and are continually blessed by your presence in our lives.

In Christ,
Joe and Corinne Remeika

Dear friends at CUCC,

We would like to thank you for your generous gift toward our Church Support. Your commitment and support are sincerely appreciated. Donations like yours will help to make Camp MoVal a more accessible place, help economically disadvantaged youth have a camping experience, and will continue to assist Camp MoVal in providing dynamic programs in a safe, caring, and top notch facility.

Gratefully,
Jeremy N. Force,
Outdoor Ministries Director



Dear friends,

On behalf of the students and faculty of Eden Theological Seminary, it is my pleasure to acknowledge your generous gift in support of the Annual Fund.

Your congregation's support of Eden means a great deal to us. Churches are at the core of our culture and faith, and we appreciate the work you do. More than anyone, you know how important it is to prepare the next generation of ministers and leaders, so we are especially grateful for your help in maintaining Eden as an ecumenical education center for the progressive Christian movement.

Peace,
Mary Schaller Blaufuss,
VP for Advancement

TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FROM NEW FUND

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

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

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

50 for 50 FUNDS BEING SPENT

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

We have begun distributing these funds. We have given \$1,657 each to Eden Seminary, Camp MoVal, Emmaus Homes, and Every Child’s Hope. We have completed work on the Sanctuary eaves. This came in considerably UNDER budget. We spent \$7,265 on that project. We have placed a down payment of \$9,000 for our new Sanctuary audio system using 50 for 50 funds. This system will be installed in August by Nelson Audio, with Sound Booth renovations being done by PCE Inc.

At our last Council meeting, we approved a contract with Mill Creek Farms for landscaping our property. This amount came in at just over \$10,000. This work should be completed in late August or early September, in time for Rally Day. We also are soliciting bids on the Shelter House improvements.

LODO HAPPENINGS

On Thursday, July 23, LODO was able to host a modified graduation for our students entering kindergarten in the fall! Seeing the children back in the building warmed our hearts. We wish our graduates the best as they move into their kindergarten year! We were thankful to be able to offer the students a chance to celebrate.

Little One’s Day Out is ready to return to school!

Monday August 17 – Staff Planning Meeting/Staff Return to Prepare for the School Year

Thursday August 27 – 5:30-7:30pm – Back to School/Meet the Teacher Night

Monday August 31 – First Day of LODO

Space is still available in our classes for the 2020-2021 school year. Please spread the word and have interested families contact Erika Maltzbarger at LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com. Information about the program can be found on the website at www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome.

With Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltzbarger, Director



WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

FROM YOUR MUSIC COORDINATOR

Church family,

This is my last communicator article as Music Coordinator, and I simply do not know what to say. I have much brewing in my heart and yet I'm struggling to put words to all my emotions and memories. First, *THIS church is our home and YOU are our family*. When we moved to Columbia 10 years ago, almost to the day, we found a home at CUCC on our first visit. It is incredible to think back on the past 10 years and the opportunities, memories and music we have shared.

I want to echo the words I wrote in my resignation letter: "I believe with all my being in music as one of the greatest forms of worship and community." Music is simply how I know to communicate. When words fail . . . music speaks. It seems only fitting that I leave you with exactly that. This beautiful song by Kari Jobe speaks of hope, rest, joy, peace, and love. I believe this message is exactly what our world needs and is the encouragement I want to share with you as I pass the baton to the next Music Coordinator whose heart, hands, and mind are being prepared right now to do God's work at CUCC.

I've recorded and uploaded this music offering "Everyone Needs A Little" to www.columbiaucc.com/sing where I will continue to upload music as I can during this pandemic to encourage and empower our church through song. When in doubt . . . make music!

Sending hope and love to each of you, Kristin & family

THANK YOU TO KRISTIN VETETO

On August 15, Kristin Veteto's employment at CUCC as Music Coordinator will come to an end. However, Kristin is not going anywhere! She will be with us still, contributing to the worship life of this congregation in many ways, lending her musical talent to our program and enhancing our worship together; just not as a staff person.

Kristin has brought an incredible life and vitality to the music program at CUCC over the past three years, and we will be honoring her and her ministry with us later in August or early September. Watch Friday emails for more information as we put together ways to thank Kristin for her hard work and service. We offer our blessings to Kristin as she continues her ministry in different ways!



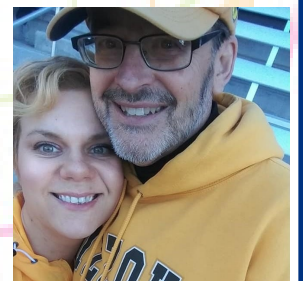
WELCOME TO ED ROLLINS, OUR NEW MUSIC COORDINATOR

On July 21, the CUCC Church Council voted unanimously to hire Edward Rollins as our new Music Coordinator!

During the search process, we received several impressive resumes and interviewed some great applicants. Of them all, Ed stood out as the one best suited for our congregation. His knowledge and expertise, as well as his years of experience, bring a host of possibilities for further developing the music ministry of CUCC. We are thrilled to have him join our staff!

Ed has a Bachelor of Science in Church Music from William Jewell College and a Master of Church Music degree from Southern Theological Seminary, with an emphasis in choral conducting. Ed has spent his professional career conducting choirs and coordinating sacred music for churches, most recently at First Baptist Church here in Columbia. At First Baptist, he coordinated all aspects of music ministry, worked with the Pastors to plan, design and implement worship services, managed the music budget, and worked with all ages of volunteers. He helped to create a scholarship program that brought college students with pre-professional abilities instrumentally and vocally to their services, and created a youth music program that provided children with the opportunity to ring bells, sing, dance, and play other musical instruments in worship. Ed has extensive experience in handbells, and is currently serving as the Interim Executive Director of the Handbell Musicians of America. Ed recently married Jess Wolfe, and they are raising four children together— Liam, Ophelia, Anya, & Odin.

Ed will begin working at CUCC on August 1, working with Kristin for a smooth transition to the fall. In this time of social isolation, it is hard to begin a new ministry position such as this, so please take extra steps to extend a special word of welcome to Ed!



VICE-MODERATOR'S MOMENT

Our church family has continued to adjust and adapt over the past month. Through this journey we are learning and growing as individuals and as a congregation. We continue to be thankful for God's guidance throughout this time as we move forward with hope and optimism for what will come.

As you know, the church has been able to offer in-person church services while following community health and safety guidelines associated with COVID-19, as well as; livestreaming of the services, accessible through the church website and Facebook. We continue to thank James Melton for his leadership in making virtual viewing an option for all of us. We are also grateful for Pastor Rick, as he finds ways to make virtual participation in Sunday services meaningful. We are fortunate to have many talented church members, who share their time and add so much to our services.



Our church council and ministry teams have been working to keep the business of the church going. Discussions have included; updates and upgrades for our security system, technology, landscaping, and more. The Nurture and Education team has been hard at work finding creative ways to move forward with Vacation Bible School, and embark on a new season of Sunday school. We are also thrilled to have found our new music coordinator, Ed Rollins, who will continue CUCC's music ministry, following Kristin Veteto's wonderful work! Of course, all discussions continue to focus on the safety and health of our church congregation as we find ways to accomplish all of this during COVID-19.

Thank you to everyone in the congregation for your flexibility and determination in maintaining the mission of our church! With your help, the church has been able to continue to be a welcoming congregation, providing opportunities to worship and grow in faith. We are so grateful for our supportive church family that allows the important work of the church to go on.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristy Odneal, Vice Moderator



CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES ON CUCC WEBSITE

During this time of isolation, there are many resources to help nurture your spiritual soul on the CUCC Website! Have you checked it out? Go to www.columbiaucc.com 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 from April and May.

CORONAVIRUS AND CUCC REOPENING UPDATE

The Coronavirus is not going away any time soon, but Boone County has done (and continues to do) an admirable job of managing the spread. Since the beginning of this pandemic, only .5% of Boone County has contracted the Coronavirus, and only 20% of those cases contracted are still active. Only 31 Boone County citizens have been hospitalized with the Coronavirus since March. Compared to other "hot spots," Boone County has done a great job of management! However, this continued success does not mean we should not be diligent and cautious in our interactions. In fact, this continued success is the result of our diligence!

In this context, CUCC has continued to maintain in-person worship with an option of online worship at the choice each congregation member. We have implemented standards to create a very safe worship space, maintaining social distancing and practicing safety protocols (including mask wearing as mandated by the Columbia City Council). This reopening has gone very well, with an average of 30 or so in person each Sunday worshipping safely. While our plan is to continue these procedures into the fall, we also will be watching the numbers closely. If virus management changes in Boone County, we will revisit our plan and adjust as necessary.

INCLUSION TEAM

RACE IN AMERICA– INCLUSION TEAM FOCUS FOR FALL 2020

What does Inclusion mean? The Merriam Webster dictionary defines inclusion as: The act or practice of including and accommodating people who have historically been excluded (because of race, gender, sexuality, or ability). In other words, inclusion means: everybody.

We live in very revealing times. The COVID-19 pandemic has brought many racial and economic inequalities to light. And, they are staggering!

The Inclusion Team will be inviting the congregation to join us in taking a deep dive into Race in America. We plan to spend several months focusing on this vital and timely subject. We intend to have guest speakers, book studies, in person and zoom programs, etc. This study will kick off in September. We look forward to exploring and learning with you.

On a different subject, it has been noted that some folks have limited computer access and therefore cannot view church services on line. We will be working with other ministry teams to rectify this issue. Please let Pastor Rick or me know if we can assist you with getting this access. We want everyone involved!

In peace,
Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Committee Chair



RACE IN AMERICA– YOUR INPUT NEEDED!

The recent events in our country in the aftermath of the injustices involving George Floyd and Breonna Taylor have brought questions about race relations to the forefront in this country. The CUCC Inclusion Team, in an effort to educate ourselves and investigate a path toward peace and equity in this time and place, will be putting together a study around Race in America for CUCC to share the next few months. As we put it together, we would like your input! What questions do you have surrounding Race in America, or what issues would you like us to consider? Do you have questions about the need for such a study, or questions about how we arrived at this particular point in time? Would you like to discuss what happened with George Floyd or others in an open dialogue? Your input matters!

If you would like to suggest possible topics for our discussion, email Alisa Lau Sieckman at alisa65010@msn.com.

CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant:

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

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



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

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

LEAD ON, CUCC!

Stewardship at CUCC is so powerful and it keeps on catching on!

I believe that Stewardship is about putting our greater mission in front of our personal desires. It's an act of pure, genuine selflessness. Without faithful stewards at CUCC we would not be the thriving, high impact, synergized, unified and giving congregation that we are. The stewardship component is our heart beat, and right now it's strong.



I commend our congregation for the many selfless stewards that lead us @ CUCC. Every 3rd Monday many of you step up to the calling to serve alongside Audrey Lasley at Loaves and Fishes. Every Sunday many of you show up hours early to fill our ears and hearts with your voices and instruments. So many of you spend countless hours every month preparing amazing meals that we are so blessed to share during special events and celebrations. I don't think that even a 1,000-page novel could capture all of the countless hours of volunteering you do in our own community and even internationally. This list could go on and on!

And then the financial aspect of stewardship. Remember 50 for 50 last year?! You exceeded the goal by about \$15,000, in just 50 days! Our children and grandchildren will be able to benefit from the enhancements we make this year from that wonderful campaign! When our Joyful Giving is below budget, You step up. When we have a congregant in need of assistance, You step up. When our building needs repairs and our operating budget is waning, You step up.

Isn't it FUN being a steward? Doesn't it feel great knowing that you are part of a huge family of selfless stewards?! **Lead on CUCC, LEAD ON!**

-George Zimny, Finance & Stewardship

CUCC HAS ONLINE GIVING!

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

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

TREASURER'S REPORT *Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer*

Financial Update			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
June Income	\$29,930.47	\$25,044.99	\$4,885.48
YTD Income	\$139,634.38	\$158,853.60	(\$19,219.22)
June Expenses	\$32,510.81	\$25,076.82	\$7,433.99
YTD Expenses	\$153,678.56	\$164,461.91	(\$10,783.99)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$14,044.18)	(\$5,608.31)	(\$8,435.87)
June Attendance	154		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
06/28/20	33	\$1,880.00	\$6,123.79
07/05/20	23	\$2,795.00	\$5,979.29
07/12/20	27	\$6,476.00	\$5,979.29
07/19/20	28	\$6,195.26	\$5,979.29
07/26/20	37	\$8,174.25	\$5,979.29
Total	148	\$25,520.51	\$30,040.95

As of June 30, we are behind by **\$18,853.32** in Joyful Giving for 2020.

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM



August Food Bank News

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

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

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

NEW PARTNERS—CUCC AND ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY

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

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

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

Loaves and Fishes Update

The July 20 meal at L&F consisted of baked spaghetti, lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson) and cookies. Thank you to Jess Wolfe for making cookies and to Jessica Jenks for making the peanut butter & jelly sandwiches ahead of time. We ran out of food, so it was a scramble in the kitchen to come up with something in the end! Because of the great help, we made it happen.

Servers were Patty Beeson, Amy Crousore, Laurie Frew, Jess Wolfe & Ed Rollins and children; Liam, Ophelia, Anya, and Odin. What a great crew we had!! Because of serving the guests outside, it is a little difficult to keep track of how many we serve, but approximately 140 servings were given out. Thanks again to everyone!!

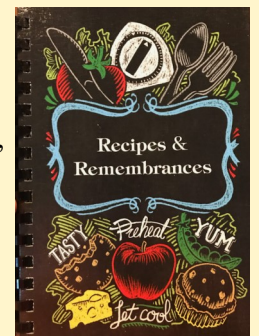
RMD HOUSE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

We are excited to welcome back meal providers to the House! Meal providers can now cook in groups of four or less in the Ronald McDonald House kitchen.

When you provide a meal, you not only nourish families, but you also give the gift of time. Time parents do not have to spend cooking or washing dishes becomes time spent with their sick child or time for rest to get ready to face another difficult day.

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

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



Forum Christian Church Hosts Farmers to Families Food Box Program—August 1 and 15

As part of the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program, Farmers to Families is a federally funded program designed to put American farmers and distributors of all sizes back to work while supporting overburdened food banks, community and faith-based organizations, and other nonprofits serving Americans in need.

From 9 a.m.-12 p.m. on Saturday, August 1 and Saturday, August 15, there will be a refrigerated truck with over 1,000 boxes of food to give away (no cost or questions asked) to any individual or family in need or want.

Join the HMUW Equity Challenge

The Heart of Missouri United Way is starting an "equity challenge," an online study process to help people deepen their understanding of racial equity issues and ways to address them.

By signing up you agree to receive a weekly email with resources to consider. "Through seven weeks of equity challenges, you will gain awareness and understanding of racism, which asserts itself in nearly all aspects of our daily lives. During the challenge you will receive an email each week with an overview of the weekly topic, a short reading, and a video that dives deeper into that subject. We encourage you to take your time with these resources, reflect on the questions, and sit with what you are learning. We encourage you to use the Challenge Activity Guide to record your thoughts and process your feelings through this journey."

Anyone may sign up at <https://www.uwheartmo.org/equity-challenge>

The challenge emails are personalized so you can sign up any time and still receive all seven of them. This is a unique opportunity to learn and grow in the privacy of your home.

Don't Forget to Vote on August 4! Medicaid Expansion is on the Ballot

The August 4 election presents a unique opportunity to vote on Medicaid expansion for Missourians. Amendment 2 would extend Medicaid healthcare coverage to around 230,000 low-income adult Missourians who do not currently qualify. Most work at low-wage jobs that do not provide health insurance, including many "essential workers."

Amendment 2 has been endorsed by a wide spectrum of partners such as Missouri Faith Voices, the League of Women Voters, AARP, health care providers, the Missouri Catholic Conference, the AFL-CIO and the Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry—over 300 in all.

Amendment 2 would:

- Allow low-income single adults and couples without dependents to qualify. For example, a single adult making less than \$18,000 per year would be eligible.
- Pull back billions in federal taxes paid by Missourians that are now going to other states' Medicaid programs.
- Put us in line with 37 other states + DC, including 6 of the 8 states bordering Missouri.
- Create 16,000 jobs and expand our economy by \$2.5 billion, according to the Chamber of Commerce.
- Save the state budget around \$100 million per year, since the federal government would pay 90% of the cost.
- Allow low-income adults to keep working and supporting themselves by giving them access to treatment for diabetes, heart disease, hypertension and other chronic conditions.

Please learn about this initiative and make an informed and prayerful decision. August 4 will be a low-turnout election so your vote counts more than ever!

Links to more information:

<https://youtu.be/TbdZCRs6iLo> (video of LWV educational program)
<https://mffh.org/news/medicaid-expansion-makes-sense-for-missouri/>
<https://mffh.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MFH-Medicaid-Expansion-FAQ.pdf>
<https://mffh.org/our-focus/makes-sense-mo/>
<https://mochamber.com/news/amendment2/>
<https://www.yeson2.org/news>
<https://www.mobudget.org/medicaid-expansion-a-good-deal-for-mo-budget/>
<https://web.mhanet.com/medicaid-expansion.aspx>

Special Mission Project Funding 2020

For the last few years the church budget has included funding for a special mission project. This year, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community, the Council has allocated the \$5,000 special mission budget to CoMoHelps. This is a joint effort of Boone County, City of Columbia, Community Foundation of Central Missouri, Heart of Missouri United Way, and Veterans United Foundation. CoMoHelps collects funds and distributes 100% of the money to local, established nonprofit agencies to help meet the surge in needs caused by the pandemic. The agencies submit grant proposals which are jointly reviewed by the five partners. For more information see <https://comohelps.org/>

Grants are going to local programs that provide food, hygiene items and cleaning supplies; housing and utility vouchers; outreach and supplies for the homeless; and safe care and food for children while their parents work. One unique program even pays farmers for pork that goes into food assistance boxes.

For a list of funded programs, see <https://www.uwheartmo.org/unity-way-covid-19-fund-grant-awards>

Many individuals and families in Boone County are needy and uncertain about their futures; many face unemployment, food insecurity and the potential loss of their housing. CUCC is proud to contribute to meeting these needs.

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM



**We Can't Wait to
"See" You!**

**Join us online for a very
special Vacation Bible
School—VBS Your Way!**

**Sun 8/2-Thurs 8/6
5:15-8:15 p.m.**

Remember, your blue bag has all you'll need to do the daily activities. The videos will be available on the Church [Website](#) so you can watch and participate whenever suits you.

CHANGE BEGINS WITH US

As parents, teachers, and important adults in the lives of young children, we have the awesome responsibility to be change makers, to debunk stereotypes and create a better future for the next generation. So, what can we do about it?

The following list was adapted from the book:
Teaching Tolerance: Raising Open-Minded Empathetic Children

- Recognize that children are not born prejudiced.
- Realize that prejudice is based on stereotypes, irrational thinking, limited experience, and modeling.
- Recognize that prejudice can be prevented and reduced.
- Eliminate stereotypical materials and images from your environment. Carefully screen books, video games, and apps before using them with children.
- Use words of caring and tolerance daily: "Please." "Thank you." "Let's cooperate." "I like you. I'm glad you're here."
- Encourage children to express their feelings.
- Expose children to human diversity. Help them recognize and celebrate human physical differences.
- Explore diversity in nature to teach that life comes in many forms, and each life is dependent on others.
- Model comfortable, respectful, empathetic interactions with people who are different than you.
- Promote positive values. Use your favorite proverbs to help children think: "You can't judge a book by its cover." "To have a friend, be a friend." "We're all in the same boat."
- Use pretend play and storytelling to encourage children to take on new perspectives: "I wonder what it would be like to live in the city." "I wonder what it would be like to live on a reservation." "What would we eat?" "What would we wear?" "What would we do?" "Who would be our friends?"
- Discuss stereotypical messages on television and billboards and in videos, books, toys, greeting cards, and holiday decorations.
- Help children recognize intolerant and unfair behavior, such as name-calling, gossip, and rejection.
- Encourage empathy for others. Ask children, "What did you do today that made someone else feel good?" "What did you do today that made someone feel bad?"

Share your appreciation of human diversity with your children.

"The function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character - that is the goal of true education."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sunday School Teachers Needed

Do you have a knack for working with young people and children? Do you enjoy telling others about God?

Nurture and Education is looking for Sunday School Teachers. If you are interested in helping out in the ministry area of CUCC, please contact [Pat Forward](#).

CUCC LUNCH BUNCH

CUCC Lunch Bunch will resume on Thursday, August 27 in the Fellowship Hall at noon with a carry-in meal. This group is open to everyone regardless of age or any other determining factor. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

Darrin Morton will be speaking about the ministry at Turning Point during this difficult time. Bring a dish to share and come join us!

Women's Fellowship Update

Women's Fellowship will reconvene on the second Thursday in September. All women are welcome to join. There is a light brunch provided on a shared rotation schedule. The next devotion study will be Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament. We hope you'll join us!

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

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

CUCC VIRTUAL CHURCH OPTIONS

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

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

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

Sunday Volunteer Schedule for August

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for August. 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
08/02	Jolene Kirchhoff	N/A	Darren Lasley	NEED	Jamie Rapp	N/A
08/09	Jessica Lucas	N/A	Jessica Lucas	NEED	Phillip Dennis	N/A
08/16	Carol Duermeyer	N/A	Matt Lucas	NEED	Doug Privitt	N/A
08/23	Audrey Lasley	N/A	Lauren Helmreich	NEED	John Graves	N/A
08/30	Jessica Lucas	N/A	Pat Forward	NEED	Pete Jaberg	N/A

CUCC IS WORKING IN FIJI

In the Pacific, ecumenism means unity among churches and unity among the people and their communities. The Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), a Global Ministries Partner, has worked to promote the role and status of women and has devoted much attention to the economic development rooted in the realities of village life. Additionally, the PCC has taken the lead in dealing with climate change and political self-determination in the region and has spoken out against deep sea mining. Among the current programs of the PCC, high priority is given to capacity building and the empowerment of young people. Bringing together the work of churches in the Pacific, the PCC aims to be a prophetic voice.

The Pacific Conference of Churches is a Global Missions Partner of Columbia United Church of Christ through Global Ministries, our shared mission agency with the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ. Global Ministries provides foundational support for this organization and support for their ongoing efforts. Please keep Global Ministries and PCC in your prayers!

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

August 2-8 Violeta Rocha Working in Nicaragua	August 9-15 Monica Liddle Working in East Timor	August 16-22 Fiona Kendall Working in Italy	August 23-29 Mark Knowles Working in Lesotho
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HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL ACTIVITIES THIS FALL

Pastor Rick, Lena Muench, and Lauren Helmreich will be working in August to put together a schedule of Middle School and High School activities for this program year. Planning during a pandemic is not easy; we are not sure what our program year will look like!

Are there activities you want to do or ideas you have for creative programming?

If so, contact Lena (Middle School) at: cfg323@yahoo.com
or Lauren (High School) at: lauren@downtownappliance.com

Looking For a Place to Serve Locally?

Did you know that African Americans are among the highest people groups trafficked in the United States? An astounding 62% of victims are African American. (<https://thevoiceofblackcincinnati.com/african-american-human-trafficking/>)



The Central Missouri STOP Human Trafficking Coalition has been serving the local and surrounding communities for over twelve years, providing assistance to victims, survivors, and their families, in many holistic ways. We want to give a voice to the voiceless and empower to the powerless. Currently, CMSHT is looking for volunteers who can give rides, deliver groceries, help at events, assist with donations, and more.

If you are between the ages of 13-18 and feel the desire to help out, we'd love to have you! If you are over 18, have a vehicle, and are willing to help with transportation, we'd love to have you! Please contact [Nanette Ward](#) at 573-289-1842 or April Rothweiler at 573-239-5777 with any questions you may have, or to volunteer.

INTRODUCING REV. DAMIEN LAKE— OUR NEW ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTER

Rev. Damien Lake was called last April by an affirmative vote at the Conference Annual Gathering, to be the Associate Conference Minister for the Missouri Mid-South Conference. Rev. Lake, who lives in Columbia, began his ministry with the Missouri Mid-South Conference July 1.

Rev. Lake wrote the following (*edited for length*) as he began his ministry in our Conference:

“I was born in a small rural farming community in the southwest corner of Michigan. I grew up with two older brothers and one younger sister. Together we spent most of our time playing games, working on cars with our father and learning to drive go-carts from our mother. I was born and raised in the United Church of Christ. I attended First Park Congregational Church in Grand Rapids, Michigan. This is the place that gave me the foundation for my strong faith and love for the church. As a young child I sang in the choir and attended Sunday School every week. As a young man growing up in church I served as an acolyte on Sunday mornings, as well as on the church Diaconate. I was very active in both the middle school and senior high youth groups at church before heading off to college.

I continued my dedication to the church and my faith throughout my college years. While attending a local community college, I fed my love for the arts and picked up a few new talents along the way, theater being one of them. After a few years I transferred to Kendall College of Art & Design where I pursued a Bachelors Degree in Interior Design. Soon after, I felt the call to pursue a Master of Divinity Degree which led me to Bangor Theological Seminary in Maine.

After some struggles with the politics of the seminary and the other students, I made the difficult decision to leave and return to Michigan to be closer to family and friends. Once back in Michigan, I returned to working on and selling cars. One of my biggest passions in life are cars; classics, antiques and muscle cars of all kinds. I enjoy fixing them, polishing the paint and restoring them back to their glory. Another one of my passions is around interior design, which led me to a career in Kitchen and Bath Design and Sales. Along this part of my journey, I met my first wife and together we celebrated the birth of our son, Caleb. While my career was stable my marriage was not and eventually I accepted that reality that my marriage was over. After my divorce I returned to my home church for strength and support. They reminded me that I was loved by God and an important part of the church.

Eventually I found a new life partner in Susanne (Sue). We brought our two families together and soon after welcomed our new child into the family, which we say is the glue that connects us. Together, Sue and I have four children, hers, mine and ours. One thing you will find out about us is that our family is the most important thing to us, getting together to talk about life and breaking bread together whenever we can. We are also a family that loves to travel. Our travels have taken us to many new places, almost all fifty states and other places like Israel, London, Paris, the Netherlands, Germany and Brussels.

After a few years together, I sensed the need to return to ministry. With the love and support of my wife I decided to finish my Master of Divinity Degree. This time I decided to stay closer to home and so I attended Chicago Theological Seminary. While in school I was given the opportunity to pastor a small rural church in the southwest corner of Michigan for four years. During my time at that church I graduated and took on a second church, yoking the two congregations. I have served three churches as a settled pastor and two congregations as an Interim Minister. I have moved from Michigan to Ohio, and from New Jersey to Northern California. I have worked with churches as a coach, helping them through the search and call process, as well as working with new church starts. I remain committed to helping churches to grow, to rethink church and to continue to focus on the Still Speaking Voice of God. I am passionate and energetic, with a strong dedication to serving God and The Church.

I believe in the importance of answering the call of God to stand up for social justice, to help those who are hurting and to Be The Church. I am passionate about equality for women, marching for Black Lives Matter and standing up against discrimination. I have been a guest speaker about recent immigration issues and traveled to Tecate, Mexico to build homes for families in need. My dedication to serving is strong and I look forward to walking along side of you in ministry together.

I am grateful to be called to the position of ACM in the MMSC. I know that together we can reimagine what church looks like. The words of author and historian, Diana Butler Bass continue to echo in my ears, “We will be like Jacob in the years ahead, walking with a limp. A limp that reminds us of our past and yet gives us hope that we can get through many of life’s struggles because of our faith in God.” May we praise God this day and everyday for the great things we have been shown and be reminded that our story is not over, it is just going in a new direction.

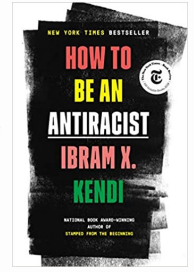
Blessings and Peace, Rev. Damien J. Lake



BOOK STUDY IN SEPTEMBER

The Inclusion Team will be hosting a Book Study in September to kick off our focus on “Race in America.” We will be studying the book, “How to be an Anti-Racist” by Ibram X. Kendi. To prepare for this study, you can order your book online and read it during the month of August. We will look at it in September; dates and times will be announced in the September Communicator. Be prepared and read ahead!

For more information, talk to Tricia Price: tricialprice@gmail.com



Preparing a New Leadership for Pastoral and Diaconal Service

Mexico

The experience of the Theological Institute Word of Wisdom

In December 2018, 12 students graduated from the Theological Institute of Wisdom Program (ITPS), which is part of the Theological Community of Mexico (CTdeM). The ITPS is an institution of Pentecostal tradition with an ecumenical approach. It is committed to contextual biblical, theological, and pastoral reflection.

The 12 graduate students of the Bachelor program began their theological training process in 2016. After four years of systematic study, effort, and commitment, the graduates were able to see their dreams realized: having the knowledge, abilities, and skills to serve their churches and communities better. These students are now leaders in their churches. Some of them serve as pastors, and others are educators in Bible schools, pastoral support promoters to families, or leaders in prison and hospital chaplain ministries.

During these two and a half years as global missions co-workers at the CTdeM, one of our responsibilities was to provide courses at ITPS. I accompanied these 12 graduate students, teaching courses in the area of methods of bible study. Also, I advised them in the elaboration of their research protocols. In the coming months, I will continue the accompaniment of the research work to culminate in the certification process.

The topics proposed in the research are within the needs of the churches presented to the students. In the subject of practical theology:

1. Develop pastoral accompaniment initiatives to families living in situations of crisis, such as violence, separation processes, unemployment, and different types of losses.
2. To guide pastoral and educational actions aimed at children, adolescents, and young people, to facilitate their holistic development with a focus on human rights.
3. From a rereading of feminist theologians, propose a methodology of biblical reading and theological work with a gender focus.

In the field of systematic theology, students propose the following topics:

1. Carry out a study of the main theological proposals of the Pentecostal movements and their relationship with the theology of the Protestant Reformation of the 16th century.
2. Resignify from the Latin American context, critical concepts of eschatology such as the Kingdom of God, the new creation, and eternal life to strengthen faith, hope, and Christian commitment.



**MISSION
CO-WORKER**

Carlos Sediles-Real
Mexico

Carlos Sediles-Real serves the Theological Community of Mexico (CTdeM). His appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, and your special gifts.

You can sign up [here](#) to become a regular supporter, or to give a one-time gift.

THE COMMUNICATOR

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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

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



Interested in Church Membership?

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

Become Part of Our Church Family

**Columbia United Church of Christ
Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant**

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

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

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