

THE COMMUNICATOR

June 2022



From the Pastor's Keyboard

“Juneteenth”

What is “Juneteenth” and why do we suddenly keep hearing about it? It seems like all of a sudden last year we started hearing about the Juneteenth holiday and now it is even listed on our calendars. What is this day?

Well, Juneteenth is nothing new. This holiday has been observed regionally since 1866. The day goes by many names, including “Jubilee Day, Emancipation Day, Black Independence Day, and Freedom Day.” The official name of this holiday is “Juneteenth National Independence Day.” On this day, we recognize and celebrate the emancipation of enslaved Americans, finally freed thru General Order #3 by Union Army General Gordon Granger. This order ended slavery in the last Confederate stronghold, the state of Texas. The issuance of this order on June 19, 1865 in Galveston, Texas was the final end to the legalized institution of slavery in the US and the final defeat for those traitors to the United States, the Confederacy.

People erroneously think that the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863 ended slavery. This proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln, did signal an end to the idea of slavery, but in many states the practice still continued. Enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation fell upon the Union Army, and it was stretched thin, fighting the forces of the traitorous Confederates. Full enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation did not happen until Juneteenth, with the issuance of General Order #3.

Beginning in 1866, freed enslaved people began celebrating the true end of slavery with Juneteenth celebrations. These celebrations were coordinated and hosted by church communities, and began in Galveston, Texas. They quickly spread across the South to other (mostly Black) communities, recognizing and celebrating their independence and the end to legal institutionalized slavery in the US. During the Great Migration, starting in 1910, many of these Southern traditions were carried to other parts of the country.

In 1980, the State of Texas issued a proclamation making Juneteenth an official state holiday. In 1981, 15 more Southern states joined in, making it a state holiday there, as well. By 2019, 47 states recognized Juneteenth in some form. After the murder of George Floyd on May 25, 2020, nine more states made Juneteenth an official state holiday. In 2021, the US Senate *unanimously* passed a resolution making Juneteenth a Federal Holiday; the same resolution passed overwhelmingly in the House of Representatives with a vote of 415-14. On June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the bill into law, making Juneteenth the first day to attain legal observance as a federal holiday since Martin Luther King Jr. Day was designated by President Ronald Reagan in 1983.

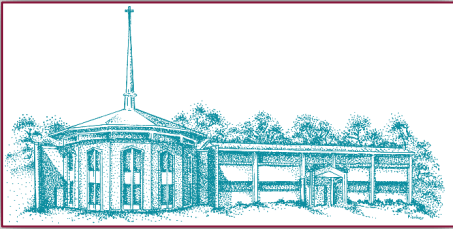
As children of Abraham, we well understand the importance of this holiday. When our ancestors were held in captivity, enslaved by the Egyptians, God brought us Salvation through the Passover event. God commanded us to celebrate this day as a perpetual ordinance, and our ancestors did so from that day on. Every year, Passover is in the same spirit as the Juneteenth celebration, so the idea of celebrating independence is nothing new to people of faith.

We certainly recognize the importance of the Passover holiday in the lives of our ancestors, in the life of Jesus and the disciples, and in the lives of the Jewish people today. The story of liberation is part of our faith heritage, both the liberation of enslaved Israelites in Egypt and the liberation of enslaved Black Americans in the US. We will recognize Juneteenth here in worship on June 19 with liberation hymns and a reflection on emancipation. There are also several Juneteenth observances in the area, in Boone and surrounding counties. There will be a Juneteenth Jamboree (with food trucks) at Cosmo Park on June 15 from 6:00-8:00pm; a Juneteenth Block Party at Douglass Park on June 19th from 12:00-2:00pm; and a parade in downtown Columbia on June 18.

We celebrate the Independence of our nation on July 4; but it took 89 years to achieve true independence. That came with the issuance of General Order #3. Celebrate true independence; celebrate Juneteenth!

-Pastor Rick





Upcoming EVENTS

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

[Brandon Brown](#)

Music Coordinator

[Amy Crousore](#)

Organist/Accompanist

[Erika Maltzberger](#)

Director, Little One's Day Out

[Rai Tolani](#)

Financial Secretary

**Summer Worship Schedule
Starts June 12**

**9:00 Fellowship Time
9:30 Worship**

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

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

**Email:
office@columbiaucc.com**

**Website:
www.columbiaucc.com**



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP—THURSDAY, JUNE 9

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, June 9, to visit the Winston Churchill Museum and historic Wren Church in Fulton. Amy Crousore will play the organ for us and lunch will be at Beck's following the tour. The cost of the guided tour is \$10/person.

We will be renting a 15-passenger van for this trip. Seats on the van are first come, first serve, so let us know if you will be riding in the van! If you plan to attend, please let [April Rothweiler](#) know. We will meet in the upper CUCC parking lot at 9 a.m. and will stop to pick up additional guests in the Mosers (900 N. Keene St.) parking lot around 9:15 a.m.

This event is *not* limited to women or the women's fellowship group, so join us and invite a friend! All are welcome!

LUNCH BUNCH SUMMER BREAK

Lunch Bunch will be on Summer Break June, July, and August. We are hoping to reconvene in September. Stay tuned for more details in the August edition of the Communicator.

First Friday Films

Join us for First Friday Family Film Night on Friday, June 3

Plan now to gather with your CUCC Family & Friends under the stars of CUCC's backyard to view the movie "Secondhand Lions" (PG) on Friday, June 3 at 8 p.m.

Comedy, action, and adventure are provided by Michael Caine, Robert Duvall, and Haley Joel Osment as they star in this whimsical and heartwarming drama about an introverted boy who comes of age when he spends the summer with two curmudgeonly uncles at their secluded Texas ranch. During the young man's stay, the quirky duo regale him with fantastic stories from their pasts. Your Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team will provide the popcorn. Bring a lawn chair and/or blanket.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATES

High School:

Josie Arms

Devin Hall

Emmanuel Kibaro

Claire Kespohl

Morgan Lavelly

Kaden Lucas

College:

Sam Duncan

Mindy Jacobs

Ally Jaberg

Connor Kespohl

Dear CUCC,

Thank you for being part of the music! Your donation is essential to bringing musicians back on stage. You make MOSY possible. Your generosity ensures the professional musicians of the **Missouri Symphony Orchestra** and the student musicians of the **Missouri Symphony Conservatory** are able to return to the stage and continue to bring symphonic music to our community.

Thank you again for your energy and passion for MOSY and for bringing symphonic music to mid-Missouri. We truly could not do what we do without you.

With a grateful heart,
Wende Wagner, Director of Philanthropy

Dear Friends,

Global Ministries thank you for your gift, which will be used in its entirety to support INESIN in Mexico. Gifts like yours support Global Ministries and global partners working together for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

Thank you for choosing to join us in this journey alongside global partners.

Blessings,
India Bobadilla
Executive for Resource Development



This August, Global Ministries will host the inaugural Mission Dash 5K event! This event will raise funds and

awareness to support the work of global partners that are addressing climate change by planting trees, installing solar panels, and training communities in sustainable agriculture. To find more information about this event [CLICK HERE](#).



Thank You



SUNDAY SCHOOL PICNIC

Come join the fun at the Sunday School Picnic on Sunday, June 5! This will be the last day for Sunday School and the last day of 10:30 worship. Starting June 12, we return to our Summer Schedule of Worship at 9:30 a.m.

In Sunday School on June 5 we will have our "VBS Preview." All of our classes will use the VBS curriculum for this summer, "Food Truck Party." Come join the fun!

In worship on June 5 we will install our new Council, recognize graduates, and award scholarship recipients for this year.

After worship, we will gather at the pavilion for our picnic! We will set up some tables and chairs, but bring your own if you can. Chicken, sides, and drinks will be provided by the Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team. We hope you will join us for this special day of fun!

Sunday, June 5th CUCC Sunday School Picnic

COME ENJOY A PICNIC LUNCH AND
GAMES AFTER A MORNING FULL OF
CELEBRATION

Directly after church at the Pavilion. **Seating will be limited so if you are able, please bring a blanket or chair. Chicken, sides and drinks will be provided.

CALL 573-864-7500
FOR MORE DETAILS



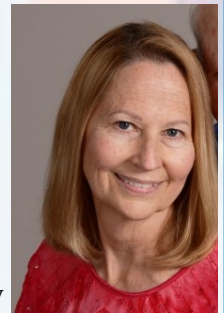
CHURCH COUNCIL

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

The Church Council met on Tuesday, May 17, 2022. Those present were Kristy Odneal, Kurt Heine, Linda Neale, Stefanie Zimny, Brent Marcks, Mike Pierson, Lorry Dreier, Tricia Price, Pastor Rick, Mark Duncan, Audrey Lasley, Alethea Tennill, and Lydia Whitacre.

- Kurt Heine led discussion on the fourth chapter of the book, "Neighborhood Church." One of the main points was to look at the church with a fresh perspective.
- Empty spots were filled for stewardship duties for June.
- Mike Pierson is meeting with Mid-MO Electric at the end of May, and the company will do the wiring for the chancel lighting the first part of June.
- Mike Pierson met with the Interior Designer, Kenna Weber, and he picked out some samples, and Kenna will bring back bigger samples to look at.
- Discussion was brought up for the need of new lights on the LODO and church signs.
- The sealing for the parking lot will be done after LODO is out for the Summer.
- We will be replacing two HVAC units in June.
- Rev. Dale Parson will be filling in as pastor during Pastor Rick's Sabbatical leave.
- Kurt Heine reported that the Nominating Committee is still searching for a Building & Grounds chairperson.
- Feedback from the congregational meeting seemed very positive, and there was lot of good conversation and questions from the members.
- A 100th anniversary team is being formed. Let a council member know if you would like to be on it.
- Alethea Tennill was approved as Secretary for Church Council.
- The Finance & Stewardship committee recommended these five people to receive scholarships: Carissa Graves, Kaden Lucas, Brandon Brown, Hayley Dennis, and Lindsey Oberle.
- The Church Council approved Darla Privitt and Susan Dunham to be on the LODO team.
- There was discussion on the new Virtual Voting Policy and whether it should be amended into the Constitution or Bylaws of CUCC.
- Kristy Odneal is working on plans for the Council Retreat.
- Pastor Rick reported that we are without a custodian and are advertising for the position.
- Pastor Rick reported that we welcome opening our church space to the community.
- We will recognize high school and college graduates on June 5.
- Some of our appliances have quit working and Downtown Appliance will be making repairs and/or replacing them.
- Ministry team reports were given and/or reviewed.
- The next Council meeting is June 21.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Lasley, Secretary



COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kristy Odneal	kristyodneal@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Secretary:	Alethea Tennill	atennill108@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Sue Ann Schaefer	ssas3307@aol.com
Recording Treasurer:	Brent Marcks	brentmarcks@hotmail.com
Building & Grounds:		
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Stefanie Zimny	stefanie.zimny@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship:	Keith Birkes	kbirkes4@gmail.com
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Tricia Price	tricialprice@gmail.com
Little One's Day Out:	Lorry Dreier	llhd01@gmail.com
Membership & Care:	Jessica Lucas	jlucas@cpsk12.org
Nurture & Education:	Lydia Whitacre	lydiaawhitacre@gmail.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music:	Mike Pierson	mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

A Diverse CUCC

Thank you for everyone's participation in our recent Annual Congregational Meeting! It was both constructive and encouraging. We approved our new council members and made a decision to continue having choir section leaders. We also heard all about the impacts we have made in God's World over the past year.

This time of transition into the new program year is a great opportunity to consider new or different ways we would all like to become involved in CUCC ministries. Please feel free to reach out to the ministry team leaders any time if you have questions or would like to join the team! We are specifically looking forward to our 100th anniversary celebrations in January of 2023. If you have ideas or would like to be part of the planning committee, please let me know or reach out to [Doug Privitt](#).

Our new Church Council will be having our annual retreat soon and will continue to meet monthly throughout the Summer. As always, if you have any thoughts, ideas or questions, please let us know! Open communication and dialogue is important to the continued health of our congregation. Each of us is a valued part of our church family. Thank you for bringing your unique gifts to CUCC.

With Gratitude,
Kristy Odneal, Moderator



Columbia UCC Sabbatical – A Time of Renewal for All

We are eight weeks away from the beginning of Pastor Rick and our church's sabbatical. It begins August 1, 2022 and continues through October 31, 2022.

The Sabbatical Team, composed of [Mike Pierson](#), [Anne Heine](#), [Judi Privitt](#), [Kristy Odneal](#), and [Pat Forward](#), meet with Pastor Rick every few weeks as we plan for this exciting event. At our last meeting on May 11, 2022, the team recommended to Church Council the hiring of Dale Parson as our Sabbatical Pastor, to serve August 1 – October 31, 2022. Dale has a strong connection to CUCC and knows many of our members from his position in the Conference from which he retired from five years ago. We are excited to have Dale accept this position.

Dale believes that the key ingredient to a Sabbatical is rest and renewal. He sees rest, play, and growth as vital to a successful sabbatical experience for both Pastor Rick and the CUCC congregation. He is excited to work with our congregation, so we see what this feels like.

The Sabbatical Team's next order of business at their June 1, 2022 meeting is:

- Have frequent discussions between Dale Parson and Pastor Rick over the next eight weeks to prepare for his sabbatical time.
- Establish the response to emergencies that could occur.
- Plan the growth and education opportunities for our congregation's sabbatical.

We will all begin our Sabbatical with a meal, hosted by the Fellowship Ministry Team, on Sunday, July 31, 2022, following worship. Please plan to be there as we say good bye to Pastor Rick for three months, and begin this exciting experience.

Please visit with the members of the Sabbatical team with your suggestions, concerns, offers of support and assistance. This will be an refreshing time for all.

Pat Forward,
Sabbatical Team Member



FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for June. We would love to see some new faces sharing their time and talents in this capacity. Part of being in the church family is often expressed by sharing the roles that make all of our members and guests feel an extravagant welcome. If you can fill a needed role now or in the future, please let one of the leaders know. We appreciate you sharing your gifts of time and talent with our CUCC family!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
06/05	Carol Duermeyer	NEED	Kaden Lucas	NEED	Ted Dachroeden Carissa Graves	Sue Ann Schaefer
06/12	NEED	Mark & Jane Duncan	Lena Muench	NEED	Mike Pierson John Graves	Audrey Lasley
06/19	Helen Schultz	Phillip & Linda Neale	Lydia Whitacre	NEED	Lorry Dreier Brent Marcks	Brent Marcks
06/26	Jessica Lucas	Dave & Pat Forward	Llona Weiss	NEED	Josh Muench	Inclusion Team

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

June Birthdays to Celebrate!

Alexander Oberle (06/01)	Elizabeth Tummons (06/02)	Jackie Arms (06/04)
Helen Keithahn (06/04)	Rick Oberle (06/05)	Mark Duncan (06/06)
Kibaro Kakozi (06/06)	Davis Erickson (06/10)	Don Helmreich (06/10)
Isis Piersee (06/10)	Mark Hall (06/11)	Emily Marcks (06/11)
John Tummons (06/11)	Garrett Walker (06/11)	David Meyer (06/14)
Mark Koepke (06/14)	Neal Sprick (06/15)	Jamie Rapp (06/17)
Josh Wedemeyer (06/17)	Riley Bach (06/19)	Corey Grace (06/20)
Raelyn Zimny (06/21)	Holly Fuller (06/21)	Lauren Helmreich (06/25)
Jonathon Fuller (06/25)	John Bullerd (06/26)	Hazel Jaberg (06/26)
Kelly Major (06/26)	Tricia Soncasie (06/27)	Matt Lucas (06/27)
	Andrew Privitt (06/29)	

Happy Anniversary to:

Rick & Kim Oberle (06/14)

Ed Rollins & Jess Wolfe (06/26)

SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT WORK

The CUCC Scholarship Fund is at work, making education possible for CUCC members! This year we are awarding five scholarships to further academic education among members of our community. \$2000 scholarships will be awarded to the following people in worship on June 5:

Brandon Brown; Hayley Dennis; Carissa Graves; Kaden Lucas; Lindsey Oberle

Our usual award amount is \$1000, but the Council invested this money with United Church Funds in 2021, and it grew very well, so we had more to award this year. We are thrilled to be able to award \$2000! This is the third year for this fund, and it is growing well. If you want to make a contribution to this fund to continue to be able to award these Scholarships, contact [Sue Ann Schaefer](#), [Brent Marcks](#), or [Keith Birkes](#)!



Join our “Food Truck Frenzy”
@ CUCC’s Vacation Bible School
for Youth Ages 3 — Finishing 5th Grade!

Dinner provided for attendees,
their families, & volunteers!

August 1, 2, & 3

5:15 - 8:15 p.m.

Available to all attendees at no charge by the
CUCC Nurture & Education Ministry Team.

Registration is open! To register go to:
www.columbiaucc.com



An Open and Affirming Congregation
3201 I-70 Drive NW, Columbia
573-445-7931
office@columbiaucc.com



LODO MINISTRY TEAM

LODO NEWS

Another school year has come and gone – with so many new friendships made and many new skills learned by our students. LODO will be closed for the summer, and we look forward to starting our 2022-2023 school year on August 29, 2022 with returning and new families.



CONGRATULATIONS Pre-K Graduates!

2022 LODO Graduates:

Everett, Max, Hale, Hannah, Daniel, Aspen,
Luke, Noah, Holly, Sawyer, and Lilly

We wish you all the best as you leave LODO and head off to kindergarten!

Our graduates were celebrated in a commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 19. We enjoyed hearing each student's answers to their graduation interviews, enjoyed a wonderful slideshow celebrating our graduates' years at LODO, and had fellowship afterwards with a cookie reception.



2022-2023 School Year

As you are out and about this summer, please help us spread the word that space still remains in our classrooms for the 2022-2023 school year! Tours can be scheduled by contacting LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com. You can also help by sharing our social media posts regarding enrollment on Facebook and Instagram.

Have a wonderful summer!
With Love and Laughter, Erika Maltsbarger, Director

LODO wrapped up another wonderful and successful year, and graduation was held on May 19. The Sanctuary was buzzing with excitement as the soon to be kindergarteners giggling, as they were dressed in their caps and gowns, were honored with a graduation ceremony. Several LODO Ministry Team members had the privilege to attend the ceremony and experience the energy and excitement the children and proud families brought to the building. Director Erika had a wonderful program with words of wisdom and descriptions of the graduates' life plans as they move on to the next chapter of their lives. We laughed and shed a few tears. It is amazing to watch how caring and dedicated Director Erika and all the staff are. A big "Thank You" to each of you! I am grateful for all that you do to make the program a success!

The LODO signs are installed. They are visible from the street and I-70, identifying another program CUCC has to offer. Check them out next Sunday on your way to worship. LODO is closed for summer break, but there are a few openings for fall classes if you or someone you know is looking for a preschool. [Contact Erika](#) for additional information.

Respectfully, Lorry Dreier

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SIGNAGE!



The new LODO signs are installed! Now people passing by on Highway 70 and the Outer Road will know we have a preschool! The new sign gives the preschool phone number, so people can call for directions, and the church sign next to it has our website information.

We also have a new sign on the building, designating where the preschool entrance is. One of the major stumbling blocks for new people entering an establishment such as a church or church preschool is finding what door to enter. We have been trying to update our signage for many years. This is part of that initiative.



Thank you to an anonymous private donor who donated half the cost of the signs and to everyone who purchased a LODO t-shirt during our fundraiser sale. These purchases helped make our new signs a reality.

INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

Happy Pride Month!!

What is the definition of the word pride? The Britannica Dictionary states: “a feeling that you respect yourself and deserve to be respected by other people.”

I love that definition. It is especially appropriate for Pride Month. Indeed, instead of “Pride Month” what about calling June “Respect Month”?

What a happy world it would be if humans would respect: different religions, different genders, different nationalities, different sexual orientations, different professions, different political views (and be able to resolve them in a respectful manner).

Also, what a happy world it would be if humans deplored cruelty, discrimination, waste, pollution, and hatred of all kinds.

But, alas, that is not the world we live in. Somewhere along the way, we have lost Mathew 7:12, “In everything do unto others as you would have them do to you; for this is the law and the prophets.”

Regarding respect; The Movement Advancement Project of 2022 created a map showing, state by state, who’s legislators are most respectful and protective of gender identity and sexual orientation. The state of Missouri ranks poorly in both categories.

It is obvious everywhere you look in the world (and in nature) that diversity is a fact. We here, at CUCC, choose to make inclusion of God’s diverse children our mode of operation – our ACT, if you will. And, we must be vigilant in our inclusivity. It is one thing to have signs and to pat ourselves on the back saying we are welcoming to all – it is another to make it known to our neighbors, co-workers, family, and friends.



Pastor Rick encouraged us, in the May Communicator, to share our services on Facebook. Let’s also challenge ourselves to invite people in our circle to visit CUCC this Pride month. We are an active, welcoming, accepting, service oriented, God loving congregation – Let’s not be the best kept secret in Columbia!

Submitted in Respect and Love,
Tricia Price, Chair; Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Member

Have you seen the new artwork in the Gathering Space at CUCC? It features our friends from Chiapas, the Mayan people of San Cristobal de las Casas. All of these pictures were taken by Pastor Rick on his Mission Immersion Trips, and feature faces from the community, the people we build relationship with when we participate in our Mission Immersion Experiences.

INCLUSIVE ARTWORK AT CUCC

In the Gathering Area Upstairs—
outside the Kitchen area

*pictures taken by Pastor Rick, arranged by
Alisa Lau-Sieckman & Meghan Lau-Sears*



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.

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Dear CUCC Community,

I am both honored and excited to serve CUCC on Church Council as the new Nurture & Education Team Chairperson!

As a relatively new CUCC member, I would like to take a moment to introduce myself and what, I hope, to bring to the team!

Originally from a small town in NE Missouri, I moved to Columbia in August of 2019 to begin my career as a high school English teacher at Higbee R-VIII High School in Higbee, MO. In addition to teaching core and elective classes there, I teach dual credit courses as an Adjunct Instructor through Moberly Area Community College—including Composition I & II, Public Speaking, and American Literature. Outside of my teaching duties, I head the Drama Department—putting on two (typically original) plays each school year.

My career in education began at Truman State University in Kirksville, MO. I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in English degree and as a Class of 2015 Valedictorian. I continued at Truman, earning a Master of Arts in Education (Secondary Education) and a Master of Arts in English (Literature). While working on my dual Masters' degrees, I taught the freshman-level composition course—Writing as Critical Thinking—for four semesters as a Graduate Teacher/Research Assistant, while teaching Verbal Reasoning for the prestigious McNair Program for two consecutive summer semesters. During this time I was awarded a Fulbright Fellowship and spent the year of 2018 teaching in the Education Department at Nelson Mandela University in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. At NMU, I had the honor of presenting research I conducted in the classroom at the Literacy Association of South Africa 2018 Conference on Literacy and Social Justice, at which I was awarded “Best First Time Presenter.” It is my hope that these past education experiences and current teaching practice will aid me in heading the Nurture & Education Team at CUCC!

Since joining CUCC in August of 2021, I have been an active member of many committees and activities—including Outreach & Advocacy, Inclusion & Affirmation, Nurture & Education, Confirmation class, Loaves & Fishes, and as a Middle School Sunday School teacher! I plan to also bring what I have learned, so far, from these involvements into my new position.



I would like to offer an honored and grateful “thank you” to you all for entrusting me with this important and special duty! I look forward to learning the ropes from the amazing members who have served in this role before me and to giving it my all this year! Please, don't hesitate to reach out to me with any advice and/or ideas!

Thank you!
Lydia Whitacre
(660) 349-0422
lydiaawhitacre@gmail.com

Sunday, June 5 will be a busy day at CUCC!

We will have a Sunday School preview for VBS in the Fellowship Hall from 9:00—10:00 a.m., with a craft, video, snack and then outside for some fun on the big inflatable slide!!

From 10:00—10:30 a.m. in the Gathering Area, we will have a reception celebrating our recent high school and college graduates.

During Worship, we will further recognize the graduates, as well as present scholarships to recipients.

Following Worship, we will have our annual CUCC Family Picnic outside at the Shelter House (weather permitting, otherwise, in the Fellowship Hall). The big slide will be set up outside by the church office entrance for children/youth (or anyone else) to enjoy!



Beginning June 6, Lydia Whitacre will be the new Nurture and Education Chair. I think she will do a wonderful job. She's enthusiastic and has lots of ideas! Please join me in welcoming her to this new position.

I would like to thank all of the teachers who dedicated themselves to teaching Sunday School this past year. Your time and talents are very much appreciated. You've made a big difference in the lives of the children/youth and adults at CUCC.

With love and peace,
Linda Neale,
Nurture & Education Ministry Team Outgoing Chair



Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. The STOP Human Trafficking Coalition of Central MO (CMSHTC) has been working in the local and surrounding communities, combatting Human Trafficking, for over thirteen years. Visit our [Facebook page](#) to see upcoming meetings, events, and volunteer opportunities.

June 4 is International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression. This very important day of observance was adopted in August of 1982, less than 30 days after my birth mother was killed by my abusive "dad," who then turned the brunt of his anger toward my sister and I. This may be a heavy testimony to read, but unfortunately this type of crime is the reality for way too many people, especially innocent children who cannot protect themselves.

Human Trafficking is a form of violent aggression against children. A trafficker targets and then abuses the child by means of physical, mental, and emotional aggression, *before* selling them for profit. Once they are repeatedly sold, they experience even more aggression, in unspeakable ways. My experiences have brought me to where I am today—to stand up for those who cannot stand up for themselves. Will you join me?

*If you would like more information about how you can volunteer with CMSHTC, please contact [us](#).
Change starts with YOU!*



WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM



The Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers are taking a much deserved break for the summer. This is your opportunity to participate in worship by singing a song or playing an instrument during the anthem time. Please consider signing up to provide music for the anthem and/or being the song leader for at least one Sunday. CUCC has been blessed with many musically talented people, and we need you to have a successful music program over the summer. To sign up, [CLICK HERE](#). If you have any questions, please contact me, [Brandon Brown](#).

Brandon Brown, M.M.
Music Coordinator

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

To get ready for this monthly stewardship note, I looked back at the monthly stewardship reports for 2022 to date. Procrastination got me through today's Annual Meeting where we reviewed the accomplishments of 2021. This congregation supports a lot of great work; some of the support is financial, and some is in our time and talents. Many thanks to everyone.



There is something very special about being part of a church family. We share members' joys. Baptism, Confirmation, and weddings are all celebrated within the church. We support members in time of sorrow and loss. This is a special place.

Please consider supporting Columbia United Church of Christ with your time, your talents, and your resources as you are able. Thank you.

Barry Kirchoff

***Christian Stewardship:** The Belief that everything we have is a gift from God; and we are just stewards of it.*
— Rev. David Lewis Beebe

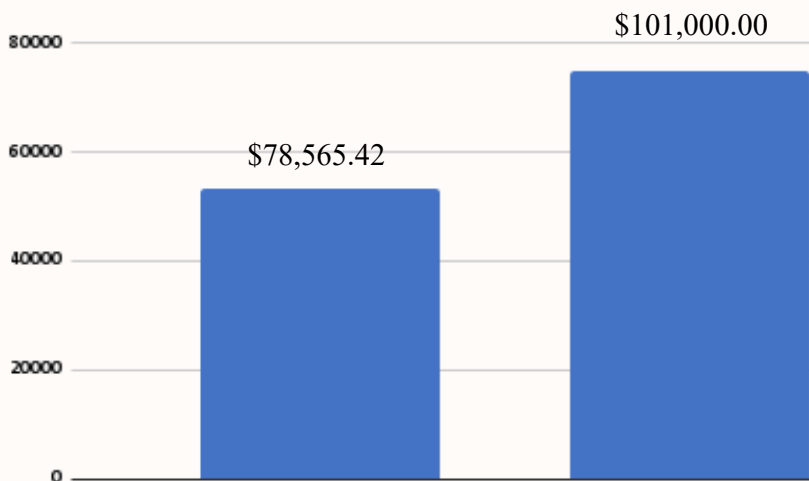
TREASURER'S REPORT — Brent Marcks

Financial Update			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Apr. Income	\$25,596.32	\$26,583.34	(\$987.02)
YTD Income	\$81,246.15	\$103,333.34	(\$22,087.19)
Apr. Expenses	\$26,794.23	\$30,368.78	(\$3,574.55)
YTD Expenses	\$113,864.51	\$124,770.12	(\$10,905.61)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$32,618.36)	(\$21,436.78)	(\$11,181.58)
Apr. Attendance	437/499		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
05/01/22	83	\$5,407.32	\$6,176.45
05/08/22	67	\$4,977.00	\$6,176.45
05/15/22	101	\$2,203.09	\$6,176.45
05/22/22	81	\$5,105.00	\$6,176.45
Total	332	\$17,692.41	\$24,705.80

As of 4/30/2021 we are **(\$22,434.58)** behind in Joyful Giving for 2022.

2022 Joyful Giving vs budget



CUCC 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 prompts to set up your one time or recurring gift.

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

Loaves & Fishes

The May 16 meal at L&F consisted of spaghetti, lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson), bread, and a variety of desserts. Brownies were made by Melba Shaffer and Mary Lorber-Solt. PBJ's were made and provided by Jessica Jenks. Servers were Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Patty Beeson, Whitney Wipfler, Lydia Whitacre, and Mary's sister, Debby. We provided approximately 147 servings. Thank you to everyone! Let [Audrey Lasley](#) know if you would like to help serve or cook.

Food Bank News

CUCC will be taking a summer break from volunteering at the Food Bank. If you feel called to continue giving your time and talents outside of our CUCC crew, please do so! We will reconvene in September, so stay tuned for the details! Thanks for being such a supportive and loving congregation!

STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH OFFERING

The special [STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH](#) offering is used in a variety of ways. During the pandemic, investments in technology allowed many UCC congregations to enhance their online worship services. In one congregation an online therapy support group with licensed professionals helped members cope with fear and isolation. And virtual check-ins discovered a person who was contemplating suicide. Support through [STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH](#) enabled multiple new and renewing churches to grow their communities through improving neighborhoods or having a presence on college campuses.

Gifts to [STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH](#) support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. This offering also helps congregations support Indigenous students. Partially funded by STC, one church enabled more than 50 Indigenous students with travel, rent, and food.

[STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH](#) also helps programs at the national setting. Conference staff, seminary presidents, deans/directors of regional theological educational programs were brought together with leaders of affiliated ministries and Committee on Ministry chairs for a multi-day training session.

These are only a few examples of how the [STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH](#) offering makes a difference. Gifts to this special offering reflect the shared commitment of people across the UCC to cooperatively build up each other. By contributing to [STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH](#) on **Pentecost Sunday, June 5**, CUCC can be a part of that cooperation and support. Giving can be done through the usual channels – by accessing Kindred Giving online, by using envelopes in the June 5 bulletin, or by mailing a check to the church office.

UCC REFUGEE ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINE

The United Church of Christ support of refugees, and currently those impacted in Europe the last few months, have raised some concern on how we can help. One way we have done this at Columbia UCC is through the [ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING](#). In addition, through our budget in Outreach and Advocacy, we made an additional contribution of \$1,300 to the UCC Refugee Assistance fund designated to Ukrainians. It is important to find organizations with a proven track record of financial management and ability to deliver aid. We have that resource serving the millions of Ukrainians who have sought refuge outside of Ukraine and others who have remained in the country but are displaced from their homes.

Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund are providing shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern, and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as citizens of more than 125 other countries living in Ukraine.

Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need. Please be sure to note "Ukraine Relief Fund" on your check in the memo section. You can also give online through the UCC Appeal: [CLICK HERE](#)

-Mark Duncan; CUCC Member, Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team



BLACK HISTORY TOUR IN ST. LOUIS

On May 7, eleven CUCC members and friends met up with Melissa Harlow, the Director of Family Ministries at Samuel United Church of Christ in St. Louis, who led us on a tour of Black History in the City of St. Louis. It was a very informative time, even for those of us who grew up in the city. We heard about Black oppression, disenfranchisement, and the continual attempt to whitewash history, denying the systemic racism that is a very real part of our past.

We rented a 15-passenger van and met at CUCC that morning. After driving in to St. Louis, we ate at Sweetie Pie's, a Black owned restaurant in the City. We had a great meal! We then drove to First Baptist Church on Bell Avenue. This is the oldest continually operating Black Church west of the Mississippi. They told us their story and showed us around the church and community.

The story of First Baptist is one of courage under fire. When they were founded, it was illegal for Black Children to receive an education in the City of St. Louis, but the church was able to teach "Sunday School." Their "Sunday School" also taught them Reading, Writing, and Arithmetic until that was banned, too. It soon became illegal for Black Children to even receive "religious education" in the city; so First Baptist Church purchased a steamboat and taught the kids on the river. Despite systemic oppression, they persevered.

We went to several other sites including three places where slave auctions used to take place regularly. One of these places is the site of Busch Stadium; another is now a Taco Bell. No signage exists to commemorate the tragedies that took place there. We also visited the birthplaces of Chuck Berry and Annie Malone, the site of the former Homer G. Phillips Hospital (the first Black Hospital in St. Louis), and the statue of Martin Luther King Jr. in Fountain Park (pictured here).



One of the most inspiring places we visited was a terminal of the underground railroad; a site on the Mississippi where Mary Meachum used to ferry slaves across the Mississippi to the free state of Illinois (site pictured here with our group posed in front of a mural commemorating the historicity of the place). This was a dangerous endeavor, and many fleeing slaves died crossing. The impact of those efforts and the oppression of those people was felt as we watched the Mississippi roar past.

This was an exciting, challenging, sad event as we remembered the past and prayed for an end to the systemic abuse that still continues today. If we forget the past or whitewash it, pretending that racist abuse was not foundational to formation of our country, we relegate ourselves to irrelevancy and ignorance. Only by truly remembering and reflecting on our past can we make a better future; and pray that racist abuse will one day end.



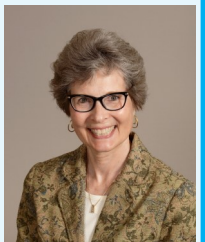
ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY—PARTNERSHIP FRIEND

Thank you to the Outreach and Advocacy Team for handwriting personal note cards of appreciation and support to all of the teachers, staff, and administration (72) at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School (AHL); and thank you to Jolene Kirchhoff and Judi Privitt for baking chocolate chip cookies to include with those cards. They were delivered to AHL on Monday, May 2, the week of Teacher Appreciation, and very much appreciated.

And a big thanks to Mahree Skala, Melba Shaffer, Jessica Jenks, Lorry Dreier, Danielle Dreier, Judi Privitt, and Pastor Rick for working with me at AHL's PTA Carnival on Saturday, May 14. It was a hot afternoon, but it appeared that the students had a great time! The PTA organized the fun, and it was great that the parents and teachers could spend time with their students.

The last day of school is May 26, so we will take a "partnership" break for the summer. Thank you for all you have done this school year for our Partner Friend and the students.

Llona C. Weiss, Liaison for CUCC to AHL-Partner Friend



WHY CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH?

by Rev. Rick Oberle

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CUCC RECEIVES THANKS FROM KENYA

Last summer, youth from CUCC purchased and decorated a Mobility Cart through [Mobility Worldwide](#) and sent it to Kenya along with 300+ other carts to be distributed to those in need. Last month, we received this picture and a thank you from the man in Kenya who received it! He expressed his thanks and joy at being able to achieve mobility.

Without our donation, this man would be burdened by his physical limitations, unable to work or sustain a living. Thanks to the efforts of CUCC and others who participated in the Craft Beer and Carts Fundraiser last July at Logboat Brewing, he is now mobile.

This year's Craft Beer and Carts Festival will be July 17, 2022, at the MU Healthcare Pavilion. Broadway Brewery will be there along with food trucks, great music, and a cart festival. CUCC has purchased a cart for this event, and will be decorating it in July. If you would like to be a part of this event or if you would like to purchase a cart yourself, talk to Outreach & Advocacy Chair [Mark Duncan](#) or [Jessica Jenks](#). Direct donations can also be sent to [Mobility Worldwide](#) to help them with their endeavors.





CUCC IS WORKING IN JAMAICA

One of the important priorities for the United Church in Jamaica and the Cayman Islands (UCJCI) is providing resources to support programs for children. For almost 100 years, the UCJCI has operated the Pringle Home for Children in Jamaica. Many Missouri UCC congregations have supported Pringle Home. Children come to the Pringle home from situations of neglect, abandonment, and abuse. The Pringle Home provides care, education, recreation, employment training, and worship for children. The Pringle Home participates in the Global Ministries Child and Elder Care Sponsorship Program, and many of its children are sponsored by Disciples and UCC members.

UCJCI 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. During the month of June, please keep Global Ministries and UCJCI in your prayers!

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

June 5-11
Phyllis Byrd
Working in Kenya

June 12-18
Bruce Hanson
Working in Honduras

June 19-25
Jeffrey Mensendiek
Working in Japan

June 26-30
Fiona Kendall
Working in Italy



CUCC IS WORKING WITH CHURCHES IN MEXICO

(condensed from www.globalministries.org)

The Theological Community of Mexico (TCM) is a Mission Partner of the United Church of Christ through Global Ministries. Cindy Moraga-Selva is our Global Ministries Missionary working with TCM on our behalf. Besides us, five Mexican seminaries and one non-profit organization participate in the Theological Community of Mexico: the Augsburg Lutheran Seminary of the Lutheran Church in Mexico, the Baptist Seminary of Mexico of the Baptist Church in Mexico, the Saint Andrew Seminary of the Anglican Church in Mexico, the Dr. Gonzalo Báez Camargo Methodist Seminary of the Methodist Church in Mexico, the Latin American School of Reformed Theology of the Presbyterian Church in Mexico, and the Mexican Association for Rural and Urban Transformation.

TCM's mission is to offer biblical, theological, pastoral, ecumenical, intercultural, and interdisciplinary formation in order to propose alternatives of action for the transformation of reality to the values of God's Reign. TCM offers diplomas (for part-term students), undergraduate and Master degrees in various areas of biblical studies, theology, pastoral care, liturgical music, and liberal arts areas.

For several decades, TCM has been committed to peace-building in several contexts in Latin America and the Caribbean. Particularly in Mexico, TCM has been an institutional factor that has accompanied processes like the peace agreements in Chiapas in 1994. In 1997, along with other non-governmental organizations, religions, and Christian churches, they founded the Movement for Peace with Justice and Dignity. In 2012, after a violent series of incidents in Mexico, TCM helped to organize an initiative called "Churches for Peace" along with other ecumenical institutions and Christian churches, raising their voices about the need to look for the disappeared, as well as the cessation of violence sponsored by organized crime.

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN **June**

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
5 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website 12pm End of Year Picnic	6 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Nurture & Education Ministry Team Meeting	7 10:30am Quilters 6:30pm Music & Worship Ministry Team Meeting	8 12pm Confirmation	9 9am Women's Fellowship Trip to Wren Church & Winston Churchill Museum	10 6:30pm First Friday Films	11
12 9:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	13 10:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm LODDO Ministry Team Meeting 6:30pm Clergy Personnel Meeting	14 10:30am Quilters	15 12pm Confirmation	16 6:30 Inclusion & Affirm. Ministry Team Meeting	17	18
19 9:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website 	20 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30 Leaves & Fishes 6:30pm Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	21 10:30am Quilters 6:30 Church Council Meeting	22 NO Confirmation	23 6:30 Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team Meeting	24	25 65th Anniversary of the United Church of Christ
26 9:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	27 NO Staff Meeting	28 10:30am Quilters 5:30pm Food Bank	29 NO Confirmation	30	1	2

THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation- ONA #1575
3201 I-70 Dr. NW
Columbia, MO 65202-3296
573-445-7931



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Interested in Church Membership? **Become Part of Our Church Family**

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

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

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

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

You are welcome here!

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

LODO PLAYGROUND RESPECT

Please help us keep our playground safe for all children by following these guidelines:

- ◆ The CUCC playground is designed for, and should be used by, *only children ages 8 and younger*.
- ◆ Adult supervision is required while children are on the playground.
- ◆ Mulch must stay on the ground. When children dig up mulch it creates holes that are tripping hazards. Children should only dig in the sandbox.
- ◆ Sand should stay in the sandbox. Please do not allow sand to be carried and dumped in the playhouse or on play structures.
- ◆ Use playground equipment in the manner it is intended.