

# THE COMMUNICATOR

May 2021



*“Justice”*

## From the Pastor’s Keyboard

April 20, 2021 was a day that will be remembered for generations to come. It was a day that the judicial system worked for those who have been historically oppressed; Derek Chauvin was convicted on two counts of murder and one count of manslaughter; and he remains imprisoned for his crimes. His sentencing will be on June 16, and could result in him serving anywhere from 12 to 40 years in jail. Was this justice?

The American justice system is based on retribution, not reform. When people commit crimes against others, including murder, as in this case, we seek not to reform the criminal, but punish them. Our judicial system is punitive against the offender, but the overall system that caused offense is forgotten. Individuals such as Derek Chauvin, witless pawns in a broken system, are punished for the sins of society that formed him. Is this justice?

While many people were crying out that “justice was served” on April 20, others, commenting on the murder conviction of Derek Chauvin, pointed out that this was not justice. Justice would be the assurance that no Black Body will be killed again simply for being Black. That did not come from this conviction. Justice was not served on April 20; for the next day another Black Body was killed simply because they were Black. What is justice?

God’s economy of justice is built on reformation, not retribution. God is interested in reform, not revenge. God’s idea of justice is to bring things into justification with one another; to bring things into alignment.

As I sit here typing this in a Word Document, I am looking at four buttons on the top of my screen: Left Justify, Center Justify, Right Justify, Text Justify. By highlighting my text and hitting these buttons, I bring the words on my page into alignment with each other. Suddenly, they are together, united, aligned; left, right, center, or full text.

This is what Justice means to God; justification. Bringing disparate things into alignment with each other. Bringing Black and White, Brown and Beige, Gay and Straight, Police officers and citizens all into alignment with each other. Wouldn’t it be great if it was as easy to do this as hitting a button on the screen? Wouldn’t it be great if it was as easy to do this as convicting one fallen police officer?

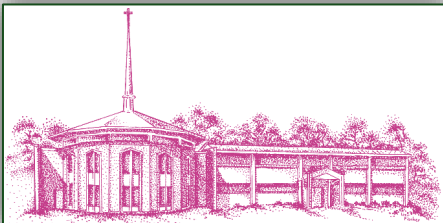
The conviction of Derek Chauvin was not justice, but perhaps it was a wake-up call to the unjust systems of oppression that operate in our police forces, our judicial system, our economic sector, our educational sector, our business sector, and our cultural life. When we, as individuals and as communities, can begin to address the policies and attitudes that cause murders such as this to take place, then maybe justice can finally be done.

There are times when people ask why we bother with our Inclusion efforts at CUCC, and why the United Church of Christ spends so much time talking about Inclusion. This is a prime example of why we do what we do. Only by talking and studying and growing as individuals and as a congregation, can we hope for society to change. Only by doing our work can we hope for God’s justification of the world to take place. By studying Inclusion, we are incarnating God’s Justice in the World!

*-Pastor Rick*

### CAMP MOVAL UPDATE:

There will be a Zoom meeting hosted by the Conference on May 22 to begin discussing the future of Camp MoVal. This is open to everyone who wishes to attend. All CUCC members are encouraged to participate in this Zoom meeting! More information will be coming in Friday emails with the Zoom link. Camp will remain closed for the duration of 2021, but we are hopeful that it will reopen stronger than ever in 2022! Your voice will make a difference in making this happen!



**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

[Ed Rollins](#)

Music Coordinator

[Amy Crousore](#)

Organist/Accompanist

[Erika Maltzberger](#)

Director, Little One's Day Out

[Raj Tolani](#)

Financial Secretary

### Sunday Worship Schedule

Sunday School  
9:00am for all ages

10:30am- Worship  
Online and in-person

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

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

**Email:**  
[office@columbiaucc.com](mailto:office@columbiaucc.com)

**Website:**  
[www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)

## May dates to remember . . .

- May 5 **Cinco de Mayo** (Celebrates the victory of the Mexican Army @ the Battle of Puebla, 1862)  
 May 9 **Mother's Day** (read about the history of Mother's Day [here](#).)  
 May 16 **Armed Forces Day** (Honor all who serve[d] in all branches of the military)  
 May 31 **Memorial Day** (honor the men and women who have died while serving in the military)



### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Women's Fellowship will gather on **Thursday, May 13 at 9:30 a.m.** in the Gathering Area upstairs.

Our time together begins with a light brunch, supplied by two of the women on a rotational basis. The food is always good! After we eat, we begin our Bible Study. The current study is based on the topic of lamentation throughout the Bible. We use a curriculum titled, "Into the Light, Finding Hope Through Prayers of Lament." After Bible Study and prayer, we have a short business meeting to plan for upcoming activities.

All women of the church are invited to join us — no matter your age or who you are! This is a great time to make new friends, to renew old acquaintances, and to reconnect with God through the scriptures. For more information, contact [Mariann Bullerd](#), [Melba Shaffer](#), or [April Rothweiler](#).

### CUCC Lunch Bunch

**CUCC Lunch Bunch will meet on Thursday, May 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.

*April Rothweiler will share about her time on the TXBR2021 — 400 mile bike ride, and the ministry called Ends Cycling.*

**All are welcome to join us.** Bring a dish to share, or a sack lunch if you wish. Wear your mask! We will practice social distancing and hygienic serving procedures. Come join the Fun!

**Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2021 – Save the Date**  
Monday-Wednesday evenings, August 2, 3, & 4, 2021. (see page 4)

### UPDATES ON CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

**May 16, 2021** — Annual Congregational Meeting hosted by the Church Council. This will be our first Annual Meeting under our new programming structure! Lunch will be served prior to the meeting.

**2021 BUDGET** — The 2021 Budget was approved unanimously at our Budget Meeting last fall. This Budget calls for a modest 5.2% increase in spending for 2021. If you would like a copy of the 2021 approved budget, contact [April](#) in the church office, and she will send you a copy. (Our fiscal year is still the calendar year; it did not change when the By-Laws changed the programming year to an academic schedule. The programming year is now June 1-May 31.)

Many thanks for all the cards, phone calls, and prayers after suffering a stroke. I am getting stronger, but still have therapy sessions to help me get back to "normal."

Dean Barry

Pastor Rick and CUCC,

I want to apologize for not sending a note sooner. This year has been quite the whirlwind, and this thank you is so delayed! We start MAP testing tomorrow and we are able to keep our iPads fully charged thanks to you. This sounds small, but it is such a huge gift to us. Your partnership has been a bigger blessing that I can express!

Thanks you,  
Kelly Isenogle and the **Alpha Hart Lewis** Team

Dear Rev. Oberle and CUCC,

The **Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri** is grateful for your support as we start our new year. Your donation will make a difference in the lives of those facing food insecurity in our community as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to make life difficult for families.

Please know that we will use your generous gift to provide food to those in need. Last year, the projected number of food-insecure Missourians increased to over one million. With your support, we can and will purchase and provide meals to families.

Gratefully,  
Lindsay Young Lopez,  
President and CEO

Dear friends and family,

As spring awakens us to renewed life, with the emergence of budding flowers and new blooms, I am reminded that life begins long before evidence of such newness is visible. Just beneath the surface seeds are sprouting roots, making ready for what shall soon appear.

In many ways your generosity through **Strengthen the Church** offerings does just this. Your generosity seeds the work and witness of the national setting. It is your faithful support in giving that gives root to the many signs of ever-emerging life that springs forth in the form of new ministries, platforms, and advocacy needed to impact the needs of our churches and communities of this present day. What a joy it is to co-labor with each of you as we work together toward a just world for all!

With deep gratitude and love,  
Rev. Traci D. Blackman,  
Associate General Minister

Dear Columbia United Church of Christ,

From the bottom of our heart, we thank you for your generous donation to **Show-Me-Central Habitat for Humanity**. In 2020, we finished our 161st home in Columbia and Habitat International has provided 5.9 million housing solutions internationally thanks to support like yours. YOU are giving a family the ability to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through home ownership.

We'd love for your congregation to come out and build with us!

Sincerely,  
Ashley Switzer,  
Director of Community Outreach

Dear friends,

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of **Eden Theological Seminary**, thank you for your gift in support of the Annual fund.

Even in the early weeks of 2021, Spring programs at Eden are demonstrating the seminary is well placed to teach and nurture vocational resilience in ministry. Together, with alumni, faculty, staff, students, and friends, we are engaged in meaningful and life changing dialogue to promote action that transforms the world. We are grateful for your support and commitment to helping train leaders who are equipped with tools necessary for God's redemptive work that is so vital to our local communities and across the globe.

In gratitude, Mary Schaller Blaufuss,  
VP for Institutional Advancement

Dear Columbia United Church of Christ Friends,

Thank you for your donation for **PATCH**, not for profit organization. Your contribution will help PATCH continue to provide parenting classes, enhanced visitation, support groups, and transportation for children and their incarcerated mothers at Chillicothe Correctional Center.

We are happy to announce that Caregiver Support Services were recently added to the list of services we are able to provide! Thank you for helping us make a difference for Missouri families.

Sincerely,  
Mary Quinn

## 2021 Graduates Sunday – June 6, 2021

All 2021 Graduates will be recognized and celebrated in worship on June 6, 2021.

Please let Pat Forward, Nurture & Education chair, know about your 2021 Graduates: high school, college, military, etc. CUCC wants to share in your families joy.

# We're Baaaaccckkk!



**SAVE THE DATE** to join us for a GREAT (& free!) 3 evenings of FUN @ CUCC's Vacation Bible School 2021 for those ages 3-finihing 8th Grade! Lots of hands on deck needed, so come volunteer! (We'll even take care of dinner for all.) **Registration for all begins June 15.**

## CHURCH COUNCIL

### CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

Secretary's Report *(from our April 20th meeting)*

The Church Council met in person at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 20. We began with a discussion of the book, Piloting the Church, by Cameron Trimble, who is a pastor, pilot, and church consultant. The book lays out a plan to “transform your leadership and get your congregation flying toward a bold new future.”

Agenda items included scheduled CUCC improvements for the safety of all, including upgrades to the church security system in late April and the repair of the shelter house floor in mid-May. In the summer we will move to a more efficient use of energy in the educational wing downstairs with the installation of new LED lighting.

The Council recommends resuming, with continuing vigilance, distribution of communion elements for those who wish to partake during the service on Pentecost, May 23. We will modify handling to keep members safe and to comply with Boone County COVID-19 guidelines.

A job description for a part-time custodian was approved and will be posted beginning in late April. This position was been vacant since Lloyd Viehland's retirement in early 2020. As we resume church activities & events in the upcoming weeks and months, this position will be increasingly important. The targeted start date is June 1.

Some new opportunities for volunteers have come up, including: training to help operate the Technology Booth during worship, planting & maintaining a garden plot, and brainstorming ideas to enrich our sanctuary visually. As we return to a new post pandemic “normal,” we encourage each member to think of ideas you have—then join one of our dynamic committees/ministry teams to transform those ideas into action. Our upcoming annual congregational meeting on Sunday, May 16, will highlight CUCC accomplishments in 2020, both in ministry and in service to the community, despite the restrictions of COVID-19.

Connie Loveless,  
Interim Secretary



### COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	James Melton	jwmelton@gmail.com
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	Kristy Odneal	kristyodneal@gmail.com
<b>Secretary:</b>	Connie Loveless	cslovelessmusic@gmail.com
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sue Ann Schaefer	ssas3307@aol.com
<b>Recording Treasurer:</b>	Brent Marcks	brentmarcks@hotmail.com
<b>Building &amp; Grounds:</b>	John Bullerd	jbullerd51@gmail.com
<b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality:</b>	Stefanie Zimny	stefanie.zimny@gmail.com
<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship:</b>	George Zimny	gzimny@pbfirm.com
<b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation:</b>	Alisa Lau-Sieckman	alisamarie65010@msn.com
<b>Little One's Day Out:</b>	Lorry Dreier	llhd01@gmail.com
<b>Membership &amp; Care:</b>	Jessica Lucas	jucas@cpsk12.org
<b>Nurture &amp; Education:</b>	Pat Forward	pdfoward@msn.com
<b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy:</b>	Mahree Skala	skalamahree@yahoo.com
<b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>	Mike Pierson	mpierson@cpsk12.org

## MODERATOR'S MOMENT

Greetings CUCC,

This will be my final Moderator's Moment. As I look back at the last 18 months, I realize how blessed I have been to serve in this role and move through our spiritual journey together. I never imagined that I would be adding crisis manager to my resume, but there it is, and despite the obstacles, we have survived, and with God's guiding hand, we are thriving. I believe we will only continue to thrive and further experience growth in the future. Pastor Rick has often shared that we will never really be post-COVID, but instead always managing the realities of COVID. We will certainly not have to work in the extreme ways that were necessary, but we will always be ready to not just react to similar crises in the future, but be ahead of the curve and fully prepared.



One of the ways I am living my faith is to become fully vaccinated. By the time you receive this and have a chance to read all that is happening around CUCC, I will have achieved complete vaccination. It has been a tremendous relief, and now I want to add my encouragement to you to do the same. Protecting each other represents an amazing act of Christian love. Share your vaccination stories, let fellow members know that if they don't feel well or suffer some minor side effects, you will be there to help and celebrate the workers and institutions making vaccination possible. I am so grateful for the work of doctors, scientists, and researchers who have made this miracle possible.

We are excited to celebrate, at our annual church meeting on May 16, the real impact we have had on the world in the last 18 months. Despite having to close the doors, we didn't close our arms but rather continued to reach out, positively impact our community, and move forward on all of our action plans. We could have chosen to wait out the crisis; instead, we lived our faith! Come to the Annual Meeting and hear our report.

I am looking forward to celebrating with you at our annual meeting on May 16. While I will no longer be moderator after our last council meeting on May 18, I am looking forward to continuing life and worship with all of you.

Many Blessings,  
James Melton,  
CUCC Church Council Moderator

Way to go CUCC for being voted one of the Volunteers of the Month for April during the Cleanup Columbia Event!! (*can be seen in City Source @ CoMo.gov*)

### TRANSPORTATION FUND ESTABLISHED, READY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

We have several church members with transportation challenges, especially our homebound members. Our new van, donated by the Gregory Family, will be used to help address these challenges, utilizing the resources of this fund. We can also use this fund to purchase another vehicle when the time comes, to rent other vehicles on occasion, or to come up with some other creative option to provide transportation options to care for our members. This fund could also be used for short term rental goals to transport members to and from church or for special church trips or other special projects identified and authorized by the Church Council.

The Membership & Care Ministry Team, over the next few months, will be coming up with a usage plan and schedule for utilizing this new vehicle. Also, the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team will be working with them to develop a growth plan for the Transportation Fund. Watch this space for more information!

For years, some in the congregation have lamented our inability to provide transportation options to our homebound members, youth, fellowship groups, and others. Their dreams for equity are becoming a reality! To contribute to this fund, check with [Sue Ann Shaefer](#), [Brent Mareks](#), [George Zimny](#), or another member of the Church Council. And thank you again to the Gregory Family for their donation!

# LODO MINISTRY TEAM

## LODO NEWS

LODO students are so happy that spring weather has arrived and that we are outside playing on the playground! Sunny days are meant for play!

After returning from Spring Break, our students enjoyed Easter celebrations and a small egg hunt on April 5 and 6. Children enjoyed learning about the Resurrection and growing their love for Jesus. I love that our most requested song at LODO is “Jesus Loves Me.”

KidSight visited LODO on April 14 and 15 to administer vision screenings. We are so grateful for this FREE service! KidSight is always in need of volunteers to administer vision screenings and is able to provide their service for free through grants and donations. You can find more information on the program at <https://kid-sight.org>.

In May we will wrap up our 2020-2021 school year! May also brings Teacher Appreciation week May 3-7. Our Teacher Appreciation Planning Committee has planned a wonderful week with a theme of “Nacho Average Teacher.” Our outstanding LODO staff will be celebrated with lunch, breakfast, and other treats throughout the week!

With Love, Erika Maltsbarger



Little One's Day Out Upcoming Events	
<b>May 3-7</b> Teacher Appreciation “Nacho Average Teacher”	<b>May 21</b> Last Day of 2020/2021 School Year
<b>May 20</b> Pre-K Graduation, 6:30 p.m.	<b>August 30</b> First Day of 2021/2022 School Year

**May Learning Themes**

5/3-5/7  
Mother's Day

5/10-5/14  
Science/Sensory Week

4/17-5/21  
Teacher's Choice

The LODO Ministry Team continues to support Director Erika, the teachers, and children in their daily routines learning about various themes the staff works on each week. The Ministry Team works behind the scenes to support the program and provide guidance and oversight. The pandemic has been a challenge this last year, but the program has adapted and is experiencing an increase in enrollment. The school year is coming to a close, and Pre- K Graduation is May 20, 2021.

Member Kurt Heine has taken the lead in developing Columbia UCC's Strategic Plan goal of establishing gardens for outdoor education. He has a vision to build a garden for interacting with the LODO children, youth groups, congregation, and community for continued learning and fellowship. Kurt has developed a vision of the garden, and a \$500 grant from Scotts GrowMoreGood Grassroots program has been secured. There is still much to do to developing an action plan to bring this vision/goal to fulfillment. We need to develop how to construct and maintain our garden so that it beautifies and educates. I am reaching out to anyone interested in joining our garden club to contact Kurt directly at [heinekurt@gmail.com](mailto:heinekurt@gmail.com). Please help us to beautify our church grounds, provide education to the children, youth and congregation, and have fun in the process.

Respectfully, Lorry Dreier

## INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

April showers bring May flowers. We certainly have had the showers, now bring on the blooms!!

The Inclusion/Affirmation team had some lively discussions at our last meeting. We are nailing down some ideas for welcoming art in the gathering area and elsewhere.

We are excited to be planning our booth for Pridefest in August. As you know, it was cancelled last year. The 2021 event will be over two days with different booths each day. CUCC's booth will be on Saturday, August 28.

As noted last month, CUCC will be advocating against Conversion Therapy. (That "therapy" believes that gay, lesbian, and transgender individuals are ill and need to be converted back to heterosexuality.) We will show the movie "Boy Erased" on June 26, which is the weekend we celebrate being an Open and Affirming community of Christ. The movie is based on a true story of what happened to one young man, who came out as gay to his minister father and was enrolled in a program to 'erase' his gay feelings.

Other educational programs on this subject are in the works, as well.

I have recently discovered one of the sweetest books I've ever read, The Boy, the Mole, the Fox, and the Horse, by Charlie Mackesy. It is a book about friendship. Toward the last pages, there is this exchange between the Boy and the Horse:

"Do you have any other advice?" asked the boy.

"Don't measure how valuable you are by the way you are treated." said the horse.

"Always remember you matter, you're important, you are loved, and you bring to this world things no one else can."

Amen and Joy, Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Chair



### MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND PRIDEFEST IN COLUMBIA AUGUST 28

The Mid-Missouri Pridefest will take place at Rose Music Hall on August 28, 2021. Make plans now to attend! The theme of this year's event is "Pride Lives On." This event is a great time to celebrate God's inclusive love for all of God's children, including and especially those who have been disenfranchised and oppressed by others. Columbia UCC will have a booth there, as we have in years past, and will be sharing the message of God's Inclusive Love with all who attend. We will be looking for people to staff the booth; if you are interested, contact [Alisa Lau-Sieckman](#), [Tricia Price](#), or [Pastor Rick](#)!



### 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.

## A MATTER OF DIGNITY– BANNING “CONVERSION THERAPY” IN THE US

This July, the General Synod of the United Church of Christ will meet using Zoom technology to do the business of the church, one of which is to speak to Social Justice issues prevalent in our society today. This year there are 11 Resolutions that will be discussed and shared with Local Congregations for their discussion, as well. All eleven Resolutions can be read in their entirety by clicking here: [GS RESOLUTIONS](#)

One of the Resolutions that we will be discussing here at CUCC in June is a Resolution calling for a ban on the practice of “Conversion Therapy” in the US. The text of that resolution can be read in its entirety here: [GS BAN](#)

General Synod Resolutions of Witness do not speak FOR local churches; they speak TO local churches. They provide us with a theological framework to address Social Justice Issues in our communities, as the Prophets of our traditions spoke to the people of Israel about similar issues. It is up to us to process these issues and act as we feel the Spirit is moving us. We will be doing just that here at CUCC in June. An edited synopsis of the General Synod resolution is copied below:

*Conversion therapy has existed in one form or another since the late 19th century. While the practice has caused demonstrable harm to the mental and physical health of LGBTQ+ persons, conversion therapy continues to be legal throughout the United States. According to practitioners of conversion therapy, the sexual orientation or gender identity of LGBTQ+ persons is a disease, defect or developmental disorder. This claim has been repudiated by every professional association in the field of health care, many of which have advocated for a ban on the discredited practice.*

*According to a report published the Williams Institute at the UCLA School of Law (June 2019), 698,000 adults in the United States have experienced conversion therapy, and 20,000 LGBTQ+ youth will be subjected to conversion therapy if state legislatures refuse to act. Also, according to the Williams Institute (June 15, 2020), LGBTQ+ people who were subjected to conversion therapy have shown a greater risk of suicidal thoughts and attempted suicide than LGBTQ+ people who had never experienced this therapy, including*

- 92% greater odds of lifetime suicidal ideation
- 88% greater odds of attempting suicide
- 75% greater odds of planning to attempt suicide.

*The consensus of the mental health care profession was summed up in the “Position Statement on Attempts to Change Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, or Gender Expression” released by the American Psychoanalytic Association in 2012. They found: “Psychoanalytic technique does not encompass purposeful attempts to “convert, repair, change or shift an individual’s sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Such directed efforts are against fundamental principles of psychoanalytic treatment and often result in substantial psychological pain by reinforcing damaging internalized attitudes.”*

**BIBLICAL AND THEOLOGICAL RATIONALE:** *Biblical tradition affirms that all human beings are made “in the image of God.” (Gen. 1:27) The church’s witness affirms that “in Christ Jesus, you are all children of God through faith” and that “all of you are one in Christ Jesus.” (Gal. 26-28) We are therefore to “love our neighbor as ourselves” (Lev. 19:9-18 and Matt. 22:40) and act with empathy towards all others. The capacity to love and seek love is God’s gift to all human beings. Human love in its many expressions is therefore God’s design for humanity, and is offered to all without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity. The psychological and spiritual damage inflicted by “conversion therapy” on LGBTQ+ people, especially youth, violates the image of God that is embodied in every human being, harms our neighbor, and denies to others the grace we claim for ourselves.*

**THEREFORE:** (this is the part that is calling local churches to action, if they so choose) *The Thirty-Third General Synod of the United Church of Christ, affirming the dignity and worth of all people, deplores the practice of “conversion therapy” or “reparative therapy” that denies LGBTQ+ youth and adults the opportunity to experience the blessings of love and human integrity, and urges parents, authorized ministers and care-givers in the United Church of Christ to protect those in their care from any practice or program that purports to “cure” their sexual orientation or gender identity, and urges congregations and all other settings of the church to advocate for state and federal laws protecting adults, youth and children from “conversion therapy” by banning the practice, and urges congregations and other settings to strengthen their efforts to reach their LGBTQ+ neighbors, especially youth, with the Good News that their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression are gifts from God.*

Got questions about this or other General Synod Resolutions? Contact [Pastor Rick.](#))



## FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM



Some people think of Stewardship as the collection of money that the church uses to help further the mission. I need to remember that offering my time and talent is just as important as money in achieving our church's mission. I encourage people to take a good look at the Time & Talent sheet and find ways to offer their time and talent toward the good works that CUCC is doing.

This month we will gather together for a meal and for our Annual Congregational Meeting. This meeting is a celebration of the Time and Talent of our CUCC Stewards. In 2020, great things happened at CUCC, even in the midst of a pandemic and closure for several months. The fact that we were still able to change the world in the ways we did is a testament to our Stewardship. -Brent Mareks

### CONSIDER THE LILIES

When I was a little girl, sometimes my mother would get all worried about something. My father would say to her, "Consider the lilies of the field." He didn't quote scripture often, but it was appropriate because she knew what he meant. Don't worry so much about all these things. God knows what you need and will take care of you.

In Matthew 6:25-34 Jesus says, "Do not be anxious about your life, what you eat or drink or wear. Is life not more than that? Look at the birds of the air: they neither reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow. They neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Therefore, do not be anxious, saying, what shall we eat or drink or wear? Your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well."

When Jesus visited Mary and Martha, he told Martha not to be anxious and troubled about serving everything perfectly, but to listen to Jesus teachings. Luke 10:38-42

Again in Luke 12:22-31, we hear not to be anxious for your life and consider the lilies. If God can clothe them so beautifully, surely God will take care of your needs.

There are so many things in the world today that cause people to worry. It's normal to worry and be anxious about some things, but it can get out of control. Why is it so hard to stop worrying? When you believe worrying IS the problem you can face it.

**Tip 1:** Create a daily "worry" period. Take 20 minutes each day just for worrying. You can write them down during the day, but only worry during the worry period.

**Tip 2:** Challenge anxious thoughts. Do you look at the world as worse than it really is? Do you expect the worst-case scenario to happen?

**Tip 3:** Distinguish between solvable and unsolvable worries. If the worry is solvable, start brainstorming. If the worry is not solvable, accept the uncertainty.

**Tip 4:** Interrupt the worry cycle. Get up and get moving. Take a yoga class, meditate, practice progressive muscle relaxation, or try deep breathing.

**Tip 5:** Talk about your worries with a trusted friend or family member.

**Tip 6:** Practice mindfulness. I have a little plaque from childhood on my wall now that goes along with these thoughts. It's called Overheard in an Orchard. Said the robin to the sparrow, "I should really like to know why these anxious human beings rush about and worry so." Said the sparrow to the robin, "Friend, I think that it must be that they have no heavenly father such as cares for you and me."

Serenity Prayer by Reinhold Niebuhr-1943: God, give us grace to accept with serenity the things that cannot be changed, courage to change the things that should be changed, and the wisdom to distinguish the one from the other.

-Melba Shaffer



## TREASURER'S REPORT

-Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer

Financial Update				Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	03/28/21	60	\$6,254.00	\$6,721.58
Mar. Income	\$23,869.11	\$28,447.51	(\$4,578.40)	04/04/21	110	\$5,525.00	\$6,977.05
YTD Income	\$60,240.50	\$83,601.12	(\$23,360.62)	04/11/21	53	\$5,373.35	\$6,977.05
Mar. Expenses	\$29,467.41	\$31,744.76	(\$2,277.35)	04/18/21	56	\$8,036.55	\$6,977.05
YTD Expenses	\$79,909.01	\$86,573.67	(\$6,664.66)	04/25/21	91	\$4,834.00	\$6,977.05
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$19,668.51)	(\$2,972.55)	(\$16,695.96)	<b>Total</b>	370	\$30,022.90	\$34,629.78
Mar. Attendance	204			As of 04/25/2021, we are <b>\$18,636.85</b> behind in Joyful Giving for 2021.			

### 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](http://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.

### May Birthdays to Celebrate!

Paul Klick (5/1)	Ann Heine (5/15)
Brenda Muench (5/3)	Roberta Settergren (5/16)
Christine Staelens (5/3)	Sonja Erickson (5/17)
Payton Bach (5/4)	Marcella Dolezal (5/18)
James Melton (5/5)	Mari Ann Keithahn (5/20)
Tim Staelens (5/5)	Hayley Dennis (5/21)
Rachael Erickson (5/8)	Brenda Schupp (5/23)
Betsy Murphy (5/8)	Emmalee Heine (5/28)
David Fischer (5/10)	Anna Kespohl (5/29)
Keith Birkes (5/13)	Morgan Lavelly (5/31)

### DESIGNATED FUNDS UPDATE

If you read the CUCC Annual Report for 2020, you may have noticed the Designated Funds Activity Report (page 61). It detailed the amounts that were received and disbursed from our Designated Funds in 2020. A more thorough explanation of Designated Funds Disbursements was also included on page 15. To highlight, some of the funds that were working for you in 2020 include the following:

**50 for 50 fund:** This fund received **\$66,292** in 2019, in recognition of the 50th anniversary of this building. It was designated for five projects. So far we have spent **\$50,474** on three of those designated projects: Sanctuary technology, sound system, and livestreaming equipment, **(\$26,036)**; Landscaping Improvements **(\$10,544)**; and encasing the Sanctuary eaves **(\$7,265)**. We also donated a Biblical Tithe to four mission agencies **(\$6,629)**. The two final projects, replacing the Shelter House floor **(\$8,600)** and upgrading our security system **(\$7,000)**, will complete the 50 for 50 projects this spring. Hopefully both will be done before the Congregational Meeting.

**Scholarship Fund:** We awarded two scholarships in 2020 to Marcella Dolezal and Carissa Graves, totaling **\$2,000**. We added **\$50,000** from the Mader Estate to this Fund, and with unrealized gains and growth, the fund total at the end of 2020 was **\$147,574**. This Fund will be used for more Scholarships in the future, as well as our Organ Scholar Program.

**Building Fund:** We have been growing this Fund in 2020 with contributions from members, a directed amount from 2020 Joyful Giving (3%), and directed Funds from the Mader Estate. As of the end of 2020, this fund totaled **\$55,716**, but more gifts in 2021 have been received. We are anticipating major repairs and replacement of HVAC units in the next few years, as well as a need to reseal our entire parking lot. Growth in this fund will allow those projects to happen.

We have Ten Designated Funds for Special Projects at CUCC. For a complete description of each fund, contact the Church office, or ask [Sue Ann Schafer](#), [Brent Marcks](#), or [Pastor Rick](#).

## OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

### LOAVES AND FISHES UPDATE

The April 19 meal at L&F consisted of spaghetti, salad (provided by Patty Beeson), and cookies (provided by Jolene Kirchoff). Mahree Skala made PB&J's for our guests.

Servers were Judi Privitt; Seth & Lillian Smith; Patty Beeson & one of her students, Albertine; Anne Heine; Whitney Wipfler; and Alexis (an MU student). We served approximately 123 servings which included firsts and seconds. Thanks so much to everyone!

### Food Bank News—Back in Business!

With great joy, seven CUCC members returned to the Food Bank on March 30 for the first time in a year.

We repackaged frozen McRib meat into family-size bags. It was interesting to see “bare” McRibs! Many thanks to Keith Birkes, Amy and Marcia Crousore, Anne Heine, Judi Privitt, Mahree Skala, and Tricia Soncasie.

Our next shift will be on Tuesday, April 27 at 5:30 p.m., and each 4th Tuesday after that. Please contact [Mahree](mailto:Mahree) at 573-474-2195 for more information.

### Heifer International All-Church Mission Project

“Everyone Deserves a Life Free From Hunger and Poverty”

What do bees, goats, hazelnut trees, compost, and women's empowerment have in common? They are all ways that Heifer International seeks to end hunger and poverty worldwide. When a family receives a resource from Heifer (like a pair of goats or chickens, or a hive of bees, or nut trees to plant, or a microloan for a small business), they become more self-sufficient and can improve their children's future through education. In turn, they are expected to pass the gift on to another family as it multiplies. For a look at their many amazing programs go to <https://www.heifer.org/>.

CUCC has set a goal to contribute a Heifer “ark,” worth \$5,000, by Mother's Day, May 9. Please give generously via Kindrid, or put a check in the offering plate or mail it to the church office. Your gift will multiply many times!

### A Cycling Ministry that Glorifies God to the Ends of the Earth?

True Story! [Ends of the Earth Cycling](#) (EC) exists to give people who want to change the world opportunities to use cycling to bring the HOPE of the gospel to global youth through multi-day, Christ-centered bicycling tours.

I have worked along-side, ridden hundreds of miles with, and served cyclists across the U.S. and beyond on behalf of global youth with EC. I recently participated in the TXBR (Texas Bike Ride) for at-risk youth of Cambodia, April 9-14, 2021. As someone who has traveled to Cambodia a few times to work with our partners and beneficiaries for this ride, [Legacy of Hope International](#) (LOHI), I can honestly say that God is working there in and around the people.



This ride was possibly the best tour I've been a part of yet with EC. We were served far beyond the ways we (the cyclists) were serving through our commitment to #prayedpedalrepeat. Churches, volunteers, and locals provided comfortable lodging, showers, meals, worship, and more for us for the 7 days and 400 miles of the tour. I have so many stories to share, so if you'd like to listen, let me know! Giving for the beneficiaries, LOHI, continues into early May, so I will report a total amount raised in the next edition of the Communicator. So far we are upwards of \$14,000. Thank you to all who prayed along-side me and gave to help at-risk youth! Your generous and loving hearts shine Jesus' light to those who otherwise don't see or feel it's warmth.

April Rothweiler

# NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

## Mother's Day Celebration – May 9, 2021

Please join us for worship on May 9, 2021. Nurture & Education will be recognizing all women in worship with a small gift of appreciation for ALL women and all they do.

### CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2021!

2021 Confirmation Class is well on its way! We have six students this year. Our students meet with Pastor Rick at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall (downstairs) with practiced social distancing.

This class will be confirmed on November 28, 2021 (the first Sunday of Advent). Please keep them in your prayers as they continue on this journey. For more information, talk to [Pastor Rick](#).

### SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH APRIL 11-MAY 9, 2021

Heifer International will be the topic of Sunday School for our children and youth for five Sundays, as part of our church-wide focus on Heifer International.

Bring your children and youth to these fun and educational Sunday School classes, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Thank you to Lena Muench and Gina Pierson for creating the fun and educational lessons for this session.

### Children & Youth Sunday School for May, 2021 – 9:00-10:00 a.m. – Fellowship Hall

Please bring your children and youth for these last Sundays of Sunday School before we break for Summer.

- |        |   |
|--------|---|
| May 2  | Pat Forward will be bringing one of her laying chickens to show, with the focus on chickens as one of the animals Heifer International provides.  |
| May 9  | Heifer International Church Wide Project Finale, and the creation of a Mother's Day gift to hand out to all the women in Worship today, Mother's Day.   |
| May 16 | Camp Sunday! There will be no camp opportunities at Camp Mo-Val this summer, but let's celebrate this annual Sunday event that focuses on the importance of Camping Experiences for our kids and youth. |
| May 23 | Celebrating Pentecost.  |
| May 30 | No Children & Youth Sunday School – Memorial Day  |
| June 6 | VBS Kick Off! VBS 2021 will be August 2,3 and 4, 2021.  |

### Adult Sunday School Class for May, 2021 – 9:00-10:00 a.m. – Sanctuary

- |        |  |
|--------|--|
| May 2  | Connie Loveless presenting on Popular Hymns and their history and origin.  |
| May 9  | Lloyd Viehland and Mahree Skala will be presenting on Heifer International, and celebrating the Finale of the Heifer International Church Wide Project.  |
| May 16 | James Melton and Kristy Odneal will be sharing a "Recap of the Past Year," useful information to hear before today's Annual Congregational Meeting that will be after worship and lunch today.   |
| May 23 | Quinn Rosenthal will be the speaker. As a hospital chaplain, he has often seen the difficult experiences that families must endure in saying goodbye to their loved ones. With some amount of planning in advance of our final days, we can still advocate for ourselves, take some of the burden of decision making off of our families, and help them start the grieving process in a healthy way. Let's talk about the process of completing advance directives as well as the current standards for end of life care. Questions welcome! |
| May 30 | No Adult Sunday School – Memorial Day  |
| June 6 | Pete Jaberg will speak about the flaws and traumas of "Conversion Therapy."  |



## CONFIRMATION 2020

On April 25, our 2020 Confirmation Class finally was confirmed! Due to COVID, we have had to postpone the Rite of Confirmation several times. But on April 25, Lilly Jaberg, Brandon Lavelly, and Hazel Keithahn offered their testimony, affirmed the baptismal promises of their parents (confirmation), received their first communion, and were welcomed into Columbia United Church of Christ as our three newest members.

Congratulations to Lilly, Brandon, and Hazel!  
Below are some pictures of the day.



## CONFIRMATION CLASS GIFT

The 2019-2020 Confirmation class presented the gift of a condenser microphone, stand, and cable to the CUCC Congregation/worship team. The microphone can be used for vocal or instrumental performances.

With our weekly livestream, the use of such microphones is important to help ensure that the live worship experience is well "heard" even on the Livestream. Thank you to the Confirmation class!



# WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

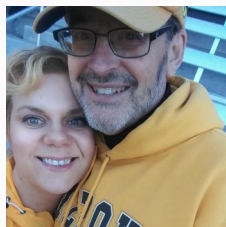
## The Room Where It Happens

“Hamilton,” the award winning, trend setting musical about the life of Alexander Hamilton, has received worldwide acclaim and is perhaps the priciest ticket in all of Broadway. Lin Manuel’s incredible use of hip hop and rap tells the improbable history of some of our nation’s founders. It is another example of the power of music to tell stories and share history.

You realize that every week in worship we are telling stories and sharing history through music. Music helps us form our beliefs and sometimes our theology. We were in the room where it happened on Good Friday and Easter and confirmation. We felt the pain and agony of Christ’s betrayal and crucifixion as we sang, “Were you there when they crucified my Lord?” We celebrated the good news of Christ’s resurrection with organ and brass and bells when we gathered to sing “Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!! We were in the room when our youth ensemble reminded our confirmation candidates and all of our congregation that God is our shepherd through life and beyond.

When we gather together in the room where it happens, for us the sanctuary or the zoom where it happens, we join as one to praise God, to celebrate our community and to grow in our faith. So far, we’re not using rap or hip hop, but God hears us no matter our musical style or our personal tastes. For all of this to happen, we know that God uses many people in many ways. Musically, CUCC is blessed by instrumentalists, jazz musicians, handbell ringers, singers, organists and pianists, and much more.

I am thankful for all those who share their lives through music to help us grow in the grace and love of God. I want to offer my thanks especially to all those who helped in March to enable me to quarantine so that I could be in the room where it happened, the birth of Iris Mae Wolfe Rollins. What a blessed event and one that deserves a special song of praise and adoration to God.



As we move forward into a more vaccinated world, I look forward to all of us being in the room where it happens together on a more consistent basis.

Ed Rollins

## SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR MAY

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for May. We need some spots to be filled and we’d 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 welcome. 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 are here!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
05/02	Carol Duermeyer	Mahree Skala	Jim Loveless	Lilly Smith	Brent Marcks John Graves	Lena Muench
05/09	Jolene Kirchoff	NEED	Isaiah Jackson Post	Sadie Tummins	Matt Lucas Pete Jaberg	Helen Schultz
05/16	Carol Duermeyer	Mahree Skala	Lena Muench	Abby Dennis	John Graves Carissa Graves	NEED
05/23	Jessica Lucas	NEED	Pat Forward	Lilly Smith	Mike Pierson James Melton	Stefanie Zimny
5/30	Helen Schultz	NEED	Lauren Helmreich	Ember Piersee	NEED	Audrey Lasley

## FEATURED CHURCH OF THE WEEK



Columbia United Church of Christ  
3201 Interstate 70 Dr NW, Columbia, MO 65202  
(573) 445-7931

### Look! We made the news twice in April!

Not only was CUCC highlighted as one of the Volunteers of the Month during the Cleanup Columbia Event, the Columbia Tribune put a nice picture of our church and chose us as “Featured Church of the Week!”

You can see both of these recognitions at City Source (CoMo.gov) and in the Columbia Tribune, Saturday, April 17 edition, on page A6 under the Worship Directory section.

Let’s keep making the headlines and be known as having an Extravagant Welcome and Inclusive to All!!

Contributions to the Memorial Fund at CUCC have been made **in memory of Shirley Lawler** from:

Cliff & Sue Beckman  
Barry & Jolene Kirchhoff  
Dian & Gary Pauley  
Mike & Sharon Rapp  
Tim & Christine Staelens  
Jeanne Welch

the CUCC Quilters  
Fred & Carolyn Malicoat  
Doug & Judi Privitt  
Melba Shaffer  
Hugo & Donna Wilmsmeyer

*Kindness is a language  
that the deaf can hear  
and the blind can see*  
- Mark Twain

### CORONAVIRUS VACCINE INFORMATION

The Boone County Health Department has a very helpful website with COVID-19 Vaccine information, answering questions about the safety and efficacy of the vaccines and dispelling misinformation that is being spread. You can use this [link](#) to read up on the vaccine and hopefully answer any questions you may have.

You can also schedule a vaccine at [Hy-Vee by clicking here](#) or at [Wal-mart by clicking here](#). Let’s all do our part to get **EVERYONE** vaccinated and manage the COVID-19 virus once and for all!

### CORONAVIRUS AND CUCC UPDATE

The pandemic is not over yet, and we must continue to be vigilant and safe as we slowly emerge into more in-person activities and public gatherings. However, ***as the month of April draws to a close, the 5-day average for new COVID cases in Boone County has dropped to 10 new cases/day!*** This is down from our high of 168 new cases/day, reached on November 8, when we decided to close our Sanctuary for in-person worship for the time being. In September and October, when we were worshipping in person, the 5-day average was 60-70 new cases/day. ***Currently, there are only 81 active cases of COVID in our county of 180,000 people.***

Throughout this pandemic, the leadership of CUCC has been very vigilant, never lax in their monitoring and response efforts. The congregation has been exemplary, as well, following our new hygiene standards admirably, thereby limiting the transmission of the virus and keeping CUCC a safe place. As we move towards emergence together, let us continue to be vigilant in our efforts at living with the Coronavirus.

Moving forward, we will continue to practice safety protocols, guided by the Boone County Health Department and the City of Columbia orders. These include wearing masks and social distancing.

***There is one way for us to fully emerge safely from this pandemic — vaccination. We hope that everyone receives their COVID vaccine, for herd immunity in our community and to reduce the risk of infection to even lower levels.*** For information about vaccination options, [CLICK HERE](#).



## CUCC IS WORKING IN EGYPT

The Bishopric of Public and Social Services (BLESS), the social development ministry of the Coptic Orthodox Church in Egypt, is a partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ through Global Ministries. The goals of BLESS include empowering people to discover and develop their potential and to improve the social, cultural and economic conditions of their communities. The work includes activities like community organizing, community education in issues of health, hygiene, sanitation and the environment, and training in economic development. Cleaning village streets and reconstructing homes are parts of a BLESS project to encourage poor and marginalized people to discover and develop their potential and improve the conditions of their communities socially, culturally and economically. BLESS is committed to achieving this goal in disadvantaged communities throughout Egypt.

BLESS 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 BLESS in your prayers!

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

**May 2-8**

**Karen Campbell-Nelson  
Working in Indonesia**



**May 9-15**

**Danielle Murry-Knowles  
Working in Lesotho**



**April 18-24**

**Eleazar Fernandez  
Working in Philippines**



**May 23-29**

**Elena Huegel  
Working in Mexico**



## CUCC IS WORKING ON THE US/MEXICO BORDER

*(condensed from [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org))*


Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries, a UCC/DOC Global Missions Partner, was established in 1985 with the specific purpose of providing assistance to refugees (primarily coming from Central America) seeking asylum in the United States. The mission of Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries is to teach the love of Jesus Christ by building a renewed sense of wholeness and dignity and by standing with those who have been traumatized, especially refugees and those who are disenfranchised and displaced. The Good News of salvation is lived out by addressing spiritual and material needs, including emergency shelter and food, clothing, transportation, legal aid, advocacy, and job referral through a cooperative effort with other agencies and religious organizations.

They continue their work by providing legal aid, shelter, food, clothing, and bus tickets for migrants so they can be with relatives in the U.S. until completing their asylum-seeking process. "We are always receiving caravans. Some attract the lens of the press, but migration from Ciudad Juárez is always flowing," said Rev. Feliberto Pereira, Executive Director. "Our deepest and permanent concern is the situation and the well-being of the children. We are more active in the process of providing legal aid to asylum seekers. Very recently, we stopped the deportation of a Peruvian woman, who had had four administrative trials while appearing at the Bridge in Ciudad Juárez, without success. In the fifth trial, we were able to intervene, and the woman was able to appear in court and successfully request asylum."

Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries carries out this mission through their work with refugees and asylum seekers. Working closely with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Church World Service, Southwest Good Samaritan Ministries has helped more than 20,000 refugees begin life anew by sharing the love of Jesus Christ through gifts given to refugees and asylum seekers whatever their need may be. Services offered refugees and asylum seekers include housing, food, clothing, legal aid, transportation, family reunification, and counseling.



**ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN MAY**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
<p>2 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a> 1-4pm Fellowship Hall booked</p>	<p>3 10:15am Staff Meeting LODO Teacher Appreciation Week 6pm Confirmation</p>	<p>4 LODO Teacher Appreciation Week</p>	<p>5 LODO Teacher Appreciation Week </p>	<p>6 LODO Teacher Appreciation Week</p>	<p>7 9am CWU @ Shelter House LODO Teacher Appreciation Week</p>	8
<p>9 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a> <small>MEMBERSHIP: 1000-10000000</small></p>	<p>10 10:15am Staff Meeting 6pm Confirmation</p>	<p>11 5:30pm Outreach &amp; Advocacy Ministry Team 6:30pm Nurture &amp; Education Ministry</p>	12	<p>13 9:30am Women's Fellowship 6:30pm Music &amp; Worship Ministry Team</p>	14	15
<p>16 Camp Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship in person Worship also Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a> Annual Congregation Mtg</p>	<p>17 10:15am Staff Meeting 6pm Confirmation</p>	18	19	<p>20 <b>COMMUNICATOR ARTICLES DUE</b> 6-8pm LODO Graduation with cookie reception in Fellowship Hall</p>	21	22
<p>23 9:00 Sunday School 10:30am Worship in person Worship also Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a></p>	<p>24 10:15am Staff Mtg 6pm Conf. NO Staff Mtg Office CLOSED</p>	25	26	27	28	29
30	31	6:30pm Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team	12noon Lunch Bunch 5:30pm LODO Ministry Team		

# THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ  
An Open and Affirming Congregation- ONA #1575  
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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?

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.

### 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.