

THE COMMUNICATOR

February 2022



From the Pastor's Keyboard

"Why Celebrate Black History Month?"

February has been a time to focus on Black History in the United States since 1926, when Carter G. Woodson began a campaign to recognize it. Originally a week was proposed, the second week of February. This week included the Birthdays of President Abraham Lincoln (the great emancipator) on February 12 and Frederick Douglass (the former slave and activist in the cause for abolition of slavery) on February 14. Expanded to a whole month by (Republican) President Gerald Ford in 1976, Black History month has become a time to celebrate the achievements of Black and Brown Americans in the development of our country.

But why the need for Black History Month? Some debate this question, including some Black and Brown American scholars who claim that designating one month as "Black History Month" actually encourages the segregation of Black History from the common curriculum. They argue that we should encourage a more inclusive common curriculum that lifts up Black History all year, alongside the White History that has been taught for generations. Proponents of Black History Month argue that although the contributions of Black and Brown Americans *should* be integrated into the entirety of our historical curriculum, there is still a need to give Black History a designated month to focus specifically on their contributions, in light of the neglect Black History has received over the years.

I tend to fall on the side of the latter argument. I see the celebration of Black History Month as important for the same reasons we observe every other celebration all year long: History, Identity, and Dignity (Worth). The origins of every holiday we celebrate are shrouded in these three factors, from Christmas to St. Patrick's Day, and even our more personal celebrations. When we celebrate, we are recalling the **historical** significance of that date, we are articulating our **identity** as people of that event or practice, and we are claiming and elevating our **worthiness and dignity** as we set that day aside. Christians celebrate history, identity, and dignity when we celebrate Christmas; Jews celebrate history, identity, and dignity when they celebrate Passover; and we all celebrate history, identity, and dignity when we celebrate our birthdays. All celebrations are really about those three elements. Black History Month is no different; and no less important.

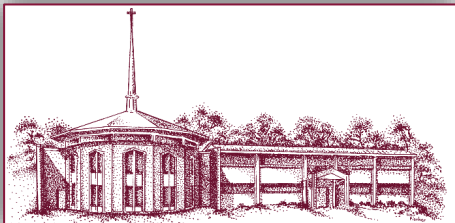
For example, when March 17 comes around, many of us like to wear green and eat corned beef and cabbage, even though we have no discernable Irish ancestry of which we are aware. We celebrate an event that originated in oppression. While St. Patrick's Day was a holiday in Ireland as early as the 1600s, its popularity is due to the Irish diaspora that were scattered around the globe during the age of colonialization and as a result of the Great Famine of 1845-1852. During that time, many Irish refugees found both sanctuary and oppression in North America, as they were welcomed but excluded, denied dignity and worth. These oppressed Irish refugees popularized St. Patrick's Day as a way to **recall their history, articulate their identity, and claim their worth/dignity** alongside those who were trying to deny them the same. This popularization led others to join in the celebrations, and today all nationalities recognize the name and history of an otherwise obscure Catholic Saint as they drink green beer and eat corned beef and cabbage. Rarely does anyone complain about lifting up the Irish people on St. Patrick's Day. Black History Month should be celebrated in similar fashion; a chance for all of us of every color and ethnicity to participate together in an exploration of history, identity, worth, and dignity.

The Inclusion Team at CUCC will be celebrating Black History Month all month long in February with special bulletin inserts and observances in worship. Tricia Price will be sharing several books during Children's Time that focus on Black History, and Alisa Lau-Sieckman will be lifting up some other prominent figures in Black History including Mary Field, the first Black Woman letter carrier; Kizzmekia Shanta Corbett, a professor of immunology who helped create the COVID vaccine; and Grace Dolan-Sandrina, an 18 year old Black/Latinx Trans activist. On February 20, in worship, we will talk about the book we read in January/February "Better, not Bitter" by Black activist Yusef Salaam. We hope you will join us for these special observances as we celebrate Black History Month together!

-Pastor Rick



February 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

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 Sunday School for all
ages
10:00 Fellowship Time
10:30 Worship

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9am- 3pm

Phone:
(573) 445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com

Website:
www.columbiaucc.com

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, February 10, at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Area at CUCC. We will continue the Bible Study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me," learning from the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. **This month we will learn about Bathsheba.** If you've ever wondered about her story, come join us!

A light brunch is provided on a rotation basis. The Women's Fellowship Gathering is open to all women. Join us and invite a friend! If you have any questions, please contact [Linda Evans](#), [Melba Shaffer](#), or [April Rothweiler](#) for more information. Hope to see you there!

LUNCH BUNCH—THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, February 24. Rev. Sally Robinson, the Director of Columbia Area Older Adult Ministries, will be with us to talk about the role of this particular ministry in caring for the older adults in our community. This is a ministry CUCC helped begin two decades ago, and has been going strong ever since. Come be part of the discussion!

Lunch Bunch is open to everyone of all ages. Bring a dish to share for the community meal or, if you prefer, bring a sack lunch. We gather at noon in the Fellowship Hall. It is always a great time for fun, fellowship, and education! Hope to see you there! **ALL ARE WELCOME!**

BREAKFAST FOR HUMANITY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BREAKFAST

Saturday, February 12, 2022 from 7 to 11 a.m.

Mark your calendars! We are going to be in person for the Annual Habitat for Humanity Breakfast benefit event this year, after a successful online event last year. The sausage has been ordered, the tickets are printed, and the griddle is warming up! *Thanks to Melba Shaffer for working on the tickets.* Men's Fellowship will be hosting and serving the breakfast.



There will be a sign up sheet outside of the Sanctuary, as well as in the church office. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time in the church office or the day of (at the event). **Ticket Prices are: adults \$6, ages 6-12 \$3, 5 and under eat free.**

If you would like tickets to sell, or can help at the event, please contact [Doug Privitt](#). We hope you'll come support Habitat for Humanity at this yummy event!



ANNUAL MEETING — May 15 @ 11:30 a.m.

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be combined with a fellowship meal on May 15, following Worship Service. We will review the 2021 activities, make plans for our Centennial Year, elect leadership for 2022-2023, and celebrate our ministry together.

Put it on your calendar now so you are sure to be there!

SUNDAY MORNING SNOW POLICY

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

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

If worship is cancelled at our facility, an abbreviated worship will be livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook; at least the scriptures, sermon, and prayers. The extent of what is livestreamed will depend on who can make it to church that morning. Please join with the congregation worshipping virtually as we livestream and join together in virtual community.

If worship is not cancelled, but you feel unsafe venturing out, please stay home. We will still be livestreaming every Sunday, so you can always enjoy worship from home. You can also view the worship at a time other than 10:30! Past worship services are on our website.

**INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION**



Dear Pastor Rick & CUCC family,

Thanks to each and every one of you for the love, support, and prayers during the most difficult 18 months of my life. My husband's death, losing two dogs, surgery, and a broken hip all helped my decision to give into my son's wish that I move to Springfield, IL to be closer to him and my grandsons.

Thanks again and love, **Vena Long**

Dear friends and partners in ministry,

Thank you for your donation to the **Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry**. 2021 was a difficult time for many people, especially those living in long-term care and retirement communities. While not as isolated as 2020, they continue to be closed to outside visitors lately. We are grateful for the many donors, like you, who continue to support us so we can share God's compassion, love, and care with older adults.

Currently we are serving at Bluff Creek Terrace & The Arbors, Colony Pointe & The Arbors, Tiger Place, The Neighborhoods by Tiger Place, The Terrace, and Lenoir Woods. As we meet residents in these communities that are members of your Church, we thank them for their support through your outreach giving.

Sincerely, Sally A. Robinson

We would like to Thank the CUCC Community for the prayers, contribution, and offerings during these last few Months.

Since September, our family has faced the death of Laura's father; COVID hitting the entire family, hospitalizing Laura for 25 days; and Laura's Grandmother's death this past Christmas Eve. Jeff and I wanted to thank you for everything the meal train provided for us, as well as the prayers. Jeff was especially thankful for the meals after switching gears from working full-time to taking care of our children, daily household chores, and visiting Laura in the hospital. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

From **the Lentz Family** household

Hi CUCC Friends,

Tis' the season to be thankful, and **Emmaus** is thankful for YOU!

We are proud to be a leader in providing services to people with developmental disabilities, and our standard of care could not be possible without donors like you. Your support provides the means for Emmaus clients to live the best life possible in their own homes and community.

Have a happy, healthy, and blessed 2022!

Your friends at Emmaus

Lisa A. Key, Chief Development Officer

CUCC,

Thank you for your recent gifts, in 2021 and in this New Year of 2022! Your generosity makes an impact on the lives of the individuals that the **Voluntary Action Center (VAC)** serves daily through our FISH Fund, which provides additional service for an individual or household beyond the regular VAC limit, and the Holiday Program, which provided to 968 families (including 2,002 children) in 2021.

Your support of FISH, VAC, and the Holiday Program directly affects your neighbors in Columbia. You help bridge the gap between crisis and stability.

Sincerely,

Ed Stansberry, Executive Director

Dear Pastor Rick and CUCC,

Thank you for all the support and for leading a wonderful funeral service for my husband, Gene.

Thank you also to the organist and tech people who helped the service go smoothly, to the janitorial staff who cleaned up afterward, and to the hospitality committee for preparing and serving a delicious lunch. I have felt very loved by the CUCC Church family and I appreciate all the prayers and support.

Deb Koepke

CHURCH COUNCIL

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

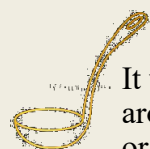
The Church Council met on Tuesday, January 18, 2022. Those present in person were Pastor Rick Oberle, Brent Marcks, Stefanie Zimny, John Bullerd, Lorry Dreier, Mark Duncan, Keith Birkes, Jessica Lucas, and Audrey Lasley. Those joining on Zoom were Sue Ann Schaefer, Kristy Odneal, Tricia Price, Kurt Heine, and Linda Neale.

- Pastor Rick introduced our new book for discussion called “Neighborhood Church.”
- Empty spots were filled for stewardship duties for February and part of March.
- The chancel lighting is ready to be installed.
- Parts for the additional security on the south basement door should be here next week and hopefully installed by the first part of February.
- The sealing for the driveway is done, and rest of parking lot will be finished in the Spring/Summer.
- COVID-signs have been put back on the exterior doors recommending face masks since numbers continue to go up. We will order surgical masks, and they will be available along with the cloth masks to anyone who forgets or prefers to have one.
- Pastor Rick will start his Sabbatical after 7/31. A Sabbatical committee of 5 members will be formed at our February meeting.
- LODO will be getting two new signs; they are in the design stage now.
- The Worship & Music ministry team gave a written proposal to have section leaders in the choir. After some discussion, Mark Duncan made an amendment to the proposal to use money from the Worship & Music Designated Fund for the positions in the maximum amount of \$1,560. This will be for the time period from 2/1/22 through 4/30/22.
- The Nominating Committee will be forming soon.
- Pastor Rick would like for everyone to make it a priority to read the Communicator. It is full of information about the events of the church.
- A representative from the company where we bought the organ will be here on Monday, 1/31/22. He will do maintenance on the organ and set up a service contract.
- Pastor Rick will be on vacation 2/7-2/14.
- We exceeded our year end goal for Joyful Giving by \$3,600.
- Ministry team reports were given and/or reviewed.
- Fastnacht is back! Mark your calendars for March 1!
- The next Council meeting is February 15.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Lasley, Secretary



ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF GOLDEN LADLE WINNER: JOHN GRAVES!



It was nearly 2 years ago that we had our last chili cookoff, and things were a little different this time around. Thanks to Cliff Beckman, Charles Marcks, John Graves, and Doug Privitt for the organization and planning. We also had several extra hands helping with the event, including Helen Schultz, Judi Privitt, and Evelyn Marcks. Thanks to everyone! There were just over 50 people in attendance and we had 11 chili entrants.

First place went to **John Graves** for the third time in history. Second place went to **Audrey Lasley**, and third place to **Rick Oberle**. Congrats to all our winners! Our judges were Ed Kaiser, Susan Dunham, and Lydia Whitacre. The expenses were \$100, and gray bowl contributions were \$258; so we gave \$200 to Voluntary Action Center. All of the leftover food was donated to Loaves & Fishes.

MODERATOR'S MOMENT

In our current circumstances, each of us has had to focus on our own self-care and protecting the health of our families. If you are like me, you have found your thoughts consumed by this at times. Simultaneously, though, we know the importance of opening our hearts and minds to the needs of others. The ways our church family reaches out to each other in times of need and extends our gifts to help others in our community is inspiring.

Month after month, it is an uplifting experience to hear the reports of our ministry teams during our Council meetings. We learn about how CUCC provides spiritual support by educating our children about living in Christian faith, by welcoming visitors and new members into our church family, and by spreading the message that acceptance and support of others, no matter who they are, is the Christian way. We hear about ways CUCC provides uplifting and meaningful worship and music opportunities and ways to connect with others who share our common bond of faith. We understand about the evenings that are spent providing for people struggling with hunger and the funds that are raised to support those seeking safety in our area. We hear about the nurturing childcare opportunities that are made available for our community. And of course, we learn about all the offerings of time and talent to ensure we have the finances and facilities that make all of this possible.

Luke 3:10-11 says, "The crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' He answered, 'Whoever has two shirts must share with the one who has none, and whoever has food must do the same.'"

There is so much need around us, and we at CUCC see that. We work in so many ways to share God's love by helping others... and helping others has a strange way of coming back to nurture our own well-being. I feel encouraged and blessed to be part of this congregation, all the time, but especially now.

With gratitude, Kristy Odneal, Moderator



CUCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Did you know there is a Scholarship Fund at CUCC? By definition, scholarships awarded from this fund are available to all *active* members of the congregation who are pursuing an education beyond High School. There is an application process and qualification criteria. Application forms are available in the church office. All applications are due by April 1, 2022 and will be considered by a team composed by the Vice Moderator, the Nurture and Education Ministry Team Chair, the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team Chair, and Pastor Rick. Awards from the fund will be disbursed after July 1 for the fall semester.

To receive an application or if you have any questions, contact [April Rothweiler](#), [Pastor Rick](#), [Kristy Odneal](#) (Moderator), [Kurt Heine](#) (Vice Moderator), or one of the Ministry Team Chairs listed above.

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kristy Odneal	kristyodneal@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Secretary:	Audrey Lasley	aklasley@centurytel.net
Treasurer:	Sue Ann Schaefer	ssas3307@aol.com
Recording Treasurer:	Brent Marcks	brentmarcks@hotmail.com
Building & Grounds:	John Bullerd	jbullerd51@gmail.com
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	jluccas@cpsk12.org
Nurture & Education:	Linda Neale	lnealej@aol.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music:	Mike Pierson	mpierson@cpsk12.org



FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

The Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team met on January 18 to make plans for the Spring. There will be many events coming up that you will be hearing about including FASTNACHT (March 1– see article below) and a Game Night (April 30). We will organize the Potluck for our Annual Congregational Meeting (May 15) and the Sunday School Picnic (June 5).

We are trying something new — First Friday Films! Starting April 1, we will be showing family friendly movies at CUCC on the First Friday of every month. Some will be outdoors on the “Big Screen” and some in the Fellowship Hall. Watch for more information about this!



Our next meeting will be March 15 at 5:30 p.m. to plan more fun and games! Come join the team, all are welcome. We have a lot of fun together!

Stefanie Zimny,
Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team Chair



FASTNACHT– TUESDAY, MARCH 1



Fastnacht is BACK! This German-style meal is a CUCC tradition that disappeared in 2017; but now it is returning with a whole new look! Fastnacht is the German version of “Fat Tuesday” or “Mardi Gras,” a time to celebrate and eat good foods before Lent begins and before Christians traditionally observe some sort of “fasting.” Fastnacht is the “night before the fast,” a time to feast before we fast!

We will be serving traditional German Food, including “Fastnachts” (German donuts) from 5:30 — 7:30 that evening in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage you to arrive by 5:30, as we will also have music and other fun activities! We are asking everyone to RSVP so we know how much food to prepare, and so we can observe COVID protocols for safe hygiene. To do so, click here: [RSVP](#) or scan the QR code below. Please RSVP by Sunday, Feb 27!

We will also need help on March 1 preparing the food, serving it, and cleaning up after. If you would like to volunteer to help, contact [Stefanie Zimny](#), [Audrey Lasley](#), [Melba Shaffer](#), or [Lena Muench](#)! Happy Fastnacht– the return of a great CUCC tradition!



SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for February. 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
02/06	Jessica Lucas	NEED	Lena Muench	Danielle Dreier	Lorry Dreier Doug Privitt	Judi Privitt
02/13	Carol Duermeyer	NEED	Llona Weiss	Abby Dennis	Phillip Dennis Mike Pierson	Sue Ann Schaefer
02/20	Anne Heine	Llona Weiss	Audrey Lasley	Aidan Pierson	Carissa Graves John Graves	Brent Marcks
02/27	Audrey Lasley	NEED	Mahree Skala	Trevor Pierson	Brent Marcks Josh Muench	Audrey Lasley

LODO MINISTRY TEAM

LODO NEWS

LODO returned from Christmas break on Tuesday, January 4, ready to jump into learning and preschool fun and had a great first week back. Unfortunately, COVID finally came to LODO, and we closed for one week to mitigate exposure from multiple teachers who were ill. By making the difficult decision to close for a week, we had no additional staff or student cases from the exposure at LODO. We returned again on January 18 and hope to remain open for our families as the area navigates the upswing in COVID cases.

We are sad to announce that our Lambs teacher, Ms. Ashley, will be leaving her teaching position at the end of January. We wish her all the best as she focuses on current family needs. Ms. Ashley will remain on staff at LODO as a substitute, and we hope she will be able to rejoin our staff in a more regular fashion in future years.

Avis Kim was hired to be our next Lambs teacher and began on January 18. She is very excited to join our staff and help our young Lambs grow in their development. Ms. Avis grew up in Callaway County, but has lived in Boone County for 20 plus years. She is married to Pete, and they have two children — Ellee 13yrs and Zeke 9yrs. Please welcome Ms. Avis if you run into her in the LODO hallways!

2022-2023 Enrollment (Aug 29, 2022-May 19, 2023)

Enrollment for the 2022-2023 School Year will begin for current families on Sunday, February 27. Enrollment will be open to new families on Monday, March 7. If you, or someone you know, is looking for a loving preschool for next school year, please let them know that NOW is the time to tour to be ready to register. They may contact me at littleonesdayout@yahoo.com or 573-445-2661. Additional information about the LODO program is available at www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome.

Lightning Bugs Class: Students must be 1 year old before August 1, 2022

Lambs Class: Students must be 2 years old before August 1, 2022

Lions/Leopards Class: Students must be 3 years old before August 1, 2022

Leap Frogs/Leopards Class: Students must be 4 years old before August 1, 2022

***Our Leopards Class will be assigned and utilized for the age group that has the most need for extra classroom space. This classroom may be a duplicate age group class, or utilized for a mixed age group based on enrollment and classroom space needs.*

February Learning Themes

- ◆ Around the World: The World God Made
- ◆ Acts of: Kindness, Bucket Filling, Friendship, Love, & Valentine's Day
- ◆ Author Spotlight
- ◆ Opposites & Prepositions



With Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger, Director



INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

In celebration of Black History Month, I want to take a minute to honor the late Sidney Poitier; actor, author, and director.

His parents lived on Cat Island in the Bahamas and came to Miami often to sell their tomato crop. Mr. Poitier was born, 2 months premature, on one of those trips, which automatically made him a US Citizen. He spent his youth on Cat island.

I read his book, *The Measure of a Man*, multiple years ago, and parts of it are still with me. He carefully selected the acting roles that he accepted. His characters were always complex and fully developed via his talent.

In the 1968 movie "In the Heat of the Night," he plays a respected New England police detective (Virgil Tibbs) passing thru the deep south. He is subjected to racial profiling, but ends up being asked to help the local authorities solve a murder. In the course of his investigation, he has a pointed discussion with a local, rich, racist landowner, who slaps his character in the face. Mr. Poitier felt that his character would slap the landowner back. He felt so strongly about that scene that it was written into his contract that the scene could not be deleted from the film.

Mr. Poitier won multiple acting awards during his career. He was also a dedicated Civil Rights Activist and received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work in that area.

My personal favorite movie of his is "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?" The plot centers around Mr. Poitier's character falling in love and wanting to marry a white woman. It was filmed in the mid 1960's when interracial marriage was still illegal in many southern states. The film has comedic moments, but mostly, it will make you think. The discussion that Mr. Poitier's character has with his film father, who is against the relationship, is riveting. Spoiler alert, it ends like this....

"Dad, I love you. I always have. I always will. But you think of yourself as a colored man. I think of myself as a man."

Submitted in peace and joy,
Tricia Price, Chair
Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Member



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.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM



Black History Month

Music has been an integral part of the African American experience. Enslaved Africans were not allowed to sing the songs or beat the drums from their native land because their owners didn't want them communicating and sending secret messages, therefore a new genre emerge . . . the Spiritual.

There were many types of spirituals including: call and response, sorrow songs, jubilee songs, work songs, and freedom songs. In the beginning they were more like folk music as opposed to the concert spirituals to which we have grown accustomed. Spirituals had secret meanings hidden in the text. "Wade in the Water" meant to go into the water so that the dogs can't follow their scent. "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot" was about the conductors of the underground railroad coming to take them to the north. In "Steal Away" the owners thought they were singing about stealing away to Jesus, but they were really singing about stealing away to the north. There are many examples like those in Spirituals.

After the civil war, composers like R. Nathaniel Dett, Harry T. Burleigh, and William Dawson started arranging spirituals for the concert stage. College choirs such as the Fisk Jubilee Singers, the Hampton Singers (from what is now known as Hampton University) and others popularized the genre by touring nationally and internationally. These songs come from a long history and have influenced several genres including blues, jazz, and gospel music.

The Music Ministry is looking forward to sharing this music with CUCC during Black History Month.

Brandon Brown, M.M.
Music Coordinator



New Year, New Worship & Music

At this month's Council meeting, the Church Council approved hiring two section leaders for the Celebration Singers for a three month time period, roughly February 1 — May 1. This has been a request from both our former and current Music Coordinator/Choir Director to provide leadership in a couple of the sections of the choir as it is being successfully implemented in several other churches across Columbia. Pay for the positions will be \$30/session (rehearsal, worship); \$60/week. \$1560 (maximum) was allocated for this for the term (\$120/week x 13 weeks) from the Worship & Music Designated Fund. The integrity and professional discernment the Council (and we hope, the Congregation) is seeing in our current Music Coordinator, Brandon Brown, was a factor in their decision to go ahead with this plan. Council is looking at this as a "new idea" that they want to try for a period and see how it works; and if they like the results, look for ways to make it happen again this fall. If this program is successful this semester, they will bring it to the Congregational Meeting on May 15 for the Congregation's approval.

Phase two of the update to the sanctuary technology will begin this spring. New lighting will be installed to better illuminate the chancel, organ, and bell choir areas. These areas have long been the least lit areas when they naturally should be the brightest areas. The addition of these lights will also improve the picture quality in our streaming, allowing the cameras to zoom in closer without the image getting "grainy." These lights will be similar to theatrical lighting and be suspended from the ceiling on two sides of the center aisle.



Phase three of the update to the sanctuary including carpet, windows, window coverings, other flooring, handrails, etc. is still in the works.

Mike Pierson, Worship & Music Chair

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Rewarding Stewardship

As I was helping at the Food Bank and Loaves and Fishes, it struck me how many people struggle with day to day needs. We all do to a certain extent, but some more than others. The pandemic has made it worse for some. As I manage my time, I find a growing urge to be a better steward. There are many ways to do this. Volunteering can be rewarding, and there are many places to volunteer in the community and at church. Financial help is needed, also, both in the community and at CUCC. I am always thankful for the support that you, the members, give to CUCC so we can not only worship and fellowship together, but also help our community.



Doug Privitt

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

As of 12/31/2021 we are \$3630.49 ahead in Joyful Giving for 2021.

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Dec. Income	\$84,787.85	\$54,917.86	\$29,869.99
YTD Income	\$387,828.49	\$355,302	\$32,526.49
Dec. Expenses	\$39,250.28	\$36,317.09	\$2,933.19
YTD Expenses	\$358,636.04	\$355,302	\$3,333.95
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$29,192.54	0	\$29,192.54
Dec. Attendance	395		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
01/02/22	22	\$575.00	\$5,811.81
01/09/22	67	\$3,485.00	\$5,811.81
01/16/22	49	\$4,905.00	\$5,811.81
01/23/22	60	\$2,909.00	\$5,811.81
Total	198	\$11,874.00	\$23,247.24

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.

There are Ten Designated Funds at Columbia United Church of Christ. Several of these funds are invested with United Church Funds, and have shown tremendous growth in 2021. All of these funds are open to contributions and are great places for stock donations or to be the recipients of estate planning. To donate, talk to [Sue Ann Schaffer](#) or [Brent Marcks](#).

Building and Grounds Fund: The source for building improvements and repair.

Scholarship Fund: Provides \$1,000 college scholarships to CUCC members.

Transportation Fund: Enables our transportation ministry.

Chiapas Mission/Mayan Ministries Fund: Works to enable our mission with our ministry partners in Chiapas.

Memorial Fund: Receives donations in memory of friends who have died, for ministry programs of CUCC.

Nurture & Education Ministry Fund: Pays 1/2 of camp fees for our youth to attend Camp MoVal.

Outreach & Advocacy Fund: A "fund of funds," this is the pass-thru fund for our monthly mission work.

Worship & Music Ministry Fund: Enables worship upgrades.

Young Adult/Campus Ministry Fund: Provides ministry opportunities for CUCC Young Adults.

Youth Ministry Fund: Used for mission trips and other opportunities to enhance our ministry with our youth.

SPRING FORWARD INTO STEWARDSHIP– MARCH 13

Our annual celebration of Stewardship will be March 13, with a guest speaker in worship and a pot luck meal after worship. At this celebration: we will discuss the financial picture of the church, including the status of our Designated Funds; invite members to make a commitment to the active life of the church through financial goals and time and talent opportunities; talk about events and activities coming up in the life of the church, including Pastor Rick’s Sabbatical; and discuss ways to be active in the life of the church beyond financial stewardship.

We have two people checking their calendars to be our guest speaker; we will announce our speaker in the next week or so and begin advertising our campaign. Since this event is about Stewardship, we are currently planning to make this a “Pot Luck” meal. Everyone is asked to contribute something to the meal — a main dish, side dish, and/or dessert. The Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team will also provide a main dish to supplement the offerings brought by the congregation.

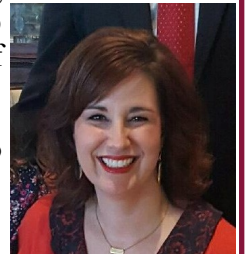
This event will be about Stewardship, but it is also about Fellowship, a chance for us all to gather together and celebrate the life of the church, our individual roles as members of the Body of Christ, and our communal role as Christ’s Body, the church. If you have any questions, talk to [Keith Birkes](#), Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Chair. Watch for more information and details at the end of February.

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

We have a place for your talents and passions! Join a CUCC CARES Ministry!

Our Note Writers, Meal Ministry, Shawl Ministry, and Prayer Ministry members have been busy showing their care and love. We’d love to have you join one of those teams, and we’re still seeking volunteers for our Transportation Ministry. Can you volunteer once a month or so to pick up a church member who has difficulty getting to church on their own? Join one (or more!) of our CUCC CARES (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) Ministries.

Follow this [link](#) to sign-up. You can also email or talk to [Judi Privitt](#) or [Jessica Lucas](#) to sign up.



Jessica Lucas, Membership & Care Ministry Team Chair

February Birthdays to Celebrate!

Amanda Forward (02/02)	Lori Melton (02/06)	Joey Oberle (02/07)
Melba Shaffer (02/07)	Mark Brumbach (02/08)	Elias Nieman (02/08)
Sofia Crenshaw (02/09)	Zabibu Kibaro (02/09)	Tricia Price (02/09)
Raj Tolani (02/09)	Maia Crenshaw (02/11)	Cindy Deegan (02/14)
Ed Rollins (02/14)	Debby Duermeyer (02/15)	Danielle Dreier (02/14)
Imani Kibaro (02/15)	Abigail Dennis (02/16)	Liz Fischer (02/16)
Devin Burrow (02/17)	Donna Wilmsmeyer (02/17)	Pat Forward (02/18)
Nancy Liang (02/19)	Grace Evans (02/20)	Mike Rapp (02/20)
Sadie Tummons (02/20)	Jane Klick (02/21)	Lorry Dreier (02/23)
Stefanie Zimny (02/25)	Gene Lavelly (02/26)	Samantha Hall (02/27)
Tim Grace (02/28)		Darla Privitt (02/28)

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

LOAVES & FISHES

The January 17 meal at L&F consisted of chili mac (using leftover chili from the chili cook-off), chicken & rice (using leftover chicken chili from the chili cook-off and rice (donated by Jessica Lucas), spaghetti, salad (donated by Patty Beeson), and a variety of desserts, including wonderful cookies made by Jolene Kirchhoff. It is so wonderful having so many people contribute to feeding those in our community who are less fortunate.

Thank you also to Mahree Skala for making the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Thank you to Tim & Christine Staelens for donating several pounds of ground beef, which will be used in the future for making spaghetti. Our servers for the evening were Doug & Judi Privitt, Keith Birkes, Patty Beeson, Lydia Whitacre and her friend, Autumn Lear. It was a busy night giving out approximately 140 servings. Thanks again to everyone!!

FOOD BANK NEWS

A crew of seven from CUCC made up most of the Food Bank workforce on December 28, along with 3 other volunteers. We had a light evening of constructing boxes and packing produce (onions and tomatoes) for distribution. Many thanks to Cliff Beckman, Jo Ellen Grace, Judi and Doug Privitt, Melba Shaffer, Mahree Skala, and Tricia Soncasie. Please consider joining in this fun and rewarding mission!

The next opportunity to serve will be on February 22, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Please sign up [here](#), or talk to Mahree Skala for more information.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES— ROOM AT THE INN

RATI provides a warm and safe place for our homeless to sleep during the winter months. Volunteers (must be 18 years or older) can assist in a number of different ways depending on availability, and there are paid staff working onsite with you. Each night is broken into several shifts with specific duties. Shifts are: 5:30am-7:30am; 5:30pm-6:30pm; 6:00pm-9:30pm. [CLICK HERE](#) to volunteer, or to find out more information. We are all one community, and it's cold outside! Thank you!

CUCC—AHL Partnership Friend

“CUCC, thank you again for being so supportive of our Columbia Public School Partner Friend, Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School (AHL)! The Assistant Principal, Kelly Isenogle, will be returning from her maternity leave on February 7, and April Sarff, the Library Media Specialist, has been serving in that Assistant Principal capacity during Kelly’s leave. Which brings me to this special Thank You to Melba Schaffer, Mahree Skala, and Judi Privitt for volunteering each week in AHL’s Library Media Center helping them re-shelf books and other needs. AHL is so appreciative of that work, especially during these challenging times, and while April Sarff has been serving as Asst Principal.” *Brian Rehg, Principal*

The week of February 28, 2022 will be Parent-Teacher conferences week, and we/CUCC plan to “Stock the Lounge” with foodstuffs again to help nourish the teachers and staff during this busy week. We will be talking more with the Home School Communicator about the students’ needs as it relates to coats, gloves, toiletries, shoes, food items, etc., and hope to have another “AHL Drive” in the near future where members of CUCC can contribute donations in a box/cart in the Fellowship area (future information forthcoming). CUCC did contribute books to AHL’s Library in November 2021 in memory of one of the elementary teachers who had died (Ms. Wegner). These were some of Ms. Wegner’s favorite books to read to the students.

AHL is planning their School Carnival on Saturday, May 7, 2022, from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m., and requested for any CUCC members who wish to volunteer by helping in the booths so the teachers and parents can spend more time with their students at the carnival activities. More info forthcoming, and depending on COVID issues at that time.

If you have further questions, or wish to help in any capacity with AHL-Partner Friend, please talk with Pastor Rick or Llona Weiss. Thank you!

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



STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING

COALITION OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

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.

February is Black History Month. Did you know that, according to [Grantmakers for Girls of Color](#), “40% of sex trafficking victims were identified as black women,” and “compared to their racial counterparts, black girls are more likely to be trafficked at a younger age . . . Socioeconomic status is one of the top contributors [for this].” This source also states that an interview with the Urban Institute reveals that a trafficker would receive less jail time for trafficking a black individual than they would if the victim were white. (Source: *Rights 4 Girls, Urban Institute, as stated in Black Women and Girls: Sex Trafficking in the U.S.*)

In a world where we are fighting for equal rights for minorities, including women and black individuals, this news (sadly) does not surprise me, but it does further my knowledge that things must change, and my passion to be a part of that change. All people, no matter who they are, what they believe, where they came from, or where they are going, deserve the right to a life that is their own. Human Trafficking is also called modern day slavery. Black people have already been oppressed in this way and I will not stand for that history to be repeated, nor for any individual to live this reality. Will you join me in the fight? Change starts with you!

April Rothweiler



If you would like more information about how you can volunteer with CMSHTC, please contact [me](#).



**Ronald McDonald
House Charities®**
Mid-Missouri

BIG MOVES ARE AFOOT AT RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE

(condensed from a letter to CUCC by Terri Gray,
Executive Director of COMO Ronald McDonald House)

As you may be aware, MU Healthcare made the decision to move Children’s Hospital from Keene Street back to their main medical campus. While we understand their need to consolidate facilities, we firmly believe families should be within steps, not miles, of where their child is receiving treatment. Because of this, our Board of Directors has made the decision to sell the existing RMD facility and construct a NEW Ronald McDonald House close to where the new Children’s Hospital Tower will be located.

We have a buyer for our current facility! St. Raymond’s Society will take ownership of the house in early 2023. We are working with MU Healthcare to secure a temporary location to serve families until construction of our NEW Ronald McDonald House is complete.

Based on current construction estimates, less net proceeds from the sale of our existing facility, we will launching a campaign to raise an additional \$4 million for the NEW Ronald McDonald House. Located on the northeast corner of College Ave. and Stadium Blvd., the 27,000 square foot home will include 24 bedrooms, more communal areas, private spaces to relax and ample outdoor living space. The new facility will have six more bedrooms than our current house and will increase our space by 9000 square feet. This will allow us to serve more of our community in need. Plan now to participate in our “**Building Love, Expanding Hope**” campaign to raise the funds needed for this NEW Ronald McDonald House.

Families come to Ronald McDonald House in search of a place to stay within steps of their child receiving critical medical treatment. The Ronald McDonald House keeps families together near the care they need and that gives them hope— hope for a positive recovery, for seeing their child smile again, and for taking their child home. This move and expansion will allow us to serve more families and keep them close to their hospitalized children.

We will keep you posted on our progress; and you can keep track of what is new with our mission by visiting our [website](#) (rmhcmidmo.org). Please consider becoming a member of our [RED SHOE SOCIETY](#). For only \$65/year, you can support Ronald McDonald House and receive regular news and updates about our work.

(Note from Pastor Rick: Ronald McDonald House in Columbia is a private, not-for-profit agency that is partners with the McDonalds Corporation, but is not owned or operated by them. They receive philanthropic support from McDonalds franchisees in this market and from donations made at the counter in McDonalds restaurants; but that only accounts for around 20% of their income. The rest of their annual income comes from fundraising events, such as pull tab collections, dinners, and from private donations and grants. Some people believe that RMD House is fully funded by McDonalds— it is not. 80% of their operating budget comes from sources other than McDonalds. They are truly a community organization!)

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Sunday School

We are excited to welcome Lydia Whitacre, who will be teaching the Middle School Sunday School class, along with Lena Muench and Jessica Lucas.



Sunday Morning Adult Classes 9:00 — 10:00 a.m.

Judi Privitt is leading a book discussion entitled, *Holy Chaos*, which meets in the Fellowship Hall through February 6.



The **Soup-er Bowl** fundraiser will be on Sunday, February 13. The confirmation students and other Youth will be collecting monetary contributions to help support our local food pantry and food bank.

Pastor Rick is leading a Thursday evening book study entitled, *Better, Not Bitter*, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. The last gathering will be February 3.



We are excited to welcome Phillip Neale as our new Adult Bible Study Discussion Leader. This class is meeting in the Adult classroom upstairs.

Pastor Rick will be leading a class from March 6 through April 3, called, "Responding to Christian Nationalism."



We are temporarily combining Preschool through 5th grade Sunday School classes until attendance picks up again. There will be two teachers for each combined class.

Peace and Love, Linda Neale
Nurture & Education
Ministry Team Chair



Amy Crousore will be leading a three week class from February 13 — 27, about the History of Church Music.

April Rothweiler will be leading a three week class discussing Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention, beginning April 24 and continuing through May 8.



**Habitat
for Humanity®**

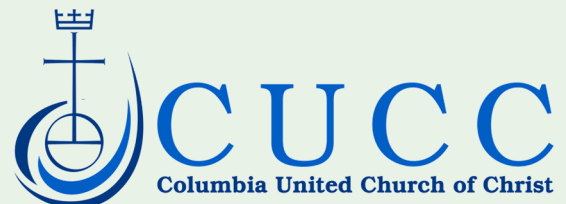
Uel Blank Memorial

Pancake & Sausage
Breakfast

Saturday, February 12th
7:00-11:00am

adults — \$6.00
children 6 — 12 — \$3.00
children 5 & under — Free

Join us in the CUCC
Fellowship Hall



I-70 Drive NW
445-7931

Churches of the Missouri Mid-South Conference have travelled to Chiapas four times in the past six years, working alongside the Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research, one of our Global Ministries Mission partners in Chiapas. We have worked alongside them in towns and villages, learning about the people of Chiapas and the ways of life in the communities of Chiapas. We have also helped construct a new facility on the grounds at [The Institute](#), a facility that has more than tripled their institutional capacity and ability to do ministry with the people of their communities.

[The Institute](#) is not the only Global Ministries Mission partner in Chiapas. On our last trip, we had the opportunity to work with another one of our Mission Partners, [Melel Xojobal](#), an agency that works solely with children in need. [Melel Xojobal](#) means “True Light” in the indigenous Tzotzil language, and they focus on being a light of hope for children whose only other alternative is the dark of hopelessness.

The work of Melel Xojobal can be broken into three areas: early childhood work, support and advocacy for the rights of child workers, and work with young people. Melel Xojobal’s early childhood work focuses on girls and boys from 0 to 4 years old. Melel Xojobal works with children and their parents to address topics such as nutritional, physical, and social skills. Their work with child workers seeks to defend the rights of indigenous children who work in the streets, markets, and public areas of the city. Melel Xojobal seeks to see the children's working conditions improved through self-care strategies and risk reduction. Melel Xojobal also works with young people ages 13 to 18 to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles and self-protection strategies that revolve around prevention of substance abuse, as well as finding dignified work.

Our next “Mission Trip” to Chiapas will be summer, 2022! We will leave St. Louis on July 8 and return on July 15. While we are in Chiapas, we will spend most of our time in the city of [San Cristobal](#), working with The Institute and Melel Xojobal. We will have the opportunity to see several indigenous museums, including the Chocolate Museum, and immerse ourselves in the culture of Chiapas. We will spend time in the marketplaces, and worship at an indigenous church. We will learn about the life and context of the Indigenous Mayan communities that make up Chiapas, and we will even do some work; but work is not the focus of the trip. Education and relationship is the focus. The work will be suited for all abilities; all are welcome to come along, from age 16 up to age 90+! (Due to the nature of the trip, we are not encouraging anyone under 16 to participate.)

The cost for this trip is \$1450. This includes airfare, lodging for 7 days and 6 nights, food for that timeframe, transportation to and from the airport in Tuxtla Gutierrez and other transportation, and other incidentals. All expenses are included in that price, except souvenirs you may wish to buy. For a week long mission trip, it is very economical. **Everyone who participates must be able to show proof of COVID vaccination**, and have a current passport. We may have to take a COVID test before returning home, as well.

There is a limit of ten people for this trip – so make your commitment early! Due to transportation issues, we cannot have more than this number. If you would like to go, talk to Pastor Rick. He has packets with detailed information and registration materials. Registrations must be turned in by March 1. We will be purchasing tickets at that time, so get yours in early! Registration will include the completed registration form, a copy of your passport, and a copy of your COVID vaccination card.

This will be an amazing, life-changing experience! Make plans now to come along!





CUCC IS WORKING IN MOROCCO

The Evangelical Protestant Church in Morocco (EEAM) serves Christ in a land at the crossroads of North and South (Africa and Europe), East and West (Mediterranean and Atlantic) right in the middle. The EEAM is committed to offering welcome to those who come to live and worship in Morocco and hospitality to those who are crossing through the country as migrants. The church has been intentional in its response to the crisis of migration. Trained teams of responders assist migrants through emergency aid (food, shelter, clothing, medical care), scholarships for students, microprojects for migrants, and professional training programs. The EEAM is a diverse body committed to outreach and service in the name of Christ.

The EEAM 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 February, please keep Global Ministries and EEAM in your prayers!

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

February 6-12
Erinn Miller
Working in the UK



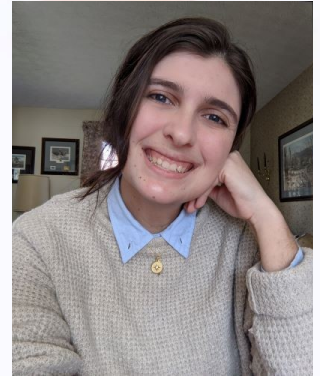
February 13-19
R.J. Howard
Working in Fiji



February 20-26
Angelica Santiago-Gonzales
Working in Chile



Feb. 27-March 1
Abigail Reed
Working in Korea



CUCC IS WORKING IN MEXICO

(condensed from www.globalministries.org)

Melel Xojobal in Tzotzil, an indigenous Mayan language, means "True Light." They are a social organization founded in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico in February 1997. Melel Xojobal primarily works with indigenous populations through education, advocacy, health services, and community engagement.

During its first years, the organization focused on educational programs with children living on the street. Subsequently, their work has been transformed and expanded to contribute more effectively to the fulfillment of the rights of indigenous children, and other children and youth in situations of marginalization and social risk.


Melel Xojobal works with the indigenous children and young people of the state of Chiapas in the promotion, defense, and exercise of their rights through participatory processes for the improvement of their quality of life. They strive to be a sustainable organization with a focus on rights and gender perspective.

The work of Melel Xojobal can be broken into three areas: early childhood work; support and advocacy for the rights of child workers; and work with young people. They work with children and their parents to address topics such as nutritional, physical, and social skills. Their work with child workers seeks to defend the rights of indigenous children who work in the streets, markets, and public areas of the city. They also work with young people ages 13 to 18 to encourage and promote healthy lifestyles and self-protection strategies that revolve around prevention of substance abuse, as well as finding dignified work. Their work seeks to change the conditions that exclude and marginalize indigenous children and youth.



ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN FEBRUARY



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Jan 30 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</p>		1 10am Quilters	2 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Celebration Singers	3 6:30pm Book Study Better Not Bitter	4 Pastor Rick's day off	5
<p>6 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</p>	7 NO Staff Meeting Pastor Rick on vacation	8 10am Quilters Pastor Rick on vacation	9 NO Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Choir	10 9:30am Women's Fellowship Pastor Rick on vacation	11 Pastor Rick on vacation	12 Habitat for Humanity Breakfast 7-11am
<p>13 Soup-er-bowl Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</p>	14 10:30am Staff Meeting 	15 10am Quilters 6:30pm Church Council	16 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Choir	17 6:30pm Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	18 Pastor Rick's day off	19
<p>20 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</p>	21 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30 Loaves & Fishes 6:30 Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	22 10am Quilters	23 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Choir	24 April Gone 12pm Lunch Bunch 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team	25 April Gone Pastor Rick's day off	26
<p>27 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website 12pm Nurture & Education Ministry Team Meeting</p>	28 10:30am Staff Meeting April Gone	Mar 1 Fastnacht	Mar 2 Ash Wednesday 7pm Worship	Mar 3 Fellowship Hall in use 3:00-9:00pm	Mar 4 LODO Closed CPS off	Mar 5

THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ
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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.



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.

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.