

THE COMMUNICATOR

January 2022



From the Pastor's Keyboard

“Epiphany”

As we head into January, we are still in the midst of the Christmas Season, but we are headed towards Epiphany, which is January 6. The word “Epiphany” literally means, *“A moment in which you suddenly see or understand something in a new or different way.”* In the Christian Church, Epiphany is the day we celebrate the visit of the Magi. It is the “Twelfth Day of Christmas” (as popularized in that annoying song) and is always on January 6, the twelfth day after December 25.

On Epiphany, we celebrate the Magi visiting Jesus and the sudden epiphanies that incident brought to the world. Their tribute suddenly caused Mary and Joseph to understand the identity of their son in a new and different way. The proclamation of the angels to the shepherds caused the world to see things in a new and different way. The denial of Herod’s majesty caused his subjects to see him in a new and different way. There are many sudden revelations contained in the story of the Magi and the gifts they bring, and those epiphanies are what we celebrate each year on Epiphany, January 6.

There is another thing we will observe on Epiphany this year. One year ago on January 6, armed terrorists, traitors to our nation, tried to usurp our government, overturn democracy, assassinate our leadership, and install a fascist regime to control our populace. The perpetrators of that event are just now being held accountable for their actions, and the repercussions of their actions will resonate in our world for generations to come. For the first time ever, for a brief time, domestic terrorists occupied the seat of our government.

The fact that this happened on Epiphany (sudden revelation) is not a coincidence. I believe the actions of these terrorists were a sudden revelation to our country that there is something very wrong in the way we interact with each other in the world. There is something very wrong with our collective obsession with individualism and our mistrust of community. There is something very wrong with the way we choose to interact with each other and the narcissistic tendencies that are so much of our national identity. There is something very wrong with the way we, as a country, have confused patriotism with nationalism.

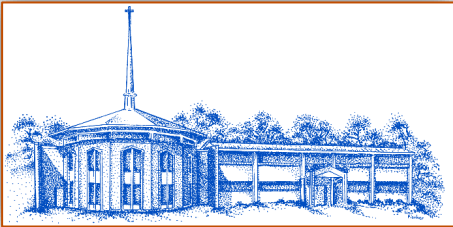
In the world of the Magi, King Herod tried to convince them with slick talk and lies that they should pay tribute to him, not to Jesus. The Magi were Wise enough to see through the schemes of this slick charlatan and pay homage where it was due; to God, incarnate in the person of Jesus. In our world, many do not have the vision of the Magi. Many in our world fall victim to lies and manipulation that cause them to commit acts of domestic terrorism, such as the one we experienced last year on Epiphany. As we emerge from 2021 and the cowardly actions that ushered in the year, it is more important than ever that we have clear enough vision to call out those who would place fear over faith, anger and greed over humility and love. We must call them out so a new world can emerge into being, a world closer to the perfect vision of peace we see on Christmas.

The actions of the Epiphany Terrorists have nothing to do with a political party. They do not represent anyone other than themselves; and it is up to good people on both sides of the partisan divide to come together and call them out. This year, on Epiphany, I hope our sudden revelation is not about how divided we are, but about how united we can be.

The Magi’s faith in action suddenly revealed the folly of King Herod on that first Epiphany; the actions of the Epiphany terrorists last year suddenly revealed to us the many problems with our world today. What will be suddenly revealed as we emerge into 2022? Will we, as people of God, follow the way of the Herod or the way of Jesus? That is our choice this Epiphany and always.

-Pastor Rick





COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3201 I-70 DRIVE NW
COLUMBIA, MO 65202

[Rev. Rick Oberle](#)

Pastor

[Rev. Fred Brandenburg](#)

Pastor Emeritus

[April Rothweiler](#)

Office Administrator

[Brandon Brown](#)

Music Coordinator

[Amy Crousore](#)

Organist/Accompanist

[Erika Maltsbarger](#)

Director, Little One's Day Out

[Raj 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, January 13 at 9:30 am 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. It is very interesting, and includes Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary, and more!

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 in January!

LUNCH BUNCH—THURSDAY, JANUARY 27

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, January 27. Debbie Beal, the Executive Director of [City of Refuge](#), will join us to talk about the work they do, specifically addressing the Afghan Refugee Situation and how we have the unique opportunity to offer extravagant hospitality to God's children in need in this way. As we remember the story of Infant Jesus' escape to Egypt (Matthew 2:13) and the refugee status of the Holy Family, we rejoice in the opportunity to help with this situation in our context. Come and hear how CUCC is working through [City of Refuge](#)!

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!



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**



THANK YOU!

We are overwhelmed by the prayers and generosity bestowed upon us during our month in St. Louis for Barry's clinical trial with Car-T Therapy. We're lucky to live in this age of medical miracles and know that it is guided by God's hand. And we look forward to seeing our church family again when Barry's immune system recovers enough for him to be out and about.

Blessings to you!

Jolene and Barry
Kirchhoff



THANK YOU CUCC!

Dear CUCC,

Thank you for your gift of \$1500 received on 11/22/21. Your generosity makes an impact in the lives of the individuals that the [Voluntary Action Center](#) serves daily through our FISH Fund.

The FISH fund stands for **Faith in Service to Humanity**. FISH is a partnership between VAC and local faith based organizations. Funds donated to FISH are designated for additional services that an individual or household may need if they have already reached the VAC limit.

As of 9/20/22, the FISH fund has provided additional financial support to 993 individuals in 465 households in Columbia/Boone County. Your support is making an impact in the community! We are so appreciative of your support.

Ed Stansbury, Executive Director, Voluntary Action Center

THANK YOU CUCC!

Dear CUCC,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$2000 to [Catholic Charities of Central and Northeastern Missouri](#) towards Refugee Services efforts. Refugees, having suffered great loss, including their homes, livelihoods, possessions, and often times their families, need assistance starting over in a new country. It is through your gift that we may continue to care and support refugees as they begin new lives here in Mid-Missouri. [Catholic Charities](#) has received an unprecedented influx of refugees from Afghanistan and relies on community support more than ever! You are helping us respond to these urgent needs.

Your generosity supports [Catholic Charities'](#) work to fulfill the personal needs of these refugees: food, clothing, shelter, employment, health services, youth and family services, English language training, and so much more. We are grateful for your gift. Our prayers are with you as we proclaim we are one human family.

Sincerely, Dan Lester, Executive Director, Catholic Charities of NE Missouri

THANK YOU CUCC!

Thank you for your support of [City of Refuge](#) and the work we do on a daily basis. Because of your donation, we are able to do more, able to build relationships and trust, and help refugees in mid-Missouri navigate a new way of life. Without gifts like yours, this would not be possible. Thank you for investing in the lives of our neighbors!

Debbie Beal, Executive Director, City of Refuge

2021 VAC CHRISTMAS DRIVE- THANK YOU CUCC!

Thank you for your generosity!

CUCC sponsored 40 people in 17 households this year, and every one of them will have a better Christmas because of your help. All received gifts, household items, and food money, and we were also able to provide several hundred dollars to help other families. Several members of the Outreach and Advocacy Team helped sort the gifts, and Mark Duncan and Keith Birkes delivered them. Special thanks go to the LODO parents who gave toys, clothes, and other necessities for two adults and three children.

In addition to the Christmas "Adoption" program, CUCC also donated \$1279 to the [Voluntary Action Center](#), which was 5% of our "Giving Tuesday" collection. This also went to help provide a Merry Christmas to those in need. Through these and other Outreach efforts, CUCC is making a difference in the lives of so many in our community! Thank you for your generous support of the [VAC](#) and the Christmas Program!

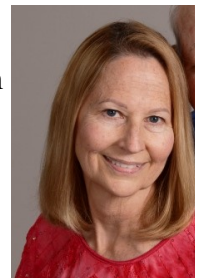
CHURCH COUNCIL

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

The Church Council met on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Those present were Pastor Rick Oberle, Brent Marcks, Jessica Lucas, Mike Pierson, Kristy Odneal, Lorry Dreier, Sue Ann Schaefer, Mark Duncan, Keith Birkes, Linda Neale, and Audrey Lasley.

- Mike Pierson led a discussion from chapter ten in the book, *Piloting Church*.
- Empty spots were filled for steward duties for Christmas Eve services and 12/26, as well as January.
- All parts for the new Chancel lighting have been received and hope to get installed the week between Christmas and New Year's.
- We are still waiting on a part for the additional security on the south basement door.
- Part of the driveway sealing project has been done (entryway) and the rest will be finished when LODO is on Spring Break or in the Summer.
- Another HVAC unit will be replaced 12/22/21.
- There is no change in church procedures pertaining to COVID.
- There will be a Sabbatical committee formed in January. It will have five members consisting of one representative from each team of Membership/Care, Worship/Music, Nurture/Education, Clergy Personnel Committee, and Council Personnel Committee.
- We received a total of \$25,585 for "Giving Tuesday." 5% went to City of Refuge and 5% to VAC.
- Pastor Rick encourages everyone to write a Google review for CUCC.
- A policy will be improvised to address virtual voting at Congregational meetings.
- A new sign for LODO will be placed at the church driveway entrance and also above the door where the LODO children arrive. Total cost will be \$2100. Donations have been received to offset this.
- The Worship & Music Ministry team submitted a proposal to hire section leaders for the choir. After discussion, a motion was made to table this proposal. Motion passed.
- Council approved Audrey Lasley to fill in as role of Secretary through the end of May.
- Pastor Rick encourages everyone to sign up for Eat With Eight.
- Ministry teams will be reviewing and setting new goals for the Five Year Strategic Plan beginning in 2022.
- It was reported that we are \$13,000 short of budget as of now. There is one more Sunday and two weeks of giving on Kindrid.
- Submitted Team reports were viewed.
- Cookies by the Pound brought in \$561.
- LODO t-shirts are in and being distributed.
- The Christmas eve offering will go to Mobility Worldwide.
- Blessing of the children during communion will start on Jan. 9.
- Passing offering plates during worship will begin on Jan. 2.
- The organ is in need of minor repair and maintenance. Pastor Rick is getting in touch with a representative and will find out information about a service contract.
- The next Council meeting is January 18.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Lasley, Secretary



ANNUAL CHILI COOK-OFF JANUARY 9

The Annual Men's Fellowship Annual Chili Cook-Off is coming on Saturday, January 9, immediately following the Worship Service. Come enjoy the culinary creations of some of the best chili chefs in Columbia. Enter your own special chili recipe in pursuit of the elusive and coveted traveling Golden Ladle Award. Everyone, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, is invited to enter by signing up on the entry sheet located in the gathering area or by contacting [Doug Privitt](#) or [Brent Marcks](#). All ages are welcome! Entries should be made for 10-12 servings, noted if they are meat or vegetarian, given a name, and delivered warm between 9:30-10:15 a.m. on Sunday, January 9, to the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome to come and eat, whether you submit a chili entry or not!

MODERATOR'S MOMENT

What an exciting month we had celebrating throughout the Advent season . . . and now, as we enter into January, we continue to celebrate the Twelve days of Christmas leading to Epiphany!

Thank you to everyone who gave their time and talents throughout the past several weeks for the cantata, banquet, children's program, worship services, and more. They were truly amazing and added so much to the Christmas season. Life at CUCC has been quite busy lately, and our ministry teams are keeping momentum going. Plans are unfolding for initiatives surrounding inclusion, adult education, outreach, and many other ministries!

As we reflect back over the past calendar year, we see how much we have grown as a congregation, provided support to our members, and reached out to our community. This is what continues to make CUCC a special part of so many of our lives.

With gratitude,
Kristy Odneal, Moderator



COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kristy Odneal	kristyodneal@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Secretary:	Audrey Lasley	aklasley@centurytel.net
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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



MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

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

Looking for a task-oriented, hands-on ministry opportunity that provide care for our congregation members in times of celebration and need? Join one (or more!) of our CUCC CARES (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) Ministries! 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 Handy Helpers and Transportation Ministries. Follow this link to sign-up: [CARES TEAM](#). If you'd like a paper copy of the sign-up, ask [Judi Privitt](#) or [Jessica Lucas](#).

We have begun using our new church van to transport members to church! On December 12, Travis Brookshire used it to bring Gary Ehrhardt to worship. We hope to start using it more in 2022. If you need a ride to church, contact [April](#) in the church office, or a member of the team.

In early 2022, we will be hosting Eat with Eight gatherings. These are a great way to get to know each other! If you have not signed up yet, let me know!

-Jessica Lucas, Chair



January Birthdays to Celebrate!

Carol Duermeyer (1/03)	Laura Gartner (1/03)	Fred Malicoat (1/04)
Mahree Skala (1/05)	Blake Forward (1/07)	Hannah Bashinski (1/11)
Sarah Smith (1/14)	Lydia Whitacre (1/14)	Steve Devenney (1/15)
Dennis Marienfeld (1/15)	Kristy Odneal (1/15)	Ann Stone-Meyer (1/16)
Judy Kaiser (1/17)	Conne Burnham (1/20)	Donna Marsh (1/20)
Jessica Wolfe (1/20)	Bret Arms (1/21)	Bryan Forward (1/22)
Seth Smith (1/22)	Shirley Gallaher (1/24)	Jolene Hackman (1/26)
David Forward (1/27)	Sue Ann Schaefer (1/28)	Jane Beckett (1/30)
	Alice Moon (1/31)	

FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

The Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team will be meeting on Tuesday, January 18 at 5:30 pm, right before the Council meeting. We will be planning SPRING events, as well as Lenten themed activities. Come join us and help us plan what fun and exciting things we can do to encourage hospitality at CUCC! Our meeting should last only an hour. Watch for more details about upcoming activities! If you have any questions, talk to [Stefanie Zimny](#), Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team Chair.

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for January. We would love to see some new faces sharing their time and talents in this capacity, and the new year is the perfect time to jump in! 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 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
1/2	Carol Duermeyer	Brent Marcks	Mark Duncan	Danielle Dreier	Carissa Graves John Graves	Lorry Dreier
1/9	Judi Privitt	Llona Weiss	Lena Muench	Abby Dennis	Phillip Dennis Lorry Dreier	Sue Ann Schaefer
1/16	Helen Schultz	NEED	Llona Weiss	Aidan Pierson	Doug Privitt Judi Privitt	Connie Loveless
1/23	Anne Heine	NEED	Judi Privitt	Katelin Odneal	Brent Marcks Josh Muench	Judi Privitt
1/30	Helen Schultz	NEED	Pat Forward	Trevor Pierson	Doug Privitt Judi Privitt	Audrey Lasley

LODO MINISTRY TEAM

LODO NEWS

Happy New Year from Little One's Day Out! We wish you and yours health and happiness in the New Year.

December brought many joys to our preschool. Our generous families fulfilled the needs of two Voluntary Action Center families for Christmas! We learned all about Dinosaurs, Christmas Cheer, and the Nativity. Our older students even went on a Gingerbread Man Hunt to catch the sneaky guy – it's a good thing he left a trail when he was running so fast!

On Thursday, December 16, LODO welcomed our families into the Sanctuary for our annual Christmas Program. We filled the room for this wonderful celebration of Jesus! After our program, we enjoyed fellowship with families and staff with a cookie reception. The children all did an amazing job singing their praises, helping to tell the story of Jesus' birth, and simply sharing the joy of Christmas. Many thanks to Pastor Rick for leading our prayer and to Doug and Judi Privitt for running the sound booth during the performance!

LODO will be closed December 22 thru January 3 for Christmas Break. Students return on January 4 and jump right back into learning. KidSight will visit our center on Monday, January 10 and Tuesday, January 11 for free vision screenings of our students. We are grateful for this program that provides early detection of vision concerns. LODO will be closed on Monday, January 17 in observation of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



With Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger, Director



LODO MINISTRY TEAM NEWS

The church sanctuary was filled with singing and fellowship during the LODO Christmas Program. It was great to see the smiling children and proud parents after last year's absence. Thank you to everyone who made this night a success. Thank you to everyone who ordered LODO t-shirts and made donations. The t-shirts are in the narthex and ready for pick up. LODO is closed until January 4, 2022.

The Ministry Team has also been working on new signage for LODO. Look for new signs in 2022, both at the entrance to the church and on the building.

Respectfully,
Lorry Dreier LODO Ministry Team Chair

Did you know that **reading to children** helps develop their brain by improving memory, focus, concentration, social skills, vocabulary, writing, and communication skills, as well as enhancing imagination, and decreasing stress and depression? LODO loves to have church members and family come to share in story time. If you would like to read to a LODO class, contact [Erika](#) to set up a day and time.

INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

Welcome 2022! Nearly every morning, I wake up with a song in my head. Sometimes it is something I heard on the radio or on TV. Sometimes it is a blast from the past that just pops up. The songs can be a one time thing, or the same song may play in my head for several days or weeks.

Since just before Thanksgiving, my daily wake up song has been the following chorus:

Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory
Rise and shine and give God the glory, glory
Rise and shine and give God the glory
You're a child of God!

(The last line has been adapted to make it more inclusive.)



There are at least three lessons, I believe, from this chorus:

1. "Rise and shine" = Start your day off being positive – be a shining light in the world.
2. "Give God the glory" = Praise and be thankful to our Creator for a new day, a new year, and new opportunities.
3. "You're a child of God" = We are created and beloved by God ... all of us.

Thus, this chorus encourages us to start the day with a smile, glorifying God, and walking hand in hand with each other as siblings in Christ. Some days this can be a challenge. Nonetheless, it is a goal to strive towards every day.

Now, on to Inclusion and Affirmation business:

- We honor Martin Luther King this month as a courageous beacon of civil rights.
- CUCC will have a table at the annual COMO Values Diversity on January 13. Please let the office know if you want to attend.
- For Black History Month, in February, we will have some bulletin inserts and presentations celebrating and highlighting boundary breaking individuals of color.
- In March, we will focus on women world leaders for Women's History Month.
- Watch for more Inclusive artwork at CUCC this Spring!

The Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team needs your help! We are a small group with a big focus. Your insights, experiences, talents, and time are needed to continue the progression of our Open & Affirming Covenant! Contact Tricia Price or myself to learn more. We look forward to hearing from you!

In Joy,
Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Member, on behalf of Tricia Price, Chair



CUCC OPEN AND AFFIRMING/INCLUSION COVENANT

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

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



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

EPIPHANY SUNDAY JANUARY 9

We will be celebrating Epiphany on January 9 at CUCC, the visit of the Magi. On that day, we invite you to bring gifts to the king as well: gifts of toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and other hygiene items. These will be brought forward and dedicated to God's glory and then shared with [City of Refuge](#) for their immigration program. There are boxes in the Gathering Area for hygiene items before January 9 if you want to bring them early. Hope to see you in worship January 9 as we celebrate the gifts of the Magi!



MLK DAY CELEBRATED AT CUCC JANUARY 16 – SERMON SERIES

On January 16, we will celebrate the birthday of The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King by sharing in worship some of the wisdom he exemplified in his life. We will kick off a three-part series on this day looking at three of the aspects of "[The King Philosophy for Nonviolence](#)." On that day, we will talk about Dr King's vision of "The Beloved Community" and how it intersects with Jesus' vision for humanity and our call as Christians to make God's Kingdom Come on Earth, as it is in Heaven.

The next two Sundays we will talk about other aspects of [The King Philosophy](#) as we examine "The Triple Evils and Temptation" (1/23) and "The Six Steps of Nonviolent Social Change" (1/30). These principles will help develop the Gospel stories of Jesus' temptation (1/23) and the extravagance of the Wedding Party at Cana (1/30).

Dr. King often said that he received his inspiration from Jesus Christ and his techniques from Mohandas K. Gandhi; and the intersection of these two examples of Wisdom form a foundation for living a truly joyful life, devoted to God and God's Creation. Don't miss worship in January; this will be an exciting Sermon Series!

THREE YEAR ONA ANNIVERSARY JANUARY 27

On January 27, 2019, CUCC took a bold and courageous step forward – we officially adopted an "Open and Affirming Covenant" and registered with the United Church of Christ as an Open and Affirming Congregation. This move allowed us to proclaim who we are to a broader audience and allow more people to experience God's love in the world. Since that bold step, three years ago:

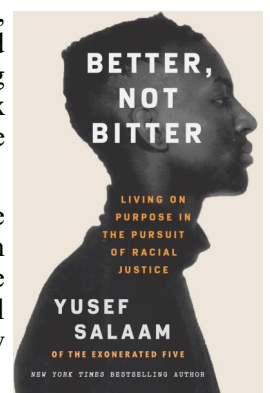
- We have received 29 new members (not including confirmation students; with them the number is 40 new members) most of whom joined this church because we are "Open and Affirming."
- We have participated in two [Pridefests](#) where we shared the news of our congregation with people hurting in Columbia, looking for a place to affirm them as God Created them.
- We welcomed many guests from historically marginalized groups who found new life and light in our worship.
- We hosted several book studies on LGBTQIA, racial and ethnic issues focusing on oppression.
- We brought inclusive artwork to our gathering and worship space, to proclaim visually who we are.
- We brought transgender theologian [Austin Hartke](#) to Columbia to share his wisdom with us.

We are just three years into this covenant, and we have done much, but we are just getting started! If you are interested in helping us live into this covenant, talk to [Pastor Rick](#) or [Tricia Price](#)!

BOOK STUDY ON EFFECTS OF SYSTEMIC RACISM TO START ON 1/13

On April 19, 1989, a 28-year old female jogger was attacked in Central Park, beaten, raped, and left for dead. The weeks following that incident led prosecutors to focus on five Black and Hispanic youth, all of whom were minors at the time and whose whereabouts for that evening were already established. [Yusef Salaam](#) was one of the five. He was convicted and spent six years and eight months in jail. In December, 2002, long after he was released, DNA evidence proved he did not commit the crime. He, along with the others, were exonerated.

Yusef's book talks about how he survived prison life being falsely accused, and how he became a better, not bitter person because of what he endured. We will study his book from 6:30 – 8:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall on January 13, 20, 27, and February 3. Copies of the book are available in the Church Office, or you can order a copy online or at your local bookshop. We will also be looking at other instances of people wrongfully convicted, and how the justice system oppresses minority groups. For more information, talk to [Pastor Rick](#).



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Thank you for another incredible result for Giving Tuesday. We exceeded our goal of \$25,000. We were able to donate \$1,279.25 to VAC and \$1,279.25 to City of Refuge. We were also able to put \$23,026.50 toward Joyful Giving. This event isn't successful without the wonderful response of a great community of people. We are approaching year end, and our year-end Joyful Giving numbers will be ready soon. As of the Communicator deadline, we need to bring in around \$15,000 to meet our Joyful Giving goal for the year. I am hopeful that we will hit our year end goal and meet our budgeted income for 2021.

As we conclude 2021 and look forward to 2022 be thinking of ways we can continue to be great stewards of our time, talent, and treasures.

Thanks again,
Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer



GIVING TUESDAY TOTALS

Total amount collected:	\$25,585
10% (Biblical Tithe) given away:	\$2,558.50
to Voluntary Action Center	\$1,279.25
to City of Refuge	\$1,279.25
Amount directed to Joyful Giving	\$23,026.50

The Giving Tuesday logo, featuring a stylized red heart icon above the text "GIVING TUESDAY" in blue.

Thank you, CUCC for your faithful stewardship! The funds raised will go a long way to enabling the ministries of CUCC and the missions we support!

UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETING: May 15 @ 11:30 a.m. – Combined with a fellowship meal, this meeting will be the chance to review our activities for 2021, 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!

HVAC REPLACEMENT PROJECTS TO COME FROM INVESTMENT FUND

Have you noticed the two new condenser units outside the educational wing at church? We replaced two of our old HVAC units this fall. One is a new unit in the Fellowship Hall, the other is a new unit in the West LODO wing. Each unit cost the church \$7800, installed. We spent almost \$16,000 this year replacing old HVAC units.

We have a total of 17 HVAC units in our facility. Two are brand new; the other 15 units are 22 years old, greatly pushing the life expectancy of such items. Some of them are getting by just fine; others are held together with duct tape. We are planning to replace two units each year, but realize that there will come a year when we have to do more. The total projected expense to replace all units is \$170,000+. When the time comes to replace our Sanctuary units, that price tag will exceed \$70,000.

Where is the money coming from for these projects? Out of our Building & Grounds Designated Fund, one of our investments with United Church Funds. We currently have \$120,000+ in this investment account, but with \$170,000 in HVAC units needing replacement in the years to come, this fund could be depleted quite quickly. When an HVAC unit goes out, the need for replacement is urgent. We hope to increase the balance of this fund in the next year, so we can have funds ready for emergency situations. Currently, three percent of our Joyful Giving is put in this fund every month to help increase its value.

If you would like to contribute to the Building and Grounds Designated Fund to make ministry happen at CUCC, talk to [Sue Ann Schaefer](#), [Brent Marcks](#), or [Kristy Odneal](#). This fund is great place to leave a legacy, remembering CUCC in your will. Many projects are coming up, and there will always be more maintenance issues in a building such as this. We need you to help keep things in tip-top shape. Thank you for your help!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Financial Update				Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)	12/05/21	101	\$5,251	\$6,038.24
Nov. Income	\$29,444	\$26,706	\$2738	12/12/21	140	\$10,910	\$6,038.24
YTD Income	\$303,041	\$300,384	\$2657	12/19/21	119	\$7,260	\$6,038.24
Nov. Expenses	\$30,904	\$26,629	\$4275	12/26/21	35	\$11,953	\$6,038.24
YTD Expenses	\$318,280	\$318,985	(\$705)	Total	395	\$35,374	\$24,152.96
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$15,239)	(\$18,600)	\$3361	As of 11/30/2021 we are \$26,258 behind in Joyful Giving for 2021.			
Nov. Attendance	369						

CUCC HAS ONLINE GIVING!

You can now give online to Columbia United Church of Christ through our online giving partner, Kindrid!

There are several ways to make a one time or recurring gift through Kindrid:

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

Christian Stewardship:

The Belief that everything we have is a gift from God; and we are just stewards of it.

Rev. David Lewis Beebe

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.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

HAPPY NEW YEAR CUCC!

The Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers are still exhilarated by the music we produced for the Sermon in Song and throughout the Advent season, and we appreciate all of your kind words and encouragement. We look forward to entering the new year with the same excitement, worshipping the Lord through music! Still considering your resolutions for the new year? Consider joining the music ministry. We are always excited to welcome new members. We are looking for new song leaders to sing the hymns during worship services, as well as choir members and other ensembles. Please send me an e-mail (brandon.michael.brown@gmail.com) or talk to me at church about your musical interest. Everyone is welcome!

Brandon Brown, M.M.
Music Coordinator



OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

LOAVES & FISHES

What a busy evening it was at L&F this month! We served 105 firsts and 63 seconds and to go plates. The menu consisted of pork loin, roasted potatoes, green beans, applesauce, rolls and cake leftover from the Christmas banquet, spaghetti, lettuce salad provided by Patty Beeson, cake from the Confirmation reception, cookies made by Jolene Kirchhoff, and peanut butter & jelly sandwiches provided by Mahree Skala. Our servers were Patty Beeson and Muko (one of her students), Lydia Whitacre, Keith Birkes, Judi Privitt, and Anne Heine. Thank you to everyone for your wonderful help!
-Audrey Lasley

JANUARY FOOD BANK NEWS

Five UCC volunteers worked at the Food Bank in November assembling food boxes for veterans and low-income elderly people, then packaging dry cereal. We had lots of good help from some Scouts and their adult sponsors.

Please keep the 4th Tuesday free on your calendar each month. This month it is January 25. The link to sign up will be out soon in the Friday email.

If you have any questions, contact [Mahree Skala](#) or call 573-474-2195.

CUCC HELPING AFGHAN REFUGEES THROUGH CITY OF REFUGE

[City of Refuge](#) is a local non-profit organization created to help refugees recover and regain control of their lives. They help refugees become productive, successful, and contributing members of our community. Many of them do not speak English, arrive with only a few pieces of clothing, and very little money. [City of Refuge](#) serves them by helping with immediate needs, building relationships over time, and helping them acclimate to the Mid-Missouri area and overcome the trauma and displacement they have experienced.

If you feel led to support the refugee and immigrant families that have come to our community, there are many ways you can be a part of the work of [City of Refuge](#) who is always in need of volunteers, as well as material and financial donations (check out their website by clicking on the blue links above).

CUCC made a donation of \$3,000 to City of Refuge for our Special Mission Project this fall. We designated 5% of our Giving Tuesday funds to City of Refuge as well, resulting in an additional donation that will exceed \$1,250. In addition to these, we also supported [Catholic Charities Refugee Resettlement program](#) with a \$2,000 donation.

We now want to collect items of Hygiene through January 9. Hairbrushes/Combs, First Aid Kits, Nail Clippers, Towels and Washcloths, Razors, Toothpaste, Toothbrush, Deodorant, Soap, and Lotion may be placed in boxes labeled "Hygiene Items" in the Gathering Area.

Our Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team is in contact with City of Refuge, and we also have a contact with a member at The Islamic Center of Central Missouri, where many of the Afghan Refugees will find community and faith partners. If you need more information, please contact Mark Duncan at (573) 864-2435. This Ministry Team will continue to look for ways we can support our new community members and partners.



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.

If you have any questions or would like more information about the CMSHTC, please contact [April Rothweiler](#). Change starts with you!

CITY OF REFUGE WINTER RUMMAGE SALE JANUARY 7 & 8

The [City of Refuge](#) will be holding a Rummage Sale on January 7 & 8 at their facility, 7 East Sexton Road, in Columbia. Proceeds from the sale will go to support their work with refugees, especially Afghan refugees. Check out the bargains! Sale will be from 9:00am-2:00pm both days. [Volunteers are also needed that week to set up.](#)

COLUMBIA CROP HUNGER WALK 2021



Celebrating 26 years of Walks in Columbia, we raised the most ever- \$20,555.66!
Heartfelt thanks to all our participating groups and donors! Without you, we would be less supportive of hunger programs in Boone County and around the world through Church World Service.

Together we are CROP – an interfaith Community Responding to Overcome Poverty
Columbia United Church of Christ was the top fundraising group in 2021, raising \$4,291.75.

However, we want to acknowledge that while the number of dollars is vital, it is not the whole story as many of our supporting groups increased their fundraising by double digit percentages over 2020. This effort proves that your support for our local food partners and CWS continues to be ever stronger in the face of great need.

Our generous total this year was made possible because most of our participating groups increased their giving this year: **Calvary Episcopal (200%), Columbia Friends Meeting (49%), Columbia United Church of Christ (55%), Congregation Beth Shalom (103%), Destiny Worship Center (340%), Fairview Community of Christ (41%), Fifth Street Christian (183%), Hindu Temple Helping Hands (8%), Missouri United Methodist (60%), Olivet Christian (29%), Rock Bridge Christian (164%), Russell Chapel CME (250%), St. Luke United Methodist (120%), and Unitarian Universalist (2%).** Congratulations and sincere thanks to these faithful congregations for your extra efforts, even when it's not possible to match the dollars!

Columbia's commitment to our food program partners is strong

Our sponsor partner, Church World Service, will receive 75% of the Walk proceeds for its national and international work to provide food assistance, disaster relief, and establishing healthier and safer communities. Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture is a local Supporting Partner.

Our four Boone County partners will receive 25% of the Walk proceeds as they continue to reduce hunger by providing immediate assistance through food pantries and community meals.

Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry
Fifth Street Christian Church *Feed the Community Meal and Pantry*
Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen Community Meal
Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry

CROP WALKERS across the country raised over \$5.9 million dollars this year, with at least \$1.9 million to be shared with local food partners across all WALK communities! Mark your calendars for the 2022 CROP Walk which will be Sunday, September 18th at Stephens Lake Park!

With grateful hearts ... your Columbia CROP Hunger WALK Planning Team for this year was:

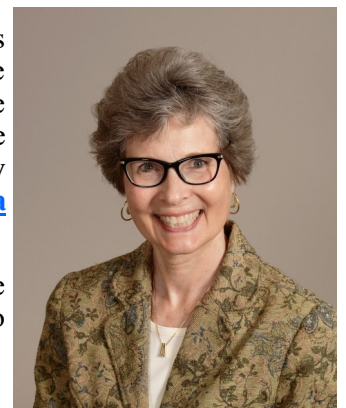
Coordinators: Brad Boyd-Kennedy, Columbia United Church of Christ and Edith Prince, Russell Chapel CME;
Secretary: Marilyn Bettenhausen, Olivet Christian; **Treasurer:** Linda Reed Brown, Olivet Christian; and **Planning Team members:** Cleo Kottwitz, Missouri United Methodist; Letitia DenHartog, Rock Bridge Christian; Ruth O'Neill, Newman Center/St. Francis Catholic Worker Community/Loaves & Fishes Community Meal; Paula Hayes, Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry; Helen Robinson, Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry; Jessica Jenks, Columbia United Church of Christ; Alvin Cobbins and Rev. Angela Williams, Fifth Street Christian; Adam Saunders, Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture.

CUCC—AHL PARTNERSHIP FRIEND

Did you know that every week, three CUCC members are working at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School, volunteering their time in the School Resource Center to reshelve books and make sure things are running well? Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, we have a CUCC person at the school helping out! This is a great way to enhance our role as Partnership Friend with Alpha Hart Lewis! If you would like to help out in a way such as this (it does not have to be every week), talk to Mark Duncan or me, [Llona Weiss](#), your Partnership Friend Liaison!

When school resumes this month, Pastor Rick and I will be meeting with the administration of Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary to see how we can work together to enhance the education of our community youth. Watch for more details!

Llona Weiss, Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary Partnership Friend Liaison



NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

CONFIRMATION 2021– Kennedy, Abby, & Zabibu

On November 28, CUCC welcomed our newest three members to the church – Kennedy Lucas, Zabibu Kibaro, and Abby Dennis. These three girls journeyed together through Confirmation amid pandemic challenges. They met via Zoom, socially distanced, masked, and many other ways to complete their Confirmation journey. They offered Testimony in worship on November 21, they were confirmed and joined the church on November 28, and they received their first communion as confirmed members of the church on December 5.



Reflecting on their Confirmation Journey, Pastor Rick commented on what he tells every Confirmation Class at the beginning of the year, “You will get out of it what you put into it. If you put forth effort, participate, and do the work given to you, you will find yourself on a fulfilling faith journey. If you put no effort into Confirmation, you will get nothing out of it.” These three students put forth great effort, and a life-long faith grew stronger as a result.

Now their journey begins in earnest. As they live into their role as members of Christ’s Church and active members of Columbia United Church of Christ, they also live into the responsibilities of that role. As we head into the new year, be sure to extend a warm greeting to these three confirmed members of Christ’s church, CUCC’s three newest members!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Children’s Christmas play “Do Not Be Afraid” was a wonderful expression of the Christmas Spirit! The kids did an awesome job, acting, singing, playing musical instruments. We have such great talent in our church! There was such enthusiasm, and I believe we all felt the power of Jesus’ birth!

It was truly a joint effort. I want to thank Jessica Lucas (Director of lines and staging), Mike Pierson (sound technology), Paula Wilson and Pat Forward (costumes and preschool thru 1st grade teachers), Amy Crousore (piano accompanist), Clayton Hicklin (guest guitar accompanist), and all the children/youth (Danielle Dreier, Katelin Odneal, Riley Hayward, Trevor Pierson, Aidan Pierson, Abby Dennis, Caleb Muench, Landon Muench, Emily Malicoat, Kennedy Lucas, Zabibu Kibaro, Addison Melton, Kaden Lucas, Chantal Kibaro, and Esther Kibaro) who participated. It was truly an amazing presentation.



“Cookies by the Pound” was a hugely successful fundraiser for CUCC church camp. We raised over \$600! Thank you to all who made this possible (Gina Pierson, Lena Muench, Lorry Dreier, Danielle Dreier, Aimee Dennis, Brenda Muench, Susan Dunham, Marianne Bullerd, Linda Evans, Ann Stone-Meyer, and everyone who baked cookies/goodies!!). You are all awesome!!! Watch for more excitement in 2022 as we plan Adult Education classes and new activities with our children and youth!



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

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 yet.)

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 BANGLADESH

Climate change is a major concern for Bangladesh due to extreme and regular cyclones, tidal flooding, and riverbank erosion, among other factors. The amount of saline in the soil and groundwater affects agricultural activities and creates a safe drinking water crisis. The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh trains farmers in innovative climate adaptation practices through Community Centers, which are operated by local residents. One focus for the centers is safe drinking water. Community Centers provide capacity-building courses and provides funds to implement projects including climate change risk assessments for households, climate resilient agriculture, and livelihood opportunities, and installing technology to increase access to fresh water. Through these adaptive techniques, the CCDB is working on long-term solutions toward climate resilient communities in Bangladesh.

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

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

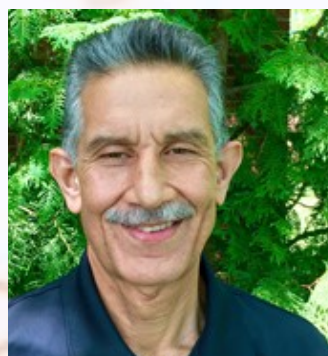
January 2-8
Thomas Smith
Working in Korea



January 9-15
Debbie Colvin
Working in Ghana



January 16-22
Ricardo Mayol
Working in Guatemala



January 23-29
Maria Bakalian
Working in Lebanon



CUCC IS WORKING IN MEXICO

(condensed from www.globalministries.org)

The [Roundtable of Mexican Partner Churches](#) (a [Global Ministries](#) Mission Partner) is made up of three denominations within Mexico. It is focused on the training of lay and clergy leaders for the growing number of congregations.

One of the Roundtables educational programs is the Summer Bible and Theology program. The Roundtable describes this program as *an experience of unity in the midst of diversity*. Drawing participants from across these three denominations, this program prides itself on creating a space for excellent biblical and theological education that is accessible to all. One goal of the program is to make continuing education for both laity and clergy a norm for those in the member denominations. Subjects include Biblical interpretation, pastoral care, and theology. The Roundtable is in the process of developing a diploma program in coordination with the Education Department from the Theological Community in Mexico.

The 2019 program was a witness to the important presence of young people in churches, not only as participants, but also as program facilitators and learners. The development of youth leadership is another top priority of the Roundtable. The summer program has evolved from predominantly adult participants to more youth and young adult participants.

The Roundtable is energized to continue educating clergy and lay members across Mexico and to build upon their growing youth participation. Since the spring of 2020 and the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Roundtable has adapted and is providing virtual education and educational resources now. The summer educational program for 2020 was postponed, but the Roundtable continues to plan for the future and hopes to continue offering its flexible virtual offerings even after it returns to offering an in-person format. We are praying for more in-person activities in 2022 as we emerge from the pandemic.

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN JANUARY

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>2 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</p>	<p>3 NO Staff Meeting</p>	<p>4 LODO Back 10am Quilters</p>	<p>5 6pm Confirmation NO Choir Rehearsal NO Bells Rehearsal</p>	<p>6 Epiphany</p>	<p>7 Pastor Rick's day off</p>	<p>8</p>
<p>9 Chili Cookoff/Epiphany 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</p>	<p>10 10:15am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Nurture & Education Ministry Team</p>	<p>11 10am Quilters 6:30pm Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team</p>	<p>12 6pm Confirmation 6-7pm Chapel Ringers 7-9pm Choir</p>	<p>13 9:30am Women's Fellowship 6:30pm Book Study "Better not Bitter" By Yusef Salaam</p>	<p>14 Pastor Rick's day off</p>	<p>15</p>
<p>16 MLK Day 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Advent Banquet Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</p>	<p>17 MLK Day--no LODO 10:15am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Loaves & Fishes 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team</p>	<p>18 10am Quilters 5:30pm Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team 6:30pm Church Council</p>	<p>19 10am Pastor Rick leads worship at The Bluffs 6pm Confirmation 6-7pm Chapel Ringers 7-9pm Choir</p>	<p>20 5:30pm LODO Ministry Team 6:30pm Book Study "Better not Bitter" By Yusef Salaam</p>	<p>21 Pastor Rick's day off</p>	<p>22</p>
<p>23 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website 6pm--Pastor Rick leads worship at Lenoir</p>	<p>24 10:15am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team</p>	<p>25 10am Quilters 5:30pm Food Bank</p>	<p>26 NO Confirmation 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 7:30-9pm Choir</p>	<p>27 12pm Lunch Bunch 6:30pm Book Study "Better not Bitter" By Yusef Salaam</p>	<p>28 Pastor Rick's day off</p>	<p>29</p>
<p>30 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</p>	<p>31 10:15am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Music & Worship Ministry Team</p>	<p>Feb 1</p>	<p>Feb 2 6pm Confirmation 6-7pm Chapel Ringers 7-9pm Choir</p>	<p>Feb 3 6:30pm Book Study "Better not Bitter" By Yusef Salaam</p>	<p>Feb 4 Pastor Rick's day off</p>	<p>Feb 5</p>

THE COMMUNICATOR

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

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Interested in Church Membership?

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

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

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.

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.