

THE COMMUNICATOR

July 2020



From the Pastor's Keyboard

“2020 Vision”

My January Communicator article was all about “2020 Vision,” asking the readers to have a “Vision” for 2020, making plans to prioritize their spiritual life and envisioning what this year would hold for Columbia United Church of Christ.

I had no idea, when I wrote that, what 2020 would bring. “Visions” we may have had for 2020 have been jettisoned as our entire world was swept up in a global pandemic and the cultural reaction to that pandemic. Nobody could have had “2020 Vision” for what this year has been.

As a culture, I think our common “2020 Vision” has changed into not a glimpse of what will be, but rather a revelation of what has been. Our “2020 Vision” has been about opening our eyes to the viruses that have infected our culture, not COVID-19, but the viruses of racism, fear, arrogance, nationalism, and narcissism that have pervaded all of our systems, including our legal, healthcare, education, and employment systems. These viruses have remained dormant in our systems for generations, bringing more systemic oppression to already oppressed people, and allowing the privileged to remain comfortable in privilege without being challenged to develop and embrace their role as Jesus’ disciples and actively glorify God more fully.

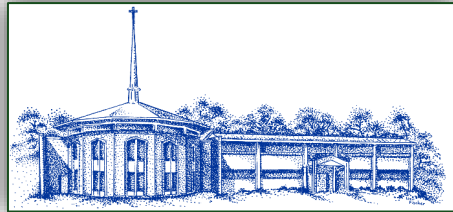
Perhaps the disparities and anxieties of COVID-19 helped shed a light on these other viruses, or perhaps it was just a perfect storm, but the result has been an agitation that I believe will result in a transformation of this world for the better. Statues erected to hatred and oppression are being torn down, oppressed lives are being lifted up, and the light of justice is shining more brilliantly than it has in a long time, illuminating the shadows and dark places where racism, oppression, and despair languish. We are entering a new era, and our “2020 Vision” will be our guide.

So, six months into the year, I ask of you the same question I asked in January: What is your “2020 Vision?” I am sure your answer will be very different than it was.

“2020 Vision” in ophthalmological terms, (as I lifted up in my January 5 sermon) is not about “perfect vision,” rather it is just one measure of visual acuity. It is the ability to see accurately, at 20 feet, what is ahead of you. “2020 Vision” gives a person a chance to prepare for what is coming, to anticipate where they are going, to adapt to what is, and prepare for what will be. With that in mind, reflecting on the new “2020 Vision” that has opened our eyes to issues of racism, systemic oppression and injustice, what can we set our sights on? What can we do to be Jesus’ disciples in the world? What can we do to prepare for the world that is to come? What can we do to be voices of God’s justice, God’s agents of Shalom?

Open your eyes; God’s Vision is coming into focus in the world and it can be our vision as well. Welcome to “2020 Vision” and all the challenges it brings.

-Pastor Rick



**COLUMBIA
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**
3201 I-70 DRIVE NW
COLUMBIA, MO 65202

Rev. Rick Oberle
Pastor

Rev. Fred Brandenburg
Pastor Emeritus

April Rothweiler
Office Administrator

Kristin Veteto
Music Coordinator

Amy Crousore
Organist/Accompanist

Erika Maltsbarger
Director, Little One's Day Out

Raj Tolani
Financial Secretary

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:30 a.m.—Worship in
Sanctuary

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9 a.m.- 3 p.m.



CUCC LIVESTREAMING TO CONTINUE

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



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

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

Thank You to Clean Up Columbia Crew!

Despite the tall grass, humidity, and abundant poison ivy, on May 30, our stalwart group managed to find thirty-five bags of trash and several objects too large or heavy to bag. Luckily the mowers had not yet cut everything into little pieces! We were all glad to see each other and share an outdoor activity that allowed us to visit from a safe distance.

The crew of 17 included: Keith Birkes, John Bullerd, Lorry and Danielle Dreier, Carol and Glenn Duermeyer, Jo Ellen Grace, Anne Heine, Connie Loveless, Donna Marsh, Larry Noxon, Helen Schultz, Melba Shaffer, Karl and Mahree Skala, Ginny Van Hove, and Llona Weiss.

Dear Rev. Oberle and CUCC,

Thank you for your gift to the Food Bank of Central & NE Missouri. The Food Bank and its partner agencies serve thousands through programs that help seniors, veterans, children, and families who are food insecure.

Your recent gift and your continued partnership plays an essential part in helping us continue our distribution of food as we react to COVID-19. We appreciate that you've entrusted us with your donation and for bringing hope to your neighbors across MO.

Gratefully,
Lindsay Young Lopez
President and CEO



Dear Rev. Oberle and friends,

Pediatric illness doesn't stop and neither do we. Here at Ronald McDonald House, we continue to support families of seriously ill children during this unsettling time. We truly can't express how grateful we are for your generosity. Even during times of global crisis, families continue to rely on RMDH to provide lodging, comfort, and stability while they face obstacles with their child's health.

When you support us, you help relieve families of their burdens by covering costs of their stay. Thank you.

With gratitude,
Terri Gray Executive Director

TWO SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED FROM NEW FUND

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

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

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

50 for 50 FUNDS BEING SPENT

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

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

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

LODO HAPPENINGS

Preparations are under way for the 2020-2021 LODO school year. We are very excited to be adding a new classroom this year – The Leopards! New flooring was installed in the room on June 22 and we are filling up the room to make it another fun learning space at LODO.

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

While we are enjoying our family time this summer, we can’t wait to return to school on August 31!

With Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger, Director



WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

From Your Music Coordinator

The Byrds had it right when they sang "*To everything (turn, turn, turn). There is a season (turn, turn, turn). And a time to every purpose, under heaven!*" I have been ruminating on this lately as my time as Music Coordinator comes to an end. A wise man reminded me recently that "it has to be a calling and every calling ends." This pairs beautifully with the passage in Ecclesiastes. There is a time for everything and just as the seasons change, we do too, and so do our callings. This opportunity has been one of the most influential of my entire life and I will continue to reap the benefits of the knowledge, experience, confidence, relationships, and mentorship I received the last 3 years. It is coming to an end, and as it does, it is time for another season in the life of our congregation. A new season is coming . . . a new leader is coming . . . and God is preparing them, and us, for this new journey! I am excited to see where God leads next, and I hope you are too!

On a final note, as we welcome July, I'm reminded that even though the life of our congregation continues to reopen and join together, our nation and world are hurting. In this somber passage from Ecclesiastes we are reminded there is a "time to kill, a time to heal....a time to build up, a time to break down....a time for love, a time for hate.....a time for peace!" Let us all be reminded to lead and act in our spaces with respect, compassion, and love for ALL God's children. There is a time for everything under heaven, and the time for love is now!

Wishing you health and happiness this month and always.
Blessings, Kristin Veteto

THANK YOU TO KRISTIN VETETO

On April 18, with peace and profound sadness, Kristin Veteto formally announced her resignation as Music Coordinator at Columbia United Church of Christ, effective August 15, 2020. Kristin will continue all position duties through that date, schedule special music and choir functions through the end of August, and has offered to help transitioning her replacement, as appropriate.

In her resignation letter, Kristin expressed that when she took this position three years ago, she did so understanding that if the responsibilities of her family and business life changed, and she was unable to give 100% to this position, she would step back. As her life has evolved these past three years, she has found her roles as mother, music therapist, and small business owner to be claiming much more of her time, and with prayerful discernment, she feels stepping back from this position is in everyone's best interests.

Kristin will continue to be a vital part of our music ministry as a lay person in the church, offering her talents in music direction as well as spiritual offerings. In her resignation letter she states, "This church is our home and family. We look forward to continuing to serve our church for many years to come by guiding smaller groups and serving in other capacities where God leads."

Kristin has brought an incredible life and vitality to the music program at CUCC over the past three years, and will continue to do so in the future in different ways. The Church Council will be planning next steps in the weeks to come as we search for her replacement, as well as appropriate ways to honor Kristin in the summer months. We offer our blessings to Kristin as she continues her ministry in different ways!



MUSIC COORDINATOR POSITION PROGRESS

The Executive Committee of the Church Council is moving forward with soliciting resumes for the position of Music Coordinator at Columbia United Church of Christ. During the month of June, we advertised in the Columbia Missourian, as well as at several music schools and online music forums. We received resumes from many interested parties, and have been reviewing those resumes to select possible candidates for interview. The deadline to receive resumes was June 26.

In July, the Executive Committee will be interviewing possible candidates and making one recommendation to the Church Council. If the successful candidate accepts the position, we anticipate them starting work at CUCC in mid August.

Please keep the Church Council and the Executive Committee in your prayers as they continue to discern the best leadership for the future of Columbia United Church of Christ!

MODERATOR'S MOMENT

Greetings and Blessings,

I hope this finds you safe and healthy. It was such a pleasure to celebrate our CUCC Graduates during worship recently as an individual who is so thankful for our public education system and so excited for all who have pushed through high school and post-secondary education. It reminded me how much hope we have despite any limitations we may be experiencing during this time. Congratulations to all, and we all are celebrating your accomplishments and look forward to your future with us.



The work of the church continues, and just this week, your church council met to work on the business at hand and look to what needs to be completed in the future. We are nearing plans to finalize a much-needed upgrade to our security system (with the addition of cameras, keypad entry, fire detector improvements, etc.) and have approved landscaping improvements that will be in place by Rally Day this fall.

There were many other items discussed, and an important one was setting a date for a congregational meeting in September to vote on the recommended changes to our CUCC Constitution and By-laws. There have been several sessions to learn about these updates and to make recommendations. The committee is going to make these adjustments, and all the documents will be available to review. For two weeks before the September 20th Congregational Meeting, you will be able to vote by absentee ballot or drop off a ballot the morning of the meeting before church starts. We are adding this opportunity so that all members can hear and honor any concerns related to exposure to COVID-19.

Finally, on that note, an update related to COVID-19. We are going to continue our slow reopen with keeping the doors closed until 15 minutes before worship starts, no hospitality time before worship to limit group gatherings, continue the recommended wearing of masks, and social distancing in the sanctuary. I want to stress that all are welcome to come worship in person, but we all understand that this time calls for great adaptation, and we want to protect those who are most vulnerable. If you are in an at-risk category, please thoughtfully consider staying home and join us in worship virtually via the internet. If you are having problems accessing the technology, please reach out to the church, and we will help you.

Sending Blessing and Love,
James Melton,
CUCC Council Moderator

CORONAVIRUS RESOURCES ON CUCC WEBSITE

During this time of isolation, there are many resources to help nurture your spiritual soul on the CUCC Website! Have you checked it out? Go to www.columbiaucc.com and click on the “[CUCC and COVID-19 Resources](#)” tab. It will take you to a link that is filled with resources, including a reading list, coloring and activity sheets, and Pastor Rick’s Chancel Chats.

CORONAVIRUS AND CUCC UPDATE- GRADUATED REOPENING

Due to the continually low number of COVID-19 cases in Boone County since the week before Easter, the CUCC Church Council decided to begin a graduated reopening of CUCC which started on May 17. On that Sunday and the Sundays following, we allowed people to enter the Sanctuary for worship following strict guidelines, and encouraged the most vulnerable members of our congregation to consider staying home for a bit. We also allowed Ministry Teams, Confirmation, and Fellowship Groups to begin meeting in person if they choose starting with that date.

Our “soft opening” worked very well. More vulnerable members chose to stay home, our numbers were low, and those who attended were respectful of our requested safety practices. We continue to livestream our services and Ministry Team meetings to all who choose to participate in that way, respecting everyone’s comfort level in this time of global pandemic.

Watch your emails for updates. If COVID-19 cases rise precipitously in Boone County, we may have to revisit our reopening procedures and take a step back. Your Council leadership will be monitoring the situation closely and keeping you posted.

INCLUSION TEAM

In this Topsy-turvy world we are experiencing right now, I was completely delighted with the Supreme Court ruling in support of the LGBTQ+ community in the workplace. Another hurdle towards true equal rights was cleared with this judgment. (I confess, I did a little happy dance.) This is not the end however. There are more hurdles including: equality in housing, health care, and public accommodations. We continue forward, step by step.

I was also very pleased to see that the Supreme Court ruled to protect the Dreamers (those immigrants brought to America as children). It is not a permanent fix, yet – that legislative battle continues. But, for now, they are safe in the only country most of these young people have ever known.

Our team welcomed a new member this month: Jess Wolfe! She jumped in with both feet and has already agreed to take on a project as noted below.

The June meeting was a joint one with Oasis UCC of Jefferson City. We will be creating a Facebook page together as an outreach for the LGBTQ+ community. Jess (along with an Oasis volunteer) has agreed to assist in creating and managing our page. It will function as a resource for our joint open and affirming status, posting of events, perhaps hosting live discussions, promoting legislative advocacy, etc. We also reviewed our Mission Statement: *To promote to the community an inclusive and affirming theological perspective with the LGBTQIA+ community and allies.*

CUCC had planned on participating in Pridefest 2020, but Columbia has decided, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, to cancel that event this year. However, we have initiated plans to have another event on that date, August 29th. Ideas are still forming, so more information next month. Stay tuned!

Diversity takes many forms – age, race, sexual orientation, health, economic status, etc. In my home, we have to be very careful regarding susceptibility to illness, such as viruses like COVID-19. Group settings are not in our wheelbase at this time. I miss being at church. I miss seeing you all. However, experiencing Sunday mornings via the web is an incredible blessing. Thanks to everyone who has worked so diligently to keep us connected.

God Is Good.

Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Chairman



CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant:

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

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



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

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

God's work. Our hands.

As stewards of God's gifts to us we are called to do God's work here on earth serving and loving our neighbors. How do we respond to God's call to serve and love our neighbors? We faithfully steward the gifts God has so abundantly given to us.

Although some think of stewardship as only a financial response to God's love, stewardship encompasses so much more than money. It is about how we use all that God has entrusted to our care — our time, our talents, and our treasures — to love God and our neighbors, both inside and outside of the church walls and our homes. Giving isn't an obligation. It's an opportunity.



Respectfully Submitted,
Barry Kirchoff

CUCC NOW HAS ONLINE GIVING!

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

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

Address Change:

Elaine Trout
9 E. Thurman St.
Columbia, MO 65202

TREASURER'S REPORT *Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer*

Financial Update			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
May Income	\$20,980.07	\$27,417.99	(\$6,437.92)
YTD Income	\$109,703.91	\$133,808.61	(\$24,104.70)
May Expenses	\$23,930.12	\$36,168.73	(\$12,238.61)
YTD Expenses	\$121,167.75	\$139,385.09	(\$18,217.34)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$11,463.84)	(\$5,576.48)	(\$5,887.36)
May Attendance	0		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
05/31/20	18	\$1,800.00	\$5,578.84
06/07/20	18	\$6,520.26	\$6,097.07
06/14/20	71	\$8,290.00	\$6,097.07
06/21/20	32	\$1,395.00	\$6,097.07
Total	139	\$18,005.26	\$23,870.05

As of May 31, we are behind by \$23,824 in Joyful Giving for 2020.

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM



July Food Bank News

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

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

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

NEW PARTNERS—CUCC AND ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY

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

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

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

Loaves and Fishes Update

The June 15 meal at L&F consisted of chicken/pork, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, and cake left over from the High School Senior Luncheon. Lasagna and salad were provided by Vena Long, Lena Muench, Brenda Muench, Jess Wolfe, Carolyn Malicoat, Evelyn Marcks, Sharon Rapp, Linda Evans, Jane Duncan, and Jessica Jenks. Cookies were donated by Lorry Dreier, Tricia Soncasie, Aimee Dennis, Linda Neale, Paula Wilson, Jessica Lucas, Melba Shaffer, Mahree Skala, and Mariann Bullerd. Helpers were Judi Privitt, Patty Beeson (who also provided salad), Whitney Wipfler, Laurie Frew, Mark Duncan, and Coline Duncan.

We have SO MANY generous folks in our congregation, and I hope I didn't overlook anyone who made a donation.

This was the first time CUCC had been back since we last served in March. The food was put in to-go containers and then carried outside where the guests were served. It was a little difficult to keep track of how many were served, but we estimated between 120-130. Thanks again to everyone!!

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

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



"Christmas in July"

CUCC will collect a special offering for The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund on July 26. Congregations have been supporting this fund, which is administered by the charitable arm of the Pension Boards, for over 100 years.

Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.

Join the HMUW Equity Challenge

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

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

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

The challenge emails will start coming at the end of June, but it's personalized so you can sign up any time and still receive all seven of them. This is a unique opportunity to learn and grow in the privacy of your home.

Medicaid Expansion:

Important Issue to be Decided in August 4 Election

On August 4 voters will weigh in on Medicaid expansion. Amendment 2 would extend Medicaid healthcare coverage to more low-income Missourians. To date 37 other states have approved this change for their residents.

Here are some facts about what Amendment 2 would do, and some references for further information.

- Now in Missouri, the parents in a family of four must earn \$5,550 or less per year to qualify for Medicaid.
- Single adults and couples without dependent children do not qualify at all unless disabled.
- 230,000 Missourians don't qualify for Medicaid—but don't make enough to afford health coverage on their own, and their jobs don't offer health insurance.
- Lack of health insurance leads to more disease, more disability, and earlier death. This is especially true during this pandemic.
- With expanded Medicaid, an individual who makes up to \$18,000 per year would be eligible.
- Billions in federal taxes paid by Missourians are now going to other states to fund their Medicaid programs; expansion would pull those dollars back to Missouri.
- Because 90% of the funding would come from the federal government, the MO Budget Project estimates the state budget would actually gain \$100 million per year in savings and new revenue.
- The MO Chamber of Commerce supports expansion as a "pro-jobs measure," estimating it would create 16,000 jobs and expand our economy by \$2.5 billion.

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

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

Special Mission Project Funding 2020

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

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

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

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

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM



CALLING ATTENDEES AND VOLUNTEERS!

Join us for a great week of fun @ Vacation Bible School for those ages 3-finishng 5th Grade! We'll even take care of dinner!

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

Registration Deadline Extended to July 10!

Registration for ALL:
www.columbiaucc.com

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

Click here to register!

<https://2020.cokesburyvbs.com/cucccomo/>

According to the Bible, we are never too young to learn about God. We can support our young children's spiritual growth using these tips.

1. Read to children about God and Jesus. Simple Bibles for toddlers such as board books about God's creation, animals, and family are great choices; an illustrated Bible for young children; You Tube videos of Bible stories for older children.
2. Talk often about God and Jesus.
3. Tell children constantly that Jesus loves them.
4. Use teachable moments to highlight spiritual truths.
5. As children learn to talk, help instill words of our faith such as God, Jesus, Bible, and pray in their vocabulary.
6. Include infants and toddlers in spiritual activities such as worship and prayer.
7. Know that young children really do learn at church.
8. Take children to special worship occasions such as Christmas Eve, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, etc.
9. Encourage parents to include their children during prayer times at home.
10. Explain that prayer is talking to God.
11. Make prayer a part of your daily routine.

Remember that children discover God from infancy. Paul wrote to Timothy "from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures" (2 Timothy 3:15).

CUCC LUNCH BUNCH

CUCC Lunch Bunch is on break for the summer. We will resume our gatherings in August. Keep an eye out for what's to come! If you have a person or organization you'd like to hear speak, please let the Church Office know. Enjoy your summer break.



Women's Fellowship Update

Women's Fellowship is on summer break until August. Be watching for the August edition of the Communicator for updates about the next gathering.

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

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

CUCC VIRTUAL CHURCH OPTIONS

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

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

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

Sunday Volunteer Schedule for July

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for July. As you can see, we are in need of some spots to be filled and other spots to be shared with new faces. Part of being in the church family is often expressed by sharing the roles that make all of our members and guests feel welcome. If you believe you have the gift of hospitality, we would love to have you help make CUCC welcoming for all.

If you can fill the needed role or a role in the future, please let one of the leaders know.
We appreciate you, and we're glad you have chosen CUCC as your church home!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Sound Booth	Hospitality
07/05	Jolene Kirchhoff	N/A	Mahree Skala	NEED	John Graves	N/A
07/12	Jessica Lucas	N/A	Pat Forward	Raelyn Zimny	Matt Lucas	N/A
07/19	Audrey Lasley	N/A	Pete Jaberg	Abby Dennis	Phil Dennis	N/A
07/26	Ann Stone-Meyer	N/A	Judi Privitt	NEED	Dennis Froeschner	N/A

CUCC IS WORKING IN COLOMBIA



The country of Colombia, that is! The Christian Centre for Justice, Peace and Nonviolent Action (Justapaz), a Global Ministries partner, was created in response to violence and injustice across Colombia. Justapaz, which means “a just peace,” has worked to promote non-violence, peacebuilding, and the positive transformation of conflict in Colombia. Focusing on the practical training of like-minded churches, communities, and individuals in the practice of non-violence, Justapaz carries out programs to combat the normalization of violence in society. These programs include training and workshops, communications, collaboration with churches and organizations, and political advocacy. Justapaz seeks to enable peaceful mediation of conflicts, demonstrate what psychological support is available to survivors, and facilitate the processing of legal cases.

Justapaz 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 Justapaz in your prayers!

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

June 28-July 4	Eleazar Fernandez	Working in Philippines
July 5-11	Marilyn Cooper	Working in Ecuador
July 12-18	Brigitte Eale	Working in Kenya
July 19-25	Cindy Moraga-Selva	Working in Mexico
July 26-31	Thomas Smith	Working in Korea



HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP TO COLUMBIA

Columbia Missouri, that is! Due to COVID-19 our mission trip plans have been cancelled! We had three possibilities lined up, and they all fell through. But our CUCC High School Youth are still mission minded and still planning to do some work!

This year, we will be doing our mission work right here in town. Our new mission trip dates are July 28-30, and our work will be coordinated with mission agencies in Columbia, some of the same groups our church works with all year, such as Turning Point, Loaves and Fishes, Ronald McDonald House, and more. Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, we will stay in a local hotel and swim each evening.

Pastor Rick and Lauren Helmreich will be communicating more information to the High School Youth as plans firm up, so watch your emails, and watch for reports from our High School Youth later this summer and this fall.

Looking For a Place to Serve Locally?

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



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

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

ROOTS IN THE RUINS- OUR MISSION IN CHIAPAS

Roots in the Ruins is a program of spiritual accompaniment, which nourishes hope, resilience, and transformation in the midst of situations of trauma, conflict, and environmental degradation. Since its inception, individuals from Mexico, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, and Puerto Rico have participated in the Roots in the Ruins trainings, and continue to use these trainings in their respective communities.



In 2016, Roots in the Ruins moved the base of the program to San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico, under the direction and guidance of the Institute for Intercultural Study and Research (INESIN). INESIN is an organization which was formed by Mexican Protestant and Catholic Christians in the late 1990s, in conjunction with the United Church of Christ. INESIN is the result of men and women committed to the people of Chiapas and Guatemalan refugees.

In this region of Mexico and in areas across Latin America, where trauma persists at personal, organizational, community, and social levels, Roots in the Ruins seeks to develop a comprehensive approach to achieve healing – including trauma healing, resilience development, conflict transformation, and care of the earth.



Roots in the Ruins offers workshops and courses designed to equip a core group of Roots in the Ruins trainers, as well as to develop a broad group of participants who can make use of the tools and practices of the program in a multiplying effect. Programming currently covers training for grade school children through adults. Courses cover everything from the fundamentals of restoring hope after trauma to intensive training for facilitators, who then are equipped to multiply their impact.

Another way Roots in the Ruins is expanding the impact of the program is through working to produce a year-long Sunday school curriculum in trauma healing and resilience development for children and adolescents, including such topics as trauma, depressive reaction/aggressive reaction, and how to leverage story-telling as an act of self-healing. The program also is looking to expand the training of spiritual leaders to other Latin American countries.

June 2020 UPDATE

In 2019, Roots in the Ruins workshops were held in Juchitán, Oaxaca, San Luis Potosí, and San Cristóbal de las Casas in Mexico, as well as in Puerto Rico and Chile. Celia, a participant in one of the workshops had this to say, *“I learned how to cope, heal, and free myself from conflicts and insecurities. The forgiveness process is important to me and I have practiced it. I have sought to strengthen my dignity, and that of others, and I know how to accompany others so that they feel heard and loved. I now know how to set my limits, so as not to harm myself or others. Through this course, I experienced the transforming power of God’s love. I go home full of joy and gratitude for the tools that I was able to take to transform and help my church and community.”*



In the future, the facilitators of the Roots in the Ruins program look forward to an international facilitator meeting at INESIN in 2022 to discuss current issues related to trauma, resilience, justice, dignity, and conflict transformation.

Currently, Roots in the Ruins is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by implementing several new programs online and over the phone. Roots in the Ruins has developed procedures for online circles to provide emotional support during this time, and workshops on the topics of compassion fatigue, moral injury, and the mourning process. Roots in the Ruins is providing online activities to maintain physical, emotional, and spiritual health, and offering “Hugs by phone” which is an accompaniment program for seniors who do not have access to technology to communicate online and cannot leave their homes.



Roots in the Ruins is just one of the programs housed at INESIN, the Global Missions Partner (through Global Ministries) in Chiapas, Mexico that 11 different Missouri Mid-South Conference churches have partnered with, sending over 30 people from our Conference on Mission Immersion Experiences over the past seven years. Please keep INESIN and Global Ministries in your prayers as they navigate the COVID crisis, and as they continue to work with oppressed communities through the Roots in the Ruins project. For more information, visit: https://www.globalministries.org/roots_in_the_ruin.

The next Mission Immersion Experience to Chiapas will be in the summer of 2021. For more information or to keep informed about INESIN, contact Rev. Rick Oberle at rick@columbiaucc.com.

The Kingdom of God is like a Mustard Seed

Mexico

Small Training Initiatives that Make a Difference

During 2019, the passage from Matthew 13:31-32 took on special significance in the work we do with groups of women, men, and adolescents. We gradually added different initiatives and training proposals to improve our close-friend and community relationships. The efforts were born in the hearts of ecclesial leaders who wished to make a difference and contribute to the integral development of families. In contexts where people experience different types of violence, many churches raised their voices and performed actions for the full life and well-being of people.

There were not massive events or significant economic investments. They were small meetings and workshops to raise awareness of the issues of gender and domestic violence. In recent years, the high rates of violence against women, children, and adolescents have been considered a public health problem. In workshops held over the past year, we talked not only about violence and its different types, but also about the need to build new models of masculinities and family relationships based on love, respect, and human dignity.

With the involvement of four Christian denominations, we organized training days with the participation of two hundred families in nine communities in Mexico.

Community	Location	Church	Number of Families
Metepec	State of Puebla	Pentecostal	25
Atlixco	State of Puebla	Pentecostal	25
Plan de Ayala	Morelos State	Presbyterian	10
El Capulin	Hidalgo State	Methodist	15
San Sebastian	Hidalgo State	Methodist	20
Maravillas	State of San Luis Potosi	Disciples of Christ	25
San Jose del Rincon	State of Mexico	Pentecostal	40
Naucalpan	State of Mexico	Pentecostal	10
		Total	200

Most of these communities are semi-rural, and, in some cases, it was the first time they had developed such initiatives. We started with small groups, like the mustard seed, and with faith and hope that it would germinate, grow, and serve as protection for many people who suffer from violence. The commitment of those who participated in the workshops is to become promoters of non-violence and a culture of peace, as well as assuming the responsibility of being knowledgeable multipliers.




**MISSION
CO-WORKER**

Cindy Moraga-Selva
Mexico

Cindy Moraga-Selva serves the Theological Community of Mexico (CTdeM). Her appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church's Wider Mission, and your special gifts.

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN JULY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Office Admin—April Rothweiler's birthday <i>She loves flowers and her favorite local charity is Central MO STOP Human Trafficking Coalition</i>	2	3	4 
5 9:30am Worship <i>Livestream will still be available for those who wish to continue social distancing from home.</i>	6	7 3pm Outreach & Advocacy Team Meeting via Zoom	8	9	10	11
12 9:30am Worship <i>Livestream will still be available for those who wish to continue social distancing from home.</i>	13		15	16	17	18
19 9:30am Worship <i>Livestream will still be available for those who wish to continue social distancing from home.</i>	20 August Communicator articles due	21 6:30pm Council Meeting	22	23 6:30 pm LODO Graduation Sanctuary & FH Reserved	24	25
26 9:30am Worship <i>Livestream will still be available for those who wish to continue social distancing from home.</i>	27 6pm LODO Advisory Board	28 6:30pm Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	29	30 5:30pm Music & Worship Ministry Team	31 Conference Council Event—FH Reserved	Conference Council Event— FH Reserved

THE COMMUNICATOR

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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

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



Interested in Church Membership?

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

Become Part of Our Church Family

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

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

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

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