

THE COMMUNICATOR

April 2022



From the Pastor's Keyboard

“Holy Week”

“The last week of Jesus’ life is a week of extraordinary importance for Christians,” writes Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crosson in their book, “The Last Week: What the Gospels Really Teach about Jesus’ Final Days in Jerusalem. They go on to say, “It is a week of extraordinary importance for Christians. With its climax on Good Friday and Easter, it is ‘Holy Week,’ the most sacred time of the Christian year.”

In that definition, one of the words that stands out to me is “extraordinary.” Holy Week is an extra-ordinary time, a week that should be out of the ordinary for Christians who actually practice the teachings of Jesus. It is a week that normal distractions are cast aside so that the observant Christian can focus on what really matters in life; the ministry of Jesus and the message of Holy Week.

Holy Week is a week of political protests. First, Jesus enters Jerusalem in a calculated political protest by riding in humbly on a donkey in contrast to Pilate’s regal entry on a war horse, accompanied by soldiers and excess. Then, in another calculated political protest, Jesus overturns the tables of those who are cheating others in the Temple, disrupting Temple commerce, protesting the corruption of Nationalism conflated with Temple worship. Then, in an act of political expression Jesus tells the Pharisees to render unto Caesar only what belongs to Caesar; and give to God what belongs to God.

Is there any wonder that the scribes, Sadducees and Pharisees conspired to kill Jesus? He was protesting the very systems they had been using to keep both the Romans and their own people in their places. These systems, insidiously corrupt, were how things have always been done in their eyes; and Jesus was disrupting them with his politics.

For us, Holy Week will begin with Palm/Passion Sunday on April 10. On that day we will begin the service joyfully welcoming Jesus into Jerusalem waving palms and chanting “Save us!” The service will then transition to a somber note, reflecting the journey of Holy Week; and we will end the service with a Passion reflection and depart in silence.

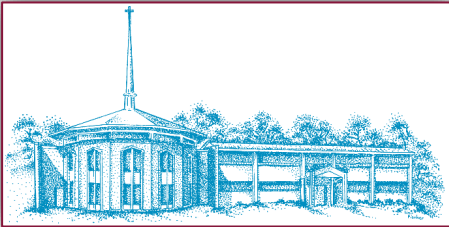
Maundy Thursday will be celebrated downstairs in the Fellowship Hall around tables where we will break bread together, remembering Jesus’ command to “Love one another, even as I have loved you.” On Good Friday we will gather together once more in the Sanctuary to remember the Crucifixion event and Jesus’ integrity in our relationship. Jesus did not die *for* us as much as Jesus died *because* of us.

Then comes Easter morning! We will celebrate by recognizing the events of Holy Week at the beginning of our service, then reflect on the joys of Resurrection as we move into worship. We will celebrate with brass instruments and special music from the Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers. It will be a joyful capstone to Holy Week, the most sacred time of the year for a Christian.

Holy Week is an extra-ordinary time in the life of a Christian. Don’t let it be an “ordinary” life in your year; Jesus is calling you to follow him.



-Pastor Rick



Upcoming EVENTS

COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3201 I-70 DRIVE NW
COLUMBIA, MO 65202

[Rev. Rick Oberle](#)

Pastor

[Rev. Fred Brandenburg](#)

Pastor Emeritus

[April Rothweiler](#)

Office Administrator

[Brandon Brown](#)

Music Coordinator

[Amy Crousore](#)

Organist/Accompanist

[Nick Chiarottino](#)

Custodian

[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—THURSDAY, APRIL 14

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, April 14, at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Area at CUCC. We will continue the Bible Study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me," learning from the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus.

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

LUNCH BUNCH—THURSDAY, APRIL 28

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, April 28. Gary Moreau, from Mobility Worldwide, will be joining us to share about the ministry and upcoming opportunities for partnership and serving in the "mission field." Come be part of the discussion!

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

First Friday Films

Who:

CUCC Members & Friends
(YOU!)

What:

View a G or PG movie on a big
screen (Title TBA)

When:

First Friday in May, June, July,
and August (May 6, June 3, July
1, August 5)

Where:

Columbia UCC's "backyard"
(weather permitting)
3201 I-70 Dr. NW

*We'll gather around 6 p.m. The
movie will start promptly at 6:30
p.m.*

Why:

Who doesn't love popcorn,
summer movies, and fellowship
with your CUCC church family?

ANNUAL MEETING — May 15 @ 11:30 a.m.

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

Bring your dish to the Fellowship Hall kitchen before going into worship, and we will get it set out for all to enjoy after. If any questions contact [Brent Mareks](#). Put it on your calendar now so you are sure to be there!

Dear Friends,

Your generous donation to the **Church World Service Blankets program** tells people in crisis, “You’re not alone, Someone cares.” We are deeply grateful for your support. Because of your compassion,

- Families who have lost their homes to tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters are getting help with blankets, emergency food, and shelter. They are rebuilding their lives and livelihoods.
- People struggling against crushing poverty and harsh climates are learning sustainable farming practices that will help them keep food on the table and take it to the market.
- Vulnerable children have access to clean, safe water, and the nutritional food essential to growth, development, and life itself.

Thank you,
Rick Santos, President & CEO

Dear Pastor Rick and CUCC,

Thank you for your support of **Love Columbia**. Your generosity helps us create a structure and environment that allows many to find meaning. Whether it is an unemployed client seeking a fresh start in a new job, or a person nearing retirement who knows they have more to give, you are helping us offer meaningful opportunities.

“My life is so beautiful now. I can finally give back.”
— *middle aged man we have walked beside for four years who has had breakthrough from addiction.*

“Becoming a coach is at the top of my list of retirement activities.”
— *soon to retire physician about volunteer training.*

We pray that your generosity adds great meaning to your lives. With gratitude,
Jane Williams, Executive Director

Dear Congregation of CUCC,

Thank you for your generous donation to **Catholic Charities of Central and Northern Missouri** (CCCNMO) toward Refugee Service efforts. Refugees, having suffered great loss, including their homes, livelihoods, possessions, and often time families, need assistance starting over in a new country. It is through gifts like yours that we are able to continue caring and supporting refugees as they begin their new lives here in mid-Missouri. We are grateful for you and your kindness, which serves as a compassionate expression of solidarity with our new neighbors.

“These are the people who need your help, who are crying out for you to hear them, and who are supremely worthy of our every effort on behalf of justice, peace, and solidarity.” — Pope Francis

Sincerely,
Dan Lester, Director

Dear friends at Columbia UCC,

Thank you for your donation to the **Columbia Area Older Adult Ministry**. It was a pleasant surprise when I opened the envelope! Because of your support we are able to provide devotions, hymn singing, and one-on-one visits to: The Bluffs, Bluff Creek Terrace and the Arbors, colony Pointe and the Arbors, Lenoir Woods, The Terrace, The Neighborhoods by Tiger Place, and Tiger Place. Each week at the Arbors by Bluff Creek Terrace (a memory care community), a particular resident tells me, “You always leave us uplifted when you come!”

In February, we began providing a Sunday afternoon worship service twice a month at Westbury Retirement Community. We also plan to hire a part-time Chaplain during 2022!

Though things are different now, due to COVID, we rejoice that we are together once again, sharing in God’s love and compassion with older adults.

Sincerely,
Rev. Sally A. Robinson, Director

Address Change

Edie Diel and David Faust
7880 Rambling Lane
Prescott Valley, AZ 86315

GIVEN IN LOVING MEMORY OF Gene Koepke

Jim & Connie Loveless

Doug & Judi Privitt

Harold & Jolene
Hackman

Barry & Jolene Kirchhoff
Anonymous Donation

Two of the several Thank You’s we received from
Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary:

Thank you for being such a powerful partnership! We feel incredibly blessed by your kindness and generosity. From the teacher treats to the clothing donations and so much more, we are appreciative. — AHL Office Staff

Thank you for all the amazing support you have provided all year. Words cannot express how grateful we are to have you as partners and friends.
— Natasha and AHL family

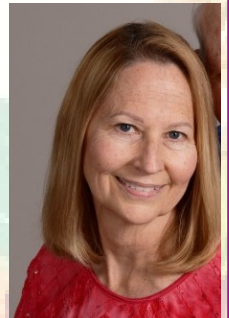
CHURCH COUNCIL

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

The Church Council met on Tuesday, March 15, 2022. Those present in person were Kristy Odneal, Kurt Heine, Linda Neale, Sue Ann Schaefer, Jessica Lucas, Brent Marcks, Mike Pierson, Keith Birkes, Tricia Price, Pastor Rick, Mark Duncan, and Audrey Lasley. Lorry Dreier and Rev. Damien Lake joined the meeting by Zoom.

- We were pleased to have Rev. Damien Lake, our Associate Conference Minister, join us via Zoom.
- Sue Ann Schaefer led discussion on the second chapter of the book, *Neighborhood Church*.
- Empty spots were filled for Council Steward duties for the rest of March and part of April.
- Wiring for chancel lighting might possibly get done during Spring Break, or over the summer.
- A motion was approved to spend a maximum of \$2,000 to hire an Interior Designer for the sanctuary renovation; the funds for this to be taken out of the Memorial Fund Designated Fund.
- Still waiting for Tiger Security to install parts on the south basement door.
- The sealing for the driveway/parking lot will be done after LODO is out for the Summer.
- COVID-numbers are very low!
- A Sabbatical committee of 5 members has been chosen to make sure things run smooth while Pastor Rick is gone — Judi Privitt, Mike Pierson, Anne Heine, Pat Forward, and Kristy Odneal.
- A policy was presented and approved on how to handle Virtual Voting at Congregational meetings.
- LODO has submitted to the company to go ahead with their new sign design.
- Brandon Brown has hired a soprano and tenor to be section leaders in the choir.
- Need one more person on the Nominating Committee.
- We are still working on hiring a Custodian. Two interviews are being set up.
- Jerome Baker has been hired to do the snow removal.
- The transfer of funds reported last month has been done.
- Need to appoint an anniversary team for our 100th anniversary in 2023.
- Pastor Rick would like for everyone to share posts of church events on Facebook.
- Ministry team reports were given and/or reviewed.
- The next Council meeting is April 19.

Respectfully submitted,
Audrey Lasley, Secretary



VIRTUAL VOTING POLICY FOR CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

The Church Council of Columbia United Church of Christ, at their March 15, 2022 meeting, in an effort to be inclusive of all members and their ability status as well as to be open to evolving understandings of virtual participation, membership and voting, adopted a policy governing how to accept virtual participation in our Congregational Gatherings. The full policy will be emailed to the congregation in Friday emails preceding the next Congregational Meeting; copies can be requested from the church office.

Highlights of the policy include:

- The Church Council will establish an electronic forum for virtual participation in advance of any Congregational Meeting where this opportunity will be offered.
- The Church Council is not obligated to offer this option for all Congregational gatherings. When this option is offered, it will be publicized at least one week prior to the Congregational gathering.
- Virtual participants must register in advance of the meeting through a process advertised by the Council.
- Additional virtual participants will not be solicited by the Church Council or Congregation the day of the meeting, to achieve a quorum or for any other reason.
- Virtual participants do so at their own risk; the Council is not responsible for technological failure.
- This policy was adopted by the Church Council in accordance with Article VIII of the CUCC Constitution and Article VII of the CUCC By-Laws.
- Anyone with questions can direct them to [Kristy Odneal](#), Moderator.

MODERATOR'S MOMENT

Recently, we celebrated Amistad Sunday, which honors a historic event that led to the freedom of 53 African people who had been enslaved in the 1800s. For the United Church of Christ, it is a reminder of our work for justice and an inspiration to continue to spread our Christian friendship to others. At CUCC, we focus on this friendship every day, both within and outside of our church family.

In the past month, we have held fellowship activities to grow our relationships within our congregation. Bringing back our tradition of Fastnacht was a wonderful idea and a great celebration! We also continue to welcome guests each Sunday with warm greetings and efforts to sustain our connections and reach out to members through our CUCC CARES ministries. Beyond the walls of our church building, we have helped meet the needs of students and families of Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary and continued our outreach with programs like Loaves and Fishes. Our group who came together to learn about and discuss Christian Nationalism is another example of the way we strive to expand our minds to become better friends and Christians in our community.

One of our hymns, which I know has great meaning to many of us, says, "They'll know we are Christians by our Love." The ministries of our church continue to do just that and are the ways we extend our Christian friendship. Thank you to every member of our congregation, as we all find ways to carry out this mission in our lives.

Your friend in Christ,
Kristy Odneal, Moderator



COLUMBIA UCC SABBATICAL – A TIME OF RENEWAL FOR ALL

Our church and pastor's sabbatical will be August 1 through October 31, 2022. Our church has never experienced a sabbatical. It will be an exciting time for all as we, both Pastor Rick and the congregation, focus on renewal, refreshing ways to learn, worship, and serve. We will all enter the holiday season refreshed and refocused.

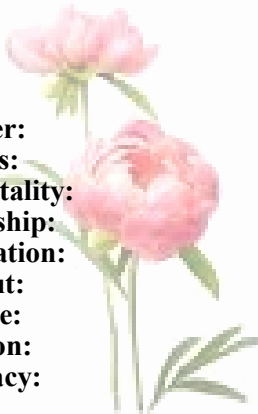
The Sabbatical Team: Mike Pierson, Anne Heine, Judi Privitt; Kristy Odneal, and Pat Forward, first met with Pastor Rick on March 10, 2022, to begin planning and guiding CUCC through this process. Our first order of business is the following:

- Look for a Sabbatical Pastor for 20 hours/week
- Complete a job description for the Sabbatical Pastor and for our Sabbatical Team
- Communicate with CUCC staff about the support they will want and need during this time

The Sabbatical Team will be meeting every few weeks. Please talk with team members about your suggestions, concerns, offers of support, and assistance. This will be a healthy and refreshing time for us all.

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kristy Odneal	kristyodneal@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Secretary:	Audrey Lasley	aklasley@centurytel.net
Treasurer:	Sue Ann Schaefer	ssas3307@aol.com
Recording Treasurer:	Brent Marcks	brentmarcks@hotmail.com
Building & Grounds:	John Bullerd	jbullerd51@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Stefanie Zimny	stefanie.zimny@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship:	Keith Birkes	kbirkes4@gmail.com
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Tricia Price	tricialprice@gmail.com
Little One's Day Out:	Lorry Dreier	llhd01@gmail.com
Membership & Care:	Jessica Lucas	jluccas@cpsk12.org
Nurture & Education:	Linda Neale	lnealej@aol.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music:	Mike Pierson	mpierson@cpsk12.org





FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

Feeling smart? Just want to have fun? Join us for a great night!

The Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team will be hosting a Trivia Night on April 30. We will begin at 6:30 p.m. We only have 15 tables, so reserve your seat (or table) today! To reserve a table [CLICK HERE](#) or scan the QR code below. Reservations are due by April 24. We will be accepting contributions the night of the event to benefit Mobility Worldwide (the PET people). Suggested donation is \$50/table.

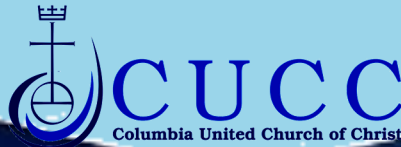
The Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team met on March 15 to plan upcoming events. These events include Trivia Night (April 30); First Friday Films (starting May 6); the Annual Meeting Potluck (May 15); and the Sunday School Picnic (June 5). We also evaluated Fastnacht and talked about ways to improve on it even more next year!



Thank you also to everyone who helped make Fastnacht a great success; especially to Lena Muench who headed up preparing the Fastnachts, Melba Shaffer who headed up preparing the German Potato Salad and Kraut, and Audrey Lasley who helped with purchasing and preparation. Thank you also to everyone who came!

Stefanie Zimny,
Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team Chair

FEELING SMART? JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN?
JOIN US FOR A GREAT NIGHT!



**TRIVIA
NIGHT**

**Saturday,
April 30
6 p.m.**

RSVP by April 24

**GIFT CARDS AND BRAGGING
RIGHTS AWARDED TO THE
WINNING TABLE**

***Appetizer Potluck—bring your
favorite app to share!**



donations will be accepted to benefit Mobility Worldwide (PET)
hosted by your Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team

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.

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

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

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
04/03	Jessica Lucas	Llona Weiss	David Meyer	Danielle Dreier	Brent Marcks Josh Muench	Brent Marcks
04/10	Jessica Lucas	John & Brenda Muench	Kaden Lucas	Aidan Pierson	Mike Pierson Lorry Dreier	Jo Ellen Grace
04/17	NEED	NEED	George Zimny	Trevor Pierson	Mike Pierson John Graves	Stefanie Zimny
04/24	Helen Schultz	Doug Privitt & Don Helmreich	Connie Loveless	Abby Dennis	Haley Dennis Phillip Dennis	Judi & Doug Privitt

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

Please consider inviting a friend, neighbor, or family member to Bring a Friend Sunday on April 3! They can join us for Sunday School (for all ages), worship, and a Taco Bar after worship.

We had seven families visit our church on March 13 and an additional seven families visit on March 20! After the upheaval of the last few years, many people are looking for a meaningful church home. CUCC has so much to offer in faith, fellowship, and service. Invite someone you know to share these meaningful experiences!

Statistically, 80% of people who visit a church do so because someone invites them. Don't underestimate the power of a personal invitation! Invite a friend to church!

Jessica Lucas, Membership & Care Ministry Team Chair



April Birthdays to Celebrate!

Brent Marcks (04/06)	Linda Groteweil (04/07)	Chantal Kibaro (04/08)
Barbara Elliott (04/08)	Chris Bach (04/10)	Jackson Jaberg (04/13)
Evelyn Marcks (04/13)	Mary Lorber-Solt (04/14)	Jan Barry (04/18)
Connie Loveless (04/18)	Addison Melton (04/18)	Brandon Lavelly (04/21)
Mike Van Hove (04/23)	Devin Hall (04/25)	Ron Groteweil (04/26)
Amy Crousore (04/28)		Carolyn Malicoat (04/30)

LODO MINISTRY TEAM



LODO NEWS

Math & Science Night – Thursday, March 3

LODO hosted our first Math & Science Night in early March! Many of our families attended and visited stations focusing on a variety of STEAM activities. Students learned many skills/concepts including: Colors, Shapes, Counting, Number Recognition, Patterns, Problem Solving, Critical Thinking, Chemistry, Engineering, Experimentation, Making a Hypothesis, and Fine Motor Skills.

Activity stations included:

Color Mixing: Using pipettes to mix colored water to create new colors.

Puzzle Math: Creating a heart out of triangles. Manipulating shapes to create something new.

Snack Math: Counting Cheerios and filling bellies with a yummy snack.

Build a Bridge: Using cups and craft sticks to build bridges to see how many bears/dinosaurs will fit on the bridge.

Duplo Patterns: Creating patterns with Duplo blocks.

Fizzy Painting: Mixing paint, baking soda, and vinegar to get a reaction and make art.

Building 2D & 3D Shapes: Using marshmallows and toothpicks to create shapes.

Plastic Egg Stacking: Building towers and structures with Playdoh and plastic eggs.

Many thanks to CUCC members who volunteered and assisted with our special event: Pastor Rick Oberle, Kim Oberle, Lorry Dreier, Jo Ellen Grace, and Linda Neale.

Staff Professional Development Day – Friday, March 11

Our morning training, “Appreciating and Growing Emergent Literacy in Our Youngest Readers and Writers” was presented by Dr. Charlotte Land, Assistant Professor of Literacies and English Language Arts at Pennsylvania State University. Our staff gained additional insight into the importance of literacy activities in the young years, as well as learned additional literacy activities and strategies to use at LODO. We are very thankful to Dr. Land for spending this time with LODO Staff during her Spring Break, while visiting her parents, John and Mariann Bullerd.

Our afternoon training was provided by Therapy Unlimited. Chelsie Riordan (SLP) and Kelci Burger (OT) gave an insightful presentation on strategies to use with preschoolers with speech/language delays and adaptive behavior delays. Staff also learned more about how to assist parents in requesting further evaluation from specialists when delays or concerns are noted.

April Learning

LODO returns from Spring Break on Monday, April 7, and we have lots of fun learning planned for the last seven weeks of the school year! In April, we will focus our learning activities through themes on Animals (Zoo, Jungle, Farm), Easter/The Resurrection, Community Helpers/Giving to Others, and Under the Sea (Ocean Animals).

April Important Dates

April 5-6 KidSight Vision Screenings

April 7 Literacy Night (*Inspired by Laura Numeroff Books*) VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

April 14-15 Easter Classroom



With Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger, Director



LODO TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK, MAY 2 — 6

May 2-6 is LODO Teacher Appreciation Week! What can you do to show your appreciation of this great CUCC ministry? If you would like to help show your appreciation of all they do, contact [Lorry Dreier](#), LODO Ministry Team Chair!

INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM



I have neglected to speak much the last couple of months about our meetings. We are pursuing several items to promote inclusion within our congregation and our community.

Pastor Rick and I will be checking that our assistive hearing devices are working up to potential. (I am a perfect test subject as I'm deaf in one ear.)

We continue to investigate the need for a PFLAG group in our area. To refresh memories, PFLAG's focus is support for families and friends of youth who identify as LGBTQ+.

We are preparing more inclusive presentations in the future, such as recognizing Asian American Heritage month and Hispanic Heritage month, observing Pride month, and celebrating the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act. We will also be planning for Pridefest in August, as Pastor Rick will be on sabbatical for that event. We will need volunteers for that celebration the weekend of August 27.

April brings us spring weather, the Easter Celebration, and Earth Day. All of these events begin with trials that lead into joys:

The cold of winter blossoms into the warmth of spring.
Jesus death on the cross transfigures into everlasting life for God's children.
We recognize our harsh use of Mother Earth's resources and advocate to restore them.

These members of the Inclusion & Affirmation team would love for you to join us: Pastor Rick Oberle, Isaiah Jackson-Post, Steve Keithahn, Lydia Whitacre, Tricia Soncasie, Edie Diel, Alisa Lau-Sieckman, and Tricia Price. Talk to any of us if you are interested in getting involved in any way!



“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago.
The second-best time is now.” — Chinese Proverb

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



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

This pictorial display also brings diversity to CUCC in our artistic representation. As a fully inclusive and affirming community, we want our artwork to represent that identity. The pictures Lisa Jaberg painted contribute to this representation, as does this display. The Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team will be continuing to look at ways we can represent inclusivity in our artwork. Peace and Justice to all!

INCLUSIVE ARTWORK AT CUCC

In the Gathering Area Upstairs—*outside the Kitchen area*

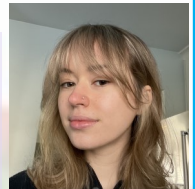


WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

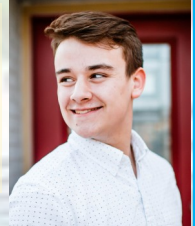
Thanks to the support of the Worship and Music Committee, we were able to hire a soprano and a tenor section leader to finish the choral season through May. They are a wonderful addition to the choir, and it is our hope to continue with section leaders in the fall.

Here is some information about them:

Sophie Heimerl is a second-year vocal music education major at the University of Missouri, originally from Naperville, Illinois. She has spent her life in the choir scene, participating in a wide variety of events from the ILMEA All-State Honors Choir to the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's Merry, Merry Chicago! concerts.



Zach Reinert, from St. Joseph, MO, is a senior at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He's currently studying vocal performance with a minor in Anthropology. He intends to try to find work in an Opera Company after graduation and is very excited to work with the choir at Columbia United Church of Christ.



Let's welcome Sophie and Zach into our wonderful church!

Brandon Brown, M.M.
Music Coordinator

BANNER TEAM CREATES AGAIN!

Our Banner Team was hard at work the past few months working on a new banner for Palm Sunday! They recently completed a "Peace" banner featuring quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr; that banner was displayed during Black History Month. Then, they turned their attention to Palm Sunday!

Our "old" Palm Sunday banner lived a good, long life and was considerably past its prime. It was fraying in many places, and the letters were beginning to peel. After making it through Palm Sunday last year, we decided to retire it and look at a new prospect. The banner pictured here is the result.

This banner will be featured in worship on Palm Sunday, April 10. Check it out in worship that Sunday and be sure to give thanks to our Banner Team for all their hard work!

Pictured: Connie Loveless, Melba Shaffer, Jo Ellen Grace, Lea Marienfeld
Not pictured: Jolene Hackman



WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES

Plans are moving forward toward a significant remodel of the church sanctuary, including new flooring, paint, chancel wall re-covering, window treatments, and upper window replacements! Utilizing money from the Memorial Fund (with Council approval), we have hired Kenna Weber of Abundance Interior Design to create several design ideas and help us select the right products for our space.



Once initial designs and sample products are available, the congregation will be able to view them and weigh-in on the selection of the materials. We will be looking for anyone who has connections and/or the willingness to contribute to the work to help keep project costs as low as possible. If you have or know of specific connections in the flooring industry and window industry specifically, please don't hesitate to contact [Mike Pierson](#) or call 573-819-6055.

We are also looking forward to installing new lighting in the Sanctuary later this spring or early summer.

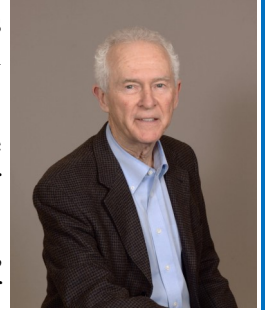
Mike Pierson, Worship & Music Ministry Team Chair

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

The Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team sponsored a very successful “Stewardship Sunday” on March 13, with Rev. Bob Atkinson, speaking on stewardship during both the church service and the pot luck luncheon that followed the service. Rev. Atkinson stressed the importance of making a commitment to share your time, talent, and treasure with our church. That commitment should be prayerfully made, and to the extent possible.

At the stewardship luncheon, members of the F & S team presented information about completing pledge cards with our financial commitments, how to sign up for service on ministry teams, and otherwise share your time and talents with UCC. Information was also provided about the various dedicated funds available to support specific activities, and how joyful giving for the general support of UCC staff, projects, and physical facilities is contributed and received.

Please let any members of the F & S team know if you have questions or need help with the time, talent, and treasure you want to share with UCC. Thank you very much for your prayerful consideration!



Keith Birkes,
Church Member, Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Member

STEWARDSHIP BUILDING BLOCKS

by Rev. Bob Atkinson

Remember Whose and Who We Are . . . God is the Creator and we are members of God’s Good Creation. All that we are or ever hope to be, and all that we have or ever hope to have, comes from the hand of God. As God continues to manifest Creation, we are called to be good stewards or managers of it; all of Creation.

Remember we are Graced by God’s Love . . . Our lives and all of Creation have been graced by the love of God. The gracious love of God has been freely given to ALL of us without exception. We are called to GIVE freely, graciously, and lovingly of our time, talents, and treasures in reflection of this. As Jesus has shown us, giving has no bounds and should grace all of Creation, especially the poor, the vulnerable, and the oppressed.

Remember to Joyfully Share God’s Love . . . God’s love has graced our lives, and we must share it – we can do no less! In sharing God’s love and compassion for Creation, we experience even more JOY! As we participate in God’s work in the world, we are richly rewarded with a sense of making a difference and being part of God’s care.

TREASURER’S REPORT — Brent Marcks

As of 2/28/2021 we are **(\$14,581.69)** behind in Joyful Giving for 2022.

Financial Update			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Feb. Income	\$16,581.24	\$256,083.34	(\$8,502.10)
YTD Income	\$35,412.46	\$50,166.67	(\$14,754.21)
Feb. Expenses	\$25,440.21	\$30,125.58	(\$4,685.37)
YTD Expenses	\$54,420.80	\$59,291.78	(\$4,870.98)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$19,008.34)	(\$9,125.11)	(\$9,883.23)
Feb. Attendance	261		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
03/06/22	100	\$7,588.32	\$7,024.80
03/13/22	89	\$2,176.00	\$7,024.80
03/20/22	96	\$5,348.00	\$7,024.80
03/27/22	78	\$4,385.00	\$7,024.80
Total	363	\$19,497.32	\$28,099.52

CUCC ONLINE GIVING

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

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

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



OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

Loaves & Fishes

The March 21 meal at L&F consisted of chicken (some from the 3/13 church luncheon and some that was donated by Linda Evans), pulled pork (from the 3/13 luncheon), German potato salad (leftover from Fastnacht), macaroni salad (from the 3/13 luncheon), lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson), cookies (made by Jolene Kirchoff), and other desserts (from the 3/13 luncheon). Peanut butter & jelly sandwiches were made and donated by Mahree Skala. Several of our youth made snack bags with Lena Muench, and these were handed out along with the PB&J's. The guests really enjoyed the snack mix!! Thank you!! Servers for the evening were Keith Birkes, Judi Privitt, Tom Solt & Mary Lorber-Solt, Anne Heine, and Patty Beeson. Approximately 149 servings were given out! Thank you to everyone for your generosity and hard work! Let [Audrey Lasley](#) know if you would like to help in any way.

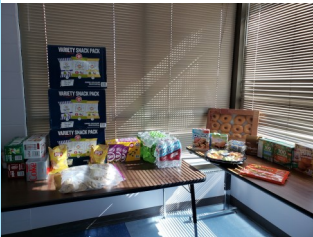
Food Bank News

The Food Bank crew last month (consisting of Cliff Beckman, Keith Birkes, Anne Heine, Mahree Skala, and Tricia Soncasie), along with other volunteers, filled 204 "Mardi Gras" boxes of staple foods including rice, beans, dried milk, canned meat, vegetables, and fruit.

The April shift will be on Tuesday, 4/26 at 5:30 p.m. Please sign up to join in the fun—the link will be provided in the Friday emails. If you have any questions, please contact [Mahree Skala](#).

Let's Clean Up (Our Part of) Columbia — April 9 @ CUCC

CUCC's "Clean Up Columbia Day" is Saturday, April 9, 9-11 a.m. As in past years, we've "adopted" our own street, which direly needs attention. We had a record number of volunteers last year (27) and picked up a record 48 bags of trash. Many hands make light work, so please sign up to help. Please let us know if you're coming. A sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Area, or you can contact [Mahree Skala](#). Bring work gloves and sturdy shoes!



Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary—Partnership Friend

Shown in the picture are the goodies delivered to Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School to stock the teachers' lounge during the Parent-Teacher Conference week. CUCC provided a fruit tray, donuts, and soda, as well as the items from the collection in the shopping cart in the upstairs Gathering Area. They all were extremely grateful! Thank you to all of CUCC for their generosity in this regard!

Pastor Rick and I attended a meeting with Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School (AHL) on Wednesday, March 9, to touch base on our Partnership work. AHL has received monetary donations from CUCC and from our Souper Bowl which they will use to continue stocking their pantry and other needs at the school, such as pants, shoes, boots, and student needs (you cannot even imagine!). It will also be used for coupons for student families to shop at The Wardrobe.

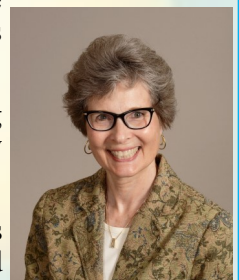
On March 23, I delivered all the remaining food stuff that CUCC members donated for AHL Food Pantry. Amazing! Thank you so much for your generosity!

Their PTA Carnival is scheduled for Saturday, May 14 (*date change*), at 12 noon until 3 p.m., and they look forward to CUCC Volunteer members to help staff the booths, so teachers and parents have time to interact with their students. We will receive future info on this from the PTA and when/how to sign-up to volunteer. Booths will include things like a cakewalk, ring toss, silent auction, fish pond, etc.

We are also working on the possibility of sending cards of thank you and encouragement to the teachers during these challenging times and how CUCC might support them and the students during the time of MAP testing.

On another note, CUCC was recently noted as a successful Partnership Friend at a meeting Pastor Rick and I attended with CPS Superintendent Yearwood and other faith community members. This is because of you, CUCC members and friends! Thank YOU!

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



Bring a Friend Sunday!

Taco Bar- April 3

Everyone at CUCC is invited to Bring a Friend to church on Sunday, April 3! This is a special opportunity to share God's love as exemplified in the ministries of this church. There will be special gifts and gift bags given to all guests on that Sunday, as we celebrate communion together and talk about the rising of Lazarus. As we get closer to Easter, people are looking for a faith community to celebrate the Resurrection. Don't miss this chance to tell them about CUCC!

Plus - a Taco Bar after worship! The Membership & Care Ministry Team will be supplying all the fixings; you just need to come! *(and bring a friend)*

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." -Matthew 28:19

There are many instances where Jesus calls us to share the Good News of his ministry with everyone; yet often our faith is our best kept secret! "Bring a Friend Sunday" gives us the chance to follow Jesus' Great Commission to share the Inclusive Love of Jesus with everyone!

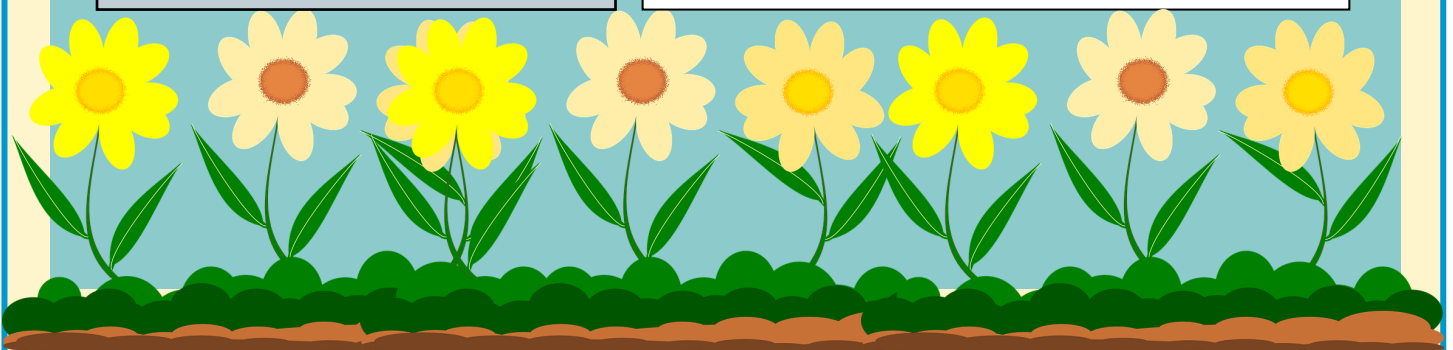
All Dressed up and no
place to grow?

Come to worship on April 3!

*Statistically, 80% of people
who visit a church come because
someone invites them. Don't
underestimate the power of a
personal invitation!
Think outside the box- invite a
friend to church on April 3!*

On Sunday, April 3, your friends will have a
chance to experience:

- Sunday School for all ages, from 9:00-10:00am (including Adult Class)
- Communion at God's Table with everyone welcome and included
- Childcare available in the nursery during worship (Kindergarten age and under)
- Special gift for the kids at Children's time
- Special gift for all guests in worship
- Taco Bar following worship
- The loving, inclusive, and affirming identity of the CUCC Congregation



NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM



Earth Day is on April 22.

On Sunday, April 24 (with a rain make-up date of May 1), CUCC will host a booth at Peace Park from 11:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. to promote the Children and Youth Sunday School Program, as well as the Inclusion and Affirmation



Ministry. We will need volunteers to set up, greet people, and oversee a children's craft. Please sign up [here](#) if you are willing and able to help.

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

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

Come join the **Adult Bible Study**, offered each Sunday and led by Phillip Neale, now through May 22.



Human Trafficking in Your Back Yard

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

Easter Sunday Activities for Kids (pre-K through grade 5)

Beginning during Sunday School, join Pastor Rick in the Sanctuary for the **Story of Easter**. Then venture downstairs into the Fellowship Hall where Paula Wilson will have an **Easter Craft** and **Easter Egg Hunt**. Finally, join us during Worship Service for the **"Balloon Rising"** during Children's Time.

Easter Bake Sale, April 17

There will be a Bake Sale beginning at 9:00 a.m. in Gathering Area—be sure to bring your cash! The proceeds will help fund Summer Camp scholarships.

Conservation Moment: Missouri River Relief: Review of Big Muddy Clean Sweep 2021

This was the 20 year anniversary of the Mo River Relief program. Volunteers from multiple organizations gathered to pull trash from the river and from the banks. Stats below:

- 343 volunteers
- 119 miles of river cleaned
- 14.4 tons went into a landfill
- 3.6 tons recycled scrap metal
- 5.49 tons of tires removed
- Total trash tonnage removed 23.6

The moral to this story: dispose of trash properly. The 2022 clean up schedule can be found [here](#).

STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING COALITION OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

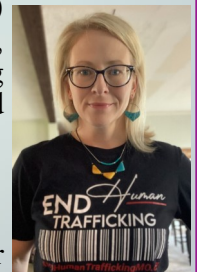
Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. The STOP Human Trafficking Coalition of Central MO (CMSHTC) has been working in the local and surrounding communities, combatting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

April showers bring May flowers . . . and freshly exited victims (now survivors) of human trafficking in our community. As we enter the fourth month of 2022, the STOP Human Trafficking Coalition of Central Missouri has already served more than twenty survivors. Our ability to walk along-side these individuals is only possible through partnerships and supporters like our friends at CUCC.

SHTCCM has been elected as one of the recipients of the Tigers on the Prowl (TOTP) benefit event on October 11, 2022. We have eight tables and eighty seats to fill for the event. Each seat is a \$100 donation, or a table is a \$900 donation. We also need some donations for the silent auction: art, products, services, get-a-ways, etc. If you are interested in purchasing a seat, a table, or donating for the silent auction, please [contact me](#). Our corner at TOTP is the "Social Justice" corner, and we'd love to see familiar and friendly faces supporting us in person!

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

April Rothweiler





Holy Week Schedule

Palm/Passion Sunday *"Palms to Passion"*

Sunday 4/10, 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

Special music by Brandon Brown and the Celebration Singers

Maundy Thursday *"Love One Another"*

Thursday 4/14, 7:00pm in the Fellowship Hall

Special music by Harry Beckett

Good Friday *"Tenebrae"*

Friday 4/15, 7:00pm in the Sanctuary*

Special music by Brandon Brown and the Celebration Singers

Easter Sunday

Sunday 4/17

Easter Sunrise Service *"In the Garden"*

6:30am at the Shelter House

Special music by Kristin Veteto

Breakfast

7:15-8:00am in the Fellowship Hall

Hosted by Men's Fellowship

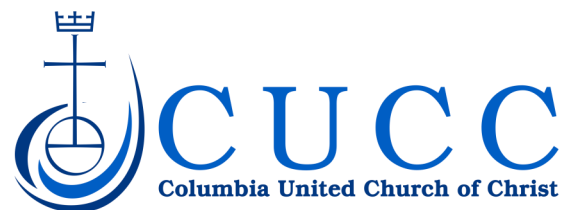
Sunday School Celebration/Egg Hunt

9:00-10:00am PreK-8th grade, meet upstairs

Easter Worship Service *"He is Risen"*

10:30am in the Sanctuary

Special music by Brandon Brown and the Celebration Singers



www.columbiaucc.com



CUCC IS WORKING IN SRI LANKA

The Church of the American Ceylon Mission (CACM) provides educational, medical, and social services throughout Sri Lanka. CACM's services focus on vulnerable minority communities who are susceptible to experiencing unemployment, child labor, human trafficking, abuse, suicide, and emotional trauma. In response to these struggles,

CACM facilitates self-help groups for women where they receive training in areas such as financial management and decision making. In addition to training, the groups provide rotating micro-loans that help members create income-generation enterprises. The women's self-help groups administer the loans, set interest rates, oversee the repayment of the loans, and support their members through personal, financial, and social challenges. CACM is providing opportunities and making a difference for vulnerable people in Sri Lanka.

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

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

April 3-9
Maria Hernandez
Working in Japan

April 10-16
Elena Huegel
Working in Mexico

April 17-23
Kahala Cannon
Working in eSwatini

April 24-30
Nishan Bakalian
Working in Lebanon



CUCC IS WORKING IN GUATEMALA

(condensed from www.globalministries.org)

The Ecumenical Christian Council of Guatemala is a place for Christian encounter, reflection, and action for those committed to working for peace, reconciliation, and ecumenism in Guatemala. The Ecumenical Council takes on the challenge of maintaining the Guatemalan Peace Agreements, upholding a prophetic voice of denunciation, and declaration of facts and situations of injustice, and other realities that hinder the fulfillment of the Realm of God.

The Ecumenical Christian Council is convinced that Christian unity, or ecumenism, is one way to develop a democracy that promotes tolerance, respect, ethnic and religious pluralism, and peaceful living together. The Council seeks to be an ecumenical instrument of reflection, action, and projection where the mainline churches of Guatemala learn to become advocates of their nation's life through the perspectives of Christian values, the search for the common good, the construction of peace and reconciliation, and promotion of better living conditions for the Guatemalan population in the current context of violence and globalization.


The Ecumenical Christian Council focuses on six areas of work:

Developing a pastoral culture of peace, working for peace in a conflicted community; **Youth and Children**, creating conditions for empowering youth leadership; **Women and Gender Justice**, contributing to the generation of knowledge, learning, and intervention of women; **Stewardship of Creation**, learning about how to care for God's good earth; **Ecumenical Celebrations**, organizing ecumenical events and points of advocacy for the participation of churches and individuals; and **HIV Care**, promoting pastoral accompaniment for those living with HIV, as well as promoting education and prevention.



ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Church Office Closed	2
3 7:30am Men's Fellowship Bring a Friend Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship <i>Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	4 10:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm LODO Ministry Team Meeting 5:30 Sabbatical Team Meeting	5 10am Quilters	6 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Celebration Singers	7 6-7pm LODO Literacy Night	8	9 9-11am Clean Up Columbia Pavilion reserved 9-12
10 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship <i>Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	11 NO Staff Meeting Pastor Rick Off	12 10am Quilters 6:30pm Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team Meeting	13 Pastor Rick @ the Bluffs 6pm Prayer Shawl Group 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Celebration Singers	14 Maundy Thursday 9:30am Women's Fellowship <i>Let's Skip Worship Together</i>	15 Good Friday 7pm Good Friday Worship Service	16 Holy Saturday
17 Easter Sunday 6:30am Sunrise Worship 9:00am Sunday School and Easter Egg Hunt 10:30am Worship <i>Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	18 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30 Leaves & Fishes	19 10am Quilters 6:30pm Council Meeting	20 Pastor Rick on Vacation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Choir NO Confirmation	21 Pastor Rick on Vacation	22 Pastor Rick on Vacation	23 Pastor Rick on Vacation
24 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship <i>Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i> Earth Day at Peace Park	25 NO Staff Meeting Pastor Rick on Vacation	26 Pastor Rick on Vacation 5:30pm Food Bank	27 Pastor Rick returns 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Choir	28 12pm Lunch Bunch Pastor Rick gone for training	29	30 TRIVIA NIGHT

THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation- ONA #1575
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Columbia, MO 65202-3296
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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Interested in Church Membership?

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

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Columbia United Church of Christ Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant

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

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

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

LODO PLAYGROUND RESPECT

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

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