

THE COMMUNICATOR

May 2022



“Let’s Go Viral!”

From the Pastor’s Keyboard

After two years of the Coronavirus, perhaps the last thing you want to hear is the word, “viral.” But “going viral” can be a good thing!

I am talking about the internet, not the Coronavirus.

We had a special guest at our March Church Council Meeting, Rev. Damien Lake, our Associate Conference Minister. Rev. Lake brought us greetings from the Conference and talked a bit about the ways we are a part of the covenantal body that is the Missouri Mid-South Conference. Then he told us a story.

He told us about a UCC church in St. Louis and how their online worship services have “gone viral.”

Grace United Church of Christ is a church much smaller than ours, averaging around 30 or so in worship on a Sunday. But the members of Grace UCC have committed to “sharing” their livestream worship services on Facebook; and **one Sunday they had 1300 viewers!**

Subsequent Sundays were equally impressive. One Sunday, their worship was “shared” 49 times on Facebook; it had 915 “views.” Another Sunday, their service was “shared” 43 times, and it received 1100 “views.” Their Ash Wednesday worship service was only “shared” 24 times, but it had 478 “views.” By contrast, our worship services at CUCC are rarely “shared,” and they only receive 20-30 views each.

So how does Grace UCC do it? Their members, all 30 of them, have committed themselves to a discipline of “sharing” their online worship service on their own Facebook pages, as well as in any Facebook group they are part of. Their commitment to “sharing” has caused an exponential increase in exposure for their congregation; and their worship services are becoming viral sensations.

“Sharing” on Facebook is free, and it takes about ten seconds to click “share” on a post. If Grace UCC can go viral and realize 1300 viewers for one worship service, CUCC can do so, as well! All it takes is for each person reading this to commit themselves to doing their part. Make a discipline of “sharing” CUCC posts every week; not just worship services but also LODO ads, photos, and other CUCC posts. You can find these on the [CUCC Facebook page](#). Our worship service is posted there by Monday morning at the latest, and there are always other informative posts on that page, as well. The more you “share” (don’t just “like” it, “share” it!), the more our church will be publicized— **for FREE**.

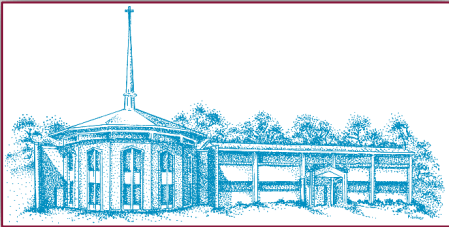
Why would you do this? Two reasons. The first one is to help this congregation grow. We need to grow in active membership, not just to have bigger numbers, but in order to keep doing the great ministry work we are already doing; and to do even more. The more hands we have working together, the more ministry we can do together and the more we can grow in faith.

The second reason is because God challenges us to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with all who would hear. We have a great message every Sunday – in Word and in Song, in Prayer and in Praise. There are people online who are yearning to hear the Good News message we are sharing. If we hide our light under a bushel, these soul-hungry children of God will continue to be hungry. But if you “share” our worship service each and every week, they may be led to the nourishing Word of God.

It’s not about the numbers; it’s not even about marketing our church; it is about God’s ministry lived in this congregation, and God’s Word “shared” as much and as often as possible. “Share” the Good News— Jesus Christ is Risen!



—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, MAY 12

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, May 12 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, MAY 26

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, May 26. 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! We are currently looking for a speaker for May, so stay tuned for more details. If you know of a local person or organization who would like to share about their ministry, contact the [Church Office](#).

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!

COLUMBIA UCC SABBATICAL – A TIME OF RENEWAL FOR ALL

It is 90 days until Pastor Rick and our church begin our Sabbatical. A sabbatical is dedicated time-off to reset, recover, pursue creativeness, pursue learning, reconnect with God, and rediscover God's purposes for our lives. This Sabbatical, August 1 — October 31, 2022, will help everyone, Pastor Rick and the congregation, focus on renewal.

Your Sabbatical Team: Mike Pierson, Anne Heine, Judi Privitt, Kristy Odneal, and Pat Forward met with Pastor Rick on April 13, 2022. The next order of business for the Sabbatical Team is:

- Distributing the job description for a Sabbatical Pastor
- Planning the response to emergencies that could occur
- Planning the Educational opportunities for our church

The Sabbatical Team will be meeting next on May 11, 2022. Please visit with one of the Sabbatical Team members with your suggestions, concerns, offers of support, and assistance. This will be a refreshing time for us all.



Thank You



Dear Friends,

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of **Eden Theological Seminary**, thank you for your generous donation and support of the Annual Fund.

The spring semester has begun. Degree and non-degree programs are in full swing, resourcing our vision for congregational and community leaders. God is indeed working in our midst, and we are grateful for your part in this important work. We appreciate your support and prayers for students as they commit to strengthening the life of the church in community here at Eden.

In Gratitude,
Mary Schaller Blaufuss,
VP of Institutional Advancement

Dear Rev. Oberle and CUCC,

Thank you for acting against hunger with your recent gift to the **Food Bank for Central and NE MO**. Your act of kindness goes a long way in making a tangible difference in the lives of people in our communities. One in seven Missourians faces food insecurity on a regular basis, and we remain committed to making a difference in the lives of those who need it most. With your support, we will make this year another success in serving the most vulnerable of our community. Thank you for contributing to ending hunger.

Gratefully,
Lindsay Young Lopez, President and CEO

Dear CUCC,

Thank you for your generous gift to **Back Bay Mission!** Your gift to Friends of the Mission makes it possible to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Your gift is already at work strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives. You're helping a homeowner stay in their home, providing homeless families with apartments, making sure people have enough food, and giving people the support they need to make their lives better. We, and those we serve, are ever grateful.

Grace and Peace,
James Pennington, Executive Director

CUCC,

Thank you from **Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary!** Below are a couple of notes from various staff members at AHL.

I am thankful for the volunteers who work in the library!
Melba Shaffer, Mahree Skala, and Judi Privitt
— April, Media Specialist

The \$244 donation from your Souper Bowl of Caring was immensely appreciated! And the homemade cookies (from Jolene Kirchhoff) were quickly devoured!
— AHL Staff

CUCC, you are amazing! We have such giving members. Thank you, and thank AHL for all they do for our children, our future.

Llona Weiss, AHL Partnership Friend Liaison

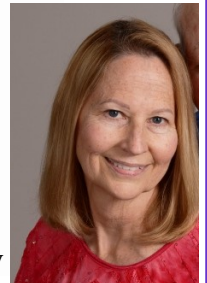
CHURCH COUNCIL

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

The Church Council met on Tuesday, April 19, 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 joined the meeting by Zoom.

- Linda Neale led discussion on the third chapter of the book, “Neighborhood Church.” We need to be able to receive gifts, as well as give them.
- Empty spots were filled for stewardship duties for the rest of May and part of June.
- Mike Pierson got a bid from Mid-MO Electric to do the wiring for the chancel lighting project.
- Mike Pierson has a follow-up meeting with the Interior Designer, Kenna Weber.
- Parts have been installed for the south basement door, and it is now DONE.
- The sealing for the parking lot will be done after LODO is out for the Summer.
- We will be replacing two HVAC units in June.
- COVID-numbers are looking good.
- A Sabbatical team consisting of Pat Forward, Anne Heine, Mike Pierson, Judi Privitt, and Kristy Odneal has been approved by the Church Council. Council also approved the description and guidelines for the Sabbatical team and the Sabbatical pastor job description.
- The new LODO signs are done, and they are just waiting for Image 360 to install the . . . probably in June.
- Brandon Brown would like to have three choir section leaders. The Church Council approved presenting a motion at the Annual Congregational Meeting to amend the 2022 budget to add a line item for “Choral Section Leaders” under the Worship & Music Ministry Team. This line item would be funded \$2700.
- Virtual voting will be made available for the May 15th Congregational meeting.
- The Nominating Committee will be searching for a Building & Grounds chairperson, Nurture & Education chairperson, and filling the Secretary position.
- Starting in Jan. 2023, we will use AmericanChurch for our offering envelopes. They will be mailed once a month to each giving family.
- Council approved the new LODO budget and pay raises.
- Need to appoint an anniversary team for our 100th anniversary in 2023. Sue Ann Schaefer and Audrey Lasley will ask some of our members who were suggested.
- Pastor Rick proposed that Brandon Brown receive a pay raise after completing his 6 month review. Council approved.
- Worship time from June 12 through September 4 will be at 9:30 a.m.
- 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 May 17.

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

A DIVERSE CUCC

One of the things I appreciate most about CUCC is the value we place on diversity. We focus often on our affirmation of all God's children no matter their cultural identity or makeup. The diversity each person brings to our church makes it even more beautiful and special. I value the flexibility in our thinking and that we provide so many opportunities to connect with God and each other as a faith community. There is no prescribed way to be involved or to worship. Each of us has our own values, personality, and life circumstances that allow us to connect to the church in different ways. Depending on many factors, we may be more inclined or available for leading or being part of ministry teams, for involvement in Sunday morning worship services, or for being involved in outreach activities. We may be involved as individuals, as families, or as friends. And our involvement may ebb and flow over time. But the ways we give and receive in our partnerships with the church are all important.

In the book "Neighborhood Church," authors Krin Van Tatenhove and Rob Mueller discuss the importance of both giving and receiving in partnership. While they reference this dynamic in the context of mission work, it is clearly an important aspect of any relationship, including those with our church family. They explain that "partnership always transforms us, shaping our characters, our spirits, our actions."

I am grateful to be part of a church where we do not affirm and include everyone in spite of our differences, *but because* of our differences. Each of us is a vital part of our congregation, and we are welcome and valued no matter what we provide or receive through our affiliation. As we move into a new program year, I encourage each of us to think about our own unique connection to CUCC . . . What do you appreciate most about our church? What makes it special to you? What do you provide and receive from CUCC because of the unique way God made you?

Your friend in Christ,
Kristy Odneal, Moderator



COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR MAY

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for May. 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
05/01	Anne Heine	NEED	Judi Privitt	Danielle Dreier	Brent Marcks Lorry Dreier	Brent Marcks
05/08	Audrey Lasley	Melba Shaffer	Pat Forward	NEED	Matt Lucas	Jo Ellen Grace
05/15	NEED	John & Brenda Muench	Confirmands	NEED	Mike Pierson Ted Dachroeden	Audrey Lasley
05/22	NEED	Llona Weiss	Mahree Skala	NEED	Haley Dennis Phillip Dennis	NEED
05/29	NEED	NEED	Audrey Lasley	NEED	Doug Privitt Josh Muench	NEED

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

May Birthdays to Celebrate!

Paul Klick (05/01)	Brenda Muench (05/03)	Christine Staelens (05/03)
Payton Bach (05/04)	Porter Rothweiler (05/04)	James Melton (05/05)
Tim Staelens (05/05)	Rachael Erickson (05/08)	Betsy Murphy (05/08)
David Fischer (05/10)	Lilly Jaberg (05/11)	Keith Birkes (05/13)
Asher Nieman (05/13)	Anne Heine (05/15)	Travis Brookshire (05/15)
Roberta Settergren (05/16)	Sonja Erickson (05/17)	Virginia Zumwalt (05/17)
Marcella Dolezal (05/18)	Kennedy Lucas (05/19)	Mari Ann Keithahn (05/20)
Haley Dennis (05/21)	Abe Heine (05/21)	Brenda Schupp (05/23)
Tracy Bach (05/24)	Louis Nieman (05/26)	Emmalee Heine (05/28)
Grayson Oberle (05/28)	Elaina Beckmann (05/29)	Anna Kespohl (05/29)
Steven Evans (05/30)		Morgan Lavelly (05/31)

BLACK HISTORY TOUR OF ST. LOUIS 5/7

On May 7, you are invited to join the Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team on a Black History Tour of St. Louis! We have a tour guide who will be leading us through 14 different locations, discussing incidents in Black History in St. Louis. We will stop for lunch at "Sweetie Pies," a Black-owned restaurant, during our tour. Meet at church at 8:45, we will leave by 9 am. We are renting a large van for anyone who wants to ride together. We will have a guide to show us around important Black History sites in St. Louis and explain the significance. The tour takes around 3 hours, plus lunch, so we plan to return to Columbia around 5pm. RSVP required; [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP or talk to [Tricia Price](#)! We are asking for a \$10 donation to cover the cost of the guide and the van rental. If this presents a hardship for you, please just let us know, and CUCC can cover it. Each person will also need to pay for their own lunch.



Join our “Food Truck Frenzy”
@ CUCC’s Vacation Bible School
for Youth Ages 3 — Finishing 5th Grade!

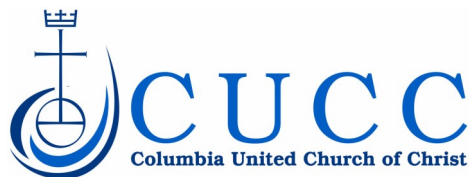
Dinner provided for attendees,
their families, & volunteers!

August 1, 2, & 3

5:15 - 8:15 p.m.

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

Registration begins June 15:
www.columbiaucc.com



An Open and Affirming Congregation
3201 I-70 Drive NW, Columbia
573-445-7931
office@columbiaucc.com



LODO MINISTRY TEAM

LODO NEWS

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

KidSight visited LODO on April 5 and 6 to administer vision screenings. We are so grateful for this FREE service that identified multiple children with vision concerns! KidSight is always in need of volunteers to administer vision screenings and is able to provide their service for free through grants and donations. You can find more information on the program at <https://kid-sight.org>.

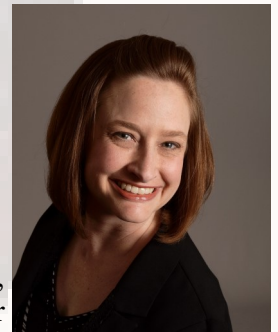
We hosted Literacy Night on April 7 with many fun activities focusing on pre-reading and pre-writing skills. Our activities were inspired by Laura Numeroff Books (If You Give a Mouse a Cookie, etc.). Families not only enjoyed a fun night of learning, but also had a chance to grow fellowship with our staff and other LODO families in a relaxed setting.

Our students enjoyed Easter celebrations and a small egg hunt on April 14 and 15. Children enjoyed learning about the Resurrection and growing their love for Jesus.

In May we will wrap up our 2021-2022 school year! May also brings Teacher Appreciation week May 2-6. Our Teacher Appreciation Planning Committee has planned a wonderful week of activities. Our outstanding LODO staff will be celebrated with lunch, breakfast, and other treats throughout the week!

Upcoming Events

- May 2-6 Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6 LODO Spring Picnic @ Smith Park
- May 19 PreK Graduation @ 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary
Cookie Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall
- May 20 Last Day of 2021-2022 School Year
- August 15 LODO Staff Annual Planning Meeting
- August 29 First Day of 2022-2023 School Year



With Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger, Director

May Themes:

- All About Me: My Family & My Place in Space
- Author Spotlight: Teacher Choice
- Last Week: Teacher's Choice

2022-2023 Enrollment

Limited space remains in our classes for 2022-2023. Please help spread the word and encourage interested families to contact Ms. Erika @ LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com.



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

May 1st (May Day) was a special day in my childhood. Children would handmade May baskets and sneak up to a friend's door, drop the basket, ring the bell, and then run. Why? Because, if your friend caught you, they could kiss you. In first grade, I had a little crush on Dennis. I made him a basket; mom drove me to his neighborhood. I strategized how I'd make my escape once I dropped off the basket. I did the deed and got away before he could catch me.

Then the waiting began. I watched my front door like a hawk. But at some point, I turned my back, and that is when the doorbell rang. I sprinted thru the house, out the door, and ran to his car. Dennis was at the car door, pulling on the handle and yelling at his dad . . . who had locked him out. His dad was laughing behind the steering wheel. I planted my kiss on the back of Dennis's buzz cut head. Fun memories . . .

However, there are millions of children all over the world who live in fear, hunger, and misery who won't have the happy memories that most of us can cherish. The reasons for this are numerous and varied: war, famine, natural disasters, mental illness, abuse, discrimination due to skin color, sexual identity, religion, etc.

As the saying goes, "we cannot save the world, but we can save a piece of it." And CUCC does just that by our support of: the local food bank; a local elementary school; the LGBTQ+ community by being open and affirming and participating in Pridefest; individuals in prison by supplying toiletries; the people of Chiapas by our mission trips; indigenous people via the Heifer Project and Crop Walk; local refugees by giving to the City of Refuge; making our choices known via the ballot box; and I could go on....

As the song by Dan Schutt states:

*I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin,
My hand will save.*

*I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?*

*Here am I, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
I have heard you calling in the night.
I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
I will hold your people in my heart.*



In Service and Love,
Tricia Price, Chair; Alisa Lau-Sieckman, member

Let's continue to bear God's light wherever and whenever we can thus creating happy, hopeful memories along the way.

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.



INCLUSIVE ARTWORK AT CUCC

In the Gathering Area Upstairs—outside the Kitchen area

CUCC OPEN AND AFFIRMING/INCLUSION COVENANT

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

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



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

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

The Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers will be on their well deserved break from June through August.

This presents a wonderful opportunity for special ensembles and soloists to provide the “anthem” music for the service. As always, there is an opportunity for anyone who would like to participate in the service as a song leader, as well. This is the chance for people who can't commit the time to a regular rehearsal schedule to use your musical talents to lift up the name of the Lord.



Please e-mail me at brandon.michael.brown@gmail.com for more information or to sign up to sing or play an instrument. I have heard about the many talents that the members of the congregation possess, and I look forward to hearing them this summer!

Brandon Brown, M.M.
Music Coordinator

WORSHIP & MUSIC NOTES

Happy Spring, CUCC!! As with the change in the weather, exciting changes are happening in regard to a couple aspects under the Worship and Music Team umbrella (no pun intended). In February, the Council approved a motion by the committee to go ahead and devote funds to beginning the process of seeking out designs from Kenna Weber with Abundance Interior Design. She and I have met once to revisit the project, and we will be meeting this week to continue building three designs that will be brought forth to the congregation for choice and approval. I am hoping these designs will be completed in the next month or two, in order that funds can be generated for the completion as soon as possible. Through the process we will be looking for members who will want to help paint, hang draperies, etc., while we will rely on professionals to install new carpeting, wall treatments, and windows. This will help us keep costs as low as possible. If you have skills or contacts within the paint, flooring, wall treatment, drapery industries that could be beneficial to the project, please let me know (mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com or talk to me at church).

Another update includes the Section Leader program for the Celebration Singers (choir). Brandon Brown, music coordinator and choir director, has secured two individuals to serve as Soprano and Tenor section leaders in February, March, and April. This has helped to build confidence and sound (!) among the choir members, and it is showing in their musical offerings. It is the goal for next year to make this a full-year, three-song leader (Soprano, Alto, Tenor) position. A motion will be presented to the Council this week seeking modification of the 2022-2023 budget to allow for this to happen. If the Council approves the motion, it will be brought to a vote at the May Congregational meeting. The total addition of funds to the budget would be \$2700 for the year.



Mike Pierson, Worship & Music Ministry Team Chair

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

Signs of spring and renewal are everywhere. The green grass, trees budding, and flowering remind us that they are coming to life. The choir sang at the Easter service . . . He is alive! Jesus is alive!

There are many things that go on at Columbia United Church of Christ to show how our members share their time and talents. The Worship and Music Ministry team creates a welcoming environment with banners, flowers, inspirational music and songs. The Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry team has hot coffee, drinks and snacks for us to enjoy before the church service. The Outreach and Advocacy ministry team helps to feed the hungry in Columbia and partners with a local school that has many needs.

These are only a few examples of how our members share their time and talent. This show of Stewardship is remarkable.

Your financial, commitment along with the stewardship sharing from our members, make the services and programs possible. Thank you CUCC!



Sue Ann Schaefer,
Treasurer, Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Member

Christian Stewardship: *The Belief that everything we have is a gift from God; and we are just stewards of it.*
— Rev. David Lewis Beebe

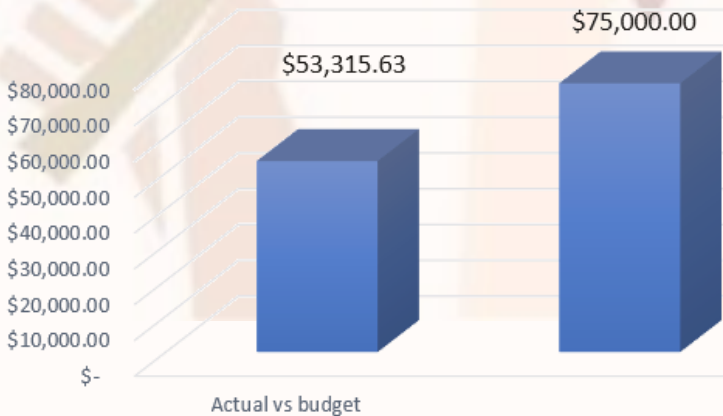
TREASURER’S REPORT — Brent Marcks

Financial Update			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Mar. Income	\$20,237.37	\$26,583.33	(\$6,345.96)
YTD Income	\$55,649.83	\$76,750	(\$21,100.17)
Mar. Expenses	\$32,669.47	\$35,109.56	(\$2,440.09)
YTD Expenses	\$87,070.28	\$94,401.34	(\$7,331.06)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$31,420.45)	(\$17,651.34)	(\$13,769.11)
Mar. Attendance	363		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
04/03/22	103	\$8,104.31	\$7,307.63
04/10/22	110	\$5,512.48	\$7,307.63
04/15/22	41	N/A	N/A
04/17/22	22	N/A	N/A
04/17/22	157	\$7,289.00	\$7,307.63
04/24/22	66	\$1,275.00	\$7,307.63
Total	437/499	\$22,180.79	\$29,230.52

As of 3/31/2021 we are (\$21,484.37) behind in Joyful Giving for 2022.

2022 Joyful Giving vs budget



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 April 18 meal at L&F consisted of ham, mashed potatoes, corn, rolls, cake, and cookies. The delicious meal was prepared by Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt. Cookies were made and donated by Jolene Kirchoff, and the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches were made and donated by Mahree Skala. Servers were Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Debbie (Mary's sister), Derek & Nicole Flood-Lorber and their two sons (Lawson & Cason), and a friend, Amber.

We served approximately 154 servings. It was a busy evening! Thank you so much to all of the wonderful people who cooked and served!

Food Bank News

Four CUCC volunteers worked on March 22, along with the energetic soccer team from Columbia College. Together they packaged 7,000 pounds of tomatoes and onions to be distributed through food pantries. Much needed fresh produce for hungry people!

Thank you to John and Brenda Muench, Mark Duncan, and Tricia Soncasie. Please mark your calendars for the next opportunity on Tuesday, May 24, at 5:30 p.m.

We Cleaned Up Columbia!

Our little part of it, at least. Thirteen stalwart volunteers picked up 50 bags of trash plus numerous car parts and other miscellaneous junk on Saturday, April 9. We were blessed with good weather, and the road near the church looks much better. Many thanks to:

Cliff Beckman	John Bullerd	Lori & Danielle Dreier	Karl & Mahree Skala
Mark & Jane Duncan	Tim, Jo Ellen, & Rita Grace	Connie Loveless	Melba Shaffer

UCC Refugee Assistance for Ukraine

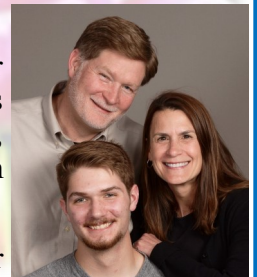
The United Church of Christ support of refugees and those currently impacted in Europe the last few months have raised some concern on how we can help. One way we have done this at Columbia UCC is through the One Great Hour of Sharing. In addition, through our budget in Outreach and Advocacy, we made an additional contribution of \$1,300 to the UCC Refugee Assistance fund designated to Ukrainians. It is important to find organizations with a proven track record of financial management and ability to deliver aid. We have that resource serving the millions of Ukrainians who have sought refuge outside of Ukraine and others who have remained in the country but are displaced from their homes. The humanitarian crisis is accelerating in Ukraine and in neighboring countries as the violence escalates and the number of people on the move multiplies.

Gifts made to UCC Ukraine Relief Fund are providing shelter, food, and other care to war refugees and internally displaced people. It also will help refugees and asylum seekers from African, Middle Eastern and other countries who had sought refuge in Ukraine and now are twice displaced, as well as citizens of more than 125 other countries living in Ukraine.

Uniting in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion with the people of Ukraine and all who are affected, and with our global partners who are welcoming those driven from their homes.

All donations will be deposited into the International Disasters fund designated for "Ukraine Relief." Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need. One can also mail a check, made payable to the United Church of Christ, to: PO BOX 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194. Please be sure to note "Ukraine Relief Fund" on your check in the memo section.

Mark Duncan, CUCC Member



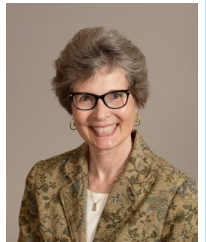
Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary—Partnership Friend

As previously mentioned, the AHL PTA Carnival is now scheduled for Saturday May 14, 2022, from 12 noon until 3:00 p.m. If you have the time, we would appreciate you volunteering to help staff the booths so the parents and teachers can have time to interact with their students. Game booths will include things like ring toss, cakewalk, fish pond, etc. To Volunteer, please use this [Sign-Up Genius link](#).

All the options to Volunteer are listed there with the time slots (mostly 1.5 hours) for each activity. AHL has asked if we would sign up for the Games, and they will start working on filling slots for raffle tickets, wristbands, and concessions. If you want to Volunteer and do not have a computer and/or are having difficulty with your Sign-Up, just contact Llona Weiss by phone at 573-999-3319, or by email at glweiss@centurytel.net. It will be a great opportunity to see and meet those we have been supporting.

The MAP testing was conducted the last two weeks in April, and we provided some ice cream treats for the students at the mid-point to encourage them. Also, the Outreach and Advocacy Team completed handwriting cards of encouragement and thanks to deliver to the *seventy-two* teachers and staff at AHL around May 1-2 during Teacher Appreciation Week. This is just another ministry to encourage and to remind those in the public school system that they are valued and appreciated for all they do for our youth and the community.

Thank you to Pastor Rick and CUCC! — Llona C. Weiss, Liaison for CUCC to AHL-Partner



NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

The Easter Bake Sale was a huge success! Thank you to everyone: those who contributed the scrumptious baked goods, those who worked at the sale (Lorry, Danielle, Gina, Aiden, Trevor, Paula, Pat, Phillip), and of course, those who made purchases. We raised nearly \$250 to be used for Summer CUCC Camp scholarships.

Thank you to Pastor Rick for presenting the Easter Story to the Sunday School for the Opening of the Easter Sunday Celebrations.

Thank you to the Middle/High School classes for hiding the eggs for the egg hunt and for inflating the balloons for the Worship service. Thank you to Paula and Pat for the fun Easter art project, and thank you Audrey for the Easter bags full of goodies for all the kiddos. It was a glorious day!



On Sunday, June 5, Lena Muench and Gina Pierson will present a preview to Vacation Bible School during Sunday School time. We will also have a large inflated slide set up out by the Shelter House. (The slide will be there during our End of Year Church Picnic also!) Lots of exciting things happening at CUCC!

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

Sunday Morning Adult Classes

The last “regular” Sunday School classes will be on May 22.

April Rothweiler is presenting a class called, “Human Trafficking in Your Back Yard,” during Sunday School time, now through May 8.

Phillip Neale is leading a Bible Study that will continue to meet through May 22.

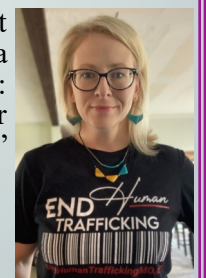


Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. The STOP Human Trafficking Coalition of Central MO (CMSHTC) has been working in the local and surrounding communities, combatting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

SHTCCM has been elected as one of the recipients of the Tigers on the Prowl (TOTP) benefit event on October 11, 2022. **We have six tables and sixty seats left 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





CUCC IS WORKING IN LESOTHO

The people of Lesotho, like people all over the world, have faced many challenges during the pandemic. The Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA) has taken on the challenge of caring for its members, including providing safe worship opportunities. Resources are limited, and access to technology is sparse for many members in rural communities, so church leaders and members have been creative and flexible incorporating technology to conduct business and foster community. With a decline in infection rates, in-person gatherings resumed. Work continues at LECSA institutions. LECSA schools, like all schools in Lesotho, have resumed. Church run health institutions continue to provide significant services to many throughout the country. LECSA members are living as people of faith, anchored in the presence of the living Christ.

LECSA 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 May, please keep Global Ministries and LECSA in your prayers!

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

May 1-7
Eleazar Fernandez
Working in Philippines

May 8-14
Danielle Murray-Knowles
Working in Lesotho

May 15-21
Sara Makari
Working in Israel/Palestine

May 22-28
Rene Seidel
Working in El Salvador



CUCC IS WORKING ON THE US/MEXICO BORDER *(condensed from www.globalministries.org)*

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

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

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

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN



	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 7:30am Men's Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website 12pm Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting	2 LODO Teacher Appreciation Week 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Nurture & Education Ministry Team Meeting	3 10:30am Quilters LODO Teacher Appreciation Week 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team Mtg	4 LODO Teacher Appreciation Week 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Celebration Singers	5 LODO Teacher Appreciation Week 6:30 Inclusion & Affirm. Ministry Team Meeting	6 LODO Teacher Appreciation Week LODO Family Picnic (offsite)	7 8:45am Black History Tour in STL
8 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website 	9 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting	10 10:30am Quilters 6:30 Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team Meeting	11 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Celebration Singers 7:30 Sabbatical Team Meeting	12 9:30am Women's Fellowship	13	14 12-3 Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School Picnic
15 Annual Meeting 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 11:30 Congregational Meeting/Pot Luck Meal Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	16 10:30am Staff Meeting 4:30 Loaves & Fishes	17 10:30am Quilters 6:30 Church Council Meeting	18 Pastor Rick @ the Bluffs 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Celebration Singers	19 6:30pm LODO Graduation in Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall	20 LODO Last Day Fellowship Hall Booked	21 Fellowship Hall Booked
22 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website Fellowship Hall Booked	23 10:30am Staff Meeting	24 10:30am Quilters 5:30pm Food Bank	25 6pm Confirmation 6pm Chapel Ringers 7pm Celebration Singers	26 12pm Lunch Bunch	27	28
29 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	30 NO Staff Meeting	31 10:30am Quilters	1 1	2 2	3 3	4 4

THE COMMUNICATOR

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