

THE COMMUNICATOR

November 2021



From the Pastor's Keyboard

Being Thankful

In the 1980s, there was a commercial that ran in the St. Louis market for Tipton Appliances. In that commercial, the sales people were arguing over who had to unlock the doors for their Black Friday sale. One sales person, with a bandaged head, said to another "I did it last year." Another one with their arm in a sling said, "I did it two years ago." Someone said, "What about you, Joe?" The picture switched to a man, assumed to be Joe, in a wheelchair, bandaged head to toe. He just groaned. Finally, they convinced the new guy to unlock the door. He walks to the front doors of the appliance store with trepidation, and you see the crowd of people on the outside, banging on the doors to be let in so they could grab up all the Black Friday sales.

Black Friday grew from a joke in the 1980s to an obsession in the early 2000s. Black Friday took over Thanksgiving, with people forsaking Thanksgiving dinner with family to line up outside retail outlets, waiting hours to get the best deals. I remember one Thanksgiving around 2005 when our family was going from one house to another, visiting family for the Thanksgiving holiday. As we headed from my in-laws' house to my mother's house around 3:00 on Thursday afternoon we passed Best Buy. There was a line of people around the corner, at 3:00, waiting for them to open their doors at midnight. What happened to Thanksgiving?

Luckily, things have changed for the better. "Black Friday" is fading into a distant memory as seasonal discounts now start on November 1. Retailers have resumed the practice of closing on Thanksgiving Day. The supply chain "crisis" is actually more of an opportunity. It is an opportunity to shift our focus from obsessive greed to what really matters. Perhaps the COVID crisis helped us in that way. The light of truth has been shined on the more destructive tendencies of our culture; and we are forced to reevaluate.

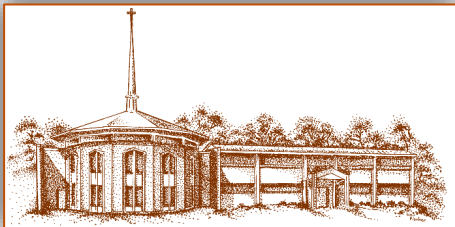
So, as we reevaluate, how will we be thankful? How do we express our thanks? One way is through Giving Tuesday. This day was created as a response to the greed of Black Friday; a day to give back instead of accumulating more; a day to shift our focus from the material world to the world of service. Giving Tuesday is a day to lift up all that is good in the world, and support that good financially.

You will hear a lot about Giving Tuesday the next 30 days, not just from CUCC but also from other service agencies. There are two ways to look at the information you will be receiving. You can consider it an annoyance, or an opportunity. I would encourage you to see it as an opportunity to change God's world for the better by giving back generously. We have all been blessed with so much; Giving Tuesday is an opportunity to be Thankful.

Whether you give to CUCC on Giving Tuesday (November 30) or some other worthy non-profit organization, I encourage you to participate in that event. Expressing our thanks through time, talent and treasure is foundational to our call as Christians. Happy Thanksgiving!



-Pastor Rick



Vernie Blank is turning 100!!

Let's shower her with cards and love for this very special day!
You can send your card (or any other sweet surprise) to:
3801 Miller Dr. Apt. 518
Columbia, MO 65201

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

[Rev. Rick Oberle](#)
Pastor

[Rev. Fred Brandenburg](#)
Pastor Emeritus

[April Rothweiler](#)
Office Administrator

[Brandon Brown](#)
Music Coordinator

[Amy Crousore](#)
Organist/Accompanist

[Erika Maltsbarger](#)
Director, Little One's Day Out

[Rai Tolani](#)
Financial Secretary

[Jeremy Sturm](#)
Custodian

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

Mark your calendars!!

Giving Tuesday is on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. Last year was a tremendous success, and we hope to exceed the \$22,000 that we raised in 2020. Our goal for 2021 will be to collect \$25,000.

The Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team plans to donate 10% of what is collected for Giving Tuesday to be split among VAC and The City of Refuge. 90% of what is collected will go toward Joyful Giving. We will hear more about these organizations as we draw closer to the event.

More to follow!!
Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team



COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST FIVE YEAR STRATEGIC PLAN

On October 24, at our Congregational Planning and Assessment Meeting, Vice Moderator Kurt Heine shared the CUCC Five Year Strategic Plan with the congregation. This plan was the result of deliberations among all our Ministry Teams, and intersects with all aspects of church life. Among the goals articulated in this plan are:

- Promote church activities on social media
- Evaluate all aspects of our church for ways to be more inclusive
- Work on making inclusion an integral part of our church identity, including all aspect of our Inclusion Statement
- Encourage the parents of our youth to help grow our youth program through their children's participation
- Nurture and care for those with special needs
- Continue providing educational opportunities for the congregation about inclusion issues
- Explore the expansion of LODO services
- Continue to enhance worship through music ministry
- Update and enhance worship space
- Build on partnership with Alpha Hart Lewis and other partners
- Explore ways to work with other UCC Congregations
- Explore ways to increase our advocacy efforts
- Explore possibilities of hosting a PFLAG chapter or a Grown Ones Day Out program for people with special needs
- Practice Inclusive Evangelism

These are just a handful of the initiatives that are covered in the CUCC 5-Year Plan. Pick up your copy today in the Gathering Area or in the Church Office.

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Women's Fellowship will meet on Thursday, November 11, 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. It is very interesting, and includes Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary, and more!

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

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP PANCAKE BREAKFAST RETURNS

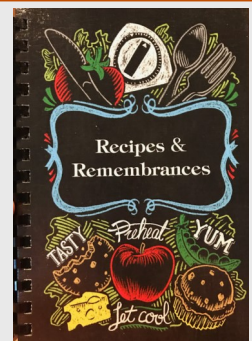
The Men are back in person, gathering each month for fellowship and breakfast. They will meet in person on Sunday, November 14, at 7:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

The Men will gather for pancakes, sausages, coffee, and juice, while discussing upcoming plans for mission work and ministries. All men of the church are welcome to attend! The meeting is usually finished by 8:30, so you have plenty of time to go to Sunday School or prepare for worship. For more information, or if you have any questions, contact [Doug Privitt](#) or [Brent Marcks](#).

Recipes & Remembrances Cookbook

Christmas is just around the corner, and what better gift to give to your loved ones than the CUCC Recipes and Remembrances Cookbook!

You can get yours for \$15 while at Sunday service (just outside of the sanctuary) or through the week by contacting the [Church Office](#) or [Melba Shaffer](#). Proceeds go back into the local community through investment in various organizations. Thank you for helping support your neighbors!



STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING COALITION OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

LUNCH BUNCH—THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 18

Join us for Lunch Bunch on Thursday, November 18! The STOP Human Trafficking Coalition of Central MO will provide a short Human Trafficking 101 presentation and share about upcoming events and partnership opportunities, including a luncheon that CUCC will be hosting for survivors in December.

The STOP Human Trafficking Coalition of Central MO has been working in Columbia and the surrounding areas for over a decade. We hope you will come show your support for this incredibly important organization.

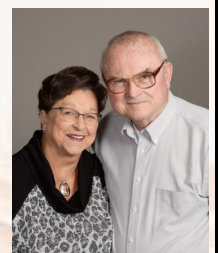
Bring a dish to share for the community meal or, if you prefer, bring a sack lunch. We gather at noon, and our speaker starts at 12:30. It is always a great time for fun, fellowship, and education! All are welcome!

I want to express my appreciation to everyone from CUCC who had any part in preparing the details for my "60th Anniversary of Ordination" service. This includes those who planned and prepared the food service menu; those who helped with clean-up details; those who prepared the special "gift basket"; Llona Weiss as liturgist; those who have responded with a gift to Garrett-Evangelical Seminary for the "Jim Elliott Special Scholarship" for the seminary; those who took time to attend that morning; and those who stayed for the luncheon following the service.

And of course, to Pastor Rick who organized or helped organize many of the details. The ladies had been thinking they should prepare for 50 people for the luncheon. Pastor Rick suggested they should prepare for 100 people. The ladies set 100 dinner plates on the table...97 were used! Audrey Lasley will be able to use some of the leftovers for the special community meal provided by our church later in October.

In addition, thank you to the congregation for some special gifts provided by the congregation. It was indeed, a very special day. Family members and friends watched the service via YouTube from several states, including: MO, NY, IL, IN, MI, WI, and NM.

Jim Elliott



CHURCH COUNCIL

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

The Church Council met on Tuesday, October 19, 2021. Kristy Odneal gave a summary of Chapter 8 of Piloting Church by Cameron Trimble. The author emphasized the importance of communication. Trimble described the call and response pattern, which ensures communication is understood from both directions. Ineffective communication sets us up for misunderstanding. Council needs an atmosphere of trust and understanding even though we may not always agree. We must use all modes of communication available to communicate as effectively as possible, including common forms of social media. People must hear a message seven times before they remember it. Getting a message out multiple times using multiple tools is imperative.

- Council members signed up for stewardship duties. The building should be opened by 8:30. The stewards serving as greeters, ushers, and worship leader should arrive by 9:00. The closing steward should arrive by 10:30.
- Communion stewards signed up for November 7.
- Pastor reported that the new Music Coordinator, Brandon Brown, began 10/1 and is off to a great start.
- Additional Security for south basement door will be completed when parts are received.
- Sealing parking lot will be completed next Spring or in the Summer when LODO is not in session.
- HVAC Unit will be installed when parts arrive.
- COVID-19 numbers are down. CUCC will not change its current mask policy at this time.
- Services on Christmas Eve will be at 4:00, 7:00, and 11:00.
- Cantata and banquet are on 12/12. Children's program is on 12/19.
- Council accepted the Strategic Plan 2021-2026 as presented by the Vision Team.
- Team leaders were reminded to contact people who showed interest through the Time and Talent worksheets.
- The Church received six new members. There are a few more people planning to join in early November.
- Council approved the Council Member Job Description as presented with one minor change.
- Bids from four snow removal companies have been requested. When received, the information will be communicated to Council by email. To expedite the decision, Council will vote by email whether to accept a bid.
- The Western Association Meeting was on 10/23 from 9:00-12:00 via Zoom. Volunteer delegates are needed. The Conference Meeting is 11/6, 9:00-12:00, via Zoom. Three delegates are needed in addition to Pastor.
- Council accepted the proposed 2022 budget with a minor change. It is a deficit budget, due to Pastor's Sabbatical.
- With George Zimny's resignation as Chair, the Finance & Stewardship Team will need a person to complete his term through May, 2022.
- Council approved using the \$5000 designated for a Special Mission Project for Afghan refugee relief through Catholic Charities and/or City of Refuge.
- Council approved replacing a second HVAC unit with a cost not to exceed \$8,000.
- November 30 is Giving Tuesday. This year's goal is \$25,000, with 90% designated for Joyful Giving and 5% each for VAC and City of Refuge.
- Quilters asked to move their work space from Fellowship Hall to the back of the sanctuary. Council did not see this as a viable move, since all space in the sanctuary is needed for worship.
- All members are asked to do a review of CUCC on Google. The more people who review, the more the church will pop up in searches. On Facebook, it helps to SHARE rather than to just LIKE for the same reason.
- The current Confirmation Class started with six members. It is now down to three.
- Sunday will be the last Sunday for the Jaberg family. Pastor will have them come forward for recognition.
- Nov 7 is Quinn Rosenthal's ordination in Chicago. Pastor will contact the church to inquire what CUCC can do to recognize Quinn during the service.
- There is a deficit of approximately \$33,000 in Joyful Giving.
- LODO is selling T-shirts as a fundraiser. CUCC members are encouraged to support this effort. Their goal is to sell at least 75 shirts.
- Next Council Meeting – November 16 at 6:30
- Congregational Meetings:
 - Planning & Assessment Meeting (Vision) 10/24
 - 2022 Budget Meeting 11/7



Respectfully submitted, Jessica Jenks, Secretary

MODERATOR'S MOMENT

Happy Fall, everyone! We are as busy as ever enjoying all that this season brings to the life of our church. The Church Council, of course, while always working on current projects, continues to plan for what is ahead . . . it is hard to believe, we are approaching Advent!

There are several exciting things going on at CUCC right now. We have hired our new Music Coordinator, Brandon, and are so grateful for the musical offerings he has prepared. The Vision Team has thoughtfully developed our new Strategic Plan to take us through the next five years. All ministry teams have provided input, and our budget for next year will be ready to present to the congregation at our upcoming meeting on November 7th.



Thank you for completing your Time & Talent Sheets! Our ministry teams are thrilled with the turnout and are working to reach out to all who are interested in joining their efforts. Finally, I would like to express our excitement about our new members! We are blessed to have them as part of our church family.

Blessings to all of you,
Kristy Odneal, Moderator



COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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



MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

JOIN A CUCC CARES MINISTRY!

We have a place for your talents and passions!

We're still looking for people to join one or more of our CUCC CARES (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) Ministries! These are task-oriented, hands-on ministries that provide care for our congregation members in times of celebration and need. They include Note Writers/Cards, Handy Helpers, Visits to Church Members, Bereavement, Flowers, Meals, Shawls, Transportation, and Prayer Ministries. These ministries began in earnest in October with card writers sending notes to members and our Meal ministry setting up a meal train for the Lentz family.

Would you like to join one of these teams? Sign-up [here](#). If you'd like a paper copy of the sign-up, ask Jolene Kirchoff, Judi Privitt, or Jessica Lucas. Share your love and care through a CUCC CARES Ministry.

Jessica Lucas, Chair



November Birthdays to Celebrate!

David Martin (11/02)	Lucy Smith (11/02)	Val Schoeneberg (11/03)
Megan Schoeneberg (11/04)	Syndey Schupp (11/05)	Cliff Beckman (11/06)
Patty Beeson (11/06)	Brad Boyd Kennedy (11/08)	Emmanuel Kibaro (11/09)
Barry Kirchhoff (11/09)	Gus Heine (11/11)	Vernie Blank (11/12)
Lillian Smith (11/14)	Luke Wedemeyer (11/15)	Coline Duncan (11/18)
Patty Schroeder (11/18)	Landon Muench (11/19)	Mark Wilson (11/19)
Vincent Veteto (11/22)	Brian Forward (11/22)	Leonard Batson (11/23)
Bryan Crousore (11/23)	James Elliott (11/23)	Karl Skala (11/23)
Lloyd Viehland (11/23)	Bonnie Whitmore (11/23)	Mason Jaberg (11/24)
Hope Keithahn (11/24)	Esther Kibaro (11/25)	Aubree Touchon (11/25)
Erika Maltsbarger (11/27)	Levi Markway (11/27)	Dave Forward (11/27)
Zander Wells (11/27)	Alisa Lau-Sieckman (11/28)	Shirley Gallaher (11/28)
	Ginny Van Hove (11/30)	

FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for November. We need some spots to be filled, and we'd 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 welcome. If you can fill the needed role or a role in the future, please let one of the leaders know. We appreciate you!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
11/07	Susan Dunham	Fred & Carolyn Malicoat	Connie Loveless	Danielle Dreier	Lorry Dreier Brent Marcks	Melba Shaffer
11/14	Anne Heine	Llona Weiss	Sue Ann Schaefer	Aiden Pierson	Carissa Graves John Graves	Stefanie Zimny
11/21	NEED	Brent Marcks	Llona Weiss	Trevor Pierson	Judi Privitt Doug Privitt	Jo Ellen Grace
11/28	Helen Schultz	NEED	Mahree Skala	Abby Dennis	Phillip Dennis	Melba Shaffer

UPCOMING CONGREGATIONAL MEETINGS

Congregational Planning and Assessment Meeting: On October 24, Vice Moderator Kurt Heine led the church in our "Vision Team" meeting, presenting our Council-approved 5-year plan, guiding us thru 2026.

Budget Meeting: November 7 @ 11:30 a.m. – the Church Council will present the 2022 proposed budget for Congregational Approval. Budget was distributed on October 24 for Congregational Review.

Annual Meeting: May 15 or 22 @ 11:30 a.m. – combined with a fellowship meal, this meeting will be the chance to review our activities for 2021, elect leadership for 2022-2023, and celebrate plans for ministry together. The date will be finalized by next week so you can put it on your calendar!

LODO MINISTRY TEAM

LODO NEWS

“The thankful heart opens our eyes to a multitude of blessings that continually surround us.” – James E. Faust



Let's Be Thankful

Let's be thankful for this day

For our friends and for our play.

Let's be thankful, let's be glad,

For our food and the things we have.

Let's give thanks for you and me

And our home and family.

We are thankful for so many things in the LODO Ministry! We are thankful for our students, staff, families, and the many CUCC church members who support us! Pumpkin Fun Day returned to LODO on Friday Oct 15. Our students had so much fun with the numerous fun activities. Many thanks to the CUCC volunteers who helped make this event happen: Pastor Rick, Judi Privitt, April Rothweiler, Lorry Dreier, Jo Ellen Grace, Linda Neale, Shelby Oberle, Jolene Kirchhoff, Barry Kirchhoff, Anne Heine, Keith Birkes, and Susan Dunham.

October was full of fun as we held school photos with Johnson Photography and classroom Halloween celebrations. Our learning themes included: Creation, Apples, Pumpkins, The World God Made (*Camping/Forest Animals/Nature*), and Halloween.

In November, we will hold Parent/Teacher Conferences the week of Nov 1-5. We always enjoy this extra time with parents/guardians to discuss the many accomplishments of their children.

November LODO Closings

Fri Nov 12 (CPS Closed)

Wed Nov 24-26 (Thanksgiving Break)

November Themes

Teacher's Choice Week
Patriotic/Stars and Stripes Week
Fall/Leaves
Thanksgiving
Dinosaurs



With Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger, Director



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



The church was buzzing with laughter during the Pumpkin Fund Day activities. The children and volunteers enjoyed the games, and most were tired from the activities. Thank you to all the teachers, parents, and extra helpers who made this a success! LODO will be selling t-shirts very soon. They are dark grey with the LODO logo and available in sizes 2T through 5XL for \$20 each. Please watch for the shirts, which will be available beginning November 7, or see a LODO Ministry Team member, or reach out to Erika or April in the office, for purchase. FYI, the shirts will be in before Christmas if you are looking for that special gift.

Respectfully,
Lorry Dreier

INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

Happy November from the Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team! The beginning of the holiday season is upon us: family, parties, food – lots of food, friends, changing colors, cooler weather, visitors. Did I miss anything?

WE WELCOME
EVERYONE



Oh, yes – thankfulness. We talk about that a lot, especially in November, with the Thanksgiving Holiday and all.

But, do we really embrace that thankfulness? John F. Kennedy once said:

“As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.”

How do we embrace our thankfulness? As noted in JFK’s quote, positive action is the answer.

CUCC has beautiful, new, inclusive art work; multiple ministry teams charged with positively impacting our community; Sunday school, LODO, and adult teachers enriching the minds of their pupils; and an administration that works tirelessly in propelling this community forward. These are all actions, in my mind, of gratitude. Gratitude for our faith, our lives, our family, and our world.

In peace and Joy,
Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Member
Tricia Price, Chair



CUCC OPEN AND AFFIRMING/INCLUSION COVENANT

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

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



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

INCLUSION IS AN IMPORTANT PART OF OUR 5-YEAR PLAN

Over the past few months, the Vision Team has been putting together a new 5-Year Plan for CUCC (2021-2026). This plan was approved by the Church Council on October 19 and presented to the congregation at our Annual Planning and Assessment Meeting October 24. Aspects of this plan include how our 9 Ministry Teams will intersect around our 5 Mission objectives: Welcoming all God’s People, Nurturing Faith and Spiritual Growth, Challenging and Inspiring with Vibrant Worship, Transforming the Congregation and the Community through Service and Outreach, and Building a Supportive Church Family.

Aspects of Inclusion intersect with all of these themes, and are very present in our 5-year plan. Some of them include: work on making inclusion an integral part of our church identity, continue providing educational opportunities for the congregation about inclusion issues, hosting a PFLAG chapter, take our message of inclusive church out to the community and more. As we live into our 5-Year plan, inclusion is very much a part of it!

Welcome TO OUR NEWEST MEMBERS

On September 26 and October 3, we received six new members into our church family! We are anticipating receiving another four new members in November. Here are the bios of our newest members:

Welcome Kristi Saylor! Kristi grew up in Chillicothe and Ashland. She is a paraprofessional at Cedar Ridge Elementary and loves to spend time with her nieces and nephews.

Kristi's new member sponsor is Carolyn Malicoat.



Welcome Lynne Tsapelas! Lynne grew up in David City, Nebraska, and also lived in Lincoln and Omaha before moving to Boonville. She grew up in a UCC church and was looking for a UCC church. Lynne is a retired nurse; her favorite area of nursing is Geriatrics. Her son Elias lives in St. Louis, and her daughter Talia lives in Orlando, FL. She enjoys reading, counted cross stitch, and playing the piano. Lynne loves to watch sports on TV or in person, and being from Nebraska says, Go Big Red!

Lynne's new member sponsors are Paula Wilson and Pat Forward.

Welcome Susan Dunham! Susan grew up in Kirksville, MO, and attended Truman University. She is a retired English teacher who taught at public schools and colleges. Her brother John also lives in Columbia. Susan was brought to the church by the Lucas family. She loves reading, walking her dogs, and spending time with her friends. Her favorite author is William Faulkner.

Susan's new member sponsor is Jo Ellen Grace.



Welcome Lydia Whitacre! She grew up in Glenwood, MO. Lydia is a high school English teacher at Higbee High School. She saw our church's sign while driving on I-70 and appreciated the motto. She felt we would be a welcoming and inclusive environment. Lydia lives with her younger brother, and her younger sister also lives in Columbia. Lydia loves reading, exercising, hiking, biking, learning, traveling, and spending time with her dog Frankie, family, and friends.

Lydia's new member sponsor is Kristy Odneal.

Welcome Tiffany and Travis Brookshire! Tiffany grew up in St. James, MO, and Travis in Salem, MO. They were drawn to our church by our friendly pastor and inclusive environment. Tiffany is an RN Auditor, and Travis teaches at State Technical College. Their daughter Kalyn attends Jefferson Middle School. They both enjoy cooking and spending time outdoors; camping, cycling, and fishing.

Their new member sponsors are Anne Heine and Keith Birkes



FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

While preparing the budget, I had a chance to see what CUCC Ministry Teams have accomplished this year. The only way that these endeavors could be achieved is from you and the gracious giving of your time, your talent, and your financial support. Thank you!

Managing the finances of the church has been challenging during the pandemic, and we are running behind the Joyful Giving budget number projected for this year. November 30 is Giving Tuesday. The goal will be \$25,000. The funds will be used for Joyful Giving, and 10% of the funds received will go to the local City of Refuge and the Voluntary Action Center. You can use the online tool from the church website, mail, or stop by the church to help make Giving Tuesday a success.

It's the time of year for Thankfulness. The changing season offers crisp air and colorful trees and time to reflect on Thankfulness. Thank you for your generosity!

Sue Ann Schaefer, Treasurer



DEFICIT BUDGET PRESENTED FOR APPROVAL IN NOVEMBER

For the past several months, the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team and Church Council have been working with the CUCC Ministry Teams to prepare a 2022 Budget that reflects the growth and ministry opportunities of this congregation. The Budget, which was presented to the Congregation on October 24, is a Deficit Budget.

The idea of passing a deficit budget is uncomfortable for some, but there is a reason for our proposed deficit. In 2022, Pastor Rick will be taking a well-earned three month sabbatical. During that time, we will be partnering with a part-time Sabbatical Pastor who will lead the congregation in Pastor Rick's absence. At this time, we do not know what the compensation package for that person will be, but we are budgeting \$12,000. Our anticipated deficit for the 2022 budget is \$12,760, due to that sabbatical expense.

Over the past four years, we have realized a surplus of \$57,692 in excess General Fund revenue after budgeted expenses. Other years, prior to 2017, we have finished the year with an unplanned deficit. Though it is uncomfortable to actually plan for a deficit, there are times when it is prudent to do so to enhance and enable the long-term ministry goals of the congregation to thrive.

Copies of the proposed budget were distributed in worship and via email on October 24; copies are also available in the church office. The 2022 budget will be presented for approval at our Congregational Meeting November 7.

HVAC REPLACEMENT PROJECTS TO COME FROM INVESTMENT FUND

We have a new HVAC unit! In October, one of the two big units in the Fellowship Hall was replaced; the second one is still in need of replacement. At our October Council meeting, we approved replacing another HVAC unit (not sure which one yet) before the end of the year, at an expense not to exceed \$8000.

We have 17 HVAC units that are 22 years old, greatly pushing the life expectancy of such an item. Some of them are getting by just fine, others are held together with duct tape. We are planning to replace two units each year, but realize that there will come a year we have to do more. The total projected expense to replace all units is \$170,000+.

Where is the money coming from for these projects? Out of our Building & Grounds Designated Fund, one of our investments with United Church Funds. We currently have \$119,000+ in this investment account, but with \$170,000 in HVAC units needing replacement in the years to come, this fund could be depleted quite quickly. When an HVAC unit goes out, the need for replacement is urgent. We hope to increase the balance of this fund in the next year, so we can have funds ready for emergency situations. Currently, three percent of our Joyful Giving is put in this fund every month to help increase its value.

If you would like to contribute to the Building and Grounds Designated Fund to make ministry happen at CUCC, talk to [Sue Ann Schaefer](#), [Brent Marcks](#), or [Kristy Odneal](#)! Many projects are coming up, including resealing our Parking Lot next year- \$15,000, and we need you to help make them happen!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Brent Marcks, *Treasurer*

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Sept. Income	\$25,519.73	\$28,447.53	(\$2,927.80)
YTD Income	\$240,335.48	\$245,230.62	(\$4,895.14)
Sept. Expenses	\$37,264.87	\$34,482.18	\$2,782.69
YTD Expenses	\$258,023.84	\$262,889.92	(\$4,866.08)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$17,688.36)	(\$17,659.30)	(\$29.06)
Sept. Attendance	354		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
10/03/21	81	\$5,180.00	\$5,879.90
10/10/21	161	\$8,222.96	\$5,879.90
10/17/21	90	\$7,437.00	\$5,879.90
10/24/21	75	\$2,566.00	\$5,879.90
Total	407	\$23,405.96	\$23,519.60

As of 10/24/2021 we are **\$34,042.76 behind** in Joyful Giving for 2021.

CUCC HAS ONLINE GIVING!

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

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

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

Christian Stewardship:

The Belief that everything we have is a gift from God; and we are just stewards of it. -Rev. David Lewis Beebe

The graphic features the CUCC logo (Columbia United Church of Christ) at the top left. Below it, the text "Together we give." is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Underneath that, the date "Nov 30, 2021" is displayed. In the bottom right corner, the words "GIVING TUESDAY" are written in a bold, white, sans-serif font. The background consists of large, overlapping circles in shades of red, blue, and teal.

DESIGNATED FUNDS AT CUCC

Did you know there are Ten Designated Funds at Columbia United Church of Christ? Each of these funds was created to enhance our ministry programs, reaching out to the community to share God's Love. Several of these funds are invested with United Church Funds, and have shown tremendous growth in 2021. All of these funds are open to contributions and are great places for stock donations or to be the recipients of estate planning.

Building and Grounds Fund: Invested with United Church Funds. This fund is the source for Building Improvements and repair. Replacement of our HVAC units will come from this fund.

Scholarship Fund: Invested with United Church Funds, provides \$1,000 college scholarships to CUCC members.

Transportation Fund: Invested with United Church Funds, enables our transportation/van ministry.

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

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

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

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

Worship & Music Ministry Fund: Enables worship upgrades, such as our new sound system and Livestreaming.

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

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

All of these funds are open to donations. To donate, talk to [Sue Ann Schaffer](#) or [Brent Marcks](#).

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

LOAVES & FISHES

We had a very busy evening at L&F in October, along with some very good helping hands! Servers were Travis Brookshire & Kalyn, Judi Privitt, Patty Beeson, Muko (one of Patty's students), Anne Heine, Keith Birkes, and Lydia Whitacre.

The menu consisted of chili mac, spaghetti, and lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson). We also had ham & turkey sliders and frozen fruit salad that was left from the luncheon honoring Rev. Jim Elliott. Jolene Kirchoff made cookies for dessert, and Jessica Jenks made PBJ's. We served approximately 140 servings and we didn't run out of food!! Thank you to everyone who helped out! We continue to serve outside as long as the weather permits. Please let [Audrey Lasley](#) know if you want to be added to the list of helpers.

CITY OF REFUGE AND GIVING TUESDAY

The [City of Refuge](#) is a local agency that serves the refugee and immigrant families in our community with a variety of unique services that fall under three categories: Basic Needs Programs, Counselling, and Professional Development.

We are currently welcoming many Afghan refugees to our area, and [City of Refuge](#) is one of the agencies providing support for their basic needs. Sixty Afghan refugees have made Columbia their home in the past month, and we anticipate 200 more joining us in by the end of the year.

For [Giving Tuesday](#), the CUCC Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team has set a goal of \$25,000. 10% of the funds raised will be given away (a Biblical Tithe). 5% will go to the [Voluntary Action Center](#) and 5% to [City of Refuge](#) to address the needs of Afghan refugees.

We hope that you will give generously to [Giving Tuesday](#), knowing that your gift changes lives!

JOIN THE FUN AT THE FOOD BANK!

The Central Missouri Food Bank provides food to over 100,000 people every month in 38 Missouri counties. They rely on volunteer labor to do their work, and CUCC has committed to helping the fourth Tuesday of each month. Many thanks to Jo Ellen Grace, John & Brenda Muench, Phillip Neale, and Tricia Soncasie for processing 1500 pounds of pinto beans in November. For October, we had ten people signed up. The November date is TBA because of Thanksgiving week. To volunteer, talk to [Mahree Skala!](#)

HELP FOR AFGHAN REFUGEES

As an end finally comes to 20 years of war in Afghanistan, an estimated 75,000 Afghan refugees are coming to the United States to rebuild their lives. They are fleeing retribution or persecution from the Taliban and have one goal in mind: to live in safety. It is within our power to help them achieve this goal.

[The United Church of Christ](#) and [Church World Service](#) are both very active in helping Afghan refugees who are migrating to the US. If you would like to contribute to their efforts, click on the blue links above! Both agencies are very low overhead, and the money donated goes directly to the cause.

The Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team is looking at how we can be a help here in Columbia. We have been looking at the work done by [Catholic Charities](#) and [City of Refuge](#) to aid in the Afghan situation. Both are working to address the basic needs of these refugees, including food, clothing, shelter, and household items, as well as navigating the complex paperwork involved.

For more information about what we can do here in Columbia to welcome these refugees, talk to [Mark Duncan](#).

GIVINGTUESDAY

Give Life, Give Hope

 **CoMoGives.com**

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 a decade. Visit our [Facebook page](#) to see upcoming meetings, events, and information.

[Giving Tuesday](#) and [CoMo Gives](#) are right around the corner. CMSHTC has been awarded tax credits from the Missouri Department of Economic Development's Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP). Tax credits are worth 50% of your gift, in addition to standard state and federal deductions. The higher the income tax bracket, the lower the final cost of the gift to you, our donor. NAP credits are available to anyone who pays taxes on business income. If you haven't decided who to give to this year, please consider us!

STOP
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COALITION OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

CUCC—AHL PARTNERSHIP FRIEND

I attended the Zoom PTA meeting for Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary (AHL) on September 28, representing CUCC as Partnership Friend. CUCC Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team would like to donate some books to the AHL Library that were favorite books of former teacher Ashley Wegner's (dec.) as a Memorial to her. The school suggested we purchase several copies of her favorite books: *The Day the Crayons Quit* (grades K-2) and *Charlotte's Web* (grades 3-5) with an inscription inside the cover stating they were donated in memory of Ashley Wegner from CUCC Partnership Friend. They will be placed in the Media Center at AHL for the students to check-out and read.

I started working with the AHL Media Specialist in the Library in order to purchase these books for the school. Thanks to Judi Privitt for making this suggestion. Also, there are two areas CUCC can help AHL this year. One is for the Parent-Teacher Conferences by providing treats for the teachers during that time. I will keep you posted.

They would love for CUCC to help at the May 2022 AHL Carnival by working in the booths so the parents and teachers can be with the students. We were going to do that last year, but Covid-19 prevented any in person activities, including their annual carnival. The PTA noted that in their minutes and should keep us informed.

Principal Rehg mentioned that volunteers this year are referred to as "visitors," and we need to receive an invitation to come/help at events, gatherings, meetings, etc. at the school. No Visitor is allowed to be alone one-on-one with a student; there always needs to be a CPS staffer with them.

Also, some of you have made additional clothing donations to AHL, and I thank you. Thank you so much for your help with our students in the public schools!

Llona Weiss, Liaison for CUCC with AHL Partnership



DINE TO DONATE FOR ALPHA HART

Would you like to have a nice dinner out, and help our Partnership Friend School in the process? Several local restaurants have teamed up with Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary to donate a portion of their proceeds on given days through the "Dine to Donate" program. Here are a few upcoming opportunities:

November 16: Shakespeare's – any location. They will donate 15% of all total sales. Gift cards included!

December 7: Freddy's – 100 Brickton Road location only (off Conley Road) They will donate 15% of all total sales.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

WELCOME TO BRANDON BROWN, OUR NEW MUSIC COORDINATOR

Brandon Brown began his ministry with us on October 1. He is a graduate student in choral conducting at Mizzou, and comes to us with 13 years of experience as Minister of Music at Church of the Good Shepherd in the Chicago area. We are thrilled to have Brandon with us!

I am pleased to continue my music leadership here at CUCC. I must admit, I was a little nervous starting a new church position after being Minister of Music at a church for over 13 years. The moment I walked through the door that anxiety ceased. Pastor Rick, the Celebration Singers, Chapel Ringers, and members have welcomed me with open arms! I could not have asked for a more friendly congregation that appreciates music! I've been told by several people about how many musicians, singers and instrumentalists are members of the church. I would like to get to know all of you! Please introduce yourself after church or send me an e-mail to brandon.michael.brown@gmail.com. If you have been contemplating joining the choir, handbell choir, or becoming a song leader, NOW is the time! There will be a special Advent musical presentation during morning worship on December 12. All are welcome to participate!



Brandon Brown, Music Coordinator

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM



Meet Amanda—Serving the CUCC Nursery on Sundays!

Hi, my name is Amanda Dwyer, and you can find me in the CUCC nursery on Sunday mornings! I have a bachelors degree in Early Childhood Education and currently work as a daycare teacher at Mary Lee Johnston. I am also a professional photographer, so if anyone needs any photos, I am your girl! I am recently married and I have one dog named Linus who is a Boston Terrier. I love meeting new people and making connections, so stop by anytime to have a chat!

We will be starting up the **CUCC Prayer Group** again on Mondays at 9:00 a.m. in the Church library (Adult Sunday School classroom upstairs). If you are interested in joining, please contact [Donna Marsh](#) at 573-881-4740.

PRAYER GROUP

Living Your Strengths – A Clifton Strengths Program

“Churches in the US are experiencing a power shortage, as people are not harnessing the power of their innate gifts” say the directors of the Clifton Strengths program. “But it does not have to be this way. Living Your Strengths shows all members of a congregation how to use their innate gifts to enrich their congregations—right now. It teaches you how to identify and affirm your talents and how to use them for growth and service.”

What are your strengths? Connectedness? Individualization? Strategic? Responsibility? Belief? Or another assortment of 34 Signature Themes? How can you use these strengths to enhance the church, and your life in general?

For 10 weeks this fall, Clifton Strengths Certified Coach [James Melton](#) will lead members of CUCC on an assessment of their Clifton Strengths (Signature Themes) and discuss how they all connect together as parts of Christ’s body. Join us each Sunday at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall!

Confirmation

Confirmation Class (9th graders) meet the first three Mondays of each month and will be confirmed on November 28. They are currently working on their testimonies which they will present in worship on November 21.

Confirmation

The 2022 Confirmation Class (8th graders) began on Wednesday, October 6, 2021. We have an exciting group of youth beginning this program! They will be confirmed on November 27, 2022. Keep them in your prayers as they journey through Confirmation!

Sunday School

Sunday School Openings have been lots of fun! We have a candlelighter each Sunday, as well as an offering collector (offerings are going toward helping families in need during the Christmas season). We sing songs, play rhythm instruments, move to the music. We’ve been learning (from Pastor Rick) about prayer, why we light the candles, why we sing, why we worship God. We sing a special “Happy Birthday” song to anyone who has a birthday each week. And then we go to our classrooms for Sunday School. If you are in preschool through 8th grade, and haven’t already, we’d love to have you join us at 9:00a.m. on Sunday mornings!

Children’s/Youth Christmas Program

This year’s program will be presented during Worship on Sunday, December 19. It is called “Do Not Be Afraid.” Anyone Preschool through High School is welcome to participate. Stay tuned for upcoming announcements, etc.

Blessing Boxes

Many thanks to Helen Schultz for gathering/purchasing items for the Blessing Boxes which are sent yearly to CUCC college students and military personnel. This year, we sent 25!

If you are not already involved in **Nurture & Education** at CUCC and would like to be, either on the team or teaching a class, please contact [Linda Neale](#) or any one of our team members. We would love to have you join us!

Festival of Sharing 2021 Quilt Auction



NOVEMBER 7 - NOVEMBER 13, 2021

The quilt auction proceeds benefit the Church World Service Blankets Program which helps people rebuild after disasters.

2021 Online Quilt Auction

Join us Sunday, November 7th - Saturday, November 13th, 2021 for an online auction. Quilt photos, details, and bidding directions will be accessible from our quilt auction webpage one month prior to bidding going live at www.festivalofsharing.org/quilts.

Send quilt donations to the Festival address (below) before August 20, 2021.

We accept checks and major credit cards.



3601 Amron Court
Columbia, MO 65202

(573) 474-3332
festival@socket.net



CUCC IS WORKING IN LEBANON

On August 4, 2020, a massive explosion at the port in Beirut, Lebanon sent shockwaves across the city shattering windows as far as 15 miles from the blast site. The disaster devastated a country already struggling with the Coronavirus pandemic, a severe economic and financial crisis, distrust in the government and assisting refugees from the decade-long war in Syria. The Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ mission partner, The Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE), quickly assessed the damage to their schools, churches, elderly care home, social services center and offices, all of which were damaged. Repairs were initiated for roofs, windows, pulpits, doors, libraries, classrooms and playground equipment. Additionally, the UAECNE supported families by helping with repairs to homes and small businesses and offering healthcare to the injured. The UCC and DOC join with UAECNE in prayer for and support of the healing of the people of Lebanon.

The UAECNE 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 these organizations, and support for their ongoing efforts.

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

November 7-13
Rosalind Gnatt
Working in Germany



November 14-20
Kahala Cannon
Working in eSwatini



November 21-27
Shelby Perez
Working in Israel/Palestine



November 28-12/3
Anne Gregory
Working in Thailand



CUCC IS EDUCATING IN ARGENTINA

The mission of [Ward School](#) in Buenos Aires, Argentina, is to educate children and young people so that, aware of their transcendence and dependence on God, they can contribute to the society in which we live with ethical and Christian values.




The [Ward School](#) fosters an education that respects and promotes human dignity and asks students to think about the circumstances that impede or hinder the exercise of that dignity. The school provides an education focused on service to the community. Ward school believes that the education of a Christian Institution leaves no room for any form of discrimination; our differences are part of the wealth of Creation.

[Ward School](#) was founded in November, 1913 as a partnership between the Methodist Church of Argentina and the Evangelical Church of the Disciples of Christ in Argentina. The Ward School's institutional mandate is to create "a Christian school, of continued democratic inspiration, to serve as a bridge between the Americas."

[Ward School](#) currently offers education at six levels: Initial, Primary, Secondary, Upper Level, Special School, and the Adult Baccalaureate Program. In addition, Ward School programs focus on bilingual education and offers programs in communication, economics, administration, teachers certification, musical training, and management.



ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN NOVEMBER

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 All Saints Day 10:15am Staff Meeting 6pm Confirmation	2 10am Quilters 6:30pm Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team	3 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 7:30pm Choir	4	5	6
7 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website 11:30am Budget Meeting	8 10:15am Staff Meeting 6pm Confirmation	9 10am Quilters	10 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 7:30pm Choir	11 9:30am Women's Fellowship	12 LODO/CPS CLOSED 	13
14 7:30am Men's Fellowship Veterans Day observed 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	15 10:15am Staff Meeting 4:30pm Leaves & Fishes 6pm Confirmation	16 10am Quilters 6:30pm Church Council Meeting	17 6pm Confirmation 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 7:30pm Choir	18 12pm Lunch Bunch Human Trafficking 101 All Welcome	19 BOSS'S DAY	20 Communicator Article Deadline
21 Testimony Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website 12pm Music & Worship Ministry Team Meeting	22 10:15am NO Staff Meeting 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team Mtg	23 10am Quilters 5:30pm Food Bank	24 LODO/CPS CLOSED No Chapel Ringers No Celebration Singers	25 LODO/CPS CLOSED CUCC CLOSED 	26 LODO/CPS CLOSED CUCC CLOSED	27 MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY Neighbors helping Neighbors
28 Confirmation Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	29 10:15am Staff Meeting 6:30pm Nurture & Education Ministry Team Meeting	30 10am Quilters GIVING TUESDAY Goal: \$25,000 				

THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation- ONA #1575
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Columbia, MO 65202-3296
573-445-7931

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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



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

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

**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.