

THE COMMUNICATOR

July 2022



From the Pastor's Keyboard

"Freedom"

On **June 26, 2015**, our country became freer. For the first time in history, an entire community of people who had been excluded from legal marriage was recognized and affirmed, granted the freedoms so many others enjoy. On that day, marriage equality became the law of the land. It was a celebration for the LGBTQIA community, to be sure, but it was also a celebration for all US Citizens; for on that day, the practice of freedom in this country expanded a bit more into the ideal of freedom so many patriotic US citizens hold dear in their hearts.

The Supreme Court of the United States, in the case of Obergefell vs. Hodges, ruled that the due process clause and the equal protection clause of the fourteenth amendment to the US constitution guaranteed the fundamental right of marriage to all US citizens, including same gender couples. The ruling stated comprehensively that all 50 states and territories of the US must afford the same rights and responsibilities to same-gender couples as to opposite-gender couples. The idea of freedom grew larger with that ruling.

But on **June 24, 2022**, the idea of freedom in the US contracted critically. On that day the United States Supreme Court, for the first time in history, took away a constitutional right; one that was enjoyed by half the citizens of this country, the right for women to have access to comprehensive reproductive health care. The Attorney General of the State of Missouri, always eager to jump on an oppressive bandwagon, immediately declared access to abortion illegal, making Missouri the first state in the union to do so.

The backlash from this unprecedented ruling has been severe, with protests and demonstrations, angry posts on social media and bickering among friends. The issue of abortion, much more complex than most loud voices tend to trumpet, has become too polarized to fully explore; and people with diverse beliefs on the subject are labeled with extremist positions. This action of the Supreme Court, removing fundamental rights to health care that women have enjoyed for almost 50 years, has divided our country against one another even more than we were before. Perhaps that was their goal all along?

It would be nice to say that the cause of freedom is ever expanding; but we have seen in recent years that not to be the case. In fact, it seems that the cause of freedom expands and contracts; and as a country, it appears we are in a dark time of contraction. Freedoms are being taken away from us by an illegally packed draconian court, justified not by jurisprudence but by extremist religious positions. The question becomes, how many freedoms will we allow to be taken away from us? To be sure, the anti-woman ruling on June 24 was not the end of the contraction of freedom in this country. Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, writing in support of the majority opinion in this case, hinted that other constitutional protections, like marriage equity, will be next.

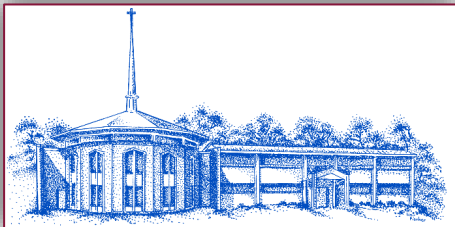
When freedoms were taken away from the Israelites under the oppression of Pharaoh, God sent a messenger in Moses to deliver them from oppression and bring them into a land where they could enjoy the freedoms denied them in Egypt. While this story brings us hope about God's provision in the midst of oppression, we cannot wait for another Moses to lead us away from the villainy of the sitting Supreme Court. It is up to each one of us to express our discontent with oppression and demand freedom. We must not sit, we must not wait, we must act.

This ruling was not the first time the Supreme Court ruled in error. The ruling against Dred Scott (SCOTUS ruling that the Constitution did not apply to Black people), as well as Plessy vs. Ferguson (SCOTUS ruling that racial segregation was allowed under the US Constitution) and Korematsu vs. The United States (SCOTUS ruling upholding the internment of US citizens of Asian descent during World War Two) are just three such times. Those erroneous rulings were eventually dismissed. Will this one eventually be dismissed as well?

This Independence Day, as we celebrate the idea of freedom, we do so realizing we are less free than we were a few months ago. Please keep all US citizens, especially women, in your prayers as we strive for freedom once more in this country.

-Pastor Rick





COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3201 I-70 DRIVE NW
COLUMBIA, MO 65202

[Rev. Rick Oberle](#)

Pastor

[Rev. Fred Brandenburg](#)

Pastor Emeritus

[April Rothweiler](#)

Office Administrator

[Brandon Brown](#)

Music Coordinator

[Amy Crousore](#)

Organist/Accompanist

[Erika Maltzberger](#)

Director, Little One's Day Out

[Rai Tolani](#)

Financial Secretary

Caleb Berry

Custodian

Summer Worship Schedule

9:00 Fellowship Time

9:30 Worship

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
9am- 3pm

Phone:
(573) 445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com

Website:
www.columbiaucc.com



FELLOWSHIP GROUPS ON SUMMER BREAK

Women's Fellowship is officially on summer break! They usually meet on the second Thursday of the month at 9:30 a.m. for brunch and Bible study. They will reconvene in September, so be watching for updates in the August Communicator. Enjoy your summer!

Men's Fellowship is on summer break as well; they will meet again in September. They usually get together the second Sunday of the month at 7:30 a.m. for breakfast before church. All men of the church are welcome!

Lunch Bunch will be on Summer Break June, July, and August. They usually meet the fourth Thursday of the month at noon for a carry-in meal and a guest speaker. They are hoping to reconvene in September. Stay tuned for more details in the August edition of the Communicator.

First Friday Films

Join us for First Friday Family Film Night on Friday, July 8

Plan now to gather with your CUCC Family & Friends under the stars of CUCC's backyard to view a movie on Friday, July 8 at 8 p.m. Your Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team will provide popcorn, lemonade and water. Bring a lawn chair and/or blanket. We are still deciding on what movie to watch, but it will be a good one! Keep an eye on your Friday emails for more information.

SAVE THE DATE – PRIDEFEST

Pridefest in Columbia will be September 24 this year, and CUCC has a booth! We will be handing out CUCC pop sockets, candy and other information about our church to Pridefest attendees. We have a message of Inclusion and Affirmation that many need to hear— join us as we share God's love! We will be needing volunteers to staff the booth in shifts— there will be a sign up genius link in the September Communicator and Friday emails. For more information, talk to [Tricia Price](#) or [Alisa Lau Sieckmann](#) or another member of the Inclusion Team. Save the date— and be sure to attend!

NEW CUSTODIAN HIRED

On June 21, the Church Council voted to hire **Caleb Berry** as our newest custodian. He began working at CUCC on June 28, and will be working an average of ten hours per week. His normal schedule will be Tuesdays and Saturdays from 9 - 2, with exceptions. He will be supplementing our cleaning service, doing maintenance work beyond the scope of that contract. Make a point of welcoming Caleb when you see him!



Dear Friends at CUCC,

Thank you for believing in the passionate work of the **United Church of Christ**. Your donation to **One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS)** helps our neighbors, in the United States and internationally, recover from disasters.

The UCC works with international partners to provide sources of clean water, food, education, health care, small business micro-credit, advocacy, resettlement for refugees and displaced persons, and emergency relief and rehabilitation. Your partnership makes these and other services and programs possible.

Thank you again for your financial assistance. Through your generosity and God's grace, we will continue to build a just world for all.

May God's grace always sustain you,
Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer,

Dear Rev. Oberle and Friends,

Because of you, the **Ronald McDonald House of Mid-Missouri (RMDH)** is able to help families who need a home away from home while their ill child is in the hospital. Thank you!

With your generous support, guest families are provided comfort, support, rest, and resources they need at no cost, so they can focus on their child's medical treatment. This makes it possible for parents to be physically and emotionally involved in the well-being and health of their child, including the ability to interact with their child's doctors and the opportunity to make important decisions about their medical care.

Thank you again. Every gift makes a difference and ensures the RMDH is a home for our families through every step of their child's medical journey.

With appreciation,
Terri Gray, Executive Director

CUCC,

Thank you so much for the unexpected and thoughtful graduation gift! I appreciate all your love and support.

Mindy Jacobs

Dear Friends at CUCC,

Thank you for your generous donation to the UCC to support disaster relief in Ukraine. Through your gift, families that have been displaced and are in need of shelter and basic necessities will receive support. Hand in hand with our Partners in Service and other volunteers, congregations, and conferences, **UCC Disaster Ministries** seeks to serve families and communities by identifying and meeting unmet needs and providing spiritual and emotional support. Your love of neighbor will be made tangible through your gift. United in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion.

In faith,
Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer,
General Minister and President

THANK
YOU  **TO THE HELPERS.**



Pastor Rick and CUCC,

Thank you so much for opening your space to Midwest Children's Burn Camp for our volunteer orientation. Our program and support to burn survivors is only possible because of community members like you. We hope our paths cross again soon!

Yours in service,
Madeline and the MCBC Team

MODERATOR'S MOMENT

A Diverse CUCC

There are many exciting things happening within CUCC as we head into our new program year. We are grateful and looking forward to some new leaders joining the Church Council and Ministry Teams. We are also excited for Pastor Rick as he prepares for his sabbatical experience, which will simultaneously provide him with an enriching learning opportunity and some rest from his busy role at CUCC. Our Sabbatical Team has been working hard to prepare for this time and is enjoying the process. As a congregation, this gives us a great opportunity to grow and to realize new individual and community strengths. We will be welcoming Rev. Dale Parson to serve as our Sabbatical Pastor during this time. Other upcoming endeavors include preliminary planning for sanctuary updates and preparing for our church's 100th anniversary celebration in early 2023. We look forward to participating again in [Mid Missouri PrideFest](#) this Summer, providing another enriching Vacation Bible School experience, and embarking on a new school year with LODO! Please reach out to me or any Council members with feedback or questions as we move into this busy season, and keep your eyes out for opportunities to become involved in ways that may help you grow in your spiritual gifts.

With gratitude,
Kristy Odneal, Moderator



Columbia UCC Sabbatical – A Time of Renewal for All

The focus of a sabbatical for all is rest and renewal. Dale Parson, our Sabbatical Pastor, said we also need to include play and growth during this time, combining them to make a joyful three months for our church. As we continue to plan for our Sabbatical, the Sabbatical team is keeping these concepts in mind – rest, renewal, play, and growth. Please plan to attend these upcoming events in August and September, to have some play and growth:

July 31	A Taco Bar Luncheon to begin our Sabbatical and say farewell to Pastor Rick for 3 months
August 7	Meet & Greet with Dale Parson, our Sabbatical Pastor, BEFORE worship
September 11	Rally Day with a meal following worship
September 18	Celebrate Mexican Independence Day at CUCC
September 18	Participate and/or donate to the CROP walk held this date in Columbia
September 24	Attend Pridefest in Columbia, where CUCC has a booth
September 25	Celebrate American Indian Ministry Sunday at CUCC

The hardest part of this Sabbatical will be saying good bye to Pastor Rick for three months and having no contact with him from August 1 – October 31. We are blessed to have a pastor who is a great communicator, always answering texts, emails, and phone calls promptly.

We will all have our fellow church members, Church Council, the Sabbatical Team, church staff, and Dale Parson to answer questions and provide support for all things needed and things that arise. The Sabbatical team is finalizing the list of the responsibilities that need to be covered and by whom while Pastor Rick is gone and Dale Parson is here. The August Communicator will have the compiled list of duties and who will be responsible for each of them so everyone will know who to go to if there is a need.

If you have a question about responsibilities and how they will be handled during the Sabbatical, please contact one of the Sabbatical Team members: [Mike Pierson](#), [Judi Privitt](#), [Kristy Odneal](#), [Jolene Kirchoff](#), or [Pat Forward](#) to make sure your question is addressed.

Pat Forward,
Sabbatical Team Member

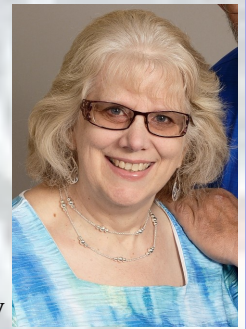


CHURCH COUNCIL

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

The Church Council met June 21, 2022. Present were Pastor Rick, Kristy Odneal, Kurt Heine, Mark Duncan, Mike Pierson, Tricia Price, Lorry Dreier, Lydia Whitacre, Jessica Lucas, Keith Birkes, and Alethea Tennill. Kristy Odneal led the discussion on Chapter 5 of the book, *Neighborhood Church Sustaining the Vision*. One of the main points in this chapter is that we need to look at church from a Spirit filled perspective. We are spiritual beings in a secular world.

- Worship/Sanctuary updates: The Chancel lighting project is complete.
- Carpet samples are available for members of the congregation to view and provide comments..
- Building Project Updates: One HVAC system has been replaced. A second one is on order. A third unit is failing and will need to also be replaced this summer, as well.
- The sealing of the parking lot is in progress and hopefully will be completed in the next few weeks.
- Sabbatical Team: Jolene Kirchoff is replacing Anne Heine on the sabbatical team. The team is getting ready to start a campaign in early July.
- The Nominating Committee: We are still looking for a Building & Grounds chairperson.
- The 100th Anniversary committee: The committee currently consists of Doug Privitt, Jolene Hackman, and Melba Shaffer. Other names were suggested and will be contacted to see if they are interested in participating.
- Council Retreat: Council Retreat will be July 6 at 6 p.m. at church.
- Two LODO classrooms will be painted this summer.
- Erika Maltsbarger has updated the LODO personnel policies. They were approved and adopted by the council.
- LODO is purchasing software that allows parents to check their kids in and out and gives them information.
- LODO floors need to be refinished. They have not been done for many years. Jerome Baker will redo the floors.
- Sabbatical Expenses: Report Submitted.
- Sabbatical Expenses for Pastor Rick for his trip to Mexico are estimated to be \$3000. The finance committee suggested that we pay these expenses from the Scholarship Fund. Motion passed.
- Vision Team; Kurt Heine will call a meeting in August with all of the ministry teams to discuss the 5-year plan.
- 2023 Ministry Team Budgets are due to Sue Ann Schaefer by August 31.
- The Combined meeting of Vision team and Budget will be moved to November 13.
- The Personnel Committee recommended to the council that we hire Caleb Berry as our new custodian on a 90-day probationary period starting July 1. Motion passed.
- The Chinese Gospel Choir has requested the use of our church for choir practice; Council approved.
- Camp Scholarships; Church will pay \$300 of registration fees for each camper to attend.
- Pridefest is September 24.
- Brandon is working on a proposal for a Messiah sing-along at our church in December.



Respectfully submitted, Alethea Tennill, Secretary

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kristy Odneal	kristyodneal@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Secretary:	Alethea Tennill	atennill108@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Sue Ann Schaefer	ssas3307@aol.com
Recording Treasurer:	Brent Marcks	brentmarcks@hotmail.com
Building & Grounds:		
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:	Lydia Whitacre	lydiaawhitacre@gmail.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music:	Mike Pierson	mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com



CLERGY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Clergy Personnel Committee (Judy Privitt, Pat Forward, John Graves) met with Pastor Rick on June 15, 2022. The quarterly meeting included taking the pulse of the congregation, discussing issues involving wider church settings (conference, association), as well as relational issues, if any, from Pastor Rick and the congregation. Specific issues for this meeting included an update on the Pastor's upcoming sabbatical and related tasks for the Clergy-Personnel committee. Also discussed was the recently completed pastoral evaluation for year 2021. The evaluations were completed by one member of each ministry team plus members of the executive committee. The evaluation showed extreme satisfaction with Pastor Rick's spiritual and leadership capabilities. One recurring comment was the hope that there would be increased ministry team accountability so that Pastor Rick could spend more valuable time on overall church vision and direction. Pastor Rick also discussed with the committee his upcoming salary recommendations which will be presented to the Church Council. The next meeting was scheduled for November 8, 2022.



John Graves, Committee Team Member

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.

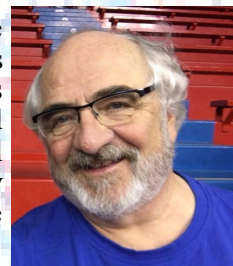
No matter who you are or where you are on life's journey;
No matter where you are on your faith journey;
No matter your sexual orientation, gender expression or identity;
No matter your race, culture, ethnicity, nationality or politics;
No matter your age, ability, health, relationship status or family 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.

MEET AND GREET WITH REV. DALE PARSON

Welcome Rev. Dale Parson, our Sabbatical Pastor! Dale will be filling in for Pastor Rick while he is on Sabbatical, August 1 — October 31. Dale is well known by many at CUCC from his time as our Associate Conference Minister. Dale retired from that position in 2017, and has done interim work with churches since that time. He will be working with us part time, around 25 hours/week, leading worship on Sunday mornings and working with the staff and Council during the week. There will be a meet and greet for Dale before worship on his first Sunday here, August 7. Plan to come early that day to meet him! His bio and more information will be in the August Communicator.



WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM



What a joy to worship with a community of such talented people who are willing to share their gifts! Most of the Sundays during the summer months have been scheduled with anthems and song leaders. We still have August 14 available. If you are interested in sharing with us, please let me know. The opportunity to participate as a song leader is available year-round! You can sign up [here](#). Please consider joining us when the choirs reconvene in August!

Brandon Brown, M.M.
Music Coordinator

MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

Do you ever feel like you want to help, but don't have enough hours in the day to make a commitment? We have several opportunities through CUCC CARE Teams (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) that give you the chance to do something good for someone else and reap the rewards of how good you will feel without making a huge time commitment. There's something for everyone in this group of CARE Teams.

- Shawl & Blanket
- Visits to homebound members
- Transportation
- Prayers
- Cards & Note Writers
- Handy helpers
- Flowers
- Meals

Hopefully you have seen the evidence of these groups in action; and hopefully we can interest you in becoming a CARE Team member. Please contact [Judi Privitt](#) or [Jolene Kirchhoff](#) with any questions or interest you might have. They would love to tell you more.

July Birthdays to Celebrate!

April Rothweiler (07/01)
 Kurt Heine (07/06)
 Alex Tennill (07/08)
 Jo Ellen Grace (07/12)
 Jack Hall (07/14)
 Karen Schmidt (07/15)
 Helen Graves (07/20)
 Audrey Lasley (07/23)

Harry Beckett (07/02)
 Linda Evans (07/08)
 Linda Batson (07/10)
 Linda Neale (07/13)
 James Loveless (07/15)
 Sharon Elliott (07/17)
 Mary Bracke (07/22)
 Dorothy Williams (07/23)
 Megan Hall (07/27)

Marshia Beckmann (07/03)
 Michael Pierson (07/08)
 Corinne Remeika (07/11)
 Grace Williams (07/13)
 John Muench (07/15)
 Gary Ehrhardt (07/19)
 Harrison Keithahn (07/23)
 Erin Markway (07/24)

FELLOWSHIP AND HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JULY

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for July. 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
07/03	Carol Duermeyer	Llona Weiss Melba Shaffer	Lindsey Oberle	NEED	NEED	Stephanie Zimny
07/10	Jolene Kirchhoff	Phillip & Linda Neale	Sue Ann Schaefer	Lawson Flood-Lorber	Carissa Graves John Graves	Helen Schultz
07/17	Susan Dunham	Mahree Skala Christine Staelens	Lawson Lorber-Solt	NEED	NEED	Audrey Lasley
07/24	Helen Schultz	Mahree Skala	Connie Loveless	NEED	Ted Dachroeden Josh Muench	Brent Marcks
07/31	Jessica Lucas	Llona Weiss	Pat Forward	Trevor Pierson	Mike Pierson Lorry Dreier	NEED

SABBATICAL SEND OFF BRUNCH

Join Us!!

SUNDAY, JULY 31 DIRECTLY
FOLLOWING SERVICE (10:30AM)

*We will be serving a taco brunch complete
with all your favorite toppings!*

SCAN OR
CLICK TO RSVP



CUCC Fellowship and Hospitality

SABBATICAL SEND OFF BRUNCH

The Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team will be hosting a Sabbatical Send off Brunch on Sunday, July 31, to say, “**Vaya Con Dios**” to Pastor Rick as we begin our Sabbatical together. We will celebrate on that Sunday in worship, offering a blessing to Pastor Rick as he takes his three month leave, and then we will gather together for brunch after worship.

In honor of Pastor Rick’s trip to Mexico, brunch will be a Taco Bar! All are welcome to make their own tacos, with ingredients supplied by the Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team.

In order to get an accurate count of who is attending, so we know how much food to prepare, we would like you to RSVP. You can do so by scanning the QR code above, or you can [CLICK HERE](#).

We hope for a good turnout this Sunday as we say goodbye to Pastor Rick and prepare for the Sabbatical time here at CUCC. If you have any questions, contact [Stefanie Zimny](#), [Judi Privitt](#), or [Pat Forward](#).

LODO MINISTRY TEAM

LODO NEWS

LODO is on break for the Summer, but preparations for the 2022-2023 school year are underway!

LODO EMPLOYMENT

We are currently accepting resumes for open positions to start mid-late August. Interested applicants may apply through Indeed, or by emailing a resume to LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com.

3-4's Class Preschool Teacher (Mon-Fri 8:45 a.m. - 1:15 p.m.)

Preschool Aide (Mon/Wed/Fri 8:15 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.)

Afternoon Aide (1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.)

2022-2023 ENROLLMENT

Limited spaces are still available in our classes for the 2022-2023 school year. Information about the program can be found on the website at www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome. Please spread the word and have interested families contact Erika Maltsbarger at LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com. You can also help by sharing our Facebook and Instagram posts about enrollment on your page or to groups that might find the information helpful.



We are looking to replace some items and to add to our learning activities. Donations are greatly appreciated! You can find our LODO Wishlist on Amazon using the link below. Donations can be shipped directly to LODO!

[LODO WISH LIST](#)

Our staff looks forward to starting the new school year on August 29!

Erika Maltsbarger, Director

MUCH ACTIVITY AT CUCC THIS SUMMER

If you are around CUCC this summer, you may find a bustle of activity around the building! We are replacing three HVAC units, two that were scheduled to be replaced and one that decided to surprise us and quit. By fall, all three will be replaced. We are also sealing our parking lot; this project has begun and should be finished by the end of July. We are painting two LODO classrooms, preparing them for the fall. We are also refinishing the floors in the LODO classrooms, the lobby upstairs, the upstairs bathrooms and the stairwell landings. These will all be stripped and sealed, waxed and buffed by our regular cleaning service.

CUCC is a beehive of activity this summer, addressing maintenance issues and prepping our building for an active program year thanks to your generous financial support. Thank you for making this care possible!

CHECK OUT OUR NEW SIGNAGE!



The new LODO signs are installed! Now people passing by on Highway 70 and the Outer Road will know we have a preschool! The new sign gives the preschool phone number, so people can call for directions, and the church sign next to it has our website information.

We also have a new sign on the building, designating where the preschool entrance is. One of the major stumbling blocks for new people entering an establishment such as a church or church preschool is finding what door to enter. We have been trying to update our signage for many years. This is part of that initiative.



Thank you to an anonymous private donor who donated half the cost of the signs and to everyone who purchased a LODO t-shirt during our fundraiser sale. These purchases helped make our new signs a reality.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

I still remember back in 2020 when I couldn't pay cash at some of the businesses that remained open during the pandemic. Those restrictions have largely been eliminated now, but in 2020 it made me think about how I pay for things and how adaptable I can be in a new world. During 2020 and part of 2021, CUCC wasn't passing the offering plates on Sunday morning, so we had to adapt to new ways of offering our financial gifts to the church.

As Recording Treasurer before, during, and post-pandemic, I see that our congregation has adapted incredibly to the challenges brought on by the pandemic. We have found new ways to offer our gifts, or we modified our process based on the current situation. We have truly adapted to this new world!



The point of this is to say thank you and to say that CUCC is open to a variety of ways to give financial gifts to the church. We offer an online service through Kindrid, if that is what you prefer. You can set up an automatic payment with your bank or financial institution. You can write a check, or cash, and place it in the offering plate. You can give stock. Some folks have even considered CUCC in their estate planning. And there are probably others that haven't been listed. If you have a way that you would like to give your financial gifts, and it hasn't been mentioned, let me know, and we will see if we can make that happen.

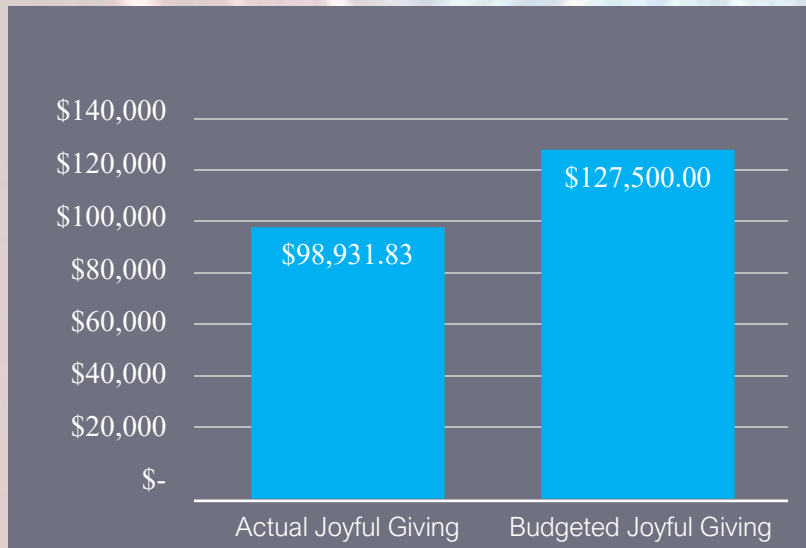
Thanks for always being adaptable!
Brent Marcks

TREASURER'S REPORT — Brent Marcks

Financial Update			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
May Income	\$20,870.03	\$27,083.33	(\$6,213.30)
YTD Income	\$102,116.18	\$130,416.67	(\$28,300.49)
May Expenses	\$26,867.23	\$28,789.42	(\$1,922.19)
YTD Expenses	\$140,760.41	\$153,559.54	(\$12,799.13)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$38,644.23)	(\$23,142.87)	(\$15,501.36)
May Attendance	376		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
06/05/22	97	\$5,283.00	\$6,750.20
06/12/22	53	\$6,828.32	\$6,750.20
06/19/22	56	\$	\$6,750.20
06/26/22	86	\$971.00	\$6,750.20
Total	292	\$13,082.32	\$27,000.80

As of 5/31/2022 we are **(\$28,568.17)** behind in Joyful Giving for 2022.



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.

INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

An Inclusive Environment Begins with Awareness and Intention

Americans with Disabilities Act was signed into law July 26, 1990. Last year we outlined the types of disabilities and the percentage of the population affected by them. This month, we are going to target a couple of challenges that affect individuals that we all know.

Tourette Syndrome increases each year by 200,000 individuals. This is a neurological condition that causes involuntary movements and sounds known as ‘tics’. It often begins in children, but can be a life-long issue. Individuals may blink, shrug or suddenly make loud noises, talk incessantly, or say offensive words. Again, these expressions are uncontrollable.

Imagine being an individual in a quiet situation, such as a classroom or church service, and suddenly you shriek. People next to you will jump, everyone will look, and you are now the center of unwanted and unintended attention. People with Tourette Syndrome may protect themselves by avoiding, when possible, those group situations. They may surround themselves with family and friends who are “in the know” about their condition.

“All are welcome here” is CUCC’s mantra. If something like Tourette Syndrome is holding you back from joining us, reach out. Let us be part of your circle of friends and family. Jesus welcomed all, as do we.

Another more visible (and rarer) condition that may hold people back from group participation is neurofibromatosis (NF). Sometimes NF is hereditary and sometimes not. It causes tumors to grow along nerves all over the body such as the face, skin, brain, spinal cord, eyes, etc.

These tumors may continue to grow, cause pain, and are quite vascular. They are also numerous. Thus, removal is often not possible due to nerve involvement, bleeding issues, and the sheer number of tumors involved. Knowing how “the public” ridicules individuals who are overweight or wearing the “wrong” clothes, imagine what an individual with NF must deal with while shopping in the grocery store, attending a movie, or just walking down the street.



CUCC members strive to love as God loves, without thought to background, sexual orientation, clothes, physicality, none of that. None of those matters. What *does matter* is: Faith, Hope, and Love. The greatest of these being **Love**.

Submitted in Respect and Love,
Tricia Price, Chair; Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Member

June Open & Affirming Committee Notes

[PrideFest](#) in Columbia is BACK! Save the date: September 24. As we have in the past, CUCC will have a booth, and we will be giving away information about our church. We will need lots of volunteers for two hour shifts that afternoon. Sign up sheet will be distributed in the coming months.

Tricia Price continues to be our committee chair, and Tricia Soncasie continues to be our secretary. Thanks to them both!

We continue to have monthly inclusion discussions. If you have a subject you would like to see highlighted, please let us know. We are also looking for a couple more committee members. Our discussions are lively, and we would love to add your voice – contact [Tricia P](#) or [Tricia S](#), or myself, [Alisa](#).

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Sunday Happenings and Upcoming Events at CUCC

When our Sunday School season came to an end on June 5, we celebrated with a picnic and a VBS preview! The picnic at the shelter had a lovely turnout and delicious food—a big thank you to the Fellowship Team! The VBS preview included crafts before the service and a bouncy slide during the picnic (that was enjoyed by children of all ages—including Brandon and myself). On that day we also honored our graduates (8th, high school, and college) with cake during Fellowship time and a mention during the service.

On **Father's Day**, June 19, Audrey made peanut clusters to give to all the dads; Lena made a cute card, and Paula cut and printed them. Thanks ladies!

Lena and Gina have been working hard preparing for **VBS** August 1, 2, and 3! Please consider signing up to attend and/or volunteer (before July 10) by clicking [here](#). We have door hangers to hang in the surrounding neighborhood in the coming weeks leading up to the sign-up deadline. Please let me or Pastor Rick know if you'd like to help!

If you plan to volunteer at VBS or teach Sunday School in the fall, you will need to attend the Annual Healthy Relationships Training, but this is also open (and encouraged) to all church members. We will have two opportunities to attend – July 24 at 8:30 a.m. or August 28 at 10:30 a.m. Please RSVP by clicking [here](#). This course will be taught by Linda Neale. Please email her or Pastor Rick with any questions!

We have several volunteers signed up for **Camp MoVal** (July 23-29), but please let Pastor Rick know if you would like to volunteer!

I am working with some other young adults to organize a revival for **young adults (20s and 30s)** this summer in hopes of creating a Sunday School section for this group. Please let me know if you have any ideas, would like to contribute or help, and/or attend!

In July and August, I will be reaching out to members about teaching **Adult Education Sunday School Classes** in the fall. Please be thinking now if you would be interested in teaching a class and what topics you'd like to explore! Thanks in advance!

Pat Forward is representing Nurture & Education on the **Sabbatical Team**. Pat stated in her report to the team: "The focus of a sabbatical for all is rest and renewal. Dale Parson, our Sabbatical Pastor, said we also need to include play and growth during this time, combining them to make a joyful three months for our church. As we continue to plan for our N & E activities during Sabbatical, let us keep these concepts in mind – rest, renewal, play, and growth." Her report also included plans for team collaboration, a Sabbatical Rally, and a Meet and Greet for all N & E team members with Rev. Parson **BEFORE** worship on August 7. Members of the N & E Team will be teaching Confirmation Class during the sabbatical. We will need two adults for each class. Please reach out to Pat, Judi, or me if you would like to volunteer!



Our next Nurture & Education Team Meeting will be on July 11 at 6:30 p.m. We are continuing the new tradition of an "appetizer potluck" prior to the meeting. Please plan to attend and bring an appetizer to share and enjoy!

As a new Team Leader, I am still seeking advice, suggestions, and feedback on how to best do this job! Please reach out if you have any!

Thank you CUCC Community!
Lydia Whitacre,
Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair



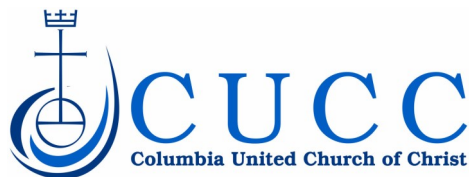
Join our “Food Truck Frenzy”
@ CUCC’s Vacation Bible School
for Youth Ages 3 — Finishing 5th Grade!

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 is open! To register go to:
www.columbiaucc.com



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



OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

Loaves & Fishes

The June 20 meal at L&F consisted of chicken, baked beans, potato salad, cole slaw, spaghetti, bread, and cookies. Most of the food was left from the church picnic on 6/5, and some of the chicken was left from the choir potluck. Cookies were made by Jolene Kirchoff and Mary Lorber-Solt. Thank you to Helen Schultz for fixing the cole slaw. The peanut butter/jelly sandwiches were provided by Jessica Jenks. Servers were Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt; Mary's sister, Debby; Doug & Judi Privitt; Anne Heine; and Lydia Whitacre. We served approximately 130 servings. Thank you to everyone!!

Food Bank News

Six CUCC volunteers helped package dried beans on May 24, along with several other community volunteers. Many thanks to Anne Heine, Jo Ellen Grace, Connie Loveless, Melba Shaffer, Mahree Skala, and Tricia Soncasie. Because the Food Bank has switched to its summer schedule, our next shift will be on August 23 at 5:30 p.m. Hope to see you there!

UCC REFUGEE ASSISTANCE FOR UKRAINE

The United Church of Christ's support of refugees, and currently those 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.

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.

Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need. Please be sure to note "Ukraine Relief Fund" on your check in the memo section. You can also give online through the UCC Appeal: [CLICK HERE](#).

-Mark Duncan; CUCC Member, Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team Chair



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.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY!! What an important day indeed! Centuries later we are still celebrating the historic document and event that birthed our countries independence—granting freedoms that we enjoy (and take for granted) daily. We are far from where we need to be, but so much further than what we were back in 1776.

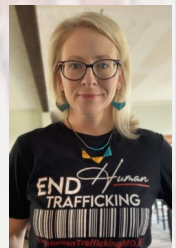
One of the instances that we are still working on true "Freedom for All" is in the reality of *Modern Day Slavery*, aka: *Human Trafficking*. Human trafficking has been around for centuries also, and it isn't going to disappear over night, if ever. However, we can do our part to ensure we are not supporting the problem. We can advocate for justice for those who are currently oppressed in this very real existence.

Some of the ways you can be sure you are not part of the problem, but rather the solution, are:

- Be mindful of your purchases; you can research brands and stores to see if they produce and sell ethically sourced goods.
- Don't purchase sex of any kind or consume/view pornography or live "adult entertainment." Many people don't realize that commercial sex is a byproduct of trafficking and majority of individuals in the industry are or have been victims.
- Attend a [free training](#) to gain knowledge, and then educate others when the opportunity arises.

Remember, change starts with YOU!

April Rothweiler





FUNDRAISER FOR MOBILITY WORLDWIDE 

PRESENTED BY: **Rotaract** 

\$20 TICKETS | **\$10** COLLEGE STUDENT & UNDER TICKETS

CRAFT BEER & CARTS

Donations can be mailed to:
Mobility Worldwide MO-Columbia
4825 E Mager Industrial Dr
Columbia, MO 65203

**SUNDAY
JULY 17TH
1PM-4PM**

Location:
MU Health Care Pavilion
1701 W. Ash St.
Columbia, MO 65203

**BROADWAY
BREWERY**

\$2,000 MAIN EVENT SPONSOR
\$800 BAND SPONSOR
\$350 CART SPONSOR

Each sponsor gets 2 tickets & cart to decorate

LIVE MUSIC!

C. Rock City

FOOD TRUCKS
- Lefty's Popcorn
- Ozark Mountain Sausuff
- Zydeco's Cajun

LET'S ALL HELP DECORATE A CART!

Once again this year ROTARACT is presenting Craft Beer and Carts as a fundraiser for Mobility Worldwide (PET). The event is July 17 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the MU Health Care Pavilion at 701 West Ash Street in Columbia. There will be food trucks, Broadway Brewery refreshments, and live music featuring C Rock City band.

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students college age and under.

CUCC will be sponsoring a large cart to be displayed at the event. So let's decorate it! You may recall the youth decorated one last year for the Fundraiser, and we received a picture of the grateful recipient (see below). This year the cart will be in the gathering area so everyone can participate. All the supplies will be there. Just put on a sticker or two. Draw a flower or a heart, add a handprint or a word or maybe a soccer ball. It can whatever you like to embellish the cart. Let your creative juices flow! If you would like to contribute to the \$350 cart sponsorship, send a check to the church or use Kindred Giving online.

In 2021, there were approximately 100 carts displayed at the event. This is not a competition, but there are winners - those who receive a cart.

CUCC RECEIVES THANKS FROM KENYA

Last summer, youth from CUCC purchased and decorated a Mobility Cart through [Mobility Worldwide](#) and sent it to Kenya along with 300+ other carts to be distributed to those in need. Last month, we received this picture and a thank you from the man in Kenya who received it! He expressed his thanks and joy at being able to achieve mobility.

Without our donation, this man would be burdened by his physical limitations, unable to work or sustain a living. Thanks to the efforts of CUCC and others who participated in the Craft Beer and Carts Fundraiser last July at Logboat Brewing, he is now mobile.

This year's Craft Beer and Carts Festival will be July 17, 2022, at the MU Healthcare Pavilion. Broadway Brewery will be there along with food trucks, great music, and a cart festival. CUCC has purchased a cart for this event, and will be decorating it in July. If you would like to be a part of this event or if you would like to purchase a cart yourself, talk to Outreach & Advocacy Chair [Mark Duncan](#) or [Jessica Jenks](#). Direct donations can also be sent to [Mobility Worldwide](#) to help them with their endeavors.





CUCC IS WORKING IN INDIA

The Center for Social Equity and Inclusion (CSEI) works toward an inclusive society in India by promoting direct involvement of communities that are excluded. Exclusion and discrimination against Dalit, Muslim, and tribal communities is still prevalent in Indian society, especially in access to education and employment. CSEI partners with community lead organizations that are embedded within these marginalized communities, drawing leadership and priorities from the communities themselves. The core of the work is promoting equal rights and equitable opportunities.

CSEI 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 July, please keep Global Ministries and CSEI in your prayers!

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

July 3-9
Wally Buran
Working in Costa Rica

July 10-16
Paul Chihungwe
Working in Botswana

July 17-23
Martha Mensendiek
Working in Japan

July 24-30
Carlos Sediles-Real
Working in Mexico



CUCC IS WORKING WITH WOMEN IN GUATEMALA

(condensed from www.globalministries.org)

The National Coordinator of Widows of Guatemala (CONAVIGUA) is a Global Ministries partner, founded in 1988 as a response to the suffering of women in rural areas amid the internal armed conflict of Guatemala. These widows were women whose husbands, sons, and daughters had been either killed or had disappeared during Guatemala's civil war. They organized to fight to alleviate and solve the most immediate and urgent needs of food, medicine, housing, and clothing.

In their current advocacy, they work to address several issues. Much of their advocacy is centered on making the Guatemalan government accountable for their actions. This includes demanding that the government assures the education of all children by offering economic support and school supplies when needed. They also demand that the government create laws of protection for widows and mothers. Further, they ask the government to ensure that international aid falls into the correct hands, instead of the pockets of corrupt institutions and opportunists.

CONAVIGUA also works on a local level by developing projects that help Guatemalan women, allowing opportunities for women to contribute to addressing societal problems. They also work heavily in exhumations of mass graves of victims of armed conflicts. They then offer dignified Christian burials that allow family and friends to honor those who have passed.

In all of this, they demand that their voice is heard and recognized in the political, economic, and social life of Guatemala as they advocate on behalf of those who are oppressed and marginalized.



ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN

July

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3		5	6	7	8	9
<p>9:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</p>	4	<p>10:30am Quilters</p> <p>6pm Sabbatical Team Meeting</p>	<p>9am Sabbatical Team Meeting</p> <p>6pm Council Retreat</p>		<p>6:30pm First Friday Films</p>	
10		12	13	14	15	16
<p>9:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</p>	11	<p>10:30am Quilters</p>				
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<p>9:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</p>	<p>4:30 Loaves & Fishes</p> <p>6:30pm Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team</p>	<p>10:30am Quilters</p> <p>6:30 Church Council Meeting</p>	<p>6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team Mtg</p>			
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<p>9:30am Worship Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</p>	<p>31</p> <p>Pastor Rick at Camp MoVal</p>	<p>10:30am Quilters</p> <p>Pastor Rick at Camp MoVal</p>	<p>Pastor Rick at Camp MoVal</p>	<p>Pastor Rick at Camp MoVal</p>	<p>Pastor Rick at Camp MoVal</p>	

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.