

# THE COMMUNICATOR

March 2020



“Lenten Vision”

## From the Pastor’s Keyboard

Lent is officially here. Ash Wednesday ushered in the Lenten Season, and we are in the midst of the 40 days (plus Sundays) of Lent. So what are you going to do to observe Lent?

As early as the second century, Christians began observing a period of fasting prior to Easter. This time was spent reflecting on Jesus’ sacrifice and preparation for the notable observances of Holy Week. When Christianity was sanctioned by Emperor Constantine in the fourth century, Lent took on an even greater purpose; to prepare catechumenate Christians for baptism and entry into the church. Novices would spend months being educated in the ways and doctrines of the church, but the 40-day period prior to Easter would be a time of intense study, dedication, and sacrifice. Easter Sunday would then be the day the catechumenate would be baptized and become members of the church.

In the centuries since, Lent has become more focused on penance and reflection than on preparation for baptism or preparation for church membership. Christians have used the time of Lent to reflect on Christ’s life and ministry, specifically the final week/weeks of Christ’s life as he headed toward and entered Jerusalem. While the church may focus on Old Testament lessons or Epistles during the rest of the year, Lent is specifically dedicated to focusing on Christ.

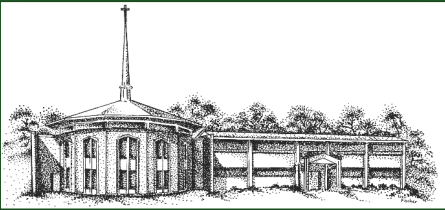
This year in worship, we are focusing on Christ’s ministry through the lens of the Gospel attributed to John. The author of this Gospel wrote a narrative that is very different than the other three; his Gospel is very focused on the Divinity of Christ and the very real presence of God in Jesus. As we explore the Gospel attributed to John, we will explore how the early disciples adopted the Vision that Jesus shared with them through parable, proclamation, and action. We will begin with Jesus calling disciples (in a way that differs from the synoptic Gospels) and how John the Baptizer played a significant part in articulating the vision that inspired those first disciples to follow Jesus. Our Lenten Vision series will continue with stories about Nicodemus, the Samaritan woman at the well, a blind man with his sight restored, and the story of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Through them all you will be encouraged to articulate your Lenten Vision as well.

Traditionally, during Lent, the church has encouraged people to “give something up.” This is to model humility and focus on our understanding of God’s grace in our lives during the 40 days of Lent. The early church imposed dietary restrictions on people. Faithful church members were only allowed to eat one meal a day, after sunset, and fast during the rest of the day. These practices evolved over the years so some people would give up only foods that they particularly craved; such red meat or caffeine. Eating fish became a common practice during Lent to observe this idea of fasting. One of my Lenten practices in years past was to give up Diet Dr. Pepper for Lent (back when I used to drink soda). The idea of this practice was that sacrificing some of our pleasures reminds us of the sacrifice Jesus exemplified at the time of crucifixion.

This year, I want to ask you to take a different approach to Lent. Instead of sacrificing something, how about taking on something new? Dedicate yourself to praying more; to going to church more often; to spending more time reading the Bible. Here is a thought– the Gospel attributed to John has 21 chapters and there are 40 days of Lent (plus 6 Sundays; so– 46). If you read a chapter every other day, that Gospel could be your Lenten guide. Read a chapter one day, journal your thoughts, then read the same chapter the next day. Do new thoughts arise? If you do this, you could read the whole book in 42 days.

Don’t let the season of Lent pass you by! Spend some time with Jesus this Lent and work on refining your Lenten Vision.

-Pastor Rick



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

**Rev. Rick Oberle**  
Pastor

**Rev. Fred Brandenburg**  
Pastor Emeritus

**April Rothweiler**  
Office Administrator

**Kristin Veteto**  
Music Coordinator

**Amy Crousore**  
Organist/Accompanist

**Erika Maltsbarger**  
Director, Little One's Day Out

**Lloyd Viehland**  
Building Monitor

**Raj Tolani**  
Financial Secretary

**Sunday Worship Schedule**

9:00 a.m. - Coffee and Fellowship

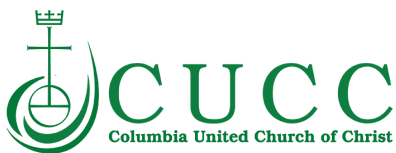
9:00 a.m. - Sunday School

10:30 a.m. - Worship in Sanctuary

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

**Phone:  
(573)-445-7931**

**Email:  
office@columbiaucc.com**



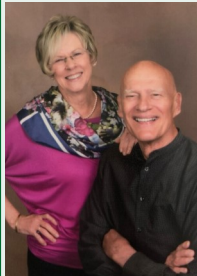
**ANNOUNCEMENTS  
& UPCOMING EVENTS**

**SAVE THE DATE TO CLEAN UP COLUMBIA!**  
(Or at least I-70 Drive NW)  
Mark your calendars for April 11, 9-11 a.m. as we will  
"Clean Up [our portion] of Columbia!"  
A sign-up sheet will be available soon.

**Thank you for helping support your local community!**  
Thanks to everyone involved with Men's Fellowship and the congregation for another great event. After expenses, we raised over \$1,300.00 for Habitat for Humanity. Thanks again to everyone!

**Mens Slow Pitch Softball**  
It is time to sign up for the Men's slow pitch softball on Thursday night!  
The season will start in mid-April. Must be at least 16 years old.  
Sign up in the Gathering Area or contact Doug Privitt if you are interested in playing. [privittauto@centurytel.net](mailto:privittauto@centurytel.net) or 573-819-7020

**CARD SHOWER FOR FRED**  
CUCC Pastor Emeritus Rev. Fred Brandenburg is turning 80 on March 9, and Shelley would like to honor him with a Card Shower!  
Fred was the pastor at Columbia United Church of Christ from 1974-2004 and led this congregation through a wonderful period of growth and discernment. It was during his tenure at CUCC that the Educational Wing was added, the LODO Preschool ministry began, the handbell choir started, and many other initiatives kicked off, forming our identity as God's Kingdom Workers in this time and place.  
If you were around during Fred and Shelley's time at CUCC and would like to send him congratulations on his 80th Birthday, you can participate in the Card Shower by sending a card to:  
**Rev. Fred Brandenburg**  
**1995 Sand Plant Road, Hermann, MO 65041**  
Be sure to include a memory you may have of Fred's ministry here.  
Congratulations to Fred and Blessings on the occasion of this milestone birthday!



**HAPPY RETIREMENT!**  
When Lloyd Viehland took a part time job in 1990 working at the church he loved, he had no idea he would work in that position for 30 years! But here it is, 30 years later and Lloyd has decided that it is time to retire. Lloyd said, "After serving 30 years in this position and having reached the big '80' I feel it is time I should take some time off. I have enjoyed doing what I have contributed and greatly appreciate the support I have been given. I would say 'thanks' to all who supported me, as this has been my 'personal form of ministry.'"  
Lloyd's last day of work at CUCC will be March 31. We, as a congregation, thank Lloyd for all he has done over the years! He has taught us all many lessons about service and devotion. Blessings to Lloyd in his retirement!



Dear Friends,

We are so grateful for your partnership in the work of Love INC. Your financial support gives us the foundation we need to start another year of service to our community.



As our staff gathered to start 2020, the word “home” was repeated several times in our discussion and prayers. We rejoiced that a single mom and her two children moved into one of our transition homes just in time for Christmas. The family had been staying in a hotel for six months and the children’s only Christmas wish was to have a home. We prayed that we would be able to provide more homes for families this year, but also, that we would make Columbia feel more like a home for many who are alone and struggling to find their way.

We hope to accomplish this by raising awareness of the stake we all have in each other’s lives and providing meaningful and accessible ways for neighbors to help their neighbors in need. Increasingly the community is responding to this call to action! In December, we watched volunteers provide nearly all the labor and resources to transform an old laundromat into an inviting space that will soon open as Love Coffee; to employ those with barriers to employment. We also saw Jobs for Life volunteers provide daily care and support for a program graduate who broke her leg just days before Christmas. We marveled at the extravagant love poured out by volunteers who freely gave their time and talent during the busiest time of year. We are excited to see what we can accomplish together in 2020. Thank you again for your invaluable support. Together, we are making Columbia a home!

Happy New Year,  
Jane Williams, Program Director

Dear Faithful Donors,

Greetings from the Board and Staff at Mobility Worldwide MO—Columbia. Thank you for your generous support that helped send 24 shipments in 2019 to 9 countries and to other partners who work globally. It’s hard to describe how much this changes the world for those that crawl on the ground or are shut away because of their leg disability.

We will continue production at 35 carts each week while we watch our new shop building take shape. Your tireless efforts are changing lives and communities. May God bless us all. Thank you for your continued support in 2020.

Sending your love around the globe,  
Doris



### WHAT IS LENT?

- Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, lasts 40 days, and ends just before Easter.
- In most Protestant traditions, Lent ends on Holy Saturday evening, but in some traditions Lent ends on Maundy Thursday evening.
- Sundays are not “included” in the 40 days of Lent.
- During Lent, we remember Jesus in special ways
- Lent is a time to think about Jesus’ life; to think of some ways we can be more like Jesus.
- Lent is a time to give to others to remind us of what Jesus gave to us.
- Lent is a time to remember Jesus’ last week; from his Triumphal entry into Jerusalem, through his betrayal, arrest and crucifixion, through the Resurrection of Easter.
- Lent is a time to make sacrifices, to spend time reflecting on Jesus’ ministry with us and to be humble, remembering God is God and we are not.
- Lent is also a time we can take on something new, instead of sacrificing. What are some new things you can take on? Maybe more time spent in prayer, going to church, or studying the Bible?
- Just as Advent prepares us for Christmas, Lent prepares us for Easter (which is April 12 this year).

### CONFIRMATION 2.0

During the month of March, Pastor Rick will be leading a class called “Confirmation 2.0.” This class is especially designed for High School Seniors (but others are welcome, too) to reinforce what they may (or may not have) learned in Confirmation. We will be meeting in the Upstairs Sunday School wing each Wednesday of March and April, from 8:00-9:30 p.m. All are welcome, even if you have not been confirmed! If you are interested in attending, talk to Pastor Rick or just come by on Wednesday evenings during March!

### Looking For a Place to Serve Locally?

The Central Missouri STOP Human Trafficking Coalition is looking for volunteers who can give rides, deliver groceries, help at events, and more.



If you are over 18, have a vehicle, and a heart for those who have survived the harsh reality that is Modern Day Slavery, contact [Nanette Ward](#) at 573-289-1842 with any questions you may have, or to volunteer.

## MODERATOR'S MOMENT



Greetings and many blessings to everyone! As this year's council gets underway we are coming together as a group, setting aside our individual priorities and focusing our efforts on the shared goals of our church family. One of the ways in which I pray that we can be effective at our tasks is to truly focus on strengths rather than our weaknesses.

As a Council we will be taking a closer look at a book titled, "Living our Strengths: Discover your God-given Talents and Inspire your Community." As we embark on this journey, I shared the devotional reprinted below with Council and I want to share it with you. This was written by Rodney Cox and posted November 5, 2013. The words, actions, and scripture really resonate with me. As we enter the season of Lent, and in March highlight the ways in which we are good stewards of God's gifts, I think it is great to reflect how understanding our God-given strengths can help us accomplish God's work in the world.

### **"Understanding Your Strengths-Focus on the A's, Not the F's."**

Your weaknesses or your strengths: which are easiest for you to recognize? To find out, try this exercise. On one side of a 3 x 5 index card, record your three greatest weaknesses. Turn the card over. On the second side, write down your three greatest strengths. Which list was easiest for you to write?

If you're like most people, you are already an expert when it comes to identifying your weaknesses and failings. In fact, you may have had to limit yourself to just three items on your "weakness" list. But when it comes to identifying and articulating your strengths, most of us have a harder time.

Although it's normal for people to focus on areas in which they're weak, it's not God's intention.

A recent Gallup poll underscored our orientation for weaknesses over strengths. Researchers presented parents with a scenario in which a child brings home a report card with the following grades: an A in English, an A in social studies, a C in biology, and an F in algebra. When asked, "Which of these grades would you spend the most time discussing with your son or daughter?" 77% of the parents chose to focus on the F in algebra. Meanwhile, just 6% focused on the A in English and only 1% focused on the A in social studies.

The carefully-worded question sought to discover what draws parents' attention and how they invest their time; developing a child's strengths or compensating for a child's weaknesses. Parents in the study invested 11 times more time addressing weaknesses than strengths. Answers revealed an orientation towards weakness, even while A's in both English and social studies represent strengths in processing information, communicating well, and analyzing material.

Our human perspective is skewed toward weakness, even to the detriment of cultivating our strengths.

To orient yourself to your weaknesses and ignore your strengths may be commonplace. Yet in doing so you deny both the uniqueness in how God made you and the power of God working through you.

Whatever strengths you possess have been woven into your being by God with the express purpose of imparting God's grace to the world around you. The Apostle Paul underscored this truth: "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works" (Ephesians 2:10, NIV). Naturally, Christ-followers are called to face weaknesses head on and seek to overcome them. Yet we're also specifically called by God to identify, cultivate, and use our strengths.

In other words, God tells us to focus on the A ... not the F. Look at the index card on which you recorded your strengths on one side and your weaknesses on the other. You may be tempted to leave the weakness side face up on your desk. Don't leave it. Flip it; and focus on your strengths instead.

Yours in Christ,  
James Melton, Moderator



# INCLUSION TEAM

“Diversity is a fact. Inclusion is an act” was the theme for our Congregational Meeting/Chili Cook-off/and ONA Anniversary celebrated at the end of January. Thanks to everyone for making that day a smashing success.

In February, we observed Black History Month with moving stories in the Sunday bulletin, as well as during services.

In looking forward, the CUCC Inclusion Team will be meeting in March with the Jefferson City Oasis Team to discuss future collaborations.

Several of us will also be attending an ONA conference at Gateway UCC in St. Louis, March 7. This is an excellent learning/sharing experience and all are encouraged to attend. If you are interested, let Pastor Rick or myself know **ASAP**, so we can get you registered.

Lena Muench has drafted a new CUCC brochure. Look forward to that update in the next few weeks.

The team would love to hear your suggestions. Blessings to all.

In Peace,  
Alisa Lau-Sieckman, 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!



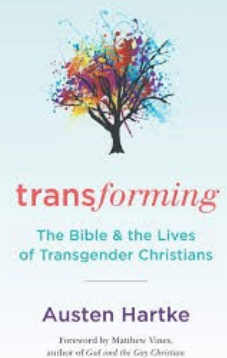
Called by Jesus to be an Open and Affirming, inclusive faith community, Columbia United Church of Christ commits to welcoming everyone into the full life of our congregation. Our paths and voices may differ, but we journey in faith together.

## CHRISTIANITY AND TRANSGENDER INCLUSION BOOK STUDY

Last month CUCC members and the Columbia community at large had the opportunity to visit with Austen Hartke, transgender theologian and author of the book, “*Transforming: The Bible and the Lives of Transgender Christians*.” He spoke at First Baptist Church on February 21 and 22, providing two great testimonies to his faith and the message of inclusion seen in the scriptures of our traditions. This month we will be digging deeper into his story with a 5-week study of his book.

Pastor Rick will be leading this study on Wednesdays at noon in the Confirmation Classroom in the Sunday School wing. He will also be utilizing Zoom technology so people can “virtually” attend the book study using their laptop, cell phone, or other device. If you plan on attending using Zoom technology, Pastor Rick will need your email address ahead of time. You will receive an email with the link and a phone number to utilize if you want to call in.

Copies of Austen’s book are available in the church office or you can order it thru Amazon or your local bookseller. We will begin on March 4 looking at the Introduction and Chapters one (“Standing on the Edge”) and two (“The Beginner’s Guide to Gender”). We will also meet at noon on 3/11, 3/18, 3/25 and 4/1. All will offer Zoom options. Contact Pastor Rick for more information.



## **GATEWAY OPEN AND AFFIRMING ANNUAL CONVOCATION “LIFE CHANGING AND LIFE SAVING”**

The Gateway Open and Affirming Annual Convocation will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2020 from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. at Parkway United Church of Christ in West St. Louis County. A team of people from CUCC will be attending and you are invited to be part of that team! The cost of registration was covered by our Inclusion Team budget so all you need to do is come.

This year, Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund will be the preacher/keynote speaker. Dr. Lund is a Columbia native and a graduate of Hickman High School. She works on the National Staff of the United Church of Christ as Minister for Disabilities and Mental Health Justice. She will be speaking about mental health issues and how advocacy for mental health justice is part of Christ’s call to serve all.

There will also be 12 workshops offered on issues relating to living into an Open and Affirming Ministry, including workshops on Bible study and aging issues. If you are interested in attending, talk to Alisa Lau-Sieckman, James Melton, or Pastor Rick.

## **MMSUCC WOMEN’S RETREAT**

The 2020 Missouri Mid-South Women’s Retreat will be at Camp MoVal May 1-3, 2020. The program is “de Colores” and features Lois Werner, a member of Southwood UCC who has spent many years in mission with the people of Guatemala. In 1991 Lois made her first of many trips to Guatemala. She loved the country, but the profound poverty gnawed at her. When her husband, Ken, retired in 2006, the two decided to spend some time there. In November 2008, they made their move permanent.

Residing in Guatemala, they could not ignore what they saw. In every village there was an absence of running water and medical care, along with chronic malnutrition in children, houses with dirt floors, women cooking over open fires, and contaminated drinking water causing diarrhea and death in children.

The couple founded “People for Guatemala, Inc.” in 2010 for the purpose of raising awareness and donations in the United States for projects in Guatemala. The couple volunteer their time for this organization as well as the Guatemala organization “Hombres y Mujeres en Accion.” Come hear Lois tell her story at the Women’s Retreat, and experience spiritual care and worship opportunities. For registration information, pick up a brochure in the church office. Registration deadline is March 31.

## **SEMINARY SUNDAY AT CUCC**

On March 29 we will have a special guest in worship with us; Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, the Vice President for Institutional Advancement at Eden Seminary will share news and information about Eden with us.

Eden Seminary has a special place in our hearts as the “school of the church” that formed so many of our church leaders, including Pastor Rick. CUCC member Rev. Dr. John Bracke was Professor of Old Testament at Eden for a number of years; and many of our CUCC members have gone on to ministry, receiving their Education at Eden. Eden Seminary is definitely an institution near and dear to many of us.

Eden Theological Seminary was established in the summer of 1850 in Marthasville, Missouri, to fit the needs of frontier churches. These Evangelical congregations required better-educated pastors who were less focused on European traditions and more suited to North American religious life.

An ecumenical spirit lies at the heart of Eden, the seeds of which were planted from the very start. A Methodist and Mennonite joined six Evangelicals to form the very first graduating class of Eden. The hard work of that first class laid the foundation for Eden to branch out west of St. Louis, serving more frontier congregations and in turn recruiting new students who discovered their own calling.

Since then, Eden has actively pursued the progressive Christian movement. To fit the growing urbanization of the country, Eden moved to the outskirts of St. Louis in 1883. The Seminary’s first African American student enrolled in 1933, and the next year Eden merged with Central Theological Seminary and Oakwood Institute of Cincinnati, Ohio. Eventually this partnership and a continued focus on ecumenical discussion, which included Eden President Samuel D. Press, lead to the formation of the United Church of Christ in 1957. In 1965, Cardinal Joseph Ritter of the St. Louis Archdiocese was the first Roman Catholic Cardinal to address a Protestant Seminary graduating class.

Now and throughout its history, Eden affirms that Christian faith and critical scholarship are compatible and dedicated discipleship is neither alien nor hostile to the truth of love. Faith is nurtured and openly affirmed at Eden, and we feel these discussions will serve us well into spreading the greater good into the twenty-first century and beyond.

Join us in worship on March 29 as we celebrate the CUCC/Eden Seminary connection! A special offering will be received to benefit the programs at Eden.

# FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

## 2020 Vision

Do you have 2020 Vision?

This will be the theme of our 2020 Stewardship Campaign, kicking off on March 1!

On March 1, Lisa Key will be the guest speaker at our catered Stewardship Luncheon. You are invited to attend and hear what Lisa has to say about Stewardship! Lisa is the Chief Development Officer for Emmaus Homes, a faith based non-profit in St. Charles County that ministers to the needs of adults with developmental disabilities. Lisa will share her ideas about Stewardship and how your stewardship efforts can impact the church.

You will also have the opportunity to fill out 2020 Time and Talent Sheets, exploring how you can use your talents and your time to serve Christ's ministry through this congregation. You will hear from each of our Ministry Team about what they do, and how they live out Jesus' commandment to love. You will also have the opportunity to make a financial commitment for 2020 and we will talk a bit about our Designated Funds; a unique way to leave a legacy. This will be an exciting event!



Be sure to stick around on March 1 for a catered lunch and a great presentation! Questions? Talk to me, George Zimny, chair of the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team.

## CUCC NOW HAS ONLINE GIVING!

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

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

### Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
Jan. Income	\$15,713.89	\$24,989.01	(\$9,275.12)
YTD	\$15,713.89	\$24,989.01	(\$9,275.12)
Jan. Expenses	\$21,564.70	\$24,152.09	(\$2,587.39)
YTD	\$21,564.70	\$24,152.09	(\$2,587.39)
YTD Income	\$15,713.89	\$24,989.01	(\$9,275.12)
YTD Expenses	\$21,564.70	\$24,152.09	(\$2,587.39)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$5,850.81)	\$836.92	(\$6,687.73)
Jan. Attendance	551		

### TREASURER'S REPORT *Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer*

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
02/02/19	131	\$5385.00	\$6,477.91
02/09/19	123	\$4,131.00	\$6,477.91
02/16/19	120	\$2,997.26	\$6,477.91
02/23/19	127	\$1,830.52	\$6,477.91
<b>Total</b>		\$14,343.78	\$25,911.64

As you can see by the two graphs above, Joyful Giving for 2020 has been significantly lower than budgeted. While December 2019 was the largest month for giving in the past five years, January and February 2020 have been the lowest two months for giving in the past five years. As of January 31, Joyful Giving was behind by **\$9275.12**. At the end of February we anticipate being approximately \$20,800 **behind** in giving for 2020 compared to what we have budgeted. We are hoping for significant contributions to be received in March and April to offset the low giving in January and February.

## CUCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS

Did you know there is a new fund at CUCC? The Memorial Education Fund, established in 1972 by Professor H. H. Krusekopf and contributed to over the years by many others, has been redefined as “The Columbia United Church of Christ Scholarship Fund.” (The new definition of this fund is available on request; copies are on the wooden rack by the Sanctuary doors.) With this new definition, scholarships awarded from this fund are available to all active members of the congregation who are pursuing an education beyond High School.

There is an application process and qualification criteria. Application forms are available in the church office. **All applications are due by April 1, 2020**, and will be considered by a team composed by the Vice Moderator, the Nurture and Education Ministry Team Chair, the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team Chair, and Pastor Rick. Awards from the fund will be disbursed after July 1 for the fall semester.

If you would like to learn more about the application process for the new Scholarship Fund, you can request a copy of the definition, criteria, and application by contacting April Rothweiler, Pastor Rick, James Melton (Moderator), Kristy Odneal (Vice-Moderator), or one of the Ministry Team Chairs listed above.

### A NEW SIGN AT CUCC!

Our new sign is intentionally very concise. Its purpose is to draw attention to our church and mark our location, letting people know we are here, directing them to our website to learn more detail. Our name and website are prominently displayed. It also conveys the message that everyone is welcome here, especially those who have been turned away from other churches. The words, “No matter who you are...you are welcome here” and a rainbow comma convey this message to all who need to hear it. In this way the new sign is not just a sign, but a reflection of our very identity as followers of Jesus.



The Coyote Hill Pancake Breakfast will be on Saturday, March 14 at Memorial Baptist Church. Come enjoy pancakes, fellowship, and support your local community!

**Coyote Hill**  
A Safe Place to Be a Child

### Pancake Breakfast 2020

Saturday, March 14

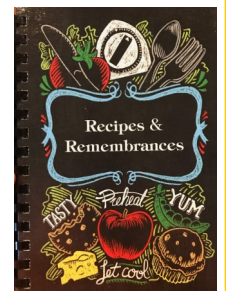
7 AM - Noon

Memorial Baptist Church Fellowship Hall  
(1634 Paris Road, Columbia)



### The CUCC “Recipes and Remembrances” Cookbook is now available!

The cookbook committee met many times in 2019 to collect recipes, organize, and send off design ideas for the CUCC Anniversary Edition Cookbook, “Recipes and Remembrances.” The hard-bound cookbook includes yummy recipes, stories, and remembrances, and is now available for purchase in the Gathering Area, as well as in the Church Office. The cost is \$15 and the proceeds benefit the local community through donations made by Women’s Fellowship to various organizations. You may submit your cash or check to Jan Barry (Women’s Fellowship Treasurer) or April Rothweiler (Church Office Administrator).



Thank you to Jolene Hackman, Marianne Bullerd, Brenda Muench, and Melba Shaffer for your hard work in making this happen! Thank you to Gene and Deb Koepke for providing the needed funding.



# 2020 Vision

## March 1, 2020

**How can you help CUCC live into a New Vision for Ministry in the third decade of this century?**



### Featuring Guest Speaker Lisa Key

Lisa Key is the Chief Development Officer for Emmaus Homes, a faith based non-profit agency in St. Charles County that ministers to the needs of adults with developmental disabilities. Lisa, who was raised in the United Church of Christ, has been with Emmaus Homes for 12 years. One of her goals as Chief Development Officer is to fully engage family members and donors to help Emmaus Homes continue their work, advocating for the clients they have been entrusted to serve. Lisa will be talking to us about Stewardship and how we can fully care for all the blessings God has given us.

### Come Join us on March 1!

Our Annual Stewardship Program will begin in worship at 10:30, where Lisa will join us to talk briefly about our mission with Emmaus Homes; then we will gather after worship for lunch, catered by our Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team! After Lunch, Lisa will speak to us about Stewardship and our call to be Stewards of all God has given us; and the benefits of having 2020 vision as we plan our Stewardship goals. We will have presentations from our Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team regarding Stewardship opportunities in 2020 and beyond; and share together our 2020 Vision for Columbia United Church of Christ. All are welcome!



Catered Lunch  
Served at Noon

For more information contact  
George Zimny at  
[gzimny@pbfirm.com](mailto:gzimny@pbfirm.com) or visit  
[www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)



# OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

## Help Feed the Hungry on March 10

Please come join the fun and fellowship; packaging food for food pantry customers on March 10, 5:30-7:30 pm at the Food Bank (2101 Vandiver Drive). We had a great turnout in February, with 18 people (listed below)! We worked alongside the Rockbridge 4H Club and others to package over 3,000 pounds of Cheez-It crackers, which is a lot of Cheez-Its!



Many thanks to: Cliff Beckman, Keith Birkes, Marcella Dolezal, Anne Heine, Barry and Jolene Kirchhoff, Connie Loveless, Addison Melton, Alice Moon, Brenda and John Muench, Diane Privitt, Helen Schultz, Melba Shaffer, Mahree Skala, Tricia Soncasie, John and Sadie Tummins.

Mark your calendar and sign up to help in March. Signup sheet will be available after worship, or you can e-mail Mahree Skala at [skalamahree@yahoo.com](mailto:skalamahree@yahoo.com).

## Loaves N Fishes

The February 17 meal at Loaves and Fishes consisted of chili mac (chili leftover from chili cook-off), lettuce salad, and brownies. Patty Beeson provided the lettuce.

Servers/dishwashers/helpers were Keith Birkes, Anne Heine, John and Brenda Muench, David Martin, Judi Privitt, and Whitney Wipfler. We served approximately 111 firsts and 18 seconds and carry-outs. Thank you to everyone!!

## OGHS Special Offering

One Great Hour of Sharing is one of four special mission offerings of The United Church of Christ.

This Lenten Offering supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC. The offering is March 22, 2020.

## NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY

The Church Council has approved the opportunity for Columbia United Church of Christ being a Columbia Public Schools "Partnership Friend" with Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School! De'Vion Moore is the Principal and Kyra Yung is the Assistant Principal for a very transient population of 405 students. Their vision statement includes valuing each individual by empowering the students with opportunities that ignite interests and cultivate capacity. The Principal is very interested in service learning opportunities for the students, and teaching them to be helpers, learners, and leaders. Principal Moore has talked with Alpha Hart's PTA and we are planning the announcement of our "Partnership Friend" at their PTA meeting on Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at 6:00pm at the school. Any and all CUCC members are invited to attend!

The Outreach Committee thought we could be involved with one event per school semester, and we want to start off with a "CUCC Drive for Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School" by collecting kleenex, clorox/lysol wipes, sanitizers (Germ-X), and shoes and boots (for the Kindergarten through 2nd grade students) from our congregation members. The Outreach Committee will bring our total collected donations to Alpha Hart at the announcement kickoff on March 31.

We will have a display in the Gathering Space by March 1 to start collecting these items. So, please consider picking up a few of these items the next time you are at the store to put in the display cart. These items fill one of the greatest needs at this time in the school year with all the colds and germs, and snow/rain.

Also, Alpha Hart has a Carnival Event night scheduled for May 8 and suggested volunteers from CUCC could help with the booths and handing out items. That way, the parents can spend more time with their students doing the carnival events together. There are short forms that our congregation volunteers will need to complete and sign if you are going to work with the students. These volunteer forms will be available at the Partnership Friend/Alpha Hart School display in the Gathering Space, or from Llona Weiss, or in the church office. This requirement for signed volunteer forms is similar to what is already done when volunteering in the Columbia Public Schools or working with our LODO students. We have had a number of interested CUCC congregants who want to volunteer with our Partnership Friend, and if you have not already talked with Llona or Pastor Rick, please do so. We are very excited about this wonderful outreach opportunity with our youth and the public schools!

Thank you, Llona Weiss

# NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

## Children's Sunday School Offering

\$240.48 was collected at the SOUPER Bowl Sunday Collection on Feb 2. All of these funds will stay local, going to our local food pantry. Thank you to everyone who donated so generously.

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**Vacation Bible School**  
**Sunday, August 2—**  
**Thursday, August 6, 2020**



\$194 was raised at the Valentine Bake Sale on February 9. All funds will go towards the CUCC Camp Scholarship Fund. Nurture & Education's next bake sale will be on Easter Sunday, April 12.

## Lenten Plans for our children and youth!

Beginning on Sunday, March 1, and for the next five Sundays of Lent, Pastor Rick will meet with all of the children and youth Sunday School classes, 9:00-9:10 a.m., in the sanctuary, to share about the meaning and importance of the season of Lent. Everyone will then go to their classrooms for the rest of the Sunday School hour.

## Children & Youth Sunday School Curriculum

Faith experienced at an early age is the foundation for all other growth. The good news we share with our children has the power to transform lives and revitalize communities. So, let's prepare the ground for a new tomorrow, sending down roots anchored in love. Let's sow in them seeds of mercy and plant them by the river of life.

### Let's teach our kids to shine in this world.

CUCC uses *Shine: Living in God's Light*, a dynamic Sunday school curriculum that engages Christian communities and families in their life together by:

- calling children to experience the transforming power of God's love
- nurturing trust in God and inviting children to follow Jesus
- encouraging imaginative, interactive biblical storytelling
- exploring the meaning of the Bible within the gathered community
- cultivating the inner life of the Spirit through spiritual practices
- expressing faith through lives of
- compassionate peacemaking and service



## Adult Bible Study



We invite you to join some new and some experienced Bible students, walking through the Gospel of Mark.

Why Mark? Mark was the first Gospel to be written and is, in our opinion, the most immediate, the most approachable, and the most human book in the Bible.

We learned that Mark was written at about 65 A.D., in a time of conflict, both within the Followers of the Way and from without by the Roman Empire. We have discovered that the first chapters of Mark are filled with a series of healing stories and miracles. Taken together, they say to us that all are welcome in the church and that the leadership of the church need not worry about the Roman persecution, but just to ignore the storm and sail the boat.

Come join us. We meet in the last room on the left in the Sunday School corridor each Sunday at 9 a.m. Food and drink are welcome, and so are questions, wonderments, disagreements, and agreements. We are walking with Jesus in the words of Mark's Gospel.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

We began a series; viewing and discussing historian Simon Schama's, "The Story of the Jews," on the first Sunday in January.

Schama presents the extraordinary story of the Jewish experience from ancient times to the present day. Both deeply historical and utterly contemporary, this is a compelling film about distinctiveness and difference, separation and isolation, tolerance and prejudice. It is also a celebration of the ways in which Jewish thought, imagination, and achievement have transformed the world for us all. This will provide historical context for the world known to Jesus.

At the conclusion of this series, we will begin a series looking at the roots of Christianity as we view and discuss a series on "From Jesus to Christ-The First Christians."

Come join us in the Library at 9:00 on Sundays. All are welcome!

### Thankful for our Leaders!

As we enter our last Trimester of Sunday School for 2019-2020, please help thank the teachers and leaders of our Sunday School Classes. These wonderful leaders are:

<b>Adult Sunday School:</b>	Bryan Crousore, Rebecca Holley and Mark Duncan
<b>Young Adults:</b>	Alex Oberle
<b>Preschool/K:</b>	Paula Wilson, Audrey Lasley, Pat Forward
<b>First—Fourth:</b>	Kim Oberle, Linda Neale, Gina Pierson, Tricia Price
<b>Fifth—Eighth:</b>	Lena Muench, Jessica Lucas, Tracy Evans
<b>Ninth—Twelfth:</b>	Lauren Helmreich, Kurt Heine, Kristy Odneal



### World Day of Prayer with Church Women United

World Day of Prayer will be celebrated by Church Women United on March 6 at Columbia United Church of Christ.

Each year the service is planned and written by the Christian women of some country in our world. This year the women of Zimbabwe planned the World Day of Prayer service. People all over the world will worship and pray together (each at their own time and place).

You are invited to join with us on March 6th at 9:30 a.m. . We will have a little coffee, breads, etc. The service will start at 10:00 a.m. in our sanctuary.

### CUCC LUNCH BUNCH FEBRUARY GATHERING

On the fourth Thursday of each month, a hearty group of Columbia United Church of Christ members and friends get together for a noon carry-in meal that we like to call the CUCC Lunch Bunch. This group is open to everyone regardless of age or any other determining factor. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring a dish to share. After our meal at noon, we have a guest speaker who presents a program from 12:30-1:30 on topical issues in our community.


**On March 26,** On March 26, Michael Heimos from the City of Columbia Stormwater Education and Outreach Program will be speaking to us about stormwater issues in the city of Columbia and what work is being done to keep waste out of our streams. Come join us for a fascinating talk about how water works in Columbia!

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

### From Your Music Coordinator

As we join our voices together this week to usher in Lent, I am reminded of the role music has in the church calendar. Over the next 40 days the music will guide us to contemplate this season of introspection and learning. It will then guide us through the celebration of Palm Sunday, the passion and sorrow of Good Friday, and the joy of Easter morning.

I encourage you to come be part of the music this Spring at CUCC!

 YOU are welcome . . . whoever you are . . . whatever music experience you have or don't have . . . you are welcome here!

Blessings,  
Kristin Veteto,  
Music Coordinator

## MEMBERSHIP AND CARE MINISTRY TEAM

The Membership and Care Ministry Team is working on several ongoing projects:

**SIGNAGE:** We are working with an electrician to provide lighting for our new sign, and with our sign contractor to provide directional signage for our parking lot. We will be replacing the old directional sign in the circle drive, and installing “Do Not Enter” sign at the exit to the upper parking lot as well as directional arrows on the lot. We are also working with LODO for new signage both at the church entrance, and on the building by the LODO entrance. There is much more coming in the way of signage!

**DIRECTORY:** We just finished coordinating picture retakes for the directory update. 25 New photos will be added to our current directory. We still need to work with the Lifetouch for the final touches, but we should have a new directory soon.

**WELLNESS:** There will be no Yoga Sunday in March, but we will have a special event on April 19. Karri Ball of Restart Programs will be here to talk with us about digestive health, probiotics, and so on. This will be after worship; so plan on sticking around! We are looking at other wellness initiatives, too.

**NEW MEMBERS:** We were thrilled to welcome 5 new members into our church family on February 23! They are: Ed Rollins, Jess Wolfe, Vena Long, Ann Stone Meyer and David Meyer. There will be pictures of them and short bios in the next Communicator.

### CUCC SERMONS ONLINE

Did you miss a Sunday? You don't have to miss the sermon! Catch up online...

Each Monday, the sermon from that week is uploaded to the CUCC website and to the CUCC Facebook page (also Pastor Rick's Facebook page). Check out what you missed!

Website: <https://www.columbiaucc.com/sermons>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Columbia-United-Church-of-Christ-145805378800233/>

*(Just search “Columbia United Church of Christ on Facebook)*

### Sunday Volunteer Schedule for March

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

If you can fill the needed role or a role in the future, please let one of the leaders know.

We appreciate you and we're glad you have chosen CUCC as your church home!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Sound Booth	Hospitality
03/01	Carol Duermeyer Helen Schultz	Jason Schoeneberg Ryan Schoeneberg	Pat Forward	Polly Fuller	Phillip Dennis	<b>NEED</b>
03/08	Donna Marsh Judi Privitt	Llona Weiss Jan Berry	Jessica Lucas	Riley Hayward	John Graves	James Melton
03/15	Keith Birkes Anne Heine	Hugo Wilmsmeyer Christine Staelens	Matt Lucas	Abby Dennis	Dennis Froeschner	Jane Duncan
03/22	Cliff & Sue Beckman	Charlie Marcks Brent Marcks	Judi Privitt	<b>NEED</b>	Doug Privitt	<b>NEED</b>
03/29	Bryan & Sharon Crousore	Dona Helmreich Lloyd Viehland	Jim Loveless	Abby Dennis	Phillip Dennis	<b>NEED</b>



**Everyone is invited!**

**AGING:  
Growing Stronger in  
Faith and Wisdom**

**Saturday, March 21, 10 am to 2 pm**

**Salem UCC**

1500 N Main St, Higginsville, 64037

**To register call Sarah at Salem Church, 660-584-3000**  
Lunch \$10: fund raiser by Salem Youth on Mission



**Learn about**

biblical perspective  
anticipating change  
coping with loss  
caregiving  
grief support

# LODO HAPPENINGS

February brought snow, ice, and lessons on love and friendship! LODO students enjoyed their Valentine celebrations by exchanging valentines, learning about the importance of friendship, ways we can show kindness to others, and hearing about strength in friendship between Ruth and Naomi.

Students also learned all about those pesky “sugar bugs” that create cavities during dental health week. I’ve never seen so many children excited about going home to brush their teeth! Additionally, children learned about healthy and unhealthy food choices. We practice this skill every day during our school snacks and lunches.

February ended on a high note with special guests, Barry and Jolene Kirchoff! Barry and Jolene made our science week exciting by guiding our Lion and Leap Frog students through daily science experiments!

## March Themes:

- ◆ Author Spotlight: Eric Litwin (Pete the Cat)
- ◆ Favorite Bible Stories
- ◆ St. Patrick’s Day/Rainbows/ Noah’s Ark
- ◆ Spring/Bugs/Flowers

## Important March Dates:

- Mar 2 –LODO Enrollment 2020-2021 Begins for New Families
- Mar 11 – LODO CLOSED
- Mar 13 – LODO CLOSED
- Mar 13 & 14 – LODO Staff @ Conference on the Young Years
- Mar 16 – 20 – Parent/Teacher Conferences
- Mar 19 – Dad’s Night
- Mar 23 – 27 – CLOSED (Spring Break)

## **2020-2021 Enrollment (Aug 31, 2020-May 21, 2021)**

Enrollment for the 2020-2021 school year will begin for current families on Sunday February 23. New families may begin enrolling in available spots on Monday, March 2. If you, or someone you know is looking for a loving preschool for next year, please let them know that NOW is the time to tour and get registered. They may contact Erika Maltsbarger at [littleonesdayout@yahoo.com](mailto:littleonesdayout@yahoo.com) or 573-445-2661. Additional information about the LODO program is available at [www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome](http://www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome).

Lightning Bugs Class: Student must be 1 year old before Aug 1, 2020

Lambs Class: Students must be 2 years old before Aug 1, 2020

Lions Class: Students must be 3 years old before Aug 1, 2020.

Leap Frogs Class: Students must be 4 years old before Aug 1, 2020.

## **2020 LODO Summer Camp**

LODO will offer a Summer Camp June 1 through June 26 from 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Enrollment is currently open. Contact Erika Maltsbarger at [littleonesdayout@yahoo.com](mailto:littleonesdayout@yahoo.com) or 573-445-2661 for information and to check on available spaces.

Lambs Class: Students must be 2 years old by June 1, 2020.

Lions Class: Students must be 3 years old by August 1, 2020

Leap Frogs Class: Students must be 4 years old by August 1, 2020.

With Love and Laughter,  
Erika Maltsbarger, Director



## CUCC IS WORKING IN SRI LANKA



The Church of the American Ceylon Mission (CACM) strives to provide educational, medical, and social services throughout Sri Lanka. Their programs offer educational opportunities for children and youth in impoverished communities to help them escape the cycle of poverty. The services are focused on the vulnerable Indian-Sri Lankan minority population whose struggles include unemployment, child labor, human trafficking and abuse, suicide, and emotional trauma. CACM is involved in daycare and preschool programs, after school programs, sports programs, leadership training, and vocational training. CACM's goal is to guarantee young people access to their basic human right to receive an education.

CACM is a Global Missions Partner of CUCC through Global Ministries, our shared mission agency with the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ. Global Ministries provides foundational support for projects of this organization and support for their ongoing efforts. Please keep Global Ministries and CACM in your prayers!

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

March 1-7	Debbie Colvin	working in Ghana
March 8-14	Karen Campbell-Nelson	working in Indonesia
March 15-21	Phyllis Byrd	working in Kenya
March 22-28	Michelle McKay	working in Haiti
March 29-April 4	Fritz Gerald Joseph	working in Morocco



## HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP/NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT



2020 NATIONAL YOUTH EVENT

The CUCC High School Youth will be participating in a Mission Trip July 19-25, 2020. We will be going to West Lafayette, Indiana for two days of mission work and then four days participating in the National Youth Event!

The National Youth Event will be four days of Spirit filled worship, education and fun with 4000 United Church of Christ Youth, Youth Leaders and other leadership from around the country (and even some international guests). It will be held on the campus of Purdue University starting Wednesday, July 22.

We will leave CUCC on Sunday, July 19 after the worship service and spend the 2½ days prior to NYE doing mission work in Indiana. There are several sites we are considering, and we hope to have the details nailed down soon.

This will be an expensive trip! We anticipate the cost to be around \$600/participant. This is more expensive than our usual mission trips, because of the NYE component. In order to defray the cost of this trip, our High School Youth will be hosting several fundraising events this year. We will host a meal on March 15 and another event in May. Watch for more details and keep the youth of CUCC in your prayers!

### YOUTH GROUP FUNDRAISER CHICKEN DINNER MARCH 15

Stick around after worship on March 15! The High School Youth will be serving up a baked chicken dinner with all the trimmings! We will have mashed potatoes, green beans, macaroni and cheese and salad; along with bread and desserts. It will be a great meal! Plan on coming to church hungry and sticking around to fill up after.

This is a fundraising meal for the High School Youth to attend the National Youth Event at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana this summer (see article above). Donations are appreciated, too! You can donate online by going to [www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com) and clicking on the "donate now" tab. Select "Youth Ministry Fund" from the dropdown menu. All donations will go into the Youth Ministry Designated Fund, which is what we use for our trips. We appreciate your help!



**ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN MARCH**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>1 Communion</b> 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship</p> <p><b>12pm Stewardship Dinner with Lisa Key</b></p>	<p><b>2</b> 6pm Outreach &amp; Advocacy Ministry Team</p>	<p><b>3</b> 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir</p>	<p><b>4</b> <b>12pm Book Study</b> 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30pm Confirmation 2020 7:30pm Celebration Singers 8pm Confirmation 2.0</p>	<p><b>5</b> 10:30am Conference Youth Leadership Meeting in CUCC Library</p>	<p><b>6</b> 9-12 CWU World Day of Prayer in Gathering Area</p>	<p><b>7</b> Gateway Open and Affirming Convocation at Parkway UCC</p>
<p><b>8 7:30am Men's Breakfast</b> 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship 12pm Nurture &amp; Education Ministry Team 5:00pm HS Youth at Pastor Rick's House</p>	<p><b>9</b> 6:30pm Building &amp; Grounds Ministry Team</p>	<p><b>10</b> 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir 6pm Food Bank</p>	<p><b>11 LODO/CPS CLOSED</b> <b>12pm Book Study</b> 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30pm Confirmation 2020 7:30pm Celebration Singers 8pm Confirmation 2.0</p>	<p><b>12</b> 9:30am Women's Fellowship 7pm Inclusion Ministry Team</p>	<p><b>13</b> LODO CLOSED—Staff @ Continuing Education Event Church Council Retreat</p>	<p><b>14</b> Fellowship Hall Reserved 9-3 Girl Scouts</p>
<p><b>15</b> 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship <b>12pm Youth Fundraiser Baked Chicken in Fellowship Hall</b></p>	<p><b>16</b> 10am Pastor Rick @ The Bluffs 11:15am Pastor Rick @ Mill Creek 4:30pm Loaves &amp; Fishes</p>	<p><b>17</b> 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir 6:30pm Council</p> 	<p><b>18</b> <b>12pm Book Study</b> 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30pm Confirmation 2020 7:30pm Celebration Singers 8pm Confirmation 2.0</p>	<p><b>19</b> 6pm LODO Dad's Night in Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Membership &amp; Care Ministry Team</p>	<p><b>20</b> April out of the Office Feb Communicator articles due</p>	<p><b>21</b></p>
<p><b>22</b> 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship</p>	<p><b>23</b> April out of the Office LODO &amp; CPS Spring Break</p>	<p><b>24</b> April out of the Office LODO &amp; CPS Spring Break 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir</p>	<p><b>25 April out of the Office</b> LODO &amp; CPS Spring Break <b>12pm Book Study</b> 6:30pm Chapel Ringers 6:30pm Confirmation 2020 7:30pm Celebration Singers 8pm Confirmation 2.0</p>	<p><b>26</b> April out of the Office LODO &amp; CPS Spring Break 12pm Lunch Bunch</p>	<p><b>27</b> April out of the Office LODO &amp; CPS Spring Break</p>	<p><b>28</b></p>
<p><b>29</b> <b>Seminary Sunday</b> 9:00am Fellowship 9:00am Sunday School 10:30am Worship</p>	<p><b>30</b> 6pm Finance &amp; Stewardship Ministry Team</p>	<p><b>31</b> Transgender Day of Visibility 9am-1pm Quilters 10am Staff Meeting 4-6pm Chinese Choir 6pm Alpha Hart PTA Meeting—Intro of CUCC</p>				

# THE COMMUNICATOR

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

### ATTENTION

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

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

### 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.

