

THE COMMUNICATOR

August 2021



From the Pastor's Keyboard

"A Modern Parable"

Hear then the parable:

A virus descends on a small town, and the contagion soon overwhelms the entire community. As the hospital fills up and the death rate rises, the locals seek help. They gather in churches big and small, praying for the sick.

The town doctor stops by the churches to say, "There's a cure for this, let me help."

"No," the townsfolk reply, "We trust in God, not in science."

The death toll continues to climb. Now the people gather in their churches to pray for the sick and for the town's healthcare workers, who are beyond exhausted. A nurse comes by and says, "There's a simple fix for this, all you have to do is get vaccinated. Please do your part to care for others and for yourself."

"No," the townsfolk say, "We trust in God, not in science."

Now the people in the churches are deathly ill and their chances of being killed by this virus are disproportionately high, especially compared to the people outside the churches. Those with the strength to still gather continue to pray for the many people they know who are nearing death.

The doctors and nurses — who by now are utterly fatigued from trying to help combat the effects of this virus for well over a year — plead with the townsfolk to please do their part to eradicate this virus, letting the townsfolk know that 99% of those who die from this virus are the ones who don't get vaccinated.

"No," the townsfolk say, "That is fake news. I trust in God; I don't trust you."

Sadly, many of these pious townsfolk succumbed to the virus. When they got to heaven, they were mad at God. They said, "Why didn't you care for us? Why didn't you answer our prayers? We put our trust in you, and you failed us."

But God answered, "I did care for you. I sent you doctors, nurses, scientists, healthcare workers and vaccines, but you refused them all. I am heartbroken at all the unnecessary suffering, which didn't have to happen."

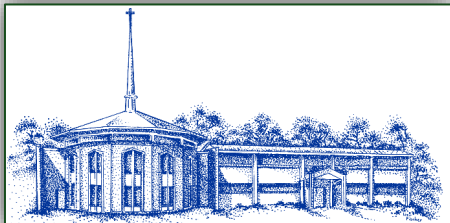
Most often, God comes to us not in flashing displays of light and thunderous cacophonies, but in the everyday happenings in our world. Viruses happen due to the complex nature of biology, but God gifts human beings with the intellect and skills to adapt. Through God's agency, we have been given a gift: the COVID vaccine. As people of God, it is our duty to share the Good News of God's gracious gifts.

In July, over 200 clergy in Missouri (myself included) signed a letter authored by "Word and Way" (an award winning religious publication that has been around since 1896) that has been circulated in local newspapers across the state and publicized in other venues. A portion of that letter states:

"As Christian pastors and ministers in Missouri, we recognize the ongoing public health crisis facing our communities is growing more urgent. The COVID-19 delta variant is creating a spike in coronavirus cases, straining our state's hospitals, healthcare workers, and other medical resources. Local experts and officials are pleading for Missourians to get vaccinated against this devastating virus to alleviate these burdens and avoid unnecessary deaths. We add our voices to these cries . . . God's healing touch can be known through the miracles of modern medicine. We pray every eligible Missourian will get a vaccine so that we all can find renewed freedom from the ravages of COVID-19."

Getting the COVID vaccine (if you are able) is a simple way to serve God, by caring for the most vulnerable of God's children. I hope all will take this Good News to heart, and embrace the blessing God has given us.

-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

[Ed Rollins](#)

Music Coordinator

[Amy Crouse](#)

Organist/Accompanist

[Erika Maltsbarger](#)

Director, Little One's Day Out

[Rai Tolani](#)

Financial Secretary

[Jeremy Sturm](#)

Custodian

Sunday Worship Schedule

Summer 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

Welcome to the Adventure!
VBS 2021– ADVENTURE ISLAND!
August 2 - 4, 2021
5:00 - 8:15 each evening

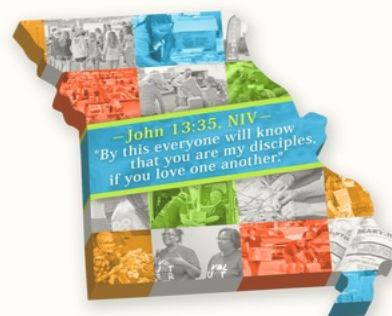


We hope you have signed up for this **FREE**
3 evenings of FUN @ CUCC's Vacation Bible School 2021;
for those ages 3 — finishing 8th Grade!
Don't forget, dinner is included, so all you need to do is show up!
Can't wait to see you there!

Youth School Supply Drive

Please help us with this fun project that is being organized by our Youth. This will also serve as our designated mission collection for Vacation Bible School this year. We will be collecting the following NEW items through Sunday, August 29 (last drop-off is before worship):

- Pencils with erasers
- Markers (10 count only)
- Child sized metal scissors
- Crayons (24 count only)
- Large erasers
- 12-inch rulers
- Medium-point ink pens
- Pencil holders with zipper
- Pocket folders
- 70-page spiral or tape-bound notebook



We welcome everyone to donate as they're able. Simply bring items to church and we'll take it from there! Rather donate money instead? No problem, just add "Youth School Supply Drive" to the memo for your donation and we'll take care of the shopping.

Our Youth (middle and high school) will meet on August 29 after worship to put items into kits for the Missouri Reading & Writing Packs. These will be distributed at the Festival of Sharing's "Sharefest" on September 25, in Tipton, and will be utilized by students throughout Missouri.

Thank you for your support!

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE

Women's Fellowship will take the month of August off, and reconvene the second Thursday of September (9/9/2021). We will be starting the Bible Study, "What My Grandmothers Taught Me," learning from the women in Matthew's genealogy of Jesus. It sounds very interesting, and includes; Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, Mary, and more!

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

FIRST YOUTH EVENT OF THE YEAR 8/29

Parents and Youth – make plans now to be at CUCC on August 29 for our first Youth Event of the year! We will be sticking around after worship that Sunday to work on Reading and Writing Kits for the Festival of Sharing! *(This is for 6th-12th grade youth)*

The Festival of Sharing collects donations of supplies from people all over the State of Missouri and shares them with people in Missouri who are in need. One of their collections is school supplies.

We will be collecting school supplies all month (see article page 2), and on August 29, our youth will be putting them all into kits for distribution.

Sidney Everhart, the Coordinator of Festival of Sharing, will also be here that day to talk with our youth about FOS and the work we do together. She will be bringing more supplies for us to work on, as well.

We will have lunch together, play games, and work on kits; we should be done around 2:00 p.m. Feel free to bring friends! For more information, talk to [Pastor Rick](#) or [Lena Muench](#)!

Dear Friends,

When I think of people making a difference in the world, I think of you.

As a **Heifer** donor, you are turning hunger into hope, and struggle into success. You are giving families in the poorest corners of the world the tools, support, and encouragement they desperately need to achieve a better life for their children and their communities.

That is why I want to extend my warmest appreciation for your recent gift to Heifer; an Ark and funds for Women's Empowerment. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for being a force for good.

By providing goats, chickens, sheep, cows, bees, or another animal — along with education in their care — you're giving a family a gift that will go on to change the future for generations to come. Your gift doesn't stop there, it helps to transform entire communities! The family that your gift initially helped can now pass on their newfound skills and knowledge to others in the community; transforming lives permanently.

It means so much to me that you share my belief in Heifer and the families we serve.

With gratitude, Pierre U Ferrari, President and CEO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Tim & Jo Ellen Grace on the birth of their newest grandson,

Parker Hanwen Grace!

Parker is the Son of Corey Grace & Nancy Liang. Evelyn Grace is Parker's big sister!

Parker was born on July 10, 2021 at 7:06 p.m., weighing 8 lbs 12 oz, and was 21.75" long!

Congratulations to the Grace Family!



Attention: E-mail Address Change

Jan & Dean Barry
barryjd72@gmail.com

Dear Rev. Oberle and Friends,

Thank you for your thoughtful and generous donation to the **Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC)** of Mid-MO. Your support will continue to bring comfort and relief to our guest families, and for that we are truly grateful.

Ashlee Smith, Sr. Dir. of Development

Dear CUCC & CWU,

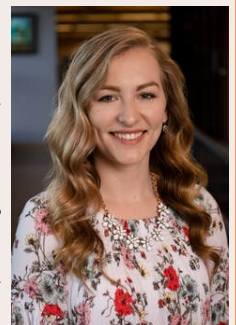
Thank you so much for your donation to **Turning Point**. Because of you, we can protect our volunteers and provide for our community through the pandemic. We are grateful for your sponsorship of our ministry and mission.

Blessings, Turning Point Staff

LUNCH BUNCH—THURSDAY, AUGUST 26

The Festival of Sharing is a cooperative response to world hunger, poverty, and injustice. Their goal is to promote projects and programs by providing funding and resource goods. When people of faith come together and share, we can make a positive and powerful difference in the lives of people in need. This year the [Festival of Sharing](#) will be hosting seven regional events throughout September and October, as well as an [online quilt auction](#). The goal of these events is to connect people of faith in the state of Missouri with a common goal; providing resources for our neighbors in need.

On August 26, Sidney Everhart, the Coordinator of the Festival of Sharing, will be joining us for Lunch Bunch at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to join us and hear Sidney discuss what Festival of Sharing has to offer in the community; for those in need, and those wishing to serve! Bring a dish to share at noon, or bring a sack lunch.



CHURCH COUNCIL

CHURCH COUNCIL NOTES

from the July 20, 2021 meeting

- After Pastor Rick's opening prayer, Linda Neale gave a summary of Chapter 5 of "Piloting Church."
- LED lighting in the Education wing is scheduled to start this week.
- Mike Pierson still needs a few more members for the chancel renovation team, and to set a date for the first meeting.
- With regard to COVID-19, there is a new Public Health Advisory recommending that everyone, vaccinated or not, wear a mask indoors. At CUCC masks are optional for vaccinated adults and encouraged for unvaccinated adults. Even though our policy will not change at this time, the new Public Health Advisory will be posted by the church's entrances so our members and guests are aware of the new advisory.
- Pastor Rick's sabbatical is scheduled for the fall of 2022. He visited with Elena Huegel, Global Ministries Missionary to Chiapas, Mexico, during her recent visit to CUCC. Pastor Rick could possibly work four weeks in Chiapas as part of his sabbatical. He will submit an overall plan later.
- Mark Duncan was appointed Chair of the Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team.
- Jeremy Sturm was hired as custodian. Jeremy started last week and Pastor Rick reports that Jeremy is doing an excellent job.
- The LODO Director's job description has been updated to replace the one in the previous LODO bylaws.
- The Vision Team asks that a member from each of the other ministry teams be present at their 8/5 meeting.
- A large Scout Troop has approach CUCC about possibly using the facility for their meetings. The troop is looking at other locations as well.
- There are 25 potential new members who are attending church regularly. Some have already volunteered to be part of church activities and outreach. Members are encouraged to wear nametags and to greet guests enthusiastically.
- Ministry Team Requests for the 2022 budget are due by 9/1 to the church treasurer.
- Council will serve dinner to VBS guests on 8/3.
- Pastor Rick reported that exciting things are being planned for the youth. Because there are so few high school age participants, 7th, 8th and 9th grades and high school students will remain in one group.
- On 8/10 the Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team will host an ice cream social in Fellowship Hall celebrating the 200th anniversary of Missouri statehood.
- Fall Back Into Church will be August 22, hosted by the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team.
- Pastor Rick will take 11 days of vacation in August. He will be gone 8/8 and 8/15.
- In the financial report, Sue Ann Schaefer pointed out that the \$30,000 other income is PPP money. LODO received \$30,700.
- John Bullerd, Building and Grounds, reported the ceiling tiles in the lower-level hallway will be replaced.
- Tricia Price, Inclusion and Affirmation, reported the commissioned painting by Lisa Jaberg will be displayed soon.
- Next Council meeting is 8/24 at 6:30 p.m.
- Pastor Rick ended the meeting with prayer.

Jessica Jenks, Secretary



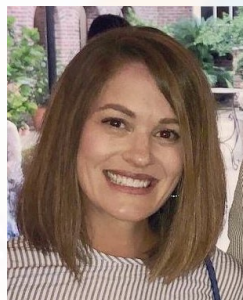
COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kristy Odneal	kristyodneal@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Secretary:	Jessica Jenks	Jessica.jenks@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Sue Ann Schaefer	ssas3307@aol.com
Recording Treasurer:	Brent Marcks	brentmarcks@hotmail.com
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Little One's Day Out:	Lorry Dreier	llhd01@gmail.com
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Nurture & Education:	Linda Neale	lnealej@aol.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music:	Mike Pierson	mpierson@cpsk12.org



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

Happy August CUCC! Our Church Council has been meeting and planning, and we are thrilled about all our church has in store as we move into Fall. Our ministry teams have been hard at work to carry out our church mission this year in very exciting ways. Plans for a great year of Sunday School are underway; we are looking forward to our church's upcoming participation in our community Pride event, LODO is preparing for a wonderful school year, arrangements for our church van are being finalized so transportation can be available for those who need it, and much, much more! As we move into this busier time of our program



year, our Finance and Stewardship Team is working on innovative ways to discover the many talents of CUCC members so that everyone can be involved in ways they love.

We also continue to discuss the everchanging dynamics of COVID-19 in order to maintain safety and provide information and assistance to our congregation. We hope everyone is feeling this excitement and is ready for a fulfilling, inspiring year at CUCC! God's blessings to all of you.

Kristy Odneal, Moderator

MEET OUR NEW CUSTODIAN!

Jeremy Sturm began working for CUCC on July 13 as our new custodian! We are thrilled to have him on board. Jeremy will be complementing the work that is done by our cleaning service, who are here on Thursday mornings. Jeremy will be available for special projects and organization projects around the church, as well as general maintenance and custodial duties.



Jeremy is working here 10 hours/week; usually Monday/Tuesday and Thursday/Friday. He is also an Assistant Manager at Harbor Freight Tools, so his schedule here will fluctuate according to his schedule at Harbor Freight. He previously worked as a Department Manager at Westlake Ace Hardware.

Be sure to welcome Jeremy as you see him working around the church; and if you have a special need for his attention, leave a note in his church office mailbox.

CLERGY SABBATICAL

Clergy Compensation Guidelines call for Pastors to receive a three month Sabbatical after five years of service. This is part of Pastor Rick's Call Agreement with CUCC. On September 1, 2022, Pastor Rick will celebrate five years of ministry with CUCC, so the Church Council and the Clergy Personnel Committee are working to negotiate a Sabbatical Plan for Pastor Rick and CUCC. This Sabbatical will take place in the fall of 2022.

A Sabbatical is a time of rest for pastors, but it is not just about rest. It is also a time for education and focused ministry in other areas, to enhance the ministry in the parish when the pastor returns. It is a journey designed for growth; both for the pastor and for the congregation.

Pastor Rick has been talking with Global Ministries and our Mission Partners in Chiapas about the possibility of coordinating some time during his sabbatical with our Mission Partners. This would mean spending four to six weeks working in Chiapas on a special project designed to enhance our work in that area. Elena Huegel, our missionary to Chiapas, talked with Pastor Rick last month about some possible projects that could be coordinated. There are a total of four mission agencies in Chiapas that we work with through Global Ministries.

Part of this Sabbatical Time would be a Sabbatical for the Congregation, as well. While another pastor will be "filling in" during Pastor Rick's absence, the congregation will be going through an educational and service process similar to the one Pastor Rick is doing. The congregation will be learning more about Global Ministries, Chiapas, and the mission agencies we work with there; and will be participating in a special project to enhance all of our ministries. Sabbatical time is not just a Sabbatical for the pastor; it is a Sabbatical for the congregation, as well! Watch for more information as this time draws closer!

LODO MINISTRY TEAM



LODO NEWS

We are excited to start our 2021-2022 school year on August 30! Enrollment continues to increase, with limited spaces remaining in our classrooms, and we have new staff members to introduce in September! Help us spread the word about LODO and the loving environment we provide for our young learners.



Little One's Day Out is ready to return to school!

- Monday August 16 – 10:00 a.m. – Staff Planning Meeting/Staff Return to Prepare for the School Year
- Tuesday August 17 – 6:00 p.m. - LODO Staff CPR Training (Fellowship Hall)
- Thursday August 26 – 5:30-7:30 p.m. – Back to School/Meet the Teacher Night
- Monday August 30 – First Day of LODO

With Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger, Director

Did you know that reading to children helps develop their brain, ability to focus, concentration, social skills, and communication skills? LODO loves to have church members and family come to share during story time. If you would like to read to a LODO class, contact [Erika](#) to set up a day and time.

FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for August. We need some spots to be filled, and we'd love to see some new faces sharing their time and talents in this capacity. Part of being in the church family is often expressed by sharing the roles that make all of our members and guests feel welcome. If you can fill the needed role or a role in the future, please let one of the leaders know. We appreciate you!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
08/01	Jolene Kirchoff	Mark & Jane Duncan	Pat Forward	NEED	Pete Jaberg Carissa Graves	Sue Ann Schaefer
08/08	Linda Neale	Mahree Skala	NEED	Zabibu Kibaro	Mike Pierson Doug Privitt	Melba Shaffer
08/15	Jessica Lucas	NEED	Mahree Skala	Kennedy Lucas	Brent Marcks James Melton	Lena Muench
08/22	Judi Privitt	NEED	Connie Loveless	Sadie Tummons	Mike Pierson Josh Muench	Brent Marcks
08/29	Audrey Lasley	Jim Loveless	Seth Smith	Lilly Smith	John Graves Phillip Dennis	Lena Muench

INCLUSION AND AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

It's Party Time!

The Columbia Pridefest celebration will be Saturday, August 28, from 12-noon to 5 p.m. We need your presence to share the joy of this inclusive special event. There will be food vendors, music, other inclusive churches, lots of interesting booths, and loads of people to meet and greet.

We have a [SignUpGenius](#) for registering on line. You can also contact [Tricia Price](#) and she will add your name to the volunteer list. Shifts can be as short as an hour and as long as you want to participate. More info to come. (FYI, Pridefest is two days this year. There is one set of booths and vendors on Saturday, and a different set of booths and vendors on Sunday. We are participating on Saturday, but you can always go back on Sunday and check it out.)

This ministry has also commissioned some art work that will be part of the event as well. Our own Lisa Jaberg has created (and is in the process of creating) some truly imaginative paintings. Our Open and Affirming Covenant proclaims, in words, our dedication to diversity. Lisa's work will show, without words, CUCC's intent to be radically inclusive of all God's children. After all, a picture is worth a thousand words.

Our service to one another is worth even more! Please plan to attend Pridefest! It supports people who have been marginalized, and, in some cases, criminalized just because of who they are. Understanding and acceptance are on the rise. CUCC is an active participant in that trend. Thanks be to God.

Speaking of service, all the ministry teams are looking for new members. New people bring fresh ideas, perspectives, and energy to these functioning bodies of the church. You may receive a call to serve a 1-2 year term. Please prayerfully consider. Your insights are needed.

Peace and Joy!
Tricia Price, Chair and
Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Member



MAKE PLANS NOW TO ATTEND PRIDEFEST IN COLUMBIA AUGUST 28

The Mid-Missouri Pridefest will take place at Rose Music Hall on August 28, 2021. Make plans now to attend! The theme of this year's event is "Pride Lives On." This event is a great time to celebrate God's inclusive love for all of God's children, including and especially those who have been disenfranchised and oppressed by others. Columbia UCC will have a booth there, as we have in years past, and will be sharing the message of God's Inclusive Love with all who attend. We will be looking for people to staff the booth. If you are interested, contact [Alisa Lau-Sieckman](#), [Tricia Price](#), or [Pastor Rick](#)!



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.

CELEBRATE

1821



2021

MISSOURI'S 200th

with FREE ice cream cones and cups!
(the state dessert)



Tuesday, August 10
6 — 8 p.m.



in the Fellowship Hall at CUCC

hopscotch ★ photo spot ★ pick-up sticks ★ washers

August Birthdays to Celebrate!

Kelsey Devenney (08/02)

Karen Webster (08/02)

Chuck Lasley (08/03)

John Bernhardt (08/03)

Kim Major (08/04)

Judi Privitt (08/04)

Diane Maxwell (08/05)

George Zimny (08/07)

David Faust (08/08)

Evelyn Grace (08/12)

Lisa Jaberg (08/12)

Dave Forward Jr. (08/17)

Joe Remeika (08/17)

Sharon Crousore (08/18)

Chelsey Markway (08/19)

Claire Kespohl (08/20)

Everleigh Oberle (08/21)

Sam Duncan (08/26)

Carol Stoll (08/26)

Troy Bentlage (08/27)

Jolene Kirchhoff (08/27)

Adriana Nieman (08/28)

Andie Rapp (08/29)

Anita Sanderson (08/29)

Laurie Frew (08/29)

Elias Walker (08/30)

Harry Besleme (08/31)

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM

SETTING GOALS– STEWARDSHIP IN 2021

August is here and soon classes will begin for the new school year. Whether you remember shopping for school supplies for yourself, or for your kids and grandkids, there always seemed to be excitement in the air. It must be the anticipation of starting fresh with a clean slate, and setting goals you want to accomplish in the year ahead.

I hope sometime during August you can set goals you want to achieve within your church, too. Maybe it's to increase your giving by \$5, \$10, or more per week. Maybe it's to join a Ministry Team and get to know other members by donating your time and resources to help with projects throughout the year.

Often, I hear our members refer to CUCC members as their church family. We are fortunate to have such a loving and giving church family. How would you like to bond with your church family and become more active? Please reach out to any Ministry Team chair or any member and ask how you can help. Many hands make light work.

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion for God loves a cheerful giver.”

(2 Corinthians 9:7)

— Paula Wilson



MID YEAR 2021 JOYFUL GIVING UPDATE

Hello All.

Council wants to make all congregants aware of the church's current financial position. **As of June 30, 2021, we are behind in our Joyful Giving by \$30,623.19.** The good news is that our expenses for the same time period are below the budgeted amount, but only by \$1,224.69. The other good news is that we have time to catch up, the rest of the year, in fact. This congregation has a history of responding to a challenge. This is another challenge that we are facing.

In the mail you will receive a 2021 mid-year giving statement. Please take a moment to review the statement and let me know if you notice any issues.

Brent Marcks
Recording Treasurer
brentmarcks@hotmail.com or 573-819-5145



DESIGNATED FUNDS AT CUCC

Did you know that we have a Designated Fund at CUCC specifically for facility renovation projects and major repairs? The Building and Grounds Fund at CUCC was created in October, 2019, by the Church Council, by combining the former Building and Major Repairs Fund and the former Building Fund II. Since that time, donations have been received by several individuals, some of whom contribute regularly.

Monies from this fund are held in our investments with United Church Funds. We currently have a balance of over \$112,000 in this fund, but we also have several major repairs coming up in the next few years that will deplete this (including replacing 17 HVAC units and resealing our parking lot/driveway).

We also have a Scholarship Fund here at CUCC! This year, three applicants received \$1000 each from this fund. Monies from this fund are also invested with United Church Funds. Applications for the Scholarship Fund are received in the first quarter of each year (due by April 1 each year).

If you would like to contribute to either of these funds to make ministry happen at CUCC, talk to [Sue Ann Schaefer](#), [Brent Marcks](#), or [Kristy Odneal](#) for more information!

TREASURER'S REPORT

-Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer

Financial Update			
	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
June Income	\$17,368.74	\$26,122.05	(\$8,753.31)
YTD Income	\$133,771.62	\$164,394.81	(\$30,623.19)
June Expenses	\$30,667.86	\$29,443.17	\$1,224.69
YTD Expenses	\$160,804.67	\$172,501.36	(\$11,696.69)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$5,790.17	(\$4,602.56)	\$10,392.73
June Attendance	304		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
07/04/21	48	\$4,360.00	\$6,520.00
07/11/21	88	\$3,058.00	\$6,520.00
07/18/21	56	\$3,423.00	\$6,520.00
07/25/21	49	\$8,500.00	\$6,520.00
Total	241	\$19,341.00	\$26,080.00

As of 07/25/2021 we are **\$37,362.19** behind in Joyful Giving for 2021.

CUCC HAS ONLINE GIVING!

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

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

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

FALL BACK INTO CHURCH

Make plans now to be in church on August 22 & 29 for "Fall Back Into Church"

This event, hosted by the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team, will be an exhibition of our Ministry Team work; a celebration of the impact we had on the world during COVID, and a chance to rededicate ourselves to the continuing work and worship of CUCC!

CUCC Members are encouraged to reach out and contact church friends who have not been here in a while and invite them to come back to church. We will also be inviting CUCC Members to bring a friend to church on these days to share the joy of CUCC and our expression of God's Inclusive love.

We will have a meal after worship on August 22, to share in fellowship together, and we will have an opportunity to celebrate our talents as we learn about the exciting work of our Ministry Teams. Make plans now to recommit yourself to the work of this church August 22 & 29 as we **FALL BACK INTO CHURCH!**

CUCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT WORK

The Columbia United Church of Christ Scholarship Fund is a new fund, created in October 2019, by repurposing the former Memorial Education Fund.

The original fund was established in 1972 by Professor H. H. Krusekopf as a memorial to his late wife, Nancy. Over the years, significant contributions to this fund were made in memory of Professor Krusekopf, Elsa Nagel, Seth Brandenburg, Wesley Kirchoff, and Rachel Kirchoff.

The new fund was established to enable continuing education endeavors among all members of this congregation, expanding the range of financial opportunities to continuing education in general, beyond the scope of ministry. Applications for scholarships are due by April 1 each year and are reviewed by a team consisting of the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Chair, the Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair, the Vice Moderator of the Council, and the Pastor. All applicants must not only be church members, but be active in the life of the church.

This year, for our second class of recipients, we had three applicants: **Carissa Graves, Hayley Dennis, and Lindsey Oberle**. All three applicants were heartily approved. Each one received a \$1,000 scholarship to make their college education more affordable.

This fund is invested with United Church Funds, one of ten Designated Funds that make ministry matters happen in earnest in this congregation. It is open to contributions. To donate, talk to [Sue Ann Schaffer](#) or [Brent Marcks](#).

OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM

LOAVES & FISHES

The July 19 meal at L&F consisted of leftover Mexican food from the evening meal when Elena spoke to us about her missionary work in Chiapas. Warmed up, with an addition of rice, it made four big casseroles! Yay! We also served lettuce salad (donated by Patty Beeson), peanut butter & jelly sandwiches (provided by Jessica Jenks), and cookies (provided by Jolene Kirchhoff). Our servers for the evening were Patty Beeson, Seth Smith, Laurie Frew, Anne Heine, and Keith Birkes. We served approximately 96 firsts and seconds. Thank you so much to everyone!

MISSIONARY VISIT AND MEAL

On July 15, Elena Huegel visited CUCC to tell us about her mission work in Chiapas. We had a Mexican Meal (catered by Rio Grande) and then had a great discussion with Elena. There were 52 people present, including several people from other churches.

Elena told us about our work with Global Ministries, and how we make the life-changing work she does possible with our contributions.

She inspired us all by her story, and we are putting together a delegation to visit Chiapas in July, 2022! If you may be interested in attending, talk to [Pastor Rick!](#)

2021 CROP HUNGER WALK COMING UP!

The 2021 CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Hunger Walk is coming up! It is scheduled for September 19, 2021, at Stephens Lake Park.

The CROP Hunger Walk is one of the largest annual fundraising efforts of Church World Service, an interfaith organization formed in 1946 to address hunger and poverty issues around the world in the aftermath of World War II. At that time, seventeen Christian denominations came together “to do in partnership what none of us could hope to do as well alone.” Currently, thirty-four faith groups participate in the work of Church World Service.

CROP Hunger Walks began in 1969 by youth who wanted to do something tangible to enhance the work of Church World Service. Teens in Bismarck, North Dakota and York County, Pennsylvania started the first CROP walk that year, and they have grown ever since. CUCC has been participating in CROP Walks here in Boone County for decades.

Last year, CUCC was the top fundraiser for the Columbia CROP Walk, raising \$2,761. **This year, our goal is to top \$3,000!** We will need your help to do it. Sign up now to raise money for the annual CROP Walk by going to www.events.crophungerwalk.org/2021/team/columbia-united-church-of-christ and joining the CUCC CROP Walk Team! For more information, talk to [Pastor Rick](#) or [Jessica Jenks](#).

A HOPE AND A FUTURE

Human Trafficking is the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit.

The STOP Human Trafficking Coalition of Central MO (CMSHTC) has been working in the local and surrounding communities, combatting Human Trafficking, for over a decade. They offer a monthly meeting to learn more about and get involved in the fight against human trafficking, free educational sessions, and free services to survivors as they move toward a “hope and a future.” The next monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 5 via Zoom. If you’d like a link sent to you, please let April know.

The CMSHTC will be partnering with MACC in Moberly to show the documentary, “Hope Road,” on August 10 at 6:00 p.m. If you are interested in seeing this film, you may register [here](#). You can watch a preview of the film [here](#).

If you have any questions or would like more information about the CMSHTC, please contact [April Rothweiler](#). Change starts with you!

STOP
HUMAN TRAFFICKING
COALITION OF CENTRAL MISSOURI

NURTURE AND EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM

Amy Crousore is going to lead a class on **Music History in the Church** this fall. More information to come so stay tuned (*pun intended*). It sounds fascinating—make sure you don't miss it!

Confirmation

Confirmation Class (9th graders) will resume on Aug 23, 2021, 6:00—7:30 p.m., meeting the first three Mondays of each month. They will be confirmed in November, 2021.

The 2022 Confirmation Class (8th graders) will begin on Wednesday, Oct. 6, 2021.

James Melton will be leading a book study entitled “Living Your Strengths” for **Adult Sunday School** in the Fall. It should be very enlightening! More information to come! We are hoping to have an **Adult Bible Study** class in the fall also.

Sunday School Classes will be divided up as follows:
Preschool - Grade 1, Grades 2 - 5,
Grades 6 - 8 and grades 9-12

Reminder: Safe Church Training is scheduled for Sunday August 1, following Worship.

It is required for all adults who work with children in any capacity in the church. Snacks will be provided. If you are volunteering at VBS this year and are unable to attend on August 1, you will need to fill out and sign the Safe Church form. Contact April in the CUCC office if you need one, and she will send it to you. There will be a second training August 29, if needed for the Fall and remainder of the school year.

Nursery

There will be nursery supervision during Worship all Summer long, from 9:30-10:30.

Thank you to those who volunteer!

Sunday School (Preschool - Adult classes) will resume on Rally Day, Sept 12, 2021.

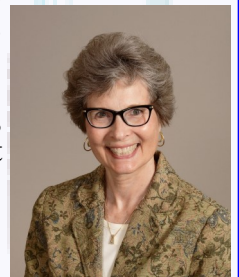
Update on CUCC's Partnership Friend with Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary (AHL):

We are looking forward to the new school year 2021-2022, with students starting in-person again in August. First, we have a new Principal at AHL; Principal Brian Rehg. He replaces Principal De'Vion Moore who accepted a position in CPS Administration as Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Education. Ms. Kelly Isenogle remains as the Assistant Principal at AHL. We are very excited about working with all the folks at AHL. Pastor Rick and I plan to meet with Principal Rehg and others in the near future to discuss our partnership for the upcoming school year.

Until then, we want you to know that the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) in Columbia has started to collect monetary donations for the upcoming school year by collecting \$11.00 per student to provide one student with a new backpack full of school supplies. If you are interested in supporting students in that manner, you can send a check to VAC at 403A Vandiver Drive, Columbia, Missouri 65202, or donate online by visiting www.vacmo.org/bts. This year VAC is only accepting monetary donations for their Back to School Health Fair, which will occur on Saturday, August 7, 2021, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. at Derby Ridge Elementary. Children in attendance will receive a free backpack with school supplies and have the opportunity to attend various booths for health checks, dental checks, hair cuts, mobile food bank, and other social service providers.

Thank you again for supporting our public schools, especially our CUCC—AHL Partnership Friend. Don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Llona Weiss, Liaison for CUCC with AHL Partnership



YOUTH PARENT MEETING – WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2021 6:00 P.M. – DINNER SERVED

The Youth/Parent Meeting will be on Wednesday, September 1, at 6:00 p.m. This meeting is for all youth and their parents, Pastor Rick, and the Youth leaders; to discuss and provide input into programs, activities, classes, etc. for these important members of our Church Community. A meal will be provided! If you have questions, talk to [Lena Muench](#), [Lauren Helmerich](#) or [Linda Neale](#)!

WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

What's Up CUCC Musicians?

Here's what August looks like as we begin to start moving towards rehearsals again (fingers crossed that the Delta variant doesn't alter plans):

August 11, 5:30-7:00 **Handbell Boot Camp**

Ever wanted to see what handbells are all about?
Ever wanted to feel the joy of ringing without pressure?
Ever just wanted to make a joyful noise?

Well, here's your chance!! On August 11 from 5:30—7 p.m., we're going to show off, ring off, experiment, and have an all-around good time experiencing the joy of handbells. Whether you've played for years or have never played, this is the chance to have some fun and maybe even learn a few things you never knew. Boot camp is open to those in middle school through young at heart. Plan now to have a ringing good time.

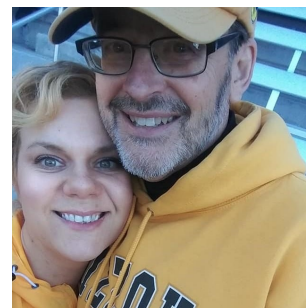
August 18 – 5:30-7:00 **Ringers and Singers Get Together**

As we look to beginning rehearsals, there's nothing like gathering for food! On Wednesday, August 18, our handbell ringers, choir members, and anyone interested in joining the fun, are invited to a beginning of the year picnic. Depending upon the COVID numbers, this will either be at the Rollins-Wolfe home or at the pavilion on the church grounds. A notice will be delivered in plenty of time for you to know where to go and what to bring.

August 25 – 6:30 and 7:30 **Rehearsals begin!**

The handbell choir will start off the fall with a 6:30 p.m. rehearsal, followed by the choir at 7:30. Both rehearsals will take place in the sanctuary. This is a wonderful time to recommit to serving God through music, or to begin to experience the joy of music making for our God. We will need a few ringers to add to the ensemble, and you can never have enough singers! It'll be a great day – we hope to see you “back at it” after nearly a year and a half of very little music making due to COVID.

Ed Rollins, Music Director



MEMBERSHIP & CARE MINISTRY TEAM

Looking for more ways to care for and love thy neighbor, and our congregation? Coming this fall, the Membership & Care Ministry Team will be launching an initiative to organize our care ministries under one umbrella. We're looking for volunteers to cook meals for church families during difficult times, send cards to congregants to celebrate a special event or to brighten spirits, make calls or visits to care facilities, and to help with simple tasks around the home for members in need. We have a place for your talents and passions! Look for a survey around Rally Day to see how you can share your love and care with our congregation!

Jessica Lucas, Chair





CUCC IS WORKING IN EAST TIMOR

The East Timor Education Foundation seeks to “make a world of difference” in the lives of the children of East Timor by building and equipping free schools, open to all children regardless of their religious or ethnic background. This foundation provides the young people of one of the poorest countries in the world with the opportunity for a better future. East Timorese highly value education for their

children. The Foundation works with the residents of a remote village called Lisadila who requested their help in establishing a school for their children. While the population of East Timor is predominantly Christian, the Foundation is non-denominational and works in cooperation with partner churches, including the Protestant Church of East Timor, a partner of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and the United Church of Christ, to support schools like one in Lisadila.

The East Timor Education Foundation 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.

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

August 1-7
Abigail Hernandez
Working in Japan



August 8-14
Rebecca Young
Working in Indonesia



August 15-21
Larry Colvin
Working in Ghana



August 22-31
Sara Makari
Working in Israel



CUCC IS WORKING WITH WOMEN IN CHIAPAS

(condensed from www.globalministries.org)

The International Service for Peace (SIPAZ) was founded in 1995 and is a permanent program supported by an international coalition of civil organizations and religious groups. SIPAZ plays a role in preventing socio-political violence in the communities of the Mexican state of Chiapas and the states of Oaxaca and Guerrero in southern Mexico. SIPAZ operates from a perspective of non-violence that stresses the construction of positive peace.

SIPAZ has identified three primary areas of work:


- **Accompaniment of women and/or women’s groups in rural areas of southern Mexico**
- **Generate increased attention on women’s roles in peace processes**
- **Generate an integral gender perspective within SIPAZ’s activities**

Although many SIPAZ workshops are exclusively for women, the presence of men is also encouraged. Having men in the workshops creates a positive exchange of ideas between women and men, bringing interesting insights to the discussions and reflections. Language is frequently a difficulty because not all SIPAZ staff persons speak the region’s indigenous language, which is ch’ol, and many of the indigenous women do not speak Spanish. The project plans look for women in the communities who can help, both with the preparation and evaluation of the workshops and translation.

SIPAZ is just one of four mission agencies in Chiapas that are supported by CUCC through our relationship with Global Ministries.



ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN AUGUST

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:30am Safe Church Training in Fellowship Hall	2	3	4	5	6 Church Office Closed Pastor Rick on Vacation	7
8 9:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website Pastor Rick on Vacation	9 VBS 5-8pm Pastor Rick on Vacation	10 VBS 5-8pm Pastor Rick on Vacation 10am Quilters	11 VBS 5-8pm Pastor Rick on Vacation	12 Pastor Rick on Vacation	13 Pastor Rick on Vacation	14
15 9:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website Pastor Rick on Vacation	16 Pastor Rick on Vacation 10am LODO Teaching Planning Mtg 4:30 Loaves & Fishes 6:30pm Youth Leaders Mtg	17 10am Quilters 6:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team Mtg 6-9pm Fellowship Hall Booked—LODO	18	19 6:30pm Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team Mtg	20 COMMUNICATOR ARTICLES DUE	21
22 9:30am Worship in person Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website “Fall Back into Church” Meal in Fellowship Hall after Worship	23 6pm Confirmation 7:30pm Nurture & Education Ministry Team Mtg	24 10am Quilters CPS First Day of School 6:30pm Church Council	25	26 12noon Lunch Bunch 5:30-7:30pm LODO Back to School Night in Fellowship Hall 6:30pm Music & Worship Ministry Team Mtg	27	28 
29 9:30am Worship in person Worship also Livestreaming on our CUCC Website Youth Event after Worship	30 LODO 1st Day of School 6pm Confirmation	31 10am Quilters 6:30pm Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team Mtg	1 6pm Parents Meeting in Fellowship Hall (Nurture & Ed)	2	3	4

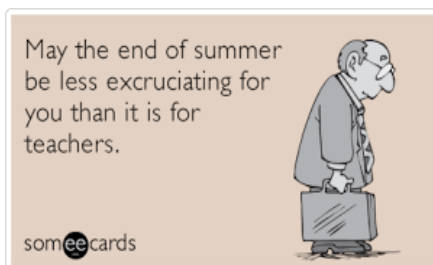
THE COMMUNICATOR

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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.