

THE COMMUNICATOR

January 2023

Happy New Year!

From the Pastor's Keyboard ...

"King Protea and the New Year"

On September 23-24, 1989, Columbia United Church of Christ celebrated our 20th anniversary at this location. On Saturday, September 23, there was a fellowship dinner with reminiscence and good food. Rev. Jerry Jordan and his family returned, and many folks brought pictures of the past.

Sunday morning, September 24, 1989, the congregation celebrated again in worship. On that occasion, they also celebrated the joy of burning the mortgage on this building, a loan they had been paying off since 1969. In honor of the occasion, Ed Kaiser presented the church with a King Protea plant. This plant is the national flower of South Africa and has a unique quality. It not only survives, it thrives in the aftermath of wildfires.

When a King Protea plant is part of a wildfire event, the aftermath of the fire causes the seeds of the plant to be distributed across great distances. The young seeds take root in the burnt soil, and the nutrients from the burning actually aid in the new plant growth. A few months after a wildfire event, the ground is covered with King Protea plants. Ed used this analogy to illustrate the growth that he anticipated happening at CUCC in the aftermath of the mortgage burning. The nutrients of the fertile ground that had been prepared in those twenty years would lead to a great flowering of CUCC.

What happened next was incredible! This church grew, spiritually, as well as numerically. Rev. Brandenburg led this congregation in both celebrating the past and embracing to the future. We learned to be a voice for justice and righteousness in our context. We remodeled the Sanctuary that year (1989) and added an educational wing (1999) as well as our LODO preschool ministry (2002). We grew in many exciting ways.

Fast forward to 2023. We are emerging from a wildfire of sorts in our world today, as well. The COVID pandemic has ravaged our country to a great degree, burning our entire culture to the ground in many ways. Now that the pandemic phase of our relationship with COVID is over, and we are in the managed phase (thanks to the COVID vaccines, God's divine intervention), we are rebuilding from the ashes. Like the King Protea plant, we have the opportunity to scatter our seeds to the winds, causing God's will to blossom and grow all over our context. In the ashes of COVID, the opportunity for new spiritual life is present.

In the past three years of pandemic, expression of faith have changed greatly. Many people discovered a yearning for spiritual connection during this time and are now searching for a progressive faith expression such as ours. Others, who had been active church-goers prior to the pandemic, have drifted away from their faith. Our faith expression as a church has changed, most notably in our online expression, but also in the way we interact day to day. We are growing and blossoming in the aftermath of the COVID wildfire.

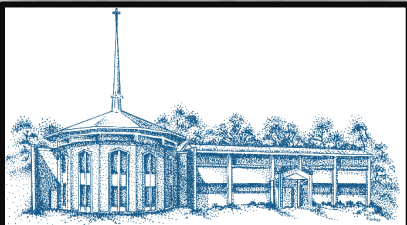
We are now entering a new year. The year 2023 stretches out before us with hope and possibilities. This year for CUCC is very much like 1989 was. We will be introducing a campaign for Sanctuary remodel, just as this church did in 1989. We are celebrating an anniversary (100 years as a congregation), just as they did in 1989. And just like in 1989, we are rebuilding: not from the ashes of the mortgage burning, but from the ashes of the COVID pandemic.



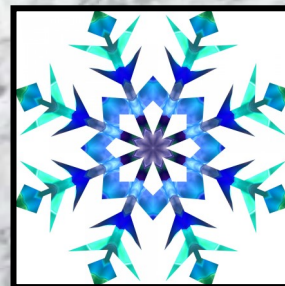
It was expressed at that 1989 celebration that "the best is yet to come for CUCC," and in many ways, that was true. The next 15 years or so were a golden age for this church and for God's will being done in this context. I feel that we are entering another golden time for this church, and as we spend this entire year celebrating and blossoming, I think that phrase is fitting once again, "the best is yet to come for CUCC" as we celebrate our past and embrace our future.

Come be part of the excitement!

-Pastor Rick



News & Updates



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

[Rev. Rick Oberle](#)

Pastor

[Rev. Fred Brandenburg](#)

Pastor Emeritus

[Shelly Adams](#)

Student Pastor

[MJ King](#)

Office Administrator

[Brandon Brown](#)

Music Coordinator

[Amy Crousore](#)

Organist/Accompanist

[Erika Maltsbarger](#)

Director, Little One's Day Out

[Rai Tolani](#)

Financial Secretary

[Caleb Berry](#)

Custodian

Sunday Worship Schedule

9:00 Sunday School
10:00 Fellowship Time
10:30 Worship

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9am- 3pm

Phone:
(573) 445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com

Website:



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GATHERING!

Women's Fellowship meets on the second Thursday of each month from 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. in the upstairs Gathering Area. After a delicious brunch, we participate in the current Bible study and then hold a short business meeting. ***Our next gathering is January 12.*** All women are invited to attend. Come join us for lively discussions during each lesson.

Welcome Our New Administrative Assistant, MJ

I moved to the Columbia area with my husband, Jared, about five years ago. Currently, his younger sister and her two-year-old daughter, River (ask me to see pictures because she is my joy and peace), live with us. Before moving to Columbia, I worked as a Graphic Designer for a small company in Tupelo, MS and before that, as a writing center consultant at the local community college in Fulton, MS. I graduated with honors at Houston High School (the same school that Kansas City Chief's Defensive Lineman Chris Jones attended) in Mississippi. I am rather competitive but always friendly with it. My hobbies include reading, playing video games, rolling on the floor with River, watching Disney Movies, bowling, or playing with my four dogs. Feel free to come by and say hi, whenever!



SUNDAY MORNING SNOW POLICY

In case of inclement weather on Sunday mornings this winter, please keep an eye on the cancellations listed on KOMU and KMIZ Television stations, as well as the CUCC website and Facebook page.

If cancelling worship is in question, the Pastor, Moderator, and Vice Moderator will make that call by 7:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning. They will then notify the media, send out a mass email to the congregation, and put notice on the church's Facebook page and website immediately. This information will be posted by 7:15.

If worship is cancelled at our facility, an abbreviated worship will be livestreamed on You Tube and Facebook, at least the scriptures, sermon, and prayers. The extent of what is livestreamed will depend on who can make it to church that morning. Please join with the congregation worshipping virtually as we livestream and join together in virtual community.

If worship is not cancelled, but you feel unsafe venturing out, please stay home. We will still be livestreaming every Sunday, so you can always enjoy worship from home. You can also view the worship at a time other than 10:30! Past worship services are all on our website.





From Your Church Council Moderator...

Things are always busy at Columbia United Church of Christ, but they are perhaps the busiest during the Advent season. We have just concluded this exciting, anticipatory time of year. We enjoyed so many traditions, including decorating the sanctuary, listening to the beautiful musical offerings of the Advent Cantata, enjoying fellowship and delicious food at our annual Advent Banquet, and watching our children's program. Thank you to everyone who contributed to these celebrations! We have also reflected on the birth of Jesus and taken part in the tradition of giving by reaching out and providing gifts to those in need. This act of giving is one of the best parts of our celebration of Christmas.

As we move into this next season of the Church and into the 2023 calendar year, we have many more exciting plans. Along with new and continued ministry activities, we will celebrate the 100th anniversary of Columbia United Church of Christ! I am looking forward to reflecting on our history throughout the coming year and celebrating this milestone together.

With gratitude,

Kristy Hayward, Moderator



FROM THE STUDENT PASTOR - Shelly Adams

Healing Our Divides

Blessings to all of you during this season of hope, peace, joy, and love! I'd like to invite you to join a Sunday morning contemporary issues study on the book *How to Heal Our Divides: A Practical Guide*, a collaboration including a number of well-known Christian theologians and writers, including Brian Allain, Brian McLaren, Diana Butler Bass, Frank Thomas, Michael Waters, Shane Claiborne, and Parker Palmer.



Amazon's description of the book reads: "Recent times have put a spotlight on the deep divisions in our society. Much has been written that acknowledges and describes racial, political, religious, and other divides, but there is little practical information on what we can do about them. *How to Heal Our Divides* features organizations that are taking real action to address these issues and heal divides in effective and practical ways. See how you can help make the world a better place."

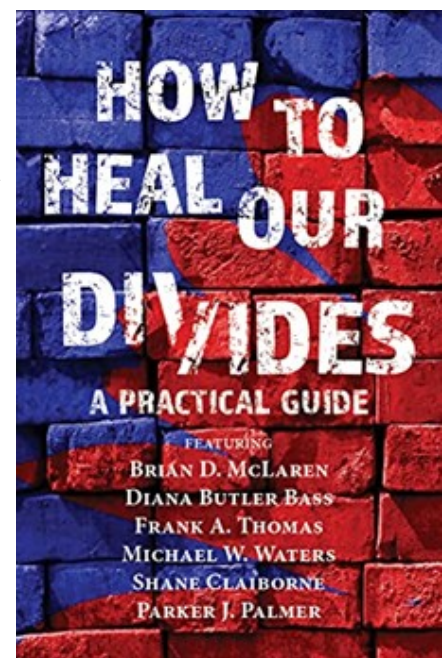
Even within our families, we often experience divides. Many of us spent time with extended family over the holidays, and perhaps some of you experienced the kinds of divides that we will be discussing in this group study. Please join us as we discuss these topics – and more:

- the "why" of our divides
- the importance of healing our divides
- actions we can take that make a difference
- practices of healing and reconciliation
- seeing God in our divides and in our unity
- the power of right relationship

Classes will be meeting January 22, 29, February 5 & 12.

I will be ordering books very soon. If you know you're going to join us for this study, please let me know so I can get a book to you. I look forward to having this important conversation with all of you!

-Shelly



Worship and Music Ministry Team

Sanctuary Remodel

Mike Pierson, Worship & Music Ministry Team Chair

As we come to the end of 2022, we rejoice in some wonderfully uplifting worship experiences at CUCC! Although Pastor Rick was absent from us for a while due to sabbatical, we rejoice that Pastor Dale Parson and the Sabbatical Team guided us through that time with a variety of worship experiences. We have been continually blessed by the music leadership of Brandon Brown. The Chapel Ringers and Celebration Singers repeatedly present music that is vibrant, varied, and spiritually inspiring. The most recent Sermon In Song was one example of their exciting contributions to worship at CUCC!

As for the sanctuary renovation plans, bids for most of the individual projects have been submitted to the Finance & Stewardship Team. They have accepted the overall project as a focal point for 2023. They will be drawing up plans for a fundraising campaign to be presented to Council at the January meeting. If approved, the campaign will take place in the late winter/spring months, and the work will be scheduled to take place sometime during the summer. Projects include: carpet installation, ceiling painting, window replacement, chancel railings, wall painting, and chancel wallpaper replacement. Samples of selected materials are available for all members to look over. Feel free to reach out to me at the end of any worship service, and I will be happy to show them to you. A full display of the designs and materials will be available at the January 22nd 100th Anniversary kickoff potluck!

We look forward to all the excitement that God has in store for CUCC in 2023!



EPIPHANY “ALL STAR” SUNDAY AT CUCC– SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICE

January 8 will be a special day at CUCC, focused on the Magi visit to baby Jesus and the star that guided them there. The Magi were educated scholars, learned in the ways of astronomy, open to guidance and new revelations. Their educated discernment led them to worship God’s presence in the world, revealed in Jesus, as they brought him gifts from their hearts.

We will explore their wisdom in worship that morning with special hymns and musical presentations, and we are asking all of you to bring “Magi Gifts” to worship that morning. Magi Gifts include shampoo, soap, conditioner, body wash, toothbrushes, and toothpaste. All of these are hygiene gifts that we can share with Turning Point, Room at the Inn, and other local agencies that minister to our unhoused population. There will also be special activities in Sunday School that morning. We hope to see you here in worship on January 8 as we share communion together and bring our “Magi Gifts” to lay at Jesus’ feet.

Music in the Holidays



The Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers wish you a happy and prosperous new year in the Lord. We have been blessed with many talented people in our music ministry, and the door is always open for new members! If your New Year’s resolution was to be more committed to the church, consider joining one of the choirs! We look forward to continuing to bring the joy of music in this 100th year!

-Brandon Brown, M.M.,
Music Coordinator



Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team

MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR FASTNACHT



As part of our 100th anniversary year-long celebration, we will be hosting Fastnacht again this year! Fastnacht, “The night before the fast” is a German event observed the day before Ash Wednesday. This year, Ash Wednesday is February 22, so Fastnacht will be February 21. Mark your calendars now to join us for this very special event! We will have German food and German music; it will be fun for everyone! If you would like to help, contact [Stefanie Zimny](#). Watch for more information in the February Communicator!



EAT WITH EIGHT BEGINS IN JANUARY!

Have you signed up for Eat with Eight yet? Sign ups were due January 1, but Anne can still work you in! We will be running the program in January. If you have not signed up yet, talk to [Anne Heine](#) or the [Church office](#)!

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JANUARY

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for January. We would love to see some new faces sharing their time and talents in this capacity. Part of being in the church family is often expressed by sharing the roles that make all of our members and guests feel an extravagant welcome. If you can fill a needed role now or in the future, please let one of the leaders know. We appreciate you sharing your gifts of time and talent with our CUCC family!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
1/1	Susan Dunham	Mahree Skala	Sue Ann Schaefer		Ted Dachroeden & Brent Marcks	Mona Dachroeden
1/8	Carol Duermeyer	Charlie Marcks	Danielle Dreier & Trevor Pierson		Lorry Dreier & Doug Privitt	Melba Shaffer
1/15	Helen Schultz	Llona Weiss & Melba Shaffer	Aidan Pierson		Mike Pierson & Dominick Lee	Sue Ann Schaefer
1/22	Jessica Lucas	Llona Weiss & Pat Forward	Mahree Skala		Judi Privitt & Josh Muench	Mark Duncan
1/29	Melba Shaffer		Pat Forward		John Graves & Carissa Graves	

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kristy Hayward	kristyodneal@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Secretary:	Alethea Tennill	atennill108@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Sue Ann Schaefer	ssas3307@aol.com
Recording Treasurer:	Brent Marcks	brentmarcks@hotmail.com
Building & Grounds:	Ted Dachroeden	gpadoc4gd@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Stefanie Zimny	stefanie.zimny@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship:	Keith Birkes	kbirkes4@gmail.com
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Tricia Price	tricialprice@gmail.com
Little One's Day Out:	Lorry Dreier	lhhd01@gmail.com
Membership & Care:	Jessica Lucas	jlucas@cpsk12.org
Nurture & Education:	Lydia Whitacre	lydiaawhitacre@gmail.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music:	Mike Pierson	mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com



Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

GIVING TUESDAY REPORT



Giving Tuesday was on Tuesday, November 29, 2022. This year, CUCC made a goal of **\$25,000**, and what was collected from Giving Tuesday would go toward Joyful Giving. Now that the event has been completed, we are able to look back and summarize all that was received and provide a report.



CUCC was able to collect **\$26,255.00** toward Giving Tuesday. Thanks to the generosity of this congregation, we were able to meet our Giving Tuesday goal once again. Thank you also to CUCC member Dominick Lee, who produced the promotional materials that helped us publicize Giving Tuesday.

Thanks again to everyone!

Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPE PROGRAM

Starting this month, CUCC offering envelopes will be mailed to congregation members monthly, utilizing an external offering envelope service. This program replaces the old “envelope boxes” that were handed out early in the year. This is one more tool in our Stewardship toolbox. If you wish to be removed from the program, contact the [church office](#). If you do not receive envelopes and would like to be added to the recipient list, contact the [church office](#), as well. Additions/deletions to the list may take up to 90 days to become effective. If you have any further questions, talk to [Keith Birkes](#) or [Brent Marcks](#).

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
Nov. Income	\$22,120.61	\$30,083.33	(\$7962.72)
YTD Income	\$256,204.09	\$295,916.67	(\$39,712.58)
Nov. Expenses	\$24,766.33	\$29,466.39	(\$4700.06)
YTD Expenses	\$327,411.04	\$346,017.90	(\$18,606.86)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$71,206.95)	(\$50,101.23)	(\$21,105.72)
Nov. Attendance	417		

Date	Attendance	Received	Budget
11/6/22	108	\$5,200.32	\$6,655.75
11/13/22	95	\$5,135.00	\$6,655.75
11/20/22	100	\$4,415.50	\$6,655.75
11/27/22	114	\$6,752.01	\$6,655.75
Total	417	\$21,502.83	\$26,623.00

Joyful Giving YTD vs Budget
Jan to Nov 2022



CUCC ONLINE GIVING

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

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

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

Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

Blessings to All as We Enter 2023

The Open and Affirmation Team strives to assist in the welcoming mission of CUCC. We also strive to enlighten and educate on historical and current events. The month of January is set aside as a month to consider what we can do to help those living in poverty, as well as Martin Luther King's vision of peace and prosperity through equality.

Per the US Census of January 2022, 37.2 million Americans live in poverty. To try and put that number into perspective: the entire population of Missouri, in 2022, was just over 6 million. How is poverty measured? By Census Bureau criteria, it involves income, size of family, and inflation index. What does living in poverty look like? By the Family Resources website it means: being "food insecure" or not knowing where your next meal will come from; inability to afford electricity to heat in the winter and cool in the summer; and dependence on public transit which limits ability to get groceries or attend appointments and/or get to work on time.

There is also the issue of homelessness. In the book "Evicted" by Matthew Desmond, a professor of sociology at Princeton, he states, "Without a home, everything else falls apart." Published in 2016, Desmond follows 8 families in Milwaukee that struggle to keep their homes due to being impoverished. One can only imagine how the pandemic has escalated homelessness, food insecurity, etc. for those who were struggling prior to Covid. We will highlight more from Matthew Desmond in bulletin inserts. Spoiler alert: in his research he has found that Habitat for Humanity, and the low-cost housing it provides, makes huge strides in providing relief to individuals living in poverty. Smaller house payments means more money for food, clothing, school supplies. Be assured that our congregational support for Habitat for Humanity, the food bank, local shelters, and schools make a huge positive impact in people's lives. Our work continues ... **As long as poverty, injustice, and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.** Nelson Mandela

Meeting Information from December 2022

Attending were Tricia Price, Tricia Soncasie, Alisa Lau-Sieckman, and Pastor Rick. We received positive feedback from the book study, "You'll Never Believe What Happened to Lacey," and to our presentations regarding Native American Heritage. January 19th is the Columbia Values Diversity breakfast. We will have a table that seats 10. Please let Tricia, Pastor Rick, or the office know if you would like to attend. Our fourth anniversary of becoming Open and Affirming will be celebrated on January 29th. Other upcoming items: celebrating Martin Luther King's vision of equality, Black History Month, Chiapas artwork, and planning a 2023 mission trip there, as well. Please consider joining this Ministry Team. The more perspectives we have, the better we can serve this congregation and our community at large.



In Peace and Joy:
Tricia Price, Chair;

CUCC OPEN AND AFFIRMING/INCLUSION COVENANT

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

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



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

LODO Ministry Team

This New Year may you be blessed with courage and confidence to spread your wings and turn each day into an adventure of learning and fun. – Author Unknown

LODO celebrated the joys of the Christmas season in December. Our students gave a wonderful performance on Thursday, December 15, at our annual Christmas Program. Many thanks to Pastor Rick for leading us in prayer and to Judi Privitt for running the sound booth!

Our classes enjoyed a visit by Jolene Kirchhoff as a guest reader on December 5 and 12! If you would like to be a guest reader, please contact [Erika](#) at least 2 weeks before you would be interested in visiting to set-up a day and time that will work with our classroom schedules.

LODO will be closed December 22 – January 3 for Christmas Break. When students return from break, they will have a few days to review school expectations and jump right back into learning.

January Learning Themes



Winter

Winter Animals



Outer Space

Around the World



Happy New Year!

Erika Maltsbarger,
LODO Director

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

2023 – AN ANNIVERSARY YEAR FOR LODO AND CUCC!

As Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates our 100th anniversary as a congregation, LODO is also celebrating our 20th anniversary as a Christian Preschool in Columbia! The 2002-2003 school year was the first class of LODO, embracing a vision articulated by Rev. Fred Brandenburg, Carole Barner, and the CUCC membership at the time. That first class had fourteen children and two teachers (three counting Erin, the director) and was contained in two classrooms.

My, how we have grown in the past 20 years! We currently have five classrooms, five teachers, two classroom aides, one curriculum director, and our director (Erika). There are currently 49 students enrolled in the program.

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of LODO, we will have a very special worship service on **Sunday, April 30, 2023**. We will welcome former (and current) directors, teachers, parents, students, and Ministry Team members. The whole worship service will center on the LODO ministry program of this church, with special activities after worship. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

Nurture and Education Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS WITH PASTOR RICK

Pastor Rick will be leading the Adult Contemporary Class two Sundays—January 8 & 15—talking about our missions in Chiapas. This is a deeper look at our missions than we have taken previously—new material and understandings will be presented. We will meet in the Sanctuary at 9:00 a.m. If you attended the small group gatherings with Pastor Rick, you had a sample, but there is much more to discuss, including the future of our work with these missions. Join us 1/8 & 1/15! For more about our missions in Mexico, visit the following website: www.iesiimx.org

Sunday School Resumes January 8th!

Join us for the return of Sunday School on January 8th!

Youth Sunday School

We will be kicking off with a Rally Day-style Spirit Sunday, themed for Epiphany: “All Star Sunday”! There will be games, crafts, and snacks for the youth starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Come dressed as your favorite all-star athlete!

Adult Sunday School

Adult Bible Study will again be led on rotation by Phillip Neale, Barry Kirchoff, Shelly Adams, and Pastor Rick. Contemporary Issues will kick off with a two-week class led by Pastor Rick called “Our Missions in Chiapas” on January 8th and 15th, followed by a four-week course called “How to Heal our Divides: A Practical Guidebook” led by Shelly Adams on January 22nd through February 12th. Stay tuned for additional Contemporary Issues classes later in the “semester”!

Calling All Teachers!

We are looking for an additional leader for Adult Bible Study for one Sunday each month. We also have openings in March through May for Contemporary Issues classes (which has a wide flexibility in topics and methods). We would also like to offer a CUCC Heritage class in late February in honor of the upcoming 100th anniversary. Please reach out to [Pastor Rick](#) or [Lydia Whitacre](#) if you are interested in teaching this or any other class!

Nurture & Education Recent Events in Review

Cookies by the Pound on December 11th was a big success! We raised over \$500 for our Nurture & Education Designated Fund and completely sold out of cookies! A big THANK YOU to all those who made and donated cookies, those who purchased cookies, and to Gina Pierson and Lorry Dreier who helped run the sales!

The Christmas Program on December 18th was fantastic! A huge THANK YOU to Linda Neale for leading and directing this program and to Paula Wilson for assisting with costume design!

The 2022 Confirmation Class was confirmed at the end of November. They each gave lovely testimonies about their experience in Confirmation and in the church. **Congratulations to Aidan Pierson, Trevor Pierson, Danielle Dreier, and Lawson Flood-Lorber!** We are seeking Confirmands for the 2023 Confirmation Class. Please reach out to Pastor Rick if you have a Confirmation-age child.

OVERVIEW OF IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

- Sunday School Resumes: January 8th
- Spirit Sunday: “All Star Sunday”: Epiphany Sunday, January 8th
- “Our Missions in Chiapas”
Contemporary Issues Class by Pastor Rick: Jan. 8th & 12th
- “How to Heal our Divides: A Practical Guidebook”
Contemporary Issues Class by Shelly Adams: 1/22-2/12
- Spirit Sunday: “Heart Sunday”: February 12th
- Souper Bowl: February 12th

The next N & E Team meeting will be January 12th at 6:30 PM.

Lydia Whitacre
Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair
lydiaawhitacre@gmail.com
(660) 349-0422



Membership and Care Ministry Team

Thank you to our hosts and participants for the Reconnect with Pastor Rick small-group gatherings. Fellowship, reflection, and looking forward were important elements of each gathering. Special thanks to our hosts: Lena and Josh Muench, Melba Shaffer, Connie & Jim Loveless, Judi & Doug Privitt, and Jolene & Barry Kirchoff. Each gathering was well attended, and the conversation was very rich. We appreciate the input from all who attended! Conversation at these gatherings will help us chart the future direction of our church.

As we head into 2023, the Membership & Care Ministry Team has some exciting plans in store for our church! The new Health Ministry Care Team is one of these endeavors. We are also planning to produce a new Church Directory, in conjunction with our 100th anniversary. This new directory will feature an app for your phones to help keep in touch with what is going on at church, and each other. Blessings to you in 2023!

-Jessica Lucas



Health Ministry Care Team

The Health Ministry Care Team is a new initiative through our Membership and Care Committee with the goal to assist members in meeting their health care needs through education, support, transportation, advocacy, as needed. For example, if you need help getting to a health care appointment or a hospital procedure, or have questions about your health, call Anne Heine at 573-529-1543 or the church office. Also, let us know your thoughts of how our Health Ministry Care Team can help you. If you want to participate on our team, we'd love to have you! Our next meeting is **January 8** after church to check our first aid kits. Contact [Anne Heine](#) for more information

Mark your calendars for the following events we have planned: We will be having **Blood Pressure screenings** at our church luncheons before and after church. Our first one will be on **January 22**. Then on **February 12**, Heart Health Month, we will provide **CPR training and information on how to use an AED**. You won't get certified, but you will learn the knowledge and skills to possibly save someone's life! We'll have lunch before this training after church, so if interested, please RSVP to [Anne Heine](#) or the [church office](#).



January Birthdays to Celebrate

Kristy Saylor 1/1	Brian Marcks 1/1	Carol Duermeyer 1/3
Laura Gartner 1/3	Fred Malicoat 1/4	Mahree Skala 1/5
Blake Forward 1/7	Hannah Duncan 1/11	Shelley Brandenburg 1/14
Sara Smith 1/14	Lydia Whitacre 1/14	Steve Devenney 1/15
Dennis Marienfeld 1/15	Kristy Hayward 1/15	Joan Schmidt 1/16
Ann Stone-Meyer 1/16	Asa Zumwalt 1/16	Judy Kaiser 1/17
Makayla Smith 1/18	Troy Bentlage 1/18	Donna Marsh 1/20
Jessica Wolfe 1/20	Bret Arms 1/21	Kalyn Brookshire 1/21
Bryan Forward 1/22	Stephanie Hall 1/22	Seth Smith 1/22
Brandon Schoeneberg 1/22	Shirley Gallaher 1/24	Jolene Hackman 1/26
Dave Forward 1/27	Polly Fuller 1/28	Sue Ann Schaefer 1/28
Jane Beckett 1/30		Alice Moon 1/31

Heritage Team

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF MINISTRY IN COLUMBIA! The 1920s – the Beginning of Our Congregation

One hundred years ago, a lot was happening in Columbia that would affect us as current members of Columbia United Church of Christ. The Heritage Team will be sharing parts of the story each month in 2023 to celebrate our 100th anniversary. This month, we are looking at the 1920s.

A name to remember is Professor H. H. Krusekopf. He was instrumental in getting students and faculty together who had similar beliefs. He attended an Evangelical Church back home. In 1921, Professor Krusekopf held prayer meetings, hosted speakers, and led worship services in his home, at the YMCA, and at the University of Missouri, where he was a professor in the soils department, School of Agriculture. Other leaders at this time were Ella Parmeier, Elsa Nagel, and Caroline Brautigam. These four started our congregation and were still very involved at our church well into the 1960s.

On January 23, 1923, the group was formally organized, calling themselves “The Evangelical Club.” They were officially a mission of the Evangelical Synod of North America (one of the predecessor bodies of the United Church of Christ), providing a college ministry in Columbia on behalf of the Synod.

The first newsletter of the Evangelical Club, dated November 22, 1925, did not have a name, but by the second month, it was “The Elevator.” In 1957, the name changed to “The Headliner.” “The Communicator” came later.

A motto of the Evangelical Club in 1925 stated their identity and purpose: “To strive after righteousness; to seek only the good in each other; to find the true meaning of life in service; and not to yield to less than the best that is in us.” This motto can be just as meaningful to us today as it was back then. Another motto from the 1925 newsletter: “A person cannot sow vice and reap virtue.”

The Evangelical Club grew and asked for a permanent pastor. The Evangelical Synod sent an Eden Seminary graduate, Ralph Abele, to serve as part-time pastor while doing graduate work at Mizzou. Meetings were held at the Bible College of Mizzou. He was in Columbia two years and got the group planning for the future.

The next pastor was Waldo Berlecamp in 1927. He instituted two Sunday services: one in the morning and a Sunday evening social service with discussions, speakers, and vespers.

In 1926, the congregation discerned a need for a building of their own to help serve the students, faculty, and residents. In 1926, a Building Fund was started, but it would be 1933 before a facility was constructed on Hitt Street. In 1928, the Evangelical Women’s Club, the predecessor of our Women’s Fellowship, began meeting.

The Heritage Team is excited about all that is happening this year. Check out next month’s Communicator to find out what happened in the 1930s.

-Melba Shaffer

Celebrating Our Past, Embracing Our Future!

“Celebrating our Past, Embracing our Future” is the theme for Columbia UCC’s 100 year celebration.

January 23, 1923 is the date that University of Missouri students, led by Professor Krusekopf and Elsa Nagel, organized church services at the home of Professor Krusekopf. In honor of that notable event, Columbia UCC Anniversary Committee will be hosting an **all church pot-luck** following worship on January 22, 2023 to kick off a year of remembrances and celebration. Please bring a dish to share and join us!

Additionally, mark your calendar NOW for the “big” celebration **September 30, 2023 and a special worship service on October 1, 2023** – more details to follow in future Communicators.

-Doug Privitt on behalf of the Heritage Team.



Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team

LOAVES & FISHES

The Dec. 19th meal consisted of ham and potatoes (potatoes left from the Christmas banquet and 2 hams that were donated), spaghetti, lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson), cornbread (made by Mary Lorber-Solt), and donated HyVee apple pies. PB&J's were made and donated by Jessica Jenks. Servers were Doug & Judi Privitt, Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Debby (Mary's sister), Patty Beeson, and Keith Birkes. We served approximately 95 firsts and 50 seconds/carryouts. Thank you to the many helping hands! If you are interested in helping, please let [Audrey Lasley](#) know.

Come Serve at the Food Bank

The CUCC Food Bank Crew will be working our usual shift, the fourth Tuesday of the month, all throughout 2023! This month, our work day is January 24.

We are always looking for more volunteers to help! A link will be sent out in January emails for sign ups. We usually start around 5:30 p.m. If you have any questions, contact [Marhee Skala](#) or [Mark Duncan](#).

DONATIONS FOR TURNING POINT

Thank you to everyone who has donated toiletries, socks, hand warmers and other items to Turning Point! This day program provides a much needed respite for folks who are unhoused, or whose housing does not adequately meet their needs.

Wilkes Blvd. Methodist Church, the facility that houses Turning Point and Loaves and Fishes, is also operating this year as an emergency warming center. Each night that the temperature is predicted to drop below 25 degrees, they will be open for the unhoused to find shelter.

With these ministries in mind, they could still use your donations of socks, shampoos, and soaps. Travel size toiletries are especially appreciated. There is a box in the coat room to collect these.

THANK YOU FOR VAC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM SUPPORT

Thank you to everyone who purchased toys, gift cards, and donated money to the Voluntary Action Center Christmas Drive! We adopted 40 individuals and collected over \$1000 to help offset the costs incurred by VAC to provide services to these people in need at Christmas. We also donated \$1250 from our budgeted Special Mission Project funds to VAC to help offset the expenses of this program. This Christmas was much happier for many thanks to your Christmas cheer and willingness to help!

Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary Partnership Friend Update

Thank you Jessica Jenks, Kim Oberle, and Llona Weiss for additional donations of clothing etc. this month to Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School (AHL). The folks at AHL are so grateful, especially in December during the holiday season. Also, we recently provided answers to some questions from Columbia Public Schools (CPS) about our partnership relationship with AHL, and there is a possibility that CUCC-AHL may be highlighted on the CPS website!

Thank you for your support,

Llona Weiss
Liaison for CUCC to AHL, Partner Friend



Pictured above:
Melba Shaffer volunteering in AHL Library



Pictured Left: CUCC items at "stock the lounge" for Parent-Teacher Conferences week

Pictured Right: Llona at AHL with donations.



ALL STAR



Epiphany Sunday

January 8th at 9 AM

Join us for

GAMES, CRAFTS, and COOKIES!

Come dressed as your favorite ALL STAR athlete!



EXCITING EVENTS AT CUCC

January 22: 100th Anniversary kickoff! Potluck meal with entertainment and a presentation of our church history. Bring a dish and share in the good times!

February 21: Fastnacht! With a special focus on the history of this tradition at CUCC.

March 19: Chili Cookoff! Bring your chili recipe and compete for the golden ladle.

April 30: Celebration of LODO! Special worship with LODO focus and activity after.

September 30: Grand celebration of the 100th anniversary of this congregation held at the MU Healthcare pavilion.

October 1: Special worship service with choir alumni, former pastors and church members, and more!

More events to come! Follow us on our special CUCC 100th anniversary Facebook page: [CLICK HERE](#) to join!

Columbia United Church of Christ
100th Anniversary Celebration
 "Celebrating our Past, Embracing our Future"

Save the Date

Save the date for monthly events to celebrate CUCC's 100th anniversary! Each month we will also focus on a decade in the history of our church.

January 22nd
 Potluck after worship service with entertainment & presentation of our history.

February 21st
 Fastnacht with a special focus on the history of this tradition at CUCC

March 19th
 Chili Cookoff and a discussion of CUCC's history of advocacy

September 30th - October 1st
 Come gather round for a night of fellowship and celebration at the MU Health Care Pavilion at the Farmers Market on Ash St. on Saturday afternoon & evening followed by a special worship service on Sunday morning

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Columbia, MO Permit No. 74

Join the celebration! FOLLOW: CUCC 100th Anniversary Celebration page

SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN

After three years of closure, [Camp MoVal](#) is open again, and registration for Summer 2023 opened November 27! It is not too early to sign up for Summer Camp!

NEW IN 2023 – Most of the summer camps will be all ages camps for ages 8-15. Mini-camps are available for ages 7-9. There are specialty camps for Music, Arts and Drama, and STEM skills, as well as High School Leadership Development.

If you register before February 28, the cost is \$499 (prices raise after 2/28), but CUCC will pay \$300 for each CUCC Camper who wishes to attend! Talk to Pastor Rick or Lydia Whitacre for details on Camper Scholarships.

To register today, [CLICK HERE](#)

Camp MoVal 2023

6/4-6/9 M.A.D.D. (MUSIC/ART/DANCE/DRAMA) (AGES 8-18)

6/11-6/16 ALL AGES CAMP (AGES 8-15) *Mini Camp AVAILABLE (AGES 7-9)

6/11-6/16 HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CAMP (COMPLETED GRADES 9-12)

6/18-6/23 ALL AGES CAMP (AGES 8-15) *Mini Camp AVAILABLE (AGES 7-9)

6/25-6/30 ALL AGES CAMP (AGES 8-15) *Mini Camp AVAILABLE (AGES 7-9)

7/5-7/7 FAMILY CAMP (ALL AGES)

7/9-14 S.T.E.M. CAMP (SCIENCE/TECH/ENGINEERING/MATH) (AGES 8-18)

7/16-21 ALL AGES CAMP (AGES 8-15) *Mini Camp AVAILABLE (AGES 7-9)

7/23-28 ALL AGES CAMP (AGES 8-15) *Mini Camp AVAILABLE (AGES 7-9)

7/30-8/4 ADVENTURES IN COMMUNITY (AGES 18+)

International Missions

MISSION WITH CHIAPAS – IMMERSION EXPERIENCE 2023, JUNE 8-15

by Pastor Rick

Churches of the Missouri Mid-South Conference have travelled to Chiapas four times in the past six years, working alongside the [Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research](#), one of our Global Ministries Mission partners in Chiapas. We have worked alongside them in towns and villages, learning about the people of Chiapas and the ways of life in the communities of Chiapas. We have also helped construct a new facility on the grounds at [The Institute](#), a facility that has more than tripled their institutional capacity and ability to do ministry with the people of their communities.

[The Institute](#) is not the only Global Ministries Mission partner in Chiapas. On our last trip, we had the opportunity to work with another one of our Mission Partners, [Melel Xojobal](#), an agency that works solely with children in need. [Melel Xojobal](#) means “True Light” in the indigenous Tzotzil language, and they focus on being a light of hope for children whose only other alternative is the dark of hopelessness.

When I was on Sabbatical in October, I spent a month living in Chiapas, in the city of San Cristobal, working with [The Institute](#) and [Melel Xojobal](#). I was able to fully immerse myself in their work and develop an even greater understanding of the culture, the mission, and the identity of the people of Chiapas. I am very excited to return to Chiapas, and I hope you will join me!

Our next “Mission Trip” to Chiapas will be the summer of 2023! We will leave St. Louis on June 8 and return on June 15. While we are in Chiapas, we will spend most of our time in the city of [San Cristobal](#) working with [The Institute](#) and Melel Xojobal. We will have the opportunity to see several indigenous museums, including the Chocolate Museum, and immerse ourselves in the culture of Chiapas. We will spend time in the marketplaces and worship at an indigenous church. We will learn about the life and context of the Indigenous Mayan communities that make up Chiapas, and we will even do some work, but work is not the focus of the trip. Education and relationship are the focus. The work will be suited for all abilities; all are welcome to come along, from age 16 up to age 90+! (Due to the nature of the trip, we are not encouraging anyone under 16 to participate yet.)

The cost for this trip is \$1500. This includes airfare, lodging for 7 days and 6 nights, food for that timeframe, transportation to and from the airport in Tuxtla Gutierrez and other transportation, and other incidentals. All expenses are included in that price except souvenirs you may wish to buy. For a week-long mission trip, it is very economical. **Everyone who participates must be able to show proof of COVID vaccination and boosters** and have a current passport. I will be talking more about this trip during our Contemporary Adult Education class January 8 & 15. I hope you will join me for these two sessions.

There is a limit of ten people for this trip – so make your commitment early! Due to transportation issues, we cannot have more than this number. If you would like to go, talk to me (Pastor Rick). I have packets with detailed information and registration materials. Registrations and deposits must be turned in by March 1. Registration will include the completed registration form, a copy of your passport, and a copy of your COVID vaccination card.

This will be an amazing, life-changing experience! Make plans now to come along!



Thank You!!

Dear Friend,

Thank you for your contribution to Mobility Worldwide, Columbia (Pet). Rest assured it will be well-spent, giving mobility, joy, and dignity to the deserving recipient.

Dear Rev. Oberle,

The Food Bank's vision is to end hunger in the communities we serve. It is an immense challenge but we know it to be worthwhile. Generosity like yours gives us the confidence to believe it is possible.

Gratefully,

Lindsey Young Lopez
President and CEO



Hello CUCC,

It's a beautiful time of the year! We have been moving and shaking around Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary. Kelly, Jamie, and I were able to get into all the classrooms to complete a "read aloud" where we had students write about how their heart feels when they think about their teacher. It is something we are going to gift to them before they leave for break. It goes along with the book *In My Heart* by Jo Witek. It has been a joy to read about the impact their teachers have made on them already this year!

Our PBS Committee is hosting two movie parties the last week of the semester for students who have shown us that they can be safe, respectful, and responsible. Students have been able to save their Class Dojo points to "spend" on a ticket. It's been a great motivator for our students over this last month. Most of our students earned the opportunity to attend, so we are looking forward to popping all the popcorn and pouring all the hot chocolate for them!

Over the next month or so, we will also be looking to replenish items around the school. If you have any extra of the items listed sitting around, we'd love for you to send them our way! We are looking for: tissues, pencils, sharpies, dry erase markers, sanitizer wipes, individually packaged snacks (such as Cheez-it's or Goldfish), markers, and fidgets (such as pop-it's or squishy toys). Any and all similar items are welcome!

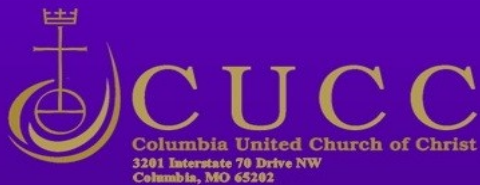
We appreciate all the support you have given us this year — toys, stocking the lounge, etc. We wish you all the best this holiday season and in the new year.



Dr. Amanda Minear

**PRINCIPAL
ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY**

5801 Arbor Pointe Parkway, Columbia, MO 65202
(573) 214-3200



100

th

**Columbia
United Church of Christ**

**100th Anniversary
Celebration**

**"Celebrating our Past,
Embracing our Future"**

Save the Date

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Join the celebration!
FOLLOW: CUCC 100th Anniversary Celebration page

ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN JANUARY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	2 LODO/CPS CLOSED	3 LODO/CPS CLOSED 10:00am Quilters	4 6:00pm Chapel Ringers Practice 7:00pm Celebration Singers Practice	5 9:30am Women's Fellowship 1:00pm Directory Team 6:30pm Nurture & Education Ministry Team		7
8 Epiphany Celebration 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 11:30am Heritage Team 12:00pm Health Care Team <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	9 10:30am Staff Meeting 6:00pm Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall	10 10:00am Quilters 6:30pm Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team	11 6:00pm Prayer Shawl Group 6:00pm Chapel Ringers Practice 7:00pm Celebration Singers Practice	12 9:30am Women's Fellowship 1:00pm Directory Team 6:30pm Nurture & Education Ministry Team	13	14
15 Baptism of Christ Sunday 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	16 Rev. Dr. M.L. King Day LODO/CPS CLOSED 4:30pm Loaves & Fishes 6:30pm Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	17 10:00am Quilters 5:30pm Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team 6:30pm Council Meeting	18 6:00pm Chapel Ringers Practice 7:00pm Celebration Singers Practice	19 6:45am COMO Values Diversity	20	21
22 100th Anniversary Kickoff 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:00am Blood Pressure Screening 10:30am Worship 12:00pm 100th Anniversary Pot Luck	23 10:30am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Membership & Care Ministry Team 6:30pm Worship & Music Ministry Team	24 10:00am Quilters 5:30pm Food Bank 7pm Children's Library Meeting	25 Pastor Rick on Vacation 6:00pm Chapel Ringers Practice 7:00pm Celebration Singers	26 Pastor Rick on Vacation	27 Pastor Rick on Vacation	28 Pastor Rick on Vacation
29 Pastor Rick on Vacation 9:00am Sunday School 10:00am Fellowship 10:30am Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	30 Pastor Rick on Vacation NO Staff Meeting 5:30pm LODO Ministry Team	31 Pastor Rick on Vacation 10:00am Quilters				

THE COMMUNICATOR

Columbia United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation- ONA #1575
3201 I-70 Dr. NW
Columbia, MO 65202-3296
573-445-7931



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Interested in Church Membership?

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

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Columbia United Church of Christ Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant

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

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

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

LODO PLAYGROUND RESPECT

Please help us keep our playground safe for all children by following these guidelines:

- ◆ The CUCC playground is designed for, and should be used by, *only children ages 8 and younger*.
- ◆ Adult supervision is required while children are on the playground.
- ◆ Mulch must stay on the ground. When children dig up mulch it creates holes that are tripping hazards. Children should only dig in the sandbox.
- ◆ Sand should stay in the sandbox. Please do not allow sand to be carried and dumped in the playhouse or on play structures.
- ◆ Use playground equipment in the manner it is intended.