

# THE COMMUNICATOR

June 2019



## From the Pastor's Keyboard

“Pentecost”

*“...I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh, your sons and your daughters shall prophecy; the young shall see visions and the elderly shall dream dreams...” -Acts 2:17*

When the day of Pentecost had come, the Apostles were gathered together in an Upper Room. They were gathered to celebrate the Jewish Holiday of Pentecost or “Shavuot;” 50 days after Passover, when they remember the gift of the Commandments given by God to the Israelites at Mt. Sinai. As they are gathered, a new thing happens; the Holy Spirit invades their meeting space and their very bodies, imbuing them with talents and abilities that exceeded their former understandings. This invasion of the Holy Spirit enabled the first Christian Church to gather, built on the foundation of Peter’s sermon to the crowd. That day, about 3000 persons were added as followers of Jesus.

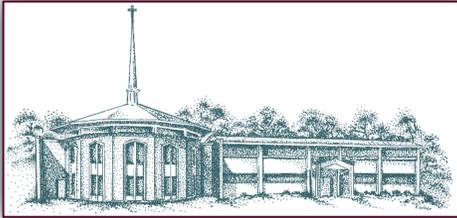
The story arc of the entirety of the Bible contains several basic elements, including these three: God Creating, especially in the midst of destitution or desperation; God’s love being Inclusive of all people, no matter who they are or what society says about them; and God’s perfect will being enacted through fallible human beings and the effects thereof. This story contains these three elements as well. God Creates again in Acts 2, as God continues to do throughout the Bible. (Creation is not limited to the two Creation parables in Genesis 1 & 2 but continues all the way through the Bible to Revelation 22.) God’s Inclusive love is shared with all people, as seen in the sermon by Peter and the Inclusivity detailed in verses 9-10 and 17-18. God’s will is also enacted through human beings, as seen throughout this story beginning with Peter’s sermon and continuing through the “model of the perfect church” in verses 43-47. This story is about God creating community, embracing community, and God’s will being enacted through that community.

This is what the church is about. This is why we exist. This is our identity, who we are; a community Created by God, Inclusive of all people, imperfectly striving to embody God’s perfect will in the world. On Sunday, June 9 we will celebrate Pentecost here at Columbia United Church of Christ; remembering that we are called, just as the early was called to this mission.

During our Acts Bible Study in May, we looked at five selections from Acts (including this one) and asked ourselves of each selection, “How is this text questioning us today?” and “What questions can we ask ourselves, in light of this text?” I invite you to do the same regarding the Pentecost lesson from Acts 2:1-47. How is that text questioning you today? What questions can you ask yourself, in light of this text?

Have a safe and peaceful summer! And don’t forget to visit a house of worship on Sunday morning, wherever you are, and experience their understanding of God’s love in a whole new way. Take God with you on vacation! Blessings!

-Pastor Rick



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

**Rev. Rick Oberle**  
Pastor

**Rev. Fred Brandenburg**  
Pastor Emeritus

**April Rothweiler**  
Office Administrator

**Kristin Veteto**  
Music Coordinator

**Amy Crousore**  
Organist/Accompanist

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

**Lloyd Viehland**  
Building Monitor

**Raj Tolani**  
Financial Secretary

**Starting June 9  
Sunday Worship Schedule**  
NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 a.m. - Coffee and Fellowship

9:30 a.m. - Worship in Sanctuary

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

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

**Email:**  
office@columbiaucc.com



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Save the Date—Sunday, September 22

We will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of CUCC at this location!

If you have a stories or memories you'd like to share, please send your thoughts to the church office no later than July 31.

## End of School Year Picnic

Our next Fellowship & Hospitality Event will be the end of school year picnic after church on Sunday, June 2. Please make and bring a favorite recipe from any church cookbook - it doesn't have to be a CUCC cookbook - and bring the cookbook to display. Your recipe can be an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert. Meat, drink and table service will be provided. It promises to be a fun and delicious time together. Who knows? Your recipe just might make it into the new church cookbook planned by Women's Fellowship!



## Collecting Recipes for the 50th Anniversary Cookbook

If you have a recipe you'd like shared in the cookbook, please submit it in the pot outside the sanctuary labeled "Recipes," or e-mail your recipe to the church office at [office@columbiaucc.com](mailto:office@columbiaucc.com).

On Sunday, June 9th, 2019 CUCC will being the summer worship schedule. This means worship will start at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. This worship schedule will continue throughout the summer, until the start of Sunday School in the fall.



## Silent (Quilt) Auction

This vintage quilt top was hand-pieced by staunch New Englanders, then hand-quilted by our CUCC quilters. Donated by Corinne Remeika, the quilt will be displayed in the gathering area soon for the upcoming silent auction.

## Women's Fellowship Outing—June 13

All (men and women) are invited to join the Women's Fellowship on a guided tour of the Blind Boone Museum on June 13. If you are interested in attending, please be at the Office Depot parking lot downtown at 9:30 a.m. to carpool. Lunch at a nearby restaurant will follow the tour. RSVP by June 11 to Linda Evans at 573-310-3589 or at [lindakayslp@gmail.com](mailto:lindakayslp@gmail.com).

## CUCC Men's Softball Schedule

CUCC vs Forum Christian Church	June 6, 7:00 p.m.	Cosmo Park: Rainbow Orange
CUCC vs Forum Christian Church	June 13, 7:00 p.m.	Cosmo Park: Rainbow Orange



Come out and cheer on your CUCC Men's Softball Team!

### WHY CELEBRATE PRIDE MONTH

by Rev. Rick Oberle

*... when they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God saying, "then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life." -Acts 11:18*

In worship on May 19 we examined how Peter's proclamation of the Good News to the Gentiles, a community excluded by religious orthodoxy because of who they were and how God created them, were brought into the full life of the new Christian Community. Even though their paths and voices differed, both communities agreed to journey in faith together, heeding God's call to full inclusion.

In our culture, due to political and religious polarization in the 1800s, religious orthodoxy and powerful elite have often intentionally sought disenfranchisement of the LGBT+ community based on narrow scriptural interpretation; the same type of behavior condemned by God in the vision God gave to Peter in Acts 10. God commands that all should be included; but those who have been intentionally excluded, especially in the LGBT+ community, know that *"all does not mean all."* In fact, they have learned that *"all does not include us."*

Disenfranchisement of the LGBT+ community was largely accepted in our society for decades; but perhaps the most insidious aspect of this exclusion was loss of dignity among LGBT+ people. Being told that you are not valued by your family, your community and your church damages a person's dignity; and being told that God does not love you because of the way God created you destroys a person's pride.

***Our mission, as Christians, is to restore each one's dignity and save each one's pride.***

One way that dignity and pride is restored to the LGBT+ community is through intentional affirmation during Pride Month each June. Like St. Patrick's Day, Independence Day, Black History Month and other holidays, observances that were created by oppressed communities to claim self-value, claim identity and remember historic struggles, Pride Month is a chance for the LGBT+ community to claim their self-value, claim their identity, and remember their historic struggles. For a community that has been (and continues to be) oppressed and disenfranchised by the majority, Pride Month is a chance to reclaim their lost sense of dignity.

As allies, cisgender people have the opportunity to help restore the dignity of those who have been oppressed; and save the pride if the oppressed by intentionally affirming that God has given, ***even to everyone, no matter who they are***, the blessings of God's Steadfast Love. Pride Month is not just for the LGBT+ community; it is a month of celebration for Christians everywhere.

*...and they'll know we are Christians by our Love...yes, they'll know we are Christians by our love...*

### 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.

## Moderator's Moment

It's an exciting time for the Graves family as we celebrate the graduation of our daughter, Carissa, from high school. But it's also a bittersweet time as you realize your little girl is growing up and starting new chapters in her life. It seems like only yesterday that we were sitting in the east parking lot of CUCC watching Carissa participate in LODO's first ever graduating class. We are so thankful for the Little One's Day Out program and the impact it had in her formative years. The church will be celebrating the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of LODO in 2022 and it's hard to fathom how many young people's lives they have touched in a positive, Christian way. As a ministry of CUCC, we can be proud of the job that Erika Maltsbarger and her staff have done carrying out their mission of "supporting families in their children's education and nurturing children in a Christian setting." Although LODO will be on summer break, our church still supports families and their children this summer with Vacation Bible School from July 28 through August 2. Titled "Roar, Life is Wild, God is Good," this week-long program should prove to be an enriching and fun-filled experience for all who take part.

What a blessing it is to have a vibrant church with lots of young people involved in the life of the church. Even though summer is a time of many activities and possible vacation time for families, it is important to keep your children involved in church life and make coming to church something they look forward to.

Your Church Council continues the work of all our different ministry teams. They have been submitting team descriptions and guidelines that the Council will review and approve. These will be helpful in allowing future Ministry Team leaders and members to understand the functions and responsibilities of each team when asked to serve and provide a guideline for the team's work for the year. The Heritage committee has begun their work on planning for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of our sanctuary building to be held on September 22, 2019. Make sure you put that on your calendar. The ONA committee has also met with their new members and are planning the church's next phase of reaching out as an Inclusive community. Many great things are happening at your church! If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please feel free to call or e-mail me or any Council member, we would love to hear from you.

"Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children."  
Proverbs 17:6

In faith,  
John Graves  
john@downtownappliance.com  
573-999-2087

## Greetings from the newly formed Inclusion Team!

Our current members include: Lindsey Oberle, Ally Jaberg, Lena Muench, Isaiah Jackson-Post, Claire Kesphol, Tricia Price (elected Secretary), Steve Keithahn, Elaine Trout, Pastor Rick, James Melton as Counsel representative, and myself.

We will be prayerfully building a network with the congregation and ministry teams to fully realize our commitment to be completely open and affirming to all God's children.

Several items under discussion include:

- ◆ Participation in Pridefest August 24
- ◆ Celebrating Open and Affirming Sunday June 30<sup>th</sup>
- ◆ Observe calendar events such as Black History Month and Mental Health Awareness Month, etc.
- ◆ Host more educational activities that encourage strength in diversity
- ◆ Identify and implement ways to publicly declare our welcome to all who wish to join us in worshipping the living God.

If you have suggestions, questions or comments, please contact one of the team members.

Respectfully submitted by Alisa Lau-Sieckman, elected Inclusion Team Chair



# FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

## From the Finance and Stewardship Team

Why do we give to the church? The church has been a big part of our lives. Through weddings and births, baptisms and confirmation the church has led the celebrations that mark significant events in our lives. The church has also supported us in difficult times of sickness and loss. We believe others need this same support.

Why do we give to the church? The church plays a big role in the Columbia community supporting Loaves and Fishes, the Food Bank, the Voluntary Action Center, Habitat for Humanity and a myriad of other agencies. Much of our support is hands on volunteering but part is also financial.

So, we give to the church because we see the work the church does in the lives of its members as essential. Same thing for the work the church does in our community. Our engagement with people in need of help within our community is also essential.



Barry Kirchoff

### Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
April Income	\$29,596.75	\$25,660.07	\$3,936.68
YTD	\$109,492.06	\$102,351.71	\$7,140.35
April Expenses	\$24,935.50	\$24,145.56	\$789.94
YTD	\$97,104.70	\$100,429.74	(\$3,325.04)
YTD Income	\$109,492.06	\$102,351.71	\$7,140.35
YTD Expenses	\$97,104.70	\$100,429.74	(\$3,325.04)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$12,387.36	\$1,921.97	\$10,465.39
April Attendance	709		

### TREASURER'S REPORT Doug Privitt, Recording Treasurer

Date	Attendance	Actual	Budget
04/28/19	108	\$3,898.00	\$6,279.43
05/05/19	147	\$11,219.00	\$6,572.13
05/12/19	156	\$4,685.49	\$6,572.13
05/19/19	95	\$2,256.00	\$6,572.13
05/26/19	104	\$3,733.50	\$6,572.13

## CUCC NOW HAS ONLINE GIVING!

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

1. click on this link: <https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/cucc>  
(or type it into your web browser)
2. Access the Kindrid giving site through our CUCC website: [www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)  
and click on the "Donate to CUCC" button.
3. Text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041 and follow the directions on the text you receive back to set up your one time or recurring gift.

Give it a try! Text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041 and check it out!

## LODO HAPPENINGS

Wow! It is already the end of another school year! We have had a blast at LODO and count our blessings each day for such wonderful families and children in our program! Many thanks to the members of CUCC for your support to help make LODO a place where we can help children grow, create, and blossom in a Christian environment.

### **Congratulations to the LODO Class of 2019! We wish you luck as you move on to Kindergarten!!**

We celebrated our Pre-K students at our Graduation Ceremony on Thursday May 23. Many of the students graduating have been a part of our program for multiple years, and we will miss them greatly as they move on to Kindergarten! Hearing their graduation interviews and watching a slideshow of the students' time at LODO always brings so much joy, laughter, and happy tears.

**2019 LODO Graduates:** Sawyer, Sutton, Jocelyn, Charlie, Isabel, Adelaide, Malia, Caleb, Vivienne, Porter, Boden, Isaiah, Parker, Gabe, and Isaac.

Our summer program will run June 3-26 on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 9:00am-1:00pm. We are looking forward to fun summer activities and two water days on the playground!

LODO will be closed July and August with teachers returning August 15 to prepare for the 2019-2020 school year. Students will return for another fun filled year on Tuesday, August 26!

With love and laughter,  
Erika Maltsbarger



### PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please drive slowly in the parking lot. Students and siblings can easily break away from adults in the parking lot. Please be diligent in keeping children with you at drop-off and pick-up times.

Many concerned parents have noted students running back and forth, unattended, in the parking lot after school/at pick-up.

Please remember that it is very difficult for those in vehicles to see children running in front of, between, and behind large vehicles. We appreciate your diligence in keeping everyone safe at LODO.

# FATHER'S DAY

## - GIFT GUIDE -

**SOME**  
Super **Heroes**  
Don't have  
**CAPES...**  
They are  
called **DAD**

© 2012 www.thatswhatdadsaid.net

- Take him to church
- Gift Card to favorite store
- Grill Accessories
- Golf Gift Certificate
- Subscription to Sports Center
- Make Him a Picture
- Steak Dinner
- Straight Razor Shave
- Back Rub

# OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY MINISTRY



## CWS Blankets Plus by Kim Oberle

What are you getting your father for Father's Day? He really has all the neckties and tools that he needs. But there are others in the world who are less fortunate, people in developing countries around the world for whom a warm blanket or the necessary tools to raise a garden or fix up a house could be life changing. They are the ones in need this Father's Day, and you can change their lives.

Church World Services, an ecumenical and interfaith partnership agency working with 30+ denominations and faith groups around the world, has dedicated their agency to changing the lives of the millions of people in need. Through many programs, they give a hand up to God's children who are suffering and meet their basic needs.

One of the programs Church World Services coordinates is the Blankets Plus Program. Through this program, heavy wool blankets are distributed to people in need, in this country and all over the world, and flood victims in the Carolinas and in Africa, victims of natural disasters, and economic downturn. Blankets can be used for shelter, warmth, or to carry supplies. Blankets and tools provided through the Blankets Plus Program change lives.

You have a chance to honor your father this Father's Day by purchasing a blanket in his honor. On June 9 & 16, there will be several Church World Service Blankets on display in the Gathering Area by the Sanctuary along with blank cards and stickers. For \$10 (or more) you can "purchase" a blanket in honor or memory of your father, then take a card, fill it out and give it to him, mentioning that a blanket was given in his honor. Write his name on a sticker and stick it on the blanket. Our goal is to fill our blankets with stickers, showing our fathers how much we love them by loving God's children in need.

### Loaves N Fishes

The May 20th meal at L&F consisted of Mexican casserole (ingredients provided by Erika Maltsbarger), nachos, lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson) and a variety of desserts. Also had pulled pork (found in church kitchen freezer) and rice & corn casserole (from a previous church luncheon) and hot dogs as a back-up food. Servers were John & Brenda Muench, David Martin, Patty Beeson and Lauren Helmreich. Thank you so much to everyone! We served approximately 75 firsts and 53 seconds and carry outs.



### May Food Bank News

Men's Fellowship led the way at the Food Bank on May 14. We put labels on cans of mixed vegetables, and the guys did a lot of heavy lifting, so it was really good to have them there! Thanks to Cliff Beckman, John and Mariann Bullerd, John Graves, Don Helmreich, Brent Marcks, Alice Moon, Mahree Skala and Lloyd Viehland. The food bank closes early during the summer so we won't have another shift until fall.

### CUCC's Strengthen the Church Offering is June 2.

This offering supports the expansion of ministries and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support of this offering will help the UCC fulfill its commitment to create a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.



### Social Justice Issue – Opioid Addiction Prevention Bill to Reach MO Senate Floor

Missouri is not immune to the national scourge of opioid addiction. In 2017, 951 Missourians died of opioid overdoses, one in every 65 deaths in our state. We are not alone in facing this deadly epidemic. But we are the only state in the Union that does not have a statewide opioid prescription registry to help doctors and pharmacists identify opioid abusers or dealers who are doctor- or pharmacy-hopping.

The good news is, the Missouri legislature is debating a bill to establish a statewide Prescription Drug Monitoring System (PDMP). House Bill 188 was overwhelmingly passed by the House and voted "Do Pass" by a Senate committee. It still faces opposition from a small but vocal group of Senators. If you believe Missouri can benefit from a PDMP, like the other 49 states and DC, please let Senator Rowden know of your support. You can e-mail him by going to <https://www.senate.mo.gov/mem19/>, or call 573-751-3931 and leave a message with his office staff.

### PET Goal Met!

The churchwide campaign for Mobility Worldwide (PET) was a resounding success! Our original goal was \$3600 for 12 PETs. Your generous contributions exceeded \$4700, which will provide 15 PETs. Many thanks to all the groups and individuals who pitched in to change the lives of 15 people and their families.

# NURTURE AND EDUCATION TEAM

The last day of Sunday School will be June 2, with a VBS Kick Off during the Sunday School hour for all classes – Preschool through 8<sup>th</sup> grade. VBS is for kids, 3 years old through completion of 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We would love to have our 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders be volunteers at VBS this year. Come and see what the “ROAR” is all about!

**VBS Kick Off**  
**Sunday, June 2, 2019**  
9:00-10:00 am  
Preschool-5th Grade classes  
Come and get a sneak peek of the fun and activities we will experience during Vacation Bible School this Summer.

The Nurture & Education Team would like to thank Lloyd for all his work and help with the P.E.T Races on May 5, 2019. It was great for so many to have the chance to drive a P.E.T. and experience the independence it brings to those who have them.

The children and youth are helping Ronald McDonald House by bringing aluminum can tabs to CUCC. Adults can bring tabs too! Please put your tabs in the boxes in the gathering area.

## MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL PARENTS GATHERING

Parents of our Middle School and High School students- mark your calendars for Wednesday, August 21, 2019 – 6:00pm at Columbia United Church of Christ. The Nurture and Education Ministry Team will be hosting a Parents Meeting for the parents of all Middle School & High School Youth.

The purpose of this meeting will be to prioritize and plan youth ministries for the coming year, Sept, 2019-August 2020. Next year parents are expected to plan and help facilitate the activities and events you want your children to engage in, and help your child prioritize where their Christian Education activities will fit into their own activity schedule for the coming year. Dinner will be provided. Our planning session will start after dinner and will finish by 8:00.

Watch for more information in August; but save the date today! The future scope of Youth Ministry in the coming year will be dependent on your input. For more information, questions or input, talk to Pat Forward.

## Heritage Team Holds First Meeting

The newly formed CUCC Heritage Team held its first meeting on Saturday, May 11, 2019 where the responsibilities and goals of the committee were discussed. The list at this time includes;

1. Planning for celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original church building, September 21-22, 2019.
2. Promulgating a document retention policy; locating, identifying, and organizing all documents that fall under this policy.
3. Begin planning for LODO's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2022.
4. Begin planning CUCC's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration in 2023.

Members of the committee include Jolene Hackman, Ed Kaiser, Barry Kirchoff (secretary), Walter Schroeder, Melba Shaffer, and Doug Privitt (chair).

## Bake Sale for Pentecost

June 9, 9:00 a.m.

in the Gathering Area

Bring some goodies, and buy some goodies to support our Camp Scholarship Fund.

## Safe Church Training

Sunday, August 25, 2019  
following worship.

This training is for all adults who volunteer with the children and youth at church and church sponsored activities.

## The following Memorials were given in memory of Joe Schroeder

Dean & Jan Barry      Charles & Evelyn Marcks      Mark & Jane Duncan      Harold & Jolene Hackman  
Doris Keller      Fred & Carolyn Malicoat      Susan Suhayda

## The following Memorials were given in memory of Shari Schubert

Helen Schultz

## NEW MEMBER DATABASE

Our Church Office has a new database for membership and contributions! Thank you to Doug Privitt who worked hard to enter the data into the new database for our CUCC members and friends.

With our new database, we also have new mailing selections. We are sending the Communicator to all of our CUCC members and friends. If you currently receive the communicator via email and wish to stop receiving a print edition in the mail, send an email to the church office, and we will remove you from the Communicator print edition mailing list.

However, mailed Communicators can also be used as an evangelism tool! Once you have read it, pass it along to someone else to inform them about the great things your church is doing; or just leave it in a public place for someone to pick up. You never know who might pick it up who might really need to read the Good News we offer! God works in mysterious ways! (You can also forward the emailed Communicator each month to friends!)

## CUCC LUNCH BUNCH

On the fourth Thursday of each month, a hearty group of Columbia United Church of Christ members and friends get together for a noon carry-in meal we like to call the CUCC Lunch Bunch. This group is open to everyone regardless of age or any other determining factor. All are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring a dish to share!

After our meal at noon, we have a guest speaker who presents a program from 12:30-1:30 on topical issues in our community. Upcoming speakers include:

June 27 –



*“Lunch Bunch will be on summer hiatus in June and July; but we will reconvene on August 22 with Rev. Sally Robertson talking about the activities of the Columbia Older Adult Ministry.”*

## NEW SERVICE TEAMS BEGIN

**Inclusion Team:** The CUCC Inclusion Team includes Claire Kesphohl, Ally Jaberg, Steve Keithahn, Elaine Trout, Tricia Price, Lindsey Oberle, Isaiah Jackson-Post, Lena Muench, Alisa Sieckman (chair) and James Melton (representing the Church Council). This team had their first meeting on May 23 and is hitting the ground running, discerning ways CUCC can live into our new Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant. They will be focusing on celebrating “Open and Affirming Sunday” on June 30 in worship, and other inclusion tasks (see separate article on page 4).



**Heritage Team:** Ed Kaiser, Walter Schroeder, Barry Kirchhoff, Melba Shaffer, Jolene Hackman, Doug Privitt (chair) and John Graves (representing the Church Council) began meeting on May 11 to start planning the upcoming anniversaries of this congregation. Great ideas are brewing from this group as they are celebrating our history and claiming our heritage, while looking forward to the future for great new endeavors. (see separate article on page 8).

**By Laws Team:** This team, which includes Rev. Bryan Crousore, Keith Birkes, Brent Marcks, Lauren Helmreich, Judi Privitt and Jim Loveless, met on May 28 to look at our current By-Laws to evaluate them and make recommendations to the Church Council for possible amendment. They will meet 3-4 times over the next few months, then disband after their work is completed.

There are several more ad-hoc teams meeting this summer for specific tasks around church including a **Technology Team** to work on new sound and audio visual equipment in the Sanctuary; a **Banner Team** which will be evaluating our worship banners and producing or procuring a more diverse selection; and a **Marketing Team** working on proposing a new church sign by the road, new LODO signage and new directional signs for our parking lot. There is room for more voices at the table! If the work any of these teams are doing excites you, talk to John Graves or James Melton about your involvement!

The primary purpose of the Memorial Education Fund is to encourage theological or Christian education in the United Church of Christ. The fund is to provide financial aid in the form of grants to any woman or man in the congregation who is preparing for ordained ministry, or other religious vocations. Persons are to be (1) encouraged by the church to pursue their religious educational goals, and (2) will be assisted financially as funds will allow.

Funds may secondarily be used to support youth and college groups within the church and to support the education and training of teachers and leaders of Christian Education within the church as the committee shall determine on a case by case basis.

Over the past 44 years the fund has

- 1) provided support to five seminary students,
- 2) funded church school training,
- 3) supported 35 campers, funded the purchase of Bibles for the Sunday School students and
- 4) funded the Youth Leader's attendance of the National Youth Event.

Please contact the church office to get an application or for more information.



The 18th hole at Fantasy Golf Camp.

## General Synod 32- Milwaukee, Wisconsin

...in the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give Glory to God... -Matthew 5:16

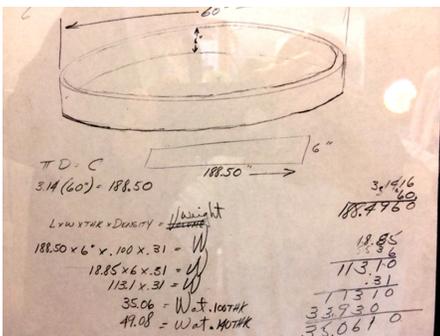
This is the theme for General Synod 32; the biennial gathering of the United Church of Christ for education, worship and service. Every two years, the General Synod convenes as the decision making, deliberation and discernment body of the church; and as it does, the diversity of the United Church of Christ is seen, heard and felt. This year, Synod will be gathering in Milwaukee, Wisconsin June 21-25; and as they do, their deliberations will be on how to let the light of God shine thru us, the United Church of Christ, for all who are entrenched in darkness

Many who hear about General Synod first think of business. It is true, the business of the church happens at General Synod with budgets to pass, offices to fill and decisions to be made. The foundation of the church is set at General Synod, and our local congregations benefit from that foundation.

But Synod is much more than that; it is also about worship, education and service. For five days there are a myriad of opportunities for edification and spiritual fulfillment through worship services, plenaries, forums and discussion panels. Pastors, missionaries, professors, organizers, non-profit leaders and lay members of the church all share knowledge and networking and the church as a body benefits.

And then there are the Resolutions that are brought to the floor of General Synod. Often controversial but always Biblically inspired and faithful, the majority of the resolutions at Synod come from local church settings; people who are passionate enough about issues of faith expression in their local context to share them with the wider church. These resolutions speak to the church, not for the church; and copies of this year's resolutions are available on the table in the coat room at church during the month of June.

Pastor Rick will be attending General Synod along with the Missouri Mid-South Conference delegation during this timeframe. Look for more information from him upon his return!



## Guess the Significance of This Drawing.

Hint 1: It is related to a CUCC celebration planned for September 21-22, 2019.

Hint 2: It has no beginning and has no end.

Hint 3: It is more precious than silver.

For more clues, ask any member of the new CUCC Heritage Team.



## Sunday Volunteer Schedule for June

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for June. As you can see, we are in need of some spots to be filled, and other spots to be shared with new faces. Part of being in the church family is often expressed by sharing the roles that make all of our members and guests feel welcome.

If you can fill the needed role or a role in the future, please let one of the leaders know. We appreciate you and we're glad you have chosen CUCC as your church home!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Sound Booth	Hospitality
06/02	Stefanie Zimny Paula Wilson	Mike & Sharon Rapp	Judi Privitt	NEED	Pete Jaberg	Doug Privitt
06/09	Sue Beckman Bryan Crousore	Brent Marcks Charlie Marcks	Pete Jaberg	Abby Dennis	Phil Dennis	Cliff Beckman
06/16	John Muench Brenda Muench	Christine Staelens	Audrey Lasley	NEED	Carissa Graves	Brent Marcks
06/23	Helen Schultz Carol Duermeyer	Pat Forward	Connie Loveless	NEED	Matt Lucas	Lena Muench
06/30	Stefanie Zimny Audrey Lasley	NEED	Pat Forward	NEED	Doug Privitt	Inclusion Team

## WORSHIP AND MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM

### BANNER TEAM

Are you interested in the aesthetics of worship and sanctuary? Do you have an eye for inspiration? The Worship and Music Ministry is looking for a few volunteers to serve on a banner team. Banners are certainly a part of worship and celebration at CUCC, and if banners are your passion, this is your opportunity to lead! If you are interested in joining or leading the banner team, please contact Peter Jaberg [petejaberg@gmail.com](mailto:petejaberg@gmail.com), or call or text at 618-203-1586.

### From Your Music Coordinator

What a great year! It has been an honor to once again serve as your Music Coordinator this past year. This past year was full of many challenges and I enjoyed learning through them. I want to say a huge "Thank You" to all those who took on significant roles with music including Mike Pierson, Connie Loveless, JoEllen Grace, Linda Neale, Pete & Lisa Jaberg, Harry Beckett....and MANY others. A special thanks to Amy Crousore for her willingness to step in and assist when needed.

This summer will include a wide variety of music. We still have spots open so please contact me if you or someone you know may be interested in sharing their gifts with CUCC in June, July, and August. With that, I am busy planning music for next year. I am interested in what music you as our congregation would like to hear. If you have a few minutes, please send me your thoughts on what you might like to hear this next year. As always, please feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the music at CUCC.

With Gratitude,  
Kristin Veteto  
[kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com](mailto:kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com)  
309-221-3198

### Upcoming

On Sunday, June 9, 2019, CUCC will begin the summer worship schedule. This means worship will start at 9:30 a.m. on Sundays. This worship schedule will continue throughout the summer, until the start of Sunday school in the fall. Let's use the buddy system and spread the word about the change in worship time with friends and family!

Get your red ready! Pentecost is coming up soon (on June 9th). Let's all wear red on Pentecost Sunday and light the fire of our faith! We will also celebrate Holy Communion on June 9.

## CUCC IS WORKING IN LESOTHO

The Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA) is one of Africa's oldest Protestant churches, founded in 1833. LECSA, a partner church of Global Ministries (the shared mission agency between the UCC and the Disciples of Christ), operates approximately 580 primary and secondary/High Schools in the country.

In many classrooms, it is common to find multiple students crowded around a single desk, sitting on benches, or sitting on the floor. Teachers and students need tables, desks and chalkboards to improve learning and teaching conditions. This, in turn, would help classroom performance and give students and staff a sense of dignity.

Seeing this need, Global Ministries helped formulate a plan that would both fill the classroom needs and aid the local community. Since LECSA also operates a local manufacturing center, which has the capacity to build school furniture, Global Ministries initiated a program that provides the manufacturing center with the resources it needs for production, and the center produces needed desks for the children. This is both a "hand up" to the community, and a blessing for the children in need. Global Ministries continues to raise funds for this special project in Lesotho. You can donate to this particular cause by visiting [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org).

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

June 2-8:	Brigitte Eale	working in Kenya
June 9-15:	John Campbell-Nelson	working in Indonesia
June 16-22	Victor Makari	working in Israel/Palestine
June 23-29	Charo Breckenridge	working in Zambia
June 30-July 6	Cindy Moraga	working in Mexico



## HIGH SCHOOL MISSION TRIP TO HIRAM FARM

What is Hiram Farm? Go to [www.hiramfarm.org](http://www.hiramfarm.org) and check it out! This is where our High School youth will be this summer July 21-25, working with Adults with developmental disabilities. We have a great trip planned, including a "fun day" in Cleveland, and a visit to the Amistad Chapel at the National Offices of the UCC and maybe the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame!

Five of our High School youth will be going, along with Pastor Rick, Lauren Helmreich and Kristy Odneal. This promises to be a life-changing adventure for the youth who are attending, learning more about God's call to service and Inclusion in the world. You will hear more about this trip when the youth return as they present opportunities in worship and outside of worship for you to learn more about this mission and this trip.

If you would like to help fund this mission trip, you can do so through your offering by designating a special gift to the Youth Ministry Historic Fund or by selecting "Youth Ministry Fund" from the dropdown menu if you give through the CUCC website or thru Kindrid. For more information on giving to this fund, talk to Christine Staelens or Doug Privitt. Thank you for your support!



In 2008 a dedicated group of parents and professionals came together to fulfill a dream of providing enriching day services for their adult children with autism. Hiram Farm program opened in June of 2009 on a 120-acre organic farm under lease. Six adult workers with autism were served by the program at that time. In the first year, a one-acre organic garden was

planted, twelve small garden plots were made available to gardeners living in the Hiram community, the livestock program began, and a small greenhouse was constructed.

By our second anniversary in June 2011, the program expanded to include 22 adults with autism. Construction work on the barn continued and the farm purchased a house adjacent to the existing property to serve as the administrative offices and program space. Meanwhile, our community garden project doubled in size and the Hiram Farm participants and staff developed a number of craft projects and grew seedling plants to sell to the public.

Over the years, our facilities expanded and we began to welcome adults with other developmental disabilities, in addition to autism, into our programs. In 2017 we welcomed our 31st individual.

**ON THE CHURCH CALENDAR IN JUNE**

<b>Sun</b>	<b>Mon</b>	<b>Tue</b>	<b>Wed</b>	<b>Thu</b>	<b>Fri</b>	<b>Sat</b>
<p><b>2</b> LAST DAY OF SS 9:00am Sunday School 9:30am Fellowship 10:30am Worship 12 pm F &amp; S BBQ Potluck</p>	<p><b>3</b> No Staff Meeting 9-1 LODO Summer School</p>	<p><b>4</b> 9am-1pm Quilters 6:30pm Outreach &amp; Advocacy 7pm Tech Team</p>	<p><b>5</b> <b>Pastor Rick's Birthday!</b> 9-1 LODO Summer School 2-9pm Conference Boundary Training in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p><b>6</b> <b>11-9 Conference Event at Holiday Inn</b></p>	<p><b>7</b> 9-1 LODO Summer School <b>9-9 Conference Event at Holiday Inn</b> 2pm Youth to assemble FOS Kits</p>	<p><b>8</b> 10-12 Chinese Choir <b>9-12 Conference Event at Holiday Inn</b></p>
<p><b>9</b> <b>9:00am Fellowship</b> <b>9:30am Worship</b> Nurture &amp; Education Bake Sale 11am Nurture &amp; Education</p>	<p><b>10</b> No Staff Meeting 9-1 LODO Summer School</p>	<p><b>11</b> 9am-1pm Quilters 6pm Food Bank</p>	<p><b>12</b> 9-1 LODO Summer School</p>	<p><b>13</b> Women Fellowship Outting to Boone Blind Museum 6pm Finance &amp; Stewardship <b>April Vacation</b></p>	<p><b>14</b> 9-1 LODO Summer School <b>April Vacation</b></p>	<p><b>15</b> 10-12 Chinese Choir</p>
<p><b>16</b> <b>Father's Day</b> <b>9:00am Fellowship</b> <b>9:30am Worship</b></p> 	<p><b>17</b> No Staff Meeting 9-1 LODO Summer School 4:30pm Loaves &amp; Fishes</p>	<p><b>18</b> 9am-1pm Quilters 6:30pm Council</p>	<p><b>19</b> 9-1 LODO Summer School</p>	<p><b>20</b> <b>Communicator Articles Due</b> 6:30pm Inclusion Team</p>	<p><b>21</b> 9-1 LODO Summer School <b>Pastor Rick out</b></p>	<p><b>22</b> 10-12 Chinese Choir</p>
<p><b>23</b> <b>9:00am Fellowship</b> <b>9:30am Worship</b></p>	<p><b>24</b> No Staff Meeting 9-1 LODO Summer School <b>Pastor Rick out</b></p>	<p><b>25</b> 9am-1pm Quilters <b>Pastor Rick out</b></p>	<p><b>26</b> 9-1 LODO Summer School LAST DAY 5:30pm Clergy Personnel Committee Meeting</p>	<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p>	<p><b>29</b></p>

# THE COMMUNICATOR

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## RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*The Communicator* is a publication of the Columbia United Church of Christ. The stated purpose is to keep the congregation and our friends in touch with 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 so, please contact  
Rev. Rick Oberle  
for further information  
rick@columbiaucc.com

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 **CUCC**  
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Participants & Volunteers, Register @  
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Life is wild - God is good

## 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.