

THE COMMUNICATOR

June 2024

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

"Why Pride?"

As we move into the month of June, you are going to be hearing a lot about Pride; especially from the Queer Community, but also from the Black Community as we recognize Juneteenth. "Gay Pride" and "Juneteenth" are opportunities to celebrate people who have been disenfranchised by others; but some may inquire as to the importance of these observances. Isn't setting some people apart from others the opposite of what Jesus calls us to do in his prayer for unity in the Garden of Gethsemane?

Well, no. When Jesus calls for unity, he is not talking about homogeneity; that is, pretending that everyone is exactly the same. In fact, Jesus' prayer for unity is about everyone having the faith that is exemplified in Jesus' ministry; that is, love for one another. If we live as Jesus lived, we will be united as one. But we won't all be exactly the same. To truly be united is to recognize each other's diversity and lift them up as examples of God's magnificent Creation. Jesus is not calling for us to "not see" color, sexual orientation, or diverse gender identity or expression. Jesus is calling us to see and celebrate these diversities, and recognize that our diversity is an expression of God's Creativity.

Pride Month originated out of oppression, following the events of the June 28, 1969 Stonewall Rebellion, where a cadre of "secret" police officers raided the Stonewall Inn, a local gay bar in Greenwich, NY. Over 200 members of the Queer Community were assaulted in that raid, and two dozen were arrested. A crowd of supporters gathered that evening and in the days that followed, protesting the oppression and supporting those who had been assaulted. The following year, on June 28, 1970, the first "Pridefest" was held in Greenwich to commemorate the Stonewall Rebellion. The following June, in 1971, there were Pridefest celebrations in Boston, Dallas, Milwaukee, London, Paris, Berlin, and Stockholm; all recognizing the Stonewall event and the need to uplift the marginalized Queer Community. Since then, Pride events have mushroomed all across the country. Today, nearly every major city has some sort of "Pridefest."

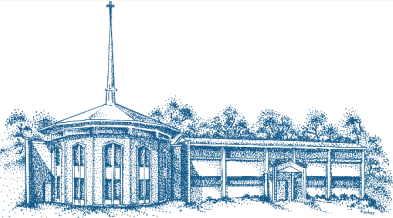
The first Juneteenth celebration was on June 19, 1866, in Galveston, Texas. Juneteenth recognizes and celebrates the final end to the institution of enslaving people in the U.S. Despite the Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, which ordered an end to the institution of enslaving people by presidential decree, many southern states continued the practice. It was not until June 19, 1865, that the final vestiges of slavery were abolished; the final holdout was Galveston, Texas. To commemorate this emancipation, Juneteenth celebrations began the following year. The celebrations, usually organized by churches, spread throughout Texas and the southern states; in 2021 the US Senate **unanimously** passed a proclamation making it an official national holiday.



Both of these observances were born out of oppression. They are expressions of history, identity, and dignity. Historically, it is important to remember what was so that this sort of horrific oppression never happens again. Identity – oppressed people have an inherent need to express their identity as a people. Dignity – when others have tried to steal your dignity from you, it is important to reclaim it. History, Identity, and Dignity are all elements of Pride Month, Juneteenth, and, quite frankly, every holiday we celebrate.

As we lift up our siblings in Christ this month and pray for unity, let us do so remembering their history, celebrating their identity, and affirming their dignity. "That All May Be One" is the prayer of our Savior; and it is our prayer as well. Pride Month, Juneteenth, and similar observances are how that unity may finally be achieved.

-Pastor Rick



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

Casey Wood

Music Coordinator

Steven Jannetti

Organist/Accompanist

Alexandra Roper

Office Administrator

Erika Maltsbarger

Director, Little One's Day Out

Caleb Berry

Custodian

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m. Worship

Office Hours:

**Monday through Friday
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Phone:

(573) 445-7931

Email:

office@columbiaucc.com

Website:

www.columbiaucc.com



News & Updates

WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP TRIP

Calling all ladies - Mark your calendars for our end of the year activity. On June 13, we are taking a road trip to Glasgow, Missouri for a delicious lunch at the Rolling Pin Cafe. Please bring your lunch money and be at church by 9:45 a.m. so that we can arrange to carpool. Don't forget to save room for the pie!

All Women of the church are welcome!

If you have any questions, talk to **Jolene Kirchhoff** or **Jo Ellen Grace**!

SUNDAY MORNING SAFETY

For the safety and security of our church, and the people present, a Church Council member will now be available in the Gathering Area each Sunday during worship. The Council Steward will be available to greet visitors who arrive after worship has begun, assist those who may not feel well, answer questions and give directions to people who need to step out of worship, and monitor the Gathering Area as needed.

Pat Forward, Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair, will be talking to our children and youth over the next several Sundays about being safe at church, including walking - not running - inside our church building, and staying only in the Gathering Area or the sanctuary during Worship. We ask that parents and guardians help reinforce these safety standards and ensure that our children and youth follow these worship guidelines.

JUNE MISSION OPPORTUNITIES

June 2 - Strengthen the Church Offering

The Strengthen the Church (STC) Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations. As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches, and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

June 16 - Church World Service - Blanket Sunday

For those who have gone through a disaster, like a flood or a tornado, a blanket might be an important way to help people in need, and part of the reason we are taking an offering for CWS Blankets. The warmth of a blanket serves a very valuable purpose, sometimes many purposes, but it also tells people who are lonely or hurting that someone cares about them. It's like a hug made out of cloth! Blankets are just one of the many ways that Church World Service helps people in need. So when we give blankets, we're helping families who are going through hard times know that someone cares about them.



CWSBLANKETS.ORG

June Birthdays

Alexander Oberle - 06/01	Jackie Arms - 06/04	Helen Keithahn - 06/04	Rev. Rick Oberle - 06/05	Mark Duncan - 06/06
Kibaro Kakozi - 06/06	Isis Piersee - 06/10	Mark Hall - 06/11	Emily Marcks - 06/11	Garrett Walker - 06/11
Mark Koepke - 06/14	David Meyer - 06/14	Neal Sprick - 06/15	Jamie Rapp - 06/17	Josh Wedemeyer - 06/17
Riley Bach - 06/19	Corey Grace - 06/20	Kitty Rogers - 06/20	Holly Fuller - 06/21	Rachyn Zimny - 06/21
Jonathan Fuller - 06/25	Lauren Helmreich - 06/25	John Bullerd - 06/25	Kelly Major - 06/26	Matt Lucas - 06/27
Mike Williams - 06/27	Tricia Somcasie - 06/27	Lloyd Mickelson - 06/29	Drew Privitt - 06/29	

Sunday Volunteer Schedule for June

Date	GREETERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS	TECH BOOTH
06/02	BRENDA MUENCH JOHN MUENCH	PAT FORWARD CHRISTINE STAELENS	SUE ANN SCHAEFER	CARISSA GRAVES JUDI PRIVITT
06/09	DONNA MARSH	MELBA SHAFFER LLONA WEISS	JESSICA LUCAS	MIKE PIERSON AIDAN PIERSON
06/16	SUSAN DUNHAM	AUDREY LASLEY JIM LOVELESS	LLONA WEISS	JOHN GRAVES BRENT MARCKS
06/23	CAROL DUERMAYER	MAHREE SKALA PHILLIP NEALE	JIM LOVELESS	LORRY DREIER JOSE MUENCH
06/30	SUSAN DUNHAM	JOHN MUENCH BRENDA MUENCH	PAT FORWARD	DOUG PRIVITT

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:

Vice Moderator:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Recording Treasurer:

Building & Grounds:

Fellowship & Hospitality:

Finance & Stewardship:

Inclusion & Affirmation:

Little One's Day Out:

Membership & Care:

Nurture & Education:

Outreach & Advocacy:

Worship & Music:

Pastor:

Kurt Heine

Jerry Kiesling

Alethea Tennill

Deborah Long Birkes

Christine Staelens

Ted Dachroeden

Mary Lorber-Solt

Vacant

Tricia Price

Kristin Veteto

Judi Privitt

Lena Muench

Mark Duncan

Jedd Schneider

Rev. Rick Oberle

heinekurt@gmail.com

rollzierp50@gmail.com

atennill108@gmail.com

dlong@elon.edu

tigersfour@gmail.com

gpadoc4gd@gmail.com

eldercow@gmail.com

tricialprice@gmail.com

kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com

judiprivitt811@gmail.com

cfc323@yahoo.com

markduncan2@mchsi.com

elusive4thtenor@icloud.com

rick@columbiaucc.com



CUCC Church Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. on April 16 by Kurt Heine. Pastor Rick opened us with prayer. Present: Kurt Heine, Jerry Kiesling, Sue Ann Schaefer, Ted Dachroeden, Mary Lorber-Solt, Keith Birkes, Tricia Price, Lorry Dreier, Judi Privitt, Pat Forward, Mark Duncan, Rick Oberle, and Alethea Tennill. Lorry Dreier made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Jerry Kiesling. The motion passed. Tricia Price made a motion to approve the March minutes with a second from Lorry Dreier. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

- ♦ Policy and Procedures Manual Update - Personnel Committee will met May 15 at 6:30 p.m.
- ♦ Land Donation Update - Sue Ann Schaefer has sent the contract, but hasn't received it back.
- ♦ Nominating Committee - Jerry Kiesling said the slate is mostly complete, still waiting on a few more positions.
- ♦ Trivia Night - Trivia Night will proceed on May 11.
- ♦ Car Show August 24 - After some discussion it was decided to table the Car Show for now and to consider having a fall harvest party/talent show.
- ♦ Establishment of a LODO designated Fund - Mary Lorber-Solt made a motion to establish a LODO Designated Fund so LODO parents can contribute to LODO if they wish. It will be seeded with \$1000 from the Mader Fund. Sue Ann Schaefer seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- ♦ Shelly's Graduation - Jerry Kiesling made a motion to give a gift to Shelly on her graduation. The congregation will be notified if they would like to donate. Motion was seconded by Mark Duncan. Motion passed.
- ♦ Annual Meeting is May 19 - We will have an impact poster for the ministry teams, which will focus on the budget. There will not be a zoom meeting during the annual meeting.
- ♦ May 21 is the next council meeting for both the old and new council members.
- ♦ Bring a Friend to Church is Sunday April 21. There will be a Taco Bar in the Fellowship Hall after church.

New Business:

- ♦ HVAC Bid – Council approved a bid to replace units F6 and F9 for \$17,150 last month. We received a bid for a third unit, F5 unit for \$9840. Ted Dachroeden proposed that we also replace the third unit, with a second from Mary Lorber-Solt. Motion passed.
- ♦ Scholarship Recommendations - The Scholarship Committee recommends that we give a \$2000 scholarship to Kaden Lucas, Alex Oberle, and Ember Piersee. Keith Birkes made the motion with a second from Mark Duncan. Motion passed.
- ♦ Annual Pastoral Evaluation - The Personnel Committee will pass out 30 evaluations. Please fill them out and return them.
- ♦ Earth Day will be April 21 - We will plant a new tree that day with help from the Sunday School kids. There will be an Earth Day Booth in Peace Park from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- ♦ LODO Budget for new school year - LODO Ministry Team made a motion to accept the budget presented. Motion passed.
- ♦ Council retreat in June will be discussed at the next Council Meeting. Pastor's Report: Pastor's Report is attached.

Ministry Reports:

- ♦ Building & Grounds - Working on a contract for a window cleaner.
- ♦ Fellowship & Hospitality - Next meeting is April 22.
- ♦ Finance & Stewardship - They will meet and discuss Endowment Fund.
- ♦ LODO: Lorry Dreier - Report Attached
- ♦ Outreach & Advocacy - Meeting was rescheduled. CUCC is featured as a Partner in Education. Clean Up Columbia is Saturday April 20 at 9 a.m. Saturday and Sunday there will be a drive-thru petition for signatures for Missourians for Constitutional Freedom.

Respectfully submitted,
Alethea Tennill,
Secretary



Financials were presented. Pastor Rick closed us in prayer.
Motion to adjourn by Lorry Dreier, second by Sue Ann Schaefer.

Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team

The Importance of Keeping Beneficiary Designations Up to Date

When was the last time you checked to see who was listed as your beneficiary of your Individual Retirement Account, Retirement Plan, Investment accounts, and Checking and Savings accounts? It's vital to keep beneficiary designations up to date and to make sure the assets you've worked so hard to accumulate are passed along according to your wishes.

Life events, such as marriage, divorce, death, and birth of a child, are the ideal time to review and update your beneficiaries. Beneficiaries can be individuals such as:

- A Spouse
- A Non-spouse (child, grandchild, sibling, or other family member or friend)

Or an entity, such as:

- A Trust
- A non-profit organization, or charity (For example our CUCC church would fall in this Category)

You can select a percentage of the account assets to be received by some or all of the above upon your death. Please consult with your Attorney, Tax Advisor or Investment Advisor regarding your particular situation.

Respectfully Submitted,
-Paula Wilson



Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
April Income	\$23,767.32	\$28,540.00	(\$4,772.68)
April Expenses	\$35,793.12	\$30,223.90	\$5,569.22
YTD Income	\$135,312.88	\$123,750.00	\$11,562.88
YTD Expenses	\$131,145.61	\$129,105.64	\$2,039.97
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$4,167.27	(\$5,355.64)	\$9,522.91
April Joyful Giving	\$23,117.32	\$27,500.00	(\$4,382.68)
YTD Joyful Giving	\$131,255.3	\$119,000.00	\$12,255.33

Worship Attendance

Date	Attendance
04/07	91
04/14	83
04/21	99
04/28	89
Average	91

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.

Moderator's Moment

As we welcome our newly elected council members to the party, I find myself becoming reflective on my service as Vice Moderator and Moderator. I am inspired by a fresh group of folks who have answered the call to service in our church.

Though we haven't yet had our first meeting at the time of writing this, I am already energized by their acceptance of the position. I am reminded that the sentiment of service and participation echoes through the ranks of the church, from Rick, our fearless leader, to the smallest child that braves the children's time spotlight and shares their wonderful outbursts! When a need arises, the congregation answers again and again in spades.

Of course, there are the big things, like two-ton air conditioning units and a tastefully updated sanctuary; but there are also the little things, like obtaining a ramp for those who may need to access the stage in a wheelchair, trimming the honeysuckle along the driveway, picking up trash along I-70 drive.

I really do believe that we constantly inspire each other to step in and step up when things need doing. I see it every single day I come in to church, and that is something I think we all can hold dear, and spread throughout our lives outside the circular walls of our building.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kurt Heine, Moderator



Music & Worship

At the end of May, the CUCC Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers will be going on a Summer hiatus. Over the course of this academic year, we have been blessed with great music and fellowship.

I'd like to extend a special thank you to the following individuals:

- ◆ Mike Pierson who is the chair of the music and worship committee. Mike is very supportive and tuned in to the needs of the congregation.
- ◆ Our organist and pianist, Steve Jannetti. Not only is Steve a great organist, but he is so generous and willing to help with the bell choir
- ◆ Our choir section leaders: Quin Wilson, Shannon Martin, and Katie Jones.

During this semester break our congregation will continue to be blessed with excellent music. We have many wonderful solos planned for each service. If you would like to offer your talents in worship during the summer, don't hesitate to reach out! We would love to have you!

I will have some exciting musical engagements this summer, as well. During the month of June, I will be working with a community choir in Utah, The Summit Singers. We, unfortunately, will not have time to have a full season, but we will perform a few short pieces that will go into the ensemble's performance portfolio.

I have also received a conducting fellowship at the International Conductors Training Program hosted by the Cincinnati Conservatory of Music. I will spend a few weeks with them in July. In this program, I will be working with several professional conductors from around the world, preparing the "Requiem" by Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart and the "Gloria" by Francis Poulenc.

We are already thinking about next fall and choir/bell practices beginning in August. This would be a great time for you to join one of our choirs! Practices are tentatively scheduled to resume August 21.

Respectfully Submitted,
Casey Wood,
Music Coordinator



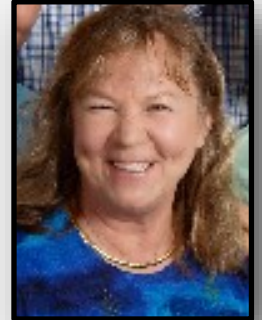
Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team

Greetings! Well, it looks like June is going to be another “busy as a bee” month. Did you know that bees must gather nectar from two million flowers to make one pound of honey? A honey bee also visits 50-100 flowers during one collection trip, and will make only 1/12th of a teaspoon of honey in its lifetime. I am always amazed at these small winged creatures, their dedication to the hive, their work ethic. Forager bees (gatherers) will work until they literally wear out their wings.

I see the same dedication and work ethic in our church family. It was wonderful to see so many helping hands at the congregational meeting/potluck luncheon. Thank you to all! Don't forget: we have the Sunday School Picnic after church on June 2, time change for summer hours starts June 9, and the LODO Rummage Sale is June 27-29. For all those who would like to help in any way, shape or form, please feel free to come to our next Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team meeting on June 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

So, until then, ‘Bee Safe’, ‘Bee Healthy’, and ‘Bee Blessed’!

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lorber-Solt
Fellowship and Hospitality
Ministry Team Chair



Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team

AN OVERVIEW OF THE INCLUSION & AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM

Meetings of the Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team cover a wide variety of subjects and projects. Listed below are just a few of them:

- ◆ Sponsorship of Columbia's PrideFest, with a booth staffed by volunteers from our church.
- ◆ Yearly attendance at the Columbia Values Diversity breakfast.
- ◆ Book studies pertaining to the accomplishments and/or struggles of various oppressed communities in the United States, as well as the world.
- ◆ Creating thoughtful additions to the church including:
 - ◆ a portable ramp to allow access for all to the church chancel
 - ◆ hanging Mayan tapestries in solidarity with our sister community in Chiapas
 - ◆ updating the skin tones of the wooden Nativity to represent the people of Bethlehem
 - ◆ providing our children with reading materials showcasing how our differences make us stronger
- ◆ Partnering with the LGBTQIA+ Choral Spectrum of Kansas City and The Quorus of Columbia.
- ◆ Monthly bulletin and Communicator pieces highlighting individuals and/or groups who have contributed to our understanding of the Glory of God's diverse creation
- ◆ Tours of historical neighborhoods (in St. Louis and Columbia) to understand the past, how we have improved, and where more work is needed to better uplift and support one another.

In our current politically polarized, economically divided, religiously antagonistic, power hungry, and war ravished world, the above programs are meant to enrich, enlighten, and empower God's children to work towards a better life for all.

Regularly attending members include: Tricia Price, Tricia Soncasie, Kristy Hayward, Alisa Lau-Sieckman, and, of course, Pastor Rick. This is a tiny group for such an important church ministry. Per our bylaws, we should have around 8 committee members. We meet about six times a year. Please, consider this a personal invitation to join us. We need your voice, your insight, and your helping hands.

To God be the Glory. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
Alisa Lau-Sieckman



Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

“When I Came Out” is a website with a collection of “coming out” stories.
In honor of Pride Month, we share some here . . .

“When I came out, it was to my grandparents. My mom was on a business trip and my dad was, well, divorced from my mom. I told my grandparents that I was gay. They were at first shocked but they both told me that they loved me to death, no matter how I identify. When my mom came home a few days later, I told her I was gay, and she was extremely supportive. My birthday was two days ago and my mom got me the Gay Pride flag and my grandparents ordered me a rainbow cake. They’re so loving! Hope you guys are supported as well!”

“When I came out, my dad was full of anger. (My mom passed away when I was 12). He kept calling me a disgrace to our family and that I was a mistake. I was heartbroken because I thought being bisexual would be OK to my dad, which now I know it isn’t. My dad still doesn’t support me and always talks bad about me to his friends and our family members. After a few months, I couldn’t hold my anger anymore and I confronted my dad and told him that HE was a disgrace for being hateful and rude. Me and my dad got into a heated argument that night, so I packed my things and I went to my grandparents’ and stayed the night there. My grandparents are extremely supportive and caring, so they were enraged when they found out what my dad said about me. Nowadays, I try my best to ignore my father. It hurts but I don’t want to ruin our bond even further.”

“When I came out, I was sitting in the park with my family. My dad was throwing the old pigskin around with my brothers and my mom was on the phone with a friend and I was doodling in my sketchbook. I didn’t know my mom knew about the LGBTQ and its flags, so when I drew the pansexual flag, she took my sketchbook and asked me if I was pan. Nervously, I said yes, and my mom smiled and hugged me. She called my dad and three brothers over and we celebrated by eating at a fancy restaurant. Now, I live happily with my family and I’m dating a super sweet girl.”

“When I came out as non-binary, I had to come out twice. I’d known I wasn’t my assigned gender since I was eight years old. I came out to my parents for the first time when I was 12. They told me it was ‘just a phase’ and that I was ‘persuaded into this by the media’. I truly thought that they would be supportive since they already knew I was bi. My friends were supportive, but everyone only seems to use my preferred name and pronouns when texting, never at school or to my face. The second time I came out to my parents, I finally got through to them. I was allowed to style my hair how I wanted... but that was it. No name change, they don’t use my correct pronouns, but one day everyone will respect me for who I am. One day, I will be who I want to be, look how I want to look. This is like a mantra I repeat to myself. ‘One day... I will be me’.”

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

Congratulations to our 2023-2024 Pre-K Graduates:
Bennett, Simon, Maddox, Zade, Charlie, Emeri, Josie, Abigail, Griffin, and Max!
We wish you all the best as you leave LODO and head off to kindergarten!

Our graduates were celebrated in a commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 16. We enjoyed hearing each student's answers to their graduation interviews, watched a wonderful slideshow celebrating our graduates' years at LODO, celebrated the class writing project, and ended our evening with a cookie reception.

We now look towards preparations for our 2024-2025 school year. Over the summer, we have a variety of maintenance projects planned, including paint touch-up, carpet cleaning, and waxing of classroom floors. Ms. Erika and Ms. Ashley will also be working on reorganizing the back storage room after our LODO Rummage Sale.

LODO Rummage Sale (June 28 and 29)

Please help us build the LODO Ministry Fund by supporting our Rummage Sale fundraiser.
Ways you can help:

1. Donate your gently used furniture, clothing, books, games, toys, and household goods. All donated items will be offered for sale, and proceeds will go into the LODO Ministry Fund. Donations will be accepted beginning Monday, June 3. We will have a drop-off area in the Fellowship Hall marked to drop off items on Sundays or Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. We will take care of sorting and pricing your donations. Any unsold items will be offered to local non-profit organizations in the community.
2. Shop the sale and share news of the sale with family members and friends in the community.

Please share our social media posts advertising the sale.
Friday, June 28 - Open 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Saturday, June 29 - Open 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

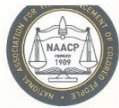
In Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger



Have a great Summer!

2024-2025 Important Dates

Monday, August 12
LODO Staff Annual Planning Meeting
9:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 22
LODO Back to School/Meet the Teacher Night
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Monday, August 26
First Day of LODO 2024-2025 School Year



Columbia MO
NAACP

JUNE TEENTH

C E L E B R A T I O N

Saturday, June 1st
4 pm
Second Missionary Baptist Church
4th and Broadway

Musical and Musical Performances
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Soul Food Dinner Free to all in Attendance
following program in the Annex

Come out and help up celebrate
by recognizing our forerunners!
Who are deserving of our "Thank You's"



Rummage Sale

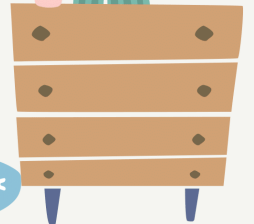
TO DONATE:

DROP OFF ITEMS
COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
3201 INTERSTATE 70 DR NW
JUNE 3RD-25TH
BETWEEN 9AM-3PM

TO SHOP:

COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST
3201 INTERSTATE 70 DR NW
JUNE 28-29 8AM-1PM

PROCEEDS WILL
SUPPORT THE
LODO MINISTRY FUND



Nurture & Education

Thank you to all the teacher and leaders of the Sunday School classes during the 2023-2024 year. Your time and talents that you shared with others in the classrooms are greatly appreciated.

Thank you to: Paula Wilson, Dorothy Williams, Yvonne Piersee, Kristin Veteto, Pat Forward, Gina Pierson, Tricia Price, Linda Neale, Kennedy Lucas, Lena Muench, Jessica Lucas, Kristy Hayward, Katie Marienfeld, Barry Kirchhoff, Phillip Neale, Jessica Jenks, Shelly Adams, Lydia Whitacre, and Pastor Rick.

Nursery Coverage will continue over the summer for worship on Sunday mornings. Nursery care will be available from 9:00 a.m. until the end of worship. Thank you to Laynee Hayward, our Nursery Coordinator.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is July 29, 30, and 31, 2024, for kids ages 3 through 5th grade. Please volunteer if you can – 1, 2 or all 3 nights. Lots of volunteers are needed for VBS for all kinds of jobs. You can sign up to volunteer: [CLICK HERE](#).

Please welcome the new Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair, Lena Muench. Lena will bring energy and creativeness to this team, and we can't wait to start working with her!

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Forward



VBS Preview Party
(ages 3-12th Grade)
Sunday June 2, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Vacation Bible School
July 29-31, 5:15-8:15 p.m.

Attendees: Ages 3 through finishing 5th Grade
Volunteers: (finishing 6th grade through adult) needed, too!

Registration for attendees and volunteers:
www.columbiaucc.com

EXCITING NEW HAPPENINGS AT CUCC!

May was a month of exciting things happening at CUCC! From our Annual Congregational Meeting to our May Council meeting, several decisions were made that will change the future of our church. We hope you are getting excited, because great things are in store for us. The best is yet to come for CUCC!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

At our Annual Congregational Meeting on May 19, we elected new Council Members. The entire Council roster is on page three of this Communicator. New members include: Deborah Long Birkes, Treasurer; Lena Muench, Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair; Jedd Schneider, Worship & Music Ministry Team Chair; and Kristin Veteto, LODO Ministry Team Chair. Ted Dachroeden (Building & Grounds) and Alethea Tennill (Secretary) were re-elected for second terms.

CUCC ENDOWMENT FUND

Also at the Annual Congregational Meeting, the Congregation approved establishing an Endowment Fund. The descriptive language for this fund was distributed to the congregation in March and in subsequent Friday emails. Over the next five years or so, the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team will be marketing this fund, soliciting donations to grow it to a critical mass. Once it reaches \$500,000 we will utilize a 4% annual draw to supplement our Annual Budget. The goal for this fund is \$2,000,000 and will be achieved through estate donations, stock donations, living trusts, and other donations. Reaching our goal of \$2,000,000 over the next few years will bring a significant level of financial security to this congregation. The fund already has \$50,000 in it, the result of a donation from the Alan Mader Estate.

SCOUTING AMERICA PARTNERSHIP

At our May Council meeting, we entertained a proposal to enter into a charter with an established Scouting America Unit who is looking for a new charter organization. The Council approved entering into this charter agreement, and the new Scouting Unit will begin meeting here in August. This is a very significant relationship for CUCC. This group is not just a rental group; they will be “our” scouts. We will work with them to nurture them and support their work, and they will do the same for us. They will be very visible in the life of our church, and even in our worship life. The unit consists of four troops including a Cub Scout Troop, a boys group, a girls group, and a Venture Troop. Over 100 Scouts and 50 adult leaders are chartered with this Unit. You will be seeing much more of these scouts as they work with us, and as we enable each other’s ministries.

CUCC MISSION TRIP DESTINATION – 2025 AND BEYOND

We also entertained a proposal at the May Council Meeting from the Nurture & Education Ministry Team and the Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team to make CUCC a mission trip destination for church youth groups all across Missouri and beyond. Modeling after a very successful program in St. Louis (The Urban Mission Experience), we will be working with local non-profit agencies in Columbia to offer service opportunities in the summer of 2025 for churches and youth looking for a mission trip experience. We will be marketing this program to churches across rural Missouri and other states, inviting them to stay for a few days at CUCC and participate in service opportunities we put together.

Mission Groups would sign behavioral covenants regarding their stay at CUCC. The average group would stay three-four nights, in two of our Sunday School classrooms upstairs. During the day, they would work with our mission partners, such as The Food Bank, Ronald McDonald House, Fisher House, etc. participating in service opportunities. Tours of Mizzou, Columbia College, and Stephens College would be offered. We would prepare one meal for them during their stay, and lead them in a program one evening. Groups would pay a set fee per person per night; we anticipate bringing in \$9,600 our first year.

CHURCH VAN PURCHASE

At our May Meeting, the Council also approved a proposal brought by the Membership & Care Ministry Team to purchase a used church van from St. John UCC in St. Charles, MO. They are selling of one of their vans, and offered it to us for \$7,500 (below blue book value). It is a 15-passenger 2006 Ford step van and could be utilized for youth events, Women’s Fellowship trips, picking up church members for worship, or other special trips. It is much more versatile than our current van, and much more practical for our purposes. Funds for this purchase will come from the Transportation Fund, one of our investments with United Church Funds. As we will be using this van more than our current van, there may be more expenses incurred. Any donations to the Van Fund to offset maintenance expenses would be appreciated. If you are interested in donating, talk to Kurt Heine, Moderator; Jerry Kiesling, Vice-Moderator; or Deborah Long Birkes, Treasurer.

Membership & Care Ministry

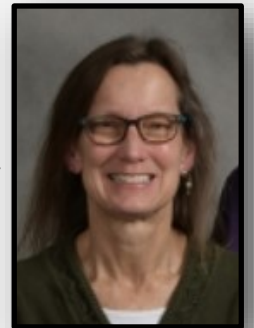
Have you ever made a potholder on a loom? Think of a plastic square with pegs along all four sides, add 20 colorful loops stretched across in one direction plus 20 more loops going the other way, weaved over and under, over and under, again, and again, until you've created something bigger and stronger, a potholder that can withstand 375-degree heat as you take those freshly-baked chocolate chip cookies out of the oven.

I view our CUCC Prayer Team as a potholder, and myself as a single loop. Individually, my prayers can feel somewhat tepid, perhaps a bit whiny and self-involved, depending on the day. Sunday worship provides an excellent framework for consistent, wide-ranging prayer, and the power of our congregation praying together often feels palpable. But what about the other six days of the week? Carving out time for one-on-one conversations with God proves difficult. Being part of our prayer team and praying specifically for others, be they known or unknown, makes me feel more connected to our church and also to God. Being on the team also holds me accountable; I need to show up daily and pray those prayers. Requests have been made; we humbly honor and raise those confidential requests with intention. The prayer team nudges me out of self-serving prayers of petition, confession and/or thanksgiving toward a greater good, a larger world.

Potholders can be beautiful, but don't have to be; potholders can be intricate, but don't have to be. A messy pile of 40 individual loops weaved together becomes something else entirely. Likewise, we pray faithfully, perhaps not always eloquently, to support each other, to lift the needs and hopes of our church family to God.

If you would like to join the prayer team or have a prayer request, please contact Melba Shaffer at whals@centurytel.net or (573) 474-2997 or me, Tricia, at tsoncasie@aol.com or (314) 374-7477.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tricia Soncasie



YOU CAN HELP PUBLICIZE COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

One of the greatest challenges for our congregation is our location – many people do not know we are here. Our new signage helps; but social media publicity would help even more. YOU can help make this a reality!

Two ways you can help: first of all, give us a 5-star review on Google! To do so [CLICK HERE](#). This will take you to a “Google Search” of CUCC. Click “Google Reviews” and “write a review.” This will give you the opportunity to “review” our church. A five star review will help direct others to our church, and will cause our church to “pop up” more prominently on searches. The other way to help is to “share” our CUCC posts on Facebook. Don't just “like” them, “share” them. If you “share” our Facebooks posts, you will exponentially increase our social media presence and advertise our church to a wider community of people. Get the word out – share the Good News! Don't let CUCC remain the best kept secret in town!

WELCOME TO QUORUS!

Columbia United Church of Christ is pleased to be in partnership with [Quorus, the LGBTQIAA Choral ensemble of Columbia](#)!

Quorus will be using our facility for rehearsals in the coming months, and we will have an opportunity to work with them for upcoming performances. We hope to have a Quorus fundraiser here this Fall, as well.

Quorus would love to have CUCC members join their choir! To learn more about Quorus, [CLICK HERE](#). If you are interested in joining them or talking to Audra Sergal, their director and coordinator, [CLICK HERE](#).

Outreach & Advocacy

MAY 7, 2024 OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY TEAM MEETING

PRESENT: Mark Duncan, Mahree Skala, Pastor Rick Oberle, Llona Weiss, Shelly Adams, Audrey Lasley, and Jessica Jenks Meeting called to order at 6:43 p.m. by Mark, who offered reflections on nature as an introduction to consideration of the Creation Justice Covenant.

Pastor Rick led an opening prayer.

Minutes of the 2/6/24 meeting were accepted by consensus, noting minor typographical errors.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 7/2/2024 at 6:30 p.m.

- Strengthen The Church Offering - June 2: Mark will submit Communicator article and Mahree will present the Mission Moment on 5/26.
- CWS blanket - June 16: Mark will submit Communicator article and Llona will present the Mission Moment on 6/9.
- Craft Beer and Carts Festival - July 14: Flyer will be in the July Communicator.
- Mission Moments will be presented by Jessica on June 30, Mark on July 7 and Pastor Rick will make a quick announcement on July 14. CUCC goal is \$800. Jessica will get a cart to the gathering area for decoration beginning June 30 and Mark will deliver it to Festival on July 14.
- AHL Eraser Collection - July 21 and 28: Bring in erasers to help supply AHL in the 24-25 school year.
- Christmas in August Offering - August 4: Mahree will present the Mission Moment on July 28.
- CROP Hunger Walk - September 15: Jessica will submit an article for the August and September Communicators.
- "Thank You" Notes from VAC Christmas sponsorship recipients and other organizations were circulated.
- Creation Justice Covenant: information was presented by Shelly, Llona, Mahree and Pastor Rick. If approved at the June Church Council meeting, the Covenant will be considered through prayer, discernment, and education over the next 12 months. There are five steps in the process 1) Create Green Team; 2) Discern where the congregation wants to go; 3) Draft Covenant; 4) Vote to adopt Creation Justice Covenant and become a Creation Justice Church; and 5) Submit application. Shelly will submit article for the Communicator.
- Missouri for Constitutional Freedom: Mahree reported that MCF collected double the needed signatures. Signature verification takes time so it will be on the November ballot.
- Urban Mission Experience: UME is a program in which middle school and high school students travel on a mission trip to urban areas. Pastor Rick presented the details of the program. He submitted that this may be a program where CUCC could be a destination and host groups during the summer and coordinate mission work in the Columbia area. Pat Forward, Nurture and Education Team, will present this at the May Church Council meeting.
- Scout Troop Chapter Organization: Pastor Rick reported that, pending Council approval, CUCC will be a chartering organization for a large Scout troop. The Scout troop will be meeting at the church beginning in August.
- Food Bank - May 28: Mahree reported there will be no evening volunteers in June and July.
- Loaves and Fishes - May 20: Audrey reported the number of people served has greatly decreased since the move to the new location.
- Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary: AHL sends thanks to CUCC for all their contributions. Llona reported they are in need of small size 6-7-8 sweatpants and underwear, both girls and boys. CUCC received a Certificate of Recognition for volunteer service from the Columbia Public Schools. May 14 is the BizTown field trip.

MEETING was adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

Mark Duncan,
Outreach and Advocacy



Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team



The May 20 meal at Loaves and Fishes consisted of Mexican casserole (ingredients left from taco bar Sunday), lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson), and various desserts (provided by Jolene Kirchhoff). PBJ's were made and provided by Jessica Jenks.

Servers for the evening were Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Jessica Jenks, Patty Beeson, and Judi Privitt. Jim Loveless manhandled the dishwasher. There were approximately 103 first and second servings. Thanks to all!

-Audrey Lasley

To the congregants who participated in Clean Up Columbia:

I meant to send this sooner after seeing church volunteers picking up litter on I-70 Drive Northwest near Barnwood. I am so grateful the group wore safety vests and put up orange cones to alert drivers since the road wasn't closed to vehicle traffic. I routinely cleanup the end of Barnwood and the entrance on Sunflower because I live in Valleyview West, but my husband has cautioned me against being the lone worker on the side of I-70 Drive NW. Thank you for making a difference in our community and near my neighborhood.

Sincerely,

Sheila Marushak

We are at the end of another school year at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School (AHL), and because of you, CUCC members, the public school students and teachers and staff were shown support and appreciation. Education and communication are so important to the future for all of us, and it starts with our children.



The teachers were dazzled with the support during Teacher Appreciation Week during May 6-10, 2024. Thank you! We collected a shopping cart full of goodies for the teachers so we could "stock the lounge" to show our appreciation. They were very grateful!



CUCC was also recognized at the Partners in Education (PIE) breakfast on May 10 for being a Partnership Friend with AHL over the years. We received a certificate that is on display in the church office. CPS and the PIE program are very appreciative of our support.

The photo to the right shows Pastor Rick and myself presenting a check for \$500 to AHL from our budgeted local mission fund. They were very grateful to receive this.

This year Lena/Josh/Landon/Caleb Muench and Jessica/Kennedy Lucas and I helped out at the AHL Carnival evening on May 10, and so much fun was had by all! Thank you! And on May 14, I drove with an AHL parent to St. Louis to volunteer at BizTown with the 5th graders of AHL for a unique learning experience sponsored by Junior Achievement.

If you have a chance, go to the CPS website [CLICK HERE](#). In the "Community Relations, Partners in Education, Partners Spotlight", you will see a spotlight on our CUCC partnership with AHL.

There is a small box in the closet by the Gathering Area in church labeled "AHL". If you have any gently-used or new youth clothing you wish to donate, I will be sure it gets to the school for those students who need a little extra help during the school days.

Again, THANK YOU CUCC!

Respectfully Submitted,
Llona Weiss
Liaison for CUCC to AHL



International Missions

CUCC IS WORKING IN PHILIPPINES

Dansalan College, located in the Philippines, is an educational institution of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP), a partner of the Christian Church (DOC), and the United Church of Christ. It stands as a symbol of academic excellence and cultural diversity in the region. The institution provides quality education from kindergarten through college, emphasizing holistic development, academic excellence, and the promotion of cultural understanding. Dansalan's educational programs have grown to include adult literacy, agriculture, community organization, nutrition, and primary health care. Dansalan contributes significantly to the educational landscape of the Philippines, preparing students for a brighter future and promoting cross-cultural harmony.

Through **Global Ministries**, CUCC is a partner in mission with The United Church of Christ of the Philippines (UCCP) and Dansalan College and, through them, we are actively working in many families in Ecuador. This month, please keep Global Ministries, UCCP, and the people of the Philippines in your prayers!



WORLD REFUGEE DAY – JUNE 20

What is World Refugee Day?

World Refugee Day is an international day designated by the United Nations to honor refugees around the globe. It falls each year on 20 June, and celebrates the strength and courage of people who have been forced to flee their home country to escape conflict or persecution.

Why is World Refugee Day important?

World Refugee Day shines a light on the rights, needs and dreams of refugees, helping to mobilize political will and resources so refugees can not only survive, but thrive. While it is important to protect and improve the lives of refugees every single day, international days like World Refugee Day help to focus global attention on the plight of those fleeing conflict or persecution. Many activities held on World Refugee Day create opportunities to support refugees.

When is World Refugee Day and when did it start?

World Refugee Day falls each year on June 20, and is dedicated to refugees around the globe. World Refugee Day was held globally for the first time on June 20, 2001, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. It was originally known as Africa Refugee Day, before the United Nations General Assembly officially designated it as an international day in December 2000.

What happens on World Refugee Day?

Each year, World Refugee Day is marked by a variety of events in many countries around the globe in support of refugees. These activities are led by or involve refugees themselves, government officials, host communities, companies, celebrities, school children, and the general public, among others.

City of Refuge and World Refugee Day:

There will be a celebration at City of Refuge here in Columbia on Saturday, June 22, from 9:00 a.m. to noon in observance of World Refugee Day. (City of Refuge is located at 10 North Garth, in the old bank building across from the library.) All are invited! There will be a "Summer Market" where refugees will be selling products from their communities. There will be food, entertainment, and activities for the kids. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about City of Refuge and World Refugee Day!



On the Church Calendar in June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 VBS Preview 9:00- Sunday School 10:00- Fellowship 10:30- Worship 12:00- Sunday School Picnic	3 9:00- Fellowship 9:30- Worship	4 6:30 p.m.- Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team	5	6 6:00 p.m. Council Retreat	7	8
9 9:00- Fellowship 9:30- Worship	10 5:30- LODO Ministry	11 6:30 p.m.- Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team	12	13 9:30 a.m.- Women's Fellowship Trip	14	15
16 9:00- Fellowship 9:30- Worship	17 5:00 p.m.- Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	18 6:30- Council Meeting	19	20	21	22 9:00a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - City of Refuge Summer Market
23 - Open & Affirming Sunday 9:00- Fellowship 9:30- Worship	24	25	26	27	28 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - LODO RUMMAGE SALE	29 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - LODO RUMMAGE SALE
30 9:00- Fellowship 9:30- Worship						

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**

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.

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.