April 2023

### From the Pastor's Keyboard . . .

"Resurrection"

The celebrations continue! As we work through our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, each month we are recognizing decades of service in the church. In March, we looked at the 1940s and the social justice stance The Chapel took in those days. We celebrated the ministry of former pastor Rev. Harold Wilke, who was born without arms, and the advocacy work that was the focus of his life.

In April, we will be looking at the 1950s (see article inside from Jolene Hackman). This was a time of growth for The Chapel, expanding our ministries and services. We were hosting record numbers of worshippers and participants in our programming, both from the colleges and from the town. We purchased a new organ, instituted a building program to expand our facility on Hitt Street, and participated in an international mission, travelling to Germany to participate in an immersion experience there.

70 years later, we are a very different church, but we are very similar in some aspects. Like that 1950s church, we are active in both social programs and social justice programs; like that 1950s church, we are not afraid to enter the "political" arena when God calls us to speak prophetically. Like that 1950s church, we are entering into a building program; like that 1950s church, we participate in international mission immersion experiences. And like that 1950s church, we are growing both in faith (most importantly) and also in numbers as we explore who God is calling us to be.

Now that the COVID pandemic is behind us and we are entering our New Century of service, we need to continue to examine who we are and who we are becoming in our New Century. What will the **New Century CUCC** look like? How will we maintain our relevancy in God's World? How will we continue to speak prophetically to issues of social injustice and inequity? How will we, as the **New Century CUCC**, continue to be God's agents of Justice, Righteousness, and Shalom?

The next few years will be a time of discernment as we look to the future and imagine what that future will bring us, as well as what we carry with us into that future. Through Visioning and Experimenting, we hope to live into the potential that God has instilled in us as a congregation. One thing is for sure in this post-pandemic, New Century world: we cannot be bound by the past. We cannot do things just because that is the way we have always done them. While we "Celebrate our Past," we must not get stuck in the memories of what that past was; we must also "Embrace our Future."

We are headed into the Easter Season, and as we do, we must remember that the Jesus who emerged from the tomb was very different than the Jesus who was crucified; just like the butterflies that emerged on our altar last month were very different than the caterpillars that went into the chrysalis. People often miss that lesson



about the Resurrection narratives. The Jesus who emerged from the tomb was the same Jesus, but different; Jesus transformed into something beautiful, wonderful, more reflective of God's presence. The tombs of the Lenten Season, Holy Week, and the COVID pandemic have transformed us, as well, and we are emerging from the tomb even more beautiful.

God's potential was fully realized in the Resurrected Jesus, just as it was in the emerging butterflies. As a church, we have the ability to realize our beautiful potential, as well. Like that 1950s Chapel, there are far more exciting things in store for us as we enter the **New Century CUCC** than we can even begin to imagine.

Working together in faith, we will live into that potential!

—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

### MJ King

Office Administrator

### **Brandon Brown**

Music Coordinator

### **Amy Crousore**

Organist/Accompanist

### Erika Maltsbarger

Director, Little One's Day Out

### Raj Tolani

Financial Secretary

### **Caleb Berry**

Custodian

### Sunday Worship Schedule

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

### Office Hours: Monday through Friday

9am- 3pm

Phone: (573) 445-7931

Email:

office@columbiaucc.com

Website: www.columbiaucc.com



# News & Updates

### **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

Men's Fellowship will meet at 7:30 a.m. on Sunday, April 23. All men are invited to come out and enjoy fellowship over pancakes and coffee before church.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GATHERING!

Women's Fellowship meets on the second Thursday of each month from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. in the upstairs Gathering Area. After a delicious brunch, we participate in the current Bible study and then hold a short business meeting. *Our next gathering is April 13*. All women are invited to attend. Come join us for lively discussions during each lesson.

# TPCOMING EVENTS

### 4/9 Easter Breakfast from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.

Come join us after our Easter Sunrise Service as our Men's and Women's Fellowship work together to prepare a delicious breakfast for us all. Breakfast will end just in time for Sunday school, so feel free to stick around!

### 4/15 Clean Up Columbia 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

Let's work together to keep our streets clean! This year, we will need at least 20 volunteers to tackle the job between CUCC and Garden Drive. We can do it if we work together!

### 4/16 LODO Sunday

Join us for a special Worship Service followed by food, fun, and games in the Fellowship Hall.

### 4/22 Alpha Hart Lewis Carnival at 11:00 a.m.

Let us celebrate with our Partner Friend Alpha Hart Lewis as they put together their Annual Spring Carnival! It is sure to be a fun 2 hours!

### 4/23 Earth Day Festival from 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

We are honored to have a booth set up at Peace Park for the Columbia Area Earth Day Festival!

### 4/27 Alpha Hart Lewis Fine Arts Night at 5:00 p.m.

This year, the Fine Arts Night features our very own Brandon Brown and the Celebration Singers!

### 5/13 Trivia Night at 6:00 p.m.

Save the date for our Trivia Night fundraiser for the New Century Sanctuary! More information will be made available soon.

"Thank you to everyone who has had my family in their prayers over the past several weeks. Gary's life celebration was lovely thanks to many helping hands including Elaine, Helen, Amy, Pastor Rick, and several other CUCC members who came to honor him. We received dozens of cards, and they were very appreciated, as well."

Peace and Joy, Alisa

# Moderator's Moment

### From Your Church Council Moderator...

There has been so much excitement recently at CUCC! A big highlight in the month of March was our annual Chili Cookoff. This year, a dessert auction was incorporated to raise funds for our New Century Sanctuary. Thank

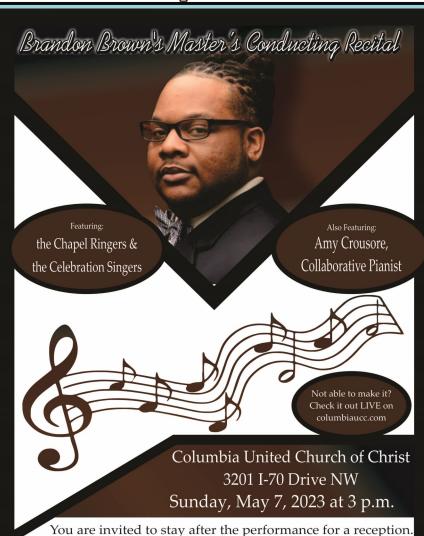
you to our Men's Fellowship group and some of our Heritage Team members for making this a success and so much fun for everyone involved!



We have also had some great opportunities for adult education through our "What is CUCC?" adult Sunday school class and our book study about taking a closer look at anti-racism practices. We appreciate Pastor Rick's leadership and gift for sharing his knowledge about these topics. There are currently some very exciting opportunities available, as well, to get involved in outreach and social justice endeavors. These include the Tulsa pilgrimage occurring later this month and the Chiapas mission trip.

With gratitude, Kristy Hayward, Moderator

# <u>Worship and Music Ministry Team</u>



Don't forget to come and check out Brandon Brown's Master's Conducting Recital on Sunday, May 7 at 3 p.m.

### **Special Worship Services**

- Maundy Thursday: Worship at 7:00 p.m. at Memorial Baptist Church on 4/6/23
- Good Friday: Worship at 7:00 p.m. on 4/7/23
- Easter Sunrise Service: Worship at 6:30 a.m. on 4/9/23
- Regular Easter Service: Worship at 10:30 a.m. on 4/9/23
- LODO Sunday: Worship at 10:30 a.m. on 4/16/23
- Rev. Connie Tanis Memorial Service: Service at 9 a.m. on 4/29/23



# <u>April Birthdays to Celebrate</u>

Chantal Kibaro 4/3	Brent Marcks 4/6	Linda Groteweil 4/7
Chris Bach 4/10	Jackson Jaberg 4/13	Dori Marcks 4/13
Evelyn Marcks 4/13	Mary Lorber-Solt 4/14	Jan Barry 4/18
Connie Loveless 4/18	Addison Melton 4/18	Brandon Lavely 4/21
Mark Eveler 4/23	Mike Vanhove 4/23	Devin Hall 4/25
Ron Groteweil 4/26	Amy Crousore 4/28	Carolyn Malicoat 4/30

### SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR APRIL

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

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
4/2 Palm Sunday	Helen Schultz	NEED	Mahree Skala	NEED	Brent Marcks & Josh Muench	Brent Marcks
4/7 Good Friday	NONE	NEED	Connie Loveless	NEED	NEED 1	NONE
4/9 Easter	Susan Dunham	NEED	Pat Forward	NEED	Matt Lucas & Dominick Lee	Stefanie Zimny
4/16 LODO Sunday	Carol Duermeyer	Christine Staelens	Aidan & Trevor Pierson & Danielle Dreier	NEED	Carissa & John Graves	NEED
4/23 Earth Day	Jessica Lucas	John & Brenda Muench	Lloyd Mickelson	NEED	Ted Dachroeden & Mike Pierson	Sue Ann Schaefer
4/30	Susan Dunham	Charlie Marcks	Sue Ann Schaefer	NEED	Judi & Doug Privitt	NEED

### COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Kristy Hayward **Moderator:** Kurt Heine Vice Moderator: Secretary: Alethea Tennill Treasurer: Sue Ann Schaefer **Recording Treasurer:** Brent Marcks **Building & Grounds:** Ted Dachroeden Fellowship & Hospitality: Stefanie Zimny Finance & Stewardship: Keith Birkes **Inclusion & Affirmation:** Tricia Price **Little One's Day Out:** Lorry Dreier Membership & Care: Jessica Lucas Nurture & Education: Lydia Whitacre **Outreach & Advocacy:** Mark Duncan Worship & Music: Mike Pierson

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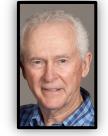
# Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

Time, Talent, and Treasure!

As always, the members and friends of CUCC are consistently generous with all they have to give to our church and community. Our recent chili luncheon and desert auction was a great example. A dozen of our members brought chili and accoutrements. Over 30 desserts were prepared for our auction, and our church family spent over \$3,000 buying those desserts. Virtually everyone attending set up tables, helped serve, cleaned up after, ran the auction, and contributed in every conceivable way to make the event wonderful and fun!

The proceeds from the dessert auction will go toward the \$150,000 price tag for our sanctuary renovation project. *In connection with the fundraising drive for the renovation project, to date we have already raised over* \$60,000 dollars in pledges. After only one month, over one third of the total needed has been pledged.

Truly time, talent, and treasure is generously shared by our church family. We have much to be grateful for at CUCC.



Thank you to all! Keith Birkes

	Financial \	U <b>pdate</b>	
	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
Feb. Income	\$17,147.62	\$20,000.00	(\$2,852.38)
YTD Income	\$43,104.92	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00
Feb. Expenses	\$36,793.93	\$30,682.80	\$6,111.13
YTD Expenses	\$68,126.48	\$60,439.88	\$7,686.60
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$23,960.38)	(\$19,073.02)	(\$4,887.36)
Feb. Attendance	423		

Joyfu	al Giving	g YTD vs	budget through Fe	ebruary	
\$43,500.00 —	ΔC.	ΓUAL \$43,	104 92		
\$43,000.00 —	AC	OAL 943,	104.52		
\$42,500.00 —					
\$42,000.00 —					
\$41,500.00 —					
\$41,000.00 —					
\$40,500.00 —			BUD	GET \$40,	00.00
\$40,000.00 —					
\$39,500.00 —					
\$39,000.00 —					
\$38,500.00 —					
\$38,000.00 —					

Date	Attendance
2/5/23	84
2/12/23	113
2/19/23	82
2/22/23 Ash Wednesday	54
2/26/23	90
Total	423

### **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:

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

# Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

"And I dream of the vast deserts, the forests, and all the wilderness of our continent, wild places that we should protect as a precious heritage for our children and for our children's children.

We must never forget it is our duty to protect this environment."

Nelson Mandela

Over the last 3 - 4 years, the ONA messages have concentrated on the national calendar of events related to the special needs of the disabled and marginalized communities. We have also covered current ONA events supported by Columbia and neighboring communities, such as Pridefest. Every April is set aside to focus on conservation.

People of all races, socioeconomic status, and genders are experiencing a radical change to their homeland via pollution, over grazing, deforestation, and multiple other environmental crises. The burden we have put upon this planet for greed, laziness, convenience, pride, and every other human failing has caused so many deaths: deaths of plant species, whole animal populations, and millions of our fellow human beings. The ravages come via intense heat waves, droughts, floods, wildfires, diseases, monster tornadoes, hurricanes, earthquakes, and more.

All people are affected, but the most endangered are those who have, traditionally, lived off the land: the indigenous populations that exist on every continent, such as (from the UN website):

- People of Africa's Kalahari Desert have seen their water supplies dry up due to heat and lack of rain. The loss of vegetation has also negatively impacted their ability to feed themselves and raise their cattle and goats.
- The Amazon's increased heat has led to deforestation resulting in more carbon released into the atmosphere, further increasing the temperature. Again, this leads to the inability to feed themselves and their livestock.
- Finland, Norway, and Sweden are losing huge numbers of reindeer due to the mild winters, limiting the deer's access to lichen, a vital food source for them. This is a disaster to the Saami communities who rely on reindeer for food and some clothing.
- Native Americans, having been forced from their native lands to less desirable locations, are also heavily impacted by climate change making hunting and farming, in some areas, nearly impossible.

What can we do?

- 1) Support legal initiatives to slow climate change.
- 2) Buy only what you need from the grocery store waste less.
- 3) Consider purchasing from climate conscious clothing stores and buy second hand when possible.
- 4) Donate, wisely, to organizations striving to supply clean water, clean energy, pesticide free foods, and the like.

Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Member, Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team



### **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.



# <u>ODO Ministry Team</u>

### **April Learning**

LODO returns from Spring Break on Monday, April 3, and we have lots of great learning planned for the last seven weeks of the school year! In April, we will focus our learning activities through themes on Easter/The Resurrection, Gardening, Science, and Under the Sea (Ocean Animals).

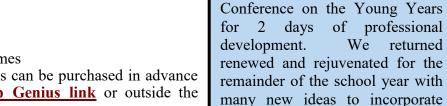
### **LODO 20 Year Celebrations**

Sunday, April 16

12:00 - 2:00 p.m. - Lunch & Lawn Games

Please **RSVP** so that food and supplies can be purchased in advance for lunch! RSVP via the Sign Up Genius link or outside the

Sanctuary.



The

**LODO Staff at Conference on** 

the Young Years - Friday,

March 10 & 11

opportunity to return in-person to

staff

had the

LODO

within our program!



We are in need of lawn games to borrow

for our celebration. If you have one on the list for us to borrow, please let us know! We also need a couple artistic individuals to provide face painting.

### 100 Books for LODO

Many thanks to the Heritage Team for encouraging the purchase of 100 new books to improve our LODO Library! Check out our **Amazon Wish List** with requested books. Thank you to everyone that has already sent us a book or two!

Erika Maltsbarger, LODO Director

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

## April Learning Themes







### **April Important Dates**

April 6 & 7 - Easter Classroom Celebrations & Egg Hunts

April 13- 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - LODO Literacy

April 16 - LODO 20<sup>th</sup> Year Celebration



In celebration of our 100th Anniversary and LODO'S 20th Anniversary, the Heritage Team and LODO are working together to collect 100 Books for LODO.

Shop our Amazon Wishlist to Celebrate with us!



# Membership and Care Ministry Team

Thank you to all who had their pictures taken for our **Church Family Photo Album** as part of the 100th anniversary celebration! Also, thank you to our volunteers who helped the photos run smoothly! If you were unable to have your picture taken at the church, Olivet Christian Church will be having photos taken by Universal Church Directory May 4 - 6. If you can get your family photo taken on those dates, please contact

the <u>church office</u> or <u>Carol Duermeyer</u> to get a code and register for a photo time. We want everyone included in our Family Photo

Album!

-Jessica Lucas

**Pictured On the Right:** 

Our very own **Lloyd Viehland** was recognized for 10 years of service at the Mobility Worldwide appreciation dinner Monday, March 13.



# From Your Student Pastor...

Hello friends,

I've been thinking a lot about community lately.

Specifically, I've been thinking about those who live *outside* the community – like the homebound, refugees, people who are unhoused, people who are incarcerated, and others who are estranged, ostracized, or marginalized.

Last semester at Eden, I wrote a paper on Rev. Dr. Letty Russell, a liberation and feminist theologian whose lifelong ministry was dedicated to the church becoming a fully welcoming, affirming, and inclusive community because she believed that Christ's presence brings unity and calls us to extend welcome and hospitality to all.

One of my Eden professors, Rev. Dr. Kristen Leslie, said that when Letty married her wife, they weren't married in a conventional way, but married alongside other couples. Dr. Leslie told me that Letty did *everything* in a community – even get married!

Like Letty Russell, I believe that God is calling us to participate in God's mission of hospitality, love, and compassion, working together for the liberation of all of humanity and creation. Like Letty Russell, I believe we are called by God to honor and recognize differences without forcing conformity, living into the value of interdependence as an alternative to dominance and subordination.

Tyler Merritt, author of *I Take my Coffee Black: Reflections on Tupac, Musical Theater, Faith, and Being Black in America*, wrote that "... proximity breeds empathy. And with empathy, humanity has a fighting chance." In this congregation, empathy abounds. We help people – school children, victims of disaster, hungry people, people living outside, and people around the world in need. This empathy, and the faithful witness present in so many other ways in this congregation, make me feel blessed to be here with all of you.

As I pray about and think about community, I am feeling called to work on **proximity** – being *with* people who are outside community, accompanying them in their experiences, understanding their needs as they express them (rather than as an agency or organization without their lived experience might express the needs), and working to draw the circle of community wider to include all of our siblings in Christ.

I spent many years working in community development, environmental justice, and urban planning. During those years, people became accustomed to me saying during meetings, "Who is not at this table? Who is not represented here?" Community has long been important to me, and I am realizing that it is an important part of God's call on my life.

If any of you are feeling called to a similar path - or farther along on this path than I am - I would welcome the opportunity to share our experiences in gathering others into community.

Shelly Adams, Student Pastor

# Nurture & Education Ministry Team

### **Spirit Sundays**

March brought us a Holy Trinity Spirit Sunday around St. Patrick's Day! We had 17 kids attend on March 12! This month, we will be hosting another Spirit Sunday, "Sweets for the Sanctuary," on Easter. Stay tuned for more details! Be sure to join us Easter Sunday for an egg hunt, games, and learning!

### **Sunday School**

### Adult Bible Study

Adult Bible Study has had consistently the highest attendance of all Sunday School classes! Well done to our teachers: Barry Kirchhoff, Phillip Neale, and Shelly Adams! Barry, Phillip, and Shelly teach this class on rotation each week.

### Contemporary Issues Class

In March, Pastor Rick finished up a book study on "Anti-Racism 4Reals" by Sheila M. Beckford and Michelle Ledder. He also taught a three-Sunday class called "The UCC: Who We Are, History and Polity" on March 5, 12 & 19. Walter Schroeder taught a class on "The History of CUCC" on March 26.

### Youth Sunday School

Youth Sunday School is running as usual! We could always use more teacher volunteers, so please reach out if you are interested! We currently have two groups: pre-k through 5th grade and 6th grade through 12th grade. Kristy Hayward will be handling scheduling for youth Sunday school teachers, so please reach out to her with dates you are available or on dates in which you are interested!

### Confirmation

Last year's confirmation students – Danielle, Trevor, and Aidan – have been assisting Pastor Rick as Confirmation "teacher aides" for this year's class. They met two Wednesdays in March (and will continue to do so each month) with this year's student, Sofia Marienfeld-Crenshaw. Lydia Whitacre will also be assisting Pastor Rick.

### **Youth Group**

Pastor Rick had the youth over to his house the weekend of St. Patrick's Day to stuff Easter eggs for the Easter egg hunt coming up. He has reported a good turn out and fun at these youth events that he has been hosting!







Lydia Whitacre Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair



# <u>Heritage Team</u>

### **HAPPENINGS/EVENT/TRADITIONS – From The Chapel to CUCC**

While reading through the 1950s records of The Chapel, the similarities between The Chapel and CUCC today became very apparent. Changing location doesn't mean **everything** changes for the congregation. Listed are some of the similar happenings/events/traditions:

### The Chapel

- \* Chili Suppers
- \* Ice cream socials/ swimming at Hulen Lake
- \* Christmas decorating parties
- \* Square dancing on a regular basis
- \* Women's Guild
- \* Men's Basketball Team
- \* Spring/Fall Retreats
- \* Wednesday Night Choir Rehearsals

### **CUCC**

- \* Chili Cookoff with Golden Ladle awarded
- \* This great tradition is being revised this summer on July 17
- \* Hanging of the Greens
- \* Fastnacht and the "chicken dance"
- \* Women's Fellowship
- \* Men's Softball Team
- \* Spring/Fall Campouts
- \* Wednesday Night Choir Rehearsals

(Is there an additional Commandment that says: "Thou shalt forever hold choir rehearsal on Wednesday evening?" Seems most churches do.)

In addition, The Chapel had a Camera Club (with a dark room in the basement), Ping Pong group, hiking club, tennis club, Chess club, and Couples Club.

During the 1950s, the Chapel was a busy, busy church. The congregation was growing, and more space was needed. There was constant Food, Fun, & Fellowship happening at 315 Hitt Street in Columbia. Discussion on expansion began in 1947. A plan was endorsed by the Evangelical and Reformed Synods and Congregational Christian Conference of Missouri. Blueprints were drawn and submitted to contactors in 1950. Phillips Construction Co. submitted an estimate of \$28,000. It was decided that as soon as 75% of the total cost was on hand, the contract would be let.

### **NEWS FROM "THE HEADLINER"**

- ⇒ 1950 Two Sunday morning services were held to accommodate increasing numbers. Estimated average attendance on Sunday morning was 130-180; Sunday evening was 40-60, and the church school was 25-30.
- ⇒ 1951 "Korea and World Security" was the subject of Sunday evening guest speaker, Dr. John Decker. He also discussed current developments between Russia and China.
- ⇒ 1952 The Chapel Board of Control approved invitation for Chapel minister and wife to serve as leaders of an International Work Camp in Germany in the summer of 1952.
- ⇒ 1953 The Organ Committee voted by an overwhelming majority to purchase a Connsonata organ for \$3,000.00. A School on Ushering was held for men who wanted to know details of this very important job.
- ⇒ 1954 In October, representatives of the General Council of the Congregational Christian Churches and The Evangelical and Reformed Churches approved a plan for merging the two groups by 1957. They proposed the new name be The United Church of Christ.
- ⇒ 1955 A petition for a resident congregation was drawn and approved on September 28.
- ⇒ 1956 Rev. Stoerker resigned, and Rev. Robert Richter was called.
- ⇒ 1957 The Couples Club was changed to Church Fellowship Night to be more inclusive. And "So many of our fellowship are on vacation in August, services will be discontinued for that month."
- ⇒ 1958 In April, the Chapel Board of Control authorized the congregation to consult with John P. Hoener & Sons, architects in St. Louis, to draw up plans for an expansion program. In May, architect plans were submitted for additional building facilities. The Chapel Board of Control would soon review plans and consider expansion possibilities.

n

Submitted by Jolene Hackman

# <u>International Missions</u>

### **CUCC IS SERVING IN LEBANON**

In Lebanon, the Union of the Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) is doing significant work. While striving to complete reconstruction of its damaged churches, schools, and institutions following the devastation of the August 4, 2020 port explosion in Beirut, it also strives to live as the body of Christ. UAECNE continues seeking out and providing social services both to blast-impacted households, as well as to the growing numbers of poor in a country of ill-functioning governmental programs. Although UAECNE's offices are in Beirut, its presence stretches throughout the Middle East, with a network of churches, schools, and institutions.

From its inception, UAECNE has stressed the importance of education. It now operates 27 schools and jointly owns the only university in the Armenian diaspora, Haigazian University, with the Armenian Missionary Association of America (AMAA).

Columbia United Church of Christ is a partner with UAECNE through Global Ministries, our mission partner agency shared with the Disciples of Christ. Through Global Ministries, we have mission partners all over the world, and CUCC is making a difference – even in Lebanon!



### **CUCC IS WORKING IN MEXICO**

(condensed from www.globalministries.org)

The Round Table for Mission Development in Mexico, a Global Ministries partner, consists of three UCC/DOC partner congregations united in service. Since 2006, the Round Table has been a space for the three churches to do God's mission and live out God's reconciliation in a united way within the volatile context of Mexican churches and society.

Projects that the Round Table for Mission Development in Mexico have developed include projects by women of the three member churches. These projects are micro-credit efforts through which women take out loans at a low interest rate for family income-generation projects. Then, they pay back the loans from the proceeds of their project in order to benefit additional women with loans.

One project included a couple who has purchased 32 goats with a loan provided by the project. From these goats they will sell the goat's milk and meat as they reproduce. Another micro-credit project is of pig-raising. Pastor Claudia and

her husband have adult and baby pigs. They will keep some to reproduce and others will be sold for meat. Another project involves Karen and her husband. They purchased 15 sheep that were expecting and 20 young males. They are fattening the sheep and selling the lambs for meat. Other micro-credit projects include a woman who sells items at a bazaar, two women who cook and sell food from their home, and another woman who makes tamales using the church's kitchen and sells them.

Looking towards the future, The Round Table hopes to increase and develop its capacity for more projects and conferences, in order to enrich, empower, and sow solidarity between women and their communities around the world.



### MISSION TRIP TO CHIAPAS

Watch for details about a trip to Chiapas this fall! We had to postpone our trip, due to a conflict at our host agency. Rescheduled dates will be announced soon; look for more info! Information packets are available in the church office. Questions? Talk to <a href="Pastor Rick">Pastor Rick</a>. You can also check out the website for our mission agency: <a href="CLICK HERE">CLICK HERE</a>.



# <u>CUCC Council Meeting — February 28, 2023</u>

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. by Kristy Hayward. Pastor Rick opened with a prayer. Present: Kristy Hayward, Kurt Heine, Brent Marcks, Sue Ann Schaefer, Mike Pierson, Lydia Whitacre, Keith Birkes, Mark Duncan, Ted Dachroeden, Alethea Tennill, and Pastor Rick.

Mark Duncan made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. Kurt Heine seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

**January Minutes:** Mark Duncan made a motion to accept the minutes as presented. Sue Ann Schaefer seconded the motion, and the motion passed.

Mark Duncan discussed Chapters 13 and 14 in the book **A Bigger Table** by John Pavlovitz. The way you see the world determines how you approach and see problems. How do you see sin? Do you lean toward transformation? The church has become more cultural and less like Jesus. The challenge is to reflect Jesus as we go about our lives.

### **Unfinished Business:**

- Worship Sanctuary Updates: The New Century Sanctuary Team met. They are working on fundraisers for the sanctuary updates and collecting the pledges to cover the cost. The hope is that they will have pledges for 75% of the renovation by June 30. Trivia night is scheduled for May 13. They may have a car show in August. MJ is doing an excellent job of putting together Leadership Commitment paperwork. Every council member is asked to turn in their pledge by next week.
- The 100th Anniversary Committee: Chili cookoff will be March 19 with a dessert auction. The proceeds will go toward the sanctuary renovation. Nurture and Education is looking for someone to teach a heritage course. LODO will have a 20<sup>th</sup> year celebration on April 16. A new postcard will be sent out soon. July 16 Ice Cream Social will occur at Jim and Connie Loveless' house. Todd Hackman, Carol Barner, and Josh Privitt will come back to church on August 20.
- Children's Library: Inclusion and Affirmation team is working on this project.
- Nominating Committee: Report incuded. Kurt Heine and the committee is working on our next Council.

### **New Business:**

Personnel Matter – Council entered executive session.

### **Ministry Team Reports:**

- Pastor Report: Pastor Rick submitted a report
- Financial Report: Joyful giving for January was \$26,000 and for February \$17,000.
- Building and Grounds: Had issues with toilets this month that were fixed.
- Finance & Stewardship: Keith Birkes' report was submitted. They are focusing on Joyful Giving and Capital Campaign.
- Inclusion & Affirmation: Tricia Price's report was submitted.
- LODO: Lorry Dreier submitted her report. They are doing well.
- Membership & Care: Jessica Lucas's report was submitted.
- Nurture & Education: Lydia Whitacre submitted her report.
- Outreach & Advocacy: Mark Duncan's report was submitted. Alpha Hart Lewis partnership was complimented, and it is used as a great example of how the partnership should work.
- Worship & Music: Mike Pierson's information was discussed above.

The generic alarm code will be disappearing. We discussed rekeying all the locks.

Pastor Rick closed the meeting in prayer.

Mike Pierson made a motion to adjourn. Mark Duncan seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Alethea Tennill--Secretary



# Around the Church

### CHILI COOKOFF AND DESSERT AUCTION

Thanks to everyone who participated in Men's Fellowship's annual chili cookoff. There were thirteen yummy entries, and drumroll please for the winners:

3<sup>rd</sup> Place – Sue Ann Schaefer 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – Audrey Lasley 1<sup>st</sup> Place – Pastor Rick



Over 35 desserts were submitted for the New Century Sanctuary Dessert Auction. We were amazed and entertained by the talent of our master auctioneer, Mike Pierson. Kudos to the Yuppers Sue Ann Schaefer, MJ King, and Jolene Kirchhoff - attired in Yupper shirts designed by MJ. \$3,102 was raised from the auction and gray bowl collection. Our church is blessed with great cooks and generous congregants - and we know how to have a good time!



### **BLESSING BOXES:**

Just a reminder to continue to count your blessings and turn in your blessing box on Easter Sunday or soon after. Proceeds go to the New Century Sanctuary Fund – another blessing that we are looking forward to. Thanks for your participation in this program.

# <u>General Synod</u>

Every two years, members of the United Church of Christ come together for a family reunion: a time for education, action, business, and worship. This event is called "General Synod," and this year it is being held June 30 - July 4 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

<u>General Synod</u> gathers over 700 delegates from local churches across the country for the worship and work of the church. In addition, over 2000 visitors, presenters, and honored guests convene with the Synod delegates to constitute the gathered community of faith.

Each gathering of General Synod also features Resolutions of Witness that are brought to the Synod from Local Churches, Conferences, and Associations. It is important to note that these Resolutions are not "handed down" from denominational officers, but they are "handed up" from local congregations. Most of these Resolutions advocate for justice issues, such as affirming the rights of Women to Comprehensive Healthcare (which includes abortion access), affirming the worth of educators in the light of oppressive legislation (such as the draconian anti-education laws in Florida), and affirming the worth of transgender people, facing oppression by numerous state legislatures across the country. Each of these Resolutions represent issues that are important to various churches across the denomination, and because we are in community together, we lift up their right to advocacy.

This year, there are 15 Resolutions of Witness being brought to <u>General Synod</u> by various Local Churches, Associations, and Conferences across the country. Copies of these Resolutions are available in the coatroom at church, or they can be emailed to you by request. As you read them, prayerfully consider the children of God who are being impacted by these situations. If you would like to go to <u>General Synod</u> this year, or have any questions about the Business, Education, or Worship at Synod, talk to <u>Pastor Rick!</u>



# Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team

### **LOAVES & FISHES**

The March 20 meal at Loaves & Fishes consisted of chicken alfredo (prepared by Mary Lorber-Solt), chili mac (made with leftover chili from the chili cook-off), lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson), bread, and cookies from HyVee. PB & J's were made and donated by Mahree Skala. We served approximately 87 firsts and seconds and approximately 30 carryouts. Servers and dishwashers were Judi Privitt, Anne Heine, Patty Beeson, Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Whitney Wipfler, and Nicole and Cason Flood -Lorber. Thank you to everyone! If you are interested in helping next time, please let **Audrey Lasley** know.

### Clean Up Columbia

CUCC's "Clean Up Columbia Day" is Saturday, April 15, 9 - 11 a.m. The road to the church routinely collects a lot of trash, but we can spruce it up during "Clean Up Columbia Day!" We need at least 20 volunteers to tackle the job

**Come Serve at the Food Bank** 

Every fourth Tuesday, Columbia United Church of Christ has the opportunity to serve our wider community by volunteering at the Food Bank. With the winter months finally coming to an end, people tend to back away from the giving spirit thinking "it's warmer now, so do I really need to help out?" The answer is YES! Every volunteer or item donated helps. Just because the weather is better does not mean that people do not need to eat or have shelter. You can make a difference. You can BE the difference. We will be volunteering this month on April 25.

To sign up, <u>CLICK HERE</u> or talk to Mahree Skala.

If you have any questions, contact **Mahree Skala** or **Mark Duncan**.

between CUCC and Garden Drive. Last year we picked up 50 bags of trash! Let us know if you will be able to join the fun!

Many hands make light work, so please sign up on the list in the Gathering Area, by using the <u>Sign Up Genius</u>, or you can call <u>Mahree Skala</u> at 573-474-2195.

Let us know if you're coming so we have plenty of supplies. Cloth gloves, reflective vests, etc. will be provided. Bring your favorite gloves if you prefer, and wear sturdy shoes/boots.

### ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY PARTNERSHIP FRIEND UPDATE

I'm in tears . . . members of CUCC are so loving, caring, and giving! THANK YOU! We collected over \$355 in gift cards (amount unknown on some cards), \$220 of cash, plus around 5 boxes full of clothing, food, and kitchen/other supplies for the Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary (AHL) student and her family who lost everything in a recent fire in their apartment. They have relocated to a new apartment, and I saw the student at school the other day. They are so grateful!

During March, Pastor Rick and I read to several classes during Reading Across America Week. Melba and Mahree continue to volunteer in the Media Center/Library at AHL during the week.

Another big Thank You to all CUCC folks who donated food items to help "Stock the Lounge" at AHL for the Parent-Teacher Conferences the week of February 27, especially to Jolene K. for her

homemade cookies, which were a big hit (and requests for more!).

I am so excited . . . our Music Coordinator Brandon is working with AHL's Music Specialist Jared to have members of our CUCC Celebration Singers sing with AHL's Husky Harmony (3rd - 5th graders) on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. during AHL's Fine Arts Night at the school! Both groups will be singing a song together! What a Partnership!

And last, but not least, as mentioned previously, the PTA Spring Carnival will be Saturday, April 22, 2023 at AHL from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., and we will want volunteers to help with the games and concessions so the parents

and teachers can spend fun time with the students. In addition to this, Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8-12, 2023, and we will try to provide food and other appreciation items for the teachers that week.

Thank you so much for your ministry in this partnership and making a difference in someone else's life!

Llona Weiss Liaison for CUCC to AHL, our Partner Friend





# <u>Thank You!!</u>



Thank you for your recent gift to Love Columbia. We value and appreciate your financial stewardship that allows you to give generously to support our work.

LOWE

One of Love Columbia's goals is to teach people the money management skills that allow them to be good stewards over their finances. Our hope is that they, too, will someday have the capacity to give.

Our thirty-five 2022 Extra Mile money management program graduates are on the road to this type of financial transformation. Together, they saved \$21,454.84 and reduced debt in the amount of \$55,674.29 while participating in the 16-week program.

Thank you for investing in us, so we can invest in the lives of our neighbors.





### **SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN**

After three years of closure, <u>Camp MoVal</u> is open again, and registration for Summer 2023 opened November 27! It is not too early to sign up for Summer Camp!

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

CUCC will pay \$300 for each CUCC Camper who wishes to attend! Talk to Pastor Rick or Lydia Whitacre for details on Camper Scholarships.

To register today, **CLICK HERE** 





### April 2 ~ 10:30 a.m. ~ PALM SUNDAY

"From Palms to Passion" - Witness Jesus' entry into Jerusalem as crowds shout "save us" and the transition into the crucifixion event.

### April 6 ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ MAUNDY THURSDAY

We will join Memorial Baptist Church (1634 Paris Rd) for their 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday service.

### April 7 ~ 7:00 p.m. ~ GOOD FRIDAY

Service will feature a Tenebrae service, reflecting on the desertion of the disciples and the passion of Jesus. We will depart in silence, contemplating the crucifixion.

### April 9 ~ 6:30 a.m. ~ EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

We will worship in the Outdoor Shelter House at CUCC, experiencing the Resurrection of Jesus once again as we watch the sun rise.

### April 9 ~ 7:30 - 9:30 a.m. ~ EASTER BREAKFAST

In honor of our 100th Anniversary, Men's and Women's Fellowship are putting together a BIG EASTER BREAKFAST! They will be serving pancakes, sausage, egg casseroles, muffins, cinnamon rolls, and other goodies.

### April 9 ~ 9:00 a.m. ~ EASTER EGG HUNT & GAMES

We will have games, stories, and an Easter Egg Hunt for the children on the church lawn by the Shelter House at 9:00 a.m.

### April 9 ~ 10:30 a.m. ~ CELEBRATION WORSHIP

Easter Celebration culminates in our Celebration Worship in the Sanctuary with full choirs and other great musical offerings.

# On the Church Calendar in April

Siin	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri.
2 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship 2:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall Reserved *Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	3 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. LODO Ministry Team Meeting 6:30 p.m. Heritage Team Meeting	4 10:00 a.m. Quilters	5 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	6 Maundy Thursday 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship at Memorial Baptist Church	<b>7 Good Friday</b> 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship
9 Easter Sunday 6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service 7:30-9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship *Livestreaming: CUCC Website	10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall	<b>11</b> 10:00 a.m. Quilters	6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Team 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	13 9:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship 6:00 p.m. LODO Literacy Night	14
16 LODO SUNDAY 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship 3:00 p.m. Cub Scouts FH	17 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 4:30 p.m. Loaves & Fishes 6:30 p.m. NCS Meeting	18 10:00 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	19 10:00 a.m. Pastor Rick leads Worship at the Bluffs 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers Practice 7:00 p.m. Celebration	20	21
23 Earth Day 7:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship *Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website	24 6:30 p.m. Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team Meeting	25 10:00 a.m. Quilters 5:30 p.m. Food Bank	26 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers Practice 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	27 5:00 p.m. Alpha Hart Lewis Fine Arts Night	28 Fellowship Hall Booked
30 Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary Reserved 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship *Livestreaming on our CUCC Website					

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

### **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.







### 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.

### Interested in Church Membership?

If you are interested in joining, please contact Rev. Rick Oberle. rick@columbiaucc.com



### 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.