

The Communicator

November 2025

From the Pastor's Keyboard . . .

"Being Thankful"

First of all, THANK YOU to the whole congregation for your recognition of Pastor's Appreciation Day on October 12 and the gift cards. They are very much appreciated! I was completely caught off guard by your recognition and generosity. I am so thankful for this community of faith and the covenant we share!

My thoughts here lately have been about what it means to be a church member. We are focusing on church membership this month as we remember the Saints of the Church and the foundation that has been set before us; and as we think about what it means to be a church member, one of the earliest authorities on this subject is the Apostle Paul. The Apostle Paul talks many times in his letter to the early Christian communities about what it means to be a member of the church. In a recent article by Megan Hill, she cites four main things lifted up by Paul to the early church regarding membership. Those four things are:

Speak the truth; the Good News of the joy we have in Jesus Christ. We have the opportunity, as church members, to be negative or positive; hopeless or hopeful. Nobody wants to be around a bunch of negative people. Paul encourages the early church members to talk about the joy of Jesus Christ whenever and wherever they are able and share the Good News with all (Romans 12:10). By sharing joy in this infectious way, they are enabling God's glory to be expressed in the world, and their early Christian church to be enhanced.

Show up. Not everyone can be physically present all the time; but even when not physically present, there are ways to "show up" for the church. This could be prayer, "sharing" church posts on social media, or even just talking to others about the joy that is our church. Paul was not able to be physically present with many of the early Christian communities, but he encouraged those who were able to be present as much as possible; not only physically, but spiritually as well (Romans 1:9-15, 1 Corinthians 16:20).

Invest. Investing in the church is about more than just money; it is also about time, talent, and heart. The idea of "investing time" is much more beneficial than "donating time" because when you think of your time in the church as an "investment" you realize that your time is going to reap compounded rewards for yourself and for others. Paul talks more about investing time than money. If we think of our time as an obligation, we do our work grudgingly. If we think of our time as an investment in God's glory, our joy will be much more complete (1 Corinthians 3:10).

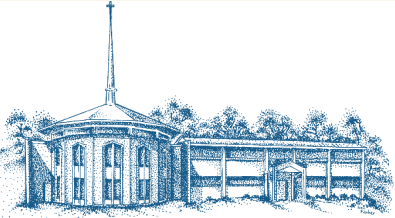
Give Thanks. In all that we do, be thankful. We don't have to worship, we get to worship. We don't have to serve, we get to serve. We follow Jesus not out of obligation but because we are thankful for all that he did for us; and as thankful people, we are called to react in thankful ways. We are also called to be thankful for each other. Thankful people pray for each other. Paul encourages all the church members to give thanks at all times in all that they do; not only for God and God's blessings, but for each other as well (Romans 1:8).

All of these attributes cited by Paul and lifted up by Megan Hill are exemplified in his ministry and encouraged in the churches he supported. As it was then, it is today as well; we would do well to apply these attributed to our lives and membership. If we can be encouraged to speak the truth in all that we do, to show up not only physically but emotionally as well, to see our time spent doing God's work as an investment, and to give thanks for one another, we will be one step closer to enabling God's kingdom on earth. We are an amazing church family, and I look forward to sharing the joy of God's glory with the rest of the world as often and as diligently as we are able!

Megan Hill closes her article by saying, "Siblings in Christ, come delight in the church. I know it does not look like much from the curb, but it is beautiful inside!" CUCC looks great from the curb as well; but we are certainly beautiful inside (and I am talking about spiritually, not physically). Share the joy of the Good News with everyone you meet, and let's all be thankful Christians together!

-Pastor Rick





News & Updates

Columbia United Church of Christ

3201 I-70 Drive NW
Columbia, MO 65202

Rev. Rick Oberle
Pastor

Rev. Fred Brandenburg
Pastor Emeritus

Mike Pierson
Music Coordinator

Alexandra Roper
Office Administrator

Sara Koenig
Director, Little One's Day Out

Caleb Berry
Custodian

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Faith Education
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



WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Women's Fellowship will meet Thursday, November 13, 9:30 a.m. in the gathering area. This month's program in *Finding Our Resilience* is "Jesus Is Tested." We will be preparing for our jams, jellies, honey, etc. sales which begin on Sunday, November 16. Hope you can join us!

Please join in supporting Women's Fellowship sales of jams, jellies, honey, etc. sales begin Sunday, November 16. Also on November 23, we will have our annual sweet breads sale. This is a good time to get something to share with your family for your Thanksgiving celebrations. Proceeds from these sales are used to fund charitable gifts for local and national fundraising efforts. Thanks for helping us do good.



Christmas Drive is Starting Soon!

Many people are struggling to fund life's necessities and aren't able to afford holiday gifts and food. Fortunately, our community partner, the Voluntary Action Center (VAC), makes it possible for us to share Christmas cheer with those who need it most.

The CUCC Christmas gift sponsorship drive will start soon. We have pledged to sponsor gifts for 45 people in families screened by the VAC. Some are children and their caregivers; some are elderly and/or disabled. Suggested amount to spend per person is \$75. If you can spend more, please sponsor more than one person so we can help as many as possible.

All you need to do to make someone's Christmas merry: Select someone to sponsor from the "tree" display in the gathering area. Pick up their wish list and the instruction sheet—and be sure to leave your name in the box! Shop and return the items to the church. Monetary donations are also welcome!

Deadline for return of gifts and food donations is December 7.

Here are just a few of the expressions of gratitude CUCC received from families we helped last year:

"Thank you so much, it has been a really tough year. With God I have made a lot happen. I once again hope it is a great Holiday for you & yours! I am so thankful!"

"Thank you so very much for making Christmas possible. If it wasn't for you my son wouldn't have gotten Christmas this year."

"From my family to yours Thank You so much for everything your family have done for our family. We are so thankful for every blessing and making this a wonderful holiday."

Moderator's Moment

Hello everyone. As we step into November, I'm reminded of how this season naturally turns our hearts toward gratitude. In the busyness of life, it's easy to overlook the blessings God pours into our lives daily- but this month offers a special opportunity to pause and reflect. Whether it's the love of family, the support of our church community, or the quiet strength God provides in difficult moments, we truly have much to be thankful for.

I also want to express deep appreciation to each of you for the ways you continue to serve and support the mission of our church. From faithful volunteers to generous givers, your commitment is the foundation of everything we are able to do together in ministry. We've seen growth in both spirit and numbers, and it's a direct result of your prayers, participation, and passion for God's work.

As we prepare our hearts for the Advent season, let us continue to lift each other up in prayer and remain open to how God wants to use us in the weeks ahead. I encourage you to reach out to someone new, extend kindness, and reflect Christ's love in small, intentional ways. May this season of thanksgiving deepen our unity and renew our purpose as God's church.

In God's Love,
Jerry Kiesling,
Council Moderator



SUNDAY MORNING SAFETY

For the safety and security of our church, and the people present, a Church Council member is available in the Gathering Area each Sunday during worship. The Council Steward is 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.

The Nurture & Education Ministry Team has been talking to our children and youth 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 guidelines.

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling	<u>rollzierp50@gmail.com</u>
Vice Moderator:	VACANT	
Secretary:	Alethea Tennill	<u>atennill108@gmail.com</u>
Treasurer:	Deborah Long Birkes	<u>dlong@elon.edu</u>
Recording Treasurer:	Christine Staelens	<u>tigersfour@gmail.com</u>
Building & Grounds:	Ted Dachroeden	<u>gpdoc4gd@gmail.com</u>
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Mary Lorber-Solt	<u>eldercow@gmail.com</u>
Finance & Stewardship:	VACANT	
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Ashley Ramirez	<u>ashknight0628@gmail.com</u>
Little One's Day Out:	Kristin Veteto	<u>kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com</u>
Membership & Care:	Judi Privitt	<u>judiprivitt811@gmail.com</u>
Nurture & Education:	Lena Muench	<u>cfg323@yahoo.com</u>
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mahree Skala	<u>skalamahree@yahoo.com</u>
Worship & Music:	Edie Diel	<u>edie@thedandegroup.com</u>
Pastor:	Rev. Rick Oberle	<u>rick@columbiaucc.com</u>



Sunday Volunteer Schedule for November

Date	Greeter	Ushers	Worship Leader	Tech Booth
11/02	Sue Ann Schaefer	Charlie Marcks Phillip Neale	Pat Forward	Brent Marcks Lorry Dreier
11/09	Tricia Price Norah Price	Jerry Kiesling Pat Forward	Jim Loveless	Carissa Graves John Graves
11/16	John Muench	Llona Weiss Jim Loveless	Jessica Lucas	Ted Dachroeden
11/23	Donna Marsh	Deborah Long-Birkes Keith Birkes	Llona Weiss	Judi Privitt Doug Privitt
11/30	Jessica Lucas	Christine Staelens Mary Lorber	Lydia Whitacre	

November Birthdays

Lawson Flood-Lorber - 11/02

Lucy Smith - 11/02

Val Schoeneberg - 11/03

Megan Schoeneberg - 11/04

Cliff Beckman - 11/06

Patty Beeson - 11/06

Brad Boyd Kennedy - 11/08

Joseph Heine - 11/09

Barry Kirchhoff - 11/09

Gus Heine - 11/11

Vernie Blank - 11/12

Lillian Smith - 11/14

Coline Duncan - 11/18

Patty Schroeder - 11/19

Emmanuel Kibaro - 11/19

Deborah Long-Birkes - 11/19

Landon Muench - 11/19

Mark Wilson - 11/19

Bryan Forward - 11/22

Esther Kibaro - 11/22

Vincent Veteto - 11/22

Bryan Crousore - 11/23

Jim Elliott - 11/23

Roger Meers - 11/23

Jedd Schneider - 11/23

Karl Skala - 11/23

Lloyd Viehland - 11/23

Bonnie Whitmore - 11/23

Mason Jaberg - 11/24

Hope Keithahn - 11/24

David Forward Sr. - 11/27

Zander Wells - 11/27

Shirley Gallaher - 11/28

Denis Hotle - 11/28

Alisa Lau-Sieckman - 11/28

Ginny Van Hove - 11/30

Columbia UCC Council Minutes

The CUCC council meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. on September 16, 2025 by Jerry Keisling. Pastor Rick opened with a prayer. Present: Jerry Kiesling, Christine Staelens, Ted Dachroeden, Mary Lorber-Solt, Lena Muench via zoom, Ashley Ramirez, Kristin Veteto via zoom, Judi Privitt, Mahree Skala, Edie Diel, Rick Oberle, and Alethea Tennill. Judi Privitt made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Edie Diel. The motion passed. Judi Privitt made a motion to approve the July and August minutes. Second by Ashley Ramirez. Motion passed.

Unfinished Business:

- ♦ Nominating Committee for 2025: Jerry Kiesling has been talking to several people about the open positions.
- ♦ Bells update: The bell repairs are proceeding.
- ♦ Solar Columbia Update: We have a preliminary design and estimate. On September 30 there will be a webinar for commercial sites. The breakeven point will happen in 10 years.
- ♦ Ministry Team Fair Evaluation: September was a much better date for this than August. Most Ministry Teams received additional members.
- ♦ Finance and Stewardship: the ministry is asking all other ministry teams to provide a blurb and testimonial throughout the year during church service and in the Communicator.
- ♦ Western Association Fall Gathering: September 20 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Kansas City.
- ♦ Historical documents/photos: Alexandra is working on scanning historical documents, helpfully identified by a group of church members, so we can keep the records.
- ♦ Accompanist Update: We are still looking for an organist/pianist.

New Business:

- ♦ 2026 Proposed Budget: Brent Marcks presented the proposed 2026 budget. Judi Privitt made a motion to accept the budget as presented. Ted Dachroeden seconded. Motion passed.
- ♦ Congregational Budget Meeting: the date is set for October 26.
- ♦ Van Proposal: The brown van was only used once in 2024. Stewardship and Finance has asked if we would consider selling the van or donating it to someone or an organization that can use it. Motion coming from Membership and Care Ministry to sell the brown van which would reduce \$1,000 in insurance payments annually. Motion passed.
- ♦ Bus Policy: Membership and Care have provided a new Bus policy. Motion to accept the bus policy with amendments was passed.

Ministry Reports:

- ♦ Building & Grounds: Smoke detectors are now in the attic. A camera was added to cover a dead zone.
- ♦ Fellowship & Hospitality: Working on Halloween Potluck, October 26. Veterans breakfast November 9 and Advent Lunch December 14.
- ♦ Finance & Stewardship: Report is attached.
- ♦ Inclusion & Affirmation: Meeting is coming up. Pridefest is October 4-5.
- ♦ LODO: LODO has an Amazon wish list.
- ♦ Membership & Care: Inactive members have been sent communication to see if they would like to remain as members. Report is attached.
- ♦ Nurture & Education: Sunday School is going really well.
- ♦ Outreach & Advocacy: Report is attached. CROP walk is coming up. NIN offering is October 5.
- ♦ Worship & Music: We are looking for a new organist/accompanist. We will present the questionnaire for two more weeks, so far it is 2:1 to have church at 10:30 a.m. in the summer. A children's choir is being formed.

Pastor Rick closed us in prayer. Motion to adjourn by Ashley Ramirez, seconded by Edie Diel. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alethea Tennill
Council Secretary



Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
September Income	\$43,318.17	\$31,570.00	\$11,748.17
September Expenses	\$32,266.34	\$40,051.00	(-\$7,784.66)
YTD Income	\$271,144.09	\$306,426.00	(-\$35,281.91)
YTD Expenses	\$316,629.07	\$318,502.00	(-\$1,872.93)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(-\$45,484.98)	(-\$12,076.00)	(-\$33,408.98)
September Joyful Giving	\$42,545.17	\$30,503.00	\$12,042.17
YTD Joyful Giving	\$263,617.18	\$294,827.00	(-\$31,209.82)

Worship Attendance

09/07	99
09/14	98
09/21	93
09/28	104

THREE WAYS TO GIVE ONLINE TO CUCC

1. Click on this link (or type into your web browser): <https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/cucc>
2. Visit 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.

When we celebrated our 100th Anniversary, we remembered all the family and friends who have paved the way and made CUCC what it is today. With honor and pride we're fortunate to carry on the legacy that was started 100 years ago. We want to continue to support all the wonderful programs our church has to offer. One way to donate is through a Qualified Charitable Distribution or a QCD.

What are some rules for donating?

- ♦ **Age:** You must be 70 and a half or older to donate a QCD.
- ♦ **Contribution limit:** The most an individual can donate in a calendar year, across all charities, is \$108,000. If you file taxes jointly, your spouse can donate up to \$108,000 from their IRA as well.
- ♦ **Eligible accounts:** QCDs can be made from most IRAs, including:
 - ♦ Traditional IRAs
 - ♦ Rollover IRAs
 - ♦ Inherited IRAs

There are several ways to donate. You can send a check to the church office. You can also text GIVE to 573-240-4041 or by visiting the website, www.columbiaucc.com.

Our congregation is growing and we want to continue to open our doors to new members and offer the programs to help support God's work in the world. Thank you for your generosity!

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Wilson
Finance and Stewardship
Ministry Team Member



Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

TRANSGENDER DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Transgender Day of Remembrance, always on November 20, initially memorialized the death of Rita Hester in 1998. Brutally murdered in her own apartment, Hester's case remains unsolved. She was born in 1963, one of five children, and grew up in Hartford, CT. Her younger sister recalls that she was always known as Rita. She moved to Boston in her 20s, completed her transition, and found community in the local rock scene. The apartment building where Rita Hester lived still stands, and, few blocks away, a beautiful mural celebrates her. As of January 2025, both sites are featured in [A People's Guide to Greater Boston](#).

Over 400 transgender people died by violent means last year. The numbers tend to be fluid because these deaths often go unreported or misreported. Black and Latina transgender women remain particularly vulnerable.

While remembering is important, how can you be supportive today? First, use a person's chosen name and pronouns. Believe them with respect to their identity and ask if they have specific needs. Support them in accessing community resources. Educate yourself about gender identity. Know that trans and nonbinary individuals span all age groups and live in all communities. Second, insure that your community is safe. Speak up if you see discrimination, erasure, disapproval or rejection. Lobby for appropriate restroom facilities. Let your representatives know that trans service members deserve their full, earned pensions upon retirement. Consider the danger trans people face when incarcerated within the general population. Advocate for needed medical treatment. Fight for the right for children to play sports. Now, more than ever, your support matters and may save lives.

"Transgender Day of Remembrance seeks to highlight the losses we face due to anti-transgender bigotry and violence. I am no stranger to the need to fight for our rights, and the right to simply exist is first and foremost. With so many seeking to erase transgender people — sometimes in the most brutal ways possible — it is vitally important that those we lose are remembered, and that we continue to fight for justice."

— Transgender Day of Remembrance founder, Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Sources: [glaad.org](https://www.glaad.org), [huffpost.org](https://www.huffpost.org), [nbcnews.com](https://www.nbcnews.com), [bostonbook.org](https://www.bostonbook.org), [plannedparenthood.org](https://www.plannedparenthood.org).



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

Hello Everyone! We are excited for the coming months and the activities that Little One's Day Out has planned. At the time of writing this article, we are awaiting Pumpkin Fun Day and our Parent Support Group. We have received a lot of positive feedback from the Conscious Discipline night and believe the support group will be just as well received!

In November, Little One's Day Out will be hosting a food drive for the local food bank and we ask that non perishable items be dropped off in the box under the sign-in kiosk at LODO's entrance. We will also be taking monetary donations that will go to the food bank; if you would like to donate this way please put your money in an envelope and label it LODO food drive. This can be dropped off in the tuition mailbox. We hope to make a difference in our community during the holiday.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Koenig,
LODO Director



LODO Staff Spotlight: Avis Kim - Lambs Teacher



Hello Everyone!

My name is Avis Kim and I am the Lambs teacher. I have worked for LODO for 4.5 years and truly love my job.

When I'm not at work, I'm with my family. I've been with my husband for 25 years and we have two kids Ellee (17) and Zeke (14). They are super active in sports and keep us busy!



NOVEMBER 2025

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOV
4

CLOSED FOR
CPS PLAN DAY

NOV
13

LODO
THANKSGIVING
FEAST 5PM-7PM

NOV
14

CLOSED FOR
CPS PLAN DAY

NOV
17-25

STUDENT
CONFERENCES

NOV
26-28

CLOSED FOR
THANKSGIVING
BREAK

[HTTPS://WWW.COLUMBIAUCC.COM/LODOHOME](https://www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome)

“Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” ~ William Butler Yeats

We are the fire starters for our youth and YOU have something that could spark a passion for a child at LODO! Whether that is your intricate stamp collection, your unique skills in creating and leading science experiments, your love of gardening, your ability to bring a story to life, your passion for math and numbers, or your experience traveling around the world and wondering at all that God created- all of these (and many others) are the spark that just might make a child grow up to be an astronaut, a teacher, an anthropologist, a scientist, or an author and do their part in changing the world for God's glory!

This month I want to encourage you to consider the unique gifts God has blessed you with and think of a way you can share them with our LODO program. If you want to collaborate with our ministry team and/or LODO's director, Sara, we would love to hear your ideas and work with you to bring this idea to life!

Let us all consider the passions and interests we have and how we can share them with the next generation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kristin Veteto,
LODO Ministry Team Chair



Membership & Care Ministry Team

The financial contributions of CUCC help support the work of the Membership & Care Ministry Team. The purpose of our team is to establish and maintain programs to care for members of our Congregation and meet their needs. We ensure each visitor and member is greeted with purpose and welcomed to our church. We continue revising/updating our CUCC membership rolls.

Our CUCC CARES (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) Ministries provide for our congregation members in time of celebration and need. The ministries include:

- ♦ Note Writers/Cards
- ♦ Handy Helpers
- ♦ Visiting Ministry
- ♦ Meal Ministry
- ♦ Prayer Shawl Ministry
- ♦ Health and Wellness Ministry
- ♦ Transportation Ministry
- ♦ Prayer Team Ministry

In 2024, we scheduled and delivered 65 meals, distributed 174 cards and notes, and distributed 8 sets of Journeying Through Grief booklets to members dealing with loss. We also started a Young Adult Ministry with several gatherings. We sent postcards for Rally Day, Lent and Advent, and our Team helped Pastor Rick welcome 8 new members into the congregation in 2024. We continue to provide rides and prayers for our members and invite members to let us know their needs. Providing support and care for others is such a rewarding experience, and we invite everyone to join us in volunteering through one of our ministries.

In closing, we'd like to share a few remarks from Steve Jannetti that show the impact of our church on others. "CUCC was a light in a dark time and has given me great comfort, solace and joy. My time at CUCC has been a refuge, a place of security as well as a place to renew my faith and elevate my spiritual life. I can't tell you how much this time has strengthened and encouraged me. It has been an honor and privilege to be part of this community."

Thank you to CUCC for the support and financial contributions that allow the Membership & Care Ministry Team to care for others.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judi Privitt

Membership & Care
Ministry Team Chair



STEWARDSHIP THROUGH SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media is a key part in expanding our church's presence and outreach in the modern era. Even if you rarely use social media, like Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, etc. it is important to interact with social media posts made by Columbia UCC. You might be thinking to yourself "social media doesn't do much for me, why is it so important to do this?" It is important because sharing our social media posts means more people get to learn about CUCC and will be more inclined to join!

So, how does it work? Social media uses algorithms to determine what to show you. You often see things from groups, pages, or people you follow. This is direct content. When you like, comment, save, or share a post, this creates "engagement" and can make the post pop up on other people's feeds.

When you "like" a post it has a small chance of popping up on a friend's feed. "Liking" is a good start, but does very little for the algorithm. Commenting on a post is even better. Commenting on our posts will help boost our post to other people. These can be as simple as "wonderful service today" or "beautiful photo" or you can even put your favorite emojis! This tells the algorithm "this is an interesting post and more people would probably want to see it."

But "sharing" our posts are by far the best thing you can do! "Sharing" a post on your page allows others to directly see our content. People who may not follow our page are then able to see what we have going on without having to go and find our page - you bring it to them! This allows new people to discover who we are and our mission to spread the Good News. They might even end up coming to church the more they see our wonderful congregation and ministry teams at work.

Nurture & Education Ministry Team



WE ARE SHINING BRIGHT!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

- Rehearsals start Sunday, 11/2 (during Sunday School, 9-10 a.m.)
- For all Sunday School kids/youth (ages 3-12th grade)
- Program is Sunday 12/7 during worship

Names Needed!!!

- It's time to send "Blessing Boxes" to our CUCC College and Vo-Tech Crew!
- We have some names, but don't want to miss anyone!
- Even if you think they're already on the list, please e-mail Alexandra (office@columbiaucc.com) regardless!
- Submissions due by November 10.

Cookies by the Pound

- Sunday, December 14
- Our "big" fundraiser of the year, supporting the Nurture/Education Ministry Team.
- Bakers- please bring homemade goodies by 9:00 a.m. on December 14
- Buyers- be ready to purchase delicious treats!!!



"Give Thanks" Food Collection

- Sunday, November 23
- Bring non-perishable food items
- Kids/youth will process and place the food at the altar during worship
- Collections will be donated to the Food Bank Market Pantry



"SHINE BRIGHT" on Sundays!

- Adult Bible Study- 9:00-10:00 a.m. (upstairs in Education Wing, last room on the left). Meets weekly.
- Sunday School- 9:00-10:00 a.m., ages 3-12th grade. Meets weekly. **WE'LL TAKE CARE OF BREAKFAST!** So much fun planned for our kiddos and youth! Ages 3-5th grade meet upstairs in Education Wing, grades 6-12 meet downstairs in Youth Lounge.

Our Kids **NEED YOU**

- Sunday School Teachers- 3 age groups: preK-2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade, 6th-12th; help as much as you'd like or as your availability allows (we'll show you the ropes!)
- Sunday School Greeters/Floater
- Youth Group Leaders- the more the merrier!

Scan QR Code to sign up or contact

Lena Muench:
cfg323@yahoo.com,
call/text 573-881-2571



Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team



Thank you CUCC members for your support in providing snacks for our Alpha Hart Elementary School (AHL) students in the snack drive through October 20. Our Partner in Education (PIE) certificate presentation was on October 22, so we are full Partners, an impressive action for a church of our size. We continue to supply volunteers for their Good Dads program early one Wednesday morning each month, and for babysitting during their PTA meetings, along with other opportunities to participate at school. Thank you to Pastor Rick and Gail Marriott for helping with Good Dads on September 17 and October 22. And thank you, Kristy Hayward, for helping with child care at PTA meeting on October 8. CUCC is truly using its time and talents! I am looking for a Volunteer for November 12, 2025 at 7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m. to help with their Good Dads program with me. Also, during October we helped a student and family with laundry needs. Thank you CUCC!



Our usual 4th Tuesday food bank nights fall during holiday weeks in November and December, so we won't be volunteering then. We may try a daytime shift or two- stay tuned for more details. Mark your calendars for January 27 at 5:30 p.m. It'll be here before we know it! Many thanks to the crew that packed spaghetti in September: Mark Duncan, Jessica Jenks, Audrey Lasley, Connie Loveless, Gail Marriott and her friend Tina, Brenda and John Muench, Mahree Skala, and Tricia Soncasie.



The October 20 meal at Loaves & Fishes consisted of spaghetti (made by Mary Lorber & Audrey Lasley), lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson), bread, and a variety of desserts (left from last month). Jessica Jenks made and provided the peanut butter and jelly's. Thank you to Tricia Soncasie for making and donating brownies. Servers/helpers for the evening were Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Doug Privitt, Tim & Tricia Soncasie, Anne Heine, Wendy Vandegriffe, Patty Beeson and Jim Loveless. We served approximately 150 servings. Thanks to everyone for volunteering for this Outreach project.



Team Earth will host a Lunch and Learn after church on November 16. We'll look at the scriptural basis for environmental stewardship and learn about the Solarize Columbia project. CUCC has an opportunity to install solar panels at a deeply discounted rate through this city-sponsored program. Come, learn more details and enjoy a delicious lunch!

Worship & Music Ministry Team

Welcome to Fall! The new banner, courtesy of the banner team (Melba, Jo Ellen, and Chloe) is amazing and enhances our sanctuary. If you are interested in joining the banner team, speak to Melba, Jo Ellen or Chloe.

We are still searching for an organist, many thanks to Connie Loveless & Gina Pierson for delighting us all with their talents while we continue the search.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Bells refurbishment project. They are back! November 2 will be their first performance, wait till you hear the bells.

The questionnaires about summer worship times have been received and tabulated, with an overwhelming preference for maintaining our 10:30 worship time in the summer of 2026. We will be making this recommendation to the Church Council.

Our next Music & Worship Ministry Team meeting is October 23 at 6:30 p.m. and all are welcome to join us in the fun and fellowship as we do God's work.

Looking forward to the Holidays!

Respectfully Submitted,
Edie Diel,
Worship & Music
Ministry Team Chair



What a blessing to be working as the CUCC Music Coordinator/Choir Director!! The last two months have been filled with musical joy as the Celebration Singers have returned to singing regularly on Sundays, and now that the bells have returned from their much needed "spa treatment" the Chapel Ringers are back to rehearsing. The people who dedicate themselves to these ensembles week in and week out are (as I already knew) a talented, fun, and supportive bunch who energize me musically and personally every week! Of course, there is always room for more, so if you have been enjoying their worship contributions from afar but are secretly considering joining, wait no longer!! You won't regret it!

Celebration Singers (choir) will be continuing to rehearse Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and sing regularly on Sunday mornings. We are also looking forward to preparing the Advent Cantata ("Sermon in Song") for December. Chapel Ringers rehearse from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesdays. They will be ringing in worship on November 2 and twice in December.

As you probably know, we are still working on filling the vacant accompanist/organist/pianist position. While we wait, we are certainly blessed to have two wonderful musicians filling in regularly. Many, many thanks go to Connie Loveless and Gina Pierson for their musical contributions to rehearsals and services! When you see them, please give them an extra word of thanks for what they are doing for our worship experience, and maybe offer a word of prayer that we will find a more permanent person to occupy the piano bench.

In Harmony,
Mike Pierson,
Music Coordinator



WELCOME TO QUORUS!

Columbia United Church of Christ is pleased to be in partnership with **Quorus, the LGBTQIAA Choral ensemble of Columbia!**

Quorus uses our facility for rehearsals, and we will the opportunity to work with them as they schedule performances around the area. We are also always thrilled to have Quorus join us for worship, praising God with their inclusive repertoire.

Quorus would love to have CUCC members join their choir! To learn more about Quorus, [CLICK HERE](#).



Scouting America

October was an exciting and busy month for our Scouts! Troop 4475, Troop 708, and Pack 5381 camped out October 17 - 19 at Pinnacles Youth Park for their annual Recruitment Campout. Even though it rained most of the weekend, the event was successful, with more than 15 Cub Scouts coming to visit our troops to decide if they are potentially interested in crossing over to us. Scouts ran several stations to engage the Cubs including fire-building, knot-tying, first aid skills, navigating a monkey rope bridge, and enjoying a pumpkin painting craft.



In addition, several Scouts from both troops participated in a service project by helping pour and smooth concrete to repair a wheelchair ramp for the Pinnacles caretaker. In the evening, Scouts hosted the Cubs for dinner cooked by the different patrols. Then everyone enjoyed Dutch oven dessert cakes. The event concluded with a campfire program and a flag retirement ceremony.



Upcoming for both Troops is the Mizzou Merit Badge University the weekend of October 24 where Scouts have the opportunity to earn several different badges. Then Troop 4475 will be handing out cards with retired flag stars to veterans in November.

HELP US FEED LOCAL FAMILIES



TOGETHER, WE CAN PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Drop off non-perishable food items in the box at sign-in kiosk
- Donate a monetary contribution by placing money in an envelope and writing LODO Food Drive (all money will go to a local food pantry)



HUNGER AFFECTS 1 IN 7 PEOPLE

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Every day, families in our community go to bed hungry. Your donation helps us provide fresh meals and groceries to those who need it most.

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

- Canned vegetables, beans & soup
- Rice, pasta & cereal
- Shelf-stable milk & baby formula
- Peanut butter & canned protein
- Cooking oil & spices



DROP OFF LOCATION:
Little One's Day Out
From 11/1- 11/25

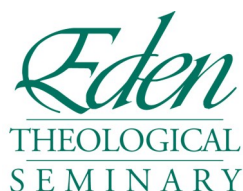
THANK YOU!

On behalf of everyone at Eden Theological Seminary, I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude for your support of the seminary. Your financial contribution to the Annual Fund on September 15, 2025 is incredibly meaningful. It allows us to continue a 175-year tradition of educating and engaging the next generation of spiritual leaders - people who are developing theological imagination and faithful resilience to join God's loving and liberating work in the world.

Thanks to your generosity, we are building communities of learning not only across denominational lines, but across entire faiths. Our developing Network Model is set to help seminarians across the country adapt together to the ever-changing future.

We are grateful to have you as part of our community of supporters, and we are excited to keep you updated on how your donation is being used to further our mission.

Once again, thank you for your kindness and support. Should you have any questions or wish to learn more about our programs, please do not hesitate to reach out.



In Gratitude,
Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss,
Vice President for Advancement at Eden Seminary

Our move to the new facility is finally about to become a reality! It is tentatively scheduled to happen by May or June 2026. In preparation, Turning Point has been approved as an independent non-profit organization and pieces are falling into place. We will be renting space at The Opportunity Campus and will continue being responsible for our own finances and fundraising. Your support has been so important to our mission. We hope we can continue to count on your prayers and donations.

Thank you and God bless!
Turning Point Staff

Thank you for your generous gift to the Church World Service Blankets program. As families and communities around the world recover from emergencies and struggle in the face of unprecedented challenges, you are standing with them. Now more than ever, we are so grateful for your generous support.

Your contribution provides warmth, comfort, and hope to neighbors near and far. It provides a tangible reminder to migrant families that they are not alone as they seek safety. It wraps refugees in warmth as they arrive in the United States to build a new future. It provides comfort to our neighbors who have lost homes or are struggling in the face of extreme challenges. Around the world, your support means relief and hope. Around the world, your support means relief and hope.

Because of you, Church World Service is able to respond when disasters occur and support is needed. Thanks to your compassions, we can - and will - change lives. We are so grateful to have you as a partner in mission and ministry. Your \$442 gift will provide warmth, hope, and love to people when they need it the most!



Thank you,
Rick Santos,
President and CEO of Church World Service

International Missions

CUCC IS WORKING IN INDIA

The Center for Social Equity and Inclusion (CSEI) in India is a non-governmental organization dedicated to promoting social justice, equity, and inclusion, particularly for marginalized communities such as Dalits, Adivasis, and other historically oppressed groups. CSEI works through research, advocacy, and capacity-building to address issues like discrimination, inequality, and exclusion in various sectors, including education, health, and governance. By empowering communities and engaging with policymakers, CSEI strives to create a more inclusive society where all individuals, regardless of caste, ethnicity, or background, have equal access to opportunities and resources.

Through [Global Ministries](#), CUCC is a partner in mission with over 200 mission partners around the world, including CSEI. Keep Global Ministries and the people of India in your prayers this month as they do God's work on our behalf!



GLOBAL MINISTRIES CHILD AND ELDER SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Supporting children and elders with the love and services they deserve is one of the greatest gifts of kindness you can share. Through your support, the [Global Ministries](#) Child and Elder Sponsorship Program partners with churches and agencies all over the world to provide services that create opportunities and affirm dignity.

Child Sponsorship Opportunities

Your gifts through [Global Ministries](#) Child Sponsorship make a difference! The Child Sponsorship program works closely with partner organizations that have long-established links with the UCC and Disciples. Collaborating with partners, your gifts to Child Sponsorship provide food, basic health care, clothing, and in some cases housing, school fees, uniforms, books, and training.

Elder Sponsorship Opportunities

In many countries, an individual is not entitled to government assistance after retirement unless they have worked for the government. Global Ministries Elder Sponsorship centers assist elders who have no place to live and no family to care for them. Your sponsorship of an elder helps provide shelter, medicine, and meals. Elders are given the opportunity to live out their lives in dignity and solace in an environment where they feel loved and cared for.

Sponsorship gifts can be given as [holiday gifts](#), [in honor or memory of someone](#), or a [one-time gift to use where most needed](#). 100 percent of your sponsorship gift will be designated for the use of the child or elder you sponsor and is not used to support the Child and Elder Sponsorship program costs. To make a general gift in support of the Child and Elder Sponsorship program, you may do so online or by check. For more information visit the [Global Ministries Sponsorship Page](#) on their website.



On the Church Calendar in November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 7:30 a.m. - Men's Fellowship 9:00 a.m. - Faith Education 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship 7:00 p.m. - Quorus Rehearsal	3 5:00 p.m. - Membership & Care Team Meeting 6:30 p.m. - Fellowship & Hospitality Team Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Scouting America	4 - ELECTION DAY 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 4:30 p.m. - Solar meeting 5:30 p.m. - Team Earth	5 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers 7:15 p.m. - Confirmation Class	6 6:30 p.m. - Troop 4475 Meeting		1 12:30 p.m. - Sanctuary in Use
9 9:00 a.m. - Faith Education 9:15 a.m. - Veterans Bkfst. 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship 12:00 p.m. - Inclusion & Affirmation Team Meeting 7:00 p.m. - Quorus Rehearsal	10 7:00 p.m. - Scouting America	11 - VETERANS DAY 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. - Troop 708 Meeting	12 7:00 a.m. - Good Dads 6:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Group 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers 7:15 p.m. - Confirmation Class	13 9:30 a.m. - Women's Fellowship 5:00 p.m. - LODO Thanksgiving Dinner	14	15
16 9:00 a.m. - Faith Education 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship 12:00 p.m. - Team Earth Lunch & Learn 7:00 p.m. - Quorus Rehearsal	17 4:30 p.m. - Loaves & Fishes 7:00 p.m. - Scouting America	18 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. - Pause to Color 6:30 p.m. - Council Meeting	19 10:00 a.m. - Pastor Rick at The Bluffs 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers 7:15 p.m. - Confirmation Class	20 6:00 p.m. - LODO Ministry Team 6:00 p.m. - Sanctuary in Use	21	22
23 9:00 a.m. - Faith Education 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship 7:00 p.m. - Quorus Rehearsal	24 7:00 p.m. - Scouting America	25 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. - Food Bank	26 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers	27 - THANKSGIVING OFFICE CLOSED	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29
30 9:00 a.m. - Faith Education 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship 7:00 p.m. - Quorus Rehearsal						

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



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.



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Interested in Church Membership?

If you are interested in joining,
please contact **Rev. Rick Oberle**.
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!