

# THE COMMUNICATOR

December 2023

HELLO  
December

*From the Pastor's Keyboard...*

*"The Joy of Church"*

When the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer was with us for our Centennial Celebration on September 30/October 1, one of the things he talked about was "The Joy of Church." He talked about introducing people to the United Church of Christ, people who had been hurt by churches in the past, told they don't matter, or are condemned because of how God Created them, and the joy they felt as they experienced the United Church of Christ and our Inclusive Love for the first time.

He told us about his experiences as General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and how he was able to share the Joy of Church with people all across the world. Travelling in delegations to Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and South America, he shared with people all over the world that Jesus Christ came to us to give us Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy, not condemnation. This was his main job descriptor, he said, to share The Joy of Church, and he was quick to tell us that he loved his job.

The Joy of Church is something we embrace fully at Columbia United Church of Christ. There are many Christian denominations that focus their efforts on condemnation, guilt, and the personification of sin and evil. More conservative churches are well known for using guilt and accusation as motivators to manage and manipulate the populace. Marcus Borg, the renowned theologian, talks of pastors who focus on this sort of shaming as "finger shaking pastors."

This way of being church is quickly fading from our culture, and good riddance. Many people love to quote John 3:16, but in fact, John 3:17 is much more telling: "God did not send Jesus into the world to condemn the world, but to save it." Jesus came to bring joy.

As we move into the Advent Season, we will be celebrating the Joy of Church each Sunday, focusing on the Psalms. Each Sunday in Advent will be special; you won't want to miss any!

**Sunday, December 3:** First Sunday of Advent and the Confirmation of Sofia Marienfeld-Crenshaw  
Theme: "God's Presence Brings JOY!" Focusing on Psalm 16 & Luke 1:5-23

**Sunday, December 10:** Second Sunday of Advent, Advent Cantata (Bells and Choir) and **Advent Banquet**  
Theme: "God's Peace Brings JOY!" Focusing on Psalm 118 & Luke 1:26-38

**Sunday, December 17:** Third Sunday of Advent and the Sunday School Christmas Program  
Theme: "God's Steadfast Love Brings JOY!" Focusing on Psalm 100, Luke 1:39-56

**Sunday, December 24:** Fourth Sunday of Advent with special choral music  
Theme: "God's Justice Brings JOY!" Focusing on Psalm 97 & Luke 1:57-80

**Sunday, December 31:** First Sunday of Christmas/Christmas Hymn Sing  
Theme: God's Glory Brings JOY!" Focusing on Psalm 96 & Luke 2:8-20

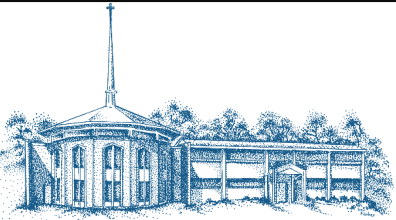
Our Christmas Eve evening services will be at 7:00 & 11:00 p.m. with special music from Kristin Veteto, Casey Wood, and Steve Jannetti. We will focus on "The Gift of Joy" at both of these services, reflecting on Jesus' presence in our midst.

The gift of joy that we share this season is not something to be kept to ourselves either. Corporately and Individually, it is up to us to take that joy into the world and share it with everyone we meet. Maybe they will know we are Christians by our . . . JOY!

The joy of the Advent Season, as we prepare for Christ's birth, is contagious. But in order to be "infected," you must be present. There is much to celebrate here at CUCC this season, and we hope you will avail yourself of the "Joy of Church"!

*-Pastor Rick*





**COLUMBIA  
UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST**

**3201 I-70 DRIVE NW  
COLUMBIA, MO 65202**

**Rev. Rick Oberle**

Pastor

**Rev. Fred Brandenburg**

Pastor Emeritus

**Shelly Adams**

Student Pastor

**Casey Wood**

Music Coordinator

**Steven Jannetti**

Organist/Accompanist

**MJ King**

Office Administrator

**Erika Maltsbarger**

Director, Little One's Day Out

**Caleb Berry**

Custodian

**Sunday Schedule:**

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

**Office Hours:**

**Monday through Friday  
9am- 3pm**

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

**Email:  
[office@columbiaucc.com](mailto:office@columbiaucc.com)**

**Website:  
[www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)**



**News & Updates**

**Ladies - Mark Your Calendars!**

Women's Fellowship meets again on Thursday, December 14 at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Area. Many thanks to all who have purchased jams, jelly, soup mix, and Christmas decorative items to fund the very worthwhile charities we support. We welcome all women of the church to join our Fellowship!



**ADVENT CANTATA AND ADVENT BANQUET**

The Choir Advent Cantata will be on **December 10** during the 10:30 worship service! This special presentation will feature songs from the Joyful Ringers and the Celebration Singers to prepare our hearts for the birth of Christ in our midst once more.

The Advent Banquet will also be on **December 10**, right after the Cantata! This banquet will be catered by Tammy Prior, the caterer who provided the food for our Centennial Celebration at the Farmer's Market Pavilion. The tentative menu is Ham, Turkey, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans, Mac-n-Cheese, Cranberries, Rolls, and Dessert. Since this is a catered dinner, we need an accurate count on who is planning to attend. **CLICK HERE** to RSVP, or **email MJ in the church office!**

**December 10** will be the day the whole church family comes together to celebrate the season! Don't miss it- Happy Advent!

**CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM**

The Sunday School Children will prepare us for the upcoming Christmas season by sharing the gift of wisdom that is Jesus' nativity on Sunday, December 17, during the worship service. We will also observe the CUCC tradition of cookie sharing at this time. Plan on attending and sharing in the fun with our Sunday School Students!

**Cookies by the Pound- Sunday, December 10 – 9:00 a.m.**

The Nurture and Education Ministry Team is hosting the Annual Cookies by the Pound Fundraiser on Sunday, December 10! All profits will go to the Nurture & Education Fund for Camp Scholarships. Here is how you can help:

- ◆ Bring donations of Cookies & Candies to church early on December 10 (before 9:00) or the week before.
- ◆ Purchase Cookies and Candies on December 10.

Enjoy a great assortment of cookies and candies this Advent Season with the diverse variety of Cookies – By the Pound!

# December Birthdays

JOSIE ARMS 12/3	Diane Oerly 12/3	HELEN SCHULTZ 12/4
ELaine TROUT 12/4	BRAD MARCKS 12/7	MOLLY BAKER 12/9
DEB BERNHARDT 12/9	BEN CRENSHAW 12/10	GRACE DEVENNEY 12/10
ALETHEA TENNILL 12/10	JOSH MUENCH 12/11	KRISTIN VETETO 12/11
RAMONA DACHROEDEN 12/12	SCOTT WEBSTER 12/12	SCOTT RAPP 12/14
LYNNE TSAPELAS 12/14	IRA WILLIAMS 12/14	AXEL DEVENNEY 12/16
KELLY LAVELY 12/16	LINDSEY OBERLE 12/16	PAULA WILSON 12/16
JEAN STROTHMANN 12/17	BRANDON SCHOENEBERG 12/22	AUGUST WILLIAMS 12/23
DARREN LASLEY 12/25	TIFFANY GREEN 12/26	JOAN BENTLAGE 12/28
CHLOE EVELER 12/28	TOM SOLT 12/30	JEAN WALKER 12/30

## Sunday Volunteer Schedule for December

DATE	GREETERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS	TECH BOOTH
12/3	MARY LORBER	PAT FORWARD & LLONA WEISS	LENA MUENCH	DOUG & JUDI PRIVITT
12/10	JESSICA LUCAS	FRED & CAROLYN MALICOAT	KENNEDY LUCAS	JOHN & CARISSA GRAVES
12/17	MARY LORBER	MARY LORBER & CHRISTINE STAELENS	LYDIA WHITACRE	MIKE PIERSON & LORRY DREIER
12/24 10:30 A.M.	ANNE HEINE	JOHN & BRENDA MUENCH	PAT FORWARD	JOSH MUENCH & LORRY DREIER
12/24 7 P.M.	JUDI PRIVITT		LINDSEY OBERLE	DOUG PRIVITT
12/24 11 P.M.	HELEN SCHULTZ		LLONA WEISS	BRENT MARCKS
12/31	SUSAN DUNHAM	PHILLIP NEALE	MAHREE SKALA	JOSH MUENCH & BRENT MARCKS

### COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	Kurt Heine	<a href="mailto:heinekurt@gmail.com">heinekurt@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	Jerry Kiesling	<a href="mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com">rollzierp50@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Alethea Tennill	<a href="mailto:atennill108@gmail.com">atennill108@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sue Ann Schaefer	<a href="mailto:ssas3307@aol.com">ssas3307@aol.com</a>
<b>Recording Treasurer:</b>	Christine Staelens	<a href="mailto:tigersfour@gmail.com">tigersfour@gmail.com</a>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds:</b>	Ted Dachroeden	<a href="mailto:gpadoc4gd@gmail.com">gpadoc4gd@gmail.com</a>
<b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality:</b>	Mary Lorber-Solt	<a href="mailto:eldercow@gmail.com">eldercow@gmail.com</a>
<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship:</b>	Keith Birkes	<a href="mailto:kbirkes4@gmail.com">kbirkes4@gmail.com</a>
<b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation:</b>	Tricia Price	<a href="mailto:tricialprice@gmail.com">tricialprice@gmail.com</a>
<b>Little One's Day Out:</b>	Lorry Dreier	<a href="mailto:llhd01@gmail.com">llhd01@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership &amp; Care:</b>	Judi Privitt	<a href="mailto:judiprivitt811@gmail.com">judiprivitt811@gmail.com</a>
<b>Nurture &amp; Education:</b>	Pat Forward	<a href="mailto:pdfoward@msn.com">pdfoward@msn.com</a>
<b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy:</b>	Mark Duncan	<a href="mailto:markduncan2@mchsi.com">markduncan2@mchsi.com</a>
<b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>	Mike Pierson	<a href="mailto:mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com">mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com</a>





## Moderator's Moment

There is much to be thankful for this holiday season. This year, we will be adding a chair around the dinner table for little Joseph Heine, and the Oberles will also welcome Harper's fresh new face to her first Thanksgiving. At the same time, however, I know the families of Ed Kaiser and Larry Noxon will be missing their loved ones quite acutely as they are faced with empty chairs. I hope that they can take comfort in the fact that their entire church community is here for them with love and support, not just "thoughts and prayers" as Pastor Rick mentioned in his sermon, but extravagant hospitality that's backed up with action.



I find it strangely poetic that while the memorial service for Ed was happening on Thursday, November 9, we were in the hospital watching a new life come into the world. I like to think that perhaps their souls passed each other moving from the earthly realm to the heavenly, and vice versa. One thing is certain, life is a gift to be celebrated and cherished at both beginning, and end, and I am thankful that this congregation is here for it.



-Kurt Heine, Moderator

## Clergy Personnel Committee



The Clergy Personnel Committee met on November 20 to connect with Pastor Rick and discuss celebrations and concerns. These included the continued positivity surrounding our nearly finished sanctuary renovations, meaningful celebrations in the lives of congregation members, and challenges within our larger conference. Concerns continue to exist as well for CUCC members who seemed to disengage from church life during the pandemic and are yet to return to active involvement.

The Committee also reviewed the results of this year's Pastoral Evaluation, completed by twelve Council members. The responses indicated highly positive feedback with some ideas for areas for improved practices which Pastor Rick and the committee reflected upon and discussed. The committee will meet again in the first quarter of 2024 and will begin working on a revised version of the evaluation to be distributed again in late Spring.

The Clergy Personnel Committee consists of John Graves, Pat Forward and myself, Kristy Hayward.

Respectfully, Kristy Hayward



### CHRISTMAS CAROLING 12/17

You are invited to participate in our CUCC Christmas Caroling adventure on Sunday, December 17. You don't have to sing well to sing Christmas Carols; they are the songs we all know and love! The Advent Season would not be complete without this expression of faith, as we prepare our hearts for Christ's birth by sharing God's love.

We will meet at **Lenoir Woods** in front of the Chapel at 4:00 p.m. that Sunday afternoon. We will sing a few songs to the residents at Lenoir, then head to **The Bluffs**. After singing carols to the residents there, we will head to **The Neighborhoods** and then **Columbia Manor Care Center**, sharing the love of Christ through our Christmas Carol offerings.

After caroling, you are invited to head back to Jim & Connie Loveless' house for a holiday party! We will sing songs around the piano and share the joy of the season. Bring a snacky food to share. We plan to be at their house by 6:30 p.m. If you have any questions about the holiday party, contact **Connie Loveless**; **Pastor Rick** is coordinating the caroling.

This will be a great holiday adventure, and it is open to everyone! We hope you will join us to share the Christmas joy with our friends in these care facilities! Nothing rings in the holiday like caroling together as a family!



# CUCC Church Council



## CUCC Council Meeting — October 17, 2023

Present: Jerry Kiesling, Sue Ann Schaefer, Christine Staelens, Ted Dachroeden, Mary Lorber-Solt, Keith Birkes, Tricia Price, Lorry Dreier, Judi Privitt, Pat Forward, Mark Duncan, Mike Pierson, Rick Oberle, and Alethea Tennill.

Mary Lorber-Solt discussed our book **Reorganized Religion**, Chapter 5, *Hamlet Problem*. It discussed to be fully human, to witness to a compelling faith. Decline of the church and why youth do not believe in the “Institution” was presented. Many churches still follow the “my way or the highway” philosophy. You can only control the things you cause.

### Unfinished Business:

- \* Spots were filled for stewardship duties.
- \* Worship Sanctuary Updates: The campaign has ended. We still have a few things to finish.
- \* The 100th Heritage Team: The celebration weekend was a wonderful event. The committee and everyone who helped did an awesome job. Dinner was fantastic.
- \* Policy and Procedures Manual Update: Personnel Committee will start review November 21 at 5:30.
- \* Clergy Personnel Committee/Annual Pastoral Review: The committee has gathered the evaluations and will meet with Pastor Rick on October 26. They will report at the November Council Meeting.
- \* Vision Team: There will be one more meeting on 11/2/23 before the strategic plan is presented to the congregation on November 12.
- \* Financial Report: Sue Ann Schaefer presented the 2024 budget from the finance committee and presented a motion for adoption. Motion passed. Budget will be presented to the congregation on November 12.
- \* Hospitality Time Hosts: Council member who opens the church also makes coffee, etc. for fellowship time starting October 1. Closing council steward will clean up.

### New Business:

- \* Organist/Accompanist: The executive committee presented a motion to hire Steve Jannetti as our new organist/accompanist. Motion passed. Steve will start immediately.
- \* Handicap Inclusion Ramp: The Inclusion and Affirmation Committee would like to purchase a portable ramp to be used in the sanctuary as needed. They will look for some suitable options.
- \* Pastor Report: Report is attached. MJ and Pastor Rick are working on a more detailed history, all compiled in one book. They will be available for purchase.
- \* Financials were presented: We are under budget in Joyful giving \$20,200 and over budget on expenses. Giving Tuesday is coming up. They hope to raise \$25,000. We plan for 90% to go toward Joyful Giving.

### Ministry Team Reports:

- \* Building and Grounds: Minor repairs were completed.
- \* Fellowship and Hospitality: Trunk or Treat will be at the Columbia Orthopedic Group 10/28 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Erika will have a booth for LODO, and the church will have one, as well. Advent Banquet will be 12/10.
- \* Finance and Stewardship: They are working on Giving Tuesday.
- \* Membership & Care: Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Lunch and Learn will be November 5. They are working on a new Mission Statement: Invite, Include, and Incorporate.
- \* Nurture & Education: October 22 is the Fall Festival. November 19 is PJ and Gingerbread Decorating Sunday. They are currently looking for nursery workers, as our current ones have resigned.
- \* Outreach & Advocacy: Mark Duncan reported that the kitchen renovation in Chiapas is complete.
- \* Worship & Music: Mike Pierson reported that Casey Wood has music picked out for Christmas. The 100 year celebration was amazing.

Pastor Rick closed us in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alethea Tennill - Secretary



# Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team

Greetings! Happy Holidays to all! By this time, we are all suffering from too much turkey and dressing (never too much pumpkin pie)! LOL. A wonderful shout out to the 'team' for a successful Veterans' Day breakfast. There were breakfast casseroles, yogurt parfaits, sweet breads, juice, and coffee, per the wonderful volunteers, sixty-plus people were in attendance. Our next big upcoming event is the Advent Banquet, held after the Choral Cantata and Worship Service on December 10. This is a catered event, so **please RSVP** if you have not yet done so. More information is provided in paragraph below. I am already anticipating the New Year, and what this means and brings: new resolutions, new plans, new hope, new beginnings. Let's all renew our faith, our fellowship, our love and hospitality, our giving and forgiving of each other. Here's wishing a most Blessed Christmas to all, and as Tiny Tim would say, "God Bless us everyone"!



## UPCOMING:

It is time to RSVP for the **Advent Banquet!** The banquet will be on **December 10**, right after the Choral Cantata! This banquet will be catered by Tammy Prior, the caterer who provided the food for our Centennial Celebration at the Farmer's Market Pavilion. The tentative menu is Ham, Turkey, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans, Mac-n-Cheese, Cranberries, Rolls, and Dessert. Since this is a catered dinner, we need an accurate count on who is planning to attend. **CLICK HERE** to RSVP, or **email MJ in the church office!**

-Mary Lorber, Fellowship & Hospitality Chair



## 2024 (and beyond) STRATEGIC PLAN

*"If you don't know where you are going, you might wind up someplace else . . ." -Yogi Berra*

One of the aspects of our CUCC life that is foundational to who we are as a church is our intentional focus on planning and self assessment. In fact, our CUCC By-Laws actually stipulates (Article I, Section 2) that we will have an active Strategic Plan, evaluated annually by the Vision Team and implemented by our Congregation. This year, the Vision Team met four times to review and restructure our Strategic Plan. The plan that was developed was presented by Jerry Kiesling, Vice Moderator, at our Congregational Planning and Assessment meeting on November 12.

This plan calls for focus on four main areas of our ministry:

***Caring for Each Other; Establishing our Identity; Developing our Facility; Serving God's World***

Under each one of these categories are more specific areas of focus. As we move into 2024 and beyond, our Ministry Teams will each begin developing specific Implementation Items that address each one of these ministry concerns. These Implementation Items will guide the work of our Ministry Teams in 2024 and beyond as part of our comprehensive Strategic Plan.

While it is beneficial that our Ministry Teams adopt this Strategic Plan corporately, The Vision Team would like to call on each member of Columbia United Church of Christ to commit themselves to individual adoption of our Strategic Plan goals. What can you Implement in your life and your ministry to address the goals of the CUCC Strategic Plan?

Full copies of the Strategic Plan can be found on the **CUCC Website**, or you can **contact MJ in the Church Office** to email you a copy. Copies are also available in the rear of the Church Sanctuary.

As we live into the **NEW CENTURY CUCC**, it is important that we are all on the same page, working together to guide our church into the future. Pick up your copy of the CUCC Strategic Plan today and think about how you can be part of our **NEW CENTURY!**

# Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

Though the calendar year may be coming to an end, the season of giving is just beginning. People throughout the country will flood stores and online marketplaces in search for the perfect gift. What if the gift is a donation to Columbia United Church of Christ? If you have funds in an IRA and you're currently taking a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD), consider making a QCD (Qualified Charitable Distribution) to CUCC.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from a person's IRA to a qualified charity. **The RMD is excluded from taxable income to the extent the QCD strategy is employed.** For example, if your RMD for the year is \$10,000, and you make a \$7,000 QCD, only \$3,000 of the RMD will be taxed. Before considering the QCD, you should be aware of two rules. First, the maximum amount a person may exclude from income through the QCD strategy is \$100,000 per year. Second, although a QCD can be used to satisfy your RMD, you can actually start QCDs as early as age 70 ½ (which is before the current beginning age for RMDs). Making QCDs prior to RMD age can be a tax-efficient way to meet your charitable goals throughout retirement.

Were you aware you can name an Entity as beneficiary of your IRA or on a Transfer on Death form, in the case of a brokerage account? You can select any percentage of your IRA account or brokerage account to be received by the Church upon your demise. It's a wonderful way for your legacy to live on.

Another gifting option is to donate highly appreciated shares of stock or a mutual fund from a regular investment account. Sue Ann Schaefer will be able to provide instructions on how to make these types of donations. Our congregation is a wonderful group of giving people. Matthew 10:8 says, "Freely you have received, freely give." Whatever God has given us will be used for God's Glory. Thank you for your past, current, and future gifts.

NOTE: Please contact your Investment Advisor or Tax Professional to ensure the best decision for your circumstances.

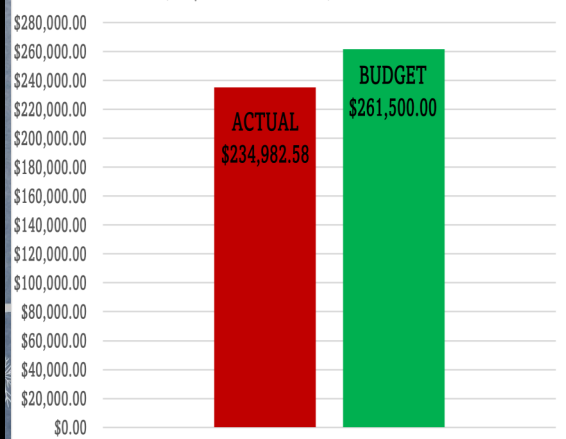
Respectfully Submitted,  
Paula Wilson,  
Finance & Stewardship Team Member



## Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
October Income	\$28,185.01	\$33,208.33	(\$5,023.32)
October Expenses	\$31,039.15	\$33,059.79	(\$2,020.64)
YTD Income	\$243,740.34	\$268,133.30	(\$24,392.96)
YTD Expenses	\$338,143.31	\$321,995.44	\$16,147.87
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$94,402.97)	(\$53,862.14)	(\$40,540.83)
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October Joyful Giving	\$26,225.01	\$32,500.00	(\$6,274.99)
YTD Joyful Giving	\$234,982.58	\$261,500.00	(\$26,517.42)

## Joyful Giving January to October



Date	10/1/23	10/8/23	10/15/23	10/22/23	10/29/23	Total
attendance	186	60	104	68	57	475

## *Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team*

Prior to December 7, 1941, the relationship between Japan and the United States had been deteriorating. Because of that, Japan's dependence on the United States natural and industrial resources was threatened. As the relationship soured, Japan turned to Southeast Asia for those resources. The attack at Pearl Harbor was not intended to start a war with the US. The attack that day was mostly to prevent the United States Navy from interfering with Japan's Southeast Asia plans.

On that fateful day, a Wickes-class destroyer, the USS Ward, fired the first shot. A minesweeper spotted a Japanese submarine's periscope and alerted the crew of the USS Ward. It then fired on the intruder. One source said that, at the time, Navy officials discounted the existence of the submarine. Therefore, a general alarm was not issued. It would be 60 years before there would be confirmation that a submarine was sunk by the USS Ward prior to the Japanese attack.



That attack on Pearl Harbor lasted only 75 minutes. It was a well-organized mission by the Japanese. The sky was blanketed with 353 of their aircraft. A total of 2,335 US service members and 68 civilians were killed that day. On the Battleship Arizona, there were 23 sets of brothers (a total of 77 men) serving together. Only 15 individuals of this group survived. Those families lost an entire generation of young men in one day. The military policy of siblings serving together was changed thereafter.

In the 30 days after Pearl Harbor, 134,000 Americans enlisted in the military. One of the heroes of that day was Doris Miller. He enlisted in the Navy as a mess attendant third class aboard the West Virginia. That post was one of the few open to Black sailors. At the time of the attack, he was cleaning up from breakfast. The Battle Station alarm went off, and he went on deck. There, he was directed to help with several jobs, including carrying wounded soldiers to safer areas. A Lieutenant then ordered Miller to assist with the anti-aircraft machine gun by feeding ammunition to it for the shooter. But when the Lieutenant's attention was diverted, Miller took the initiative and began firing the gun himself. He is credited with downing four to six Japanese planes before the ammunition ran out. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his service in 1942. He was later assigned to the escort carrier, the Liscome Bay. On December 7, 1943, exactly two years after Pearl Harbor, that carrier was torpedoed and sunk within 23 minutes. Doris Miller was listed as 'presumed dead.'

When we fast forward to today, Japan is one of America's strongest allies. Japanese tourists are the largest source of international visitors to the state of Hawaii. Those visitors pay their respects at the Pearl Harbor Memorial just as Americans do. (Sources: Doris Miller and USS Ward: Wikipedia; Pearl Harbor statistics: Pearl Harbor Tours.)

Dearest Lord Jesus, 'Let there be peace.' Amen . . .

Submitted by the 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.





# LODO Ministry Team



November was a wonderful time for giving thanks for all the many blessings at LODO: our staff, students and families, and the many CUCC members who support our program all year long. We enjoyed a Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday, November 16. In addition to a great meal, our staff and families built new connections with one another.

December brings tidings of joy to the halls and classrooms of LODO! In December, our students will learn through our Christmas/Nativity Learning Theme. We will celebrate the joy of the birth of Jesus throughout the month and at our annual Christmas program on Thursday, December 14 at 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. We will celebrate after our performance with a cookie reception in the Fellowship Hall.

**Important LODO Dates:**

Monday, December 4 – Friday, December 8 –  
Student Conferences

Friday, December 8 – Thursday, December 14 – Daily Christmas  
Program Rehearsal 9:20 a.m. in the Sanctuary

Thursday, December 14 – LODO Christmas Program – 6:30 p.m.  
Friday, December 15 – LODO Pajama Day

Thursday, December 21 – Tuesday, January 2 – LODO Closed for  
Christmas Break (School resumes on Wednesday, January 3)

### Developing Skills Through Play & Activities

Play is essential to preschoolers developing skills in all areas of development: social/emotional,

cognitive, physical, and communication. Play allows for opportunities for children to learn how to regulate their emotions, negotiate with others, and develop self-control. Play offers spontaneity, which gives children the chance to develop mental flexibility and executive function skills. Every time a child plays, they are learning multiple skills in their activity.

**Crafts/Playdough:** Promotes fine motor skills and hand strength, language development, creative and expressive development, and social skills. Children learn cognitive skills regarding colors, shapes, and spatial awareness.

**Blocks/Puzzles/Manipulative:** Promotes fine motor skills, language development, math skills - trial and error/spatial awareness, and social skills.

**Storytime/Circle Time/Music & Movement:** Promotes language development, letter and sound awareness and recognition, book handling skills, and social skills. Additionally, grows development in patience and listening skills to follow teacher directions. Dancing and moving bodies to a beat provides a chance to use the whole body to support social emotional and multisensory skills.

Through play, children learn about the world and themselves. Play is the foundation of all later communication and cooperative skills that are needed throughout life to create positive relationships with others in school, work, and other social environments. Creating time and space for play opportunities is essential to building the whole child.

PLAY IS OFTEN TALKED ABOUT AS IF IT WERE A RELIEF FROM SERIOUS LEARNING. BUT FOR CHILDREN PLAY IS SERIOUS LEARNING. PLAY IS REALLY THE WORK OF CHILDHOOD. -FRED ROGERS

### Amazon Wish List

LODO maintains a wishlist on Amazon of frequently used supplies and new learning materials. All contributions to the LODO program are appreciated! You can [CLICK HERE](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3135KEL32FTBN?ref_=wl_share) or visit [https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3135KEL32FTBN?ref\\_=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3135KEL32FTBN?ref_=wl_share) to make a contribution!



In Love and Laughter,  
Erika Maltzberger

## Membership and Care Ministry Team

As we enter this Advent season, your Membership and Care Ministry Team continues to work to meet the needs of our congregation.

**MBSR** (Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction) - Eight-week class will begin in January and will be led by Terry Wilson, M.Ed, RN, and MBSR educator. Deadline to sign up was November 30. Please contact [Anne Heine](#) for additional information.

**Eat with Eight** - Please see additional information included in the article below. This is a great opportunity to become acquainted with CUCC members in a small group setting. We also need substitutes, so if you would like to be added as a substitute, that would be super! Contact [Anne Heine](#) to be added to the list.

**CARE** (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) continues to meet the needs of our fellow congregants. Please look over these Ministry teams and prayerfully consider how you can contribute.

- Do you enjoy mailing cards/well wishes to friends? Our **Card Writing Ministry Team** is for you.
- Do you enjoy cooking a meal for a friend/neighbor in need? Our **Meal Train Ministry** is for you.
- Do you enjoy praying for others? Our **Prayer Team Ministry** is for you.
- Do you enjoy visiting church members? Our **Visiting Ministry Team** is for you.
- Do you enjoy transporting members to church? Our **Transportation Ministry Team** is for you.
- Do you enjoy promoting health and wellness and/or transporting members to doctor or other appointments? Our **Health and Wellness Ministry Team** is for you.
- Do you enjoy helping others with household tasks?  
Our **Handy Helper Ministry Team** is for you.
- Do you enjoy visiting with others while completing handwork  
(crochet, knitting, etc.)? Our **Prayer Shawl Ministry Team** is for you.

If you are interested in serving on one (or more) of these ministry teams or would like more information, please contact [Jolene Kirchhoff](#) or [Judi Privitt](#).

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judi Privitt, Membership & Care Chair



### “EAT WITH EIGHT!” SIGN UP NOW THROUGH DECEMBER 3!

Don't be left out in the cold! Warm up with great food, fun, and fellowship by signing up and participating in “Eat with Eight.” You'll be put in groups of 6-9 people to enjoy time together over food at the host's home, a restaurant, or wherever you decide to get to know each other better. We rotate who's in charge (the host). If the host decides to have it at their home, each person brings something for the meal, so one person does not have to do it all. These get togethers happen once a month, ideally January-May. You can sign up as a couple or individually. All are welcome! Don't miss out on this great opportunity to get to know each other better in this relaxed and fun way. Contact [Anne Heine](#) if you have any questions. Look for the sign-up pad on the table as you enter the Sanctuary. Bon Appetit!



### OPEN HOUSE AT PASTOR RICK'S HOUSE – 12/15

You are invited to Pastor Rick & Kim Oberle's house on Friday, December 15 for a Christmas Open House! Come and go as you please, any time between 4:00-7:00 p.m. We will have snacky foods and refreshments. Come and celebrate the joy of the season as we gather together for fun and fellowship! We hope to see you there! The Oberles live at 3905 Snow Leopard Drive, Columbia, MO 65202 (in the Vanderveen subdivision). If you have any questions or need directions, contact [Pastor Rick!](#)



## Nurture & Education Ministry Team

**Sunday School - 9:00-10:00 a.m. – Sunday Mornings - There are classes for all ages.**

**Nursery** – Laynee Hayward, who supervised the nursery this past summer, will be our new nursery supervisor on Sundays during worship.

**Confirmation** – We will celebrate the confirmation of Sofia Marienfeld-Crenshaw on Sunday, December 3, 2023 during worship. Join us for cake in her honor during Fellowship time at 10:00 a.m.

### Special Event Sundays

A big Thank You to Gina Pierson for preparing the Gingerbread Houses for our November Pajamarama Sunday on November 19 and to Paula Wilson and Linda Neale for providing breakfast.

Upcoming special event Sundays include:

- **January 7, 2024 – Epiphany Sunday**
- **February 11, 2024 – Valentine’s Celebration**
- **March 14, 2024 – St. Patrick’s Celebration**

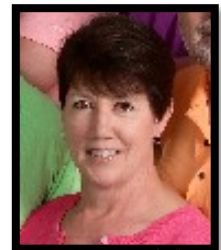
**Thank you to everyone who brought food on November 19, 2023 to be donated to the new Food Bank Market, formerly the Food Pantry. The children and youth carried in the food at the beginning of worship that day.**

### Please support the Nurture and Education Ministry Team at the following events:

**Cookies by the Pound** – Sunday, December 10, 2023 starting at 9:00 a.m. in the Gathering Area. Please bring homemade cookies and candies to church by 9:00 a.m., and plan on purchasing cookies by the pound!

**Children’s Christmas Program** - “Broadcasting Christmas” - an old fashioned Christmas Raido show presented during worship on Sunday, December 17, 2023.

Submitted by Pat Forward, Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair



## Worship and Music Ministry Team

Over the past three months, I have served as assistant director for a piece performed by the University’s Choral Union. In addition to my involvement, our choir section leaders, Quin Wilson and Shannon Martin, were also involved in the project. The piece we presented at our concert was the Oratorio “Considering Matthew Shepard.” This musical composition was written by composer Craig Hella Johnson in 2016. Over the last seven years, it has become one of the most important works in choral music. The reason behind this is the story that brought it into existence. It details the life of Matthew Shepard and his 1998 murder. What makes a composition about this random person’s murder touch so many people? A native of Wyoming, Matthew was murdered for his identity as an LGBT individual. I won’t go into too many details, but feel free to look the details up online.

We performed this piece with 50 members of Choral Union and 50 members of the University Singers. It totaled about an hour and 40 minutes of music, including about 20 solos and 10 speaking parts. It is probably the largest musical project I have worked on, and I am very proud of the work we did.

Not only was it a musical achievement, but I felt grateful to present a piece with these important themes. It felt like a “coming together” of communities to speak, not only about incomprehensible hate, but also about a true change that is only possible when society comes together in love.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Casey Wood, Music Coordinator



# Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team

## CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING TO BENEFIT MEDICAL DEBT RELIEF

**RIP Medical Debt** was founded in 2014 by two former debt collection executives. They imagined a new way to relieve medical debt: by using donations to buy large bundles of debt that are erased with no tax consequences to donors or recipients. The results have been spectacular; billions in medical debt has been eradicated so far, providing financial relief for millions of struggling individuals and families in the United States.

**\$1 donated eliminates \$100 of medical debt for a struggling family in the U.S.** This Christmas Eve, our offering (at 7:00 & 11:00 p.m. services) will go to eliminate medical debt through a specific campaign with RIP Medical Debt organized by a United Methodist Church in Sussex County, New Jersey. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more about their campaign. Our goal, in recognition of our 100th anniversary, is to raise \$1,000, which will eliminate \$100,000 of medical debt. If you would like to donate, [CLICK HERE](#) or drop it in the offering plate!

## LOAVES & FISHES



The Loaves & Fishes meal on 11/20/23 consisted of chicken & rice casserole and rolls (leftover from Kaiser memorial luncheon), hamburgers (donated by Linda Evans), lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson), green beans, sweet breads (leftover from Veterans Day breakfast), spaghetti, and

various cookies/cakes. Jessica Jenks made and provided the PB&J's. Servers were Judi Privitt, Patty Beeson, Anne Heine, Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, and Debby (Mary's sister). Doug Privitt and Jim Loveless took care of the dishwasher duties. Thank you so much to everyone!

**GOOD NEWS!** Wilkes has agreed to host till the end of March 2024. Also, effective 1/1/24, the evening meal will start being served at 4:00 p.m. and end at 5:15 p.m.. We are very appreciative of Wilkes extending the time for Loaves & Fishes service at their facility. AND thank you for your donations on the 5th Sunday offering in October that went to Wilkes!! Blessings to all!

## HELP FEED THE HUNGRY — NEXT FOOD BANK SHIFT IS DECEMBER 27

In October, our hardy band of volunteers loaded cans of tomato sauce for transport to the new Food Bank Pantry, loaded cans for the Share Boxes onto shelves, and packaged dry macaroni. The time went fast! Many thanks to Mark Duncan, Jo Ellen Grace, Audrey Lasley, Connie Loveless, Brenda and John Muench, Mahree Skala, and Tricia Soncasie.

Our next scheduled shift is 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, December 26. If you're in town, this is a great opportunity to bring your children during Christmas break. Many people are tapped out after the holidays and will need food assistance to get through the winter! [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for December or contact [Mahree Skala](#).



## ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY UPDATE



Our Partnership Friend, Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School (AHL), is in the news! Twice . . . in the "Columbia Missourian" . . . on November 9 regarding its AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) Program and on November 14 regarding the students gaining social-emotional skills post-pandemic. Our public school is doing such great work with the scholars, and I am so joyful that we at CUCC are a part of it. Thank you, CUCC members!

On October 5, 2023, Superintendent Yearwood held his meeting with the Faith-based Advisory Committee, of which CUCC is a part, and we received school updates and discussed a variety of issues where the faith community can play a part with encouraging families to get their students to school each day, which is so important for learning. AHL has been so busy this school year, and Pastor Rick and I are working on a date to meet with them to "touch base." Again, thank you to CUCC members who continue to volunteer and/or donate to AHL. You are so appreciated!

Llona Weiss,  
Liaison for CUCC to AHL, our Partnership Friend



# International Missions

## CUCC IS WORKING IN ISRAEL/PALESTINE

In addition to its congregations, the **Episcopal diocese of Jerusalem** is responsible for more than thirty institutions, including hospitals, schools, clinics, rehabilitation centers, guesthouses, vocational training programs, and retirement homes. The parishes and institutions of the Diocese cover five separate countries and territories: Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Israel. The programs of the Diocese address the need for healthcare and education in areas where many cannot afford it, making no distinction between religion, ethnicity, or gender. The diocese considers education for the next generation of leaders to be a vital bridge-building contribution that helps bring stability to an otherwise troubled region. In addition, the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem supports peace-building efforts, reaching out to interfaith neighbors in mutual respect and cooperation.

Through **Global Ministries**, CUCC is a partner in mission with the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem, and through them, we are actively working in Jordan, Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and Israel. In this time of civil unrest in the region, please keep the work of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem in your prayers!



## PRAYERS FOR ISRAEL/PALESTINE

As we reflect on the birth of Christ in the Holy Land this Christmas Season, we realize that the Holy Land is very conflicted right now. Violence perpetrated by Hamas against both Israel and their own Palestinian citizens has led to much anguish in the Middle East. As we remember Jesus' birth in Bethlehem this year, let us also keep in our prayers the Palestinians and Israelis who are living in that land today. Remember them this Christmas as we all join together in praying for a lasting peace in the Holy Land and the entire Middle East Region.

## LIGHT UP THE NIGHT IN CHINA

Qinghai province in northwest China is ranked fourth-largest in area, has the third-smallest population, and its economy is second-lowest in the country. Due to the insufficient power supply in this plateau region, there are often power outages. The students in those areas must study under candlelight or with oil lamps at night. Such weak light not only affects the effectiveness of the children's learning, but also harms the development of their vision.

To help with this need, the Amity Foundation, a partner of the United Church of Christ and the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) through Global Ministries, started a project called "The Mini Power Station School Bag." The goal of the project is to provide a power supply and light for students and teachers in the western mountainous areas to improve their ability to study, teach, and learn. The power stations are easy to use, portable, safe, and pollution-free. They include foldable solar panels that charge the mobile power supplies and LED lights. The power stations can be carried in a school bag, charged by the sun during the day, and used at night. The cost of one mini power station is ¥230 RMB (Chinese currency) or \$34 USD. It helps to solve the problem of the insufficient power supply and lighting in the provinces of the western plateau.

Amity Foundation has donated over 9,500 mini power stations to 47 schools in 14 different counties in Qinghai province. Plans are in place to distribute more than 2,000 more sets of mini power stations to the students in Qinghai and Sichuan provinces by the end of 2023.

Please keep the people, mission partners, and ministries in China in your prayers this season as we are reminded of the light in the world, whose birth we celebrate.



# Thank You



## UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Dear Friends at Columbia United Church of Christ:  
Thank you for your generous donation to the United Church of Christ to support International Disaster Relief. Your gift of \$1,300.00 was received. Because of your kindness, we will help people rebuild their communities and bring comfort to their lives.

Your gift enables the church to be present with people amid life-changing catastrophes, offering immediate relief and providing long-term recovery support. Working through a network of global partners, the church lives out its call to care for our neighbors as we strive together toward a just world for all.

Your love of neighbor will be made tangible through your gift. With the help of our partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives.

United in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion. Thank you again for spreading God's hope, peace, and love through your financial assistance as the United Church of Christ continues to build a just world for all.

In Faith,  
Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson  
General Minister and President

### 2023 COLUMBIA CROP HUNGER WALK THANKS YOU



Working together, the 2023 Columbia CROP HUNGER WALK raised a record amount of \$24,828.25, exceeding the \$23,000 goal. Twenty-five percent of the donations will go to support four local anti-hunger agencies. They are Loaves & Fishes Soup Kitchen, Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry, Russell Chapel CME Food Pantry, and Fifth Street Christian Community Meal. The remaining 75% will go to CWS in their fight against hunger and other services for those in need. The Top Fund Raiser Trophy will be awarded to Broadway Christian Church for their record-breaking donation of \$5,054. CUCC raised \$1,495 and tied for first place for the Most Walkers Award, with 18 walkers. The CROSS MISSOURI CROP HUNGER WALK, a part of the Columbia Walk, initiated,

organized, and completed by Broadway Christian's Don Harter, inspired many donations. The Cross Missouri Walk will be offered again next year to encourage other Columbia walkers to join the trek, spanning St. Louis to Kansas City, and inspire CROP WALKERS from other communities along the KATY Trail to join him for a portion, as well. The more involvement, publicity, and awareness the CROP WALK creates, hopefully, the more financial support is generated. COLUMBIA CROP HUNGER WALK 2024 is scheduled for September 15, so please mark your calendar and plan to participate. Thanks to CUCC for its commitment to and support of the CROP HUNGER WALK as the fight against hunger continues ONE STEP AT A TIME.

### MOBILITY WORLDWIDE THANKS YOU



The recognition of CUCC's 100th anniversary continues in the collection of 100+ milk jugs for **Mobility Worldwide**. The jugs are used to pack the carts in shipment and then used by people to carry water. What a great way to recycle! Between 40 and 50 carts are shipped each week, so a lot of jugs are needed. Your contribution was a big help!

### TURNING POINT THANKS YOU

The clients of **Turning Point** thank you for your support by donating travel-size toiletries, socks, etc. When there is an immediate need, as there was recently in the request for toothbrushes, CUCC folks always step up. Your generous gift of toothbrushes and other supplies was delivered with much appreciation from **Turning Point**. As the need is great and ongoing, continued donations will be greatly appreciated.





# BROADCASTING CHRISTMAS

**Calling all Sunday School Kiddos/Youth!**

**Christmas Program Rehearsals:**

**Sunday December 3 @ 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday December 10 @ 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday December 17 @ 9:00 a.m.**

**Calling EVERYONE!!!**

**Join us for our Christmas Program-**

**Sunday December 17**

**During 10:30 worship**



**CUCC**  
Columbia United Church of Christ



**December 10, 2023**

**Cookies  
by the  
Pound**

**All Proceeds go  
to the Nurture & Education  
Designated Fund**

**Bring all donations of Cookies & Candies to church early on December  
10 or the week before!**

**Don't forget to purchase an assortment of cookies and candies - by  
the pound - on Dec. 10!**



*The Church Calendar in December*

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>3 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Outreach &amp; Advocacy <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p>4 6:30 p.m. Fellowship &amp; Hospitality Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>5 10:00 a.m. Quilters 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 9:00 a.m. Church Women United</p>	<p>9 9:00 a.m. Decorate the Sanctuary for Advent 9:00 a.m. Stop Human Trafficking Coalition Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>10 9:00 a.m. Sunday School &amp; Cookies by the Pound 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship &amp; Advent Cantata 11:45 a.m. Advent Banquet 3:00 p.m. Cub Scouts in FH</p>	<p>11 5:30 p.m. LODO Ministry Team Meeting 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>12 10:00 a.m. Quilters 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p>	<p>13 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers</p>	<p>14 9:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship 6:30 p.m. LODO Christmas Program</p>	<p>15 4:00 p.m. Open House at Pastor Rick's house</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship &amp; Sunday School Christmas Program 4:00 p.m. Christmas Caroling <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p>18</p>	<p>19 10:00 a.m. Quilters 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting</p>	<p>20 10:00 a.m. Pastor Rick leads worship at the Bluffs 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>
<p><b>LODO Closed</b></p>						
<p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve 11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve</p>		<p>10:00 a.m. Quilters</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers</p>	<p>12:00 p.m. Inclusion &amp; Affirmation Ministry Team Meeting</p>		

# The Communicator

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



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## ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



### Interested in Church Membership?

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

**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

### Columbia United Church of Christ Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant

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

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

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

### LODO PLAYGROUND RESPECT

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

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