

# THE COMMUNICATOR

May 2023



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

## *"Covenant"*

The United Church of Christ *Manual on Ministry* states, "Because we belong to God, we belong to one another. Because we belong to one another and to God, we are accountable to our covenantal relationships on earth and in heaven. The Covenantal relationships between parts of the Body of Christ are characterized by mutuality, transparency, accountability, and a desire to represent Christ together for the glory of God."

I know, most of you probably are unaware that a *Manual on Ministry* exists, but it does. It is a common guide that instrumentalities of the United Church of Christ share to coordinate faith expressions in our practice of ministry. It details processes for the oversight and authorization of clergy, the reception and recognition of churches, and the polity of the United Church of Christ. It exists because of, and enhances, our mutual covenant.

But what is "covenant?" I feel that word is often tossed around lightly. Our society often uses the word "covenant" interchangeably with "promise" or even "expectation," but there is more to "covenant" than that. True covenant must involve God. Covenant describes our promises to God, God's promises to us, and our promises to one another with God as our guide. Our *Manual on Ministry* defines covenant as "the commitment of God to God's people, of the people to God, and of the people to one another as the Body of Christ." Covenant is about our relationship as God's people and expressing that relationship in a Godly way. Covenant is central to who we are as the United Church of Christ.

The idea of covenant is expressed in John 17 while Jesus is in the Garden of Gethsemane. In this passage, Jesus is preparing for his impending crucifixion. He is praying, knowing full well that Judas is about to betray him. As he prays, he expresses his most fervent desires to God: that we may all be one, just as Jesus is one with God. Jesus' most sincere desire is to bind us in covenant relationship with Them.

*"After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, ' . . . the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may Glorify You. Now, I am no longer in the world, but they are. Protect them in your name so that they may be one, as we are one. I ask . . . that all may be one. As you . . . are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us . . ."*

*-(John 17, selected verses)*

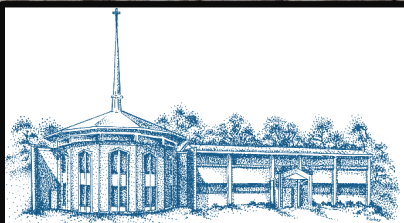
So how do we live Jesus' desire for covenant in our lives? How do we express covenant with God? We will be exploring that in worship in May and at our Congregational Meeting on May 21. There, we will celebrate how our covenant has resulted in enhanced ministries in Columbia for 100 years and how we will live into even more enhanced ministries in the next 100 years. But covenant is not just about us as individuals, it is about the community, and how that community can Glorify God more united than we ever could divided. Covenant does not mean we will always agree, but it does mean that we are all part of one Body of Christ.

Covenant calls us to justice. If we are in covenant relationship with each other, that means we must be committed to each other. We must commit ourselves to doing justice and working for equity, not because of mere passion for social causes, but in order to live into our covenant. As members of the Body of Christ, when one part of that body is diminished by hatred or oppressive policy, we hurt, too. Our justice work is rooted in covenant with each other and with God.

Covenant also calls us to commitment. As members of the Body of Christ, our covenant calls us to work together in all our efforts, and that cannot happen if you are not here. Your presence in our community of faith is essential to the covenant we share with each other and with God. Without you present, our work is diminished. As we move into the summer months, I hope you will keep covenant in mind. Together, we are the church, and in covenant relationship, we are working towards Gods' vision of justice, righteousness, and shalom!

*-Pastor Rick*





# News & Updates

# UPCOMING EVENTS

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

**Rev. Rick Oberle**

Pastor

**Rev. Fred Brandenburg**

Pastor Emeritus

**Shelly Adams**

Student Pastor

**MJ King**

Office Administrator

**Brandon Brown**

Music Coordinator

**Amy Crousore**

Organist/Accompanist

**Erika Maltsbarger**

Director, Little One's Day Out

**Caleb Berry**

Custodian

## Sunday Worship Schedule

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

**Office Hours:**  
Monday through Friday  
9am- 3pm

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

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

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



## WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GATHERING!

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



**5/1 - 5/4 Teacher Appreciation Week** - LODO and Alpha Heart Lewis celebrate teacher appreciation week the first week of May.

**5/6 African American Heritage Tour** - The Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team would love to have you join us for a CUCC tour of the Blind Boone Home and the African American Heritage Trail! [CLICK HERE](#) to register

**5/7 Brandon Brown's Master's Conducting Recital** - Come support Brandon at his recital, featuring the Chapel Ringers and Celebration Singers, with Amy Crousore on Piano.

**5/12 Brandon's Graduation** - Brandon Brown is graduating university at 1 p.m. Now is the best time to show him your appreciation for all he has done for our church!

**5/13 Trivia Night at 6:00 p.m.** - Save the date for our Trivia Night fundraiser for the New Century Sanctuary! Book your spot online, today! See the Flyer for more information. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up!

**5/21 Annual Congregational Meeting** - At this meeting, we will celebrate all the great things we have done in the past year, while we embrace what the next year will hold for us. We will make plans to take this church in great new directions as we live into a New Century CUCC!

### From Cliff Beckman:

For the past several months I have been suffering from a lung disease and exhaustion problems resulting in extended hospital stays, and now, I am very happy to say that I am on a good path to recovery and am finally at home. I cannot thank all my friends and acquaintances at CUCC enough for how much I have appreciated all their prayers, their cards, their visits, their meals for Sue and me, and all their gracious support for us during this time

This kind of friendship and caring helped us through some difficult times and reflects on the loving spirit so often shown through the lives of our members and friends here at CUCC. **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

### From Jolene Kirchhoff:

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Count Your Blessings Lenten fundraiser for the New Century Sanctuary Fund. Over \$4000 was collected from this project. We are indeed blessed. (And it's never too late to turn in your blessing box, if you still have one sitting at home.)

# Moderator's Moment

It is hard to believe our annual meeting is quickly approaching again on May 21! Just as we do each year, we will hear from our Ministry Team Leaders and welcome some new Council members, as well. This is always an exciting time of transition for our congregation as we bring in new ideas and leadership to enhance our already established traditions.

In preparation for our meeting, I have been reflecting on my time as Council Moderator. Over the past three and a half years (two as Moderator and one and a half as Vice Moderator), I have learned more about our church than I ever knew possible! I have been a part of this congregation since childhood and have, of course, always known that CUCC is a special community of people who worship God together. Looking at our church through this new lens, though, has opened my eyes and allowed me to see all the truly amazing ways we live out God's vision. CUCC members support each other through inevitable, difficult times, and in celebrations, too. We reach out far beyond our bounds to help as many people in need as we possibly can. We work hard to carry out our mission, and we persist through difficult situations. We take on challenges, knowing we will grow through them.

I am grateful to have had this opportunity to see, in such great detail, all the hard work that goes into our ministry activities every single day and how much it brings to our lives to give in this way. I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to have served in this role and for the support and contributions each of you has made. This has truly been a transformative experience for me. I am looking forward to celebrating the rest of our 100th year together and seeing how we will continue to grow and evolve as a congregation.

With Gratitude, Kristy Hayward, Moderator



# Worship and Music Ministry Team

## Brandon Brown's Master's Conducting Recital



Featuring:  
the Chapel Ringers &  
the Celebration Singers

Also Featuring:  
Amy Crousore,  
Collaborative Pianist

Not able to make it?  
Check it out LIVE on  
columbiaucc.com

Columbia United Church of Christ  
3201 I-70 Drive NW  
Sunday, May 7, 2023 at 3 p.m.

You are invited to stay after the performance for a reception.

CUCC Friends,

We are quickly approaching the summer breaks of the Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers. The music ministry is seeking your musical talents during Sunday morning worship services from June 18 through August 20. You can sing or play an instrument during the "anthem" portion of the service or participate as the song leader. CUCC is blessed to have many talented members, and the summer months are the perfect time to use those gifts for God's glory.

If you would like to sign up to either do the anthem and/or be the song leader, [CLICK HERE](#) or send an e-mail to [Brandon Brown](#), or call the church office. Thank you in advance for your support!

P.S. My graduate conducting recital will be Sunday, May 7 at 3 p.m. The Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers will be performing. Amy will also be playing the Piano. Please save the date and plan to attend. We will sing arrangements of Psalm texts. This will be a concert you don't want to miss!

Thank you,

Brandon Brown, M.M.  
Music Coordinator

# CUCC Church Council

## **CUCC Council Meeting — March 21, 2023 CUCC Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m.**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. by Kristy Hayward. Pastor Rick opened us with prayer.

**Present:** Kristy Hayward, Brent Marcks, Sue Ann Schaefer via zoom, Mike Pierson, Tricia Price, Lorry Dreier, Lydia Whitacre, Mark Duncan, Ted Dachroeden, and Alethea Tennill.

Tricia Price made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Brent Marcks. The motion passed.

Brent Marcks made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Ted Dachroeden. The motion passed.

Pastor Rick discussed Chapters 15 and 16 in the book **A Bigger Table** by John Pavlovitz. Chapter 15 is titled *Mama Bears and Mama Dragons*, and it deals with a letter the author wrote to any of his kids who might be LGBTQ. To be actively anti-racist, you must be prepared to know how you will respond if you hear a racist comment. Chapter 16 reminds us that God is bigger than any one religion. Before his ascension, Jesus calls on his disciples to go beyond Judea and teach the word of God, to take it to the ends of the earth. Tricia Price will report on Chapters 17 & 18 next month.

### **Unfinished Business:**

Spots were filled for stewardship duties.

New Century Sanctuary Updates: We have received \$60,000 in pledges for the capital campaign.

The 100th Heritage Team: A new postcard will be going out soon.

Children's Library: Inclusion & Affirmation Team has found a space for the library in the back of the sanctuary.

Nominating Committee is continuing to work on filling spots in the church council and LODO board.

The Council went into a closed session to discuss personnel issues at 7:34 pm and came out at 7:50 pm.

### **New Business:**

LODO Playground Equipment: There is a climber piece of equipment on the playground that needs to be replaced. LODO is holding a fundraiser to help raise \$1200 to replace the climber.

Annual meeting and IMPACT statements are due to Kristy as soon as possible.

Conference Annual Meeting: The Missouri Mid-South Conference meeting is 10/27 - 10/29

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rick's Report is attached.

Financials were reported by Sue Ann and Brent.

### **Ministry Reports:**

Building and Grounds: There is some firewood stacked on the south side of the building for anyone who wants it.

Fellowship & Hospitality: Stefany Zimny (no report)

Finance & Stewardship: Keith Birkes (report submitted)

Inclusion & Affirmation: Tricia Price (report submitted) - May 6 at 10:00 a.m., they will follow the African American Heritage Trail downtown, led by Barbara Horell.

LODO: Lorry Dreier (report submitted)

Membership & Care: Jessica Lucas (report submitted)

Nurture & Education: Lydia Whitacre (report submitted)

Outreach & Advocacy: Mark Duncan (report submitted) - Clean up Columbia will be April 15

Worship & Music: Mike Pierson - Brandon's Graduate Recital is May 7 at 3 p.m. We are looking into a replacement for Brandon if he does not stay in the area.

Pastor Rick closed us in prayer

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,  
Alethea Tennill, Secretary

# May Birthdays to Celebrate

Paul Klick 5/1	Brenda Muench 5/3	Christine Staelens 5/3
Payton Bach 5/4	James Melton 5/5	Tim Staelens 5/5
Betsy Murphy 5/8	David Fischer 5/10	Keith Birkes 5/13
Asher Nieman 5/13	Anne Heine 5/15	Travis Brookshire 5/15
Roberta Settergren 5/16	Virginia Zumwalt 5/17	Kennedy Lucas 5/19
Mari Ann Keithahn 5/20	Hayley Dennis 5/21	Abe Heine 5/21
Tracy Bach 5/24	Louis Nieman 5/26	Emmalee Heine 5/28
Grayson Oberle 5/28	Elaina Beckmann 5/29	Morgan Lavelly 5/31

## SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR MAY

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

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
5/7	Carol Duermeyer	Fred & Carolyn Malicoat	Lena Muench	NEED	Lorry Dreier Brent Marcks	Judi Privitt
5/14 Mother's Day	Susan Dunham	Phillip Neale	Llona Weiss	NEED	Josh Muench Ted Dachroeden	Helen Schultz
5/21 Annual Meeting	Anne Heine	Llona Weiss & Pat Forward	Lydia Whitacre	NEED	Mike Pierson Aidan Pierson	Audrey Lasley
5/28 Memorial Day	Susan Dunham	NEED	Mahree Skala	NEED	John Graves	NEED

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	Kristy Hayward	<a href="mailto:kristyodneal@gmail.com">kristyodneal@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	Kurt Heine	<a href="mailto:heinekurt@gmail.com">heinekurt@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>	Brent Marcks	<a href="mailto:brentmarcks@hotmail.com">brentmarcks@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds:</b>	Ted Dachroeden	<a href="mailto:gpadoc4gd@gmail.com">gpadoc4gd@gmail.com</a>
<b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality:</b>	Stefanie Zimny	<a href="mailto:stefanie.zimny@gmail.com">stefanie.zimny@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>	Jessica Lucas	<a href="mailto:jlucas@cpsk12.org">jlucas@cpsk12.org</a>
<b>Nurture &amp; Education:</b>	Lydia Whitacre	<a href="mailto:lydiaawhitacre@gmail.com">lydiaawhitacre@gmail.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>



# Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

As I write this, we have received \$110,000 in pledges and contributions for our New Century Sanctuary Campaign! Our goal was to reach 75% of our \$150,000 goal by June 30; we may reach that by April 30! Once we reach 75% (\$112,500) we will begin soliciting contractors for the project. Our plan is to start with the ceiling and work our way down with the carpet being the last item done. Thank You to everyone who has contributed or promised to contribute for these much-needed upgrades to our Sanctuary!

Keep in mind the day-to-day life of our church goes on. We are just a bit behind in our budgeted giving for 2023 as of March 31. You are the church. We are still helping those in need. Please keep us all in your prayers as we serve others.

Thank You!!  
Doug Privitt

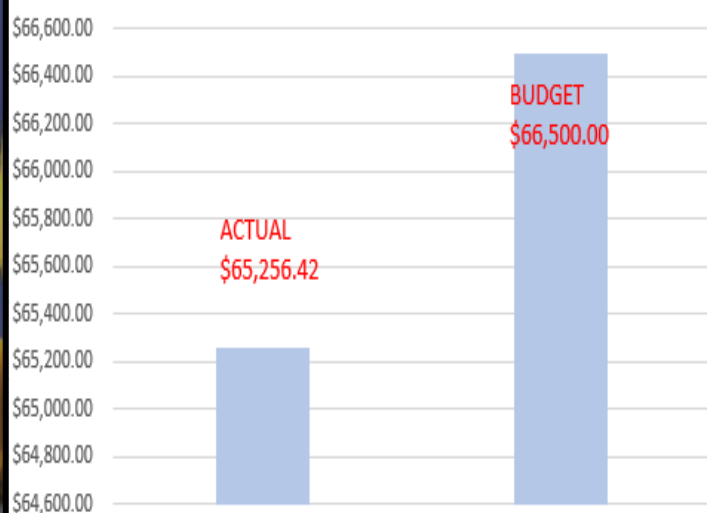


## Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
Mar. Income	\$22,151.5	\$26,500.00	(\$4,348.50)
YTD Income	\$65,256.42	\$66,500.00	(\$1,243.58)
Mar. Expenses	\$37,119.68	\$35,789.73	\$1,329.95
YTD Expenses	\$105,126.16	\$96,229.41	\$8,896.75
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$38,336.44)	(\$27,679.42)	(\$10,657.02)
Mar. Attendance	388		

Date	Attendance
3/5/23	84
3/12/23	85
3/19/23	116
3/26/23	103
<b>Total</b>	<b>388</b>

Joyful Giving January to March



## CUCC ONLINE GIVING

You can now give online to Columbia United Church of Christ through our online giving partner, Kindrid!

There are several ways to make a one time or recurring gift through Kindrid:

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

# Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

**“You are more precious to this world than you'll ever know.”  
Lili Rhinehart**

(Ms. Rhinehart was diagnosed with depression at 14. She experiences anxiety and body dysmorphia—a feeling that the body is severely flawed. She practices meditation and a form of energy healing called *Reiki*. She is a Christian.)

## **WHAT IS MENTAL HEALTH?**

MentalHealth.gov definition: “Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices. Mental health is important at every stage of life, from childhood and adolescence through adulthood.”

We all have stressful periods that may impact our mental health. Early signs of concern include:

- ⇒ Eating or sleeping too much or too little
- ⇒ Pulling away from people and usual activities
- ⇒ Low energy
- ⇒ Feeling that nothing matters, hopelessness
- ⇒ Unexplained aches and pains
- ⇒ Mood swings
- ⇒ Thinking of harming yourself or others
- ⇒ Inability to perform daily tasks

Mental health issues are common, and sometimes, transient. It is important to stay connected with trusted friends and family and to get professional help, if needed. Those actions can assist with positivity and help one develop coping skills.

You are NOT alone.

Having recently sustained the illness and loss of my husband, the support from this church family has been a lifeline. I certainly have my challenges: sad days, low energy, changes in appetite, other items included in the list above. I'm blessed to have this caring/thoughtful congregation, supportive friends, and loving family members nearby. Not everyone is so lucky.

In this month of May, let's be very aware of, and reach out to, our neighbors and friends who might be struggling with their mental health. A card, a call, or a visit could make a huge difference in that individual's outlook on life for that day or week or longer.

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



## **CUCC OPEN AND AFFIRMING/INCLUSION COVENANT**

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

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

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



# LODO Ministry Team



LODO students are so happy that spring weather has arrived and that we are outside playing on the playground! Sunny days are meant for play! Classes have enjoyed nature walks around the church and picnics in the sun!

Our students enjoyed Easter celebrations and a small egg hunt on April 6 and 7. Children enjoyed learning about the Resurrection and growing their love for Jesus.

**Playground Equipment Fundraiser** - Donations for the Playground Structure can be made by cash, check, or through Kindrid. Make sure to note your donation in the memo line of a check, or choose "LODO Donation" if using Kindrid. Donations of any amount help us to reach our goal!

In May we will wrap up our 2022-2023 school year! May also brings Teacher Appreciation week May 1 – 5. Our Teacher Appreciation Planning Committee has planned a wonderful week of activities. Our outstanding LODO staff will be celebrated with lunch, breakfast, and other treats throughout the week!

## 2023-2024 Enrollment

Limited space remains in our classes for 2023-2024. Please help spread the word and encourage interested families to contact **Ms. Erika**.

We hosted Literacy Night on April 13 with many fun activities focusing on pre-reading and pre-writing skills. Various books were showcased with activities provided to show how to make play and life connections through books and engaging activities. Families not only enjoyed a fun night of learning, but also had a chance to grow fellowship with our staff and other LODO families in a relaxed setting.

LODO had a wonderful celebration on Sunday, April 16 to commemorate 20 years as a CUCC ministry. Many thanks to all those who helped make this a special day! As of April 17, we have collected 55 books for our LODO Library in response to the Heritage Team's 100 Books for 100 Years Campaign! We have been busy reading these wonderful stories in our classrooms! We have also collected just over \$600 of the \$1,200 needed to replace our well-loved playground structure. We will continue to collect for both of these through the end of April.

## **May Themes:**

All About Me:  
My Family &  
Celebrating the People I Love

**100 Books for 100 Years** - If you would like to help us build our library with new books, you can purchase directly from our Amazon Wish List, or you can make a monetary donation for LODO to use towards purchasing books from the wish list. Please note "100 Book Campaign" in the memo line if donating by check.

## **Important Dates**

**May 1-5** – Teacher Appreciation Week  
**May 5** – LODO Spring Picnic @ Smith Park - 5:30 p.m.  
**May 18** – PreK Graduation @ 6:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary  
– Cookie Reception to follow in the Fellowship Hall.  
**May 19** – Last Day of 2022-2023 School Year  
**August 14** – LODO Staff Annual Planning Meeting  
**August 24** – Back to School/Meet the Teacher Night – 5:30-7:30 p.m.  
**August 28** – First Day of 2023-2024 School Year

# 100 Years 100 Books

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

Shop our Amazon Wishlist to Celebrate with us!

**Click Here!**





# Membership and Care Ministry Team

## Deadline approaching!

We are working to finalize the photos in our new **Church Family Album**.

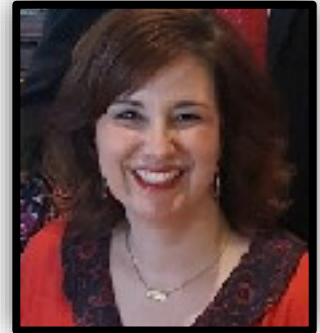
If you indicated you plan to submit your own photo, now is the time to do that. **Contact MJ** in the church office for details for submitting your photo.

If you indicated you want to use your photo from the previous directory again, the church office has those.

If you missed the photo days at CUCC, there is a possibility of having your photo taken at Olivet Christian Church on May 5 and May 6. **Contact MJ** in the church office to set up your appointment.

If you did not get your picture taken and haven't had contact from the Directory Team, please **contact MJ** in the church office to be included in the Church Family Album.

-Jessica Lucas



## Health Ministry Care Team News:

Mark your calendar to attend the next two "Stay and Learn" presentations after church in Fellowship Hall. Snacks and drinks provided. Sign-up in the Gathering Area or email **Anne Heine!**

**June 11 - Keep your Keys:** *Aging Best* staff member Kathy Deeken will provide information on driving safety, including tools and resources to help keep you safe on the road, how to stay medically and physically fit to drive, and when and how to prepare for driving retirement.. (See flyer for more information) - Swag will be provided!

**July 16 - Dementia & Aging Best Resources:** *Aging Best* staff member Melissa Schulte will share how to understand the social signs of Dementia and learn effective ways to communicate with those affected by it. Call me, Anne Heine, if you have any questions (573-529-1543).



Also, if you need help getting to the doctor or need support regarding your health care, contact me and we'll see what we can do to help. We're here for you. We have also added Narcan to the medical bag on top of the AED. This medication is used when an overdose is suspected. There are great YouTube tutorials on how to administer if you are interested in learning more. Be safe out there! Here's to good health to thee!

Anne Heine and your Health Ministry Care Team (Mona Dachroeden, Mary Lorber-Solt, Emily Heine, and Stefanie Zimny)



### FREE presentation on driving safety

#### Topics covered include:

- How to stay medically and physically fit to drive
- When and how to prepare for driving retirement
- Tools and resources to help keep you safe on the road

**Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> 10:45 AM**  
**Columbia United Church of Christ**  
**3201 I-70 Dr. NW, Columbia, MO 65202**

Please contact Kathy Deeken at 573-540-1100 to register

#### Need more information?

Beth Koster, Coordinator of Outreach [kosterb@health.missouri.edu](mailto:kosterb@health.missouri.edu) or call (573) 884-7143

 Health Care

# From Your Student Pastor . . .

## Companioning: The Gift of Presence

I took an impromptu trip back to Colorado last week. A dear friend of mine has retired from her ministry. The last several months, she was embroiled in a controversy that, by ethical standards, prohibited her from telling the entire story. And when people don't have the full story, what do they do? Often, they fill in the blanks with the worst version of the situation they can conceive. To say my friend was embattled during the last months of her ministry would be a gross understatement. People she loved and trusted turned away from her, betrayed their friendship, and hurt her.

Her retirement party – a small affair with just about thirty people who had stayed in relationship with her during this difficult time – was last Saturday. I hadn't planned to go. I'm always busy with my seminary courses, with my day job, with my work at CUCC, with plenty of things to do at home.

But last Tuesday, my heart told me I had to go. Over the past several months, there was little I could do to help my friend through the turmoil. But I did my best to be present to her pain, to listen as she expressed the frustration, the pain, and the feelings of betrayal, to offer compassion and love. I walked beside her, not able to fix anything, just there to accompany my friend through a difficult time. And this gathering last Saturday was a part of that companion journey for which I needed to be present for my friend.

And I'm so glad that I was there with her and for her.

I tell you this story because I know for many of us – me included – we want to fix things. We want to make things better. We want to take away our beloveds' pain. But we can't always do that. And that's ok. We can walk with our beloveds. We can bear witness to their pain. We can listen with our hearts. We can stay when others keep their distance.

Often people who are in pain or grieving a loss can feel alone because those around them feel uncomfortable and keep their distance as a result. What should I say? How should I act? Should I bring up the source of the pain? How can I fix it? And when we can't answer those questions, sometimes we just avoid the person, leaving a beloved who is grieving alone.

And I just want you to know that you don't have to fix it. Your presence is enough. It's a precious gift that you can give to someone you love.

Remember that God means for us to be in community with one another, to love one another, to take care of one another. Our presence and our love are enough.

Shelly Adams, Student Pastor



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

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

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

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

# Heritage Team

## CUCC in the 1960s

by Melba Shaffer

The 1960s was a big decade for The Chapel. Rev. Herb Gessert was the new minister as the 60s began. He and his family lived in the parsonage next door to The Chapel. The resident congregation was growing a lot. The two morning services filled the pews, and there was a need for more Sunday School Classes. Many students were involved in activities and worship all week long, not just on Sundays.

In 1960, a young girl from Wright City named Melba came to Mizzou as a freshman student. She was invited by a Chapel member to participate in the activity there. Soon, she was involved in Chapel activities and stuck with the group. Sixty plus years later, she is now writing this article! Chapel members were always welcoming of new people and college students.

Money was always a problem since The Chapel was not self-supporting. As a mission church, the Missouri Conference was always there to help. The Conference purchased the property south of The Chapel and renovated it for Sunday School classes and a kitchen.

In 1961, Rev. Bill Kerr was called as Associate Minister. He focused on campus ministry while Rev. Gessert worked more with the residential groups. Working together, many great things happened at The Chapel. They took mission trips to St. Louis to work at *Caroline Mission*. They organized retreats at Camp Redbud. In 1963, they entered into a campus ministry program with five other denominations, which became the *Campus Ecumenical Center*. Vacation Bible School began at this time, too. At the end of 1965, The Chapel had a membership of 74 families, with 145 in Sunday School. There was much discussion at this time about how to best accommodate the growing congregation and address the diversity between the students and the town residents.

On December 30, 1965, a fire damaged the front part of the Sanctuary. The building did not burn to the ground, but there was a tremendous amount of smoke and water damage. The congregation was at a crossroads: What to do? Rebuild or relocate? We began meeting at the Baptist Student Center while they decided the next steps. There were no simple answers. Many people thought we should stay on Hitt Steet to be available to the students. Others thought we should move to another property, maybe near a growing area, and just give students a ride to church. Finally, Madeline and Merle Muhrer donated of 5 acres of land west of Columbia, and the decision became clear.

The entire congregation worked to make plans for the future. On May 25, 1966, the congregation voted to move to the land donated by the Muhrers. The Missouri Conference gave the property rights to The Chapel and the parsonage to the congregation, so they could sell these properties. Half the proceeds would go to the new church and the other half to the *Campus Ecumenical Center*. A number of families disagreed with these decisions, and they left the church. It was a sad time for us all.

Rev. Gessert left in 1966, and Rev. Jerry Jordan arrived in 1967. He led us from the “old” church to the “new” church. In September 1966, preliminary plans were drawn up for the new building, and bids were sought. In January 1967, all the bids received were rejected, and the congregation decided to do their own contracting. George Janke, a local contractor and church member, took the lead in the building project. Ground was broken on Palm Sunday, April 7, 1968. The cornerstone was laid on October 27, 1968.

It was an exciting time, waiting for the new, round church to go up. Families drove to the construction site to watch the builders and imagine the finished church. The Muhrer family had an all-church picnic at their house in the summer of 1968. We could see the new, round church rising from their property. In the summer of 1969, that summer picnic was held on the church property.

Many people gave their time and talents. The Women’s Fellowship saved money by making all the drapes. Each month, two couples volunteered to serve as custodians to save money. They also gave rides to students on Sunday mornings. The service of dedication for the new church was September 21, 1969. Before entering the church for the first time, we all walked around the building. There was music, singing, and joy. It was a very special time!

The 1960s began on a high note for The Chapel, and ended on a high note for Columbia United Church of Christ. In between, we suffered tragedy and controversy and a lot of difficult decisions, but as we ended the 1960s, we were once again open for God’s business.



# International Missions

## CUCC IS SERVING IN PHILIPPINES

The United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) is an indigenous Protestant church committed to uniting the community of faith toward the transformation of both church and society. A vibrant and diverse community, the UCCP works for human rights, justice, peace, and the integrity of creation. We are called to stand with our siblings from the Philippines as the UCCP actively resists an increasingly authoritarian regime. The current government of the Philippines often targets pastors and community leaders within the church because they are threatened by their messages of peace, hope, justice, and inclusion. May we accompany our siblings in Christ as they work to uphold rights and dignity for all.

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



## CUCC IS WORKING IN MEXICO

*(condensed from [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org))*

Working with **The Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research** in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, the word “Esperanza” comes up frequently in workshops and presentations.

“Esperanza” in Spanish means “Hope.”

In a culture where a history of oppression from multiple sources has fractured the very idea of community, **The Institute**, one of our Global Missions Partners, is a beacon of Hope: “Esperanza” for the people of Chiapas.

**The Institute** helps facilitate hope through the workshops they offer, from sustainable living initiatives, to reforestation, to recovering from trauma and healing the heart. All of these, and other programs offered by **The Institute**, bring healing, health, and hope to the participants. It is an infectious hope, as participants bring it back to their communities and share it with their people. The Institute trains people to be trainers, prepares participants to be leaders. Hope shared is hope multiplied, and communities in Chiapas are changed as **The Institute** nurtures their already-present seeds of hope.

**The Institute** is served by Elena Huegel, our Global Ministries Mission Co-Worker in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas. In a recent workshop, “Esperanza en el Trauma” (Hope in the midst of Trauma), Elena taught the participants about resilience, the capacity to recuperate and thrive despite adversity. She taught them techniques to build resilience, restore dignity, and to address somatic memory issues related to trauma. The participants left with tools not only to nurture hope in the midst of their own trauma, but to be nurturers of others, as well. Nurturing hope in the midst of trauma is the work of our mission partners at **The Institute** distilled to its purest essence.



## MISSION TRIP TO CHIAPAS

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



# New Century Sanctuary

At the New Century Sanctuary April 15 meeting, our pledges and donations totaled \$92,623.75! Our goal to be at \$112,000 (75%) by June is starting to seem possible. As you already have heard, we will start meeting with contractors once we hit 75% of our total goal (\$150,000). Before we get to that point, we want to hear from you!

Some of you may have already seen the Feedback cards from the Sunday Bulletins and Friday Emails. Our plan is to allow everyone a chance to share their thoughts, feelings, and some suggestions about the remodel. We will address some of these at our Annual Congregational Meeting, but since we are not allotted much time at the meeting, we would appreciate it if everyone would leave contact information on their yellow cards. Because we want to go over these at the meeting on May 21, we are setting a deadline to have all questions, suggestions, and feedback submitted by May 10.



NCS Feedback

Some of our congregational members are not able to make it to church before this deadline. Therefore, we are also providing an online submission option. If you scan the QR code with your phone's camera or [CLICK HERE](#) it will take you to our online submission form.



Trivia Night

With summer months approaching, and attendance is sure to be down, we do want to encourage everyone to continue to support the New Century Sanctuary Capital campaign. Whether it is by donations, fundraising, or prayers, we appreciate all that this congregation is continuing to do for our beloved sanctuary.



Give Online

We do have a few fundraisers coming up:

- Trivia Night is May 13 at 6 p.m. Book your spot online using the QR Code, [CLICK HERE](#) or call or [email MJ](#) in the office to make sure you will have a seat at the table of your choosing!
- T-Shirt Sales will begin soon! Be on the lookout for a display in the Gathering Area and order forms that will be sent out via the Friday Email. Order forms will also be available in the Gathering Area or the church office.

If you would like to give today, please feel free to mail a check to the church office with the memo line NCS, or to give online [CLICK HERE](#).



MJ King, Administrative Assistant

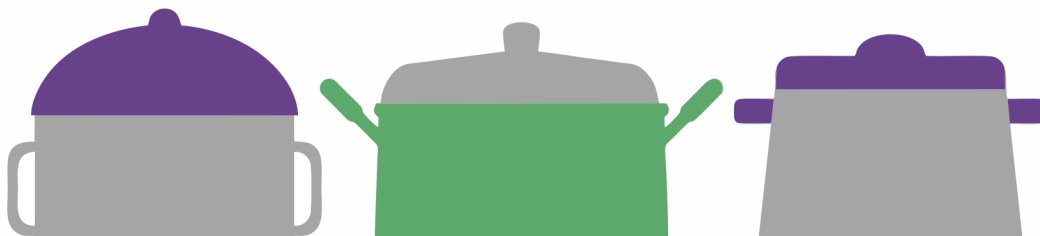


CUCC ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK

MAY 21ST

## BRING YOUR FAVORITE DISH

DIRECTLY AFTER CHURCH IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL DOWNSTAIRS



# Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team

## LOAVES & FISHES

The April 17 meal at Loaves & Fishes consisted of a variety of main dishes. The Optimist Club donated leftover baked potatoes from one of their dinners, so we used them to make a ham and potato casserole and a cheesy potato casserole to serve with the sloppy joes that were left from the LODO lunch on 4/16/23. Thank you to everyone for the food donations! Lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson) and brownies & cookies donated by Jo Ellen Grace, Anne Heine, Connie Loveless and Mary Lorber-Solt were also served. Mahree Skala made PB&J's to hand out to the guests. Servers & dishwashers were Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Mary's sister Debby, Patty Beeson, Anne Heine, Jo Ellen Grace, and Pastor Rick. We served approximately 83 firsts and seconds and 35 carry outs. Thanks again to everyone!!

## COME SERVE AT THE FOOD BANK



In March, a small crew constructed produce boxes: Jo Ellen Grace, Connie Loveless, Mahree Skala, and Llona Weiss. Each box was filled the next day with 25 pounds of fresh produce for distribution through food pantries.

The next shift will be on Tuesday, May 23, 5:30 p.m. -7:30 p.m. They could sure use more help, especially since the student volunteers are thinning out as the school year ends. Sign up [HERE](#) to help out!

If you have any questions, contact [Mahree Skala](#) or [Mark Duncan](#).

## CLEAN UP COLUMBIA CREW DOES IT AGAIN!



Eleven volunteers came out to pick up trash along I-70 Drive on Earth Day. We got 43 bags filled, plus some odd items like a large fan, a hubcap, and various car parts. The weather was crisp and cool, though a bit breezy. What better tribute to the beautiful creation God has provided for us?

May thanks to the volunteers: Ted Dachroeden, Mona Dachroeden, Anne Heine, Audrey Lasley, Connie Loveless, Linda Neale, Darla Privitt, Karl Skala, Mahree Skala, Ginny Van Hove, and Llona Weiss.

## ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY PARTNERSHIP FRIEND UPDATE

Members of CUCC never cease to amaze me! After your generous support for the **Alpha Hart Lewis (AHL)** family who lost everything in a fire, again you have given to the students by supporting them with treats/snacks to help them work during their **MAP Testing** the last two weeks in April. And, by the time you read this update, CUCC volunteers will have assisted at **AHL's PTA Spring Carnival** on April 22, **AND** our Music Coordinator Brandon and several members of the CUCC Celebration Singers will have performed with the AHL's Husky Harmony (3rd-5th graders) on April 27 at **AHL's Fine Arts Night** at the school. What a collaboration we have!

**Teacher Appreciation Week** is May 8-12, 2023, and CUCC is showing its support by "adopting" five (5) AHL teachers and presenting them each with a basket of items such as snacks, gift cards, teacher gifts, plants, etc. Our teachers are so patient and caring with their students and deserve so much more than they are given credit for or are paid for. Thank you, CUCC, for showing them our gratitude for all they do for our youth!

Pastor Rick and I will be meeting with the **CPS Superintendent** and **Faith Community** at our once-a-semester meeting on April 26. We also will be meeting with the AHL administrative staff for our periodic update meeting on May 8. We use these meetings to continue to see how our partnership is working and where we can support our Friends.

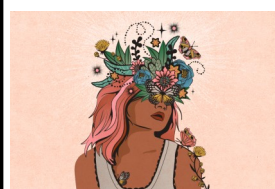
Thank you again and again, CUCC!

Llona Weiss

Liaison for CUCC to AHL, our Partnership Friend



# Thank You!!



Dear Rev. Rick and the Congregation at CUCC - Thank you so very much for your generous contribution to the Women's Day of Music at

the Blue Note. We simply could not have done it without you!

Thank you for being such a force of love and goodness in our community. I behold the Christ in you! - Audra S.

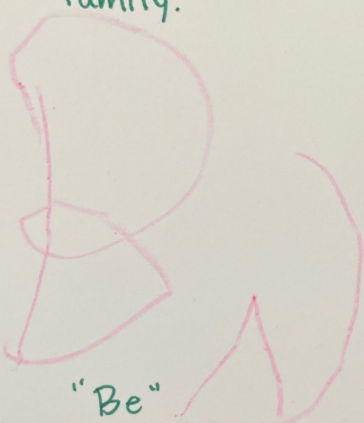
Dear CUCC Men's Group, Thank you so much for continuing to support the mission of Habitat for Humanity! Because of amazing donors like you, we are going to build four additional homes this year for Blitz Build 2023! Four families are able to affordably own their dream home. This is where they will grow together and experience the big moments of life. Thank you for partnering with us to make a big impact in Columbia!



Dear CUCC, Thank you for your generous gift to Back Bay Mission! Your gift to *Friends of the Mission* makes it possible to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Your gift is already at work strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives. You're helping a homeowner stay in their home, providing homeless families with apartments, making sure people have enough food, and giving people the support they need to make their lives better. Most importantly, your gift is making sure that Back Bay Mission is here to provide a safe and welcoming place for everyone who comes through our doors. Thank you for partnering with us through your generous gift.

The Alpha Hart Lewis Family, who suffered a fire earlier this year, reached out, and the kids both sent us a card. On the RIGHT, the card is from Paris, and BELOW, we have one from Bently. I did not want to just type these up, so I scanned them in so everyone could see how our help touched this family.

Thanks for helping my family.



"Be"

Bently

CS Scanned with CamScanner



"A snowman"



Thank you!

Love,  
Paris

CS Scanned with CamScanner



# TRIVIA NIGHT

Prizes Donated by



**\$75 a person  
or  
\$770 a table**

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP!](#)

**SAT. MAY 13**

Book your spot now by scanning the QR code. Need help with booking? Contact MJ in the office.



**@ 6 P.M.**

**We will be selling  
Tea, Lemonade, and Water  
with free Refills ALL Night  
NO ALCOHOL**

**All proceeds go to the New Century Sanctuary Capital Campaign.**



Columbia United Church of Christ  
3201 I-70 Dr. NW  
Columbia, MO 65202  
www.columbiaucc.com  
573-445-7931





## On the Church Calendar in May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Teacher Appreciation Week - LODO & AHL					
	10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Nurture & Education Ministry Team Meeting	10 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Heritage Team Meeting	6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	6:30 p.m. Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting	5:30 p.m. LODO Picnic (offsite)	FH Reserved Sanctuary & Gathering Area Reserved 10 a.m. African American Heritage Tour
7 FH Reserved Sanctuary & Gathering Area Reserved	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship	10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 6 p.m. Girl Scout in FH 6:30 p.m. Clergy Personnel Committee Meeting	10 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team Meeting	6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Team 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	9:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship	1 p.m. Brandon Brower's Graduation	6 p.m. Trivia Night
3 p.m. Brandon's Concert						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship	10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 4:30 p.m. Loaves & Fishes	10 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	10:00 a.m. Pastor Rick leads Worship at the Bluffs 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	FH & Sanctuary Reserved 6:30 p.m. LODO Graduation	LODO Last Day 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Alpha Hart Lewis Field Day	
*Worship Livestreaming on our <a href="#">CUCC Website</a>	6:30 p.m. New Century Sanctuary Team Meeting					
21 Annual Congregational Meeting	22	23	24	25	26	27
9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship	10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:00 p.m. Membership & Care Ministry Team Meeting	CPS Last Day 10 a.m. Quilters 5:30 p.m. Food Bank	6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	Pastor Rick on Vacation		
12 p.m. Annual Congregational Meeting						
28	29	30	31			
Pastor Rick on Vacation						
9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship		10 a.m. Quilters				

# THE COMMUNICATOR

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



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## ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



**Interested in Church Membership?**

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