

THE COMMUNICATOR

November 2023

November

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

"Giving Thanks for Our Blessings"

As the year rolls into November, our thoughts turn to the things for which we are thankful. In this season of CUCC, there are many things to list for which we can give thanks, not the least of which is 100 years of faithful service. We celebrated this faithful service last month with a grand weekend of partying, reflecting, and worshipping. Over 230 people joined us at the MU Healthcare Pavilion as we sang, prayed, listened to good music, enjoyed good food, and heard inspirational wisdom from the Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, the former General Minister and President of the UCC. Sunday morning, we were joined by 190 people for a moving worship with wisdom shared by the Rev. Dr. Jerry Jordan, the Rev. Fred Brandenburg, the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, as well as incredible music offered by our Chapel Ringers and the CUCC Reunion Choir, led by Casey Wood, Brandon Brown, and Virginia Zetterberg. It was a great weekend to give thanks for 100 years of service and the opportunity to enter into a New Century of CUCC.

Then, tragedy struck our world. Recent attacks by Hamas on Israeli civilians and international tourists have brought us to tears. We are made even more aware of the blessings of security and relative safety we enjoy as United States citizens. While we thank God for our blessings, we cannot do so without acknowledging the challenges others face around the world. To neglect feeling their pain in the midst of our prosperity would be negligent in our duties as empathetic Christians.

One of the blessings I appreciate especially this time of year is God's miracle gift of vaccinations. As we gather this November, I remember November 2020 when our church closed its doors for the second time in a year. November 8, 2020 was our last Sunday "in person" for what would be three months; we resumed "in person" worship again on February 17, 2021. Christmas Eve worship that year, three years ago, was entirely in isolation on YouTube. Our world was shrouded in darkness that winter, literally and figuratively.

But a light shone in the darkness that December with news of a vaccine that would most likely be approved by the FDA; it was a miracle that would bring an end to the pandemic and bring hope to our lives. By February, many of us had received at least the first dose of this miracle vaccine (I was lucky enough to be one of the first), and by Spring, most of us were vaccinated. Because of this miracle, we were able to reopen our doors and worship again in person, celebrating the joys of community.

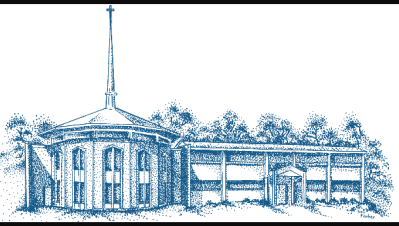
I am sure there are those who wince when I call the COVID vaccine a God-given miracle. There are those who believe the fake news of the anti-vaccine movement, who lift up fiction over fact and superstition over science. But I see God working in the world through the efforts of our scientific community and public health officials. God has instilled great potential in each one of us and rejoices when we live into that potential. One of the ways God reveals God's glory to us is through the every day scientific discoveries we make in the world: discoveries such as vaccines that are finally brought to market, after decades of research, just when we need them the most. The COVID vaccine continues to be refined, making it even more effective. Today's vaccine is even better than the ones we thanked God for back in 2020.

What is a miracle? Many expect miracles to be flashy and grand like the parting of the Red Sea or God's voice from a burning bush; but God's miracles often happen in the tiny things we take for granted, like the things we call "coincidences." God worked hard to establish the "rules" of Creation and the "laws" of science, and God's miracles are often worked within those boundaries. Miracles happen, and they happen often; many times, they happen though the hard work of the scientific community.

I received my annual COVID and Influenza vaccines in September; I hope you are vaccinated, as well! This is God's miracle gift to each one of us; let's not take it for granted!

-Pastor Rick





News & Updates

COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3201 I-70 DRIVE NW
COLUMBIA, MO 65202

Rev. Rick Oberle

Pastor

Rev. Fred Brandenburg

Pastor Emeritus

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

Website:
www.columbiaucc.com



Ladies - Mark Your Calendars!

Women's Fellowship meets again on Thursday, November 9 at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Area. But first, we have some work to do. Women's Fellowship will provide food for the "Lunch and Learn" on November 5. Plan to stay after worship for a great introduction on how to manage stress; then, unwind afterwards with crafts and projects needed to be completed before we start our fundraising craft/jam/honey/soup sales on Sunday, November 12. All women of the church are invited to share in these projects and shop beginning November 12.



CONGREGATIONAL MEETING NOVEMBER 12

The Annual Congregational Budget Meeting, as well as the Annual Congregational Planning and Assessment (Vision) Meeting will be Sunday, November 12 right after worship. We will remain in the Sanctuary after worship and hear plans from the Vision Team regarding our goals for the next 5 years (or so) and then vote on the proposed budget for 2024. Copies of the proposed budget were emailed to the congregation in October, and hard copies have been available on the table in the Sanctuary since October 25. If you would like a copy sent to you, contact **MJ in the Church Office.**

ADVENT CANTATA AND ADVENT BANQUET

The Choir Advent Cantata and the Annual CUCC Advent Banquet will be on December 10 this year. Come hear and worship as the choir prepares us for the Christmas season to come, and then, share in Christian Fellowship with your CUCC family at the Annual Advent Banquet!

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!



November Birthdays

LAWSON FLOOD-LORBER 11/2

DAVID MARTIN 11/2

VAL SCHOENBERG 11/3

MEGAN SCHOENBERG 11/4

CLIFF BECKMAN 11/6

PATTY BEESON 11/6

BRAD BOYD KENNEDY 11/8

BARRY KIRCHHOFF 11/9

GUS HEINE 11/11

VERNIE BLANK 11/12

PATTY SCHROEDER 11/18

LUKE WEDEMEYER 11/15

EMMANUEL KIBARO 11/19

LANDON MUENCH 11/19

MARK WILSON 11/19

BRYAN FORWARD 11/22

ESTHER KIBARO 11/22

VINCENT VETETO 11/22

BRYAN CROUSORE 11/23

JAMES ELLIOTT 11/23

JEDD SCHNEIDER 11/23

KARL SKALA 11/23

LLOYD VIEHLAND 11/23

BONNIE WHITMORE 11/23

MASON JABERG 11/24

HOPE KEITHAHN 11/24

DAVID FORWARD 11/27

ZANDER WELLS 11/27

DENNY HOTLE 11/28

ALISA LAU-SIECKMAN 11/28

SHIRLEY GALLAHER 11/28

GINNY VAN HOVE 11/30

Sunday Volunteer Schedule for November



Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Tech Booth
11/5	Helen Schultz	Fred & Carolyn Malicoat	Mahree Skala	Ted Dachroeden & Brent Marcks
11/12	Jessica Lucas	Llona Weiss & Mark Duncan	Sue Ann Schaefer	Mike Pierson & Aidan Pierson
11/19		Christine Staelens & Pat Forward	Audrey Lasley	Lorry Dreier & Josh Muench
11/26		Mary Lorber & Jerry Kiesling	Judi Privitt	Doug Privitt

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:
Vice Moderator:
Secretary:
Treasurer:
Recording Treasurer:
Building & Grounds:
Fellowship & Hospitality:
Finance & Stewardship:
Inclusion & Affirmation:
Little One's Day Out:
Membership & Care:
Nurture & Education:
Outreach & Advocacy:
Worship & Music:



Kurt Heine
 Jerry Kiesling
 Alethea Tennill
 Sue Ann Schaefer
 Christine Staelens
 Ted Dachroeden
 Mary Lorber-Solt
 Keith Birkes
 Tricia Price
 Lorry Dreier
 Judi Privitt
 Pat Forward
 Mark Duncan
 Mike Pierson

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eldercow@gmail.com
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judiprivitt811@gmail.com
pdforward@msn.com
markduncan2@mchsi.com
mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com





Moderator's Moment



I'm not sure if you are aware, but we are expecting a new addition to the Heine family. If all goes as planned, we will be welcoming a baby boy (yes another!) into our family in mid-November. Even though this will be our third child, and we have pretty much all the gear, my lovely wife Emmalee is still feeling that age-old compulsion: nesting. Needless to say, we have been sprucing up the place for the incoming little one, and right now, I still have some small projects to wrap up. There are some power tools laying around, along with boxes of flooring and plumbing supplies that would be downright dangerous for a curious tyke, but we're almost there!

I can't help but draw some comparisons to our church home. In a way, we are collectively nesting and getting our physical space ready for the holiday season, and with that, the celebration of another birth! As with our house projects, there are tons of little details to finish up after the lion's share of the work has been done, the same with our New Century Sanctuary. The last month has seen incremental installations of some of the detail work. Brass railings were installed one week, wood trim on the stairs the next. We (Mike Pierson) are (is) whittling away at the list, and with the financial and moral support of the entire congregation, the work is nearly complete. Thanks to all who have helped and contributed.

I believe all the work that has been done was truly appreciated by all those who joined us for the 100 year celebration. It was certainly nice to have the church leaders of the past in our presence once again.

-Kurt Heine, Moderator



From Your Student Pastor



Forgiveness

In Matthew's Gospel, Peter asks Jesus how many times he should forgive those who sin against him. Should he do it as many as seven times? And Jesus tells him no, not seven times, but seventy-seven times. When I read that verse (Matthew 18:22), I don't think about repeat offenders. I think about repeated attempts to forgive. I think about how hard forgiveness is, and how many times I have to try again and again to forgive before I get it right. Perhaps you can relate. (Or perhaps you're much better at forgiveness than I am!) Sometimes when we say the words, "I forgive you," or pray the words, "I forgive them," we still feel angry, resentful, or aggrieved. We still yearn for reassurance that we were the party who was wronged, and the other person was the person who did wrong. Sometimes we remain resentful about not receiving the apology we feel we deserved. I know that for me, there have been times when it took much time, and many times forgiving, before I could let go and feel real forgiveness - with no strings attached and no conditions to be met by the person I was forgiving. Seventy-seven times? Maybe so. Maybe even more. But when we finally are able to forgive freely, it is a liberating experience. Certainly we are liberating the person we are forgiving from the burden of being the one who has caused pain or harm. But we are also liberating ourselves of the burden of being the person who was harmed or aggrieved. That can be a heavy burden. And the heavier the burden, the harder it can be to forgive.

The Bible gives us examples of remarkable acts of forgiveness. When the crowd dragged Stephen out of Jerusalem and stoned him (Acts 54:60), Stephen's final words were, "Lord, do not hold this sin against him." He died praying for the people who killed him to be forgiven. Isn't that remarkable? Jesus, on the cross, asked God to forgive those who crucified him, "for they do not know what they are doing" (Luke 23:34). And what about God? Our God is a God of unconditional forgiveness, flowing from a completely selfless and loving heart. Knowing that we are beloved children of a God of perfect love and eternal grace can help us make space in our own imperfect human hearts to forgive, without condition and without reservation. I am convinced that practicing this level of forgiveness benefits not only the parties involved, but the entire human community.

I, for one, am still practicing. Jesus calls me to continue to practice forgiveness, to expand my heart and my capacity to love, forgiving me as I fall short - even if it is seventy-seven times (or more).

-Shelly Adams, Student Pastor



CUCC Church Council

CUCC Council Meeting — September 19, 2023

The meeting was called to order by Jerry Kiesling. Pastor Rick opened us with prayer.

A motion was made by Mary Lorber-Solt to accept Lydia Whitacre's resignation from Council and appoint Pat Forward as the Chair of Nurture and Education Ministry Team. The motion was seconded by Sue Ann Schaefer. Motion passed.

Judi Privitt made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Tricia Price. The motion passed.

Judi Privitt discussed our book **Reorganized Religion**, Chapter 4: *Preserve the Base. Preserve the Base* – many churches worry about keeping the status quo instead of worrying about the people in the congregation and their issues. You can win the battle, but lose the war.

Mary Lorber-Solt will discuss Chapter 5 at our October council meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- Spots were filled for stewardship duties.
- Worship Sanctuary Updates: New Sanctuary Renovation was discussed. The draperies are still left to be replaced. We will not replace the draperies that cover the windows that look out into the gathering area. We still have a few things to finish.
- Heritage Team: Finishing up all details in preparation for our Anniversary Weekend.
- The Children's Library Donation: It is up and ready to go.
- Policy and Procedures Manual Update: Personnel Committee will start review.
- HVAC Replacements: Three are completed.
- Vision Team: Can we be intentional about asking members to be involved in events?
- Financial Report: Sue Ann Schaefer asked to move money from UCF funds to meet expenses. Ted Dachroeden made a motion to move \$40,000 from our UCF funds to our operating account. Keith Birkes seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- 2024 Budgeting Process: Sue Ann Schaefer will present the budget at the October Council meeting.
- Search process and plans for organist: In the process of interviewing some candidates. They have 2 viable candidates with one more possible.
- Hospitality Time Hosts: Fellowship and Hospitality requests that the Council member that opens the church also makes coffee etc. for fellowship time starting October 1.

New Business:

- Computer Upgrade bid from Next Level IT: We have received a bid from Next Level IT. Mike Pierson made a motion to use Mader funds to purchase computer/server from Next Level It. Ted Dachroeden seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Financial Policies and Procedures revision: The finance committee has revised the Financial Policies and Procedures. Motion from committee to accept the revised Policy. Motion passed.
- Congregational Budget and Vision Meeting: Ted Dachroeden made a motion to set the date for this meeting as November 12 after church. Mary Lorber-Solt seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Coyote Hill has requested to meet at our church once a month for Parent Support Group. They will be given a key card that will only be active on the dates they will be in the church. Tricia Price made a motion, seconded by Lorry Dreier. Motion passed.
- Financials were presented: We are under budget in Joyful giving and over budget on expenses.

Ministry Reports:

- Fellowship and Hospitality: Eighty-eight people were at Rally Day. Next event will be Trunk or Treat.
- Finance and Stewardship: On Giving Tuesday we are looking to raise \$20,000.
- Inclusion & Affirmation: Pridefest will be from 12-7 p.m. Still need helpers from 3-7 p.m.
- LODO: Lorry Dreier says they are at 81% enrollment.
- Membership & Care: Starting a prayer ministry team. Tricia Soncasie and Melba Shaffer will be the co-chairs. The picture directory has been sent to the printers. **Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction Lunch and Learn** will be November 5.
- Nurture & Education: October 22 is our Fall Festival. November 19 is PJ and Gingerbread Decorating Sunday.
- Outreach & Advocacy: Mark Duncan gave thanks for the Crop Walk.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alethea Tennill - Secretary





Building & Grounds Update



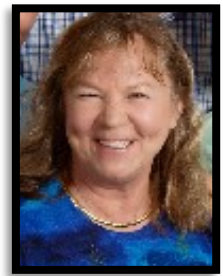
The upstairs women's handicap toilet was running. The flusher is now tightened, so there should be no more problems with it. (Thanks Ted!) If anyone has any issues with it, let [MJ in the Church Office](#) know, and she will pass it along.

Our grounds are looking beautiful this Fall season. Thank you to **CleanRight LandCare** (Jerome Baker) for being an incredible lawn care team.

If anyone notices anything that needs to be done around the church or church grounds, also please let MJ know, so she can let the right people know.

Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team

Hello to all! This is a very busy season! As the seasons change, so do our chores, commitments, and focus. I personally am putting my honey bees to bed for the winter, picking the last of the tomatoes, green beans, and peppers from my garden. I am now preparing for the Advent season. Thanksgiving, Christmas, even the New Year. So much to do, but the season for being thankful for the bounteous harvest is now. I am so ever grateful for the most wonderful blessings in my life; the most important is my Church! Our CUCC family is the most caring, involved, supportive group of people I have ever had the pleasure of knowing, and the Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team are truly the best! We have had a quiet month, albeit still helping with the 100th anniversary set-up/take-down, the morning after hospitality donuts/bagels, flowers, and the Fall Festival drinks and treat bags (Pastor Rick participated in a 'Trunk & Treat' on October 28 with an estimated 800 little goblins visitors). None of this would be possible without the help of this amazing team! We will soon be celebrating our honored Veterans on November 12 with guest speaker Stephan Gaither discussing the new "home away from home," for families of Veterans receiving extended treatment here in Columbia. We will also host the upcoming Advent Dinner on December 10. So as we put away the summer "chores," we start a new preparation of our hearts and homes, for Thanksgiving and the upcoming Advent season. We have so much to be thankful for!



-Mary Lorber, Fellowship & Hospitality Chair

VETERANS DAY BREAKFAST NOVEMBER 12 – ALL ARE INVITED!

Whether you are a Veteran or not, everyone is invited to celebrate Veterans Day with our CUCC Veterans at our **Veterans Day Breakfast on November 12 at 9:00 a.m.!** Jolene Kirchhoff and her crew are coordinating the breakfast on behalf of the Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team, so you know it is going to be delicious! The guest speaker will be Stephen Gaither, the board chair of The Friends of Mid-Missouri Fisher House. Fisher House is described as a "Ronald McDonald type house for Veterans." Fisher House provides free temporary housing for veterans and families of veterans who are receiving care at the VA hospital or other facilities. Gaither said in a recent Columbia Missourian article that "It's not unusual for veterans to travel almost 200 miles one-way to Columbia to receive health care and treatment. What Fisher House provides is a place for those family members to stay while their loved one is receiving this care. It is no cost; free, temporary lodging." Come to the breakfast on November 12 at 9:00 a.m. and hear more from Stephen Gaither, as we honor our CUCC Veterans!

Also – 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!](#) Advent is coming!

Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

As Thanksgiving approaches, it makes me reflect on what I have to be thankful for.

There are many personal things, my family and my health are two big ones, but I am also thankful for the church family that I have. You have all been so giving in so many ways. Your time with making the 100th anniversary celebration a great gathering, the rallying around the campaign to renovate the sanctuary, the yummy pot luck dinners, Loaves and Fishes, participation in Pridefest and the Crop Walk, our talented Bell Choir and Celebration Singers, a new Children's Bookshelf, the Adult Education bible study, Vacation Bible school, children and youth Sunday school, Women's Fellowship, supporting LODO, and all the special mission offerings that CUCC supports.

You make this possible! Thank you for your continued financial support and the gift of your time and talent.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Ann Schaefer, Treasurer



Financial Update

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Over/ (Under)</i>
<i>September Income</i>	\$38,805.27	\$32,183.33	\$6,621.94
<i>September Expenses</i>	\$42,037.97	\$38,911.47	\$3,126.50
<i>YTD Income</i>	\$215,734.33	\$234,924.97	\$19,190.64
<i>YTD Expenses</i>	\$307,104.16	\$288,935.65	\$18,168.51
<i>Surplus/(Deficit)</i>	\$91,369.83	\$54,010.68	\$37,359.15
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<i>September Joyful Giving</i>	\$38,140.27	\$31,500.00	\$6,640.27
<i>YTD Joyful Giving</i>	\$208,757.57	\$229,000.00	\$20,242.43

CUCC ONLINE GIVING

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

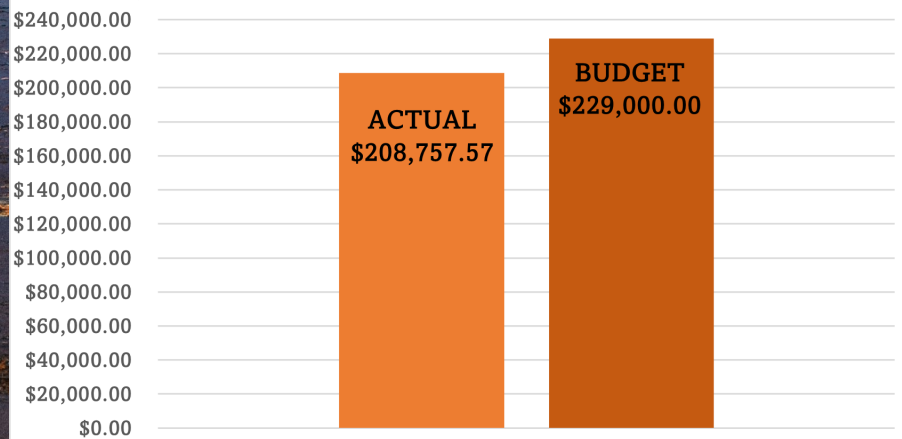
There are several ways to make a one time or recurring gift through Kindrid:

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

<i>Date</i>	<i>Attendance</i>
<i>9/3/23</i>	<i>61</i>
<i>9/10/23</i>	<i>129</i>
<i>9/17/23</i>	<i>81</i>
<i>9/24/23</i>	<i>80</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>351</i>



Joyful Giving January to September





Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

“They came and said to Him, “Teacher, we know that You are truthful and defer to no one; for You are not partial to any, but teach the way of God in truth.” - Mark 12:14



I recently watched the World War II movie, **The Monument’s Men**. For those of you who may not know the movie, or the historical events it depicts, let me explain. The actual title of this group was *Monuments, Fine Arts and Archives Section of the Civil Affairs and Military Government Section of the Allied Armies*. This group of men and women from thirteen nations were primarily volunteers. Their expertise was in art, education, museums, and curators of the same. Their job was to save as much European (and world) art as they could during combat. These individuals understood that WWII was the gravest threat to our understanding of ourselves through our shared cultural antiquities.

There is a quote from that movie that really struck me as I was watching:

“You can wipe out an entire generation, you can burn their homes to the ground, and somehow, they’ll still find their way back. But if you destroy their history, you destroy their achievements, and it’s as if they never existed.”

My immediate thought, upon hearing that, went to what is happening in several states, especially Florida, today. The purging of “uncomfortable history,” especially where it relates to the experience of Black Americans, is akin to what was happening in Europe. We cannot launder the past any more than Nazis could.

Why are some states trying to sugarcoat slavery and the Black experience in America? The big argument seems to be that it makes white people feel bad. I cannot understand that view. People living today are **NOT** responsible for the actions of their ancestors, just as our children are not responsible for the mistakes we make. However, learning from these collective missteps requires the truth be told, thereby, setting examples for all generations as to what not to repeat.

-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

"Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings." —William Arthur Ward

LODO celebrates those who make our ministry wonderful each and every day! We are thankful for our students, staff, families, volunteers, and the CUCC church members that support our program. As a ministry of CUCC, LODO provides an outreach to our entire community that extends into the towns surrounding Columbia. The LODO program provides a loving and intentional learning preschool experience for young children to blossom in all areas of development while also learning of God's love for all.

INSTEAD OF SAYING "Use your words"

HELP CHILDREN DEVELOP LANGUAGE TO DESCRIBE THEIR FEELINGS:

"I can help you think of how to say that"

"Is there a sound you can make to help us think of a word for what's inside of you right now?"

"YOU'RE FRUSTRATED, I CAN SEE IT, LET'S FIGURE OUT WHY."

"Let's think of a word that matches what you're feeling."

Kids can't "use their words" until we teach them helpful words to use.



November Learning Themes

Camping/Forest Animals

Thanksgiving

Dinosaurs

October was full of fun at LODO with school photos by Johnson Photography, Pumpkin Fun Day, and Classroom Halloween Celebrations. We learned about Fall/Leaves, Apples, Pumpkins, Halloween, and had a week of Teacher Choice theme. We look forward to our annual Thanksgiving Feast in November! LODO families and staff will share a meal on Thursday, November 16 from 6:00 -8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We anticipate great food and fellowship!

LODO will be closed on November 10 and November 23 - 25.

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** or visit 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

Starting in January: “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 at Heine@missouri.edu for any questions. Look for the sign-up pad on the table as you enter the Sanctuary. Bon Appetit!

Health Ministry Care Team Lunch & Learn on November 5 Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction

Come to the November 5 Lunch & Learn (right after church in Fellowship Hall) to learn about Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) training. We hope to offer a workshop to dig deeper next year if enough people are interested. Come and get the basics on November 5 and see if you want to explore deeper. It is open to anyone, so invite others to come.

To summarize, MBSR provides strategies to help one live in the present moment and respond to stress and situations in a more calm and peaceful manner. Terry Wilson, M.ED., R.N., who has agreed to teach this workshop, is certified in MBSR and has been practicing and teaching it for 21 years. For further information about Terry's background and work, feel free to visit her website at <https://www.showmetruenature.com>.

Terry will share some mindfulness exercises on November 5, so come and see what it's all about. If you cannot make it and want to participate in further exploration, let me know as we have a minimum number needed to offer the workshop and a maximum number we can accept. There is a fee for this class, but if cost is a problem, let me know that, as well. Please RSVP to Heine@missouri.edu or sign up in the Gathering Area if you plan on coming on November 5, so we will have the right amount of food. Women's Fellowship has graciously agreed to provide a healthy lunch for us to enjoy- another great reason to come. Thank you Women's Fellowship!

Remember, we are here for you, so call if you need help with any health related issues, transportation to a health care appointment, or if you have questions about your health care.

Your CUCC Health Ministry Care Team: Anne Heine, Mona Dachroeden, Mary Lorber-Solt, Emmalee Heine, and Stefanie Zimny.

-Anne Heine and your Health Ministry Care Team



REMEMBER CUCC AND LODO ON GIVING TUESDAY

Tuesday, November 18 is Giving Tuesday across the United States; it is a day to express our thanks for all God has given us by giving back to charities and non-profit agencies of choice. Many of our local agencies are participating in Giving Tuesday, including CUCC and LODO.

As you contemplate your charitable giving this season, don't forget the ministries of your church home. You can give to CUCC and LODO online: [CLICK HERE](#) and select the fund to which you would like to contribute, or mail an “extra donation” check to the church office. As of September 30, we were \$20,242 behind budget in Joyful Giving, and with our Centennial Celebrations this year, expenses have been over budget. The Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team has set a goal of \$25,000 for Giving Tuesday to help put us back on track. Thank you to all who faithfully contribute; the ministries of this church could not happen without you!

Nurture & Education Ministry Team

Sunday School - 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.

Please come and join a Sunday School class on Sunday mornings! There are offerings for all ages.

The classes and the leaders for this year are:

- Pre-K – 1st grade (Upstairs by the nursery) – Paula Wilson, Dorothy Williams & Yvonne Piersee, Pat Forward, Kennedy Lucas
- 2nd - 5th grade (Across the hall from the nursery) – Gina Pierson, Tricia Price, Linda Neale, Kennedy Lucas
- 6th - 12th grade (meets in the youth lounge downstairs) – Jessica Lucas, Kristy Hayward, Lena Muench, Lydia Whitacre
- Adult Bible Study (upstairs at the end of the hall) – Barry Kirchhoff, Philip Neale, Jessica Jenks, Shelly Adams
- Confirmation – Pastor Rick & Lydia Whitacre

Safe Church Training – We will have our annual Safe Church training on November 13, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. with the next Nurture & Education meeting to follow this training. This training is required for all volunteers who work with children and youth in any capacity. Please see Pat Forward or Pastor Rick if you have questions.

Nursery – We said good bye to our Nursery Supervisors, Summer and Chloe, on October 22, 2023 as they move on with their education at MU and their jobs. We are searching for new Nursery Supervisors. Until then, we will have the nursery staffed during worship with volunteers.

November Special Event Sunday -November 19, 2023 – 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. – For Pre-K – 12th grade Sunday School classes -

PJ Sunday & Gingerbread Decorating! Wear your PJ's! Bring a friend!

Nurture & Education Ministry Team has several subcommittees to carry out the work of the Ministry Team. If you would like to help with any of these activities, please contact the person listed:

- Adult Education - Judi Privitt and Pastor Rick
- Vacation Bible School – Lena Muench and Gina Pierson
- Children & Youth Sunday School – Pat Forward
- Publicity – Lena Muench
- Christmas Program – Linda Neale
- Nursery Management – Pat Forward
- Special Event Planning - Paula Wilson and Judi Privitt
- Youth Group – Lena Muench and Pastor Rick
- Young Adults/College students – Lydia Whitacre
- Confirmation – Lydia Whitacre
- Fundraising – Lorry Dreier

Upcoming Events – Save the Date

- Sunday December 10 – Cookies By the Pound Fundraiser. Be thinking about the homemade cookies and candies you would like to bring for this fun, holiday sale.
- Sunday, December 17 – Children's Christmas Program during Worship. Linda Neale will be directing this year's program. Save the date so your children and grandchildren can participate.



Submitted by Pat Forward, Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair



Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team

SPONSOR SOMEONE SO THEY CAN HAVE A MERRY CHRISTMAS!

The CUCC Christmas gift sponsorship drive for VAC will be starting soon. To share your good cheer with someone who needs help, please go to the “tree” display in the gathering area and select a person to sponsor. Pick up their wish list and be sure to leave your name in the box!

CUCC has pledged to sponsor gifts, necessities, and food for 40 people in low-income families screened by the Voluntary Action Center (VAC). They include children and their parents or grandparents, as well as disabled adults.

VAC suggests we purchase at least one new gift or household item (\$50-75 per person), and/or contribute \$25 per person for their holiday meal. If you plan to spend more, please adopt more than one person so we can help as many as possible. Take an information sheet from the display for further details.

A gift or two, some simple household items, or a holiday meal can make Christmas bright for someone who would otherwise go without.

-Mahree Skala,
Outreach & Advocacy
Ministry Team Member



Deadline for return of gifts and food money is December 3.

LOAVES & FISHES



The October 16 meal at Loaves & Fishes consisted of chicken, pulled pork, brisket, baked beans, roasted potatoes, macaroni and cheese, and anniversary cake. All of this was food that was leftover from our 100th anniversary dinner.

We also had hamburgers that were donated by Linda Evans, lettuce salad donated by Patty Beeson, and PB&J's made and provided by Jessica Jenks. It was quite a feast and was enjoyed by all! Servers were Tom and Mary Lorber-Solt, Debby (Mary's sister), Patty Beeson, Anne Heine, and Judi Privitt. Jim Loveless and Doug Privitt were our handy-dandy dishwashers. We served approximately 150 meals. Thanks to all of the helping hands!!

-Audrey Lasley

FOOD BANK UPDATE

Join the fun and help feed the hungry — next Food Bank shift is November 28!

The holidays can be a trying time for those who are barely making ends meet. Fortunately, we can help by packaging food at the Food Bank. Our next CUCC shift is coming up on November 28 at 5:30 p.m.

CLICK HERE to sign up for November or contact **Mahree Skala**. Five CUCC volunteers joined many college and high school students in September to package cereal for distribution through area food pantries. It was a fun, high-energy evening for Connie Loveless, Brenda and John Muench, Mahree Skala, and Tricia Soncasie.



ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY UPDATE

ALPHA HART LEWIS



a wonderful ongoing ministry!

Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School (AHL) is off and running, and learning is good! I have been a Substitute Teacher and volunteer at AHL recently, and the scholars are amazing! Often, I wonder if I'm not receiving more benefit being a Sub than they are receiving benefits from me. The teachers and administration are awesome with how they work instructing our youth at every opportunity. AHL continues to have needs for clothing/shoe items to keep on hand for students, and if you are so inclined to make donations, I can let you know what AHL needs at the time. Again, thank you CUCC for making this Partner Friendship

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



Worship and Music Ministry Team

MEET OUR NEW ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST– STEVE JANNETTI

Stephen Jannetti, our new Organist/Accompanist, began his tenure as “guest organist” at CUCC on Sunday, October 8. He filled in for two Sundays, and at the next Council meeting, he was officially hired! Steve’s first day on staff was October 18.

Steve comes to CUCC with over 40 years of working as a pastoral musician. He has worked in several church settings as Organist, Pianist, Music Director, Choir Director, and most recently Director of Liturgical Music for Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church. He has a BFA in Music from University of Connecticut (Voice Major) and post graduate studies in Church Music from UConn, as well.

Steve and his wife, Valerie, live in Jefferson City. They have three grown sons. Steve will be with us on Wednesdays for Choir Practice and Sunday mornings, as well as throughout the week. Welcome to CUCC, Steve and Valerie!



New Century Sanctuary

What a year we have experienced so far. Who would have thought back in January that we would have created such a beautiful masterpiece that is our **New Century Sanctuary** in such a short amount of time. We only have a few small steps left to take to put the finishing touches on the remodel. Mike Pierson is working hard doing all the detail work. A half-down deposit was made on the draperies. The railings were installed (still waiting on the final bill). Things are really coming along! Once all the pledges come in, we will be in the black! I am super excited to see what the future holds as we head into the new century of CUCC in our New Century Sanctuary! Below you can see a chart of expenses vs income for this remodel. Any funds left over will go into our building fund to continue making improvements on this, our home away from home.

Project	Bid	Updated Bid	Paid?	
Carpet Installation	\$53,608.73	\$57,112.40	\$57,963.29	
Ceiling Painting	\$9,944.55	\$13,842.17	\$13,842.17	
Window Replacement	\$23,431.05	\$24,017.05	\$24,017.05	
Window Film & Application	\$13,588.00	\$14,775.00	\$15,552.00	
Wall Painting Materials	\$400.00		\$408.41	
Brass Railings	\$5,600.00			*awaiting final bill
detail work performed by Mike Pierson	TBD		\$1,025.79	*still working
Window Draperies	\$15,925.80	\$10,038.00	\$5,019.00	*paid half down
Chancel Wallpaper Material	\$2,000.00	\$1,751.70	\$1,751.70	
Chancel Wallpaper Installation	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	\$1,400.00	
New HVAC Unites	\$25,000.00	\$17,466.10	\$28,344.10	*added a third unit
Other Charges			\$1,630.33	
Totals	\$150,898.13	\$140,402.42	\$150,953.84	
Fund	Income	Cost So Far	Difference	
New Century Sanctuary	\$134,998.17	\$111,384.79	\$23,613.38	
Windows	\$26,505.00	\$39,569.05	-\$13,064.05	
Totals	\$161,503.17	\$150,953.84	\$10,549.33	

100th Anniversary Celebration!



Warmest thanks to everyone for your leadership, effort, and time on the 100th Anniversary year celebrations, especially on the culminating event. All the lease arrangements regarding the Farmer's Market, coordination with the caterer (who was a great choice!), rental, set-up, and return of tables and chairs came off without a hitch due to your organization. And over the course of the past year, the Heritage Team pulled together with excellent results.

The informative and fun-to-read reports in the Communicator each month compiled by Jolene Hackman and Melba Shaffer, as well as the photos that

they organized and displayed, were truly wonderful. And Jolene Hackman took up the task of creating a unique and lovely commemorative Christmas ornament via the creativity and hard work of Mike Pierson's parents. I know that the ornaments are disappearing quickly. I'm glad we ordered a lot of them. The floral decorations for the Farmer's Market (and the sanctuary on Sunday) were just perfect. Melba Shaffer came through with her usual flair. And the lyric writers, Melba Shaffer & Jolene Kirchhoff, did a great job collaborating on 14 verses of our Saturday night entertainment.

The banners have, I believe, been just right for our various events, thanks to Mike Pierson, Kristy Hayward, MJ King, and Pastor Rick — and the coordination with the printed materials that went out from the office was quite effective. The "short history" that was distributed during the weekend event was perfect. And MJ's ability to plan a project (like the cards for bingo and designs for various program covers, etc.) even BEFORE she is actually asked to, is truly phenomenal. I believe she can read our minds.

Kristy helped so much by keeping the minutes--and momentum--going for our committee. Her ability to summarize ideas and move things forward is exemplary. AND special thanks for having the connection to have Clayton & Joe provide music for us. That really set the tone for an evening of celebration and fellowship.

Although not officially a member of this committee, Mike has, through his oversight of the sanctuary renovation and serving as worship team leader, made so many aspects of the 100th celebration possible & special, including and especially, our renovated worship space.

Pastor Rick's work in securing John Dorhauer as our speaker, arranging accommodations for visitors from out of town, coordinating with Jerry Jordan and Fred Brandenburg, picking up Jerry from the airport, are just the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the many responsibilities he has assumed this year. We can look forward to the more comprehensive church history he is working on at present.

Finally, of course, thanks to everyone on the committee for all the assistance in hosting and setting up special lunches and other events, participating in special worship announcements, brainstorming ideas, singing and ringing musical offerings, and just showing up for meetings and events. And thank you for all the things that happened that I don't even know about.



It was a very memorable experience!

Gratefully,

Connie Loveless,
Heritage Team Member



OUR MISSION IN CHIAPAS

by **Elena Huegel**

Elena Huegel serves with the Intercultural Research and Studies Institute (INESIN) in Mexico.

Don Fausto lovingly caresses the soil. The cows, bunnies, chickens, earthworms, and bacteria have each done their part. Rich, loamy earth will soon be turned into vegetable beds, an herb garden, and fruit trees. With technical support from Dolores, who works for the **Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research** in San Cristóbal de las Casas in Chiapas, Mexico, Don Fausto is incorporating organic nutrients into the soil for the maximum benefit of everything he grows. In the afternoon, we sit down for lunch around the table in his home. The plates are mix-matched, and some are cracked, but we enjoy a feast fit for royalty. Only the salt on the table was bought at the store. The fresh pineapple and orange drink, with a touch of banana for sweetness; the tossed salad of lettuce, carrots, and tomatoes garnished with parsley and lemons; the soup made with free range chicken, chayote (Mexican pear squash), potato, onion, and cabbage; the soft, thick, freshly hand-thrown corn tortillas made from scratch (a process that takes a couple of days); and the giant toasted ants (a delicacy) all come from that hearty soil. In hot, dry summers, when water is low, Don Fausto and his children carefully hand water the plants. However, since they live on a hillside just above the tropical plains, it doesn't freeze in the winter. Once the rains start, they ensure that the low channels they have dug flow into a homemade plastic-lined pond where they can capture and save water for the next dry spell. Dolores, as part of her work with **The Institute**, helps them figure out a strategy for the best use of water during the whole year.



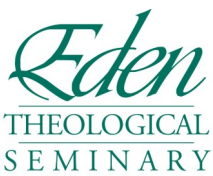
Don Fausto is Catholic, but his neighbors are Protestant. His work with **The Institute** has taught him to share across religious barriers. He has organized a group of neighbors to meet with Dolores monthly so they can learn how to enrich the soil, grow their own food, and reclaim ancient recipes. Beans and corn don't require much work and store quickly. In the past, when people had to work far from home or on extensive land holdings, they quit planting and eating the traditional varieties of squash, greens, and grains that require extra care. Next door to Don Fausto, 10-year-old Yareli and 5-year-old Félix hold baby chicks as they tell us what they are learning. Félix shows us how he has half-buried two-gallon water jugs, punched with a few holes, next to each sapling fruit tree. He shows us a tree that doesn't have a water jug and compares it to one that does. His mother explains that she planted the tree without the water jug five years ago when Félix was born. It is stunted and has not yet produced fruit. The tree with the water jug, which Félix carefully fills twice a week during the dry season, is only slightly over a year old and is already larger than the first tree. It also has buds popping out from its branches. Félix says he likes eating chicken, turkey, bananas, oranges, and squash, but he doesn't like beans. It is a good thing his family has learned to produce many other things to eat!

Yareli proudly shows us her chickens, geese, and turkeys. These are her responsibilities, and they flock around her as she proudly explains what she does to feed and care for her charges. She shows us fresh eggs and explains that she dreams of having an incubator someday to produce more chicks. There is only one problem. When she starts crying silently, hiding her face behind the chick in her arms, her mother explains. Yareli has become a vegetarian as she can't bear for any flock member to be sacrificed for food. Eventually, she sniffs and softly whispers that she knows it is silly and tries not to get attached; she doesn't even give the birds names. After so much loving care, she just can't bear the idea of eating any of her flock. She says she has promised her mother that the family can have a turkey for New Year's dinner, but that she will eat just vegetables and tortillas.



The group that Dolores accompanies in Llano Bajo is a life-giving example of community: they learn together by trying out new techniques and strategies for improving their soil and, hence, the nutritious food they produce; they care for each other and share, so everyone benefits from the fruit of their labor; they laugh and encourage each other with evident pride and hope for a healthier future for their children and grandchildren. In our relationship with **The Institute** through **Global Ministries**, CUCC is making a difference in the world - one child at a time!

Thank You



Dear Friends,
On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Eden Theological Seminary, thank you for your donation in support of the Annual Fund. Eden continues to thrive as a community of learning and faith. Thank you for being a part of this transformative education. Your support helps Eden build capacity, increase demand, and expand access to theological education in service of congregations and ministries of the Progressive Christian Movement. Thank you again for your support which enables students to be inclusive, theologically imaginative leaders and justice-seekers with God in the Church and for the common good.

In Gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, VP for Advancement

Dear Friends from
Columbia United
Church of Christ,
Thank you for
your generous



CWS

contribution to help strengthen communities worldwide. Through your support of Church World Service, you are helping to fight the connected challenges of hunger, lack of access to safe water and improved sanitation and extreme poverty. The men, women, and children with whom CWS works are both strong and determined. They are building the futures they deserve, and we are proud to help them as they do. I am so moved by the determination of generous people like you, who are standing in solidarity with families in need in the US and around the world. May God bless you for your support.

Good Monday Morning!

No doubt you are taking a deep breath after so much planning and organizing for such an exciting celebration. Soooo very glad Mike and I could take part in it. I just wanted to say my thank and congratulations on a beautiful transformation of the sanctuary. It is gorgeous and will serve well for many years.

Continued Blessings,
Audie Spieler

From all of us to all of you, congratulations on 100 years of continued dedicated service in God's kingdom! Best wishes for your next 100!

From all of us at St. John's Chapel United Church of Christ in Springfield, Missouri

To the Beloved Congregation of Columbia UCC & Pastor Rick,

What a wonderful celebration it was, lifting up 100 years of history, people of faith worshipping, sharing, and serving together in the love of Christ.

The weekend event was a testimony to the continued life and vitality of Columbia UCC. From the gracious open-air banquet Saturday Evening with music, much visiting, and a keynote address by John Dorhauer through our amazing Worship together on Sunday Morning with Spirit soaring Anthems led by Virginia and Brandon. It was a grand statement of faith, hope, and love in the renovated Sanctuary, the Center for Worship and Faith Sharing.

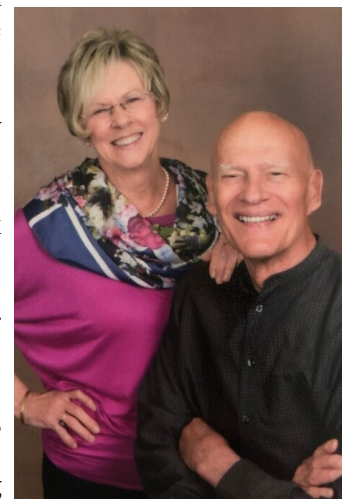
Shelley and I are so very grateful for being included in the Celebration and the opportunity to renew old friendships, share memories, and meet dedicated new members.

Of course, the challenge to you as a Congregation and Pastor today is to vision and work together toward the future, where Christ leads you in the days and years to come,

God is with you, and so are we as you journey forward in life and faith with Christ as your guide and friend.

In that Eternal Love,

Fred & Shelley Brandenburg



Our The Church Calendar in November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
29 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Outreach & Advocacy <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	30	31 Halloween 10:00 a.m. Quilters 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	1 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	2 6:00 p.m. Vision Team Meeting	3	4
5 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Lunch & Learn <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	6 6:30 p.m. Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting	7 10:00 a.m. Quilters 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	8 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	9 9:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship 5:00 p.m. Coyote Hill Foster Support Group	10 LODO Closed 9:00 a.m. LODO Staff Meeting	11
12 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 9:00 a.m. Veterans Day Breakfast 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship 11:30 a.m. Congregational Meeting 3:00 p.m. Cub Scouts in FH	13 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m. Nurture & Education Ministry Team Meeting	14 10:00 a.m. Quilters 10:30 a.m. Staff Mtg. 5:00 p.m. Membership & Care Ministry Team 6:30 p.m. Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting	15 10:00 a.m. Pastor Rick leads worship at the Bluffs 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	16 6:00 p.m. LODO Thanksgiving Feast	17	18
19 Sunday School Party 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	20 4:30 p.m. Loaves & Fishes 6:30 Clergy Personnel Committee Meeting	21 10:00 a.m. Quilters 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	22 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	23 Thanksgiving Church Office Closed	24 Church Office Closed	25
26 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	27	28 10:00 a.m. Quilters 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. Food Bank	29 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	30	1	2 9:00 a.m. Stop Human Trafficking Coalition Christmas Party in Fellowship Hall

The Communicator

Columbia United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation - ONA #1575
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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

**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.