

THE COMMUNICATOR

July 2023

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

"Freedom"

One of the challenges in Biblical Scholarship is placing yourself in the context of the world in which the narrative was written. To understand the intended meaning of the authors, the reader has to understand the world in which the authors lived and view the narrative through those lenses. Yes, it is important to apply those narratives to our current context, but before we do that, we have to understand the narrative in the context in which it was written.

The same principle can be applied to the rest of our lives, as well. To truly understand the writings of another culture in our current time, the reader has to understand the world in which it was written. To interpret writings of others through our own lenses causes distortion and mistrust. We can't understand the author until we have "walked a mile in their shoes" or at least attempted to learn more about their world.

We tend to do this when we talk about the American Revolution and the concept of "freedom." We view it through lenses developed in the 20th century and refined in the 21st century. The 20th century was a time of evolution for our country, much of it not in step with the teachings of Jesus. Though Jesus taught humility and empathy, our US culture grew more arrogant and detached. The 20th century saw the rise of isolationist policies rooted in narcissism and xenophobia. People began believing that the freedoms we share as United States citizens are rooted in selfish, individual freedoms instead of communal freedom. The idea that individual freedom was more important than community responsibility began being trumpeted by many, especially those who knew they could use that narcissistic idea to consolidate their power.

This practice led directly to the actions of the extreme right-wing militants who committed acts of domestic terrorism in our Nation's Capitol on January 6, 2021. Their justification was that the Capitol belonged "to the people" so they could occupy it as they wished and do what they wished. They were wrong. Their actions were an affront to the people and to the idea of freedom. The Capitol does not belong to individuals, it belongs to the community; it belongs to the people, not to individual persons.

This is not what the framers of our country had in mind when they talked of freedom. Their idea of freedom was freedom of the community, not freedom of the individual. They believed in the freedom of the community to act in the best interests of community. They did not believe in the freedom of the individual to do whatever they choose. Our nation was built on freedom, but not the freedom of the individual; the freedom of the community.

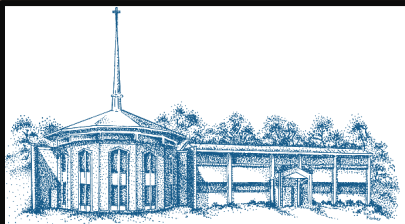
Martin Luther wrote about this in 1520 in a treatise called "On the Freedom of a Christian." His goal was to link the ideas of spiritual freedom and servitude, and he began his treatise by laying down two seemingly contradictory principles. He wrote, "A Christian is the freest lord of all, subject to none; a Christian is the most dutiful servant of all, and subject to everyone." He then explains that though our faith in God frees us from sin and offers us salvation, freedom also binds us to Christian principles of love, service, and humility. Though free, we are duty bound to each other by the ties of Christian love. The same ties that free us also bind us.



As we celebrate Independence Day this month, this principle is also applicable to the secular community. The same freedoms that form the basis for our community (country) are also what binds us. Our freedom as a community (country) is not based in doing whatever we want to whomever we want to please our own self interests. Our freedom as a community (country) is based on serving each other, serving other communities (countries) as we are able, and in being dutiful servants of all in the world, just like Jesus.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "No one is free until we all are free." This is something we would do well to remember this Independence Day. Who is not free in our community, and how can we share the gift of freedom with all, as we serve one another?

-Pastor Rick



UPCOMING EVENTS

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

MJ King

Office Administrator

Brandon Brown

Music Coordinator

Amy Crouore

Organist/Accompanist

Erika Maltsbarger

Director, Little One's Day Out

Caleb Berry

Custodian

Summer Schedule:

8:30 a.m. Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
9:30 a.m. Worship

Office Hours:

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

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

**Email:
office@columbiaucc.com**

**Website:
www.columbiaucc.com**



NCS Construction Update:

COMPLETED	PROJECT	GOAL
<input type="checkbox"/>	CARPET INSTALLATION	AUGUST
<input type="checkbox"/>	CEILING PAINTING/UPPER WALLS	AUGUST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINDOW REPLACEMENT	COMPLETED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINDOW FILM & APPLICATION	COMPLETED
<input type="checkbox"/>	WALL PAINTING	JULY
<input type="checkbox"/>	RAILINGS	AUGUST
<input type="checkbox"/>	NEW STAIRS, ETC.	JULY/AUGUST
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HVACx2	COMPLETED
<input type="checkbox"/>	WINDOW DRAPERIES	AUGUST
<input type="checkbox"/>	CHANCEL WALLPAPER	JULY

Calendar Events for July:

- ⇒ June 30 - July 4 - UCC General Synod in Indianapolis
- ⇒ **July 4 - Independence Day Holiday (Church Office Closed)**
- ⇒ July 10, 5:30 p.m. - Vision Team Meeting
- ⇒ July 10, 6:00 p.m. - Girl Scouts in the Fellowship Hall
- ⇒ July 11, 10:00 a.m. - Quilters
- ⇒ July 11, 5:00 p.m. - Membership & Care Ministry Team Meeting
- ⇒ July 11, 6:30 p.m. - Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team Meeting
- ⇒ July 12, 6:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Group
- ⇒ July 16, 11:00 a.m. - Health Care Ministry "Stay and Learn" event
- ⇒ July 16, 1:00 p.m. - Craft Beer and Carts event at Farmers Market: MU Health Care Pavilion to benefit Mobility Worldwide
- ⇒ **July 16, 2:00 p.m. - Ice Cream Social at Hulen Lake Shelter**
- ⇒ July 17, 4:30 p.m. - Loaves and Fishes
- ⇒ July 17, 6:30 p.m. - Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting
- ⇒ July 18, 10:00 a.m. - Quilters
- ⇒ July 18, 6:30 p.m. - Council Meeting
- ⇒ July 23 - July 26 - Pastor Rick at MoVal
- ⇒ July 25, 10:00 a.m. - Quilters
- ⇒ July 25, 6:30 p.m. - Heritage Team
- ⇒ July 30-August 1 - Vacation Bible School



June Birthdays to Celebrate

Harry Beckett 7/02	Marshia Beckmann 7/03	Kurt Heine 7/06
Linda Evans 7/08	Mike Pierson 7/08	Alex Tennill 7/08
Annabelle Veteto 7/09	Parker Grace 7/10	Corinne Remeika 7/11
Jo Ellen Grace 7/12	Lillyann Lentz 7/12	Linda Neale 7/13
Grace Williams 7/13	Jack Hall 7/14	James Loveless 7/15
John Muench 7/15	Karen Schmidt 7/15	Sharon Elliott 7/17
John Graves 7/17	Shelly Adams 7/19	Gary Ehrhardt 7/19
Helen Graves 7/20	Harrison Keithahn 7/23	Audrey Lasley 7/23
Dorothy Williams 7/23	Erin Markway 7/24	Megan Hall 7/27

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JULY

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for July. 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	Tech Booth	Hospitality
7/2	Helen Schultz	Mahree Skala	Lloyd Mickelson	Brent Marcks	Brent Marcks
7/9	Susan Dunham	Llona Weiss	Lloyd Mickelson		Jo Ellen Grace
7/16	Judi Privitt	Christine Staelens	Mahree Skala	Dominick Lee	Christine Staelens
7/23	Jolene Kirchhoff	Jim Loveless	Llona Weiss	Josh Muench	Connie Loveless
7/30	Carol Duermeyer	Phillip & Linda Neale	Audrey Lasley	Doug Privitt Judi Privitt	Doug Privitt Judi Privitt

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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



Moderator's Moment

MCS

It's hard to believe the changes we have been planning for the new sanctuary are finally going to happen! The people of this church continue to amaze me with your dedication and donations. We are doing amazing things to our physical space, and I believe the effect will be striking. I almost want to keep from peeking in to look at the progress until it is completed. I'm not sure if that's possible; curiosity may get the best of me, but I'm imagining some kind of reveal similar to home makeover shows.

You know how the owner turns around to see their old space completely renovated and becomes overwhelmed with emotions. I imagine when it's all done it could be overwhelming to see the place you have become so used to changed so much. It could even be sad to some. Imagine having a longing for things the way they were like revisiting your elementary school and seeing a new addition where your favorite shady tree used to stand. Although, I do truly believe that those feelings of sadness will quickly be taken over by joy and hope for newer generations coming into our space to worship with us.



[Give Online](#)

I just wanted to give a quick thanks to everyone who helped make light work of the furniture and fixtures moving! It was symbolic that we provided the first few drops of sweat in this transformation of the New Century Sanctuary.

Kurt Heine,
Moderator



Worship and Music Ministry Team

CUCC,

Although I have one more communicator article to write next month, I thought it fitting to officially announce that I will be moving back to Chicago at the end of July, ending my short tenure as Music Coordinator. I cannot overstate how much the members of Columbia United Church of Christ have meant to me while in school and in service to the church.

The Chapel Ringers were a strong group when I arrived and were a breath of fresh air compared to my previous handbell experience. I was not expecting them to ring the piece I had chosen so wonderfully on the first time through! I was happy to challenge both myself and the ringers to stretch our comfort levels when it comes to difficulty of music. We always had a good laugh in rehearsal. They have been a complete joy to work with, and we have learned a lot from each other.

The Celebration Singers have grown so much since I arrived in October of 2021. I knew from the start how great the hearts of the people in the music ministry were because of the welcome reception I received. At the first rehearsal, I remember thinking "what have I gotten myself into" because I didn't know there wasn't a full representation of the singers. The following Sunday was a relieving treat, and we have been growing in numbers and skill level ever since! I am grateful for their willingness to work hard to present a polished product each Sunday and for my conducting recital.

Amy Crousore has been my right-hand person, always playing with a smile. I could not have accomplished any of the feats I set out to do without Amy's technical and musical ability on the piano. She is always there and very dependable. Amy definitely made my job easier and more efficient!



There are so many people I could name that are special to me. The list is so long that it would take up the rest of the article, so I will not list them. I want to thank everyone that sought to make my time at CUCC all that it was. Now, I have the blueprint of what I want in the future, and I owe that to the lovely congregation and its fearless leader, Pastor Rick. Wherever the road leads me next, they will have some big shoes to fill!

Brandon Brown, M.M.
Music Coordinator

Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

CUCC NEEDS YOUR TIME AND TALENT

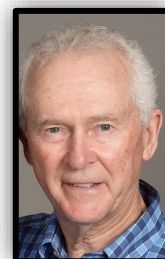
On behalf of the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team, I encourage you to sign-up to serve in one or more of CUCC's ministry teams. Please consider which Ministry Team(s) you would be interested in serving on for the next year and beyond. Listed below are the various teams:

- Building and Grounds
- Fellowship and Hospitality
- Finance and Stewardship
- Inclusion and Affirmation
- Little One's Day Out
- Membership and Care
- Nurture and Education
- Outreach and Advocacy
- Worship and Music

If you have any questions about the teams, please let me, Pastor Rick, or MJ know and we'll get you more information. The Ministry Teams are a great way to get better acquainted with our church and its members. Please let MJ at the CUCC office know if you would like to sign-up, and the team chair will be in touch with you.

Thanks very much for the time, talent, and treasure you share with our church!

Keith Birkes

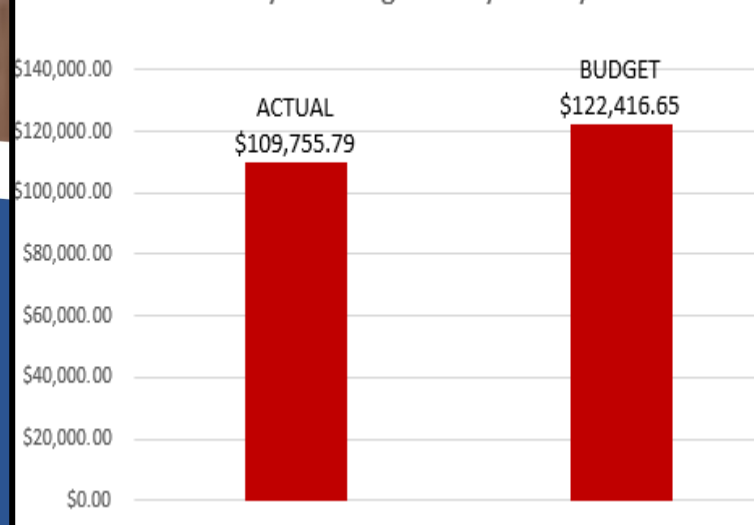


Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
May Income	\$19,708.40	\$25,683.33	(\$5,974.93)
YTD Income	\$109,755.79	\$122,416.65	(\$12,660.86)
May Expenses	\$34,108.15	\$29,492.68	\$4,615.47
YTD Expenses	\$171,954.47	\$155,929.95	\$16,024.52
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(\$62,198.68)	(\$33,513.30)	(\$28,685.38)
May Attendance	347		

Date	Attendance
5/7/23	84
5/14/23	84
5/21/23	120
5/28/23	59
Total	347

Joyful Giving January to May



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.

Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

Summer is a great time to shake up our routines, and the Inclusion and Affirmation Team is taking a break from formal meetings this summer. We are working on a special project made possible by a generous donation from Katie Marienfeld and Ben Crenshaw. We are setting up the CUCC Children's Bookshelf, which will be located at the back of the sanctuary once it's renovated. The books have been chosen carefully to encourage discussion among families about the mysteries of God and the diversity of God's creation. We will spend some time over the summer writing discussion questions to help families have a starting point for discussing the books.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, August 17, at 6:30 p.m.** We will be preparing goodie bags to give out at PrideFest, and we would love some help – many hands make light work! Also, mark your calendars for **PrideFest on September 23**; we will be asking for volunteers to help staff our booth.

Tricia Price,
Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team Chair



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.

From Your Student Pastor...

I'm taking a Summer course at Eden Theological Seminary called "Mark in the Movies." It looks at the topic of discipleship in Mark's Gospel through the lens of several movies. Since being in seminary usually keeps me too busy to watch movies, it sounded like a great deal to me!

The first movie assigned is "Encanto," an animated film that many of you may be acquainted with if you have children or grandchildren. I hadn't seen it and probably wouldn't have seen it if not for this class. But it was wonderful! I recommend it, even if you don't have children in your life. Like so many animated films, there are layers of themes and concepts to appeal to viewers of all ages.

One of the themes that I connected to in the movie that also connects to Mark's Gospel is "truth telling." There is a character in the movie who shakes things up in a really big way by telling some truths that people close to her do not initially want to hear. And there's some struggle in that. But like any good animated family movie, the whole community pulls together, and it all works out in the end.

In Mark's Gospel, Jesus certainly does some truth telling that isn't very popular to the powers that be in his time and place. And in the short term, that might not have appeared to work out so great to some onlookers. But we know that it worked out just fine in the end.

And as we are called to be disciples of Christ, we have our own truth-telling to do. Seeking justice can require speaking truth in spaces where it is not welcome. And that can be hard, but it can be much easier together. Many voices together can make a big difference.

Shelly Adams, Student Pastor



LODO Ministry Team

2023-2024 Enrollment

LODO has very limited enrollment remaining in our classrooms for the 2023-2024 school year. Information on the program can be found on the website at www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome. Please spread the word and have interested families contact Erika Maltsbarger at littleonesdayout@yahoo.com. You can help by sharing our Facebook and Instagram posts about enrollment on your page or to groups that might find the information helpful.

Our LODO Director and Assistant Director continue preparing for the next school year over the summer. Teachers and support staff will return on August 14 to ready classrooms for school to begin on August 28.

Ways to Support the LODO Ministry

LODO maintains an ongoing Amazon Wish List for supplies and materials to create lasting memories and learning in our preschool. Donations can be made by purchasing items on the list or making a monetary donation to the LODO ministry. [CLICK HERE](#) to donate
https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3135KEL32FTBN?ref_=wl_share



IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, August 14 – Annual Staff Planning Meeting – Fellowship Hall – 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 22 – LODO Staff CPR/First Aid Training – Fellowship Hall – 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 24 – Back to School/Meet the Teacher Night – 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Monday, August 28 – First Day of 2023-2024 School Year

LODO UNDER CONSTRUCTION!



Big things are happening at LODO over our summer closing! New flooring has been installed in our Lightning Bugs room, all classroom floors will receive a new coat of wax before the end of July, and several classrooms and our hallway bathroom will be repainted by the end of June!

The LODO area of the back storage room has been reorganized and not only looks cleaner, but will make it much easier to find our various learning tools. Many thanks to everyone that donated funds to replace our playground equipment! The new climber has been installed on the playground and is ready for LODO and CUCC children to play and giggle. Additional mulch and sand will be added in August.

Have a wonderful summer!
Erika Maltsbarger



Membership and Care Ministry Team



-Jessica Lucas

Welcome New Members



Welcome to Jedd C. Schneider and his 10-year-old son, Finn! Although baptized and confirmed in the United Methodist Church, Jedd's spiritual heritage is with the UCC. His ancestor, Christian X. Schneider, co-founded what is now Hope UCC in 1854 in a Swiss farming community in rural Andrew County, Missouri. Jedd visited CUCC at the urging of several current members and was drawn to stay because of the church's embrace of social justice issues and its commitment to being an Open and Affirming congregation. Jedd is also excited to add to the CUCC music ministry. He has sung opera roles professionally across the United States, was a union chorister for the Lyric Opera of Kansas City for nearly a decade, and taught studio voice and music history courses at Avila University. Jedd also served as board president of newEar contemporary chamber ensemble in Kansas City. He plays principal horn in the Columbia Civic Orchestra.

Jedd is a senior appellate defender in the Missouri State Public Defender system. Finn will be a 5th-grader at Paxton Keeley Elementary next year and has studied piano for several years and played two seasons of football. Jedd gets hyped for disc golf, canoeing, fishing, and generally #outdoorsing with Finn. Jedd, an Eagle Scout, and Finn are also very active in Cub Scout Pack 708.

Jedd's father is a retired high-school choir director and arts administrator. Jedd has two younger brothers with whom he is close. Jedd also has an older half-brother, half-sister, and adult nieces/nephews. Jedd's new member sponsor is Kristy Hayward.



Ruth and Denny Hotle live in Sunrise Beach, MO. Ruth's great grandfather, Jacob Hotz, emigrated from Germany in 1858 and was a pastor in Berger, MO and New Haven, MO before serving churches in Indiana, Kentucky, and Illinois. Her other great grandfather was Ludwig Christian Haas, a renown pastor and theologian who served several churches in mid-Missouri in the 1800s, including Ebenezer "Stone" Church in Gerald and Central in Jefferson City. Ruth's father was also a pastor, serving churches in Ohio, among other places. Denny's family is from St. Louis. His grandfather was a pastor at St. Peter's UCC in St. Louis and was one of the founders of The German Protestant Orphan's Home, which is now Every Child's

Hope; his mother, Katherine, and her parents, the Klick family, were active in the formation of Deaconess Hospital.

Ruth and Denny met while attending Elmhurst College. Denny was a social worker for 10 years before going into the construction business and opening his own drywall company. Ruth was a teacher for a number of years before entering Seminary. She was ordained in 1990, following in the footsteps of her ancestors. She served Village UCC in Blue Springs, MO

Ruth and Denny have known Pastor Rick for several decades, so when they were looking for a UCC church in the area, they naturally visited CUCC. They were so impressed with our hospitality that they decided to make this their church home. They are avid Bridge players, gardeners, and love creative expression. They have two sons, Thad and Timothy, and 4 grandchildren, all girls! They all live in close proximity to each other in Sunrise Beach and spend a lot of time together.

Membership and Care Ministry Team Continued...

Health Ministry Care Team News:

Mark your calendar for the second summer Stay and Learn on July 16 after church in Fellowship Hall. Snacks and drinks provided. Sign up by emailing, calling, or texting [Anne Heine](mailto:Anne.Heine@missouri.edu) at Heine@missouri.edu.



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. Hydrate during these hot days. Take care of yourself and each other.

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

Nurture and Education Ministry Team

End of the Year Picnic

We had a fantastic End of the Year Picnic on June 4! Lena and Gina presented a Vacation Bible School preview to the kids during Sunday school that got them excited about being superheroes called together to serve God! Linda arranged a bouncy slide, which was a huge favorite for the kids. During service, we honored all CUCC graduates. We gifted each graduate and awarded several scholarships. After lunch, we shared a "congratulations" cake!

Sunday School

Although our End of the Year Picnic signaled an end to the Sunday school "school year," we are offering "summer school" this year! Our Adult Bible Study teachers and members have decided to continue meeting throughout the summer. Consider coming to church early on Sundays (8:30 a.m.) to join Phillip, Barry, and Shelly in their Bible study!

Vacation Bible School

Vacation Bible School will be July 30 through August 1 this year. The theme is "Hero Hotline," and we are "calling all superheroes" to register by July 15! VBS is also looking for volunteers! Find the registration link on CUCC's website.

Nursery

The nursery is still in full swing over the summer months! It is also still located in the nursery upstairs, even though the rest of our church activities have moved downstairs during the Sanctuary renovation. While our regular nursery supervisors are studying abroad in Europe this summer, Linda's granddaughter Laynee Hayward will be running the nursery.

Youth Group

Pastor Rick is facilitating a Youth Group Mission Trip to St. Louis at the end of June. Youth attendees will do mission work at various mission agencies by day, and they will stay overnight at a UCC church.

Other Info

The Nurture & Education Committee will not meet in July. Our next meeting will be in August.

Submitted By:
Lydia Whitacre, Nurture and Education Chair



Coming Up Soon...



Calling all **SUPERHEROES**
to Vacation Bible School
for Youth Ages 3 to
Finishing 5th Grade!

Volunteers Needed, too!

July 30 - August 1
5:45 - 8:15 p.m.

Register **NOW** through July 15:
www.columbiaucc.com

Available to all attendees at no charge by the
CUCC Nurture & Education Ministry Team.



FUNDRAISER FOR MOBILITY WORLDWIDE MO - COLUMBIA

CRAFT BEER & CARTS

FOOD TRUCKS

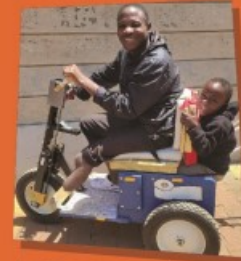
LEFTY'S KETTLE CORN
OZARK MOUNTAIN BISCUIT
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TICKET \$20

STUDENTS
TICKET \$10

KIDS UNDER
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\$2,000
MAIN EVENT SPONSOR

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&
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BROADWAY BREWERY

**SUNDAY
JULY 16TH 1 PM - 4 PM**

FARMERS MARKET:
MU HEALTH CARE PAVILION
1701 W. ASH ST. COLUMBIA, MO 65203

TICKETS WILL BE GIVEN AT DOOR INCLUDING SPONSOR TICKETS
EACH SPONSOR GETS 2 TICKETS & A CART TO DECORATE

DONATIONS CAN BE MAILED TO:
MOBILITY WORLDWIDE MO-COLUMBIA
4825 E MEYER INDUSTRIAL DRIVE
COLUMBIA, MO 65201

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ICE CREAM SOCIAL



You are cordially invited to attend this year's **ICE CREAM SOCIAL!**

Who: All CUCC Members and Friends

When: Sunday, July 16, 2023
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Where: Hulen Lake Shelter
1029 Bourne Ave
Columbia, MO 65203



Join us for an **ICE CREAM SOCIAL** at Hulen Lake Shelter (located at the end of Martin Drive off Rollins Road)! We will have vanilla and chocolate ice cream, as well as toppings, but if anyone would like to bring homemade ice cream to share, that would be great, too!

Heritage Team

CUCC IN THE 1980s

The 1980s at Columbia UCC showed a church with a small foot print becoming a church ready to step out into the world and do what a church should do. The quality of life and faith in our congregation tells it all.

We had Rev. Fred (he preferred to be called Coach) Brandenburg in charge, leading church services, etc., Doris Schneider worked in the office taking care of things, hard working committees planned many activities and projects, and the whole congregation was busy caring for others and seeking God's guidance. It was a good time, but not perfect. Money, or lack of it, was always a problem. We owed mortgage money at the end of each year. We breathed a sigh of relief if enough came in at the very end of December.

We were a young church with many young families with small children. It made for a great Sunday School, but the offering plate suffered. It also meant there were many new members, but many left for new jobs. Some of our older members now were the "youth" of the church in the 1980s!

Some of the highlights from this decade:

- * Helped refugee families from Cambodia
- * Men's Fellowship purchased a riding lawnmower and built a shed for it
- * Church services were recorded and cassette tapes taken to homebound members
- * Church van picked up college students each Sunday
- * All church camp-outs were held at Aurora and Shannondale
- * Church roller skating party
- * Square dances at church
- * Swimming and Ice Cream Socials at Hulen Lake
- * Average Sunday School attendance in 1982 was over 70
- * Purchased handbells in 1983; bell choir was led by Sue Beckman

1984:

- ◇ Youth Bell Choir started
- ◇ Adopt a College Student program was active
- ◇ Brandenburg Day was celebrated this year (Fred's ten-year anniversary at CUCC)
- ◇ Sewage Lagoon was eliminated as we joined City Water/Sewage system
- ◇ First Fastnacht was celebrated

1986:

- ◇ The steeple fell off the church! Many jokes were made about it. It was replaced in June.
- ◇ Started serving at Loaves & Fishes on the third Monday of each month. Madeline Muhrer was the coordinator, then it was Alice Moon, and now it is Audrey Lasley.
- ◇ 42 Missouri Mid-South Conference meetings were held at CUCC in this one year alone!
- ◇ 250 people attended the Christmas Banquet

1987:

- ◇ A new van was purchased to pick up students
- ◇ Plans were started to renovate the Sanctuary, including purchasing new chairs. Folding chairs had been used since 1969.

1989:

This was the 20th anniversary of our new building. We had 360 members at that time. A big celebration in September included the burning of the mortgage papers to retire the building debt. For the anniversary year, the Council set in motion the Long-Range Planning Committee to present a detailed plan to the congregation. Hard work, study, and surveys of every aspect of church life were presented to move us into the future. The 1980s ended on a sad note as Rev. Brandenburg's son, Seth, was diagnosed with cancer.



by Melba Shaffer

CUCC Church Council

CUCC Council Meeting — May 16, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Kristy Hayward. Pastor Rick opened us with prayer.

Present: Kristy Hayward, Sue Ann Schaefer, Mike Pierson, Tricia Price, Lorry Dreier, Mark Duncan, Ted Dachroeden, Alethea Tennill, Mary Lorber-Solt, and Jerry Kiesling.

Sue Ann Schaefer made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Mike Pierson. The motion passed.

Mike Pierson made a motion to approve the minutes with a second from Lorry Dreier. The motion passed.

Pastor Rick discussed our new book Reorganized Religion. The author of this book is a reporter that has worked for UCC Press. He looks at Post-Covid churches and discusses members leaving churches and what the impact of that becomes. Keith Birkes will discuss Chapter 1 at our June council meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- Spots were filled for stewardship duties.
- Worship Sanctuary Updates: We have received \$136,000 in pledges for the capital campaign. Trivia Night netted \$1,938. Mike contacted the contractors. The approval for painting the ceiling was received via e-mail vote. The new quote came in \$2000 above the original quote, which is expected. There was discussion about having them also paint the upper part of the walls where ladders are needed to complete the job. A new quote was received for \$13,842.17 and was approved. Mike Pierson made a motion to contract with Dave Griggs for the carpeting: price is \$57,112.39 for ordering and installation. The motion was seconded by Sue Ann Schaefer, and the motion passed. Mike Pierson made a motion that we accept the quote from Koonse Glass for Windows of \$23,431.05. Kurt Heine seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Mike Pierson made a motion that we accept the bid for the stain glass film on the windows from ChurchWindowFilm.com for up to \$15,500. Keith Birkes seconded the motion, and the motion passed. Mike will price the paint, and we may paint the rest of the walls ourselves.
- Car Show will be August 26. MJ is coordinating the event. We are currently looking for sponsors, which are due by June 30.
- The 100th Anniversary Heritage Team: The 3rd postcard will be sent out with July/Aug/Sep events. The ice cream social is July 16 from 2-4 pm at Hulen Lake.
- The Children's Library Donation will be put in the NW corner of the sanctuary. They currently have a running list of 60 books to be included. Inclusion and Affirmation committee made a motion to move forward with the Children's Library. The motion passed.
- Nominating Committee is continuing to work on filling spots for LODO board.
- Cleaning Service Update: Ashley is now cleaning the church on a weekly basis. She is doing an incredible job.
- Annual Meeting Plans and IMPACT STATEMENTS – Alethea Tennill will be absent at the annual meeting. Audrey Lasley will fill in for her. At the annual meeting we will be voting on a Constitutional Amendment for virtual voting.
- Tiger Security has been working on the North Door and South Window cameras. The North camera will cover the pavilion.
- HVAC systems will be replaced shortly. Rebates are being submitted.

New Business:

- The nominating committee is still working on new team members for LODO.
- Summer worship will start on June 11. Worship will start at 9:30 a.m.
- Council Retreat will be June 2 at the Heidelberg.
- Scholarship Committee Requests – Five scholarship requests for 2023-2024 were approved by the committee and sent to council for approval. The motion passed.
- Pastor's report is attached. The General Synod is this summer in Indianapolis. Shelly Adams will be finished in December. Is another pastor something we need for programs and for membership to grow?
- Financials were presented.

Ministry Reports:

- Building and Grounds. Several repairs were completed around the church.
- Fellowship and Hospitality – Report is attached.
- Finance and Stewardship – Report is attached. They are working on financial policies and procedures.
- Inclusion & Affirmation – Tricia Price's report is attached. They had a great time on the tour.
- LODO – Lorry Dreier announced the last day of LODO is May 19. Enrollment is up for next year.
- Membership & Care – Jessica Lucas submitted her report.
- Nurture & Education – Lydia Whitacre announced the end of the year picnic will be June 4 celebrating our graduates, and the bounce house will be back.
- Outreach & Advocacy – Mark Duncan's report was submitted
- Worship & Music – Mike Pierson announced that Brandon's Graduate recital was wonderful and took the efforts of many people. We paid for all the instrumentation for his recital.

Pastor Rick closed us in prayer. Brent Marks made a motion to adjourn with Mark Duncan seconding the motion. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Respectfully submitted,
Alethea Tennill, Secretary

International Missions

CUCC IS SERVING IN INDIA

In marginalized communities of India, education is vital to improving the quality of life. Caste exclusion and discrimination against communities like the Dalits is still common in Indian society, especially when it comes to accessing education and employment. The Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion (CSEI) works toward a more inclusive society through direct involvement of communities that are excluded. CSEI partners with community led organizations within marginalized communities, drawing leadership and priorities from community members. The core of the work is promoting equal rights and equitable opportunities among children and young people from marginalized communities. Working with the communities they serve, CSEI is creating better access for all.

Columbia United Church of Christ is a partner with CSEI 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 India!



MISSION WITH CHIAPAS – IMMERSION EXPERIENCE 2023, OCTOBER 3-10

Churches of the Missouri Mid-South Conference have travelled to Chiapas four times in the past six years, working alongside the [Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research](#), one of our Global Ministries Mission partners in Chiapas. We have worked alongside them in towns and villages, learning about the people of Chiapas and the ways of life in the communities of Chiapas. We have also helped construct a new facility on the grounds at [The Institute](#), a facility that has more than tripled their institutional capacity and ability to do ministry with the people of their communities.

[The Institute](#) is not the only Global Ministries Mission partner in Chiapas. On our last trip, we had the opportunity to work with another one of our Mission Partners, [Melel Xojobal](#), an agency that works solely with children in need. [Melel Xojobal](#) means “True Light” in the indigenous Tzotzil language, and they focus on being a light of hope for children whose only other alternative is the dark of hopelessness.

When I was on Sabbatical last September, I spent a month living in Chiapas, in the city of San Cristobal, working with [The Institute](#) and [Melel Xojobal](#). I was able to fully immerse myself in their work and develop an even greater understanding of the culture, the mission, and the identity of the people of Chiapas. I am very excited to return to Chiapas, and I hope you will join me!

Our next “Mission Trip” to Chiapas will be this fall! We will leave St. Louis on October 3 and return on October 10. While we are in Chiapas, we will spend most of our time in the city of [San Cristobal](#) working with [The Institute](#) and Melel Xojobal. We will have the opportunity to see several indigenous museums, including the Chocolate Museum, and immerse ourselves in the culture of Chiapas. We will spend time in the marketplaces and worship at an indigenous church. We will learn about the life and context of the Indigenous Mayan communities that make up Chiapas, and we will even do some work, but work is not the focus of the trip. Education and relationship are the focus.

The cost for this trip is \$1500. This includes airfare, lodging for 7 days and 6 nights, food for that timeframe, transportation to and from the airport in Tuxtla Gutierrez and other transportation, and incidentals. All expenses are included in that price except souvenirs you may wish to buy. For a week-long mission trip, it is very economical. **Everyone who participates must be able to show proof of COVID vaccination and boosters and have a current passport.**

There is a limit of ten people for this trip – so make your commitment early! Due to transportation issues, we cannot have more than this number. [If you would like to go, talk to me \(Pastor Rick\).](#) I have packets with detailed information and registration materials. Registrations and deposits must be turned in by August 1. This will be an amazing, life-changing experience! Make plans now to come along!

Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team

Thank You!!

Columbia United Church of Christ,

Thank you for acting against hunger with your recent gift of \$2,537.98!

Your act of kindness goes a long way in making a tangible difference in the lives of people in our communities. One in seven Missourians faces food insecurity on a regular basis, and we remain committed to making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

With your support, we will make this year another success in serving the most vulnerable of our community. Every month, over 100,000 Missourians are helped by our work. That is only through your support.

Thank you for your contribution to ending hunger. With it, we will look forward to a prosperous year.

Gratefully,

Lindsay Young Lopez
President and CEO



LOAVES & FISHES

The June 19 meal at Loaves and Fishes consisted of chicken nuggets, macaroni and cheese (prepared by Mary Lorber-Solt and her friend Val), green beans, and cookies (made and provided by Jolene Kirchhoff). Jessica Jenks provided the Peanut Butter and Jelly sandwiches. We served approximately 96 firsts and 45 seconds and carryouts. Servers were Tom and Mary Lorber-Solt and their friends, Val and Bill. Whitney Wipfler, Patty Beeson, and Anne Heine also helped out with the many tasks. The efficient dishwasher was Jim Loveless. THANK YOU to everyone for all of your hard work! Let me know if you would be interested in helping!
-Audrey Lasley



COME SERVE AT THE FOOD BANK



As summer approaches, we take a step back from our regular fourth Tuesday at the Food Bank. If you would still like to serve the Food Bank, feel free to sign-up online to do so. We will resume our regular time on August 29. Thank you for contributing your time and money to this wonderful ministry in our local community.

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

ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY PARTNERSHIP FRIEND UPDATE

THANK you CUCC! The school year finished on May 23, and because of your support and generosity, Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School had a wonderful year. We appreciated Principal Amanda Minear coming to CUCC on Sunday May 21 to present our church with a Partnership plaque and staying for lunch and our Annual Meeting! Pastor Rick and I will meet with AHL again in August and determine how CUCC can help with needed school supplies for the students for the 2023-2024 school year. During the summer, AHL will be adding a new security door to the front entrance, and there will be some new teachers! So we look forward to another exciting year.

Again, I cannot say it enough, THANK YOU CUCC!



Very Sincerely,

Llona Weiss
Liaison for CUCC to AHL, our Partnership Friend



Thank You!!



CWS
Church World Service

Dear Friends:

Your generous donation to the Church World Service Blankets program tells people in crisis, "You're not alone. Someone cares."

We are deeply grateful for your support. Because of your compassion:

- * Families who have lost their homes to tornadoes, floods, earthquakes, and other disasters are getting help with blankets, emergency food, and shelter - and with rebuilding their lives and livelihoods.
- * People struggling against crushing poverty and harsh climates are learning sustainable farming practices that will help them keep food on the table - and take it to market.
- * Vulnerable children have access to clean, safe water and the nutritional food essential to growth, development, and life itself.

On behalf of all the people who feel more hopeful and less alone because of your generosity, we thank you. Please accept this blankets certificate honoring your vital partnership with CWS in building a world where there is enough for all.

Sincerely,
Rick Santos, President and CEO, Church World Service

SCHOOL KITS
45,570

"We are thankful for the faithful congregations that provided these warm blankets for families in need. People of faith are so generous and really do love their neighbors."
-LAURA MEYER, NEIGHBORS TO NEIGHBORS, MICHIGAN

BABY KITS + WELCOME BACKPACKS
7,843

HYGIENE KITS
108,390

CLEANUP BUCKETS
6,605

"From our youngest children to our Senior Saints our church assembled CWS Welcome Backpacks as an intergenerational mission project."
-KELVIN BENNETT, WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN, IOWA

Every year I donate to the CWS Blanket offering at my church. I know my gift will help to provide love, warmth, and comfort to individuals who need a reminder that someone cares about them.
-ASHLEY K., ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

BLANKETS
59,910

CWS | 2022 KITS + BLANKETS SHIPPING REPORT

Thanks to generous supporters like you, CWS distributed over **228,000 Kits and Blankets** in 2022!



CWS

Certificate of Honor CWS Blankets

In grateful recognition of your support for emergency response and sustainable development around the world through Church World Service.

Columbia United Church of Christ

Columbia, MO

December, 2022

Building a world with enough for all.



BP202-5a

On the Church Calendar in July

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	31					1 General Synod in Indianapolis
2 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	3	4	5	6	7	8
General Synod in Indianapolis						
		Church Office Closed				
9 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	10 5:30 p.m. Vision Team Meeting 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts in FH	11 10:00 a.m. Quilters 5:00 p.m. Membership & Care Ministry Team 6:00 p.m. Outreach & Advocacy Ministry	12 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Team	13	14	15
16 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Health Ministry Meeting 1:00 p.m. Craft Beer & Carts 2:00 p.m. Ice Cream Social	17 4:30 p.m. Loaves & Fishes 6:30 p.m. Worship & Music Ministry Team	18 10:00 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
Pastor Rick at Church Camp						
9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>		10:00 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Heritage Team Meeting				

THE COMMUNICATOR

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



LODO PLAYGROUND RESPECT

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

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

Interested in Church Membership?

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

**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.