

# THE COMMUNICATOR

March 2023

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

## *"Out of Focus"*

One year for my birthday, when I was around 11 years old or so, my parents gave me one of the best presents ever - a camera. It was a Kodak Ektralite 500 with a built-in electronic Sensalite flash. My father was something of a shutterbug, and I wanted to follow in his footsteps. I learned quickly how to load the film and use the camera; then, I set out to capture the world on film.

I took pictures of my family and friends, of plants and animals, and of attractions we would visit, such as Grant's Farm or the Arch. I took many pictures of us on rides at Six Flags that summer. I learned to have patience in the practice of dropping my film off at the Fotomat and waiting several days for it to be returned. Opening that envelope was always very exciting. At that time, I would find out what photos were winners and which ones missed the mark. Many of my early photos were completely out of focus.

The Kodak Ektralite 500 was not known for precision focus. The built-in flash often threw off the automatic focus, and the autofocus often chose the wrong subject on which to concentrate. The object you meant to be in focus was not, while other objects were clearer. You would not find out until the film was returned several days later.

Forty years later, I have a camera on my phone that is more advanced than the most technical cameras of the 1980s. It is an iPhone 12 Pro, and the camera is supposed to be one of the best. But even today, sometimes my pictures turn up out of focus, or the object on which I intended to focus is not the one the camera chooses. At least these days, I can view the photo after it was taken and delete it if it is no good.

In today's world, our lives are often out of focus. We live in a world that distorts images, warps them to suit the whims of the world, and obscures the lines between truth and deceit. Our social media feeds are constantly assailing us with opinions that twist the truth into something else, a chimera of what truly is. "Trolls" post false information simply to mislead, and we, as a society, fall for it. Our lives are like those early photos I took as a youth: out of focus.

The purpose of the Lenten Season is to refocus our lives. Jesus Christ, the touchstone and center of our faith, often becomes obscured by the narcissism of the world. During Lent, we spend 40 days devoting our lives to focusing on Christ's presence, Christ's ministry, Christ's political demonstration, and Christ's charge to us to exemplify his life with ours. As we focus our lives on being more like Jesus, God also comes into focus. The God that often seems blurry and distant suddenly becomes sharper the more focused our lives become.

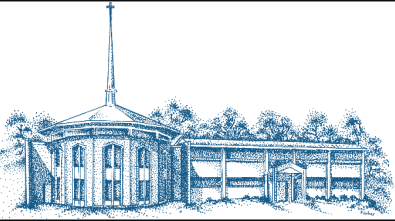
How do we do this? In the traditions of the Church, entire communities gave something up like meat, fat, sugar, alcohol, etc. Sacrifice enabled them to focus on God. Jewish communities often practice sacrifice for Passover, giving up certain items to focus more clearly on God. Other communities put something on, like sackcloth, ashes, to remind them of their faith and focus. The Jewish practice of covering one's head (using a yarmulke/kippah) is about focusing on God's presence.



I don't generally advocate giving something up as much as taking something on. Try taking on a new commitment. There are many ways to take on something new to focus on God. Commit yourself to intentional daily reading about God, praying, worshipping, or looking for God in some other way. Use a Lenten Devotional such as the ones we gave out in church to focus your life around God. Give God 40 days, and your life will benefit.

This Lenten Season, bring your life into focus; bring God into focus; spend intentional time with Jesus. You will benefit from having a more focused life.

*-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

**MJ King**  
Office Administrator

**Brandon Brown**  
Music Coordinator

**Amy Crousore**  
Organist/Accompanist

**Erika Maltsbarger**  
Director, Little One's Day Out

**Rai Tolani**  
Financial Secretary

**Caleb Berry**  
Custodian

## **Sunday Worship Schedule**

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

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

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

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

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



## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP GATHERING!**

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



# UPCOMING



*Brought to you by: Men's Fellowship*

**When:** Sunday, March 19, 2023 @ 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** Columbia United Church of Christ

**Cost:** Free Chili; bid on desserts

**Prizes:** Win the coveted "Golden Ladle" and the admiration of your peers

**Entries:** To enter, bring a pot of chili to church by 9:30 a.m. on March 19. The Men will prepare all entries for sampling and serving to the congregation after worship.

**Dessert Auction:** Bring your favorite homemade dessert to be auctioned off as a fundraiser for our "New Century Sanctuary" Capital Campaign!

## **Chili Cook-off**

Men's Fellowship will be putting on the annual Chili Cook-off on **March 19**. There will also be a dessert auction to raise money for the New Century Sanctuary. There is a signup sheet in the gathering area. You can also contact **Doug Privitt** or **Brent Marcks** if you plan to bring a crock pot of Chili. Who knows you might win the coveted Golden Ladle!



## **2023- AN ANNIVERSARY YEAR FOR LODO AND CUCC!**

Looking forward to spring 2023, we plan to celebrate the 20th anniversary of LODO by having a celebration of the LODO program during and after church service on April 16, 2023. Details will follow at a later time, but save the date to help us honor and celebrate this wonderful milestone and program..

# Moderator's Moment

## From Your Church Council Moderator...

As Christians, we are collectively spending the month of March preparing for Easter. Individually, we may be giving up activities and indulgences or adding practices to our lives, like more regular prayer and service to others. As a congregation, we can do this together. Sure, through our ministry activities, we do a lot all year long. During the season of Lent, though, we can have an even greater focus on this spiritual tradition.

At CUCC, there are many opportunities to remember the sacrifices Jesus made. Volunteering at the Food Bank or supporting Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary are just two of the ways we can give some of our personal time to reach out to those in need. We can also count our blessings and support our Church by giving through our Blessing Boxes. Our Church Council and Ministry Teams continue to strive to sustain and expand the ways we live out our Christian mission. What are other ways you, your family, or your friends are doing this? Please consider reaching out to any of the Ministry Team leaders to share your ideas and get involved.

With appreciation,  
Kristy Hayward, Moderator



## Worship and Music Ministry Team

Our wonderful organist, Amy Crousore, will be playing for the 7 p.m. Maundy Thursday service (4/6) of Memorial Baptist Church, 1634 Paris Rd., Columbia, MO, 65201. Their music ministry will be performing Theodore Dubois' *Seven Last Words of Christ*. The Celebration Singers will be joining forces with their choir and invite you to participate. We will rehearse on Wednesdays at CUCC, starting March 1 at 8 p.m. through March 29. There will be a dress rehearsal on Sunday, April 2. The time will be determined later.

If you are interested in singing, please send an e-mail to [Brandon](#), so we can have an accurate list of singers and enough music.

You can listen to the *Seven Last Words of Christ* [here](#).

[Here](#) is a pdf of the score.

Thank you,  
Brandon Brown, M.M.,  
Music Coordinator



## March Birthdays to Celebrate

Steve Keithahn 3/1	Tim Soncasie 3/1	Jim Buesing 3/2
Katie Marienfeld 3/3	Linda Graves 3/5	Jonathon Schultz 3/6
Alan Bernhardt 3/7	Steve Camden 3/7	Russell Eveler 3/8
Fred Brandenburg 3/9	Katelin Odneal 3/9	Paul Sanderson 3/10
Dalane Camden 3/11	Linda Simmons 3/11	Emily Malicoat 3/12
Laura Gartner 3/13	Dori Marcks 3/13	Sue McDaniel 3/13
Sharon Rapp 3/14	Adelynn Zimny 3/16	Phillip Neale 3/18
Jessica Lucas 3/20	Jason Schoenberg 3/20	Harold Hackman 3/21
Marcia Crousore 3/23	Christine Mseke 3/23	Lena Muench 3/23
Edie Diel 3/24	Susan Dunham 3/26	Rusty Monhollon 3/26
Aidan Pierson 3/27	Trevor Pierson 3/27	Ron Schmidt 3/28

# New Century Sanctuary

I am very pleased to be a member of the team that will be leading the effort to raise \$150,000 to renovate our sanctuary. The sanctuary was last renovated in 1989 and the carpet is threadbare, the chancel backdrop is peeling, and the walls and ceiling are stained and badly in need of new paint. New draperies need to be purchased, the transom windows need to be replaced, and new steps and railings need to be installed leading to the chancel. Additionally, we need two new HVAC units.

Some of the work will be done by church volunteers, and a number of fundraising events are being planned as part of our campaign. Most of the cost will need to be raised by financial contributions from our members and friends, and we will be informing and contacting everyone to help raise the \$150,000. To the side, here is the budget for those things we will need to purchase.

You will be seeing and hearing much about our campaign efforts, and please, ask any of us on the team if you have questions or comments. Members include: Mike Pierson, Brent Marcks, Sue Ann Schaefer, Paula Wilson, Mark Duncan, Kurt Heine, Keith Birkes, George Zimny, Judi Privitt, Jolene Kirchoff, Jim Loveless, Kristy Hayward, MJ King, and Pastor Rick. We realize our congregation and friends contribute much time, talent, and treasure to our church and community and that this campaign is above and beyond the Joyful giving we all contribute to pay for the basic

Replace the entire carpet	\$54,000
Replace the chancel backdrop	\$2,000
Paint and repair the ceiling	\$10,000
New Draperies	\$16,000
New Chancel Steps and Railings	\$5,600
Wall Paint & Other Incidentals	\$2,400
Replace Transom Windows	\$35,000
Replace 2 HVAC Units	\$25,000
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$150,000</b>



## New Century Sanctuary

*It is time to give our sanctuary a facelift!*

- Replace the entire carpet: \$54,000
- Replace the chancel backdrop: \$2,000
- Paint and repair the ceiling: \$10,000
- New Draperies: \$16,000
- New Chancel Steps and Railings: \$5,600
- Wall Paint and Other Incidentals: \$2,400
- Replace Transom Windows: \$35,000
- Replace Two HVAC Units: \$25,000
- Total: \$150,000**



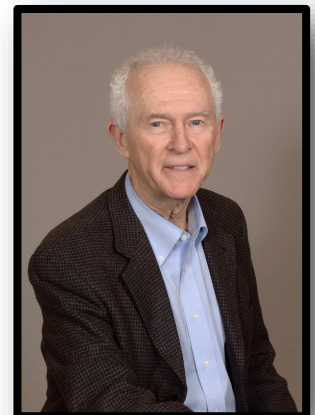
**Scan Me**  
to give online via Kindrid

operations of our church. We also realize not everyone will be able to contribute to the campaign and no one will be judged or disparaged in any way if you cannot make a financial contribution. Everyone at CUCC contributes what they can, and we are deeply appreciative!

If you would like to give, be sure to put in the memo line of any checks that it is for the "New Century Sanctuary," unless it is to buy a window. If you are purchasing a window in honor or memory of someone, please write "Buy a Window" in the memo line. You also have the option to give **online** through our website or by scanning the code on the poster.

This campaign is being coordinated closely in connection with our 100th anniversary, and everything that is occurring this year is cause for celebration and thanksgiving. Let's all have fun and continue to make CUCC God's house and our house for the next century!

Thank you very much,  
Keith Birkes



# Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team

## FASTNACHT

What a great FASTNACHT! Our church family gathered on February 21, the day before Ash Wednesday, to celebrate the FEAST before the FAST. We partied with German food and music from the Loehning Family Band.

Pastor Emeritus Rev. Fred Brandenburg and his wife, Shelley, were present to celebrate with us. Fred was one of the ones who originated Fastnacht at CUCC way back in 1983; and he shared a bit of the Fastnacht history with us. He even showed us how to do a few of the German polka dances and led us in singing some German songs.

This was an amazing family gathering for CUCC members and friends alike. Thank you to everyone who helped make Fastnacht a great success! We look forward to enjoying this great CUCC tradition again next year!



## SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

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

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Acolyte	Tech Booth	Hospitality
3/5	Susan Dunham	John & Brenda Muench	Audrey Lasley		Doug & Judi Privitt	
3/12	Carol Duermeyer		Judi Privitt		Ted Dachroeden & Josh Muench	
3/19	Jessica Lucas	Llona Weiss	Jim Loveless		Mike & Aidan Pierson	
3/26	Helen Schultz	Charlie Marcks & John Graves	Kennedy Lucas		Dominick Lee & Brent Marcks	Sue Ann Schaefer

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	Kristy Hayward	<a href="mailto:kristyodneal@gmail.com">kristyodneal@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	Kurt Heine	<a href="mailto:heinekurt@gmail.com">heinekurt@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Alethea Tennill	<a href="mailto:atennill108@gmail.com">atennill108@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Sue Ann Schaefer	<a href="mailto:ssas3307@aol.com">ssas3307@aol.com</a>
<b>Recording Treasurer:</b>	Brent Marcks	<a href="mailto:brentmarcks@hotmail.com">brentmarcks@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds:</b>	Ted Dachroeden	<a href="mailto:gpadoc4gd@gmail.com">gpadoc4gd@gmail.com</a>
<b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality:</b>	Stefanie Zimny	<a href="mailto:stefanie.zimny@gmail.com">stefanie.zimny@gmail.com</a>
<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship:</b>	Keith Birkes	<a href="mailto:kbirkes4@gmail.com">kbirkes4@gmail.com</a>
<b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation:</b>	Tricia Price	<a href="mailto:tricialprice@gmail.com">tricialprice@gmail.com</a>
<b>Little One's Day Out:</b>	Lorry Dreier	<a href="mailto:llhd01@gmail.com">llhd01@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership &amp; Care:</b>	Jessica Lucas	<a href="mailto:jlucas@cpsk12.org">jlucas@cpsk12.org</a>
<b>Nurture &amp; Education:</b>	Lydia Whitacre	<a href="mailto:lydiaawhitacre@gmail.com">lydiaawhitacre@gmail.com</a>
<b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy:</b>	Mark Duncan	<a href="mailto:markduncan2@mchsi.com">markduncan2@mchsi.com</a>
<b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>	Mike Pierson	<a href="mailto:mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com">mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com</a>



# Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team



Joyful Giving through January 2023 is at \$25,957.30. This is \$7,615.30 more than January of 2022. We are on the rebound of a year when Joyful Giving was below the budgeted amount, and our national economy also had a rough year. We are also entering a time when the church is embarking on a major fundraising campaign.

Let's keep this momentum going throughout the year with Joyful Giving, as well as the New Century Sanctuary Renovation Campaign. I am excited to see where we are financially at this time.

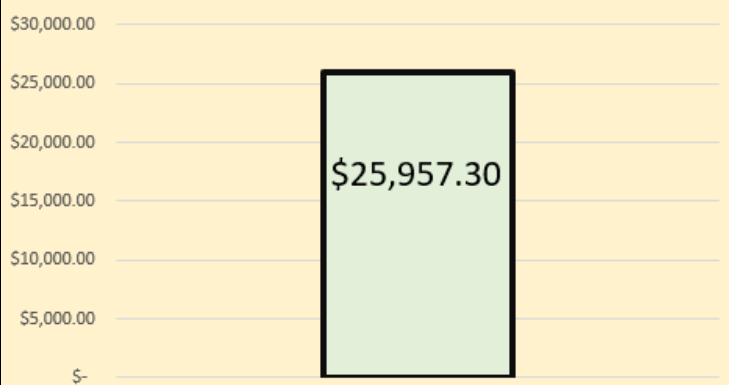
Brent Marcks, Recording Treasurer

## Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
Jan. Income	\$25,957.30	\$20,000.00	\$5,957.30
YTD Income	\$25,957.30	\$20,000.00	\$5,957.30
Jan. Expenses	\$30,980.20	\$30,076.88	\$903.32
YTD Expenses	\$30,980.20	\$30,076.88	\$903.32
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$4,500.00)	(\$9,393.55)	\$4,893.55
Jan. Attendance	455		

Date	Attendance
1/1/23	45
1/8/23	75
1/15/23	104
1/22/23	131
1/29/23	100
<b>Total</b>	<b>455</b>

## Joyful Giving January 2023



## CUCC ONLINE GIVING

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

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

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

## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



# Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

“There is no limit to what we, as women, can accomplish.” Michelle Obama

## We talk the talk, now let’s walk the walk . . .

Welcome to March, which is Women’s History Month on the Open and Affirming calendar. We have, in the past, highlighted courageous women who have fought for equality both past and present. Their examples are priceless in the promotion of equality for all. In that light, what can **WE** do, personally, to improve equality in our own orbits?

**Be a Girl Scout leader or supporter.** Having a single child, and a girl, I wanted her involved in organizations that would empower her. It was important to me that she also develop strong relationships with other young girls. She learned camping, cooperation, planning, and conservation, all in an atmosphere of fun.

**Be a mentor.** *Big Brothers, Big Sisters in Mid-Missouri*, for instance, gives adults an opportunity to connect and positively impact a young person’s life. We all want children to grow up in loving, caring homes; unfortunately, that is not always reality. Mentoring can bring light into a child’s life: for those in happy homes, it is more positivity, and for those in troubled homes, some sunshine moments with an adult who cares.

**Watch your language.** Use positive affirmations when talking about women and girls. There are so many clichés about older women, larger women, Black women, etc. I, myself, posted on Facebook about my own picture calling myself “that old woman.” What was I thinking? Promote positivity.

**“If you see something, say something!”** That has primarily focused on any negative or dangerous activity you may see or suspect – such as abuse. Absolutely say something! It can also be used in the positive. When you see a good deed, let that good deed doer know they are appreciated.

**Vote for women’s autonomy and rights;** protest decisions, in writing and in person, that adversely affect women, especially the vulnerable. Be aware and take an interest in issues affecting girls and women.

In upcoming bulletin inserts, we will highlight other organizations that are focused on supporting the needs of women and girls in the USA and worldwide.

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

February was a wonderful month of learning about animals, opposites and other prepositions, kindness, bucket filling, love, and Valentine's Day in our classrooms! We celebrated Valentine's Day on February 14 and 15 with cards for our friends and special treats.

In March, our learning themes will focus on Community Helpers/Giving to Others, Dental Health/Health & Nutrition, St. Patrick's Day/Rainbows/Noah's Ark, and Spring/Bugs/Flowers.

## **Math & Science Night – Thursday, February 9**

LODO hosted Math & Science Night on Thursday, February 9. Families rotated through nine stations in our classrooms and the

Fellowship Hall. Thank you to our LODO staff and CUCC volunteers (Judi Privitt, Lorry Dreier, and Barry Kirchhoff) for making this evening a success! Our preschool activities taught skills in many areas (Primary/Secondary Colors, Cause & Effect, Geometry, Spatial Relationships, Categorization, Problem Solving, Making Predictions, Testing Theories, Sequencing, Density/Weight/Buoyancy, Number Sense, Comparisons, and Physics) all while having FUN!



## **2023 - 2024 Enrollment**

Our current families began enrollment for Fall 2023 on February 26. Enrollment for remaining spaces will open to new families on Monday, March 6.

Erika Maltsbarger, LODO Director

Save the date! On **Sunday, April 16**, we will be celebrating 20 years of LODO. Help us celebrate by attending church at 10:30 and staying for the luncheon and games afterwards. Spread the word, and more details to follow. Any questions, reach out to **Erika** or **Lorry**. Thanks in advance for helping us celebrate this milestone!

**Reading to children** helps develop their brain by improving memory, focus, concentration, social skills, vocabulary, writing, and communication skills, as well as enhancing imagination and decreasing stress and depression. LODO loves to have church and family members come to share in story time. If you would like to read to a LODO class, contact **Erika** to set up a day and time.

## **March Important Dates**

**March 3 – LODO CLOSED (CPS Closed)**

**March 6 – 2023 - 2024 Enrollment Opens for New Families**

**March 10 – LODO Closed**  
*(LODO Staff Attending Conference on the Young Years Friday 3/10 & Saturday 3/11)*

**March 15 – LODO CLOSED (CPS Closed)**

**March 20 – 24 Parent/Teacher Conferences**

**March 27 – March 31 – LODO Closed (Spring Break)**

## **2023 - 2024 Enrollment August 28, 2023 - May 17, 2024**

**CLICK HERE** for additional Information about the LODO Program

**Lightning Bugs Class:** 1 year old before August 1, 2023  
(Only Available 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.)

**Lambs Class:** 2 years old before August 1, 2023

**Lions/Leopards Class:** 3 years old before August 1, 2023

**Leap Frogs/Leopards Class:** 4 years old before August 1, 2023

*\*Our Leopards Classroom will be assigned and utilized for the age group that has the most need for extra classroom space.*

Contact our Director, **Erika Maltsbarger**, for information, openings, to schedule a tour, and to enroll!



# Membership and Care Ministry Team

The church **Family Photo Album** is part of the 100th anniversary celebration, and we are hoping for 100% participation. Our Family Album isn't complete if you aren't in it. The photo dates of March 2, 3, and 4 are getting very close, and photo appointment times are filling up. If you haven't signed up yet, let's schedule an appointment. If you need help scheduling an appointment, or if you are not able to have your photo taken on any of those days, let the **church office**, **Carol Duermeyer**, or **Jessica Lucas** know.



## NEWS FROM YOUR HEALTH MINISTRY CARE TEAM:

Thanks to Stephanie Zimny for teaching CPR/AED at our first Heart Healthy Lunch & Learn on February 12. Those present in church that day also got to see where our AED is located (on the sanctuary wall in the gathering area across from the kitchenette). We opened the AED, showed how to apply the pads, turn on the machine, and remain calm. We discussed that in an emergency, we'd ask someone to call 911, send two people to go outside to direct EMS where to go, send others to move people away, and have someone perform CPR or other appropriate first aid. Thanks to the 20 participants who took time on Super Bowl Sunday to learn skills that may save someone's life. Pat yourselves on the back for a job well-done! If you missed out this time, we could do it again, so if interested, let me know. Also, let me know of any other ideas for our *Lunch & Learns*, and we will see about making them happen.

FYI: Those with a diagnosis of hypertension, Medicare will pay for an electronic blood pressure (BP) monitor so you can self-monitor your blood pressures on a regular basis. If you're not Medicare eligible, most insurance companies will reimburse you, as well. When taking your blood pressure, you should do it at the same time, in the same arm, with feet flat on the floor, with your back supported against the chair, on your bare arm or over thin clothing, with your arm supported at the level of your heart. Realize that consuming anything with caffeine or alcohol or exercising or smoking for 30 minutes before taking your BP can affect the accuracy of your results.

Record your Blood Pressure and pulse, and be sure to show your doctor at each visit. Notify your health care provider (HCP) if your blood pressure is elevated above your "normal" readings as directed by your HCP.



We have purchased (and these will be kept in a gray bag over the AED) an electronic BP monitor, Oxygen saturation device, Blood glucose monitor, sugar tablets, and three new first aid kits (located by the AED, in the church office, and in the kitchen downstairs). Extra first aid supplies are in the church office.

Wishing you loving kindness. Say these phrases to yourself and practice this loving kindness meditation: May you be happy. May you be peaceful. May you be well. May you live with ease. May you find deep joy. May you be free of pain. May you be free from harm. May you be free of suffering. May you feel safe. We are here for You, God.

Your Health Ministry Care Team - **Anne Heine**

## EXCITING EVENTS AT CUCC

**March 19:** Chili Cookoff! Bring your chili recipe and compete for the golden ladle. We will also have a Dessert Auction to raise money for our New Century Sanctuary, so if you are in the baking spirit, we would love for you to bring something to auction off!

**April 16:** Celebration of LODO! Special worship with LODO focus and activity after.

**September 30:** Grand celebration of the 100th anniversary of this congregation held at the MU Healthcare pavilion.

**October 1:** Special worship service with choir alumni, former pastors and church members, and more!  
More events to come! Follow us on our special CUCC 100th anniversary Facebook page: **[CLICK HERE](#)** to join!

# Nurture & Education Ministry Team

## Spirit Sundays

Our monthly “Spirit Sundays” have been a great source of fun and revival for our youth and teachers! So far this year, we have had: “All-Sunday Sunday” in January for Epiphany; “Heart Sunday” in February for Valentine’s Day; and this month, we will have “Shamrock Sunday” to learn about the Holy Trinity around St. Patrick’s Day! ***Please plan to join us on Sunday, March 12 in the Fellowship Hall at 9 a.m. Games and snacks are included!***

## Sunday School

***Adult Bible Study:*** Adult Bible Study has had consistently the highest attendance of all Sunday School classes! Well done to our teachers: Barry Kirchhoff, Phillip Neale, and Shelly Adams! Barry, Phillip, and Shelly teach this class on rotation each week.

***Contemporary Issues Class:*** January and February brought us a couple of excellent Contemporary Issues classes, including “How to Heal our Divides: A Practical Guidebook” taught by seminary student Shelly Adams and a class on our missions in Chiapas taught by Pastor Rick. Pastor Rick is also leading a book study on “Anti-Racism 4Reals” by Sheila M. Beckford and Michelle Ledder. Coming up this month, Pastor Rick will be teaching a Sunday class called “The UCC: Who We Are, History and Polity” on March 5, 12, and 19. Judi Privitt – new leader for Contemporary Issues Class scheduling – is currently working with Pastor Rick to get more classes on the calendar! So stay tuned!

***Youth Sunday School :*** Youth Sunday School is running as usual! We could always use more teacher volunteers, so please reach out if you are interested! We currently have two groups: pre-k through 5th grade and 6th grade through 12th grade. Kristy Hayward will be handling scheduling for youth Sunday school teachers, so please reach out to her with dates you are available or your interest!

## Nurture & Education Committee Update

At our February 12 meeting, the Nurture & Education committee worked together to delegate duties and responsibilities – placing new leaders in charge of certain subsets of the committee. We believe this updates the committee structure to be more aligned with the organization of the other committees at CUCC. Judi Privitt will manage Contemporary Issues classes, Kristy Hayward will coordinate Youth Sunday School teachers, VBS will continue to be managed by Lena Muench and Gina Pierson, publicity (flyers and social media) will be created by Lena, the nursery will be managed by Pat Forward, and Special Events will be planned by Judi Privitt and Paula Wilson. We will continue to negotiate (rearranging, adding new, etc.) these roles as the year goes on and as we see how it goes! A big THANK YOU from Lydia to all members and leaders of this committee!

## Nursery

The nursery will now be managed by Pat Forward. In addition to our current supervisor, Summer Lyons, Nurture & Education is adding a second nursery supervisor: Chloe Grothaus. We believe this is essential, as nursery numbers have been consistently up, warranting a second person. Thank you to Summer for doing such a great job with the kiddos, and welcome to Chloe!

## Confirmation

Last year’s confirmation students – Danielle, Trevor, and Aidan – will be assisting Pastor Rick as Confirmation “teacher aides” for this year’s class. They will meet two Wednesdays a month with this year’s student, Sofia Marienfeld-Crenshaw. Lydia Whitacre will also be assisting Pastor Rick.

## Youth Group

Pastor Rick, with Lena Muench, has started a Youth Group for kids aged 5th grade and up. He held a game night at his home in January and another in February. Lydia Whitacre will be working with Pastor Rick to develop a Young Adult and/or College Youth Group, as well.

**The next Nurture & Education Team meeting will be Sunday, March 12, 2023 following Worship.**

Lydia Whitacre  
Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair



# Sunday, March 12

## Sunday School Spirit Day

Please join us in the  
Fellowship Hall at 9:00am for

\* a Holy Trinity Lesson

\* Snacks

\* Crafts

All youth will combine for a fun,  
Spirit-filled Sunday School Hour.

Everyone is welcome ~

the more, the merrier!

### WHAT IS THE UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST?

The United Church of Christ was founded in 1957, but its roots go all the way back to the Mayflower Pilgrims in 1620, Martin Luther in 1517, and to the life of Jesus Christ, the true leader of our denomination. We are the merger of the Evangelical Church, the Reformed Church, the Congregational Church, and The Christian Church, but we are so much more than that. Over the years we have welcomed many expressions of faith into our common union; we are a “tossed salad” of many diverse ingredients.

For three Sundays this month, March 5, 12, and 19, Pastor Rick will be leading the Adult Contemporary Issues Class all about the United Church of Christ. We will investigate our history, our mission, our structure, our polity, and our future. We will discuss some of the more political ideas championed by some settings of the United Church of Christ, and we will discuss why these settings do not necessarily reflect the views of all settings of the United Church of Christ. Finally, we will talk about General Synod, the biennial meeting of the United Church of Christ, which will be taking place this summer. We will look at issues and resolutions on the agenda and discuss how we can be part of the united body of Christ that is represented by our denomination.



Whether you are a “new member” or a more seasoned member, there will be new information for you to absorb! Plan now to attend all three gatherings of this Contemporary Issues class. We will meet either downstairs or in the Sanctuary. Adult Bible Study will be running concurrently in the Adult Sunday School Classroom in the Educational Wing.



UNITED CHURCH  
OF CHRIST

# Heritage Team

## PINOCHLE OR MONOPOLY?

The Heritage Team is celebrating our church's heritage by focusing on a different decade of our church's life each month during our 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary year. This month we are thinking about the Chapel in the 1940s.

Diversity, acceptance, and love were all alive and well at The Chapel when Rev. Harold Wilke was pastor. Rev. Wilke was a special person in many ways. He was born without any arms, but he learned to do everything with his feet. He would eat at a table, drive a car, and do anything else others did. He married his wife, Peggy, while at The Chapel. Rev. Wilke was quite exceptional to be a pastor in the 1940s with such a profound disability. At first, the Evangelical and Reformed Church was hesitant to ordain him, claiming that a pastor with no arms would not be able to consecrate the elements in the Sacrament of Communion. He showed them – he did just fine consecrating the elements with his feet! He would go on to head the UCC Disabilities Ministry and was instrumental in passing the Americans with Disabilities Act. He was present when President George Bush signed the ADA into law in 1990. There is a story that after President Bush signed the law, he handed the pen he used to Rev. Wilke – and Rev. Wilke accepted the pen with his foot! President Bush was quite amused!

I am sure the war was on everyone's mind in the 1940s. Many young Chapel men and a few women are listed in *The Elevator* (the newsletter of The Chapel) as serving in the military during this time. Chapel records also reveal that several Chapel members went on record as Conscientious Objectors to the war.

The May 1941 edition of *The Elevator* listed 27 Columbia residents and 65 students involved in The Chapel activities. There were Sunday morning worship services with choral music, Sunday evening vespers with a group meal, and a discussion group with featured speakers. On Wednesday evenings, the Chapel hosted group discussions and social time. The Chapel was open every day for small groups to get together and have fun in the Social Room. Pinochle was the most popular game, and then, Monopoly came along. Ping Pong was a favorite, so they even started having tournaments.

Also, in 1941, *The Elevator* contains reports from “the church mouse,” reporting on things only a mouse would see. He asked questions such as, “What were *so and so* doing in the kitchen with the lights out one night?” He saw all kinds of fun things.

In 1942, the first overtures were made to the Congregational Christian Churches to enter into The Chapel program with the Evangelical and Reformed Churches. This union was made official in 1944, 13 years before the UCC merger.

Frederick Stoerker became pastor of The Chapel in 1943. He and his wife, Mildred, came to Columbia to continue The Chapel program. In 1943, a group was gathered to make toys for Japanese children. The Chapel Guild, 25 ladies, gathered clothes and material for overseas relief. Another group gathered \$100 of scholarship money for Christian Japanese students.

The Sunday evening discussions were sometimes controversial but educational for the students. Topics like the situations in Europe, Communism in China, politics, city planning, and justice issues were addressed by the students, and they brought in prominent speakers from many places to address these issues. A social action group, “The Fellowship of the Concerned,” was formed and grew quickly. Students involved could pick a subject and run with it, leading it and bringing in speakers, etc.

In April 1948, *The Headliner* (the new name for the newsletter) reported on a great retreat they attended at Camp Aurora. Chapelites had a spring and fall retreat each year, and that tradition continued into the 1970s. They packed a lot of fun and faith into two days!

Next month we will look at The Chapel in the 1950s as we continue celebrating our past, while embracing our future!

-By Melba Shaffer



# International Missions

## CUCC IS SERVING IN BANGLADESH

The people of Bangladesh are concerned about climate change as they experience more frequent and extreme cyclones, tidal waves, flooding, and riverbank erosion. The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB) responds to these life threatening concerns by training farmers in innovative climate adaptation practices through Community Climate Resilience Centers. One focus for the centers is safe drinking water. The amount of salt in the soil and groundwater affects agricultural activities and creates a safe drinking water crisis. The centers provide training and funds for projects including climate change risk assessments, climate resilient agriculture, and installing freshwater technology. Through these adaptive techniques, livelihood opportunities, community engagement, and risk assessments, CCDB is working on long-term solutions toward climate resilient communities in Bangladesh.

Columbia United Church of Christ is a partner with CCDB 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 Bangladesh!



## UCC IS PRESENT IN TURKEY AND SYRIA AFTER EARTHQUAKE

The news continues to unfold about the devastating earthquakes on the border of Turkey and Syria. The death toll continues to rise – numbers are pointing to over 45,000 – depending on the source. This is shattering news and adds to the challenges of the war in this area for over a decade.

Immediately after the earthquake, the UCC posted a prayer and short statement in response to this crisis. While the earthquake was on the border, the tremors were felt as far away as Lebanon and Cyprus. At this time, we are issuing an appeal to help recovery efforts in Turkey and Syria. It is hard to tell what other areas are affected or the extent of the damage from this seismic event.

Our international partners are assessing the needs of survivors. Through our international mission partners, we are providing food, blankets, medicine, clothing, and shelter in response to immediate needs.

Amid this current uncertainty, you can be certain that with your financial support, the United Church of Christ will be there helping those in need. Give generously. You may also text UCCDISASTER to 41444.

All donations will be deposited into the International Emergency fund designated for “Turkey and Syria Earthquake Response.” Your generous financial support will be used by our partners in the areas of greatest need for relief and long-term recovery. You can also mail a check made payable to the **United Church of Christ, PO BOX 71957, Cleveland, OH 44194**. Please be sure to note “Turkey and Syria” on your check in the memo section.



## MISSION TRIP TO CHIAPAS

There are still some spaces available for our Mission Trip to Chiapas, June 8 - 15! We are planning to visit our Global Ministries Mission Partners in San Cristobal and learn more about the work we are doing in that region. This is the city where Pastor Rick spent his sabbatical. You are invited to come along! Information packets are available in the church office. If you have any questions, talk to **Pastor Rick**.



# Book Study with Pastor Rick on Thursdays

## Are you ready for some REAL TALK?

Pastor Rick is hosting a Book Study focusing on the book “Anti-Racism 4 Reals: Real Talk with Real Strategies in Real Time for Real Change” written by Sheila M. Beckford and Michelle Ledder, two anti-racism trainers and pastors in the Methodist Church. This is not a casual read. They challenge the reader to do more than just talk about anti-racism but to actually do the work of dismantling racism. They challenge the reader to stop talking and get their hands dirty. They ask the question on page 5, “What does it mean to have REAL TALK, not just more talk, about racism and anti-racism?”

This book is not for the faint of heart or for the thin of skin. It serves as an anti-racism template to interrupt and dismantle racism. In doing so, readers may find it unsettling. Some may find it offensive. Some may not make it all the way to the end, but if the reader does make it to the end, they will find enlightening REAL STRATEGIES to work towards creating a more just and loving world, a world more reflective of Jesus’ call to unity.

Pastor Rick will be walking through this book with us on Thursdays: March 2, 9, and 16 at 6:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Copies of the book are available in the church office. We discussed the introduction and Chapter 1 on February 23; Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 will be discussed on the consecutive Thursdays. If you are planning to attend, email [Pastor Rick](mailto:PastorRick@columbiaucc.com) to let him know.

### ANTI-RACISM 4REALS



## From Your Student Pastor . . .

Greetings, friends!

We recently concluded four weeks of great discussion in our Contemporary Issues class focused on the book, “How to Heal Our Divides: A Practical Guide,” compiled and edited by Brian Allain and Adam Thomas. We only made it through half the book, so I think we may reprise this later this spring. Stay tuned!

On our last Sunday, we discussed a chapter titled, “America Doesn’t Need Fewer Arguments: It Needs Less Stupid Ones.” A little blunt, isn’t it? But the content is so practical – and so good – I want to share it with all of you. The chapter focuses on *The Better Arguments Project*, which is “based on the idea that the key to addressing division isn’t for people to argue less, but to argue better.”

The *Project* recommends five principles to practice having healthier arguments. Brace yourself. The first one is tough. It is **take winning off the table**. Are you still with me? Because when I read it, I thought, “If that’s the first, how impossible are the next four?” But I tested this one out today in a very contentious meeting. And it worked. Taking winning off the table means engaging with someone with the goal of learning and understanding, not beating them or converting them to your way of thinking.

Number two is **prioritize relationships and listen passionately**, which means starting with a human connection and truly listening. (Instead of thinking about your retort, try to truly hear what the other person is saying and seek to understand.)

And the next is **pay attention to context**. If you can’t understand why someone would hold a given opinion, ask them about it. Try to learn more about how they came to believe what they believe.

The fourth is another tough one: **embracing vulnerability**. Having better arguments means really sticking with it through some discomfort. Sometimes it can mean that you discuss your doubts about your own position. Having already embraced the “take winning off the table” principle can help.

And finally, **make room to transform**. Hold open the possibility that your encounter with another person could be so compelling that it opens you to changing your position. And remember that another person’s transformation is not in your control. That’s their responsibility.

We all encounter differences and divides – at home, at church, at work, in school, with our extended families, in social situations. Arguments are inevitable. But there’s a way to have better arguments, and we may just make our little corner of the world better as we do it. Blessings to all of you!



Shelly Adams, Student Pastor

# Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team

## LOAVES & FISHES

The February 20 meal at Loaves & Fishes consisted of spaghetti (prepared by Mary Lorber-Solt and Audrey), salad (provided by Patty Beeson), bread, and cookies. PB & J's were made and donated by Mahree Skala. We served approximately 101 first and second servings and approximately 26 takeouts. Servers and dishwashers were Doug & Judi Privitt, Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Debby (Mary's sister), Anne Heine, and Patty Beeson. Now, we are using real plates, coffee mugs, glasses, and silverware! Thanks to everyone who helped out! If you are interested in helping, please let [Audrey Lasley](#) know.

**Room at the Inn needs volunteer helpers** to serve homeless guests. They are now located at the old VWF off the Business Loop, which makes things easier and more predictable. Volunteers help prepare food, clean up the space, transport laundry, etc. For more information and to sign up for a morning or evening shift, go to [roomattheinncomo.org](http://roomattheinncomo.org). For questions, contact [Marhee Skala](#).

## Come Serve at the Food Bank

In January, a small but mighty group (Anne Heine, Connie Loveless, Mahree Skala, Tricia Soncasie, and Llona Weiss) helped fill 240 boxes with 30 pounds of staple foods such as canned vegetables and chili, cereal, shelf-stable milk, tuna, and juice. The boxes will be distributed to food pantries in rural areas of Boone County and surrounding areas. The next shift will be on Tuesday, March 28, 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. It's rewarding work and a great way to be of service during Lent.

Sign up by clicking [here](#) or talk to Marhee Skala.

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



## ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY PARTNERSHIP FRIEND UPDATE

Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School (AHL) is an exciting place to be. Pastor Rick, Judi & Doug Privitt, and Llona Weiss traveled to BizTown, which is sponsored by Junior Achievement in St. Louis, with the AHL 5th graders on February 2, 2023, to participate in a marvelous learning opportunity. Our CUCC volunteers assisted the AHL 5th graders at BizTown in Chesterfield, MO to learn what it is like to be citizens of a community, be producers, workers, consumers, and savers. The AHL students learned how to apply their prior classroom learning in interactive opportunities, as well as use problem-solving and teamwork skills. I think we volunteers learned a lot, too!

CUCC will help "Stock the Lounge" for the Parent-Teacher Conferences week during February 27 - March 3. "Read Across America Week" is March 6 - 10, 2023, and the AHL Huskies students will be very excited to see guests read to them that week. If you are interested and have not signed up, [CLICK HERE](#), or you can ask [Llona Weiss](#) for assistance.

The PTA Spring Carnival will be Saturday, April 22, 2023 at AHL from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., and we will be looking for CUCC Volunteers to help with games and concessions, so the parents and teachers can spend fun time with the students. The Carnival poster is in the Gathering Area on the revolving post of announcements.



Teacher Appreciation Week is May 1 - 5, 2023, and we will try to provide food and other appreciation items for the teachers that week.

Thank you for making a difference in a young person's life!

Llona Weiss  
Liaison for CUCC to AHL,  
Our Partner Friend

## Part of the Community

In recognition of Women's History Month, CUCC is proud to be a major sponsor of the Women's Day of Music. This will take place on Saturday, March 18 at the Blue Note. This festival will feature several bands beginning at 3:00 p.m. For more information, [CLICK HERE](#) for the Blue Note website. Cost for the event will be \$15. Profits will help support [True North](#), the domestic abuse shelter.

THE BLUE NOTE PRESENTS  
**WOMEN'S DAY OF MUSIC**  
SAT. MARCH 18

MUSIC FROM:  
ROCHARA KNIGHT & THE HONEY DOVES  
RAE FITZGERALD  
RACHEL AMMONS  
CEMONE JAMES  
KATY GUILLEN & THE DRIVE

AND FEATURING UP & COMING HOUR WITH STUDENTS OF ROBIN ANDERSON, CALEB ALEXANDER, & AUDRA SERGAL

the blue note SERIAL MUSIC STUDIOS

We are grateful for your generous gifts over the past year. Your philanthropic investment of \$4,398.00 in our mission will help provide nutritious food to those in need throughout our 32-county service area. As the need continues to increase, your partnership is valued more than ever. Thank you!



# Thank You!!



Thank YOU to all our top donors and volunteers. With your gracious and caring support in 2022, we produced 1,420 Mobility Carts.

We are planning on 50 carts a week in 2023. With that comes a lot of supplies being ordered and a need for volunteers to build carts. We look forward to your great partnership again this year.



## SUMMER CAMP REGISTRATION OPEN

After three years of closure, **Camp MoVal** is open again, and registration for Summer 2023 opened November 27! It is not too early to sign up for Summer Camp!

**NEW IN 2023** – Most of the summer camps will be all-ages camps for ages 8 - 15. Mini-camps are available for ages 7 - 9. There are specialty camps for Music, Arts and Drama, and STEM skills, as well as High School Leadership Development.

If you register before February 28, the cost is \$499 (prices raise after 2/28), but CUCC will pay \$300 for each CUCC Camper who wishes to attend! Talk to Pastor Rick or Lydia Whitacre for details on Camper Scholarships.

To register today, [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#)

**Camp MoVal 2023**

- 6/4-6/9 M.A.D.D. (MUSIC/ART/DANCE/DRAMA) (AGES 8-18)
- 6/11-6/16 ALL AGES CAMP (AGES 8-15) \*Mini Camp AVAILABLE (AGES 7-9)
- 6/11-6/16 HIGH SCHOOL LEADERSHIP CAMP (COMPLETED GRADES 9-12)
- 6/18-6/23 ALL AGES CAMP (AGES 8-15) \*Mini Camp AVAILABLE (AGES 7-9)
- 6/25-6/30 ALL AGES CAMP (AGES 8-15) \*Mini Camp AVAILABLE (AGES 7-9)
- 7/5-7/7 FAMILY CAMP (ALL AGES)
- 7/9-14 S.T.E.M. CAMP (SCIENCE/TECH/ENGINEERING/MATH) (AGES 8-18)
- 7/16-21 ALL AGES CAMP (AGES 8-15) \*Mini Camp AVAILABLE (AGES 7-9)
- 7/23-28 ALL AGES CAMP (AGES 8-15) \*Mini Camp AVAILABLE (AGES 7-9)
- 7/30-8/4 ADVENTURES IN COMMUNITY (AGES 18+)



## On the Church Calendar in March

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 7:30 a.m. Men's Fellowship</p> <p><b>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship</b></p> <p><b>10:30 a.m. Worship</b></p> <p>12:00 p.m. Heritage Team</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Cub Scouts FH</p> <p><i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p>6 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p>	<p>7 10:00 a.m. Quilters</p>	<p>1 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers Practice</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Confirmation</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers Practice</p>	<p>2 <b>DIRECTORY PHOTOS</b></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Book Study w/ Pastor Rick</p>	<p>3 <b>LODO/CPS CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>DIRECTORY PHOTOS</b></p>	<p>4 <b>DIRECTORY PHOTOS</b></p> <p>Gary Steeckman Memorial Visitation at Lenoir 4:00-6:00 p.m.</p>
<p><b>12 SPIRIT SUNDAY</b></p> <p><b>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship</b></p> <p><b>10:30 a.m. Worship</b></p> <p>11:30 a.m. Fellowship &amp; Hospitality/Nurture &amp; Education Ministry Team meetings</p> <p><i>*Livestreaming: <b>CUCC Website</b></i></p>	<p>13 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>14 10:00 a.m. Quilters</p> <p>5:00 p.m. Inclusion &amp; Affirmation Ministry Team Meeting</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Outreach &amp; Advocacy Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>15 <b>LODO/CPS CLOSED</b></p> <p>6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers Practice</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers Practice</p>	<p>16 6:30 p.m. Book Study with Pastor Rick</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 <b>Women's Day of Music at the Blue Note-- sponsored by CUCC 3:00 p.m.</b></p>
<p><b>19 9:00 a.m. Sunday School</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Blood Pressure Screening</p> <p><b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship</b></p> <p><b>10:30 a.m. Worship</b></p> <p><b>11:30 a.m. CHILL COOKOFF/ Dessert Auction</b></p> <p>3:00 p.m. Cub Scouts FH</p>	<p>20 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Loaves &amp; Fishes</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Worship &amp; Music Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>21 10:00 a.m. Quilters</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Council Meeting</p>	<p>22 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers Practice</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
<p>26 <b>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</b></p> <p><b>10:00 a.m. Fellowship</b></p> <p><b>10:30 a.m. Worship</b></p> <p><i>*Worship Livestreaming on our <b>CUCC Website</b></i></p>	<p>27 <b>LODO/CPS CLOSED</b></p> <p>10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p> <p>3:00 p.m. Membership &amp; Care Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>28 <b>LODO/CPS CLOSED</b></p> <p>10:00 a.m. Quilters</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Food Bank</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Finance &amp; Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>29 <b>LODO/CPS CLOSED</b></p> <p>6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers Practice</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers</p>	<p>30 <b>LODO/CPS CLOSED</b></p>	<p>31 <b>LODO/CPS CLOSED</b></p> <p><b>Fellowship Hall Booked</b></p>	

# 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.



### Interested in Church Membership?

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

**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

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

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

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

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

### LODO PLAYGROUND RESPECT

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

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