

THE COMMUNICATOR

February 2023



From the Pastor's Keyboard . . .

"Black Cowboys"

Did you ever wonder why there were no Black cowboys?

Think about the TV shows and movies we grew up with. In all the TV shows and movies about the Old West, rarely was a Black person seen, and when they were, they were often in the role of a domestic servant, a villain, or even worse, a henchman. Although in reality, 25-30% of all cowboys in the Old West were Black Men, and Spanish speaking cowboys of Mexican descent made up another 15%. There were American Indian cowboys and even Asian cowboys in the Old West. Only about 60% of all Cowboys in the Old West were White. (For these references, the "Old West" era of the Cowboy is considered to be from 1865-1895.)

Many of the most authoritative cowboys in the Old West were Black. After the Civil War, the "Golden Era" of the cowboy began. This was one job that was open to Freed Black Men that was not a domestic servant or an underpaid farmhand. The job of cowboy was one that offered dignity and restoration to people who had been unfairly enslaved and for whom the world was still a very unsafe place.

In fact, there are many who consider **Bass Reeves**, a prominent Black cowboy turned lawman, to be the model on which the character of The Lone Ranger was based. Bass Reeves was born in Arkansas in 1838 to enslaved parents. During the Civil War, Reeves escaped enslavement and fled to Cherokee territory. For many years, he lived with Cherokee, Seminole, and Creek tribes. While in the area he learned the language and customs of these people. After the Civil War, when the 13th Amendment to the US Constitution abolished slavery, Reeves returned to Arkansas to become a farmer.

Reeves was 6'2" and weighed 180 pounds; it was said he was as strong as a horse. Soon, because of his knowledge of the American Indian culture, he was recruited by United States Marshall James F. Fagan. Reeves became a Deputy U.S. Marshall, given a silver star and a white horse. He served for 32 years in the Oklahoma Territory, an area generally considered lawless. The U.S. Marshalls in that area served as the final authority in matters of law, and Reeves was considered the lone authority in his region. He travelled with a Cherokee partner to help him navigate the territories; his partner lent credence to his legend and authority.

There are many parallels between Bass Reeves and the fictional character of The Lone Ranger, and some historians even venture to suggest that the black mask of The Lone Ranger is a tip of the hat to Reeves. Of course, the creators of The Lone Ranger are long dead (radio producers George Trendle and Fran Striker) and never said anything about a Black influence on their fictional character. Therefore, the possible influence of Bass Reeves on this character is speculation at best. Although, it does help illustrate the point that despite the common presence of Black men as authority figures in the Old West, we rarely see this represented in media.

This story helps illustrate the importance of Black History Month. For years, Black History has been cancelled by the white majority. History has been whitewashed, leaving us to believe that the only contributions of Black people in our culture revolved around domestic work and villainy. Shining the light on the contributions of Black Americans throughout our history not only gives us a more accurate picture of our past, it also brings us closer to understanding who we are in the present.



Black History Month is not a revision of history; it is a correction to a history that was revised by the White majority a long time ago. February is Black History Month, and all month long we will be lifting up the contributions of Black Americans in our united history. Black History is part of our history, and only by lifting up the contributions of every U.S. citizen, can we truly appreciate what it means to be part of this great nation.

-Pastor Rick

News & Updates

BLACK
History
MONTH



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 February 9.* All women are invited to attend. Come join us for lively discussions during each lesson.

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**

**Website:
www.columbiaucc.com**



Next Big Thing

Events are around every corner coming up. If you have any information or images or anything at all for any upcoming event, please let **MJ King** know.

Upcoming Events



We have a new page on our website dedicated to Upcoming Events, and we would like to have it stay as full as possible. In addition to the website page, we are planning on hosting Facebook events, as well. Be on the lookout, and be sure to email MJ with all the info you can about each event. (It would be extremely helpful if you would put **UPCOMING EVENT** as the Subject line of these emails.)

SUNDAY MORNING SNOW POLICY

In case of inclement weather on Sunday mornings this winter, please keep an eye on the cancellations listed on KOMU and KMIZ Television stations, as well as the CUCC website and Facebook page.

If cancelling worship is in question, the Pastor, Moderator, and Vice Moderator will make that call by 7:00 a.m. on a Sunday morning. They will then notify the media, send out a mass email to the congregation, and put notice on the church's Facebook page and website immediately. This information will be posted by 7:15.

If worship is cancelled at our facility, an abbreviated worship will be livestreamed on You Tube and Facebook, at least the scriptures, sermon, and prayers. The extent of what is livestreamed will depend on who can make it to church that morning. Please join with the congregation worshipping virtually as we livestream and join together in virtual community.

If worship is not cancelled, but you feel unsafe venturing out, please stay home. We will still be livestreaming every Sunday, so you can always enjoy worship from home. You can also view the worship at a time other than 10:30! Past worship services are all on our website.

**INCLEMENT
WEATHER
INFORMATION**



Moderator's Moment

From Your Church Council Moderator...

What an exciting start to the 2023 calendar year we have had at CUCC! Such interesting history was shared by Walter Schroeder at our 100th anniversary kick off. He provided context and history *behind* the history of the development of our congregation. We took a deep dive into the past and into the future with the presentation of sanctuary renovation plans! This will be an evolving process, and we are looking forward to the opportunities to come together and collaborate as a congregation. February 21, 2023, we will celebrate even more with our Fastnacht tradition!

Other exciting endeavors have included an interesting discussion in the Adult Contemporary Sunday School Class led by Shelly Adams. There has been a great turnout, and participants are excited to continue reading and talking about "How to Heal our Divides." We are also getting started again with youth group gatherings for children (and friends!) in our congregation who are approaching middle school through high school!

As always, thank you for everything you do for our church family and at CUCC!

With gratitude,
Kristy Hayward, Moderator



Worship and Music Ministry Team

A Brief History on "Lift Every Voice and Sing"

Often referred to as "The Black National Anthem," *Lift Every Voice and Sing* was a hymn written as a poem by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson in 1900. His brother, John Rosamond Johnson (1873-1954), composed the music for the lyrics. A choir of 500 schoolchildren at the segregated Stanton School, where James Weldon Johnson was principal, first performed the song in public in Jacksonville, Florida to celebrate President Abraham Lincoln's birthday.

At the turn of the 20th century, Johnson's lyrics eloquently captured the solemn yet hopeful appeal for the liberty of Black Americans. Set against the religious invocation of God and the promise of freedom, the song was later adopted by NAACP and prominently used as a rallying cry during the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1900, when "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was composed, Black Americans were teetering on a fulcrum of history. The visibility and influence of African American traditions was growing, but Reconstruction efforts had failed to provide widespread opportunities for financial and educational advancement. Moreover, racism stood ready to close any door Black achievers dared to open.

Among the Black leaders of the day, education, artistic excellence, and the power of Black communities of faith were both sources of strength and precious keys to progress. To many men and women like the Johnson brothers, who managed to find success, the rise of one Black American helped lift up all.

In this way, "Lift Every Voice and Sing" was at one time a history, a proclamation, and a vision for the future. It immediately resonated with Black communities and institutions.

In 1919, the NAACP proclaimed it the "Negro National Anthem," a full 12 years before "The Star Spangled Banner" was adopted as the national anthem under President Herbert Hoover. It is an omnipresent part of African American worship traditions and an enduring refrain for great Black artists.

The above information was taken from NAACP and CNN's websites.

Brandon Brown, Music Coordinator



Church Council

CUCC Council Meeting—January 17, 2023

Tricia Price discussed Chapters 11 and 12 in the book *A Bigger Table* by John Pavlovitz. Chapter 11 talks about showing people Jesus's unconditional love instead of just talking about it, and Chapter 12 talks about not using theology as a barrier to being present for others. We can't demand that others share our beliefs before allowing them into our community. We need to get close enough to learn people's individual stories instead of lumping others together into generalizations.

Unfinished Business:

- Spots were filled for stewardship duties.
- Sanctuary Updates: Pastor Rick shared a PowerPoint presentation about fundraising options. Kurt suggested we have the city do an energy audit and look into any rebates we can get for making the sanctuary more energy-efficient. Our new administrative assistant, MJ, has graphic design skills, and she's helping a lot with fundraising ideas. The Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team strongly supports the plan for sanctuary updates but knows that it's going to take a huge commitment from lots of members to make it happen. We need to have an ad hoc committee of 8-12 people to implement the fundraising, including members from Finance & Stewardship, as well as other ministry teams. Keith, Brent, Sue Ann, Kurt, and Mike will serve on that committee. Mike will chair it. They came up with a list of other members to ask, as well. Kurt said he has experience writing grants, so Sue Ann is going to email him with questions about grants. Mike will do the presentation Sunday, showing some visuals of what the improvements will look like. The motion to approve the renovations and fundraising plan came from Finance and Stewardship, and the council passed the motion.
- The 100th Anniversary committee: Come to the potluck Sunday. Follow the Facebook page for the 100th anniversary, and share it with old church friends. LODO 20th anniversary celebration will be April 16.
- Security plan: There is some information about security in the Building and Grounds procedures, but it probably needs to be updated.
- Additional alarm for the door off the storage area is done.
- JanPro update: They continue to have problems. Showing up at the wrong time and disrupting meetings. (They're only supposed to come after 8 p.m.) Pastor Rick has been trying to contact management about them leaving lights on, supplies out, and doors open, but management has not been great about getting back to him. We might start talking to other companies to see if other options seem better.
- Children's library donation: meeting next Tuesday.
- Nominating committee: Doug Privitt, Jim Loveless, Kennedy Lucas, Carol Duermeyer, Carolyn Malicoat. Tricia Price moved to approve the committee. Brent Marcks seconded. It was approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Rick's report was submitted.

Financial Report: It was a rough year in 2022 financially. We were behind in budgeted giving by \$37,963; we were also \$24,173 behind last year's giving.

Ministry Team Reports:

- Fellowship & Hospitality: Stefanie Zimny reported that they are preparing for Fastnacht.
- Finance & Stewardship: Keith Birkes's report was submitted.
- Inclusion & Affirmation: Tricia Price's report was submitted.
- LODO: Lorry Dreier's report was submitted. There's been an uptick in families requesting tours.
- Nurture & Education: Lydia Whitacre's report was submitted.
- Outreach & Advocacy: Mark Duncan's report was submitted.

Respectfully submitted,
Tricia Price, on behalf of Alethea Tennill, Secretary



New Century Sanctuary

Here at CUCC, we have lived in this proverbial house for over 50 years. In that time, our sanctuary has had upgrades done exactly . . . ONCE. I'd say it's time. It's very easy to overlook and take for granted the physical aspects of this space, so I'd like to take just a minute to point out a few of the aspects that may or may not have escaped your eyes in the last 35 years since the last renovation.

First, I direct your attention UP to the ceiling. Those are water stains from leaks that have been repaired. Next, we come down a little bit to the noisy, air not-so-tight, plastic windows that completely surround the room, even where you can't see behind the sacristy. Ever been in here when it's windy outside? That's those windows you've heard.

And now let's go all the way down to the carpet. Part of this vintage 1980's design is actually the most recently upgraded part of the sanctuary. The deeper reddish part in the back was a repair in the late 90's. However, the rest of it is still in a continuing state of disintegration and stain non-resistance.

And finally, I'm going to shock some of you... the back of the chancel is not really wood; it is essentially shelf paper mounted on dry wall that is peeling away from the bottom of the wall, as well as in some places higher up.

In seriousness, this room is a truly unique worship area that just needs a facelift. There are reasons why worship spaces around the world have been recognized for their level of ornamentation and design for centuries – those rooms (and our room) hold a sacred connection to the divine, but they also send a message of comfort and connection to all those who enter . . . or possibly a message to some of a literal and metaphorical “house in need of repair.”

So, as you may have heard or suspect, we are formally launching our campaign to raise funds for the renovation of many parts of this room. In combination with the 100th Anniversary, we are calling it the “New Century Sanctuary” campaign. The details of the plan that have been developing for the last year are found in the article below.

I am Michael Pierson, not Michaelangelo. I am not promising the grandeur of the Sistine Chapel or asking for that level of funding, but, I do hope that you will join in the goal of helping us improve the surfaces of this distinctive worship area with your monetary support and/or a little elbow grease to help keep the costs as low as possible. Thank you.

-Mike Pierson, Worship & Music Ministry Team Chair



THE NEW CENTURY SANCTUARY CAMPAIGN!

At our Centennial kickoff on January 22, Mike Pierson revealed the plans for our **NEW CENTURY SANCTUARY** and the capital campaign to fund it! Here are the highlights of our **NEW CENTURY SANCTUARY CAMPAIGN**:

- Our current Sanctuary has not had a significant renovation since 1989. It has stood the test of time well, but it is in dire need of attention. The ceiling is stained, the walls are faded, the carpet is threadbare and too thin to clean, the single-pane windows rattle in their frames, and the curtains are deteriorating. It is time for a facelift!
- We have solicited bids from contractors for painting and replacement of carpet and drapes, as well as installing better chancel steps and railings and replacing the transom windows at the roofline of the Sanctuary. The total for all preferred bids is approximately \$125,000.
- We also are scheduled to replace 2 HVAC units this year totaling approximately \$25,000.
- To this end, we have begun the **NEW CENTURY SANCTUARY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN** to raise \$150,000 by September 30. We hope to have 75% of our funds or pledges in hand by June 30.
- We will be selling sponsorship of stained-glass effect transom windows for \$900; these can be purchased in memory or honor of a loved one (see separate article in this Communicator). There are 45 transom windows up for sale in this effort!

We will be sending letters and making personal contact to members and friends of the church to solicit individual donations. Detailed information and promotional materials will be sent to homes in early February, and the campaign will begin in earnest!

Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team

FASTNACHT - FEBRUARY 21



It's almost Fastnacht time, and we get to continue this CUCC tradition on Fat Tuesday, February 21. Time to get excited for a few familiar faces that will be returning, the Brandenburgs and The Loehning Band!! We are honored to have them, so join us for a warm welcome back during this fun celebration.



We will be serving traditional German Food, including "Fastnachts" (German donuts), starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage you to arrive by 5:30 p.m., as we will have music, dinner, and other fun activities! We are asking everyone to RSVP, so we will know how much food to prepare. [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP or sign up on the sheet in the gathering area or scan the QR code.



We are also asking for a few helping hands to help prepare the food, serve it, and clean up after. If you would like to volunteer your time, contact [Stefanie Zimny](#). Happy Fastnacht!

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR FEBRUARY

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for February. 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
2/5	Helen Schultz	Melba Shaffer & Charlie Marcks	Sue Ann Schaefer		Brent Marcks & Doug Privitt	Audrey Lasley
2/12	Jessica Lucas	Pat Forward	Lydia Whitacre		Mike Pierson & Dominick Lee	Stefanie Zimny
2/19	Susan Dunham	Christine Staelens & Jane Duncan	Llona Weiss		Josh Muench & Lorry Dreier	Brent Marcks
2/26	Carol Duermeyer	Llona Weiss & Phillip Neale	Lena Muench		Carrisa Graves & John Graves	Helen Schultz

EAT WITH EIGHT IS ROLLING ALONG!

Most of our Eat with Eight gatherings have begun! 34 CUCC people are participating in this annual fellowship event. Dinners will continue through April. If you would like to jump in, contact [Anne Heine](#)!

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kristy Hayward	kristyodneal@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Secretary:	Alethea Tennill	atennill108@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Sue Ann Schaefer	ssas3307@aol.com
Recording Treasurer:	Brent Marcks	brentmarcks@hotmail.com
Building & Grounds:	Ted Dachroeden	gpadoc4gd@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Stefanie Zimny	stefanie.zimny@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:	Jessica Lucas	jlucas@cpsk12.org
Nurture & Education:	Lydia Whitacre	lydiaawhitacre@gmail.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music:	Mike Pierson	mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com



Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

The ups and downs of the financial picture in 2022 were just that. We were **\$37,963 below budget in Joyful Giving**. The world economic picture fluctuated down, which affected our reserves with United Church Funds. On the upside, CUCC gave scholarships to five college students, three of our HVAC units were replaced, and the parking lot was repaired, resurfaced, and lined. We also gave \$25,050 to missions and agencies that were in our budget. This amount doesn't include the special offerings that we had to help other specific agencies and missions.

CUCC does a lot of great things because of your generosity!



This year is giving us a lot to look forward to with our 100th anniversary celebration coming up in late September. There are also plans for a **NEW CENTURY SANCTUARY**. Renovations in the sanctuary are planned. Thirty-four years is a long time to wait to replace carpet and draperies. We'll be seeing details of the renovations, and a capital campaign will be starting in February to fund the improvements. Stay tuned for further details.

Our church has so much to be proud of and to be thankful for. Thank you for the giving of your time, talent, and financial support.

Sue Ann Schaefer, Treasurer

2023 OFFERING ENVELOPE PROGRAM

If you are still receiving offering envelopes but opted out, do not worry! You have been removed, but with the new system, it takes a couple of cycles for it to update. The website we use prepares all of the envelopes in advance. I promise we have you removed! If you are not receiving them and wish to, send me an email at the [church office](#).

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
Dec. Income	\$77,659.00	\$76,208.00	\$1,451.00
YTD Income	\$327,744.58	\$365,708.00	(\$37,963.42)
Dec. Expenses	\$35,860.58	\$36,311.48	(\$450.90)
YTD Expenses	\$370,715.20	\$387,497.75	(\$16,782.55)
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$14,789.75)	(\$21,418.36)	\$6,628.61
Dec. Attendance	548		

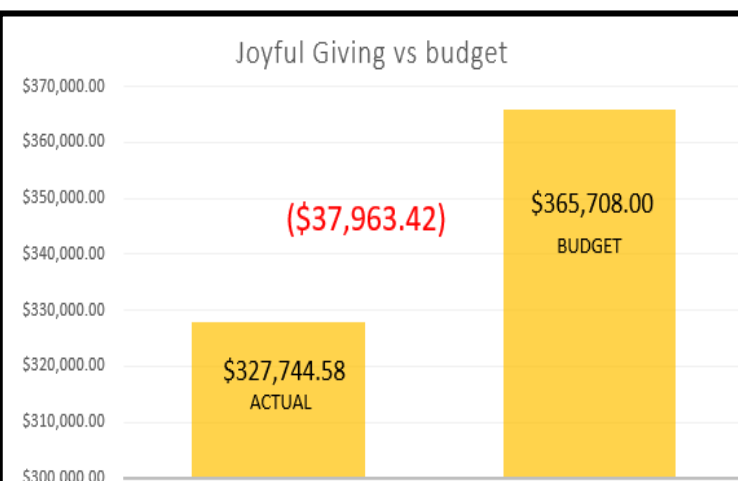
Date	Attendance
12/4/22	95
12/11/22	161
12/18/22	103
12/24/22 7 p.m.	140
12/24/22 11 p.m.	21
12/25/22	28
Total	548

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

Welcome to Black History Celebration at CUCC! This article focuses on the Civil Rights movement's "Big Six." The Big Six include: Martin Luther King Jr., John Robert Lewis, A. Phillip Randolph, Roy Wilkins, James Farmer, and Whitney Young. Pastor Rick has covered much about MLK in January. Thus, this focus will be on the other five.

John Lewis was born in 1940 in Alabama to sharecroppers. He studied philosophy and religion in college and participated in sit-in protests at whites-only public places. Though his activities were peaceful, he was often met with physical violence, beatings, and imprisonment. This really came to a head during the march to support Black Voting Rights in Selma on what became known as "Bloody Sunday." Alabama governor George Wallace instructed sheriff's deputies, state troopers, and deputized 'possemen' to stop the march by "whatever means necessary" including teargas, being overrun by horses, and beatings with bullwhips and billy clubs. Fifty marchers were hospitalized, including Mr. Lewis who suffered a skull fracture. Millions of Americans witnessed the event on TV. Within 48 hours, 80 cities had demonstrations supporting the marchers. This resulted in the passage of the landmark Voting Rights Act signed into law by President Johnson on August 6, 1965.

Asa Philip Randolph was born in 1889 in Florida. His father was a Methodist minister and moved the family to Harlem in 1911. In 1912, Randolph co-established an employment agency to help Black workers organize and find employment. At the start of WWI, he founded a magazine called "The Messenger" that called for more positions for Blacks in the war industry and armed forces. In 1925, he organized Despite Opposition which was the first successful Black trade union. That brotherhood won a major contract with Pullman Co in 1937. In 1948, due to Mr. Randolph's creation of the League for Nonviolent Civil Disobedience Against Military Segregation, President Harry S. Truman banned racial segregation in the armed forces.

Roy Wilkins was born in 1901 in St. Louis, MO. His father was not present for his birth, as he had fled the city in fear of being lynched. Why? He refused to step away and yield the sidewalk to a white man. His mother died when he was four, and he was raised by an aunt and uncle. As an adult, Wilkins served as the executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People from 1955-1977. He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by Lyndon Johnson for his work to further equality in the realm of international affairs. He was also titled as the senior statesman of the U.S. Civil Rights Movement.

James Leonard Farmer was born in 1920 in Marshall, TX. He was an American civil rights activist and leader of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE), which helped shape the civil rights movement through nonviolent activism. He participated in sit-ins and the Freedom Rides with John Lewis. Farmer served as Assistant Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare under President Richard Nixon. He received the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his activism in 1998.

Whitney M. Young, Jr. was born in 1921 in Lincoln Ridge, KY. He spearheaded the drive for equal opportunity in U.S. industry and government service. He served as the National Urban League president for 10 years. His "Domestic Marshall Plan" strongly influenced funding of federal poverty programs and helped decrease racial tensions of the time. After his military service in WWII, he studied social work and earned an impressive reputation as a national black activist and racial bridge builder. He is credited with persuading corporate America to aid civil rights movements through financial contributions in support of self-help programs, jobs, housing, education, and family rehabilitation. He was a consultant to both President John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson.

During Black History month, we will have bulletin inserts each Sunday focusing on past and present Black Civil Rights leaders.



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



LODO Ministry Team

LODO returned from Christmas Break on Tuesday, January 4, 2023, and our students have been hard at work learning skills in all developmental areas. We love seeing the growth of our students throughout the school year in the areas of Social/Emotional, Cognitive, Fine Motor, Gross Motor, and Language development. Many thanks to Jolene Kirchhoff for visiting our classes as a guest reader and to Linda Neale for providing a music education day for our students in January. We are grateful for Judi Privitt for offering regular volunteer assistance in our classrooms each week!

Upcoming February Events:

Thursday, February 9, 2023 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. - Math & Science Night (***VOLUNTEERS NEEDED***)
Tuesday, February 14, 2023 & Wednesday, February 15, 2023 - Classroom Valentine Celebrations
Friday, February 17, 2023 – LODO Closed
Monday, February 20, 2023 – LODO Closed

2023-2024 Enrollment

Enrollment for the 2023-2024 School Year will begin for current families on Sunday, February 26, 2023. Enrollment will be open to new families on Monday, March 6, 2023. If you, or someone you know, is looking for a loving preschool for next school year, please let them know that **NOW** is the time to tour and to be ready to register. They may contact me at littleonesdayout@yahoo.com or 573-445-2661. Additional information about the LODO program is available at www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome.

Lightning Bugs Class: Students must be 1 year old *before* August 1, 2023.

Lambs Class: Students must be 2 years old *before* August 1, 2023.

Lions/Leopards Class: Students must be 3 years old *before* August 1, 2023.

Leap Frogs/Leopards Class: Students must be 4 years old *before* August 1, 2023.

***Our Leopards Class will be assigned and utilized for the age group that has the most need for extra classroom space. This classroom may be a duplicate age group class, or utilized for a mixed age group based on enrollment and classroom space needs.*

February Learning Themes



Around the World: The World
God Made

Animals (Zoo/Jungle/Farm)



Acts of Kindness/
Bucket Filling/Friendship/Love/
Valentine's Day

Opposites & Prepositions



Erika Maltsbarger,
LODO Director

Did you know that CUCC has a preschool that operates daily throughout the school year? Do you know someone looking for a preschool to help educate and nurture children in a Christian setting? Did you know CUCC has a ministry team that helps guide our preschool? Are you interested in serving on the **Little One's Day Out Ministry Team**? Please contact Lorry Dreier at llhd01@gmail.com for more information.

PS – Save the date – LODO Sunday April, 16, 2023, celebrating 20 years!

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.

Membership and Care Ministry Team

CUCC has been fortunate enough to welcome several **NEW MEMBERS** over the last few months!

Danielle Dreier is part of our 2022 Confirmation class and is a student at Rock Bridge High School. She has grown up in CUCC. Danielle's hobbies include poetry, swimming, going on walks, and spending time with her friends.



Aidan Pierson is part of our 2022 Confirmation class along with his twin brother and is a student at Rock Bridge High School. He was brought to CUCC by his parents. He enjoys video games, biking, cars, and singing.

Trevor Pierson is part of our 2022 Confirmation class along with his twin brother. Trevor is a student at Rock Bridge High School. His interests include video games, playing with his dog, and spending time with friends. His favorite book series is Percy Jackson.

Lawson Flood-Lorber is part of our 2022 Confirmation class. He is the grandson of Tom and Mary Lorber-Solt.

Shelly Adams is in her second year at Eden Seminary. Not only is she attending school full-time, but she is also working for a research and development firm full-time. Shelly grew up in Illinois and lived in Minnesota and Colorado before coming to Columbia. Shelly's family includes her husband John and sons, Andrew (married to Nichole) and William, along with four grandchildren. Although very busy with work and her studies, Shelly also enjoys gardening, writing, and baking.



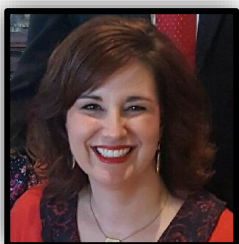
Chloe and Mark Eveler grew up in the area (Columbia for Chloe and Jefferson City for Mark). They have two children, Russell and Theodore (Teddy). Mark works for MU Health and is taking classes to enter the IT field; Chloe is a stay-at-home mom. Mark enjoys watching and playing sports, reading, and camping; Chloe also enjoys watching sports, along with bell choir, puzzles, and playing board games and card games.

Lloyd Mickelson is Chloe Eveler's grandfather. Lloyd previously lived in North Dakota and Montana. He has worked as an English, Speech, Drama, and Journalism teacher, as a travel agent, and as a realtor. He has 4 children, 8 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren. His hobbies include baking and cooking, along with travel and ancestry. Lloyd traveled to many state parks and traced his ancestry back to Alfred the Great.



Becky Weston first attended the CUCC Christmas Candlelight services, and then she started coming for Sunday morning services and realized she knew some of the congregation members who were very welcoming. She's lived in Columbia since she was a young adult and worked in the medical field for many years. She has a son who lives in Texas and a special niece who lives in Columbia. She's a huge fan of the Kansas City Chiefs and MU Tigers. She enjoys antiques, music concerts, car shows, the beach, and Missouri in the fall.

Jerry Kiesling grew up around mid-Missouri. He was raised in the UCC and became aware of CUCC's mission to be open and affirming and started watching our online services. He worked in many jobs helping others: Nursing Home Activity Director/Social Services, Paraprofessional, Hospital Social Worker, and Director of Adult Day Center, and he is currently working as a Mental Health Counselor. Jerry lives with his partner, Eloy Montenegro, and their two dogs, two cats, and 20 goats. His hobbies include cheesemaking, baking, music, and camping and hiking, especially in the fall.



-Jessica Lucas



Health Ministry Care Team

Don't forget to sign-up/register for our **February 12 Hands-only CPR training** and information on how to use an AED. Sign up in the gathering area or by emailing me at Heine@missouri.edu by **February 5**. We need to know soon because we will be having lunch since it's after church, and we need to plan enough time for our lunch and learn.

Hot off the press: With the new year starting, we think there is no better way to start it than with a new strength training routine (or keeping up the good ones). Classes started this week for the following, so register ASAP if interested – see links below:

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy – Level 1: [CLICK HERE](#)

Stay Strong, Stay Healthy – Level 2: [CLICK HERE](#)

Contact [Marta Oliveira](#) if you have further questions or check out the [Website](#).

<https://extension.missouri.edu/programs/stay-strong-stay-healthy>

Also, check out: [Living a Health Life with Chronic Pain](#)



Heritage Team

UNDER THE STAIRS (Columbia UCC's Secret Hiding Space)

Did you know there's a secret hiding space within the walls of Columbia UCC? You've probably walked past it or even on top of it. Did you know it's "under the stairs" on the lower level across the hall from the Office? Oops, so much for SECRET spaces!!

Under the stairs is a treasure trove of cardboard boxes (yes cardboard), filled with historical information about CUCC. Folder after folder of church bulletins, annual reports, financial reports, pictures, and monthly newsletters (the first being "The Elevator") from 1920 to the present are stored there. There are even candles from past Christmas Eve services!!

Below are just a few tidbits of information about the early days of The Chapel/CUCC found under the stairs in a folder dated 1930.

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 1930 | Rev. Oscar Mussman replaced Rev. Berlekamp. |
| 1931 | Budget for 1930-31 was \$250.14; Pastor's salary was \$75.00. |
| Oct. 1931 | First meeting of the Facilities Building Committee. |
| 9-9-1932 | Building contract awarded to Phillips Construction with low bid of \$9,455.00. |
| 9-26-1932 | Construction begins. |
| 1932 | The Evening Ladies Aid sent tiny aprons with a request to return it with the pocket containing a penny per inch of the donor's waist. Money donated would go to the building fund. |
| 2-11-1933 | The Chapel was dedicated at 315 Hitt Street, Columbia, MO. |
| 12-14-1933 | From "The Elevator," the monthly newsletter: First Christmas Dinner held "with all the fixins' for 25 cents." |
| May 1933 | One of the Chapel House Rules: smoking shall be permitted only in the Pastor's study and living room. |
| 1934 | Sunday bulletins show Hymn #2, 1st stanza, was the opening hymn EVERY Sunday. The name of the hymn was not included. |
| Jan. 1936 | Sleigh ride: mules pulled sleigh and members ran alongside. |
| 1936 | Executive Board Meeting: raised student pastor salary from \$720 to \$900. Discussion on how to raise the \$180.00 difference. |
| 1936 | The Chapel participated in a Drama Fest in Boonville with 3 other E&R churches. The Chapel presented, "The Fingers of God." |
| 1939 | Rev. Harold Wilke became pastor. |



By Jolene Hackman

International Missions

MISSION WITH CHIAPAS – IMMERSION EXPERIENCE 2023, JUNE 8-15

by Pastor Rick

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 in October, 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 the summer of 2023! We will leave St. Louis on June 8 and return on June 15. 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 work will be suited for all abilities; all are welcome to come along, from age 16 up to age 90+! (Due to the nature of the trip, we are not encouraging anyone under 16 to participate yet.)

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 other 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 April 1. Registration will include the completed registration form, a copy of your passport, and a copy of your COVID vaccination card.

This will be an amazing, life-changing experience! Make plans now to come along!



Book Study with Pastor Rick on Thursdays

Are you ready for some REAL TALK?

Pastor Rick will be hosting a Book Study in honor of Black History Month 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: February 16 and 23, and March 2, 9, and 16 at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall. Copies of the book will be available in the church office. You need not read the whole book for the first session; in fact, it would be preferable if we read it together in sections. You only need to read the first 19 pages for the first class! We will discuss the introduction and Chapter 1 on February 16; Chapters 2, 3, 4, and 5 on the consecutive Thursdays. If you are planning to attend, email Pastor Rick to let him know.

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.

EXCITING EVENTS AT CUCC

February 21: Fastnacht! With a special focus on the history of this tradition at CUCC.

March 19: Chili Cookoff! Bring your chili recipe and compete for the golden ladle.

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!

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday services will be February 22 at 7:00 p.m. We will observe the traditional imposition of ashes and celebrate communion together. This is the beginning of the Lenten Season, a time when Christians typically give something up or take something on new to remind themselves of God’s presence in their lives and Christ’s command to love one another.



**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**

Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team

LOAVES & FISHES

The January 16, 2023 meal at Loaves and Fishes consisted of chili mac (prepared by Mary Lorber-Solt and Valerie Young), lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson), and an assortment of desserts. PB and J's were made and donated by Mahree Skala. For the first time in a long time, we used REAL plates and silverware. It sure does save on the expense of paper products! Servers were Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Debby (Mary's sister), Patty Beeson, Judi Privitt, Valerie Young, and Anne Heine. The dishwasher team was Doug Privitt, Derek Flood-Lorber, and Derek's son, Cason. Thank you SO MUCH to everyone for all the great help! If you are interested in helping, please let [Audrey Lasley](#) know.

Come Serve at the Food Bank

After taking a break in December, the Food Bank crew reconvened in January. The next shift will be on Tuesday, February 28, 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. We always have fun and have the satisfaction of knowing that we are helping people, who couldn't afford it otherwise, eat a healthy diet.

Sign up to help out on February 28, 2023 by clicking [here](#).

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



Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary Partnership Friend Update

"Thank you all so much for all you do for us!" That's what Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School says to us so often! They are very appreciative of every bit of ministry each of you does for them. Hopefully, you saw the shopping cart fill up in the Gathering Area with AHL needed items. Thank you for all your donations. On Monday, January 30, I delivered them.

The next Parent-Teacher Conferences week is February 27 - March 3, and we will seek food item donations to help "Stock the Lounge" to help teachers and staff stay fed during these long days and evenings.

"Read Across America Week" is the week of March 6-10, 2023, and the AHL Huskies students will be very excited to see guests read to them that week. If interested, [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up or 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 that the parents and teachers can have fun with the students. A Carnival poster will be in the Gathering Area.

Teacher Appreciation Week is May 8-12, 2023, and we will try to provide food and other appreciation items for the teachers that week.

There's lots happening with our Columbia Public School Partner Friend, and you are making a difference in someone's life!

Thank you!

Llona Weiss

Liaison for CUCC to AHL, Our Partnership Friend



Thank You!!



**BELIEVE
THERE IS
GOOD IN
THE WORLD**

Please accept our appreciation of your generous and faithful participation in the 27th annual Columbia CROP Hunger Walk.

Dear Friends,

Your gift will make an immediate difference in the lives of the abused women and children we serve at Lydia's House.

Many of our women come to Lydia's House full of fear and uncertainty about the future, but your gift will make a direct difference for these women, helping to provide housing for up to two years in a safe and stable environment, while the women begin healing in the process.

One of the strengths of Lydia's House is our investment in the spiritual growth and healing of the women and children. Our open and inclusive atmosphere honors women wherever they are on their spiritual journey and ultimately supports their independence.

Lydia's House will continue to work in faith to end domestic violence by being a place of healing and a voice of hope for abused women and their children. With the help of donations from supporters like you, we will continue to be a bridge to freedom for the women and children who seek to escape violent homes.



Gratefully,

Karen T. Kirk
President & CEO

Dear Friends,



Thank you for your generous donation to Growing Hope Globally. We are grateful that you have joined us in growing lasting solutions to hunger. For more than 20 years, we have worked alongside our partners, helping people around the world to improve their incomes and food security. Your gift means that even more people will experience the dignity and hope of providing for themselves!

Thank you for loving your global neighbors!
Max Finberg, President & CEO

We are so grateful for your continued support of our school.

We hope your holiday season was full of love, joy, and laughter!



Wishing you the best,
Alpha Hart
Lewis Family

Thank you for your gifts. Your generosity makes an impact in the lives of the individuals who VAC serves daily through our FISH Fund. The FISH Fund stands for Faith in Service to Humanity. Thanks to your support, we are directly helping our neighbors who are struggling.



CUCC
Columbia United Church of Christ
2281 Interstate 70 Drive NW
Columbia, MO 65204

100th

Columbia United Church of Christ

100th Anniversary Celebration

"Celebrating our Past, Embracing our Future"

Save the Date

Save the date for monthly events to celebrate CUCC's **100th anniversary!**
Each month we will also focus on a decade in the history of our church.

January 22nd
Potluck after worship service with entertainment & presentation of our history.

February 21st
Fastnacht with a special focus on the history of this tradition at CUCC

March 19th
Chili Cookoff and a discussion of CUCC's history of advocacy

September 30th - October 1st
Come gather round for a night of fellowship and celebration at the MU Health Care Pavilion at the Farmers Market on Ash St. on Saturday afternoon & evening followed by a special worship service on Sunday morning

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage **PAID** Columbia, MO Permit No. 74

Join the celebration!
FOLLOW: CUCC 100th Anniversary Celebration page

February Birthdays to Celebrate

Amanda Forward 2/2	MJ King 2/4	Lori Melton 2/6
Joey Oberle 2/7	Melba Shaffer 2/7	Mark Brumbach 2/8
Elias Nieman 2/8	Sofia Crenshaw 2/9	Zabibu Kibaro 2/9
Tricia Price 2/9	Raj Tolani 2/9	Maia Crenshaw 2/11
Cindy Deegan 2/14	Danielle Dreier 2/14	Theodore Eveler 2/14
Ed Rollins 2/14	Debby Duermeyer 2/15	Imani Kibaro 2/15
Abigail Dennis 2/16	Liz Fischer 2/16	Devin Burrow 2/17
Donna Wilmsmeyer 2/17	Pat Forward 2/18	Nancy Liang 2/19
Mike Rapp 2/20	Jane Klick 2/21	Lorry Dreier 2/23
Stefanie Zimny 2/25	Gene Lavelly 2/26	Samantha Hall 2/27
Tim Grace 2/28		Darla Privitt 2/28

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

Summer Program

- 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 February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>5 9:00 a.m. Nominating Committee</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Heritage Team</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 6:30 p.m. Worship & Music Team</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 8 a.m. Eagle Project in the Fellowship Hall</p>
<p>12 HEART SUNDAY</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Fellowship</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Worship</p> <p>11:30 a.m. AED/CPR Training</p> <p>12 p.m. Nurture & Education Ministry Team</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>8 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Group</p> <p>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>9 9:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship</p> <p>6 p.m. LODO Math & Science Night</p>	<p>10 LODO CLOSED</p>	<p>11 7 a.m. Habitat for Humanity</p>
<p>19 9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00am Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am Worship</p> <p><i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p>20 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p> <p>12:00 p.m. Inclusion & Affirmation</p> <p>4:30 p.m. Loaves & Fishes</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Membership & Care</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Finance & Stewardship</p>	<p>21 Fastnacht</p> <p>10:00 a.m. Quilters</p>	<p>15 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</p>
<p>26 9:00am Sunday School</p> <p>10:00am Fellowship</p> <p>10:30am Worship</p> <p><i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p>27 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p>	<p>28 10:00 a.m. Quilters</p> <p>5:30 p.m. Food Bank</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Council Meeting</p>	<p>22 ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers Practice</p> <p>7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers</p>	<p>23 6:30 p.m. Book Study with Pastor Rick</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>

THE COMMUNICATOR

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



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Interested in Church Membership?

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