

A vertical steeple with a cross on top, centered in the background of the image.

COLUMBIA UCC

2025

ANNUAL

REPORT



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## **INTRODUCTION**

### **For Just Such a Time as This...**

*“For if you keep silence at such a time as this... you and your father’s family will perish.  
Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”  
-Esther 4:14*

Esther was a prophet with a fascinating story. She lived under the tyranny of King Ahasuerus. He was a narcissistic megalomaniac who exiled his former wife, Queen Vashti, for speaking her mind, attempted to exterminate the “foreigners” residing in his land, issued decrees regulating that all women must bow down and give honor to their husbands and that every man is the master of everyone in his house.

Into this environment, young Esther, a powerless orphan, was brought before the King. Her uncle, Mordecai, had a few connections in the palace and influenced some details to make her known to King Ahasuerus. Enthralled by her youth and beauty, Ahasuerus took Esther as his queen. Definitely a mixed bag of blessings. She was an immigrant, now married to a megalomaniac; cared for, but enslaved to the prosperity and austerity of her environment. She was both privileged and oppressed at the same time.

When King Ahasuerus began to issue pogroms against Esther’s people, the Jews, Esther had a choice; to be a silent automaton, doing the bidding of the King, or to speak up against the injustices of the King’s decrees. If she kept silent, she would have relative safety as an object of royal desire; but if she spoke up, she risked the same fate as her predecessor, Vashti. Esther’s uncle, Mordecai, advised her that perhaps she was created “for just such a time as this;” (cited above) to speak truth and justice to power, even when it is difficult or dangerous to do so.

We live in a culture similar to the culture of Esther. Explicit and implicit oppressors are wreaking havoc on our economy, our environment, our citizenry, and others residing in our land. As people of God, like Esther, we have a choice; to power down or speak up; to sit down or stand up. Perhaps, like Esther, we were created for just such a time as this.

The church, throughout history, has always been called to be the voice of dissent in times of oppression. From the schism of 1054 to the Reformation of 1517 to the German immigration of 1820 to the fights against enslavement, for women’s suffrage, and for civil rights, manifestations of church have embodied the spirit of Esther in their courageous prophetic practices. In our current culture, we must not be afraid to embrace the courage of our ancestors in faith; for perhaps we were created for just such a time as this.

As you read through this Annual Report, I hope you notice all the ways we are striving to be God’s voice for justice, righteousness, and equity in the world. Whether it is feeding the hungry, quenching the thirsty, visiting the sick and in prison, caring for Creation, empowering our children, welcoming the stranger, or restoring the dignity of those from whom dignity has been stolen, CUCC is standing up and speaking up. As you read this, I hope you will reflect on how you can follow in the footsteps of Esther and join us in doing the work of the church.

Happy Reading!

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Rick Oberle



# **CUCC Foundational Statements**

## **Mission Statement**

Columbia United Church of Christ celebrates God's boundless love by:

- Welcoming all of God's people;
- Nurturing faith and spiritual growth;
- Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship;
- Building a supportive church family;
- Transforming both the congregation and the community through service and outreach.

## **Core Values**

Columbia United Church of Christ seeks to express God's boundless love as it values being:

- Welcoming and inclusive of all people as all are created in God's image;
- Nurturing and supportive of people as everyone is God's precious child;
- Willing to extend God's grace and forgiveness as God extends grace and forgiveness;
- Intentionally aware of others as God is intentionally aware of each person.

Columbia United Church of Christ in its governance values:

- Adherence to the Constitution and Bylaws of the church;
- Intentional inclusion of diverse perspectives and voices on all decision-making bodies;
- Willingness to recognize conflict and resolve difference in a caring and respectful manner;
- Open and transparent decision-making processes;
- Making decisions by consensus rather than simple majority-rule whenever possible.

## **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.

# EXECUTIVE TEAM REPORTS





## **MODERATOR**

**PURPOSE:** To provide leadership for the Council and Congregation, working to ensure that the Constitution and Bylaws are followed, that the Mission Statement is lived out, and that components of the Strategic Plan are executed; to foster a loving, Christian environment consistent with our stated Core Values.

### **Highlights:**

As we reflect on 2025, I am filled with gratitude for the faithfulness and generosity of the Columbia United Church of Christ community. This year brought both challenges and blessings, and through it all, God's presence was evident in our lives together.

Financially, giving was slower in the beginning of the year, which required careful attention and faithful stewardship. Thanks to your continued commitment and generosity, giving increased as the year went on, and we ended 2025 within just a few thousand dollars shy of our budget; much better than the previous three years. This is a testament not only to your financial support, but to your trust and faith in God's work through this church.

The pages of this report outline the many ways the ministry teams worked to further God's love through the mission of Columbia United Church of Christ. I thank each of you for your time, talents, and generosity that made this possible.

God calls each of us to express love in our own individual ways. Throughout this year, our church lived into that calling. We welcomed new members into our community, strengthened our care for one another, and continued to share Christ's love beyond our walls. Whether through worship, service, fellowship, or quiet acts of kindness, which often only God sees, our congregation showed what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ.

We may never see the final results of every seed we plant or every opportunity we create for someone else to experience God's love. Yet we know this is our mission- to love, to serve, and to trust God with the outcomes. As we move forward together, may we continue to be guided by faith, generosity, and hope.

Thank you for all the ways you support the mission and ministry of Columbia United Church of Christ. It is an honor to serve alongside you.

With gratitude and faith,  
Jerry Keisling,  
Moderator



## **VICE MODERATOR: VISION TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** The Vision Team shall be comprised of the Vice Moderator, who shall chair the team, the Pastor, and one representative chosen by each of the ministry teams, and the youth. It shall meet at least twice each year at the call of its chair

I began my service as vice-moderator in November 2025. When asked to serve, I was, frankly, both astonished and honored. Learning that the position meant that I would be working with the nine ministry teams as they evaluate their progress on their current goals and incorporate their visions and specific goals for next year AND learning the ropes for serving as moderator for the following two years, I paused.

Never having served on Church Council before, I wanted to talk with Jerry and Pastor Rick about my responsibilities in addition to work with the ministry teams. I attended the October Council meeting to get a feel for how it worked. I wanted to get a sense for the time commitments required to fulfill my position. Then, I thought about what I'd learned and prayed for God's guidance concerning making this service commitment at this time in my life. Then, I agreed to serve, feeling called to and welcoming this opportunity. I'm looking forward to the months and years ahead, helping our church move ahead, doing God's work and developing new and deeper friendships amongst the team members as we work together.

Since officially being on the Council, I have attended Council meetings and been able to attend two Ministry Team meetings. Unfortunately, during Christmas, I developed a persistent virus, so I missed two other meetings. So, I've some catch-up to do. I did meet with the Worship and Music Ministry Team and the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team. I'm impressed with the range of topics each team is addressing, the knowledge, the expertise, and time all team members are devoting to gathering and evaluating information, considering alternatives, including weighting costs, and sharing responsibilities for various tasks.

I plan to meet with each of the teams to learn about their work and to gather from them their vision for the next year and specific goals for implementing those visions. I'll finally meet with a representative from each team in one meeting to finalize the vision and goals, while also discussing where there are opportunities for teams to work together.

Serving as Vice-Moderator, I'm learning, is a wonderful opportunity to gain a broader and deeper understanding and appreciation for what makes us as a congregation function in our efforts to embody our roles as God's disciples in being a church family and reaching out to our community and world.

At this point, I'm taking in a lot of information, looking at each teams' goals and will be talking with them about their visions for strengthening what they currently do. This includes making any changes in approaches or in activities they believe will increase involvement of congregation members, enhance our effectiveness, attract more new members to our church, and explore new ways to develop our personal and collective relationships with God.

As an individual on my own spiritual journey, I seek to develop my relationship with God in ways that extend into my daily life, as I try to live out what Jesus and people sharing His lessons and example taught me, that I learned in the Center Congregational Church in Torrington, CT (the church where I grew up); at summer church camps in Connecticut; at the Congregational Church in Storrs, CT (where I was a UCONN student); at the Mount Zion Baptist Church in Bunceton, MO (where Joe and I were VISTA volunteers serving the Afro-American community); and here at Columbia United Church of Christ.

Thank you,  
Corinne Remeika,  
Vice Moderator





# **CUCC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2026 (AND BEYOND)**

## **CARING FOR EACH OTHER**

- ◆ Advocate for policies that provide support for others.
- ◆ Incorporate everyone's talents into the work and life of the church.
- ◆ Formulate support & education classes for parents and children.
- ◆ Improve staff training and professional development.
- ◆ Ensure that our staff are paid just wages.
- ◆ Discern and address the needs of our older members.
- ◆ Strive to meet the needs of our members where they are.

## **ESTABLISHING OUR IDENTITY**

- ◆ Increase public awareness of our mission and location.
- ◆ Increase our advertising/marketing efforts.
- ◆ Consistently canvass the neighborhood north of the church.
- ◆ Attract more members, focusing on youth and diversity.
- ◆ Strive for intentionality incorporating youth and young adults into the life of the church.
- ◆ Strive for intentionality incorporating a diverse community into the life of the church.

## **DEVELOPING OUR FACILITY**

- ◆ Continue to modernize and maintain our building and grounds.
- ◆ Develop a comprehensive maintenance manual with records, goals and strategies for modernization and maintenance.
- ◆ Seek out new ways to utilize our building to enhance our ministry and generate income.
- ◆ Establish financial security for our ongoing ministry programs.
- ◆ Establish our facility as a host site for music groups, choirs, concerts, lecturer series, and other public events.

## **SERVING GOD'S WORLD**

- ◆ Partner with other agencies that share our goals & interests.
- ◆ Create a fulfilling, engaging, inclusive Sunday morning experience.
- ◆ Develop partnerships with others to share our facility.
- ◆ Strive for intentionality in connecting children, youth and adults to outreach and service opportunities.
- ◆ Look for ways to reach out to other UCC congregations and work together for justice.
- ◆ Strive to identify ways that we can be socially responsible and educated in areas of ecological justice, international mission, and other justice issues at home and abroad.

# **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**

## **CUCC Annual Congregational Meeting May 18, 2025 | CUCC Fellowship Hall**

The meeting was called to order at 12:41p.m. by Kurt Heine after the congregation had a chance to get through the potluck lines. Pastor Rick and Kristin Veteto lead the congregation in a few camp songs prior to the official meeting. A motion was introduced by Shelly Adams and seconded by Lena Muench to accept last year's meeting minutes; motion passed.

Jerry Kiesling presented the positions that were fulfilled through the nominating committee and offered gratitude for that committee's work. Two positions are still open: Vice Moderator and Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team Chair. Jerry presented a motion from the Nominating Committee to elect the slate as presented. Motion passed.

Kurt offered confirmation that there will be more information provided to the congregation regarding the fire incident when all information is gathered including the insurance claim and other matters around that event.

Council members then gathered around a pretend campfire to share their yearly review in the form of a campfire story.

Lena Muench (Nurture and Education) - Lena shared about record numbers in attendance at VBS, the congregation's incredible ability to show up and support with VBS, the 2024/25 Sunday School year change (food, curriculum, etc.), the development of "Sonic Sunday" for the youth to encourage attendance. She mentioned the importance of keeping this a priority this coming year. She shared encouragement and welcomed others to join in the efforts.

Shelly Adams (Finance and Stewardship) - Shelly called Keith Birkes to the campfire to tell of a story about a gentleman who was contemplating giving to his alma mater and church which highlighted the importance of asking specifically for planned giving. Keith and Shelly also shared information about the Endowment Fund as a long-term project of CUCC with a goal of 2 million. Once the fund is at \$500,000 it can begin to be used for church needs. More information to come this year.

Mary Lorber (Fellowship and Hospitality) - Mary shared a campfire story poem about all the events that CUCC does each year and the importance of everyone being involved.

Alisa Lau-Sieckman (Inclusion and Affirmation) - Alisa shared inclusion moments from the year and handed out rainbow marshmallows around the fire.

Judi Privitt (Membership and Care) - Judi walked through all of the different groups under the membership and care umbrella committee including prayer shawl, transportation team, prayer team, notes and card writers, handy helpers, meal ministries, and health care. Sue Ann Schafer also shared a story about the connections made when one visits people in the home.

Ted Dachroeden (Building and Grounds) - Ted shared a story regarding all of the maintenance of the church including installing lights for the night, clearing trees, floods with LODO, HVAC system maintenance and repair, etc.

Edie Diel (Worship and Music) - Edie thanked those that do work and shared the story of her coming to CUCC in 2012. She mentioned the uniqueness of the ministry team and the things they will be discussing such as whether to have a 9:30 a.m. church service in the summer months. Everyone is welcome to share their thoughts.

## **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES CONT.**

Deborah Long Birkes (Treasurer) - Deborah shared that it is a tumultuous time in the world and related the importance of “love in action” and giving being a part that we can do. She encouraged the congregation to give more as CUCC continues to be active in our community and around the world with the organizations we partner with.

Mark Duncan (Outreach and Advocacy) - Mark shared about all that the committee does including Team Earth and the Creation Justice designation process, reproductive freedom initiative, Mobility Worldwide, CROP Walk, Loaves and Fishes, The Food Bank, our Alpha Hart Lewis partnership, and others. Mark highlighted the importance of the work and impact we do as a church.

Kristin Veteto (LODO) - Kristin shared a campfire story about the transitions in LODO this past year with Erika Maltsbarger leaving and Sara Koenig stepping in to lead the program and some of the ideas Sara has for the program moving forward.

Pastor Rick shared the story of three churches of different sizes and identified CUCC as a midsize church. He said that we are doing the work of a Program Church (a typically larger church that makes a significant impact on its community through its programs and missions), but we don't yet have the Institutional Capacity (attendance and funds). We need to grow so we can share God's love. He encouraged the congregation to share with friends, on social media, and in other ways.

Kurt Heine (Moderator) - Kurt shared a song that spoke about highlights during his term as Moderator including working on the church van, replacing our HVAC system, the New Century Sanctuary remodel, among other things. He then welcomed Jerry Kiesling to the Moderator position.

Meeting was adjourned around 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristin Veteto,  
on behalf of Alethea Tennill, Secretary





# **CUCC BUDGET MEETING MINUTES**

## **CUCC Visioning and Strategic Planning/Budget meeting October 26, 2025**

Moderator Jerry Kiesling announced a quorum was established and called the budget meeting to order. Copies of the budget and notes were made available at church and were emailed in advance of the meeting. Jerry opened the floor for questions.

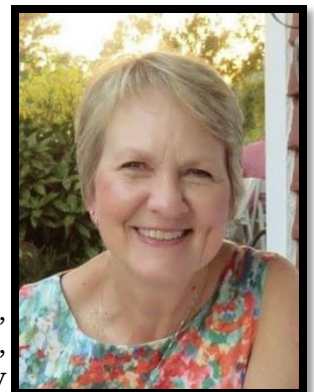
- ♦ We have budgeted for offering envelopes, is this an expense we can eliminate? Can we have an opt in for envelopes rather than an opt out? For those that want the envelopes, can we produce envelopes in house? Jerry indicated this is something that the Finance and Stewardship committee is considering.
- ♦ We have reduced the cleaning expense, is this a wise choice? We have a lovely facility that needs to be properly maintained. Jerry explained that we currently use a cleaning service and have Caleb doing minor repairs and larger cleaning projects (i.e. washing windows.) It is proposed that we eliminate the cleaning service and have Caleb perform the routine cleaning. The congregation would be asked to pitch in on some of the other projects. Pastor Rick indicated that Caleb did weeding of the beds around the church, perhaps a group of interested people could form a garden club and do the weeding. Larger cleaning projects could be done on a periodic work day, similar to what was done in the past. It was requested to have a list of tasks that need to be done by the congregation be included in the Communicator.
- ♦ Why do we not do pledge cards to try to determine the giving level in conjunction with preparation of the budget? Seems this would give a better idea of the income so expenses can be planned accordingly.
- ♦ Requested an update on the open council positions. Jerry indicated someone is considering the Vice Moderator position; the Finance and Stewardship position is still open.

Deborah Long-Birkes joined by phone. She thanked the congregation for their support of the current year budget. Lena Muench indicated the council discussed other ways to reduce costs and that some of the items will be researched for feasibility.

Jerry asked if there were any other questions. Since there were none, Carol Duermeyer moved that to adopt the budget and it was seconded. Majority voted to adopt the budget.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Staelens,  
On behalf of Alethea Tennill, Secretary



# **CUCC SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES**

## **CUCC Special Congregational Meeting for Solar Panel Contract December 07, 2025**

Jerry Kiesling, Moderator, called the meeting to order and informed us that a quorum was present. He reviewed the purpose of the meeting, to seek congregational affirmation of the motion brought to the congregation by the Church Council. He read the motion:

*“The CUCC Council introduces a motion that the congregation of Columbia United Church of Christ enter into a contract with Dogwood Solar to purchase and install a solar power generating system at a net cost of \$100,533 and that the expense of this purchase be taken from the undesignated CUCC investment accounts with United Church Funds. We also direct that money received in federal direct pay IRS credits from this purchase (\$40,213) be reinvested into our United Church Funds accounts to replace the money used for the initial purchase. Furthermore, we direct that the Council enter into a loan agreement with the City of Columbia for up to \$30,000 at 3% interest for five years to offset the cost of this system and that the money received from the city loan be reinvested into our United Church Funds accounts to replace the money used for the initial purchase.”*

Mahree Skala presented information about the process that the Council used to come to this motion, highlighting the meetings with Dogwood Solar, the congregational forums, and the Communicator articles that shared information with the congregation. She discussed the steps taken by the church over the past several years to become more energy efficient. She also presented the financial details for the solar project and discussed the reasons why this decision needed to be made by the end of the year, to receive the maximum solar credits possible.

A question-and-answer session followed, with Jerry and Mahree providing answers to the questions that were asked by congregation members.

A motion was introduced by Rev. Bryan Crousore to end debate and vote on the pending motion. The motion was seconded by Edie Diel.

Charlie Marcks and Phillip Neale were appointed tellers for the meeting. They distributed ballots and reminded everyone to sign their ballots. After voting, Charlie and Phillip collected the ballots and retired to count.

Upon returning and reporting, Jerry reported that the count was 80 votes affirming the motion and 7 votes against the motion. Motion passed with a 91% majority.

Pastor Rick led the congregation in prayer before dismissal.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judi Privitt,  
on behalf of Alethea Tennill, Secretary



## **OVERVIEW OF 2025 FINANCIALS - TREASURER**

**PURPOSE:** To assist the Church Council by maintaining financial records and providing monthly management accounts to assist in financial decision making.

### **2025 Financial Highlights:**

The 2026 budget was approved at the November congregational meeting. The new budget is \$401,621 reflecting a concerted effort to minimize expenses without compromising our support of outreach and advocacy efforts. This represents a decrease of \$37,540 from the 2025 budget (\$439,161).

- ♦ Joyful Giving: the Joyful Giving total for 2025 was \$414,885. Our budgeted goal was \$424,361 leaving a shortfall of \$9,476 under our Joyful Giving goal. We withdrew \$40,167 from our investment account to help cover this Joyful Giving deficit.
- ♦ Designated Funds: Designated Funds invested with United Church Funds reflected the improved market conditions and we ended the year with a net unrealized gain. The 2025 increase in value, realized and unrealized capital gains, of these funds was \$72,880.
- ♦ Scholarship Fund: three college scholarships were awarded through the Scholarship Fund for a total of \$6,000. The scholarship recipients were Kaden Lucas, Zabibu Kibaro, and Ember Piersee.
- ♦ Building Fund: \$42,142 of “new money” was transferred to the Building Fund which represents a monthly transfer of 3% of Joyful Giving and donations. Council decided to suspend withdrawal of 3% for the coming year. We withdrew \$20,699 from our Building Fund in 2025 to pay for building upgrades. Currently we have \$104,033 in the Building Fund and \$71,552 in the New Floor Fund to replace flooring in the downstairs meeting space.
- ♦ Transportation Fund: the decision was made to sell or donate the CUCC van due to lack of use and insurance expenses incurred.
- ♦ LODO Designated Fund: the LODO Designated Fund ended the year with a balance of \$9,561.
- ♦ Endowment Fund: the Endowment fund currently has a balance of \$82,017. A total of \$500,000 will be needed before any funds can be spent.

All UCF Accounts: the total of all of the UCF accounts is \$577,286. This, and all funds, are open to estate donations, stock donations, ongoing contributions, and one-time donations. Detailed information on these funds is included in a separate Designated Funds report.

On December 7, the Solar Sub-Committee of the Council introduced a motion to the congregation to enter into a contract with Dogwood Solar to purchase and install a solar power generating system at a net cost of \$100,533. The expense of this purchase will be taken from the Undesignated CUCC investment accounts with United Church Funds. Money received in federal direct pay IRS credits from this purchase (\$40,213) will be reinvested into our United Church Funds accounts to replace the money used for the initial purchase. We have entered into a loan agreement with the City of Columbia for up to \$30,000 at 3% interest for five years to offset the cost of this system. Money received from the city loan will be reinvested into our United Church Funds accounts to replace the money used for the initial purchase. Ninety-one percent of our membership approved moving forward with the project.

As treasurer I am humbled by the dedication and generosity of our members. Because of this commitment to our church, we have been able to carry our many local and international services to others and continue to make building updates and improvements. I want to thank the Finance and Stewardship Committee and the Church Council for their guidance and input. I want to give a special thank you to Alexandra Roper, Pastor Rick, Christine Staelens, and Sue Ann Schaefer for their patience and support. I couldn't do this without them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Long-Birkes,  
Treasurer





## **BUDGETED OUTREACH & ADVOCACY DISBURSEMENTS**

The following are missions that are supported in our CUCC Annual Budget in the following amounts. Some of these agencies receive more than this through special offerings, but these amounts are in our regular budget, approved by the congregation.

<b>Recipient</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>
<b><u>Special Mission Project</u></b>		
2024– VAC Opportunity Campus; 2025– TBD	\$0	\$0
<b><u>Wider Mission</u></b>		
Back Bay Mission	\$1,300.00	\$800.00
Eden Seminary	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Emmaus Homes	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Global Ministries INESIN	\$500.00	\$500.00
Global Ministries Melel Xojobal	\$500.00	\$500.00
Growing Hope Globally	\$1,100.00	\$600.00
Lydia's House	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
PATCH of Chillicothe	\$900.00	\$900.00
UCC Refuge Assistance - International Emergency Fund	\$2,600.00	\$1,600.00
<b>Total Wider Mission</b>	<b>\$10,400.00</b>	<b>\$8,400.00</b>
<b><u>Local Mission</u></b>		
Alpha Hart Lewis	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
City of Refuge	\$1,000.00	\$1,500.00
Columbia Older Adult Ministries	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Fun City Academy	\$500.00	\$500.00
Grade A Plus	\$500.00	\$500.00
LOVE Columbia	\$800.00	\$800.00
Ronald McDonald House Charities Mid-Missouri	\$500.00	\$500.00
Russell Chapel CME Church Food Pantry	\$300.00	\$300.00
Show Me Central Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
The Center Project	\$500.00	\$500.00
The Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri	\$800.00	\$800.00
The Food Bank Market	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Turning Point Ministries	\$3,100.00	\$3,100.00
Voluntary Action Center	\$4,100.00	\$4,100.00
<b>Total Local Mission</b>	<b>\$16,100</b>	<b>\$16,600.00</b>
<b>TOTAL BUDGETED MISSION GIVING</b>	<b>\$26,500</b>	<b>\$25,000.00</b>

## **DESIGNATED FUNDS**

Columbia United Church of Christ has twelve Designated Funds, structured and defined to do specific work of the church. Definitions of each fund are in our “Designated Funds Policy Manual” available in the church office or from a Council Member. These funds include:

<b>Fund:</b>	<b>Balance</b>	<b>1/1/2023</b>	<b>1/1/2024</b>	<b>1/1/2025</b>	<b>1/1/2026</b>
*Building & Grounds		\$58,106	\$67,312	\$88,813	\$104,033
Chiapas Mission/Mayan Ministries		\$1,384	(\$239)	\$0.91	\$0.91
*Memorial		\$8,603	\$9,853	\$10,960	\$17,392
*Nurture & Education Ministry		\$8,480	\$10,322	\$12,156	\$14,915
Outreach & Advocacy		\$5,935	\$4,288	\$6,819	\$8,197
*Scholarship		\$121,569	\$130,498	\$138,598	\$154,140
*Transportation		\$6,816	\$7,806	\$5,253	\$6,248
Worship & Music Ministry		\$3,265	\$1,965	\$1,965	\$4,522
*Young Adult/Campus Ministry		\$2,073	\$2,374	\$2,594	\$3,000
*Youth Ministry		\$6,291	\$7,206	\$7,888	\$9,126
*LODO Ministry				\$5,090	\$9,561
*Endowment Fund				\$62,144	\$82,017
*New Floor Fund (established in 2025)					\$71,552
<i>*Invested with United Church Funds</i>					

In September 2025, the Church Council approved a recommendation from the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team to open the New Floor Fund. This fund was established utilizing funds that were donated to renovate the aging floor in the Fellowship Hall and downstairs hallway. As of December 31, 2025, our balances with UCF for all accounts totaled **\$577,285. In 2025 these accounts increased in value by \$72,880 in dividend, realized, and unrealized capital gains.**

**We also added \$42,142 in “new money” to our Building Fund**, which was 3% of our Joyful Giving in 2025, plus donations. We withdrew \$20,699 from our Building Fund to pay for building upgrades. We withdrew \$6,000 from our Scholarship Fund in 2025 to fund three awarded scholarships to college students Kaden Lucas, Zabibu Kibaro, and Ember Piersee. We also withdrew \$40,167 from our main investment account to cover the Joyful Giving shortfall in early 2025.

The positive growth in the stock market in 2023-2025 were beneficial to our funds and helped correct the values lost in 2022. Our goal for 2026 will be growth in our Endowment Fund, so it can start benefitting the ministries of the church. All of these funds are open to estate donations, stock donations, ongoing contributions, or one-time donations. Please remember CUCC in your Estate Planning. If you would like to set up a recurring gift or an estate donation to one of these, contact me, and we will work together to set that up. Thank you!

Respectfully submitted,  
Deborah Long-Birkes,  
Treasurer



## **RECORDING TREASURER**

**PURPOSE:** Purpose: To receive, record, and deposit all monetary contributions.

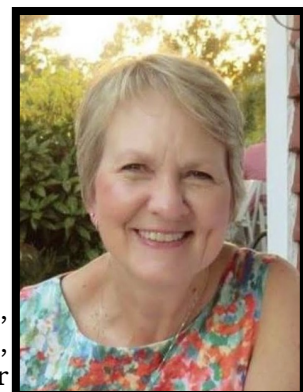
### **Activities/Highlights:**

Joyful Giving for 2025 was \$414,884.67 which was 12.15% more than the 2024 Joyful Giving. The 2025 actual was less than the budgeted amount of \$424,361 but was much less than the prior year budget shortfall.

In addition to Joyful Giving, you also gave significant amounts for designated funds during the year. The Flooring Fund, Solar Fund and Endowment Fund received significant donations which are greatly appreciated.

A significant portion of support of Columbia United Church of Christ that doesn't show up on our financials, is the time and talent given generously by so many of you. Thank you so much for all you do for our church and community!

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Staelens,  
Recording Treasurer



## **CLERGY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT**

**PURPOSE:** The Clergy Personnel Committee serves in two primary ways: as an advisory group to the Pastor (the committee shares ideas, dreams, hopes, expectations and concerns of the congregation with the pastor) and as support for Pastor's Leadership (the committee interprets roles, functions and needs of the Pastor to the congregation.)

### **Goals:**

- ♦ Professional growth and well-being of the Pastor.
- ♦ The promotion of mutual ministry between the Pastor and the congregation.

The committee meets at least quarterly to support Pastor Rick and discuss developments within the congregation, including celebrations and appreciations, as well as concerns and disappointments. We discuss Pastor Rick's goals and progress toward them.

Our committee consists of three members serving staggered three-year terms, wherein one member is elected by the Congregation each year at the Annual Meeting:

Kristy Hayward - Term ends May 2026

Mark Duncan - Term ends May 2027

Sue Ann Schaefer – Term ends May 2028

### **Account of 2025:**

The Clergy Personnel Committee met regularly with Pastor Rick throughout the year to provide support and feedback for the ongoing ministry of Columbia UCC. We discussed a broad variety of topics each time we met, from inevitable challenges to the exciting addition of new members. We also developed, disseminated, and compiled results of the Annual Pastoral Evaluation beginning in May of 2025. The input from Council members was discussed with Pastor Rick for the purposes of reflection and goal setting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristy Hayward,  
Clergy Personnel Committee Chair



# STAFF REPORTS





## **PASTOR'S REPORT**

*This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He did not deny it, but confessed, "I am not the Messiah." They asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" They asked. He answered, "No." Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"*

*He said, "I am the voice of the one crying out in the wilderness, 'prepare the way of the Lord!'" as the prophet Isaiah said.*

*Now they had been sent by the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?" John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me. I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal." This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.*

*-John 1:19-28*

The prophet John the Baptizer is a curious man. All four Gospels have accounts of this prophetic person, but each one paints a different picture. The author of the Gospel attributed to Matthew speaks of him as a wild, unclean man who ate unclean foods and proclaimed a message of repentance. His words in this Gospel are pointed and challenging, calling the Pharisees and Sadducees a brood of vipers and telling them the axe is at the root of the tree, ready to cut them down. Later in this Gospel, John's followers question Jesus, (*Matt. 11:2-19*) asking if he is the one to whom John was referring in his ministry. Jesus gives a cryptic answer that basically affirms their presumptions. John's followers then follow Jesus. Later in this same Gospel (*Matt. 14:1-12*) John is killed for remaining faithful to his ministry of repentance (and making Herodias angry).

The author of the Gospel attributed to Mark does not tell us as much about John the Baptizer, but he does tell us that John is 'preparing the way' for Jesus. Everything John does is about preparation, letting Jesus have the glory after he is gone. He preaches, proclaims a message of repentance, baptizes Jesus, and then disappears. He reappears in Mark 6:14 only to die in a manner similar to the account in the Gospel attributed to Matthew.

The author of the Gospel we attribute to Luke gives us a bit more backstory to John. He takes us back to John's conception, God's gracious gift bestowed upon John's parents, Elizabeth and Zechariah. In this Gospel, John's conception is seen as divine, giving more authority to his testimony of repentance. John's message here is as pointed as it is in the Gospel attributed to Matthew, but he also gives instruction in ways of humility and inclusive love. Jesus uses John's example as an illustrative tool (*Luke 7:18-35*) to chastise the crowds for not listening well to prophetic witness.

By the time we come to the Gospel that is attributed to (a different) John, we hear more depth in John the Baptizer's prophetic message. The author of this Gospel speaks of John as being sent directly from God to prepare the way for Jesus. John the Baptizer is a divine messenger here; not just a prophetic man or even Jesus' cousin (as Luke claims). John does not only speak of repentance for his followers in this Gospel, he also testifies to the divinity of Jesus. He calls Jesus, "The lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" and is among the first to say, "This is the Son of God." After John offers these prophetic testimonies, his followers, whom he had been preparing for years, leave him behind and follow Jesus. This was John's intent all along; he was just preparing the way for Jesus to come.

My heart goes out to John. He worked hard to prepare the way for Jesus, but always played second fiddle. He talked of Jesus' eventual arrival, he pointed people to Jesus when he arrived, he prepared Jesus for ministry by baptizing him in the River Jordan, and he stepped aside when his followers decided to follow Jesus. It could be argued that he even paved the way for Jesus' eventual death, by dying first at the hands of Herod for being faithful to his message. Many scholars say that one of the reasons Jesus' Galilean ministry was so popular is because John paved the way with his message of repentance. In many ways, it seems like John does not get the recognition he deserves for all he did.

John knew, in his heart, that his time was limited and he was just paving the way for something (someone) greater to come along. He laid the foundation, and Jesus built a ministry upon it. But then again, isn't that what Jesus did, as well? Jesus most likely realized that the more popular he grew and more dangerous his prophetic witness became the more likely he was to die a young, early, death. He most likely knew he was not going to be around forever; so he laid a foundation for his disciples to build upon. That is just what they did.

The Actions of the Apostles tells us of the glorious, flawed, church built by the next generations after Jesus; and three generations after Jesus died, that third generation thought it best to share their faith with us in those prophetic Gospel narratives. By the time these Gospels were written, the early Christian Church had spread like wildfire all around the Mediterranean basin, including the heart of the Roman Empire. Tens of thousands of Christians were sharing the Good News of God's gracious and inclusive love; all because one Wild Man clothed in camel's hair with a leather belt and a knapsack full of wild honey decided to lay the foundation for what was to come next. The root of Christianity is certainly Jesus; but John laid the foundation.

Like John, like Jesus, like the first-generation Christians who laid the foundation for the eventual Gospel writers, we are also laying the foundation for who will come after us. The Rev. Dr. John Bracke, the Interim Minister who served this congregation before I was called here, knew that he was only serving a two-year contract. His job, in those two years, was to lay a foundation on which the next pastor (me, as it turns out) could build a successful ministry. The incredible ministry work we have done these past eight years (and it has been incredible) is because John (Bracke, not the Baptizer) laid a foundation for us in his interim time.

***I like to remind the Church leadership that we are all interims.*** Council members can only serve a maximum of four years, and then they are term-limited off. I may be here ten years or twenty years, you never know; but either way, my time here is finite. Each of us has an expiration date on our designated duties in the church; each of us is an interim. The big question that I tell our leadership is, how can they leave their position better than they found it? How can they build up their ministry so the next person has a easier, grander, more incredible run than even they did? How are they nurturing the next generation of leaders on their Ministry Teams so that new leadership will rise, grow, and thrive? I often work the same way- how can I be most effective as a pastor to lay a firm foundation for whomever comes after me, whenever that may be?

As a church family, I think we should all be asking those questions of ourselves. We are only stewards of the awesome ministry that is Columbia United Church of Christ for an interim time; how can we lay a firm foundation for whomever sits in this round Sanctuary long after we are gone?

I don't mean to sound melancholy. This is not news. We all know we are finite. The Good News is that we have the opportunity to leave a legacy here in this place so that God may be glorified through the ministries of CUCC for generations to come. That legacy could be financial (*don't forget our Endowment Fund in your will*) but most likely it will be through your actions in ministry, through your empowerment of new leaders, and through the extravagant welcome you offer to the world. Intentional actions on your part will allow CUCC to continue to thrive and be relevant for generations to come, some of those actions may include:

- Telling your friends about CUCC
- Inviting your friends to worship and fellowship events at CUCC
- **Praying about the ministries of CUCC**
- Participating in the work of CUCC
- "Sharing" CUCC posts on Social Media (don't just "like" them)
- Choosing to be active and participate in CUCC ministries
- Working to Glorify God in everything you do

Follow the example of John the Baptizer. Glorify God in all that you do, but also lay a foundation for the person who will come after you. The ministries of CUCC are amazing, and we want them (and new ones) to continue long after we are gone. We can make it happen with the actions we take and the choices we make today.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **THIS YEAR HAS BEEN AN AMAZING YEAR AT CUCC!**

Such great ministry work has been achieved! Perhaps the most significant accomplishment was our commitment to invest in solar power; an investment that will pay off for the next 30 years for our children and grandchildren. The Church Council did an amazing job of researching this proposal, vetting the variables, and informing the congregation of the details. This is a huge step forward for us! In 2026 we will begin see the fruits of our labor.

Other great milestones for 2025 included:

- Holding a "Ministry Teams Fair" and a Stewardship Workshop to educate the congregation on leadership development and faithful stewardship practices
- Hired a new LODO Director and implemented new program ideas
- Hired a "new" Music Coordinator, who has spiced up and has grown our music program
- Nurtured the faith of dozens of LODO children every day
- Participated in "COMO Gives" to grow our LODO Endowment Fund
- Replaced three HVAC units with new, more efficient models! That makes fourteen replaced, with only three more to go!
- Streamlined the budget and brought expenses and anticipated giving more in alignment, while still maintaining the integrity of our ministries
- Hosted (very successfully) our first two COMO Mission Experience groups
- Utilized the church bus for ministry programs and fellowship outings
- Coordinated several meal trains for families in need
- Provided transportation assistance for several members in need
- Celebrated Christ's promises of New Life and Resurrection in the lives of five foundational members who joined the heavenly chorus
- Continued to build our relationship with Quorus
- Had an visible presence at Pridefest offering "glitter blessings" to hundreds looking for Christian affirmation
- Held a very successful and fun Vacation Bible School
- Celebrated Christ's birth with a wonderful children's program and Advent Cantata
- Enjoyed fellowship at Fastnacht, the chili cookoff, the Habitat for Humanity pancake breakfast, Advent Banquet, and other fellowship events
- Honored our Veterans on Veterans Day Sunday with special recognition and breakfast

- Hosted the “Quilts of Valor” fundraiser and awards ceremony
- Hosted the “Shine” Christmas program, in conjunction with Giving Song
- Hosted a booth at Earth Day
- Continued to nurture our Scouts and worked with them on several service projects
- Continued to serve at Loaves and Fishes every month, and at the Food Bank most months
- Increased our work with Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary, establishing the “Good Dads, Strong Schools” monthly program and achieved “Partner in Education” status
- Visited homebound members regularly, as well as several members with health issues
- Welcomed 13 new members into the full life of our church
- Facilitated monthly worship services at The Bluffs
- Instituted a new fellowship group- “Pause to Color”
- Held monthly Women’s Fellowship and Men’s Fellowship meetings
- Maintained an effective social media presence including marketing
- Communicated regularly with the congregation through Friday emails and monthly newsletters
- Maintained the integrity of our membership database by examining the status of long-term “inactive” members and reacting accordingly

We are a busy church! There are very few “mid-size” churches that do what we do. We are making an incredible impact on God’s world and we are having fun doing it! The joy that surrounds all that we do at CUCC is very present, very real, very indicative of God’s presence here. Thank you for all you are doing; and keep up the good work! If you are not active in the ministries of CUCC, it is time to jump on board. Glorify God and having fun while you are at it; what more can you ask for?

Blessings to you in 2026!



Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Rick Oberle

## **ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT**

**PURPOSE:** To perform daily activities that assist the Pastor, Church Council, church family, LODO, and outside organizations that utilize our space. Office duties include: e-mail, phone, mail, social media management, weekly bulletins, slide show presentations for Sunday Services, the monthly Communicator (newsletter,) organization, purchasing and restocking of supplies, maintenance of financial accounts, assisting with events, and general office skills.

2025 was an eventful year to say the least. We welcomed Sara Koenig as our new LODO preschool director and long time congregant Mike Pierson as our Music Director. It was the first full year partnering with both Scouting America and Quorus, Columbia's LGBTQIA+ Choir. We experienced a small fire and got the damaged fixed. We held our first summer of COMO Mission Experience, which you can read more about in the Ministry Team Reports. We switched to QuickBooks Online since the desktop version is no longer supported. We added a new doorbell to the building's original door (the south east door of Fellowship Hall). Not to mention all of the daily and weekly activities that keep us joyfully busy.

In the office specifically, I worked on organization and modernization. I upgraded to dual monitors to keep work efficient. I fixed the issues with the phoneline not recording voicemails. I bound all previous annual reports (from 2004 to current) in a binder to keep it all in one place. The side office closet has been cleaned out and reorganized to house our special offering envelopes, marketing materials, event materials, and office supplies. I discovered ways to cut overspending on certain office needs and bills, such as cutting the fax line that was rarely used.

There are many goals I hope to achieve in 2026. Some of these goals are: making a list of all of our subscriptions and software products that renew every few years so we can accurately plan for these in the budget; finish digitizing our historic photos; update the "Our History" page on our website; fill out our website by including our ministry teams, fellowship groups, annual events, our partners (Quorus and Scouting America), and the organizations we donate to and volunteer at regularly.

I also plan to expand our social media outreach. This includes creating a Substack for Pastor Rick's sermons- Substack is a similar to a blogging site where people can publish writings. We will also be sharing these on our Facebook and Instagram. I'm focusing on engagement online to help spread the word of our church and potentially gain new members.

I look forward to what 2026 has to offer and am honored to be your Administrative Assistant.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alexandra Roper,  
Administrative Assistant





## **MUSIC COORDINATOR**

2025 has once again brought change in leadership and the accompanist/organist position. Still, it has been a joyful year of music-making at the Columbia United Church of Christ. Casey Wood finished out his second year in May as a Master's student in Choral Conducting at the University of Missouri, as well as the CUCC Music Coordinator. He grew in this role, especially in his second year, and the singers truly enjoyed singing under his direction! Steve Jannetti left CUCC for another church position in August. He had been a talented and dedicated member of the CUCC music leadership. His desire to lead a Taizé service weekly created another worship opportunity for our membership.

Although I had thoroughly enjoyed a non-leadership role as a choir member the last few years, it became apparent to me that it was time for me to step back “up on the podium” as the CUCC Music Coordinator. This happened in April officially, and I began my duties in June. Having the pleasure of leading the Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers has been everything I had hoped for upon entering leadership of those ensembles!

Replacing a skilled and dedicated accompanist/organist at CUCC has proven to be a little more difficult to do. A few candidates have been interviewed, but in all cases, a match was not made. Prayers continue to be said privately and within worship for the right person to come our way. By the grace of God, our congregation is BLESSED with several members who have contributed either as pianist/accompanist or offered special music on the keyboard. Most notably has been the contributions of Connie Loveless and Gina Pierson! These two have faithfully served as choir accompanist and worship pianist throughout the fall semester and will continue to do so as needed. Many thanks to both of them for their time and talent!

Throughout the last half of the year, I have directed the Celebration Singers in weekly anthem performances. The choir has ranged between 15 to 30 singers and rehearsed weekly. In addition to the church members who contribute to this choir, we continue to employ three students from the University of Missouri who serve as choir section leaders. Katie Jones, Killian Boyd and Sarah Young continued to serve in this role and we are thrilled with their contributions. All three have also been taking turns leading hymns in worship on an alternating basis.

In addition to weekly anthem performances, the Celebration Singers have performed at special seasonal services as well, including Ash Wednesday, Easter, and Christmas Eve. Perhaps the highlight of these services has been the Advent Cantata held on December 14, 2025. This cantata featured four choral pieces with a variety of additional accompaniment including drums, percussion, oboe, and flute.

The Chapel Ringers continue to be another outlet for our amazingly talented congregants. This is a three-octave bell choir that features nine permanent members and several substitute players. This group has performed approximately once a month over the last year. This group was also featured in the Advent Cantata and Christmas Eve services.

Once again, I'd like to thank the many church members who provided solo musical numbers in church services during the summer and at Christmas. We are still always welcoming new members to our ensembles, and anyone could try out a group on a short-term basis if needed. I am looking forward to starting another season of music-making with the choir, bells, and congregation this spring!

In Harmony,  
Mike Pierson,  
Music Coordinator





# MINISTRY TEAM REPORTS



## **BUILDING & GROUNDS MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** To meet accessible requirements; to protect our investment in the assets of the church; to provide a comfortable, clean, and safe place to carry out the programs of the church; to provide access to the church; to provide parking for staff and participants; to provide an aesthetically pleasing environment; to provide comfort, security, safety, and sanitation; to keep assets in good condition and repair.

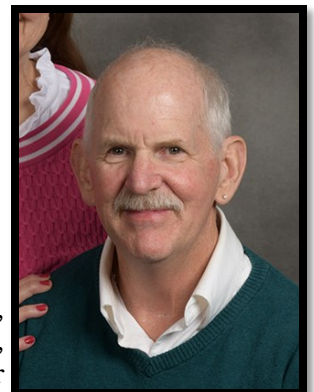
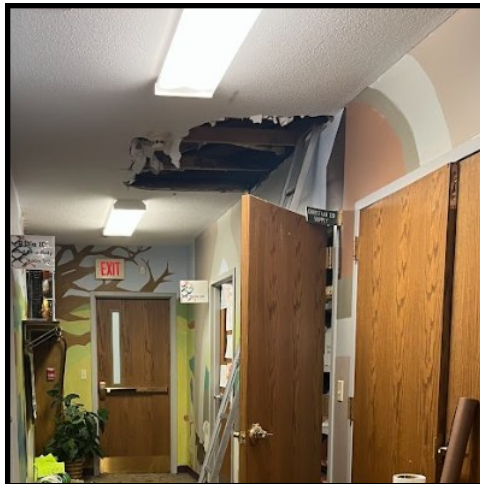
**Team Members:** Ted Dachroeden and his crew of merry workers

### **Completed Projects and Repairs:**

- ◆ Damage from the fire in the attic of the Education Wing was repaired.
- ◆ Removed multiple dead trees.
- ◆ Added heat alarms (alarms to determine if fire is present) to the attic.
- ◆ Updated lighting around the outside of the building.
- ◆ Replaced last lower HVAC units.
- ◆ Continued removal and management of invasive honeysuckle.
- ◆ Improved the playground by adding a new layer of bricks around the perimeter.

### **Projects for 2026:**

- ◆ Replace the flooring in the lower level.
- ◆ Continue working on the flat portion of the roof.
- ◆ Get new lights for the front sign.



Respectfully submitted,  
Ted Dachroeden,  
Building and Grounds Ministry Team Chair

## **FELLOWSHIP & HOSPITALITY MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** The mission of the Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team is to coordinate events and provide food, fellowship and fun for all in a caring, Christian environment, as well as provide members with the opportunity to become better acquainted with one another.

**Team Members:** Audrey Lasley, Brent Marcks, Carolyn Malicoat, Connie Loveless, Doug Privitt, Judi Privitt, Helen Schultz, Jim Loveless, Jo Ellen Grace, Llona Weiss, Melba Shaffer, Mona Dachroeden, Pat Forward, Sue Ann Schaefer, Pastor Rick Oberle

We accomplish our purpose by maintaining several responsibilities of this ministry team:

- ♦ To organize and maintain Sunday morning hospitality snacks. This includes coffee, cold drinks, and pre-packaged snacks. We try to keep healthy choices in mind.
- ♦ Coordinating, planning, and implementing Fellowship activities such as Fastnacht, Rally Day, the Advent banquet, Halloween/fall activities, etc. We provide assistance to other ministry teams as needed or requested.

There were eight events that were coordinated by the Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team this year, they are as follows:

- ♦ March 4 Fastnacht: meal, live music, dancing, contests
- ♦ May 18 End of Year picnic/pot luck
- ♦ June 8 Scout Sunday: BBQ meal
- ♦ July 20 Ice Cream Social: ice cream and desserts
- ♦ Sept 7 Rally Day: pot luck- entrees provided by Ministry Team
- ♦ Oct 26 Halloween party: games and potluck
- ♦ Nov.9 Veterans' Appreciation Breakfast: guest speaker and breakfast
- ♦ Dec 14 Advent Banquet: catered meal

This Ministry Team will continue to address any needs or concerns of the congregation, by encouraging input and listening with open ears to meet the needs of our congregation, and to help create a meaningful and rewarding experience at CUCC.



Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lorber-Solt,  
Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team Chair





## **FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** This Ministry Team is responsible for oversight of CUCC's finances. These duties include oversight of the church's investments and advising the congregation and Church Council of their status. We compile and prepare the church's annual budget and promote congregational support of the budget. The team is also responsible for the education and implementation of stewardship principles to serve our greater mission through our combined time, talent, and treasures.

**Team Members:** Shelly Adams, Keith Birkes, Barry Kirchhoff, Deborah Long-Birkes, Brent Marcks, Pastor Rick Oberle, Doug Privitt, Sue Ann Schaefer, Christine Staelens, Paula Wilson.

### **2025 Year-End Budget:**

Our total income finished \$11,626 under budgeted income. Our Joyful Giving income was \$9476 under budgeted Joyful Giving income. Expenses were \$5364 over budgeted expenses. Our net loss was -\$4317 for the year. While we would have preferred finishing the year "in the black," the past three years we have averaged a loss of \$40,000. This year's loss of \$4317 shows much improvement, and an greater alignment between income and expenses. Next year's budget realizes an even closer anticipated alignment between income and expenses; in fact, we hope to finish 2026 "in the black."

### **Endowment:**

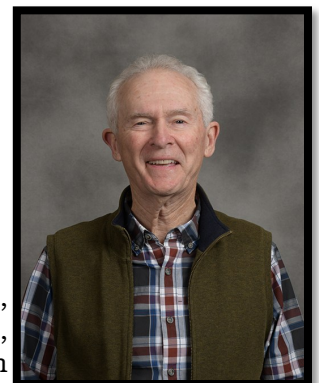
In 2024, our congregation voted to establish an Endowment Fund for CUCC. The balance in our endowment fund is now \$82,017. We cannot begin spending any money from our Endowment Fund until the balance reaches \$500,000. We encourage contributions to that fund in order to have a financial cushion for our Church's work in the future. Our goal for the Endowment fund is \$2 million. If we can reach that goal, our annual expenses will benefit greatly. If you would like to contribute to our Endowment Fund, please contact a member of our Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team. This, and all of our Funds, are open to Estate Planning. Please remember CUCC in your will!

### **Solar:**

In December, 2025 we voted to install solar panels to our building and thereby significantly reduce our carbon footprint as well as our actual cost for electricity. This is very responsible stewardship of our resources. In connection with our solar project our members and friends have specifically contributed \$50,500 so far to make this project affordable for CUCC. This project is open to contributions; if you want to help out, please contact a member of the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team.

Congratulations: 2025 was a very good year for CUCC and every member and friend did their part to help! Thank you all!

Respectfully submitted,  
Keith Birkes,  
Member of Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team



## **INCLUSION & AFFIRMATION MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** To exemplify with intention our church's inclusive expression of faith.

**Team Members:** Ashley Ramirez (chair), Tricia Soncasie (secretary), Kasper Ramirez, Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Kristy Odneal, Patty Beeson, Gail Marriott, and Pastor Rick Oberle

This year, we continued to live into the ONA Covenant with a brand new chair! I have been so blessed and honored to have stepped into this role as I truly believe that no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, everyone is welcome in the eyes of God, our Creator. Back in January, we sponsored a table at the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration with several members attending and we also celebrated the sixth anniversary of our CUCC ONA Inclusion Covenant during worship.

In March, we hopped on the church bus over to the Gateway ONA Convocation. It was held in St. Louis and helped us grow even further in our Covenant! This month, we also got the ball rolling on our new nametags! We wanted pronouns included on everyone's nametag, so that those whose pronouns may differ from their assigned gender at birth will feel less ostracized, since all have their preferred pronouns on their nametags and that has been going great thus far! Fast forward to sweet, sweet summertime! In June, we picked up speed and hosted the Quorus during ONA Sunday. This year was the first time that The Quorus and The Celebration Singers sang multiple anthems together as a quite large choir, and it was truly moving to hear so many folks sing wonderful songs of inclusion and love. We also hosted guest pastor, Staci Cooper, to preach during ONA Sunday! She was well-received and we hope to have her back again next year! In July, we had our very first booth at Ashland Pride Festival! Folks were moved to tears by our presence there.

During October, we had our booth at MidMo PrideFest right here in Columbia! We switched things up a bit this year by having a giveaway to a local queer-owned business called Hexagon Alley, who offer board game passes to play their multitude of in-house board games. This was super successful and due to this, we got over 100 people's names and information! We also had the Reverend Lauren Lippincott join Pastor Rick for glitter blessings to ease his workload of glitter blessing traffic. We gave out over 2,000 packets with church information and pop sockets! Throughout the year, we had Inclusion Moments in church, monthly Communicator articles to help educate members' knowledge of many different current important events and topics of diversity, and have included more diverse literature in our Children's Bookshelf in the back of the sanctuary.

### **So, what's next for the Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team?**

Next year will be an exciting one! At next year's Columbia Values Diversity Celebration, our very own wonderful leader, Pastor Rick, has been nominated for the diversity award!! He exemplifies inclusion in all people and is well-deserving of this award. Next year, our team has not only been invited back to the ONA Convocation next March but has also been asked to present a workshop about our church's ONA journey! Members will be meeting to plan out our workshop soon! We are always open to new ideas if there are additional topics you would like us to address. We would love to have you join our team as well! Because no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are welcome in our team and welcome at Columbia United Church of Christ.



Respectfully submitted,  
Ashley Ramirez,  
Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team Chair



## **LITTLE ONE'S DAY OUT PRESCHOOL (LODO) MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** To guide Little One's Day Out (LODO) in supporting families in their children's education and nurturing children in a Christian setting.

**Team Members:** Mona Dachroeden, Carissa Graves, Carolyn Malicoat, Christine Mseke, Linda Neale, Kim Oberle, Pastor Rick Oberle, and Kristin Veteto (chair).

LODO became a part of CUCC when the preschool doors opened in the fall of 2002. The presence of energetic LODO children in our building brings joy and reminds us of the hope that is carried in the next generation. LODO staff's strong commitment and dedication is evident in the compassion and education provided to students and families and help make the LODO program successful. LODO also takes great care to support their staff in receiving continuing education and continual support to ensure high quality services are maintained as a priority to the children and families it serves.

Erika Maltsbarger, who has served as the Director since 2015, resigned in the spring semester. A search committee was appointed and included Kristin Veteto, Susan Dunham, Alethea Tennill, and Pastor Rick Oberle. The search committee reviewed many resumes, interviewed three applicants, and eventually made the recommendation of Sara Koenig to Council for review. Sara was offered and accepted the position and began working with LODO in April 2025 alongside Erika to learn the details of the Director position. The Assistant Director, Ashley Mills, also resigned and a number of teachers and aides were unable to continue for the 2025/26 school year.

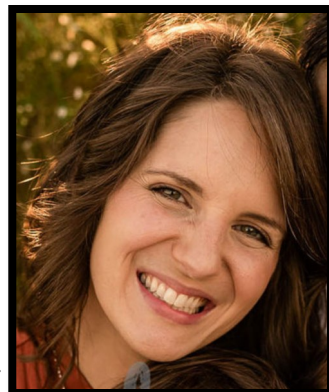
Sara Koenig fully stepped into the Director position in June 2025. LODO has been in a time of rebuilding and adjusting to the changes observed in the last school year. With that, four new teachers and two aides were hired, who have been an excellent addition to the team. Director Koenig and the LODO staff continue to do an amazing job coordinating learning through engaging age-appropriate curriculum for the children while serving the community through outreach. New events this year included a Conscious Discipline seminar and Parent Support Group, and a new style of Fall Picnic highlighting the diversity of our LODO students and families. All were well received and there are many new outreach opportunities ahead as the leadership and staff continue to go above and beyond to serve our LODO families. In addition, we will see an expansion in the LODO+ service hours from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. to create more access for working families beginning the 2026/27 school year.

In June, Susan Dunham and Darla Privitt completed their terms. We offer our most sincere gratitude for their time, service, and insight. The positions were filled by Linda Neale and Carolyn Malicoat. In the fall of 2025, Lydia Whitacre stepped out of her position on the LODO Ministry Team and Mona Dachroeden was approved by Council to fill the rest of this position term.

The LODO Ministry Team continues to function as oversight to the preschool and the LODO Ministry Team Chair is a member of the Church Council. The Ministry Team provides input and assistance to Director Koenig and approves policies, practices, and handbooks. The team meets as needed, but at least quarterly to review financial statements, enrollment, activities, concerns, and offers input and advice.

As of November 2025, enrollment was at 55% and included 40 total students and 32 families (two CUCC families). Thank you to everyone who continues to support LODO through your time, donations, and encouragement. Please keep the LODO program in your prayers during this next year as it continues to rebuild and evolve.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristin Veteto,  
LODO Ministry Team Chair



## **MEMBERSHIP & CARE MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** Our purpose is to enable, establish and maintain programs to care for members of the Congregation and meet the needs of their membership. We continue to evolve our programs to welcome, support and integrate our guests and members; keep the membership of the church current; and implement marketing techniques.

**Team Members:** Sue Beckman, Bryan Crousore, Carol Duermeyer, Susan Dunham, Anne Heine, Jolene Kirchhoff, Audrey Lasley, Jessica Lucas, Helen Schultz, and ongoing support, ideas and involvement from Pastor Rick.

The Membership and Care Team meets every other month. We've welcomed 13 new members into the church this year. We also worked hard outside of planned meetings to assure new members are welcomed, life circumstances are recognized, and our congregational members are cared for.

Our CUCC CARES (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) Ministries continued our task-oriented, hands-on ministries that provide care for our congregation members in time of celebration and need. They include Note Writers/Cards (facilitated by Carol Duermeyer), Handy Helpers (facilitated by Doug Privitt), Visiting Ministry (facilitated by Jolene Kirchhoff), Meal Ministry (facilitated by Lena Muench), Prayer Shawl Ministry (facilitated by Elaine Trout), Transportation Ministry (facilitated by Judi Privitt), Prayer Team Ministry (facilitated by Tricia Soncasie and Melba Shaffer), and Health and Wellness Ministry. These ministries have become very active in sending cards, planning visits, making hand-made items, providing meal trains, providing rides, and praying for our members. Additionally, *Journeying Through Grief* booklets, a series of four booklets, are shared with congregants during times of loss. In 2025, we distributed five sets of booklets to members. These booklets share helpful insights about grief, biblical truths, and stories that provide comfort and reassurance.

This year...

- ♦ One of our greatest accomplishments of 2025 was revision and update of our CUCC membership rolls.
- ♦ Scheduled and delivered meals to four members (and families) using the 'Meal Train' website.
- ♦ We continued to ensure each visitor and member was greeted with purpose and intention. When a visitor is recognized, they are greeted and welcomed with a bag filled with info about our church and how they can get involved. We also encouraged our members to share worship information through social media and sent postcards for Rally Day and Advent.
- ♦ Distributed 200 cards and notes.

The Membership and Care Team has several projects in the works for 2026:

- ♦ Continue to follow up with visitors and welcome new members into our church and integrate them into the life of the congregation.
- ♦ Maintain programs to care for members of our congregation.

In conclusion, Jolene Kirchhoff's Communicator article exemplifies the importance of caring for our church family:

*"Small things like reaching out to a friend you haven't seen or talked to for awhile, meeting to catch up over coffee, offering to accompany someone to an appointment are shining examples of faith working. We're all part of CUCC's Membership and Care Team, whether we attend meetings or not. We appreciate God's gift of Faith working in you. Keep The Faith!"*

I am so grateful to our Ministry Team members who graciously give their time to help CUCC family and friends.

Respectfully submitted,  
Judi Privitt,  
Membership and Care Ministry Team Chair



## **NURTURE & EDUCATION MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** To provide Sunday morning forums to nurture families through Christian faith and challenge faith through learning opportunities; to prepare our youth to be confirmed into the faith and provide them with extended learning and fellowship opportunities; to support our children and youth to attend camp and other educational and outreach events; to provide quality nursery care on Sunday mornings during worship and to coordinate CUCC's annual Vacation Bible School.

**Team Members:** Pat Forward, Audrey Lasley, Lena Muench, Linda Neale, Gina Pierson, Kristin Veteto, Paula Wilson

### Adult Education

- ♦ Traditional Bible Study offered- has a regular crew of attendees.

### COMO Mission Experience

We hosted two groups this year. Congregants helped with dinner for one night per group and visited with the attendees during dinner.

### Special Events/Projects

- ♦ SOUPer Bowl of Caring (February) Collected soup and monetary donations leading up to Superbowl Sunday. Items donated to Food Bank Market Pantry; monetary donations to Loaves and Fishes.
- ♦ Easter (March)  
Had approximately 25 kids/youth in attendance for Easter Sunday School rotations.
- ♦ Earth Day (April)  
Nurture/Ed had a booth at the Columbia Earth Day celebration in conjunction with Team Earth. We handed out church information and did a gift card raffle.
- ♦ Mother's Day (May)  
Kids/youth passed out apples ("thanks for being awesome to the core!") to all of the women at church.
- ♦ Father's Day (June)  
Flashlights ("thanks for being a light in the world") were available in the gathering area as a gift for fathers/father figures.
- ♦ Rally Day  
"Shine Bright" theme- approximately 25 in attendance!
- ♦ Blessing boxes (November)  
Approximately 25 boxes sent to college and trade school students in our church family. Worked well to purchase through Amazon and have shipped directly to students (saved a lot in shipping costs). Received positive feedback/gratitude from several students.
- ♦ Cookies by the Pound (December)  
Thank you to Lorry Dreier and Gina Pierson for heading this. We raised approximately \$700 for the Nurture/Education Designated Fund.
- ♦ Christmas Program (December)  
Directed by Ashley and Kasper Ramirez with music coordinated by Kristin Veteto. Always a wonderful addition to the Christmas season!

### Sunday School

- ♦ Installation of curtains completed in all classrooms. Has helped tremendously with energy efficiency, especially during Bible School!
- ♦ Purchased an online curriculum this year. Teachers can plan their lessons from a menu of options. Have received positive feedback.
- ♦ Continue to offer breakfast each Sunday morning to help families by making it easier to get to Sunday School. Has been well-received.
- ♦ Have continued to have a "greeter/floater" each Sunday to greet everyone for Sunday School (especially any visitors), help clean up breakfast, and assist in any class as needed.

- ♦ Attendance is inconsistent. Some Sundays we have had 20-25 kids. One Sunday there were 10 BOYS in the PreK-2 class! Most usually we have around 10ish kids between all of the classes. We continue to reach out to families and communicate the importance of everyone's involvement for the success of our program- of course, perfect attendance is certainly not a requirement!
- ♦ Sonic Sunday- we take orders from our 6th-12th graders for shakes or drinks—always due on Saturday. Then someone picks them up on Sunday morning to bring to church. Has been very popular! Most Sundays we have had around 6 youth in attendance. We are able to purchase discounted Sonic gift cards from Sam's to help our funds go further!

#### Vacation Bible School

- ♦ Coordinated by Gina Pierson and Lena Muench
- ♦ Distributed postcards and popcorn at the Farmer's Market.
- ♦ We had approximately 55 attendees, 40+ volunteers, and approximately 90 meals served each night.
- ♦ Thanks to all for your generous support of VBS in our annual budget, through donations of items and funds to purchase additional supplies, and for lending us lots of items!

#### Youth Group

- ♦ Grades 6-12. Met several times this year. A small but mighty group!

I cannot overstate how appreciative I am of everyone that helps this ministry team either by serving on the team, leading/teaching classes, helping in the nursery—you name it, you have my appreciation!

Thank you to YOU, CUCC family—we rely on your love and support and there's no way we could do so many amazing things without you.



With love,  
Lena Muench,  
Nurture and Education Ministry Team Chair



## **COMO MISSION EXPERIENCE**

This summer, we hosted our first COMO Mission Experience; an exciting new justice oriented, hands-on, faith based mission trip. We partnered with various organizations and non-profits and around Columbia who often lose the majority of their volunteers during the summertime. This year's partners were: City of Refuge, Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture, Coyote Hill, The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri, The Food Bank Market, Show Me Central Habitat for Humanity, Love Columbia, Mobility Worldwide, Room at the Inn, and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri.

Pastor Rick and I met with volunteer coordinators and other staff of these "COMO Mission Partners" to see what our groups would be able to help them with during their time with us. Each Mission Partner had something interesting and new for the volunteers to do. This would range from gardening at Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture to putting together meals for Ronald McDonald House to putting together mobility carts at Mobility Worldwide and so much more!

Our first group to join us was St. John UCC Mascoutah from July 6 to July 9. This group of eight youth and 7 adults came in ready to go. They visited Mobility Worldwide, Room at the Inn, Columbia Center of Urban Agriculture, The Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri, Show Me Central Habitat for Humanity, and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri. Not only did they volunteer with those organizations, but when they got done early on their last day with Ronald McDonald House, they raked up the loose turf around our playground and helped disperse it in bare areas!

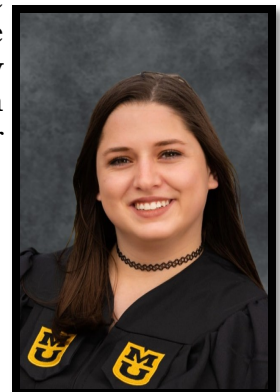


The second group to join us was from Friedens UCC St. Charles. This group was composed of four youth and eight adults and stayed with us from July 21 to July 24. They were most excited to volunteer in new places. They visited Love Columbia, Columbia Center of Urban Agriculture, The Food Bank Market, City of Refuge, Show Me Habitat for Humanity, and Mobility Worldwide.

Each group also had a time set aside for recreational activities; these groups went for a hike in Rock Bridge State Park and went swimming at The ARC. One group even split into smaller teams to explore a college campus.



For our first year hosting COMO Mission Experience, I would say it was a huge success. With only a few bumps along the way, which was to be expected given it was our first summer and a learning experience for all, the majority of the sessions went smoothly. In feedback surveys we had high praise. "Being greeted by leaders of the church, Pastor Rick and Alex, multiple times throughout our time there was very appreciated because I know everyone has other things to be doing. But, time was taken for us and that was very meaningful to our team," one reply said. Another group promised to return in 2026 saying, "our team was very grateful for this opportunity. I think your church and Columbia are truly serving and ministering. What a blessing!!!!"



Respectfully submitted,  
Alexandra Roper,  
Administrative Assistant

## **OUTREACH & ADVOCACY MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** To coordinate and encourage participation in local outreach activities, promote organizations included in the annual Outreach budget, promote support for Our Church's Wider Mission and the special offerings of the United Church of Christ, and to identify non-partisan issues for which advocacy may be appropriate.

**Team Members:** Keith Birkes, Mark Duncan, Jessica Jenks, Barry Kirchhoff, Audrey Lasley, Deborah Long-Birkes, Gail Marriott, Rev. Rick Oberle, Judi Privitt, Mahree Skala, Lloyd Viehland, Llona Weiss

CUCC continues to be a force for good in our community, nationally and globally through service and resources that help our neighbors wherever they may be. The activities listed below are a sample of the congregation's Outreach and Advocacy efforts.

### **Special Offerings and Contributions:**

CUCC again supported all five UCC national campaigns: Our Church's Wider Mission, One Great Hour of Sharing, Strengthen the Church, Neighbors in Need, and the Christmas Fund. We collected special offerings every fifth Sunday to support the Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri as the cost of food continues to rise and their federal funding has been cut. We also collected special offerings for Church World Service Blanket Sunday, the CROP Walk, Mobility Worldwide, and Festival of Sharing. The Christmas Eve offering was dedicated to support Turning Point services for unhoused community members.

### **Budgeted Support for Service Agencies:**

Through the congregation's generous support, \$26,500 was disbursed from our budget to 13 local service agencies, and ten state, national, and international organizations to assist their work in feeding the hungry, ministering to refugees, serving disaster victims, housing the homeless, and providing spiritual support for people in their times of need.

### **Gathering Supplies and Gifts:**

CUCC donated generously to several collection drives. For our Partner in Education, Alpha Hart Lewis (AHL), we collected snacks for Parent-Teacher Conferences, MAP Testing days, Teacher Appreciation Week and for 5th Graders; Valentine cards; and clothing. An amazing 101 Reading and Writing Kits were donated for the Festival of Sharing. We also collected personal hygiene supplies for Turning Point. Finally, we purchased Christmas gifts and household items for 45 local people through the Voluntary Action Center Christmas Drive and donated additional funds for families without sponsors.

### **Faithful Service:**

CUCC had groups each month at The Food Bank, including several Scouts and their leaders. Scouts also helped several volunteers pick up 49 bags of trash near the church during Clean-Up Columbia Day in April. Many groups and individuals helped Audrey Lasley serve meals to homeless and low-income people every third Monday at Loaves and Fishes. The Alpha Hart Lewis Partnership in Education is a model for faith and community partners, thanks to Llona Weiss' leadership. CUCC volunteers helped regularly in the library, at Good Dads Strong Schools events, "Read Across America," PTA meetings (providing child care), and at the PTA Carnival.



Respectfully submitted,  
Mahree Skala,  
Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team Chair



## **CHIAPAS MISSION REPORT**

The year 2018 was the beginning of the relationship between Columbia United Church of Christ and our Global Mission Partners in Chiapas. After a year of studying about the culture and climate of Chiapas, in October 2018, seven CUCC members travelled to Chiapas for our first ever Mission Immersion Experience. It was quite an exciting time as we learned about the people of Chiapas and the context in which they live. Our hearts were changed forever by our experience.

There are two agencies we work with directly: The Institute for Intercultural Studies and Research ("The Institute" or "ISEII") and Melel Xojobal. Both agencies are Global Missions Partners, supported by Our Church's Wider Mission and One Great Hour of Sharing.

I had the opportunity to work with both of these agencies the month I lived in Chiapas during my sabbatical in 2022. I was very impressed with the work they are doing and the changes they are bringing to these oppressed communities.

In 2023, our CUCC delegation returned to Chiapas! Seven of us made the journey from October 3 to October 10, learning from the people of Chiapas and immersing ourselves in the community. During our trip we learned how to make tamales and tortillas, we visited a rainforest and some Mayan ruins, we took a trip on a Mexican river to learn about the flora and fauna and history of the region, we learned about Mayan spirituality and built a Mayan altar, and we worshipped in a local Independent Christian Church where I delivered the sermon that Sunday (with the help of a translator.) We even celebrated the wedding of Keith Birkes and Deborah Long!

We also participated in a protest march organized by Melel Xojobal to raise awareness of the rights of children in San Cristobal. Children, especially girls, are disenfranchised by the culture and in the indigenous communities, education is devalued. This march lifted up the rights of children, especially girls, and helped restore some of the dignity that has been taken away from them. We spent much time working with Melel, and were impressed not only by the work they are doing, but also by how they have had to evolve since 2018.

The purpose of our trip was not to construct a building or dig latrines. When U.S. missionaries indulge in that sort of behavior, they are simply taking skilled labor away from Indigenous Contractors who really need the employment. Our purpose was to immerse ourselves in their context, to learn from them, and to build relationships. Education and relationship building was our goal, and we succeeded in our endeavor. The bonds we built will last a lifetime.

On February 22, 2026, Elena Huegel, our Missionary to Chiapas, will be here at CUCC to discuss the work she does on our behalf. We are anticipating her hosting a form in the Fellowship Hall during the 9:00 Sunday School hour, and then speaking in worship. She will be staying with Pastor Rick and Kim for a few days that week; so if you want to meet with her personally, let us know!

We now have 13 CUCC members who have made the journey to Chiapas, and we hope to bring more! We have another trip planned for October. It is relatively inexpensive, and an amazing experience. If you would like to go on this trip, contact Pastor Rick for more details!

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Rick Oberle



## **OUR CHURCH'S WIDER MISSION**

**PURPOSE:** What is Our Church's Wider Mission? It is *not* an Outreach program; it **is** about identity. Our Church's Wider Mission (OCWM) is who we are as Christians, acting out love in God's World. OCWM is who we are as God's Children!

Where does the money go? When we remit our OCWM contributions each month, 80% of the funds stay here in the Missouri Mid-South Conference to undergird and support Camps MoVal and Shannondale, to support the ministries of the Conference, to support churches in need, to provide pastoral assistance for churches in the search process, to provide revitalization resources for churches seeking new growth and vitality.

Twenty percent of the funds we send are remitted to the National Setting of the United Church of Christ where they are used to fund our missionary work overseas (such as the work being done in Chiapas): to provide resources for clergy and churches seeking growth and revitalization, to help churches who are struggling, to advocate for those who are disenfranchised and in need of God's healing love, to enable youth programming throughout the denomination, to change lives and transform the world into an image more reflective of God's passion for shalom.

### **CUCC Remittances to Our Church's Wider Mission 2015-2026**

2026	\$12,000 (budgeted)
2025	\$12,000
2024	\$12,000
2023	\$15,000
2022	\$15,000
2021	\$14,000
2020	\$13,000
2019	\$12,600
2018	\$12,000
2017	\$10,000
2016	\$10,000
2015	\$9,844

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Rick Oberle



## **TEAM EARTH**

**PURPOSE:** Through education and faithful action, Team Earth strives to bring awareness to our relationship with all of God's creations with a focus on the planet.

**Team Members:** Shelly Adams, Rev. Bryan Crousore, Daneille Dreier, Pat Forward, Kurt Heine, Barry Kirchhoff, Jolene Kirchhoff, Connie Loveless, Linda Neale, Judi Privitt, Mahree Skala, Elaine Trout, Llona Weiss, Rev. Mike Williams, Rev. Rick Oberle

Team Earth has helped educate the congregation about Creation Justice and how we can, individually and collectively, embody our commitment to care for God's creation. The following subjects were explored at after-church Lunch and Learn sessions in 2025: Solar Power, Sustainability, Water, Composting, and the Solarize Columbia Project. A series of articles were published in the Communicator with practical information on how we can tread more lightly on God's earth.

### **Solarize Columbia:**

Team Earth members took the lead in learning about the opportunity to participate Solarize Columbia. This initiative allowed Boone County residents and commercial buildings to purchase and install solar panels at discounted rates through the end of 2025. After several discussions and meetings with the Solarize project managers, Team Earth asked the Council to establish an ad hoc subcommittee, which then recommended that CUCC participate in the project. The Council approved the contractor's proposal in November and the congregation approved it on December 7. The contract was signed in time to meet the 2025 deadline and a 5% deposit was made. Installation will take place in the early spring of 2026. The system is expected to generate 78% of the church's electricity needs for the next 30 years, paying for itself within ten years and significantly reducing our carbon emissions. This decision reflects a strong commitment to creation care.

### **Plans for 2026:**

Team Earth will continue to explore ways to enhance the congregation's awareness and understanding of our spiritual connection to Creation. We will explore additional actions CUCC can take to live out our mission and receive UCC recognition as a Creation Justice congregation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mike Williams,  
Team Earth Chair



## **WORSHIP & MUSIC MINISTRY TEAM**

**PURPOSE:** To assist and support the Pastor and the Music Coordinator in their implementation of praise, thanksgiving, confession, and faith responses that connect worshippers to God.

**Team Members:** Edie Diel, Chloe Eveler, Jo Ellen Grace, Audrey Lasley, Connie Loveless, Rev. Rick Oberle, Marcia Posz, Sue Ann Schaefer, Melba Shaffer, Paula Wilson.

2025 was, again, a time of continuity and transition in the Worship and Music team. We strive for continuity in the Worship experience as the transition of the team members continue to evolve. In 2025, the Worship and Music Team Chair moved away and was replaced by Edie Diel. Casey Wood, the Music Coordinator, graduated and was replaced by Mike Pierson. Then the organist, Steve Jannetti, left us. The search is still on for his replacement. CUCC continued its successful relationship with the MU School of Music. Connie Loveless and Linda Neale are working with the children's choir.

The Chapel Ringers and Celebration Singers continued to uplift the congregation with many inspirational, powerful Sunday performances throughout the year. This included a special Advent Cantata presented December 14 as well as a very special program with Quorus June 29 for our Inclusion and Affirmation Sunday.

The Banner Team of Melba Shaffer, Jo Ellen Grace, Jolene Hackman, and Chloe Eveler met periodically to faithfully maintain and restore old banners. The Banner Team also revealed a new set of five banners in the fall that showcase all of the seasons.

In fall 2025, the Worship and Music Committee surveyed the congregation about their summer worship preferences. The results revealed that the majority of the congregation would like to not change the Summer Services to 9:30 a.m., so for 2026 the summer services will remain at 10:30 a.m.

Meeting the worship and music needs of our congregation is our primary goal and this Committee continues to solicit the input of the CUCC congregation as to how we can always best meet your needs.



Respectfully submitted,  
Edie Diel,  
Worship and Music Ministry Team Chair

# LITTLE ONE'S DAY OUT

## REPORTS





# **LODO DIRECTOR REPORT**

## **ABOUT THE DIRECTOR**

My name is Sara Koenig and I was hired as the Director of Little One's Day Out in April of 2025. I bring 16 years of experience in Early Childhood Education and have a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education from Columbia College. I am deeply grateful to be part of this ministry and to have my own children enrolled in the program.

I firmly believe that God has called our teachers and I to this role to serve our students with grace, love, and guidance as they grow academically, socially, and spiritually. It is an honor to lead Little One's Day Out, and I look forward to the continued growth and blessings ahead.

## **THIS YEAR IN REVIEW**

2025 was truly a year for the books at Little One's Day Out (LODO). Our program experienced a significant season of transition as we said goodbye to Mrs. Erica after 10 years of faithful service as Director. Her leadership and dedication helped shape LODO into the program it is today, and we are grateful for the foundation she left.

Following her departure, the program experienced a period of unique challenges. At the end of the school year, an assistant director, two classroom teachers, and three aides also moved on from LODO. As a result, much of the summer was dedicated to interviewing, recruiting, and thoughtfully rebuilding our team.

I am pleased to share that we successfully hired three new classroom teachers and two new aides. The team we have assembled for this school year is truly exceptional. In my 16 years in Early Childhood Education, I have worked with many teams, but this one stands out. They support one another, demonstrate genuine care, and are consistently go above and beyond to ensure the success of both their colleagues and our students. To say I am proud of this team would be an understatement.

As we began the 2025–2026 school year, Little One's Day Out expanded our offerings to families by introducing Parent Education Courses and additional family activities. These new opportunities complement the strong family engagement events that have long been a valued part of the LODO experience.

We are also excited to announce that the LODO ministry has approved expanded LODO+ hours, extending hours from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. We have also evaluated our schedule and decided to schedule independently from the Columbia Public School schedule to better accommodate our families. We will still adopt the same federal holidays and seasonal breaks for time off.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Koenig,  
Little One's Day Out Preschool Director





## **LODO PRESCHOOL MINISTRY**

**Mission:** Little One's Day Out (est. July 2002) is designed to support families in the education and nurturing of children in a Christian setting (LODO Policies & Procedures Manual.) This outreach ministry of CUCC continues to serve families of Columbia and the surrounding area. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. during the academic year. LODO Plus hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday during the academic year. LODO Plus is available to children enrolled in the Lambs, Lions, Leopards, or Leap Frogs regular program. We strive to provide a loving environment, nutritious snacks, developmentally appropriate activities, positive family interactions, and fun for all children ages one to five years of age.

### **Vital statistics (January 2025 - May 2025)**

#### **81% Average Enrollment**

Class	Age	Percent Enrolled
Lightning Bugs	1-2 yr	100%
Lambs	2-3 yr	100%
Lions	3-4 yr	75%
Leopards	3-4 yr	75%
Leap Frogs	4-5 yr	68%
LODO + AM/PM	2-5 yr	66.3%

### **Vital statistics (September 2025 - December 2025)**

#### **55% Average Enrollment**

Class	Age	Percent Enrolled
Lightning Bugs	1-2 yr	100%
Lambs	2-3 yr	77.5%
Lions	3-4 yr	65%
Leopards	3-4 yr	33%
Leap Frogs	4-5 yr	34%
LODO + AM/PM	2-5 yr	45%

### **Enrollment statistics (January 2025 - December 2025)**

Months	Average Total Enrolled Children	Average Total Enrolled Families	Average Daily Enrollment
January - May	56	50	30.8
September - December	40	32	21

**January 2025 – May 2025:** 2 CUCC families served

**September 2025 – December 2025:** 2 CUCC families served

**LODO PRESCHOOL MINISTRY**

**Notable Program Activities of 2025:**

January	Return from Christmas break
February	Math & Science Night
March	Student Conferences
April	Literacy Night
May	Spring Picnic Pre-K Graduation
June	Closed
July	Closed
August	Meet the Teacher Night Return from summer break
September	Conscious Discipline Seminar Fall Picnic
October	Parent Support Group Pumpkin Fun Day
November	LODO Food Drive Student Conferences Thanksgiving Feast
December	Angel Tree Drive Family Movie Night Christmas Program

Respectfully submitted,  
Sara Koenig,  
Little One’s Day Out Preschool Director





# FELLOWSHIP GROUP REPORTS

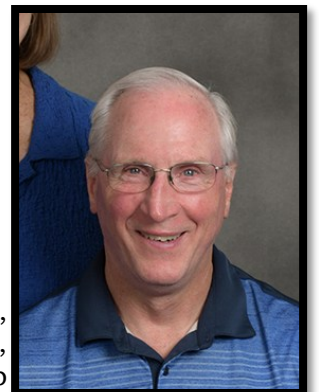


## **MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

**PURPOSE:** To provide an organized program for men of the church for fellowship, education, service, and outreach.

### **Activities/Highlights:**

- ♦ Men's Fellowship met throughout 2025 sometimes at the church and sometimes at Hy-Vee West Broadway.
- ♦ Men's Fellowship hosted a chili cookoff on January 19, 2025. Proceeds from the gray bowls (\$200) went toward Columbia Center for Urban Agriculture.
- ♦ Men's Fellowship again hosted a breakfast fundraiser for Habitat for Humanity on February 22, 2025, raising \$3,800 for Habitat for Humanity.
- ♦ Men's Fellowship served breakfast following the Easter sunrise service.
- ♦ Men's Fellowship set up the nativity scene for the holiday season.
- ♦ Men's Fellowship put together treat bags for the children following the Christmas program.



Respectfully submitted,  
Doug Privitt,  
President of Men's Fellowship



## **PAUSE TO COLOR**

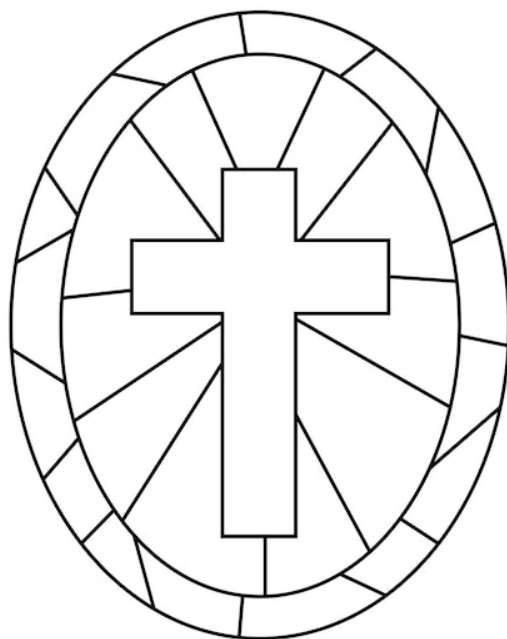
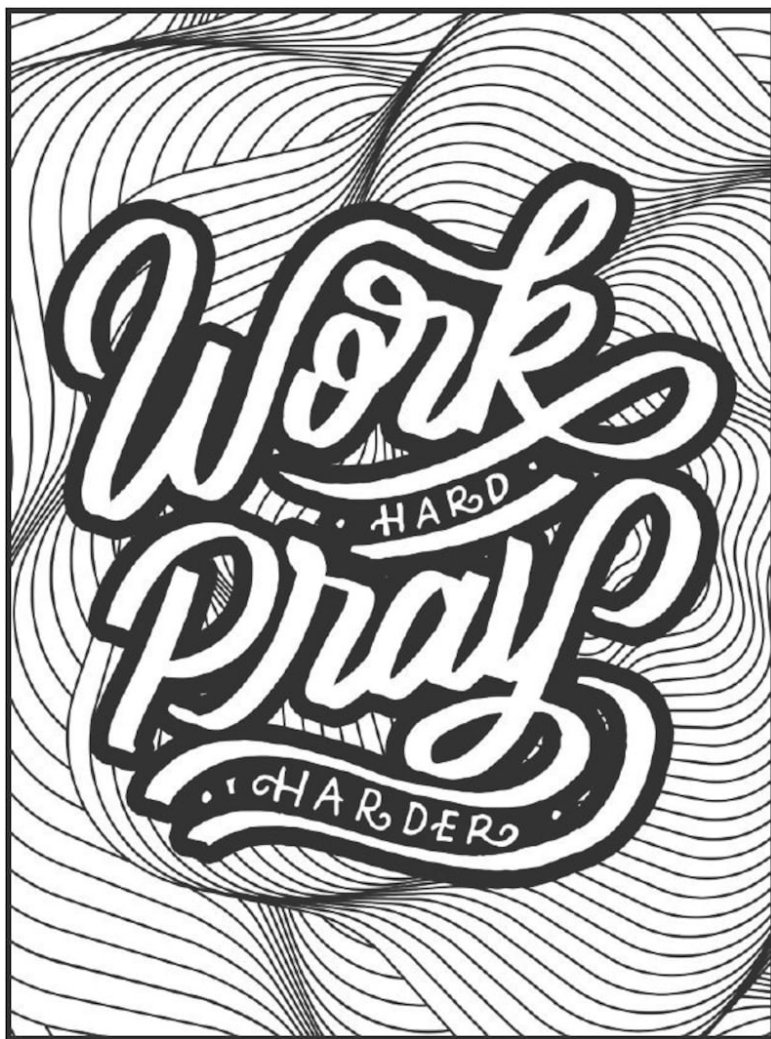
**PURPOSE:** An adult coloring group to provide a relaxed, informal, brief respite from our busy lives and to tap into our brain's creative thinking.

**Members:** Carol Duermeyer, Becky Gordon, Debbie Meers, Darla Privitt, Marsha Posz, Helen Schultz, Melba Shaffer, Elaine Trout, Kim Oberle.

We are a new group this year, formed after several CUCC members discussed their joy & benefits of coloring but not always taking the time to color.

We began during Lent as another way to refocus before Easter and then decided to continue all year. We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in The Gathering Area. You can bring your own coloring supplies or we have supplies available for you- even color by number options. There are usually four to nine people coloring each month. It is fun to see each person's picture come to life and learn from each other about different coloring techniques.

We invite you to come join us, to pause briefly, and to rediscover a childhood pleasure in relaxed fellowship with other colorers.



Respectfully submitted,  
Carol Duermeyer,  
Pause to Color Chair



## **QUILTERS**

**PURPOSE:** This is a fellowship and service group for anyone who wishes to quilt or learn to quilt. We meet in the Fellowship Hall on Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., including a BYOB (bring your own brown bag) lunch. We welcome anyone who would like to join us working on the quilt, or working on their own handicraft project: knitting, cross-stitch, embroidery, etc.

**Members:** Ginny Van Hove, Audrey Lasley, Janet Mehmert, Alice Moon, Corinne Remeika, Mahree Skala, Juanita Veigard, Dorothy Williams

### **Activities and Highlights:**

We are so happy to welcome new members Audrey Lasley and Dorothy Williams. New faces and ideas around the quilt frame are appreciated.

For the first time ever, we contributed two quilts to the Festival of Sharing: our queen-size, hand-embroidered *Sunny Pines* and a smaller, lap quilt, *Baby Love*, both hand-quilted.

We always welcome a challenge. This year it came from Shelda, a friend of Mahree. She presented us with a vintage Grandmother's Flower Garden segment completely hand-sewn. She gave us license to enlarge it and with the skilled hands and creative talents of Janet Mehmert, it became a twin size. Shelda was thrilled with the results and generously added to our bid price. Thank you Shelda and Janet!

Our current in-the-frame project, is a queen size Log Cabin quilt top. Jessica Jenks assembled this striking beauty which we plan to present as a CUCC raffle item early in 2026. Be on the look-out for this treasure!

We were deeply saddened to lose one of our longtime members, Alice Moon. Due to health conditions, Alice reluctantly put aside her quilting needles. She was a faithful and devoted member of CUCC quilters for many years. We contributed to the CUCC Memorial Fund in loving memory of Alice.

### **Donations and Contributions:**

- ♦ We donated \$500 to the General Fund of CUCC.
- ♦ We donated \$100 to the CUCC Memorial Fund in memory of Alice Moon.
- ♦ We contributed two quilts to the Festival of Sharing, garnering \$165.00.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ginny Van Hove



## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

**PURPOSE:** Women's Fellowship provides an opportunity for women to become acquainted, express caring and concern, grow in spirituality, and contribute to Christian service.

**Members:** Jan Barry, Edie Diel, Carol Duermeyer, Linda Evans, Rebecca Gordon, Jo Ellen Grace, Linda Grotewiel, Jolene Hackman, Jolene Kirchhoff, Audrey Lasley, Connie Loveless, Donna Marsh, Debbie Meers, Brenda Muench, Linda Neale, Yvonne Piersee, Carolyn Price, Darla Privitt, Judi Privitt, Corinne Remeika, Sue Ann Schaefer, Melba Shaffer, Alethea Tennill, Elaine Trout, Ginny Van Hove, Dorothy Vetter, Becky Weston, Dorothy Williams.

**W**omen  
**O**ften  
**M**eeting to  
**E**ncourage, enlighten and engage in  
**N**ew ways to honor God's teachings  
**S**elflessly

**F**orging fun  
**E**xperiences that exemplify our  
**L**ove of the  
**L**ord and each  
**O**ther  
**W**ith  
**S**ensibility, spontaneity  
**H**umility, honesty  
**I**n good times and bad  
**P**rayfully AMEN.

Women's Fellowship meets at 9:30 a.m. the second Tuesday of the month (September through May) in The Gathering Area. We enjoy food, fellowship, a lesson (this year based on resilience), a business meeting, singing, and laughter. We raise funds (see Treasurer's report attached) and love to spend that money doing good for others. Thank you to all who supports our fund raising efforts! This year we visited some of the recipients of our funds- The Food Bank Market, The Opportunity Campus, and Room at the Inn. We also had a fun outing to see the *Church Basement Ladies* performed by Capital City Players.

It's a fun group of 20+ ladies led by Co-Presidents Jolene Kirchhoff and Jo Ellen Grace, enlightened and entertained monthly by Secretary Ginny Van Hove's meeting minutes and deemed fiscally responsible by Treasurer Brenda Muench.

We would love for you to join us!

Respectfully submitted,  
Jolene Kirchoff,  
Women's Fellowship Co-Presidents



## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

The following are donations made in 2025 with money raised through fundraisers and monthly giving on behalf of the CUCC Women's Fellowship Group:

<b><u>Donation Made To:</u></b>	<b><u>Amount Given</u></b>
CASA . . . . .	\$400.00
Church Women United . . . . .	\$100.00
Coyote Hill . . . . .	\$400.00
CUCC Nurture & Education Designated Fund . .	\$50.00
CUCC Transportation (use of the church bus) . .	\$50.00
Flowers to honor Sharon Elliott . . . . .	\$26.00
Food Bank of Central and Northeast Missouri . .	\$150.00
Good Dads . . . . .	\$350.00
Opportunity Campus . . . . .	\$150.00
Poinsettias for home-bound church members . .	\$70.00
Primrose Hill . . . . .	\$150.00
True North . . . . .	\$400.00
UCC Fire Response to LA Fires . . . . .	\$200.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$2,496.00</b>

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Muench, Women's Fellowship Treasurer





# PARTNERSHIP GROUP REPORTS





## SCOUTING AMERICA

CUCC is the Charter Organization for four Scouting America units, with over 150 children, youth, and adult volunteers. These units are:

- **Cub Scout Pack 5183:** The younger group of Scouts, with boys and girls from kindergarten age through 5th grade. They meet every other Monday.
- **Scouting America Troop 4475:** The girls troop. They are a very active troop of girls from 6th-12th grades. They meet every Monday.
- **Scouting America Troop 708:** The boys troop. They are from 6th-12th grades and are very active. They meet every Monday, too.
- **Venture Crew 5334:** This is a focused co-educational group of older youth, from High School through college age.

As the Charter Organization for these four units, they are a part of us and we are a part of them. "They are our scouts, and we are their church." Working together, in covenant, we will share the joys of common life and enhance one another's mission, all to the glory of God.

We entered into this partnership in the summer of 2024, and have spent the past 18 months learning from each other and living into this partnership. The Scouts have had "Scout Sundays" here at CUCC several times, and celebrated their end-of-year picnic with us in June. Each time they are in worship with us, the Sanctuary is packed!

This past year, the Scouts have donated much service time to the church. They have spent many hours clearing honeysuckle from the church grounds, cutting up some of the smaller trees that have fallen on our church parking lot, setting up the Fellowship Hall for dinners, and helping serve food at our Advent Banquet. We are very pleased to have them with us!

We are also thrilled to be enabling their amazing ministry. When their previous setting was no longer viable, we were excited to be able to provide them the opportunity to empower youth with their special curriculum. If you walk through the church on a Monday evening, you will find dozens of youth learning and growing into the best people they can be, thanks to the Scouting program. All are invited to come walk the building on a Monday and see what great work we are doing in the world!

With the 2019 inclusive realignment of Scouting America, the organization is stronger, and more inclusive to all youth than ever before. CUCC is proud to be part of the Scouting America movement, and proud to call these youth "our Scouts!"

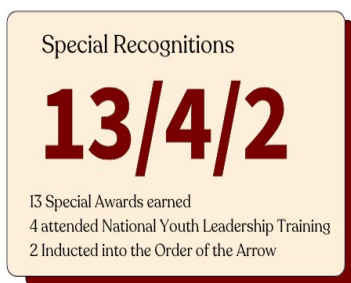


# SCOUTING AMERICA STATISTICS

## Troop 4475 Annual Statistics



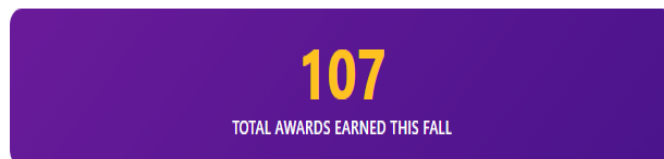
Court of Honor 12/2025



**PACK 5183**

**Year in Review**

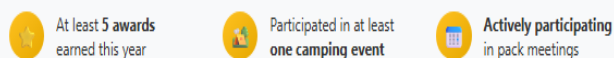
Annual Statistics • December 2025



## Troop 708 Annual Statistics



**EVERY SCOUT ACHIEVED**



Building Character • Developing Skills • Having Fun

Chartered by Columbia United Church of Christ

## **QUORUS - COLUMBIA'S LGBTQQA-Z COMMUNITY CHORUS**

2025 was an exciting year for The Quorus, Columbia's LGBTQQA-Z community choir! We started out in February rehearsing for our April concert, "Reverberation: Celebrating Queer Influence in American Music." This took place at Missouri United Methodist Church and was beautiful! We partnered with Landlocked Opera and for the first time, we focused more on classical music. It was truly wonderful music and was so great to be back with our Quorus family.

Then, we started gearing up for Pride in June by rehearsing in May. Our first Pride month performance was at Broadway Christian Church for "All Means All" worship service. Then, we held our yearly concert at the Blue Note, "Pride Anthems 2025: The Soundtrack Of Resilience," partnering with Cabaret For A Cause, a local cabaret group featuring many of our own Quorus members! A fun time was had all around! Then, we joined together with CUCC's very own Celebration Singers to sing three anthems altogether! It was truly moving and felt so wonderful to me personally to have both of my families, my Quorus family and my CUCC family, be able to join together for ONA Sunday. Not every church would do that!

Now onto the fall! We joined back together in August to start rehearsing for our joint performance with The Mobile Funk Unit at the Zipper Fest in September. If you're unfamiliar, The Zipper Fest is a local and free festival that is creating an environment where all people are encouraged to connect with others by supporting local crafts and artists, enjoying live performances, experiencing interactive art installations, and local food and drinks. This was an EXCITING one! It was our very first mobile performance, meaning we sang as we walked around the festival. It was VERY hot but super worth it! The Mobile Funk Unit were so cool to hear with their portable drums, guitars, and brass instruments.

We rehearsed throughout September for our PrideFest performances! We performed at the opening ceremony of the Mid-Mo PrideFest at Rose Music Hall and for the first time, we got to walk in the parade! We are so thankful for a community that continues to be so affirming to us.

Then, in November, we geared up for our holiday performances. The first was "A Very Cozy, Very Classic, Very Fireside Holiday Special." This performance was an absolute blast. It was hosted by David McSpadden at the Boone County History & Culture Center and also featured Cabaret for A Cause as well as Rochara Knight & The Honey Doves. It was very reminiscent of the classic holiday specials hosted by Bing Crosby and indeed much coziness and heartfelt holiday love was present throughout that gallery! The next week, we did some caroling at Broadway Christian Church's light display, O Holy Lights! It was very, very cold but we kept warm with our singing and Quorus love!

### **What's next for Quorus?**

Our next performance will be on February 7 at First Baptist Church. We will be supporting Choral Arts Alliance of Missouri and the Columbia Community Gospel Choir at their concert, "UNITY 2026: A BENEFIT CONCERT" for Flourish Initiative. It is a free concert, however donations are encouraged! Then we will start back up in April to begin rehearsals for our upcoming Pride month performance(s) in June!

Respectfully submitted,  
Ashley Ramirez,  
Quorus and CUCC Member





Quorus Photos





# STATISTICAL REPORTS



## **MEMBERSHIP RECORDS & REPORTS**

**As of January 1, 2025 CUCC membership was 316 people.**

In the year 2025:

- 13 members were added
- 5 members died
- 2 members transferred to other churches
- 22 members resigned their membership
- 25 members were removed by vote of Council

**As of January 1, 2026, CUCC membership was 275 people.**

This year, the Membership & Care Ministry Team surveyed our congregation, contacting members who had not been here in quite some time to determine if they wanted to remain on our rolls. This resulted in an attrition of 47 members who had not been in attendance in many years. This is done periodically to maintain the integrity of our membership statistics. The following statistics reflect data that was reported to the CUCC office in 2025. To keep our database up to date, please remember to let the church office know of any changes in contact information, weddings, births, or other status changes as they occur. Thank you!

### **New Members Received: 13**

Aimee Anderson; Shayne Armstrong; Lynette Baudino-Eggemeyer; John Bax; Jesse Lippincott and Lauren Lippincott; Gail Marriott; Alan Posz and Marsha Posz; Carolyn Price; Ryan Pulley; Eric Schmittel; Kieran Williams

### **Weddings Officiated through CUCC: 1**

Sharon Young & Victor Tyson.

### **Funerals officiated through CUCC: 10**

John Adams; Rev. James Elliott; Helen Graves; Alice Moon; Ann Peters; Christine Poe; Evelyn Jean Poe; Neal Sprick; Rita Stolzhus; John Wheeler

### **Membership Loss due to Death: 5**

Geri Critz; Rev. James Elliott; Helen Graves; Alice Moon; Neal Sprick

### **Membership Loss by Transfer: 2**

Sharon Elliott; Lynne Tsapelas

### **Membership Loss by Resignation: 22**

Aaron and Lindsey Beckman; Evan and Josephine Camden; Mike, Megan, and Devin Hall; Anne Heine; Betsy Murphy; Lindsey and Hillary Oncken; Ed Rollins; Ron and Karen Schmidt; Kevin and Stacey Schroeder; Scott and Karen Webster; Hannah, Josh and Luke Wedemeyer; Jess Wolfe

### **Membership Loss by Removal: 25**

Bret, Jackie, Josie, and McKenzie Arms; Alan and Deborah Bernhardt; Travis Brookshire; Danielle and Devin Burrow; Don Gordon; Tiffany Greene; Betty Grossi; Ron Groteweil; Rebecca Holley; Sue McDaniel; Greg and Katie Nix; Doug and Sheryl Oncken; Zaire Mpufubusa and Bukuru Ntihaloose; Joan Schmidt; Kelly, Seth, and Lucy Smith

Respectfully submitted,  
Pastor Rick Oberle



## **FACILITIES USAGE**

**PURPOSE:** To give account of our facilities' usage for the year, according to the church calendar. This includes: Conference meetings, education events (such as Adult Bible Study, Lunch & Learns, Confirmation classes, etc.), Fellowship events (any gathering of fellowship such as Women's Fellowship and any events hosted by the groups), Funerals/Memorials, Ministry Meetings, Music Events, Outside Group activities (a group that rents a part or all of the facility for a non-church based event), Partnership Group activities (Quorus and Scouting America), Special Events (such as the Advent Banquet or LODO Event nights), Staff Meetings, Weddings, and Worship services (including special services)

<b>Event</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>TOTAL by event</b>
Conference Meetings	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Education	3	1	1	0	8	0	3	0	2	5	4	3	30
Fellowship	4	7	4	10	7	6	4	5	9	9	9	7	81
Funeral/Memorial	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Ministry Meeting	9	2	6	4	5	7	4	5	6	5	7	2	62
Music	8	8	4	9	6	0	0	2	4	9	11	5	66
Other	0	1	0	1	2	0	2	1	0	1	2	0	10
Outside Group	0	2	6	4	5	4	0	2	4	2	4	5	38
Partnership Group	4	7	7	6	5	7	1	4	7	6	6	6	66
Special Event	1	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	3	11
Staff Meeting	4	2	2	5	4	4	0	0	4	4	2	2	33
Wedding	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Worship Service	4	4	9	9	4	5	4	5	4	4	5	5	62
<b>TOTAL by Month</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>465</b>

Grand total of facilities usage in 2023 = 382

Grand total of facilities usage in 2024 = 367

**Grand total of facilities usage in 2025 = 465**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alexandra Roper,  
Administrative Assistant



## **WORSHIP ATTENDANCE 2025**

<b>Average Attendance:</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
January	88	85	91	56	N/A	145
February	105	91	93	65	48	123
March	88	120	197	91	51	112
April	108	93	115	109	86	N/A
May	87	89	87	75	77	28
June	90	75	77	73	77	39
July	77	83	70	67	60	29
August	68	66	77	69	64	35
September	100	101	89	95	88	60
October	102	90	96	81	96	49
November	92	98	102	104	90	73
December	94	82	108	97	98	N/A
Average for the Year	92	89	92	82	74	69

<b>Special Services</b>	<b>2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Ash Wednesday	48	40	54	40	36	58
Maundy Thursday	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	25	N/A
Good Friday	43	45	49	41	27	N/A
Easter Sunrise	23	23	22	22	33	N/A
Christmas Eve	138	173	138	161	177	171

Respectfully submitted,  
Alexandra Roper, Administrative Assistant



## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Columbia United Church of Christ **Balance Sheet** — December 31, 2025

	<b>Total</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
BCNB Checking Account	\$119,014.26
BCNB Payroll Account	\$261.85
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$119,276.11</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$119,276.11</b>
Other Assets	
380350 UCF United Church Funds	\$105,301.68
380351 UCF Endowment Fund	\$82,017.01
380352 UCF Scholarship Fund	\$154,139.68
380353 UCF Building Fund	\$104,033.16
380354 UCF Transportation Fund	\$6,248.47
380355 UCF Memorial Fund	\$17,391.57
380356 UCF Nurture & Education	\$14,914.85
380357 UCF Young Adult/Campus	\$3,000.49
380358 UCF Youth Ministry Fund	\$9,125.66
380359 UCF LODO Ministry Fund	\$9,561.24
380359A UCF New Floor Fund	\$71,551.82
<b>Total Other Assets</b>	<b>\$577,285.63</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$696,561.74</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
Chase Card	\$3,481.81
<b>Total Credit Cards</b>	<b>\$3,481.81</b>
Other Current Liabilities	
Prepaid LODO Tuition	\$204.00
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$204.00</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$3,685.81</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$3,685.81</b>
Equity	
Investment Income/Loss	-\$89,296.41
Opening Bal Equity	\$134,198.98
Retained Earnings	\$491,700.46
Net Revenue	\$156,272.90
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$692,875.93</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$696,561.74</b>



## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Columbia United Church of Christ **Designated Funds Report** — December 31, 2025

<b>Designated Funds</b>	<b>Retained Earnings</b>	<b>Receipts</b>	<b>Disbursements</b>	<b>Total</b>
Building & Grounds Fund - UCF	\$95,102.16	87,328.16	-41,614.48	\$140,815.84
Chiapas Mission Trip	\$0.91	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.91
CUCC Scholarship Fund - UCF	\$138,597.59	\$25,780.58	-\$10,238.49	\$154,139.68
Designated Funds	\$56,900.04	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$56,900.04
Endowment Fund - UCF	\$57,124.33	\$11,773.13	-\$1,900.45	\$66,997.01
Giving Tuesday	\$250.00	\$20.00	\$0.00	\$270.00
LODO Fund - UCF	\$6,389.54	\$4,863.58	-\$191.88	\$11,061.24
Memorial Fund - UCF	\$13,699.39	\$6,668.39	-\$335.55	\$20,032.23
New Floor - UCF	\$0.00	\$71,659.68	-\$107.86	\$71,551.82
Nurture & Education Fund - UCF	\$13,672.58	\$3,219.24	-\$392.80	\$16,499.02
Outreach & Advocacy Fund				
Camp MoVal	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Christmas Eve Offering	\$850.00	\$845.25	-\$850.00	\$845.25
Christmas Fund	\$100.00	\$629.00	-\$704.00	\$25.00
Church World Service	\$0.00	\$442.00	-\$442.00	\$0.00
CROP Walk	\$0.00	\$940.00	-\$940.00	\$0.00
Eden Theological Seminary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Festival of Sharing	\$0.00	\$685.00	\$0.00	\$685.00
Food Bank of Central & NE MO	\$419.00	\$1,934.26	-\$419.00	\$1,934.26
Habitat for Humanity Mid-MO	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Health Kits	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Heifer Project	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Loaves and Fishes	\$3,228.87	\$599.62	-\$1,030.51	\$2,797.98
Member Assistance	\$50.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00
Mobility Worldwide	\$0.00	\$894.00	-\$894.00	\$0.00
Neighbors in Need	\$0.00	\$496.00	-\$476.00	\$20.00
OGHS	\$0.00	\$1,640.00	-\$1,640.00	\$0.00
Refugee Resettlement	\$1,764.50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,764.50
Souper Bowl of Caring	\$356.69	\$406.12	-\$762.81	\$0.00
Strengthen the Church	\$0.00	\$516.00	-\$516.00	\$0.00
UCC Open & Affirming Coalition	\$0.00	\$443.00	-\$443.00	\$0.00
UCC Pilgrim Storm Relief	\$0.00	\$525.00	-\$525.00	\$0.00
Voluntary Action Center	\$0.00	\$725.00	-\$700.00	\$25.00
Softball Fellowship	\$0.00	\$678.40	-\$678.40	\$0.00
Transportation - UCF	\$5,392.06	\$3,293.55	-\$2,298.92	\$6,386.69
Worship & Music Fund	\$1,965.18	\$7,820.00	-\$5,263.00	\$4,522.18
Young Adult/Campus - UCF	\$2,294.74	\$486.21	-\$79.31	\$2,701.64
Youth Ministry Fund - UCF	\$7,563.05	\$1,478.77	-\$241.23	\$8,800.59
<b>TOTAL:</b>	<b>\$405,770.63</b>	<b>\$236,789.94</b>	<b>-\$73,684.69</b>	<b>\$568,875.88</b>

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Columbia United Church of Christ **Income Statement** — December 31, 2025

	Actual	Budget	Over Budget
<b>Revenue</b>			
Fellowship Activities	\$1,277.00	\$2,000.00	-\$723.00
Joyful Giving	\$414,884.67	\$424,361.00	-\$9,476.33
LODO Workman's Overhead	\$7,800.00	\$7,800.00	\$0.00
Other Income	\$3,572.91	\$5,000.00	-\$1,427.09
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 427,534.58</b>	<b>\$ 439,161.00</b>	<b>-\$ 11,626.42</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 427,534.58</b>	<b>\$ 439,161.00</b>	<b>-\$ 11,626.42</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
<b>MINISTRY TEAMS</b>			
<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Advertising	\$439.73	\$2,000.00	-\$1,560.27
Computer Equip/Software/Svcs	\$5,801.09	\$2,000.00	\$3,801.09
Computer Maintenance	\$5,720.82	\$5,000.00	\$720.82
Employment Fees	\$1,195.80	\$500.00	\$695.80
Internet/Telephone	\$4,667.76	\$4,000.00	\$667.76
Kindrid Fees	\$2,961.24	\$3,000.00	-\$38.76
Lay/Staff Travel/Registration	\$223.56	\$1,000.00	-\$776.44
Mileage	\$1,262.80	\$2,000.00	-\$737.20
Office Supplies	\$1,896.01	\$2,000.00	-\$103.99
Payroll Expenses/Bank Fees	\$1,990.74	\$925.00	\$1,065.74
Postage	\$862.87	\$1,500.00	-\$637.13
Printer Copies	\$4,793.31	\$3,000.00	\$1,793.31
Staff Continuing Education	\$109.00	\$500.00	-\$391.00
<b>Total ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>\$ 31,924.73</b>	<b>\$ 27,425.00</b>	<b>\$ 4,499.73</b>
<b>BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS</b>			
Building Insurance	\$20,224.00	\$17,850.00	\$2,374.00
Building Maintenance	\$3,842.70	\$3,600.00	\$242.70
Building Supplies	\$2,449.91	\$1,360.00	\$1,089.91
Cleaning Service	\$8,339.70	\$8,000.00	\$339.70
Elevator Inspection/Maintenance	\$6,428.60	\$5,145.00	\$1,283.60
Grounds Maintenance	\$18,935.00	\$7,300.00	\$11,635.00
Minor Repairs	\$1,192.45	\$1,500.00	-\$307.55
Utilities	\$27,399.22	\$27,300.00	\$99.22
<b>Total BUILDING &amp; GROUNDS</b>	<b>\$ 88,811.58</b>	<b>\$ 72,055.00</b>	<b>\$ 16,756.58</b>

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Columbia United Church of Christ **Income Statement** — December 31, 2025

	Actual	Budget	Over Budget
<b>FELLOWSHIP &amp; HOSPITALITY</b>			
Advent Banquet	\$1,980.00	\$1,550.00	\$430.00
End of Year Picnic	\$354.91	\$300.00	\$54.91
Fastnacht	\$897.81	\$1,000.00	-\$102.19
Game Night/Movie Night	0.00	\$150.00	-\$150.00
Hospitality Supplies	\$1,150.39	\$600.00	\$550.39
Rally Day	0.00	\$350.00	-\$350.00
Trunk Or Treat/Fall Party	0.00	\$600.00	-\$600.00
Veterans Appreciation	0.00	\$50.00	-\$50.00
<b>Total FELLOWSHIP &amp; HOSPITALITY</b>	<b>\$ 4,383.11</b>	<b>\$ 4,600.00</b>	<b>-\$ 216.89</b>
<b>FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP</b>			
Offering Envelopes	\$1,568.03	\$1,500.00	\$68.03
Stewardship Expenses	\$50.90	\$500.00	-\$449.10
<b>Total FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP</b>	<b>\$ 1,618.93</b>	<b>\$ 2,000.00</b>	<b>-\$ 381.07</b>
<b>INCLUSION &amp; AFFIRMATION</b>			
Columbia Values Diversity	\$300.00	\$270.00	\$30.00
Guest Honorariums	\$300.00	\$250.00	\$50.00
Inclusion Supplies	\$1,629.52	\$1,980.00	-\$350.48
Pridefest Registration	\$500.00	\$500.00	\$0.00
<b>Total INCLUSION &amp; AFFIRMATION</b>	<b>\$ 2,729.52</b>	<b>\$ 3,000.00</b>	<b>-\$ 270.48</b>
<b>MEMBERSHIP &amp; CARE</b>			
Guest & Welcoming	\$528.18	\$500.00	\$28.18
Health Care Ministry Team	\$0.00	\$500.00	-\$500.00
Member Communications	\$525.39	\$500.00	\$25.39
<b>Total MEMBERSHIP &amp; CARE</b>	<b>\$ 1,053.57</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>	<b>-\$ 446.43</b>

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Columbia United Church of Christ **Income Statement** — December 31, 2025

	Actual	Budget	Over Budget
<b>NURTURE &amp; EDUCATION</b>			
Adult Education Programs/Events	\$247.16	\$1,000.00	-\$752.84
Bible Study/Sunday Programs	\$0.00	\$350.00	-\$350.00
Christmas Program	\$141.26	\$100.00	\$41.26
CoMo Mission Experience	\$557.90	\$500.00	\$57.90
Confirmation	\$79.98	\$750.00	-\$670.02
Nursery Worker	\$440.52	\$4,300.00	-\$3,859.48
Sunday School/Nursery Supplies	\$2,463.37	\$3,100.00	-\$636.63
Sunday School/Special Events	\$889.48	\$900.00	-\$10.52
Vacation Bible School	\$3,019.05	\$2,750.00	\$269.05
Young Adult/College Ministry	\$524.95	\$1,600.00	-\$1,075.05
Youth Ministry	\$897.33	\$3,000.00	-\$2,102.67
<b>Total NURTURE &amp; EDUCATION</b>	<b>\$9,261.00</b>	<b>\$18,350.00</b>	<b>-\$9,089.00</b>
<b>OUTREACH &amp; ADVOCACY</b>			
Community Assistance	\$700.29	\$750.00	-\$49.71
Local Missions	\$17,970.00	\$15,600.00	\$2,370.00
Special Mission Project	\$0.00	\$5,000.00	-\$5,000.00
Team Earth	\$70.15	\$503.00	-\$432.85
Wider Mission	\$10,600.00	\$10,400.00	\$200.00
<b>Total OUTREACH &amp; ADVOCACY</b>	<b>\$29,340.44</b>	<b>\$32,253.00</b>	<b>-\$2,912.56</b>
<b>WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>			
Copyright License	\$552.11	\$400.00	\$152.11
Guest Ministers	\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	-\$200.00
Guest Musicians	\$1,235.00	\$1,200.00	\$35.00
Instrument Tuning	\$1,214.04	\$800.00	\$414.04
Music Program	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	-\$1,500.00
Non-Music Programs	\$204.18	\$1,000.00	-\$795.82
Section Leaders	\$8,557.80	\$6,000.00	\$2,557.80
Sheet Music	\$1,389.54	\$1,000.00	\$389.54
Worship Supplies	\$600.98	\$1,000.00	-\$399.02
<b>Total WORSHIP &amp; MUSIC</b>	<b>\$14,753.65</b>	<b>\$14,100.00</b>	<b>\$653.65</b>
<b>Total MINISTRY TEAMS</b>	<b>\$183,876.53</b>	<b>\$175,283.00</b>	<b>\$8,593.53</b>

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

Columbia United Church of Christ **Income Statement** — December 31, 2025

	Actual	Budget	Over Budget
<b>MUSIC STAFF SALARIES</b>			
Accompanist	\$9,484.64	\$13,390.00	-\$3,905.36
Music Program Coordinator	\$16,491.70	\$16,480.00	\$11.70
<b>Total MUSIC STAFF SALARIES</b>	<b>\$25,976.34</b>	<b>\$29,870.00</b>	<b>-\$3,893.66</b>
<b>OTHER MINISTRY PROJECTS</b>			
3% Joyful Giving Transfer	\$10,230.45	\$12,731.00	-\$2,500.55
Heritage Team	\$0.00	\$100.00	-\$100.00
OCWM	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$0.00
Transportation	\$3,306.78	\$3,000.00	\$306.78
Visioning & Strategic Planning	\$764.61	\$2,000.00	-\$1,235.39
Western Assn. Contribution	\$800.00	\$800.00	\$0.00
<b>Total OTHER MINISTRY PROJECTS</b>	<b>\$27,101.84</b>	<b>\$30,631.00</b>	<b>-\$3,529.16</b>
<b>PASTORAL LEADERSHIP</b>			
Cont Education	\$493.53	\$500.00	-\$6.47
Health/Dental/Vision Insurance	\$31,368.99	\$30,000.00	\$1,368.99
Housing	\$24,129.12	\$24,129.00	\$0.12
Pastoral Expense	\$791.85	\$1,000.00	-\$208.15
Pension	\$15,706.29	\$13,000.00	\$2,706.29
Salary	\$65,907.12	\$65,907.00	\$0.12
Social Security	\$6,807.12	\$6,807.00	\$0.12
<b>Total PASTORAL LEADERSHIP</b>	<b>\$145,204.02</b>	<b>\$141,343.00</b>	<b>\$3,861.02</b>
<b>STAFF SALARY</b>			
Administrative Assistant	\$32,909.13	\$32,485.00	\$424.13
Custodian	\$8,108.73	\$8,275.00	-\$166.27
FICA/Taxes	\$5,125.06	\$5,250.00	-\$124.94
Workmen's Compensation Ins	\$2,427.00	\$1,850.00	\$577.00
Year End Bonuses	\$1,122.95	\$1,500.00	-\$377.05
<b>Total STAFF SALARY</b>	<b>\$49,692.87</b>	<b>\$49,360.00</b>	<b>\$332.87</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$431,851.60</b>	<b>\$426,487.00</b>	<b>\$5,364.60</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>-\$4,317.02</b>	<b>\$12,674.00</b>	<b>-\$16,991.02</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>-\$4,317.02</b>	<b>\$12,674.00</b>	<b>-\$16,991.02</b>

## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### **LODO Budget Report - December 31, 2025**

	Actual	Budget	Over Budget
<b>Revenue</b>			
<b>LODO Income</b>			
Fundraiser	\$242.00	\$0.00	\$242.00
Late Payment Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Late Pickup Fee	\$130.00	\$0.00	\$130.00
LODO Donations	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
LODO Enrollment Fees	\$2,120.00	\$1,600.00	\$520.00
LODO Supply Fees	\$825.00	\$1,000.00	-\$175.00
LODO Tuition	\$180,605.67	\$239,779.77	-\$59,174.10
Tuition Deposit	\$3,600.00	\$4,000.00	-\$400.00
<b>Total LODO Income</b>	<b>\$ 187,522.67</b>	<b>\$ 246,379.77</b>	<b>-\$ 58,857.10</b>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$ 187,522.67</b>	<b>\$ 246,379.77</b>	<b>-\$ 58,857.10</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>\$ 187,522.67</b>	<b>\$ 246,379.77</b>	<b>-\$ 58,857.10</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>			
<b>Little Ones Day Out Expenses</b>			
Advertising	\$129.05	\$850.00	-\$720.95
Fax	\$360.00	\$360.00	\$0.00
Fundraiser Expenditures	\$714.92	\$0.00	\$714.92
LODO Designated Fund Transfer	\$0.00	\$1,250.00	-\$1,250.00
LODO Utilities	\$6,564.00	\$6,564.00	\$0.00
Maintenance	\$1,691.59	\$1,750.00	-\$58.41
Return Check Fee	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Special Events	\$1,052.37	\$2,700.00	-\$1,647.63
Staff Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Staff Appreciation	\$2,101.83	\$2,350.00	-\$248.17
Staff Training	\$2,966.56	\$3,000.00	-\$33.44
<b>Total Staff Expense</b>	<b>\$ 5,068.39</b>	<b>\$ 5,350.00</b>	<b>-\$ 281.61</b>



## **FINANCIAL REPORTS**

### **LODO Budget Report - December 31, 2025**

	Actual	Budget	Over Budget
<b>Supplies</b>			
Classroom Consumables	\$1,068.70	\$2,700.00	-\$1,631.30
Classroom Durables	\$660.66	\$2,700.00	-\$2,039.34
Cleaning Supplies	\$332.45	\$1,000.00	-\$667.55
Gross Motor Indoor/Outdoor	\$263.75	\$900.00	-\$636.25
Kitchen Supplies	\$5.97	\$200.00	-\$194.03
Office Materials	\$1,647.22	\$3,500.00	-\$1,852.78
Paper Goods	\$502.37	\$1,250.00	-\$747.63
Snacks	\$1,621.17	\$3,550.00	-\$1,928.83
Technology	\$2,356.24	\$1,140.00	\$1,216.24
Total Supplies	\$ 8,458.53	\$ 16,940.00	-\$8,481.47
<b>Total Little Ones Day Out Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 24,038.85</b>	<b>\$ 35,764.00</b>	<b>-\$ 11,725.15</b>
<b>Little Ones Day Out Payroll</b>			
LODO Assistant Director Salary	\$7,962.02	\$15,312.50	-\$7,350.48
LODO Bonuses	\$1,893.77	\$1,500.00	\$393.77
LODO Director's Salary	\$47,739.54	\$39,918.75	\$7,820.79
LODO FICA	\$12,294.93	\$14,403.77	-\$2,108.84
LODO Staff Salaries	\$105,016.60	\$133,358.38	-\$28,341.78
LODO Workmen's Compensation	\$1,236.00	\$1,236.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Little Ones Day Out Payroll</b>	<b>\$ 176,142.86</b>	<b>\$ 205,729.40</b>	<b>-\$ 29,586.54</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 200,181.71</b>	<b>\$ 241,493.40</b>	<b>-\$ 41,311.69</b>
<b>Net Operating Revenue</b>	<b>-\$ 12,659.04</b>	<b>\$ 4,886.37</b>	<b>-\$ 17,545.41</b>
<b>Net Revenue</b>	<b>-\$ 12,659.04</b>	<b>\$ 4,886.37</b>	<b>-\$ 17,545.41</b>



2026 BUSINESS:

2026 BUDGET

(APPROVED October 26, 2025)

NOMINATING COMMITTEE  
REPORT



## **APPROVED 2026 BUDGET**

	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>INCOME</b>					
Fellowship Activities	\$2,000	\$1,277	\$2,000	\$1,008	\$650
Joyful Giving	\$385,321	\$414,885	\$424,361	\$369,928	\$336,262
LODO Overhead	\$7,800	\$7800	\$7,800	\$7,800	\$5,935
VBS Donations	\$1,000				
COMO Mission Experience	\$5,000				
Other	\$500	\$3,573	\$5,000	\$7,381	\$4,375
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$401,621</b>	<b>\$427,535</b>	<b>\$439,161</b>	<b>\$386,117</b>	<b>\$347,221</b>

### **EXPENSES**

<b>Administration</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Advertising	\$1,000	\$440	\$2,000	\$1,026	\$989
Computer Equipment/ Software	\$1,500	\$5,801	\$2,000	\$1,593	\$2,948
Computer Maintenance	\$5,000	\$5,721	\$5,000	\$6,081	\$3,084
Copier	\$4,000	\$4,793	\$3,000	\$3,011	\$3,224
Employment Fees	\$300	\$1,196	\$500	\$31	\$3,037
Kindrid Fees	\$2,700	\$2,961	\$3,000	\$3,370	\$2,765
Lay/Staff Travel/Registration	\$1,000	\$224	\$1,000	\$125	\$897
Mileage	\$1,500	\$1,263	\$2,000	\$1,912	\$2,377
Office Supplies	\$1,500	\$1,896	\$2,000	\$1,621	\$1,665
Payroll /Bank Fees	\$1,000	\$1,991	\$1,000	\$1,968	\$1,639
Postage	\$1,200	\$863	\$1,500	\$1,382	\$2,088
Staff Continuing Education	\$500	\$109	\$500	\$0.00	\$249
Telephone/Internet	\$5,000	\$4,668	\$4,000	\$4,634	\$4,257
<b>Total Administration</b>	<b>\$26,200</b>	<b>\$31,925</b>	<b>\$27,500</b>	<b>\$26,756.08</b>	<b>\$28,231</b>

### **Ministry Teams**

<b>Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Building & Grounds Supplies	\$1,500	\$2,450	\$1,360	\$2,969	\$1,463
Building Insurance	\$20,224	\$20,224	\$17,850	\$18,385	\$17,364
Building Maintenance	\$3,000	\$3,843	\$3,600	\$5,021	\$4,575
Cleaning Service	\$0	\$8,340	\$8,000	\$8,850	\$7,898
Elevator Maintenance	\$6,183	\$6,429	\$5,145	\$6,149	\$5,013
Grounds Maintenance	\$7,000	\$18,935	\$7,300	\$13,355	\$8,921
Minor Repairs	\$1,500	\$1,992	\$1,500	\$1,729	\$1,496
Utilities	\$30,000	\$27,399	\$27,300	\$26,005	\$26,942
<b>Total Building &amp; Grounds</b>	<b>\$69,407</b>	<b>\$88,812</b>	<b>\$72,055</b>	<b>\$82,464</b>	<b>\$73,671</b>

## **APPROVED 2026 BUDGET**

<b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Advent Banquet (catered)	\$1,550	\$1,980	\$1,550	\$1,680	
End of Year Picnic	\$300	\$395	\$300	\$291	
Fastnacht	\$1,000	\$898	\$1,000	\$1,050	
Game Night/Movie Night	\$150	\$0	\$150	\$0	
Hospitality Supplies	\$600	\$1,150	\$600	\$1,072	\$247
Rally Day	\$350	\$0	\$350	\$66.20	
Trunk or Treat/Fall Party	\$600	\$0	\$600	\$311	
Veterans Appreciation	\$50	\$0	\$50	\$0	
<b>Total Fellowship &amp; Hospitality</b>	<b>\$4,600</b>	<b>\$4,383</b>	<b>\$4,750</b>	<b>\$4,470</b>	<b>\$4,469</b>
<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Offering Envelopes	\$750	\$1,568	\$1,500	\$1,669	\$1,637
Stewardship Expenses	\$250	\$51	\$500	\$385	\$309
<b>Total Finance &amp; Stewardship</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,619</b>	<b>\$2,000</b>	<b>\$2,053</b>	<b>\$1,946</b>
<b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
COMO Values Diversity	\$270	\$300	\$270	\$270	\$270
Honorariums	\$250	\$300	\$250	\$0	\$250
Supplies	\$1,000	\$1,630	\$1,980	\$1,013	\$755
Pridefest	\$500	\$500	\$500	\$600	\$500
<b>Total Inclusion &amp; Affirmation</b>	<b>\$2,020</b>	<b>\$2,730</b>	<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$1,883</b>	<b>\$1,795</b>
<b>Membership &amp; Care</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Guest Outreach	\$400	\$528	\$500	\$392	
Health Care Ministry Team	\$200	\$0	\$500	\$0	\$0
Member Communications	\$400	\$525	\$500	\$545	\$1,130
<b>Total Membership &amp; Care</b>	<b>\$1,000</b>	<b>\$1,054</b>	<b>\$1,500</b>	<b>\$937</b>	<b>\$2,119</b>



## **APPROVED 2026 BUDGET**

<b>Nurture &amp; Education</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Adult Education Programs	\$500	\$214	\$1,000	\$1,220	\$562
Bible Study/Sunday Programs	\$200	\$0	\$350	\$76	\$0
Christmas Program	\$100	\$141	\$100	\$175	\$55
COMO Mission Experience	\$1,000	\$558	\$500		
Confirmation	\$750	\$80	\$750	\$33	\$614
Nursery Worker	\$1,000	\$441	\$4,300	\$1,423	\$1,920
Sunday School: Supplies	\$3,000	\$2463	\$3,100	4,443	\$3,617
Sunday School: Special Events	\$1,000	\$889	\$900		
Vacation Bible School	\$2,750	\$3,019	\$2,750	\$3,585	\$1,508
Young Adult/College Ministry	\$1,000	\$525	\$1,600	\$1,175	\$2,111
Youth Ministry	\$2,000	\$897	\$3,000	\$1,650	\$2,304
<b>Total Nurture &amp; Education</b>	<b>\$13,300</b>	<b>\$9,261</b>	<b>\$18,350</b>	<b>\$13,780</b>	<b>\$12,691</b>
<b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Community Assistance	\$750	\$700	\$750	\$548	\$592
Local Missions	\$16,000	\$17,970	\$16,500	\$13,800	\$16,282
Special Mission Project	\$0	\$0	\$5,000	\$5,000	\$5,000
Team Earth	\$300	\$70	\$500		
Wider Missions	\$9,000	\$10,600	\$9,500	\$7,856	\$9,500
<b>Total Outreach &amp; Advocacy</b>	<b>\$26,050</b>	<b>\$29,340</b>	<b>\$32,250</b>	<b>\$27,203</b>	<b>\$31,373</b>
<b>Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Copyright License	\$400	\$552	\$400	\$529	\$411
Guest Ministers	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$800	\$1,000
Guest Musicians	\$1,000	\$1,235	\$1,200	\$175	\$1,810
Instrument tuning	\$1,000	\$1,214	\$800	\$625	\$350
Music Program	\$500	\$0	\$1,500	\$74	\$227
Non-Music Programs	\$1,000	\$204	\$1,000	\$735	\$1,161
Section Leaders	\$5,500	\$8,558	\$6,000	\$5,723	\$5,300
Sheet Music	\$1,000	\$1390	\$1,000	\$0.00	\$726
Worship & Music Supplies	\$1,000	\$601	\$1,000	\$813	\$795
<b>Total Worship &amp; Music</b>	<b>\$12,400</b>	<b>\$14,754</b>	<b>\$14,100</b>	<b>\$9,474</b>	<b>\$11,780</b>
<b>Total Ministry Teams</b>	<b>\$129,777</b>	<b>\$183,877</b>	<b>\$147,855</b>	<b>\$142,266</b>	<b>\$139,844</b>

## **APPROVED 2026 BUDGET**

<b>Other Ministry Projects</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
3% Joyful Giving Transfer	\$0	\$10,230	\$12,731	\$8,339	\$10,153
Heritage Team	\$100	\$0	\$100	\$0	\$9,598
Our Church's Wider Mission	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$12,000	\$15,000
Transportation	\$3,000	\$3,307	\$3,000	\$1,336	
Western Association	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$800	\$1,000
Visioning & Strategic Planning	\$1,000	\$765	\$2,000	\$2,450	\$1,304
<b>Other Ministry Projects Total</b>	<b>\$16,900</b>	<b>\$27,102</b>	<b>\$30,631</b>	<b>\$24,925</b>	<b>\$37,055</b>
<b>Leadership</b>					
<b>Administrative Staff</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Administrative Assistant	\$34,106	\$32,909	\$32,485	\$32,734	\$29,089
Custodian	\$8,684	\$8,109	\$8,275	\$8,003	\$7,981
Church Pension Annuity	\$0	\$0			\$0
Financial Secretary	\$0	\$0			\$4,129
FICA/Taxes	\$5,200	\$5,125	\$5,200	\$5,528	\$4,375
Worker's Compensation Ins.	\$1,850	\$2,427	\$1,850	\$2,071	\$1,780
Year End Bonuses	\$1,500	\$1,223	\$1,500	\$1,800	\$1,685
<b>Total Administrative Staff</b>	<b>\$51,340</b>	<b>\$49,693</b>	<b>\$49,310</b>	<b>\$50,136</b>	<b>\$49,039</b>
<b>Music Staff Salaries</b>					
<b>Music Staff Salaries</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Accompanist	\$13,990	\$9,484	\$13,390	\$13,000	\$8,060
Music Coordinator	\$16,995	\$16,492	\$16,480	\$16,000	\$16,261
<b>Total Music Staff Salaries</b>	<b>\$30,985</b>	<b>\$25,976</b>	<b>\$29,870</b>	<b>\$29,000</b>	<b>\$24,321</b>
<b>Pastoral Leadership</b>					
<b>Pastoral Leadership</b>	<b>Budget 2026</b>	<b>Actual 2025</b>	<b>Budget 2025</b>	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
Continuing Education	\$500	\$494	\$500	\$318	\$289
Health/Dental/Vision	\$30,000	\$31,369	\$30,000	\$31,653	\$28,308
Housing	\$25,335	\$24,129	\$24,129	\$22,980	\$21,886
Pastoral Expenses	\$1,000	\$792	\$1,000	\$539	\$952
Pension	\$13,235	\$15,706	\$13,000	\$13,005	\$11,478
Sabbatical Pastor	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Salary	\$69,202	\$65,907	\$65,907	\$62,769	\$59,803
Social Security	\$7,147	\$6,807	\$6,807	\$6,421	\$6,116
<b>Total Pastoral Leadership</b>	<b>\$146,419</b>	<b>\$145,204</b>	<b>\$141,343</b>	<b>\$137,687</b>	<b>\$128,831</b>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$401,621</b>	<b>\$431,852</b>	<b>\$426,509</b>	<b>\$410,770</b>	<b>\$407,322</b>
<b>Net Income/Expense</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>-\$4,317</b>	<b>\$12,652</b>	<b>-\$24,653</b>	<b>-\$60,100</b>

**NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT**

The 2025 Nominating Committee consisted of: Doug Privitt, Jerry Kiesling, Dorothy Williams, Anne Heine, and Kennedy Lucas. They worked hard to fill expiring Council positions for the 2025-2026 program year. The 2026 Nominating Committee will be appointed in February, 2026 by the Church Council and will include Corinne Remeika, Vice Moderator. Current Council terms are:

COUNCIL TERMS 2026-2027			
Terms end May 31, 2026		Terms end May 31, 2027	
Secretary	Alethea Tennill	Moderator	Jerry Kiesling
*Treasurer	Deborah Long Birkes	Vice Moderator	Corinne Remeika
Building & Grounds	Ted Dachroeden	Recording Treasurer	Christine Staelens
Finance & Stewardship	Vacant	Fellowship & Hospitality	Mary Lorber-Solt
*Little One’s Day Out	Kristin Veteto	*Inclusion & Affirmation	Ashley Ramirez
*Nurture & Education	Lena Muench	Membership & Care	Judi Privitt
*Worship & Music	Edie Diel	Outreach & Advocacy	Mahree Skala
*Eligible to run again			

**From the CUCC Church By-Laws:**

**The Nominating Committee**

The Church Council at least ninety days prior to the Annual Congregational Meeting shall appoint the Vice Moderator to chair a Nominating Committee. The Committee shall be composed of five members, (at least two men, and two women; and at least one member under 30 years of age) to present a slate of candidates for election at the Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall: take into account the diversity of the congregation in developing a slate of nominees; nominate one person for each vacant position

**Terms of Office**

Terms of office for all elected positions shall begin on June 1 and conclude May 31. The Moderator shall be elected to a two-year term. At the conclusion of their two-year term, the Moderator shall not be eligible to serve on the Church Council for two years.

The Vice Moderator shall be elected to a two-year term. At the completion of the two-year term, the Nominating Committee may nominate the Vice Moderator or any other Member to succeed the Moderator for a two-year term. At the conclusion of a two-year term, if the Vice-Moderator does not become Moderator, the Vice-Moderator shall not be eligible to serve on the Church Council for two years.

The other Officers of the congregation shall be elected to a two-year term and shall be eligible for re-election for one additional two-year term. After leaving office, these Officers shall not be eligible to serve on the Church Council for two years.

The Ministry Team Chairs shall be elected to two-year terms and shall be eligible for re-election for one additional two-year term. After leaving office, the Chairs shall be not eligible to serve on the Church Council for two years.

Thank you,  
Corinne Remeika,  
Vice Moderator







**Columbia  
United Church of Christ**

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