

THE COMMUNICATOR

October 2023

OCTOBER

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

"Reformation and CUCC"

October is Reformation Heritage Month, the time that we remember the passion and sacrifices of Martin Luther and the beginnings of the Protestant Church. It was October 31, 1517 when Martin Luther began his protests, summarizing the apostasy of the Catholic Church in 95 statements, and nailing them to the door of Castle Church in Wittenberg, Germany. (This was the sixteenth century version of venting on Facebook!) The faithful would gather at the church the next day (November 1) for All Saints Day and see what Luther had posted. This spark ignited a powder keg from which the Protestant Movement emerged.

We will celebrate Reformation Sunday on October 29 here at CUCC.

The reformers who followed in Luther's example were bold enough to question what was and imagine what could be. Luther did not intend to start a new denomination, his goal was to reform the existing church, but when that was not to be (the infamous "Diet of Worms" made this clear), he ventured forth in faith, gathering like-minded individuals and structuring an expression of faith that was closer to his understanding of God.

"Sola Scriptura" was the mantra of Luther and the Reformers; translated, it means "Solely Scripture" or "By Scripture alone." This mantra was their guide as they examined the ways of the church that was and explored the ways the church could be. Doctrine and Dogma of the church were scrutinized, and what was not "Sola Scriptura" was discarded. They built a faith that was very much reflective of their understanding of Jesus' ministry, as interpreted in the scriptures of our traditions.

For the last 500+ years, the faithful witnesses of our traditions have followed the footsteps of Martin Luther, protesting the injustices of our society and attempting to distill the unnecessarily complex essence of ecclesial community (church) into the simple essence of Jesus' wisdom (love one another). Protesters formed denominations such as Lutheran, Evangelical, Reformed, Congregational and so on, expressing the faith in ways that suited their time, their culture, their context, all the while, hopefully being true to scripture and the love of God expressed in the ministry of Jesus Christ.

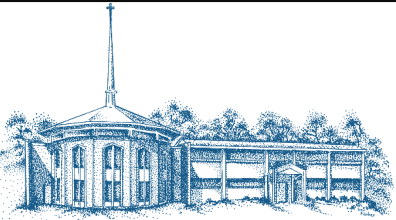
I have been spending much of my time these past few months digging into the history of The Evangelical Club, The Chapel, and Columbia United Church of Christ in preparation for our Centennial Celebrations. As I have, it has become clear to me that this church consistently has held true to the faith of the original Protestors.

From our origins in 1923 as a campus club organized to bring affirmation to oppressed German students to a college church empowering students to not just "go to church" but "be the church," the group of people who would become CUCC has spent much of their time searching out an identity consistent with the inclusive love of Jesus and the scriptural mandate to love by example. Our CUCC ancestors stood up for those with disabilities in the 1930s by calling a pastor with a profound disability, they protested military conflict in the 1940s by filing as Conscientious Objectors, and they provided aid to interred Japanese citizens during World War II, protested racial injustices in the 1950s with sit ins at segregated lunch counters, and took stances on social justice issues in the 1960s. We gave aid to Guatemalan earthquake survivors and Historically Black Colleges in the 1970s, Cambodian refugees in the 1980s, and adopted a covenant that professed our belief in modeling Jesus' inclusive love in 2019. We have historically let love be our guide and took action in our context out of that love: "sola scriptura," just like Martin Luther and the Reformers.



As we gather early this month to celebrate Heritage Sunday and the Centennial of this congregation, then later this month to celebrate the heritage of the Reformation, we are not just bookmarking history, we are actively building on that history in our present tense. Sola Scriptura!

-Pastor Rick



News & Updates

COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

3201 I-70 DRIVE NW
COLUMBIA, MO 65202

Rev. Rick Oberle

Pastor

Rev. Fred Brandenburg

Pastor Emeritus

Shelly Adams

Student Pastor

Casey Wood

Music Coordinator

MJ King

Office Administrator

Erika Maltsbarger

Director, Little One's Day Out

Caleb Berry

Custodian

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m. Worship

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
9am- 3pm

Phone:
(573) 445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com

Website:
www.columbiaucc.com



Ladies - Mark Your Calendars!



Women's Fellowship continues its new year on Thursday, October 12. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in the Gathering Area. All meetings will be held the second Thursday of each month through May 9, 2024. Plan to attend for good food, good fellowship, and inspiration as we study *Sacred Encounters – The Power and Presence of Jesus*. All ladies are welcome!

Sunday School FALL



**October 22
9-10 am**

*All-Church Celebration
All Ages Welcome*



*Campfire songs & Bible
story around the firepit. Bring
camp chairs & cozy blankets*

*Hot Cocoa &
S'mores*



*Wear your
Halloween
Costume*



October Birthdays to Celebrate

Laura Lentz 10/1	Stephanie Lee 10/3	Eric Dreier 10/4
Gina Pierson 10/5	Hugo Wilmsmeyer 10/5	Dean Barry 10/11
Lindsey Beckmann 10/12	Jane Duncan 10/13	Chris Tennill 10/13
Tez Wells 10/13	Rebecca Holley 10/14	Dominick Lee 10/14
Ed Kaiser 10/15	Alicia Wilson 10/15	Charles Marcks 10/16
Ruth Hottle 10/18	Hannah Wedemeyer 10/18	McKinzie Arms 10/22
Norah Schultz 10/22	Ron Tennill 10/22	Doug Onken 10/24
Caleb Muench 10/25	Dorothy Vetter 10/25	Dale Vetter 10/25
Carissa Graves 10/26	Mariann Bullerd 10/27	Brayden Beckmann 10/28
Jessica Jenks 10/28	Hazel Keithahn 10/28	Casey Wood 10/30

Sunday Volunteer Schedule for October

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Tech Booth
10/1	Susan Dunham	Pat Forward Llona Weiss	Rev. Rick Oberle	Ted Dachroeden John Graves
10/8	Helen Schultz	Mary Lorber Mahree Skala	Lena Muench	Mike Pierson Trevor Pierson
10/15	Audrey Lasley	Charlie Marcks Brent Marcks	Pat Forward	Lorry Dreier Josh Muench
10/22	Melba Shaffer	Melba Shaffer Christine Staelens	Llona Weiss	Judi & Doug Privitt
10/29	Anne Heine	Pat Forward Phillip Neale	Lloyd Mickelson	Brent Marcks

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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



Moderator's Moment

While sitting at home wrapping up work on a Friday afternoon, I get an email from Pastor Rick, "Are you busy?" Seemed like an odd question, something I would see in a text instead of an email. "Oh just finishing up work and about to start on some dinner shortly, what's up?" I replied. A few minutes later my phone dings, another email from Pastor Rick, "That's good, I need a favor and I will be glad if you can help me with this now. I have been working on surprising some of our diligent staff with gift cards today but I am very busy. Can you get them for me at any nearby store around you? Please let me know." I knew something was up, and when I checked the email address it was coming from, it was showing up as Pastor Rick on the "from" line, but the address was incorrect. This was most definitely a phishing attempt.

I have had to sit through more cyber security training than I'd like to admit, and I always think they are a waste of time. However, in this case, I knew that scammers usually ask for gift cards, provide a sense of urgency (especially when they are posing as a boss or authority figure), contain some element of secrecy, and are pandering to the target's self-interest. I'm using myself as an example because talking to pastor Rick, phishing scams targeted at employees and members of a church are on the rise. According to **KnowBe4**, a tech security blog, Saint Ambrose Church staff was caught up in a scam in the midst of a church building renovation project (sound familiar?). They unknowingly paid scammers 1.75 million dollars because someone hacked into their email and was able to get enough information to pose as the contractors for the project asking why they had not been paid? They used urgency by threatening debt collectors and interest on "unpaid" bills to get the church to wire the money.

Communities of faith are especially vulnerable to this sort of preying; because by nature, we are encouraged to help each other with our time, energy, and even our money. Stay vigilant and look out for each other! If something seems amiss, always call the person you're supposedly communicating with to confirm the request is real before you go through with what they are asking. It really is a shame that these scammers would go after a church population full of members who are willing to help each other out. I'm sure, sadly, it works quite often.



Kurt Heine,
Church Council Moderator

Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team

Greetings! I know there has been a lack of information from this wonderful ministry team, and for that I apologize. Little did I know, when I accepted this position, that a 'tad' more was involved than just cooking and cleaning (of which I am very good); the rest, not so much. So, as I learn, grow, and get better with experience, I will become a better communicator than I am now.

I do want to say that we have had several congregational get togethers in the last few months that have gone overwhelming well! This could not have happened without the help, assistance, and goodwill of all! I cannot thank enough the members of this awesome team in making all of our church luncheons, celebrations, etc., such a success! (At least I hope so! I have not heard of any complaints, yet . . . LOL.)

So a quick review of our last event, Rally Day was a great success! We served approximately 88 people. The remaining chicken strips will be served at Loaves and Fishes, so none will go to waste. We will be working on Veterans Recognition in November. More information will be forthcoming as we get closer to that event. Please let me know if there are any concerns that our Ministry may help with, if you have any ideas of what we could be doing that we aren't now, or how to improve anything we are doing currently. I/we are always open to suggestions, ideas, and even constructive criticism.



Mary Lorber, Fellowship & Hospitality Chair

CZICC Church Council

CUCC Council Meeting — August 15, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:38 p.m. by Jerry Kiesling. Pastor Rick opened us with prayer.

Present: Jerry Kiesling, Christine Staelens, Ted Dachroeden Mike Pierson, Lorry Dreier, Judi Privitt, Tricia Price, Lydia Whitacre, Mark Duncan, Pastor Rick Oberle, Alethea Tennill.

Alethea Tennill made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Lorry Dreier. The motion passed.

Mark Duncan made a motion to approve the July minutes with a second from Mike Pierson. The motion passed.

Trisha Price discussed our book **Reorganized Religion**, Chapter 3 *They Don't Love us Anymore*. Covid 19 broke the habit; then, they have to make a conscious choice to return to church after the lockdown is over. Just under 30% of churches grew during 2021-2022. Churches are being forced to innovate on things they are doing. Judi Privitt will discuss Chapter 4 at our September council meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- Spots were filled for stewardship duties.
- Worship Sanctuary Updates: New Sanctuary Renovation was discussed. We will be in the sanctuary by September 10. Old carpet will be removed and painting will be completed sometime this week. We may need a workday in the next month. Set up will be September 9 to replace the chairs, the organ, piano, etc.
- Heritage Team: People who are expecting to attend the Saturday night dinner on September 30 need to RSVP as soon as possible. There is no cost for the dinner.
- The Children's Library Donation: The books have arrived. Katie and Trisha are going through the books and writing discussion questions. Caleb will put the book shelf together.
- Policy and Procedures Manual Update: Personnel Committee will start the review on August 15 at 5:30.
- HVAC Replacements: 3 are completed.
- 2024 Budgeting Process: Please have your budgets to Sue Ann by September 1.

New Business:

- The Council went into Executive session at 7:08 to discuss hiring the Music Coordinator. Executive session ended at 7:16. In executive session, the Council decided to hire Casey Wood as the new Music Coordinator pending checking references and a background check.
- Organist/Music Coordinator Pay: Our salary range for our organist does not seem to be equal to other churches in our area. Ted Dachroeden made a motion/seconded by Mark Duncan to pay the organist/accompanist \$13,000. Motion passed.
- Hospitality Hosts: Fellowship and Hospitality requests that the Council member who opens the church also makes coffee etc. for fellowship starting October 1.
- Pastor Rick's Report: There is no report as he was on vacation for 2 weeks. Pastor Rick discussed some generic agenda for all ministry team meetings.
- Financials were presented: We are under budget in Joyful Giving and over budget on expenses.

Ministry Reports:

- Building and Grounds: The doors will be re-keyed August 16. Anyone who needs a keycard, please see MJ in the office.
- Fellowship and Hospitality: Report is submitted.
- Finance and Stewardship: The next meeting will be September 12.
- Inclusion & Affirmation: They will meet in August.
- LODO: Report is submitted.
- Membership & Care: Report is submitted. Loaves and Fishes will be changing location in the near future.
- Nurture & Education: Report is submitted.
- Outreach & Advocacy: September 5 is our date for the Food Bank.
- Worship & Music: Their meeting is next week.

Pastor Rick closed us in prayer. Motion to adjourn by Mike Pierson, second by Lorry Dreier. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

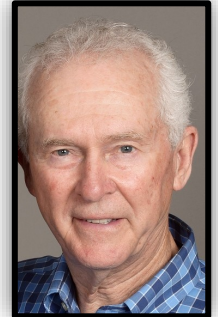
Respectfully submitted,
Alethea Tennill - Secretary



Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

Thank you to all CUCC members and friends for your outstanding support of our successful capital campaign to renovate our New Century Sanctuary! As always, you came through for us with your financial support, as well as your physical efforts to clean and return the furniture and accessories to our sanctuary after the construction.

Our "Joyful Giving" is the fund we use to pay the day to day bills, salaries, utilities, and all other expenses to provide ongoing activities and services at CUCC. Understandably, we are behind in our joyful giving, but as always, we know that together we will meet our needs as we move into the last part of our operating year. Accordingly, please be thinking about "Joyful Giving," and make your contributions as you are able. Everyone's ability to contribute varies for understandable reasons, but please factor in what you are able to contribute to this fund. CUCC members and friends are the very best, and I know you will help as you always do. Thank you again for all your contributions of time, talent, and treasure!



Respectfully Submitted,
Keith Birkes, Finance & Stewardship Chair

Financial Update

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER/ (UNDER)
AUGUST INCOME	\$17,479.99	\$25,608.33	(\$8,128.34)
AUGUST EXPENSES	\$29,813.04	\$31,319.00	(\$1,505.96)
YTD INCOME	\$176,929.06	\$202,741.64	(\$25,812.58)
YTD EXPENSES	\$265,286.09	\$250,024.18	\$15,261.91
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(\$88,357.03)	(\$47,282.54)	(\$41,074.49)
AUGUST JOYFUL GIVING	\$16,619.32	\$25,000.00	(\$8,380.68)
YTD JOYFUL GIVING	\$170,617.30	\$197,500.00	(\$26,882.70)

CUCC ONLINE GIVING

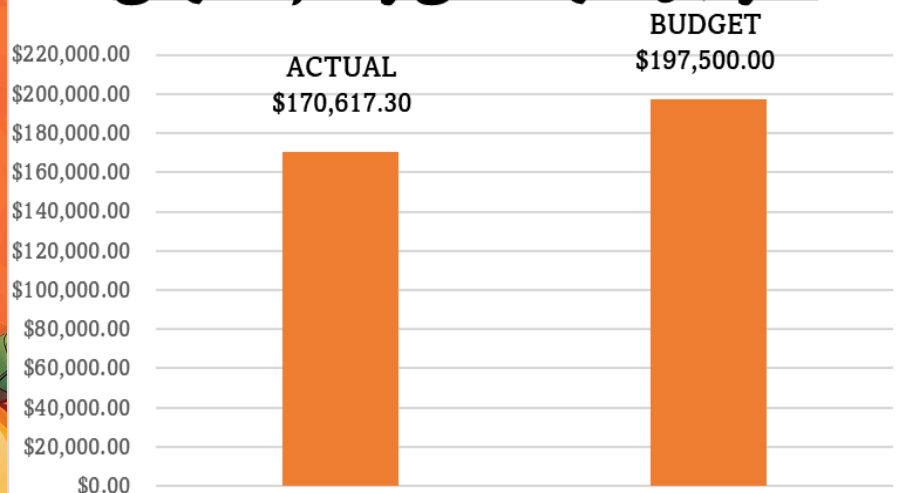
You can now give online to Columbia United Church of Christ through our online giving partner, Kindrid!

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

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

Date	Attendance
8/6/23	49
8/13/23	64
8/20/23	110
8/27/23	83
Total	306

Joyful Giving January to August



Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

To continue our 100 year look back at diversity challenges and successes, we start with where we left off last month, with John Collier.

As you may recall, he was instrumental in changing the way the United States Government dealt with Native Americans. The practice of stripping that population of their customs, language, and beliefs was stopped. His next project was during WWII when the US government decided to round up Japanese American families and place them in segregated internment camps.

John Collier petitioned the Roosevelt administration to establish two relocation centers for Japanese Americans, on Native American reservations. He was to oversee the Poston War Relocation Center on the Colorado River Reservation, but he was denied leading the second location that he suggested. Collier's goals were to allow the interned families to, in his words, "utterly give themselves to the community." He wanted to uphold their Japanese culture, as well as protect them from civilian racism. He hoped to facilitate an atmosphere of cooperative living that could someday be translated to the American public at large.

Unfortunately, his administrative duties there were short-lived. When the commander departed from the project, Mr. Collier applied for that position sighting his earlier successes as Commissioner of Indian Affairs and his work with the Poston Camp. However, he was not awarded the position. Instead, it went to Dillon Myer. Collier's position was to promote traditional culture, values, and community involvement within the camp Poston Center. Myer's direction was the polar opposite. Myer wanted to promote assimilation and extreme order in all the internment camps. The ideological differences caused too much pressure, and Collier relinquished his control.

John Collier was one of the first individuals to level attention to ostracized populations and try to assist them in maintaining their cultures. That mindset was uncommon in American society in the 1940's. As we all do, he had successes and some failures along the way. He definitely tried his best to promote positive change.



High School Campus at Wyoming Internment Camp

In the interest of positive change,
Tricia Price, Chair;
Alisa Lau-Sieckman,
Member



CUCC OPEN AND AFFIRMING/INCLUSION COVENANT

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

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

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



Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

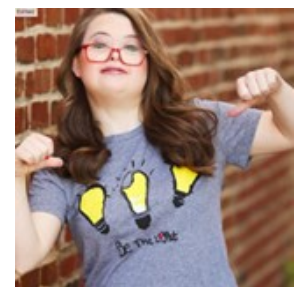
Philippians 4:13 I can do everything through God who gives me strength.

The saying goes, "It takes a village to raise a child." I contend that 'village' support is really needed throughout our lifetimes. This month, the Inclusion Ministry Team notes will focus on the success stories of individuals with Down Syndrome. All are examples of communities (i.e. villages) that have supported and loved these individuals and their families into happy, healthy, and active lives. (Stories from National Down Syndrome Society.)



Erin: At 44 years old, Erin has become a chief coffee roaster at a coffee shop in Westminster, MD. She has a keen eye and powers of observation and can spot mistakes before anyone else. Erin loves her work and roasts between 350 and 500 pounds of coffee/week.

Grace: At 25 years old, Grace is a co-founder, brand designer, and spokesperson for *Candidly Kind* (an online gift shop). She has used writing, drawing, and painting throughout her life to express her feelings. This fits perfectly into the shirts, bags, and cards she designed. Fifteen percent of all sales are donated to local charities (\$62,000 donated so far).



Ethan: At 20 years old, Ethan is a model. His first job was for a floral shop add. He has also modeled for *Suif Style*, *AdventHealth*, and *Wal-Mart*. He loves the camera and enjoys being a positive role model for others with Down Syndrome.

In Joy,
Tricia Price, Chair;
Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Member



CUCC Children's Bookshelf



We are excited to tell you all about the new Children's Bookshelf located in the back of the sanctuary. The selection of children's books has been carefully curated by the **Inclusion and Affirmation Team** to include diverse, open, and some unexpected books that carry insights into the mystery of God. We encourage folks, kids and adults alike, to check out our wonderful new collection. Inside each book are a few suggested questions to help you explore the books and the spiritual ideas hidden within them. Sometimes we can feel intimidated when kids ask us big spiritual questions, but the questions are just as sacred as the answers. There is not one "right" answer; your children are just curious as to what YOU are thinking. We hope this bookshelf will inspire you to try this practice with some of the books you have in your own home. Children's books are

unique because they can provide wonderful insights into the minds of children and often simplify complex spiritual topics in a way that can be meaningful to adults, as well. Happy reading!

LODO Ministry Team

LODO had a great start to our school year adding many new families and staff to our program. Students have settled into their rooms, and friendships are growing. Many of our families were able to join us for fellowship on September 8 for our annual Fall Picnic at Smith Park. We enjoyed a wonderful potluck meal while children played, and families and staff had an opportunity to connect with one another.

October brings fall fun to LODO! We have a busy month of learning, playing, and special events!

Johnson Photography will take school photos on Monday, October 23 and Tuesday, October 24 during our school day in the CUCC Youth Room. We will end October with classroom Halloween celebrations on October 30 and 31.



CUCC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

LODO PUMPKIN FUN DAY
FRIDAY OCTOBER 20
9:15AM-11:45AM

Little One's Day Out will hold its annual Pumpkin Fun Day on Friday October 20. We need assistance from 9:15am-11:30am to help run games and activity stations to allow the LODO Staff to focus on the supervision of students. Our event will be held on the North Hill and the Shelter House. If weather is inclement, the event will be held inside the church.

If you are available to help us with this fun event, please contact Ms. Erika at littleonesdayout@yahoo.com or 573-445-2661.

PENCIL GRASP DEVELOPMENT



PALMER
SUPINATE GRASP
12-18 MONTHS



DIGITAL
PRONATE GRASP
2 YEARS



MULTI-FINGER
GRASP
3 YEARS



TRIPOD GRASP
(STATIC/DYNAMIC)
4-6 YEARS

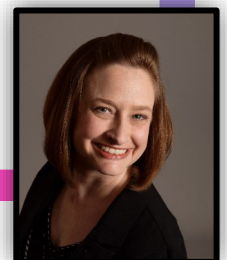
Kavya Rath,
Occupational Therapist



Building Fine Motor Skills

There are many great simple activities you can do at home to help children build hand strength and fine motor skills.

- Peeling Stickers (Start with simple circles.)
- Stringing Cheerios, Fruit Loops, Pasta
- Lacing with Large/Small Beads
- Painting with Q-tips
- Building with Blocks of all sizes.
- Using a hole puncher
- Pushing Coins through Slots/Connect 4 Game
- Playing with play-doh (rolling/cutting/tearing)
- Threading beads on onto a pipe cleaner
- Picking things up with tweezers/alligator grippers
- Pushing pipe cleaners into a colander's holes
- Scoop, dig, and pour rice/beans/sand into different containers
- Cutting & Pasting
- Squeezing Clothespins
- Doing Puzzles
- Squeeze sponges in the tub
- Ripping and Crumpling Paper
- Popping Bubbles



In Love and Laughter, Erika Maltsbarger

Membership and Care Ministry Team

Please join us November 5 for the Lunch 'n Learn highlighting MBSR (Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction). Anne Heine is coordinating this event, and additional information is included in this Communicator.

Committee members (and other helpers) put the final touches on our new Church Family Album, and it has been mailed to the printer. Many thanks to Carol Duermeyer, Jolene Kirchhoff, Jolene Hackman, and MJ for their extra efforts completing this project.

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



Health Ministry Care Team Lunch & Learn on November 5!

Come to the November 5 Lunch & Learn (right after church in Fellowship Hall) to learn about a **Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) Workshop** that we would like to offer, probably in January & February. We will need enough participants, so come and see if this workshop is for you. It is open to anyone, so invite others to come, as well. I described MBSR in the last Communicator, but in summary, decades of research has supported the effectiveness of mindfulness in helping one live in the present moment and respond to stress and situations in a more calm and peaceful manner. Dates, times, and duration of this workshop will be determined based on interested participants input and instructor availability. Terry Wilson, M.ED., R.N., who has agreed to teach this workshop, is certified in MBSR and has been practicing and teaching it for 21 years. For further information about Terry's background and work, feel free to visit her website at <https://www.showmetruenature.com>. Terry will also share some mindfulness exercises on November 5, so come and see what it's all about. You will literally get a taste of mindfulness. (How is that for a teaser!)

If you cannot make it and want to participate, let me know as we have a minimum number needed to offer the workshop and maximum number we can accept. There is a fee for this class, but if cost is a problem, let me know that, as well. RSVP to Heine@missouri.edu or sign up in the Gathering Area if you plan on coming so we have the right amount of food.

Here's a loving kindness meditation to repeat at least three times: *"May I be happy and safe. May I be healthy in body, in mind, and in spirit. May I always have enough. May my heart know peace."*

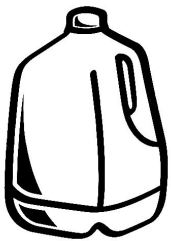
Remember, we're here for you, so call if you need help with any health related issues, transportation to a health care appointment, or if you have questions about your health care. Wishing you loving kindness . . .

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

-Anne Heine and your Health Ministry Care Team



MOBILITY WORLDWIDE NEEDS CLEAN MILK JUGS



CLEAN gallon plastic milk jugs are used by Mobility Worldwide to pack the carts in shipping. When the carts are unpacked, the milk jugs are then used by folks in the area to carry water. It is imperative that the jugs are RINSED OUT THOROUGHLY (no stinky, soured milk please) before donation. Also, the jugs should not be crushed, and the lids are needed, as well. A container will be in the gathering area during the month of October. What a great way to recycle and repurpose CLEAN plastic jugs!



Worship and Music Ministry Team

I wanted to tell you all how enjoyable it has been making music with the members of CUCC. I feel like we've gotten off to a great start. The singers bring a lot of enthusiasm to rehearsals, as well as performances in services. Being part of the music-making at CUCC has helped make my transition to living in Missouri much easier. I've enjoyed getting to meet many of you. Thank you all for your kindness. We are looking forward to performing for the anniversary service.

Casey Wood, Music Coordinator



New Century Sanctuary

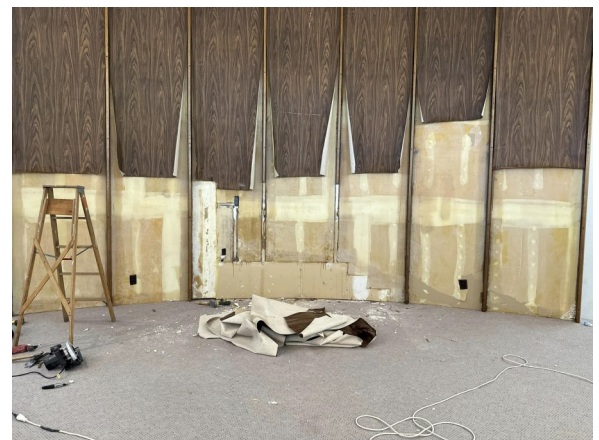
This year has been an exciting one so far. Who would have thought at the beginning of the year that we would set goals and make plans for this incredible venture and actually see it through in record time. Our original goal was to raise \$150,000 to remodel our sanctuary. With pledges, we exceeded expectations and even received enough to add an extra HVAC Unit replacement to our plan. It is remarkable that our congregation and friends are so giving. All that remains at this time to enhance our New Century Sanctuary are the new drapes, the finishing on the steps, and the handrails.



At this time, we want to give a special shout-out to Mike Pierson who has made all of this possible. Mike met with contractors, solicited and received bids, and even went the extra mile and built the stairs himself. With a large project like this, you cannot please everyone, but Mike did such an amazing job to make our sanctuary a near perfect place to worship. We are all thankful for him and his dedication.

In addition to Mike, we are grateful for all of those who came out to help make this possible. Many of you helped break down the sanctuary before the remodel. You moved chairs, took down pictures, and even removed the brass eternal ring from the ceiling. Then, more of you came out and helped paint the sanctuary. Lastly, when it was time to move back in, we had 35 people come and help move furniture back in and clean surfaces. You are all truly amazing people, and we want to make sure you know how appreciative we all are of you. Thank you.

This process was long and hard. We overcame a few obstacles, but we made it through. Now, we get to enter a new century of worship at CUCC in our New Century Sanctuary. If you have not had a chance to see it yet, you can stop in anytime. It is truly remarkable. Thank you again, CUCC, for your loving, giving spirits.



Heritage Team

The Current Era of CUCC

As we celebrate our 100th anniversary this year, we have been looking back at decades of CUCC history each month. Last month, we covered the era from 2000-2015; today, we wrap up our series by looking at the current era of Columbia United Church of Christ.

When Rev. Swope resigned in 2015, our church was facing many challenges. A consultant with whom we contracted found many administrative issues and disagreements about the role of the pastor. We embarked upon a program of listening sessions so everyone's voice could be heard. Rev. John Bracke, a retired professor from Eden Seminary and member of this church, agreed to become our Interim Pastor. "God has plans," he said, "for us to become a healthier and more faithful congregation." He led us through two years of critical reflection, so we could emerge in a healthier place.

Ad-hoc committees were formed to look at issues within the congregation. Four of these committees were: Visioning & Planning, Constitution, Policies & Procedures, and Church Profile. A report from 2015 said that we had over 500 members, but after going over records carefully, we found that a more realistic number was closer to 300. Time and Talent sheets were given to members to gauge interest in serving on committees and Ministry Teams. The Constitution and By-Laws were completely rewritten, and leadership structure was examined. The Worship time changed to 9:30 a.m. in summer months. We began hosting a Sunday morning Hospitality time before worship. We celebrated Rev. Brandenburg's ordination anniversary (50 years!) by honoring him as Pastor Emeritus.

During this time, the Open and Affirming Exploration Team was working hard to determine if we wanted to pursue an Inclusion Initiative. After many months of study, the congregation voted overwhelmingly in May of 2017 to begin the educational phase, the next step in the process. The Search Committee was also working hard, reviewing 23 clergy profiles. On June 11, 2017, the congregation voted 125-0 to call Rev. Richard Oberle as the next pastor and teacher of CUCC. On Rally Day, we welcomed him and his family.

In the fall of 2017, we upgraded our Gathering Space and hospitality area with new furniture and equipment and added TVs in our Sanctuary for visual presentations. In 2018, we remodeled our Fellowship Hall. We also purchased a new electronic church organ in 2018, thanks in large part to a significant donation from Gene and Deb Koepke. Our new church logo was designed, and we worked on a new 5-year strategic plan. The Open and Affirming Team led us through a summer of educational sessions about many diverse issues of inclusion. The Congregation drafted an Open & Affirming/Inclusion Covenant at Congregational forums in December 2018 and January 2019; in January, we voted overwhelmingly to adopt the Covenant and become a designated Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ.

In 2019, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of our current building by welcoming back Rev. Jordan and Rev. Brandenburg and raising over \$65,000 for building improvements. The Constitution and By-Laws were reviewed and rewritten. A new sign was erected by the road, visible from the highway. The Senior Luncheon became The Lunch Bunch, so all would feel welcome. Pastor Rick and seven CUCC members took a mission trip to Chiapas, Mexico to develop relationships there.

The COVID pandemic of 2020/2021 did not derail us; it actually inspired us to step up our game! We learned how to utilize social media and streaming services to do virtual worship, fellowship, and Bible Studies. Emerging from the pandemic, this congregation has grown even stronger in the bonds that unite us and our passion to serve. In 2022, Pastor Rick and the congregation embarked on a three-month shared Sabbatical. During this time, Rev. Dale Parson was our Sabbatical Pastor. We missed Pastor Rick, but we continued to thrive under Pastor Dale and the congregational leaders who stepped up.

In early 2023, we unveiled plans for a "New Century Sanctuary," the first major remodel of our worship space since 1989. A \$150,000 Capital Campaign was initiated to raise the funds for this, and that goal was exceeded quickly. We moved into the "New Century Sanctuary" on September 10. We are working on a major "Five-Year Ministry Plan" that will begin this fall, to guide us into the future. 2023 has been a year of celebration for us as we "Celebrate our Past while Embracing our Future."

-Melba Shaffer,
Heritage Team Member



International Missions

CUCC IS SERVING IN CHINA

In China, over 25 ethnic groups reside in western Yunnan Province – the largest population of ethnic minorities in the country. Global Ministries partners with the Baoshan Christian Council in Yunnan Province, serving ethnic minorities with health, education, and agricultural training. They also work on Bible translations, so ethnic minority believers can read scripture in their own language. Most minority villages are in the mountains where the greatest needs are health, education, and various social services. To build health and independence in the villages, the Baoshan Christian Council organizes community health training classes, provides medical training scholarships, and First Aid kits for lay people of the church committed to serving their villages. The Baoshan Christian Council provides support and encouragement, serving ethnic minority communities in their own cultural settings.

Columbia United Church of Christ is a partner with **The Baoshan Christian Council** through **Global Ministries**, our mission partner agency shared with the Disciples of Christ.



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

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

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

While we are there, we will also help with our CUCC Special Mission Project. Each year, CUCC budgets an amount of money (\$5000-\$10,000) to be spent on a special mission project. This year, the Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team recommended using those funds to support a sustainability project at **The Institute** – remodeling their kitchen and installing cisterns to provide water for their multipurpose facility. The Church Council approved this proposal at their July meeting, and the funds have been sent! Now, when our team is there this month, we can participate in work that we funded through our Special Mission Project! The “old” kitchen is pictured below. When our team returns in October, watch for more information about the project as it nears completion! For more information, talk to **Pastor Rick!**

**WATCH PASTOR RICK’S FACEBOOK PAGE IN OCTOBER
FOR DAILY UPDATES ON THE CUCC MISSION TRIP TO CHIAPAS!**



Nurture & Education Ministry Team

Sunday School - 9:00-10:00 am

- ◆ Please come and join a Sunday School class on Sunday mornings. There are offerings for all ages.
- ◆ The classes and the leaders for this year are:
 - ⇒ PreK-1st grade (Upstairs by the nursery) – Paula Wilson, Dorothy Williams, Yvonne Piersee, Pat Forward, Kristin Veteto, Kennedy Lucas
 - ⇒ 2nd-5th grades (Across the hall from the nursery) – Gina Pierson, Tricia Price, Linda Neale, Kennedy Lucas
 - ⇒ 6th-12th grade (meets in the youth lounge downstairs) – Jessica Lucas, Kristy Hayward, Lena Muench, and Lydia Whitacre
 - ⇒ Adult Bible Study – Barry Kirchoff, Philip Neale, Jessica Jenks and Shelly Adams
 - ⇒ Confirmation – Pastor Rick, Lydia Whitacre

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

Nursery – Supervision is available on Sunday mornings, 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. for children up through Kindergarten age. Summer and Chloe are our nursery Supervisors. Please see Pat Forward with any questions.

Monthly Special Event Sundays 9:00-10:00 a.m. during the Sunday School hour:

- ◆ October 22 – Church Wide Fall Festival Celebration - Let's meet at the Pavilion for songs, snacks, and activities. (Announcement in this communicator.)
- ◆ November 19 – PJ Sunday and Gingerbread Decorating for PreK-12th grade. Wear your Pajamas and bring a friend.

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

1. Adult Education: Judi Privitt and Pastor Rick
2. Vacation Bible School: Lena Muench and Gina Pierson
3. Children and Youth Sunday School: Pat Forward
4. Publicity: Lena Muench
5. Christmas Program: Linda Neale
6. Nursery Management: Pat Forward
7. Special Event Planning: Paula Wilson and Judi Privitt
8. Youth Group: Lena Muench and Pastor Rick
9. Young Adults/College students: Lydia Whitacre
10. Confirmation: Lydia Whitacre
11. Fundraising: Lorry Dreier

Upcoming Events – Save the Date

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

Thank You:

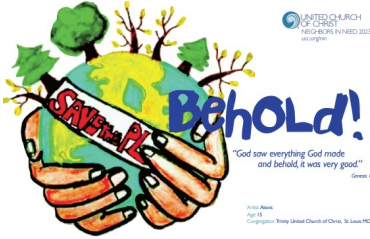
- ◆ Rally Day, with the theme of 100 in honor of our church's anniversary, was made possible by many volunteers. Thank you to these people for their time and talents:
 - ⇒ Melba Shaffer for portraying Sarah, and providing a Scroll craft
 - ⇒ Lydia Whitacre for the Cup Stack Game
 - ⇒ Linda Neale for our Bible story and Hide and Go Find game, in addition to Coordinating the Bouncy Slide
 - ⇒ Paula Wilson for the "100" Snack
 - ⇒ Parents and adults who helped supervise.



Submitted by Pat Forward, Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair

Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team

NEIGHBORS IN NEED OFFERING - OCTOBER 1, 2023



Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants. Neighbors in Need grants are awarded to UCC churches and organizations doing justice work in their communities. These grants fund projects whose

work ranges from direct service to community organizing and advocacy to address systemic injustice in program areas of environmental justice, racial justice, LGBTQ justice, economic justice, women's justice, immigration justice, and more. We will be collecting our NIN offering on Sunday, October 1; you can also give through our website.

Mark Duncan,
Outreach & Advocacy
Ministry Team Chair



LOAVES & FISHES

The September 18 meal at Loaves & Fishes consisted of chicken tenders, potato salad, baked beans, and coleslaw leftover from Rally Day. Cookies were also leftover from Rally Day and LODO family night. We also had chicken/broccoli alfredo (made and provided by Mary Lorber-Solt) and lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson). PB&J's were made and provided by Jessica Jenks. Servers were Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Anne Heine, Judi Privitt, Patty Beeson, and Brenda Muench. Jim Loveless, Doug Privitt, and John Muench took care of the dishwashing. We served approximately 112 firsts and seconds and 35 carry outs. It was a busy evening! We will be serving at Wilkes in October, but we will have to see what November brings. Thank you SO MUCH to everyone.



-Audrey Lasley

Food Bank Update and October 24 Invitation

The next CUCC Food Bank shift is coming up on October 24 at 5:30 p.m. In August, nine volunteers packaged whole wheat flour for distribution through area food pantries. Let's try to beat that number in October! Many thanks to Jane and Mark Duncan, Jo Ellen Grace, Connie Loveless, Brenda and John Muench, Judi Privitt, Mahree Skala, and Tricia Soncasie.

[CLICK HERE](#) to sign up for October or contact [Mahree Skala](#).

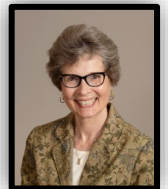


ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY UPDATE



Thank you CUCC!!! We actually surpassed our goal of collecting 100 packages of Expo Dry Erase Markers for Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary (AHL) to coincide with our CUCC 100th Anniversary. We had some late donations that put us over the goal, and AHL is so grateful! The students really use these markers a lot. We also were able to purchase other school supplies that AHL had on a spreadsheet through funds in our Outreach Committee budget. The last of the donations were all delivered to AHL on 9-15-2023, while I was a substitute at school. Also, thanks to Mahree and Melba for being volunteers in the AHL Library again this year. For those of you who were able to attend church on August 27, we enjoyed having Principal Minear, Assistant Principal Isenogle, and Teacher Rivers in attendance to receive the blessing for schools and all folks working in and with schools . . . thank you Pastor Rick. Our next Partner Friend (Faith) meeting with CPS Administration is scheduled for October 5. These meetings are beneficial for information exchange with CPS and other members of the Faith community. CUCC, without your support as members, we would not be able to do this Partner Friendship ministry which is so needed with our public schools. Thank you!

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



Thank You



Emmaus

Hello Emmaus Friends,

Emmaus Homes has always turned to our faith community for help, and today is no exception. I want to sincerely thank you for your gift of \$500.00.

Emmaus is proud to be a leader in providing services to people with developmental disabilities, and our standard of care could not be possible without your gift. Your support provides the means for Emmaus clients to live the best life possible in their own homes and community.

Emmaus depends on the continued support of donors like you, especially our faith-filled friends. We truly hope that the congregation at Columbia United Church of Christ is thriving. Thank you again for sharing your blessings with the people of Emmaus.

If you have absolutely any questions, please contact Alyson Goforh at 636-541-0489.

With Gratitude,
Lisa Key

Dearest Friends and Family of CUCC,

We cannot begin to thank you enough for ALL of the kind expressions of sympathy for the loss of our grandson, Kase. The prayers, hugs, food, cards, flowers, and love were so sincerely appreciated. It means so much to have a wonderful church family.

Love to all!

Chuck and Audrey Lasley

CUCC Family,

Kyle and I would like to thank everyone for your kind expressions of sympathy when we lost our sweet baby Kase. Thank you for the gift cards, donations, and prayers. We are anxious to bring Kenna home and know that our angel Kase is looking after us all.

Sincerely,

Kyle, Brie, Harper, Brecken, & Kenna Lasley

MISSOURI MID-SOUTH CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING

The Missouri Mid South Conference Annual Gathering will be October 13 & 14 at the Capitol Plaza Hotel in Jefferson City, Missouri. Delegates from churches all across the Conference will be in attendance, as well as clergy from around the Conference and Members in Discernment.

The event begins on Friday morning with breakfast and continues with collaborative worship experiences and workshops. Friday's lunch will feature "faith sharing presentations" to bring inspiration to folks from all corners of our Conference, and there will be several workshops Friday afternoon. Friday evening dinner will feature presentations and speakers, as well as honoring clergy and churches with significant anniversaries. CUCC will be mentioned on the occasion of our 100th Anniversary!

The keynote speaker for the event will be Ann Kansfield, a UCC minister who serves as a pastor at the Greenpoint Reformed Church and as a chaplain with the Fire Department of the City of New York. She's energetic, humorous, and entertaining while also being very serious about the ministry of the gospel.

She lives a block from Times Square with her wife and their two middle school aged children. Not surprisingly, their apartment can become a little loud at times. Ann is the author of *Be the Brave One*, a collection of ministry adventures told around the theme of living out one's spiritual values.

Registration for the Conference Annual Gathering is open thru October 10. If you would like to attend, talk to **Pastor Rick!**



On the Church Calendar in October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 100th Anniversary Celebration</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p>2 LODO Closed</p>	<p>3 LODO Closed</p>	<p>4 LODO Closed</p>	<p>5 <i>Trip to Chiapas</i></p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p>9 <i>Trip to Chiapas</i></p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Quilters</p>	<p>3:00 p.m. LODO Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>13 <i>Conference Annual Gathering</i></p>	<p>14</p>
<p>15</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Quilters 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers</p>	<p>5:00 p.m. Coyote Hill Foster Support Group</p>	<p>20 <i>LODO Pumpkin Day</i></p>	<p>21</p>
<p>12:00 p.m. FH Reserved 3:00 p.m. Cub Scouts in FH</p>	<p>4:30 p.m. Loaves & Fishes 6:30 p.m. Inclusion & Affirmation</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. Council Meeting</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 6:30 p.m. Confirmation 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall</p>		
<p>22</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p>23 <i>LODO School Photos (Youth Room)</i></p> <p>6:30 p.m. Fellowship & Hospitality</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Quilters 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers</p>	<p>6:30 p.m. Clergy Personnel Committee Meeting</p>	<p>27 LODO Closed</p>	<p>28 10:30 a.m. Columbia Orthopedic Trunk or Treat</p>
<p>29</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i> 12:00 p.m. Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>10:00 a.m. Quilters 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers</p>	<p>6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts in Fellowship Hall</p>	<p>27 LODO Closed</p>	<p>28 10:30 a.m. Columbia Orthopedic Trunk or Treat</p>

The Communicator

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

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



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

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

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

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

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

You are welcome here!

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

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

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