

THE COMMUNICATOR

September 2023

September

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

"A New Century CUCC"

Way back in January, the Church Council approved initiating a Capital Campaign for improvements to our Beloved Sanctuary. After many months in 2022 of soliciting bids and congregational input, a plan was assembled and approved by the Council. It was shared with the congregation that Sunday. Eight months ago, we hoped to raise the necessary funds by the fall and begin construction in late 2023 or early 2024.

Boy, were we surprised! The donations came in much quicker than anticipated, and we were able to begin the work in June. (*As of July 31, we surpassed \$170,000 in donations!*) This summer was filled with managing contractors and construction, moving worship spaces, and juggling how we do things. Our Sunday gatherings all summer have been "cozy" as we have had fellowship time, worship, and even brunch all in one space.

Now, we are *almost* ready to move into our **NEW CENTURY SANCTUARY**. Our plan is to move in on September 10 (Rally Day) with a ribbon cutting ceremony, a processional into the **NEW** space, and a consecration service to commit ourselves and our Sanctuary to God's glory. It will be a glorious day!

But what does a **NEW CENTURY SANCTUARY** mean to us? It is more than just a fresh coat of paint and new carpeting. Our **NEW CENTURY SANCTUARY** dedication coincides most remarkably with our entry into a **New Century of Columbia United Church of Christ**. We are not just *ending* 100 years of faithful service, we are *beginning* our next 100 years of faithful service. So what will a **NEW CENTURY CUCC** look like?

Moving into the **NEW CENTURY**, we must continue to do what we do well: *evaluate where we are, imagine where we could be, and envision how we are going to live into that possibility*. Whatever the next 100 years bring us, it won't be doing church the way we have always done church. We must continue to be open to fresh ideas, to trying new things, and even to failing at times; because if you never fail, that usually means you have never tried very hard.

Sometimes embracing fresh ideas can be challenging. The process this congregation undertook to become a designated Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ was challenging for many, but it resulted in us becoming a congregation more faithful than ever before to the inclusive ministry of Jesus Christ. Changes to our Beloved Sanctuary were challenging to envision a year ago, but our faithful step forward in this process has resulted in a worship space that is fresh and inviting, enhancing our worship life and helping us to Glorify God in new and exciting ways.

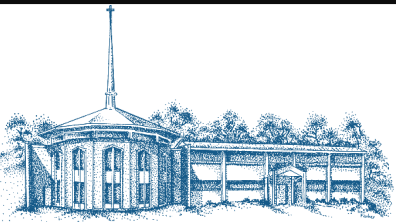
Embracing our old traditions using fresh language can be challenging, too. In one lifetime, we have seen the King James era "thee" and "thou" language updated, hymns refreshed with a more contemporary lexicon, and even The Lord's Prayer expressed in fresh new ways. This can be challenging, *but as we celebrate our past, we must not be afraid to embrace our future*. Living into a **NEW CENTURY CUCC** may look different and may be

challenging at times, but just like other fresh ideas this congregation has embraced, the church that emerges is even more faithful than the one that was.

Words may differ (at times, not all the time), rug patterns may differ, wall colors may differ, music choices may differ, but the faith remains constant. The faith that has been enhanced by the worship life of this congregation for a century is stronger than ever as we move into the **NEW CENTURY CUCC**. Our Centennial celebrations end later this month, but the party is really just beginning; because this is just the start of the **NEW CENTURY CUCC**, *and the best is most definitely yet to come!* Let's get this party started and get going on another 100 years of faithful service!



-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:
(starting September 10)

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



NCS Construction Update:

COMPLETED	PROJECT	GOAL
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CARPET INSTALLATION	COMPLETED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CEILING PAINTING/UPPER WALLS	COMPLETED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINDOW REPLACEMENT	COMPLETED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WINDOW FILM & APPLICATION	COMPLETED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	WALL PAINTING	COMPLETED
<input type="checkbox"/>	RAILINGS	SEPTEMBER
<input type="checkbox"/>	NEW STAIRS, ETC.	SEPTEMBER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HVACx2	COMPLETED
<input type="checkbox"/>	WINDOW DRAPERIES	SEPTEMBER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	CHANCEL WALLPAPER	COMPLETED
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	HVAC #3!!!!	COMPLETED



Ladies - Mark Your Calendars!

Women's Fellowship begins its new year on Thursday, September 14. 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!

PRIDEFEST AT ROSE MUSIC HALL

CUCC will again be actively proclaiming our support for the LGBTQ+ community and our *Open and Affirming Covenant* by participating in Mid Missouri Pride Festival September 23. It looks to be even bigger and better than last year! We need volunteers to staff our booth, hand out gift baggies with our church information, assist with glitter blessings, and show our solidarity with this community.

Please sign up for a 2 hour session at our booth, including set up and take down. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up or contact [Tricia Price](#) for more information or to volunteer. Thank you in advance for your time and talents. We hope to see you representing CUCC at Pridefest!



September Birthdays to Celebrate

Kaden Lucas 9/1	Kim Oberle 9/3	Matthew Baker 9/4
Bea Gordon 9/4	Lance Markway 9/4	Beth Walker 9/8
Diane Privitt 9/9	Walter Schroeder 9/9	Roselynn Lentz 9/11
Kieran Piersee 9/11	Ryan Schoeneberg 9/11	Ace Devenney 9/14
Doug Privitt 9/14	Ember Piersee 9/15	Shelby Oberle 9/18
Sheryl Oncken 9/19	Glenn Duermeier 9/21	Becky Gordon 9/23
Carol Williams 9/23	Ted Dachroeden 9/24	Yvonne Piersee 9/24
Don Privitt 9/24	Dennis Froeschner 9/25	Mike Hall 9/25
Ally Jaberg 9/25	Sue Beckman 9/26	Melissa Bernhardt 9/27
Lea Marienfeld 9/29	Llona Weiss 9/29	Lola Lee 9/30

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR SEPTEMBER

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Tech Booth	Hospitality
9/3	Susan Dunham	Melba Shaffer Lloyd Viehland	Lloyd Mickelson	Brent Marcks	Brent Marcks
9/10 Rally Day	Jessica Lucas	Pat Forward Audrey Lasley	Sue Ann Schaefer	Mike Pierson	Judi Privitt
9/17	Anne Heine	Llona Weiss	Mahree Skala	Doug & Judi Privitt	Sue Ann Schaefer
9/24	Jessica Lucas	John and Brenda Muench	Jim Loveless		Mary Lorber

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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



Moderator's Moment

Summer is a time for making memories. When you were young, you got out of school and had seemingly limitless amounts of time to do whatever you wanted!!! Vacations, camps, books (for fun!), swimming, fireworks, and BBQs are just a few of my youthful summer memories. Colored in rosy retrospection, these memories seem all the sweeter when I sit in traffic on my way to work in this 100 degree August heat! I'm sure I don't remember all the boring days, like when best friends were gone or having to dust the entire house before I could go out and play!

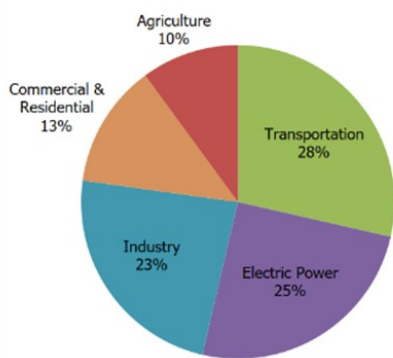
I think, much like my summer memories, our memory of this summer as a congregation will be seen through the lens of stained-glass colored glasses. We will look up at the bright colors streaming down on the congregation through our new windows and forget all about how we packed in the Fellowship Hall to worship all summer. Our not so pleasant memories will be washed away by a flood of gratitude we have for our new worship space!

Kurt Heine,
Church Council Moderator



From Your Student Pastor...

Total U.S. Greenhouse Gas Emissions by Economic Sector in 2021



Many of you know I have a day job. I work for *Cascade Energy*, a company that has been working to decarbonize the North American industrial sector since 1993. My work at *Cascade* is focused on market transformation in the industrial energy sector. Market transformation is the strategic process of intervening in a market to create lasting change by removing market barriers and developing opportunities, thereby accelerating the adoption of identified technologies or practices.

What all that means is that President Biden's administration has set the goal of decarbonizing the U.S. industrial sector by 2040, and it's going to take lots of new technologies to make that happen. But there are lots of barriers to implementing those new technologies, both on the supply side and on the demand side. And there are lots of people (like me) working in market transformation to figure out how to reduce or remove those barriers to allow faster technology adoption and greater industrial greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions.

Industry's just one part – but a big part, as you can see in the chart included. But every category on this chart is at least partially within our control. The way we live, our purchasing habits, our traveling habits, the homes we live in, the kinds of vehicles we drive, the food we eat and where we purchase it – all these things influence how much impact we have on GHG emissions.

When God created the heavens and the earth; the sun, the moon, the stars, and the sky; all the creatures that swim in the sea; all the birds that fly; all the creatures of the earth; God then created humans in God's image, and granted us stewardship over every living thing on earth.

Living lightly on the earth isn't just responding to climate change. It isn't just a new climate justice ministry of the UCC church. It's a mandate of our faith tradition that goes back to the first chapter of the first book of our Holy Scriptures.

I plan to lead a Contemporary Issues book study starting September 10 using the book *The Future Earth* by Eric Holthaus. I hope many of you join me. Peace to all of you!

Shelly Adams, Student Pastor



CUCC Church Council

CUCC Council Meeting — July 18, 2023

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

Present: Kurt Heine, Jerry Kiesling, Christine Staelens, Ted Dachroeden Mary Lorber-Solt, Mike Pierson, Lorry Dreier, Judi Privitt, Tricia Price, Mark Duncan, Rick Oberle, and Alethea Tennill.

Christine Staelens discussed our book **Reorganized Religion**, Chapter 2: *Making the World Less Awful*. The author underscores the importance of churches. When life is awful, a community of faith is needed to lift us up. What happens when churches are gone? Programs like **One Room at the Inn** and **Loaves and Fishes** would have to find volunteers from the community. Faith groups are expected to play a crucial role in the world. With less people in organized religion this becomes harder for fewer people to complete. Tricia Price will discuss Chapter 3 at our August meeting.

Unfinished Business:

- ⇒ Spots were filled for stewardship duties.
- ⇒ Worship Sanctuary Updates: New Sanctuary Renovation was discussed. Mike talked to a second contractor about extending the ribs of the back wall, creating kick plates for the stairs, and surrounds for where the flowers sit. Mike will work on building new stairs. 7/29 - painting party, 7/31 - 8/1 wallpaper installation, 8/21 ceiling will be painted, and carpet will be installed after that.
- ⇒ Heritage Team: People expecting to attend dinner on 9/30 need to RSVP so we have a head count for catering cost. There is no cost for the dinner. Todd Hackman, Carole Barner, and Josh Privitt will come back August 20.
- ⇒ The Children's Library Donation: The books have arrived. Katie and Trisha are going through the books and writing discussion questions.
- ⇒ HVAC Replacements: 2 are completed.
- ⇒ Vision Team: Jerry Kiesling is head. The team met and brainstormed about the 5 year plan discussing what doesn't apply anymore, what questions can be added to a survey, what is your vision for the next 5 years, what will it take to get there, what is your dream for the future of this church, and how can these questions be measured?

New Business:

- ⇒ Special Mission Project: The Outreach and Advocacy Ministry is asking us to support a special mission for the renovation of the kitchen in Chiapas at **the Institute**. The Outreach and Advocacy Ministry has a budgeted line item for \$5,000. The kitchen project cost \$5,000. The Ministry made a motion to spend the \$5,000 to complete the kitchen renovation project. Motion was seconded by Ted Dachroeden. Motion passed.
- ⇒ Building and Grounds Ministry made a motion to replace a third HVAC this year since the first 2 cost less than anticipated. Motion was seconded by Mark Duncan. Motion passed.
- ⇒ Repurpose garden grant: We received a \$500 grant 3 years ago. They would like to repurpose this grant to landscape around the sign out front. Money would go to plant a pollinator garden, to get a Garden Club to clean up the front, and maybe get some solar lights set up.
- ⇒ 2024 Budgeting Process: Sue Ann Schaefer needs the budgets from the Ministry teams by Sept. 1.
- ⇒ Clergy Personnel Committee Report: The committee would like to add Kristy Hayward to the committee to replace Judi Privitt. Tricia Price made a motion to add Kristy Hayward, seconded by Mike Pierson. Motion passed.
- ⇒ Financial Gifts to Brandon and Amy: A motion was made by Ted Dachroeden to gift Brandon and Amy with a bonus since they are not getting any leftover PTO paid. Motion was seconded by Mary Lorber-Solt. Motion passed. If anyone in the congregation would like to give, they can do so until July 27.
- ⇒ Music Coordinator and Organist replacements: Music Coordinator has 2 applicants that will be interviewed by the Personnel Committee on August 15. First rehearsal with the choir will be August 30. Organist interviews will wait until the Music Coordinator is in place.
- ⇒ Pastor Rick's Report is attached. Are we cleaning things up and leaving things better than they were when we arrived. As council members, can we improve our surroundings?
- ⇒ Financials were presented.

Ministry Team Reports:

- ⇒ Written reports were submitted.

Motion to adjourn by Mike Pierson, second by Lorry Dreier. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Pastor Rick closed us in prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Alethea Tennill, Secretary



Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

As the dog days of summer are winding down, we look towards fall, Rally Day, moving to the updated sanctuary, and our anniversary celebration at the end of September. The New Century Sanctuary campaign has been a wonderful success. Our goal was \$150,000 and we are, as of this writing, at \$170,000. Congratulations to all of us for coming together to get this accomplished. Thank you!

We still have the challenge of Joyful Giving meeting budget. As of July 31, Joyful Giving was \$18,502 under budget. This is better than last July month end, but we still have a way to go to get to the positive side of the budget.

Columbia United Church of Christ has much to look forward to in the coming months. Thank you for being part of our great ministry.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Ann Schaefer, Treasurer



Financial Update

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER/(UNDER)
JULY INCOME	\$29,695.77	\$27,108.33	\$2,587.44
JULY EXPENSES	\$38,948.02	\$30,077.02	\$8,871.00
YTD INCOME	\$159,449.07	\$177,133.31	(\$17,684.24)
YTD EXPENSES	\$236,693.05	\$218,705.18	\$17,987.87
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(\$77,243.98)	(\$41,571.87)	(\$35,672.11)
JULY JOYFUL GIVING	\$27,792.61	\$26,500.00	\$1,292.61
YTD JOYFUL GIVING	\$153,997.98	\$172,500.00	(\$18,502.02)

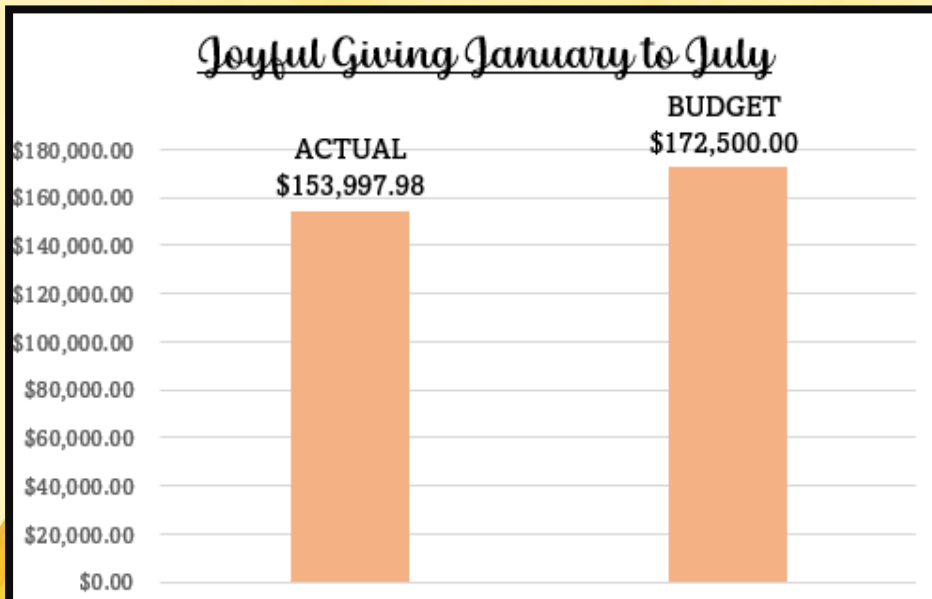
CUCC ONLINE GIVING

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
7/2/23	62
7/9/23	82
7/16/23	60
7/23/23	63
7/30/23	80
Total	347



Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

I find it interesting that many Europeans who immigrated to America in the 19th and 20th centuries did so for freedom: Freedom to pray as they wanted, to sustain their cultures in the new land, and to live in a free society. Yet since their arrival in North America, Native Americans have had those freedoms and their native lands stripped from them. In that era, the majority of Americans felt that the only true religion was Christianity. The only true language was English. The only true customs were the ones brought over from Europe. Whole tribes were forced to convert to Christianity. Wearing traditional clothing was banned. Native American parents were ‘bullied’ into sending their children to boarding schools. There, those children had to speak English and lose their traditional dress and customs. This began to change in 1926 when the Meriam Report was published. It showed that life expectancy for Native Tribes were considerably shorter than the rest of the population due to disease, malnutrition, unrealistic school systems, and poverty. The Report suggested the following changes:

- Do away with “the Uniform Course of Study” which stressed only the culture of whites
- Only older children should attend non-reservation boarding schools
- Younger children should attend a community school near home
- The Indian Service must provide tools to assist in the adapting of both cultures together

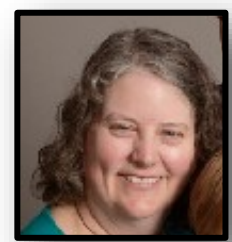
These recommendations became practice in 1929. There were further improvements under Franklin Roosevelt’s administration. In 1933, he appointed John Collier as commissioner of Indian Affairs. He served there for 12 years making sweeping and lasting changes. Collier crafted what became the **Indian Reorganization Act of 1934** which marked the end of “assimilation” being the goal for Native Americans. (Excerpts from “Partnership with Native Americans website”)

A few words about John Collier (from Wikipedia): He was born in 1884 in Atlanta, Georgia where his father was a banker and civic leader. Unfortunately, both of Collier’s parents died when he was 16. He was educated in Paris and at Columbia University. He developed a social philosophy that would propel his interest in helping Native Americans. He saw that society was becoming too individualistic and argued that American culture needed to reestablish a sense of community and responsibility. He worked for the acceptance of cultural pluralism (a term used when smaller groups within a larger society maintain their unique cultural identities, values, and practices). His work reversed fifty years of assimilation policies and emphasized Native American self-determination and a return of communal land.



There is more to John Collier’s career, and we will highlight that in next month’s Communicator.

Respectfully Submitted,
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.

LODO Ministry Team

Back to School time is finally here! LODO kicked off our 2023-2024 school year on Monday, August 28! We are looking forward to making wonderful memories with our LODO Families through daily attendance and family events throughout the year. Each year, we love watching our students grow in their development and build friendships with one another.

Amazon Wish List

LODO maintains a wishlist on Amazon of frequently used supplies and new learning materials. All contributions to the LODO program are appreciated! You can [CLICK HERE](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3135KEL32FTBN?ref_=wl_share) or visit https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3135KEL32FTBN?ref_=wl_share to make a contribution!

Important Dates

Sep 4 - LODO Closed
Sep 8 - LODO Family Picnic
Sep 13 - LODO Closed

Introducing our 2023-2024 LODO Staff

Director: Erika Maltsbarger

Assistant Director: Ashley Mills

Lightning Bugs Teacher: Charlotte Underwood

Lambs Teacher: Avis Kim

Lions Teacher: Trevia May

Leopards Teacher: Rachel Demand

Leap Frogs Teacher: Kadee Thompson

School Aides: Meredith Burgio, Bailey Griffin, and Abby Wehmeyer

Afternoon LODO+ Staff: Alli Walton and Hannah Weinstein



WITH LOVE AND LAUGHTER,
ERIKA MALTSBARGER

September Learning Themes



A SUMMER OF UPGRADES!

If you have not seen the new upgrades in the educational wing of the church, check it out sometime! The LODO Classrooms each received a fresh coat of paint this summer, we installed a new floor in the Lightning Bugs classroom, and had all our floors stripped, sealed, and waxed. We painted the LODO hallway, as well as the church office, and we installed THREE new HVAC units! The playground was also refurbished with new mulch, a new play structure, and repair to the playground fence. While the Sanctuary was being remodeled, the educational wing was upgraded, as well! Check out the improvements next time you are here!

Membership and Care Ministry Team

As we begin a new school year, the Membership & Care Ministry Team continues to work to meet the needs of our congregation.

CARE (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) is a sub-committee of the Membership and Care Ministry Team. The **CARE** team consists of several other teams with specific focuses:

- Do you enjoy mailing cares/well wishes to friends? Our **Card Writing Team** is for you.
- Do you enjoy cooking a meal for a friend/neighbor in need? Our **Meal Train and/or Bereavement Teams** are for you.
- Do you enjoy praying for others? Our **Prayer Team** is for you.
- Do you enjoy visiting church members? Our **Visiting Team** is for you.
- Do you enjoy transporting church members to church and/or appointments? Our **Transportation Team** is for you.
- Do you enjoy promoting health and wellness? Our **Health Ministry Care Team** is for you.
- Do you enjoy helping others with household tasks? Our **Handy Helper Team** is for you.
- Do you enjoy visiting with others while completing handwork (crochet, knitting, etc.)? Our **Prayer Shawl Team** is for you.

We would love to add more members to our **CARE Teams**. If you are interested in serving on one (or more) of these teams or would like more information, please contact [Jolene Kirchhoff](#) or [Judi Privitt](#).

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



Health Ministry Care Team Lunch & Learn on November 5!

On November 5, join us after church in Fellowship Hall for a healthy lunch and learn about what Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) is and how this could positively impact your life.

This critically acclaimed, evidence-based practice developed by Jon Kabat-Zinn is taught and adapted worldwide in a variety of settings to help reduce stress and live in the present moment. Research has demonstrated that engaging in a mindfulness practice decreases stress and anxiety, increases attention, improves communication and interpersonal relationships, and strengthens compassion for self and others.

People who have completed the MBSR program and continue to practice mindfulness report a sense of peace and calmness as they learn how to use their innate resources to respond more effectively to stress and the challenges of daily life. Terry Wilson, M.Ed., R.N., who teaches MBSR, will be here to explain the program and answer any questions. She was trained at the **Center for Mindfulness** in Massachusetts and has taught and been practicing MBSR for 24 years.

MBSR is facilitated in a secular manner in which a person of any faith tradition can feel comfortable participating. Past participants have shared that learning mindfulness has enhanced their faith tradition.

This Lunch and Learn is being presented by your CUCC Health Ministry Care Team: Anne Heine, Mona Dachroeden, Mary Lorber-Solt, Emmalee Heine, and Stefanie Jimmy. Remember, we're here for you, so call if you need help with any health related issues, transportation to a health care appointment, or any questions about health care!

-Anne Heine and your Health Ministry Care Team



Worship and Music Ministry Team

Hello to all in the CUCC Congregation!

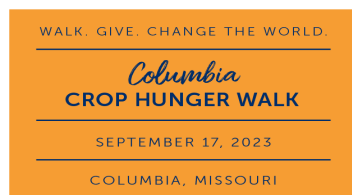
My name is Casey Wood, and I am the new Music Coordinator for the church. I am excited to have the opportunity to serve with you all and thought I should properly introduce myself.

I come from the mountainous desert of Ogden, Utah. I've spent my entire life there until now. My degree is in Choral Music Education from Weber State University, and I spent the last eight years teaching choir at Box Elder High School in Brigham City, Utah.

After eight years of teaching, I decided it was time for me to grow musically and personally by enrolling at the University of Missouri in the Master's of Choral Conducting.

While I was sad to leave my family and friends, I am thrilled to begin this new chapter of my life. My first Sunday with you all, I was so touched by the kindness everyone showed me. I am excited to see this choir grow. During our time together, we will perform a wide variety of musical styles and grow together both musically and spiritually. If you have a love for music, you should come and join us!

Casey Wood, Music Coordinator



WALK TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD

Columbia CROP Hunger Walk

(Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty)
September 17

Stephens Lake Park – Gordon Shelter
1:00 Program, 1:30 Step-Off

This year's **CROP Walk** has put forth some challenges and goals for its participants. **One goal** is to walk 500 miles together. No matter if you walk on Walk Day, walk the week before on the **Katy Trail**, or just in your neighborhood or on a treadmill at the gym, those miles count. Either report your mileage at the park on Walk Day or to Jessica Jenks, who will add them to the total. These miles will add up to help reach the 500 mile goal!

A second goal is to raise \$23,000 in 2023. In 2022, just under \$22,200 was collected, our largest amount since the Walk began 28 years ago. This year's goal is definitely attainable. The Columbia CROP Walk ranked #88 in the top 100 Walks across the nation last year for dollar amount raised. We are striving to rise to #85.

The **Cross Missouri Challenge Walk** is a new event this year. The **Katy Trail** from St. Louis to Kansas City will be walked in two legs to bring more attention to the **CROP Walk**. The first trek is from McBaine to St. Louis from September 24 to October 1. Trek 2 is from McBaine to Kansas City from October 6 to October 14. Don Harter, a member of Broadway Christian, is the Challenge Walk organizer. For more detailed information, email Don at harterd@missouri.edu or call 573-443-3258. Don is walking the full distance because he is willing and able. He points out that people across the globe must walk miles everyday to get clean drinking water. Don walks in solidarity with these people and hopes to get extra financial support for the **CROP Walk** to help those in need.

Shakespeare's Pizza is once again donating 15% of all sales from all three locations on Walk Day. Required coupons will be available in the Sunday bulletin the next few weeks and on-line. Why not walk and then enjoy a pizza!

CUCC's goal is \$4,000. Donations can be made through Kindrid on the church website, at www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiano (be sure to select CUCC as the team you are supporting), in the Sunday offering, or by check to the church office. Thank you for your support. It would be fun to get the trophy back for the organization collecting the most.

Continue to learn about who the **CROP Walk** serves, participation opportunities, goals, and events in the Sunday bulletin, Friday emails, and various social media platforms as we **WALK TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD.**

Heritage Team

The New Century CUCC

We began this new century with a church whose members cared about each other, showed God's love, and shared their time and talents. Rev. Fred Brandenburg was our coach, spiritual leader, and friend. We were involved in many activities. We served at Loaves and Fishes, worked at building Habitat for Humanity houses, participated in Eat with Eight, cooked Apple Butter, held retreats at Mark Twain Park and hayrides in New Franklin, reenacted **The Last Supper** for Good Friday worship, took a trip to Ireland led by Victoria Young, and held many Advent Banquets. The Women's Fellowship, Men's Fellowship, Quilting group and Youth Groups met often. Many of these ministries, activities, and fellowship groups have continued to this day.

In 2002, our Little One's Day Out Preschool Ministry program began, led by Erin Kesphol. This has grown into a vital ministry in the Columbia area with 60+ children in the program. We now have five classrooms and twelve staff members. The program continues to grow. In 2002, our Chapel Ringers played in festivals in Springfield and Collinsville, IL. We had two Women's Fellowship groups, meeting on Tuesday evenings at member houses (Faith Circle) and on Thursday mornings (Agape Circle). In 2004, we celebrated 30 years of ministry with Rev. Fred and Shelley Brandenburg, as well as celebrating his retirement. A pastoral search committee was formed, and Rev. Jerry Keeney began as our Interim Pastor on September 1.

The transition time after Fred left had some challenges, but the congregation continued to thrive. We initiated our "God is Still Speaking" campaign in conjunction with the National Church. The Senior Luncheon Group began meeting, sharing monthly meals, and inviting guest speakers from the community. Youth from our congregation attended the National Youth Event in Knoxville, TN. Barry Kirchoff started baking our communion bread, something he is still doing almost 20 years later! In 2005, we held Fastnacht at the Knights of Columbus Hall for the first time; we outgrew our Fellowship Hall! Nancy Tanner-Theis was our Interim Minister, until Rev. Tom Nordberg began serving here on October 1. His tenure lasted three years, until 2008. After his departure, Rev. Dr. Kristin Van Heynigen and Rev. Christine Isham-Walsh served as Interim Ministers.

In 2010, Rev. Steve Swope was called as our next settled pastor. During his tenure we held a "Blue Christmas" worship service for those experiencing loss in their lives, Brad Boyd-Kennedy organized a UCC Student Fellowship Group, which met monthly with students from Mizzou, Columbia College, and Stephens. We had a record number of entries for our "Chili Cookoff" in 2011! Twenty-four recipes were entered, and 187 people ate chili that day! We began working with "Room at the Inn," a winter shelter for unhoused individuals, rotating host duties from church to church in the Columbia area. We welcomed the Kakozi family to the US, refugees from the Democratic Republic of Congo. We are thrilled to have them in our church family, and rejoiced when they gained their US citizenship in 2018! In 2011, Lloyd Viehland built a large wooden "cow" that could be "milked" as a prop for the Heifer Project. Lloyd's cow journeyed all across the state and even to the State Fairgrounds in Sedalia, to promote the Heifer Project! We had a Saturday evening worship service for a while, averaging 10-30 people in attendance. It was called "The Welcome Place." It was moved to early Sunday mornings on 2013 and eventually discontinued. In 2013, we celebrated our 90th anniversary. In 2014, we celebrated Josh Privitt's ordination and hosted Brian McClaren, an internationally recognized author and speaker. We also began our Open and Affirming discussions in 2014 which, after much study, would result in our congregation voting in 2019 to become a designated Open and Affirming Congregation of the United Church of Christ.

In 2015, Rev. Swope left after a 5-year tenure. At this time, CUCC faced many challenges. We contracted with a church consultant to assess our challenges. She found many administrative issues, as well as disagreement among congregation members about the role of the pastor. 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 that we may emerge in a healthier place.

We will wrap up this series next month as we take a look at the last eight years and how we arrived at where we are today!

By: Melba Schaffer



International Missions

CUCC IS SERVING IN ITALY

Migrants cross the Mediterranean Sea to escape hardships and threats in the hope of finding a better life in Europe. Their journeys are treacherous, and children are especially vulnerable. **Mediterranean Hope** in Italy is a humanitarian and social project to welcome refugees and help them integrate into new communities. Among other places **Mediterranean Hope** works on the Italian island of Lampedusa, where many refugees arrive after crossing the sea. The organization offers hospitality and welcomes people in vulnerable situations through social and cultural initiatives such as accessing the right to seek asylum in Italy and community building programs. In addition, **Mediterranean Hope** partners with other organizations to conduct search and rescue work in the Mediterranean Sea. **Mediterranean Hope** strives to avoid tragedies at sea, interrupt human trafficking, assist those in vulnerable conditions with entry into Italy, and help people navigate the immigration process.

Columbia United Church of Christ is a partner with **Mediterranean Hope** through **Global Ministries**, our mission partner agency shared with the Disciples of Christ.

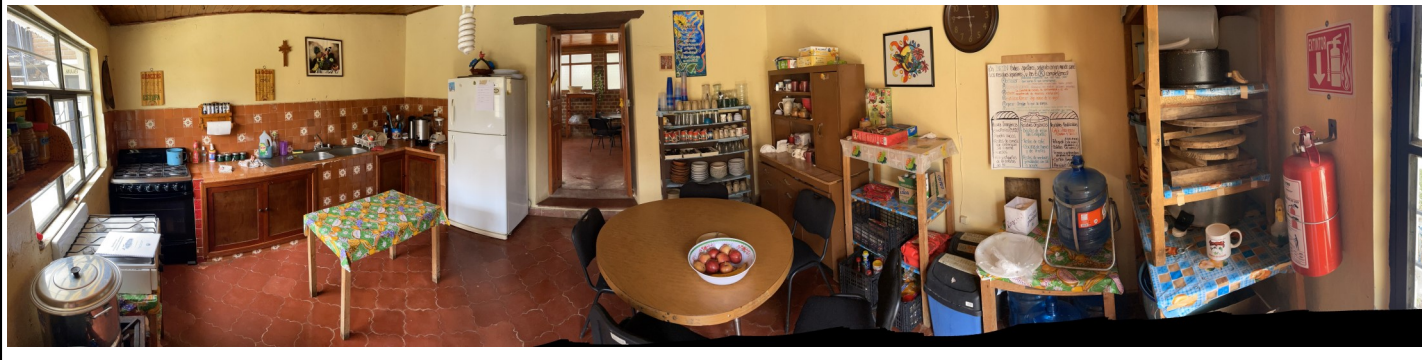


MISSION WITH CHIAPAS – IMMERSION EXPERIENCE 2023, OCTOBER 3-10

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.

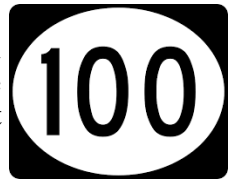
Our next “Mission Trip” to Chiapas is around the corner! We will leave St. Louis on October 3 and return on October 10. While we are in Chiapas, we will spend most of our time in the city of **San Cristobal** working with **The Institute** and Melel Xojobal. We will have the opportunity to see several 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. In the past, those projects have included remodeling a building at Camp MoVal, supporting the refugee relief efforts of City of Refuge, and supporting the VAC Christmas drive, among others. 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 fall, 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!**



Nurture & Education Ministry Team

RALLY DAY is almost here! Be sure to join us on September 10 to celebrate the start of a new church “school year”! We will have a special program for the youth at 9 a.m.! The theme is “100” – for our 100th Anniversary – and we will have our Youth Sunday School outside at the Shelter House. As usual, the bouncy slide will be making a comeback!



THE FUTURE EARTH
CONTEMPORARY ISSUES
BOOK STUDY LED BY SHELLY ADAMS
SEPT. 10- OCT. 8

Rally Day signals the return of Sunday school classes – for all ages! Barry, Philip, and Shelly will continue their rotation teaching Adult Bible Study. They may take a brief hiatus to allow regular attendees to join Shelly’s Contemporary Issues class, starting September 10 and running four weeks. For this class, Shelly will lead a study on **The Future Earth** by Eric Holthaus. Shelly says, “This is the book for anyone who feels overwhelmed by the current state of our environment. Hopeful and prophetic, **The Future Earth** invites us to imagine how we can



reverse the effects of climate change in our own lifetime and encourages us to enter a deeper relationship with the earth as conscientious stewards and to reaffirm our commitment to one another in our shared humanity.” If you are interested in teaching a Contemporary Issues class, or have an interesting topic you’d like to see explored, speak to [Judi Privitt!](#)

We are in need of more teachers for our Children and Youth Sunday School. We have two classes: Pre-K through 5th Grade and 6th Grade through 12th Grade. For each class, we would like to have two teachers each Sunday. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to [Lydia Whitacre](#) or anyone on the team!

Vacation Bible School

VBS was a great success this year, as usual, even with the alterations that had to be made for the remodel! VBS had 25 participants each night and approximately 20 volunteers. Lena and Gina report that the Kona Ice Truck was a big hit! Many thanks to all who helped!

Nursery

A big thanks to Laynee Hayward (Linda Neale’s granddaughter) for her service in the nursery this summer! In September, we will see a return of our usual nursery supervisors – Summer and Chloe. See [Pat Forward](#) for any nursery questions or information!

Other Info

- The committee approved an identical budget for 2024.
- The committee is currently reviewing curriculum for Youth Sunday School.
- Our next meeting is September 11 at 6:30 p.m.



Lydia Whitacre
Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair

FELOWSHIP MEAL ON RALLY DAY

Rally Day, September 10, will be an exciting day at CUCC! Fun and games for our Sunday School children, a new Contemporary Issues Adult Class led by Shelly Adams, Ribbon Cutting for our NEW CENTURY SANCTUARY, and a Fellowship Meal after worship!

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for a great Fellowship Meal with Chicken Strips and all the sides! The Bouncy Slide will be there as well for kids (and adults!) to enjoy! Plan on sticking around that day for fun and fellowship with your CUCC family!

100th Anniversary Celebration

On October 1, Columbia UCC welcomes back Virginia Zetterberg and Brandon Brown to share their musical expertise by directing the 100th Anniversary Reunion Choir. We hope everyone attending will enjoy our anthems as much as we look forward to rehearsing and performing them with friends old and new. -Connie Loveless



Virginia Rathert Zetterberg has a long history with Columbia United Church of Christ. She grew up attending the Chapel as a part of the active Rathert family. She attended Meadowbrook School of Music in the summers of 1967 and 1968 and received her BA in Music Theory at the University of Missouri in 1969. In 1973, she received her MA in Music Composition.

With the encouragement of Rev. Jerry Jordan, she assembled a CUCC choir in September 1969 for the exclusive purpose of singing for the dedication service of the new building. However, although she proceeded with a business management career, she unexpectedly found herself also continuing to direct the CUCC Choir until she moved to Maryland in 1984! Virginia also introduced interpretive dance to CUCC worship services during her time with us. Virginia became the director of Brook Hill UMC Choir in Frederick, MD in 1986. In 1991, she became involved in audio/video recording. She married Don Zetterberg in 1998, and they have been a formidable team ever since. Virginia has 3 stepchildren, 7 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren.

Brandon Brown has a passion for music that shines throughout his performances. He has been a featured soloist and conductor with the Celestial Evangel Choir in Kumasi and Accra, Ghana, and Prague. In addition to opera roles, Mr. Brown has performed the baritone solos in Beethoven's *9th Symphony*, Parker's *A Sermon from the Mountain*, Verdi's *Requiem*, Dubois' *Seven Last Words*, Handel's *Messiah*, Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Linda Twine's *Changed My Name*, Fauré's *Requiem*, and Mechem's *Songs of the Slave*.



Brandon served as the Music Director and Project Manager of the Chicago Community Chorus, Minister of Music at Church of the Good Shepherd UCC in Chicago, and Music Coordinator at Columbia United Church of Christ. Brandon is currently President of the Chicago Music Association, Br. No. 1 of the National Association of Negro Musicians and Secretary of the United Church of Christ Musicians' Association. Brandon earned a Bachelor's of Music Degree in Vocal Performance from Eastern Illinois University, a Master of Voice Performance Degree from CCPA at Roosevelt University, and a Master of Choral Conducting Degree from the University of Missouri. He is also a member of Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia.

SPECIAL GUESTS FOR OUR CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION!

We will have several special guests for our Centennial Celebration on September 30 and October 1! Among them will be Rev. Damien Lake, our Missouri Mid-South Conference Minister (pictured on the right) and Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer, the recently "retired" General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ (pictured on the left).

Rev. Lake has served three churches as a settled pastor, two congregations as an interim minister, and worked with many churches as a coach, helping them through the search and call process, as well as working with new church starts. He has helped churches revitalize their ministry in the local community and remains committed to helping churches grow. Damien has been our Associate Conference Minister since 2019.

Rev. Dorhauer began his career in ministry here in the Missouri Mid-South Conference, earning his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Divinity degrees from Eden Seminary. His doctoral thesis centered on his work with issues of White Privilege and Racial Reconciliation. He served two churches in the Western Association: First Congregational UCC in Lebanon, Missouri and Zion United Church of Christ in Mayview, Missouri. He served as our Associate Conference Minister for several years before being called to the Southwest Conference as their Conference Minister. In 2015, he was elected to serve a four year term as the General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ and was reelected in 2019. His second term concluded this summer, and he has been called to serve as pastor of First Congregational UCC in DeKalb, Illinois starting October 2. We are honored to have him with us at CUCC!



Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team

LOAVES & FISHES



The August 21 meal at Loaves & Fishes consisted of chicken alfredo with broccoli (made by Mary Lorber-Solt and her friend, Val), lettuce salad, bread, cookies (made by Jolene Kirchoff), and ice cream left from the ice cream social on July 16. They loved the ice cream, especially since it was so hot outside! PB&J's were made and provided by Jessica Jenks. Servers were Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, and their friends (Val and Bill), Doug & Judi Privitt, Anne Heine, Jo Ellen Grace, and Keith Birkes and his friend Deborah. We served approximately 130 firsts and seconds and had approximately 60 carryouts. Thank you to everyone who helped! I truly appreciate it!

-Audrey Lasley

Help Feed the Hungry on September 26

The next CUCC shift at the Food Bank will be on Tuesday, September 26 at 5:30 p.m. Come and find out what new task we'll be doing — it's always a surprise! No hot dogs any more, though (don't be too disappointed).

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



AHL MARKER UPDATE AND THANK YOU



What an amazing group we have here at CUCC! Last month, we set an incredible goal of collecting 100 Expo Brand Marker Packages for AHL Elementary in honor of our partnership, our 100th Anniversary, and back to school. As I look over everything we collected, I cannot help but be moved by the giving nature of everyone in our congregation. We counted up the packages, and we were just shy of 100! Thank you to everyone who gave, and we look forward to the next time we get to help Alpha Hart Lewis, Our Partnership Friend!

Thank You CUCC



Dear Columbia UCC,
You've helped more men live to their fullest. This young father in Kenya received a Mobility Cart after an amputation. The cart was sponsored and decorated by a university fraternity last year as part of our fundraiser. Thank you for your donation of \$1,235.89!



Columbia UCC, together we will continue to help fathers lead and care for their families.

Providing Independence,
Janet Epperson, Volunteer



Greetings Church Members!

We have received your recent, generous donation of \$500, and thank you for supporting our important work with children in our community. Grade A Plus is actively soliciting community involvement in all aspects of our work - from volunteer tutors to active Board Members. Please share this opportunity with your congregation. Our contact information is:

Phone - (573) 268-4372

Website - www.gradeaplusinc.com

Email - gapinfo@gradeaplusinc.org

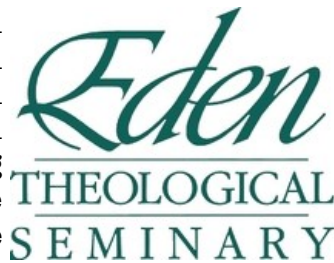
The mission of Grade A Plus is to motivate student learning, inspire academic curiosity, and increase confidence in the practice of problem solving.

Thank You Cont.

Dear Friends,

On behalf of the students, faculty, and staff of Eden Theological Seminary, thank you for your gift of \$1,000 in support of Annual Fund. We are grateful for your support for the people who study here - leaders with creativity, intentionality, and faithfulness who are equipped to navigate changes in the landscape of our expansive communities of faith.

Eden seminarians are familiar with navigating those changing landscapes, and do so with such intentionality! Distance learners and physical learners continue the tradition together, of building and forming lifelong bonds as they form yet another extension and another generation of our beloved community. Thank you again, for joining us in financially supporting the seminary. We are grateful for your love and support of Eden.



Thank You for your generous donation of \$1,500 to Voluntary Action Center (VAC)! Your kindness is truly appreciated and noticed! Your gift will make an immediate impact on the lives of those we serve daily through our Faith in Service to Humanity (FISH) Fund. Responding to the immediate basic needs of individuals and families within our community is VAC's mission, and your support strengthens VAC's ability to continue to do meaningful work. Thank you again for supporting



Dear Friends at CUCC:

Thank you for your gift of \$1,300 to support disaster relief in the Ukraine. Through your gift, families who have been displaced and are in need of shelter and basic necessities will receive support.

Your gift enables the church to be present with people amid catastrophic and life-changing situations, offering immediate relief and providing long-term recovery support.

With the help of our partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives.

United in prayer, action, and giving, we stand as a people of faith in love and compassion. Thank you again for spreading God's hope, peace, and love through your financial assistance.



Dear Columbia UCC Members and Friends,

The Food Bank's Vision is to end hunger in the communities we serve. It is an immense challenge, but we know it to be worthwhile. Generosity like yours gives us the confidence to believe it is possible. Your recent gift of \$400 to the Food Bank's Central Pantry on Big Bear Boulevard will help us continue to share food and bring hope to our neighbors through the largest food pantry in our service area.

Each month, The Food Bank serves around 10,000 individuals through Central Pantry. In 2022, the pantry shared more than 4.2 million pounds of food with neighbors in Boone County, representing nearly 200,000 meals each month. As a donor, your support makes all this possible. Thank you for being a part of this operation and entrusting us with your charitable dollars. We will use them efficiently and effectively to share food and bring hope to our community.

On The Church Calendar in September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 WORSHIP OUTSIDE AT THE SHELTER HOUSE 9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	4 LABOR DAY LODO/CPS CLOSED CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	5 10 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Outreach & Advocacy	6 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers 7:00 p.m. Confirmation	7 4:00 p.m. George Bush Marker Dedication 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts FH 6:30 p.m. Clergy Personnel Committee Meeting	8	9
10 RALLY DAY 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	11 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts in FH 6:30 p.m. Nurture & Education Ministry Team	12 10:00 a.m. Quilters 5:00 p.m. Membership & Care Ministry Team 6:30 p.m. Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	13 LODO/CPS Closed 6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers 7:00 p.m. Confirmation	14 9:30 a.m. Women's Fellowship 5:30 p.m. Vision Team	15	16 9:00 a.m. Western Association Fall Meeting in Billings, MO
17 CROP WALK 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	18 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 4:30 p.m. Loaves & Fishes 5:30 p.m. LODO Ministry 6:30 p.m. Worship & Music Ministry Team	19 10:00 a.m. Quilters 5:30 p.m. Council Executive Team 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting	20 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	21 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts FH 6:30 p.m. Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	22	23 Pridefest
24 9:00 a.m. Sunday School 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	25 10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	26 10:00 a.m. Quilters 5:30 p.m. Food Bank	27 6:00 p.m. Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. Celebration Singers	28	29	30 100th Anniversary Event 4:00 p.m. 100th Anniversary Event

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.