

THE COMMUNICATOR

September 2024

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

"The Church in Action"

On August 19, over 200 people (including at least 20 church members) gathered at our Shelter House to celebrate a 115-year tradition; the program that is Scouting America. We gathered for BBQ and fellowship, and to witness a passing of the torch as new youth leaders were appointed for this term and the Scouting America oath was recited: "On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country and to obey the Scout Law; to help other people at all times; to keep myself physically strong, mentally awake, and morally straight." It was also a birth of sort; the birth of a brand-new relationship between Scouting America and CUCC. They are now our Scouts, and we are their church, and they are part of us and we are part of them. This is the ground floor for something that is going to positively impact our church forever.

The key takeaway I received from the folks who were here last night was sheer amazement that a church would be as welcoming as we are. The fact that I (and 20 or so church members) was present at their BBQ made a huge impact. Just by attending a BBQ, we exemplified an inclusive, extravagant welcome that showed folks what God's love truly looks like. **This is the church in action!**

Beyond the "newness" of Scouting America, we are also experiencing a "revival" of our Nurture & Education program! VBS this year was a HUGE success - **67 kids registered!** WOW! The extravagance of the program was very impressive. The whole team (led by Lena & Gina) did an amazing job and brought God's Word to many in the community **beyond our church**. Many of these children, youth, and their parents also came to our Nurture & Education Team Parent's Meeting on August 25. We hope to continue to reach out to these people and draw them in to the life of our congregation. The Nurture & Education Ministry Team is also revitalizing the Sunday School program and the Youth Program with new leaders and new ideas. Watch for exciting and interesting things happening in the next few weeks! **This is the church in action!**

We are going to be celebrating Pridefest again this year, with a Pride booth set up here in Columbia on September 28 and - **new this year** - in Marshall, MO on September 7! We received word that Marshall, MO Pride was organizing their first-ever Pridefest and they have been receiving hateful backlash from the community, including churches in that community. Churches in Marshall have not been vocally supportive of their efforts, so we are going to staff a booth for four hours (10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.) and offer "glitter blessings" to the attendees. It may be the only affirming faith expression these folks will receive at the Marshall Pridefest. **This is the church in action!**

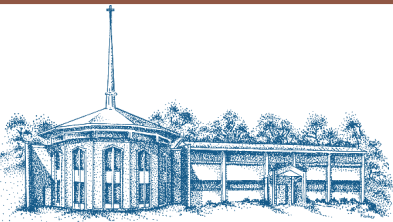
On August 21, a dozen folks from CUCC attended the kickoff celebration of "The Opportunity Campus," a central hub for all the social service agencies in Columbia. Located on Business Loop just east of the power plant, this campus will house the Voluntary Action Center, Love Columbia, Room at the Inn, Loaves and Fishes, and many of the other agencies that work with unhoused people and others in need in our community. CUCC is and will be an active part of establishing this campus and aiding in its growth. The Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team is discerning the details on how to make this happen. **This is the church in action!**



CUCC is just that— a church in action! We are not just a church of "Sunday morning only" or just a "social club" that talks the talk but forgets to walk the walk. We are protesting, we are working, we are advocating, we are caring for one another and the world. We are walking and preaching and living out the life that Christ calls us to live; carrying on Jesus' mission and ministry with the world.

Great job, CUCC! This is a church that really knows what it means to be church. If you are interested in jumping on board the ministry opportunities of CUCC, don't hesitate to reach out to me, or to one of our Ministry Team Leaders (listed on page 3). This is an exciting time in the life of CUCC, and we would love to have you on board as we are **the church in action!**

-Pastor Rick



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

Steven Jannetti

Organist/Accompanist

Alexandra Roper

Office Administrator

Erika Maltsbarger

Director, Little One's Day Out

Caleb Berry

Custodian

Sunday Schedule:

(Starting 9/8)

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

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Phone:
(573) 445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com

Website:
www.columbiaucc.com



News & Updates

SUNDAY MORNING SAFETY

For the safety and security of our church, and the people present, a Church Council member will now be available in the Gathering Area each Sunday during worship. The Council Steward will be available to greet visitors who arrive after worship has begun, assist those who may not feel well, answer questions and give directions to people who need to step out of worship, and monitor the Gathering Area as needed.

The Nurture & Education Ministry Team has been talking to our children and youth about being safe at church, including walking - not running - inside our church building, and staying only in the Gathering Area or the sanctuary during Worship. We ask that parents and guardians help reinforce these safety standards and ensure that our children and youth follow these worship guidelines.

LADIES – MARK YOUR CALENDARS

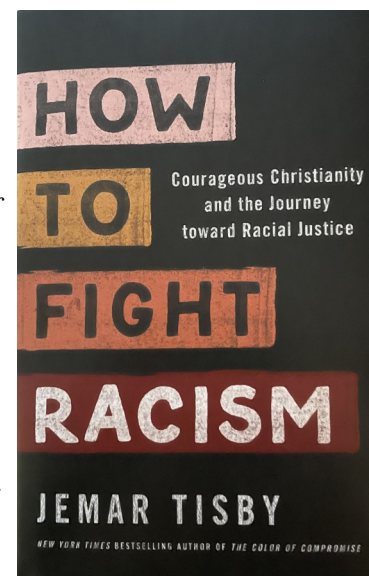
Women's Fellowship begins its new year Thursday, September 12. We will meet at 9:30 a.m. in The Gathering Area. All meetings will be held the second Thursday of each month through May 8, 2025. Plan to attend for good food, good fellowship, and inspiration as we study "Let Justice Roll Down – God's Call to Care for Neighbors and All Creation." Get ready to learn more about each of us. All ladies are welcome.

COURAGEOUS CHRISTIANITY– HOW TO FIGHT RACISM

Last winter, we took a brief look at the book "How to fight Racism" by Jemar Tisby. Those who participated in the study agreed, they want to explore it in more depth! There are three units to this study, which we will split up over the course of the next year.

This book is about taking a stand for justice in our world today by confronting racial injustice. It is unapologetically Christian; the subtitle is, "Courageous Christianity and the Journey toward Racial Justice." The author speaks to this in the first chapter as he writes, "*Christianity provides a transcendent narrative for why racial justice is important. Christianity teaches that all people are made in the image of God. Their physical appearance, including skin color, are part of bearing God's image and should be respected as such.*"

We will begin studying this book on Sunday, September 15 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall and continue the next two Sundays. The study will include videos and a workbook. Copies of the book are available in the church office; pick up yours today and read ahead! If you have any questions, talk to Pastor Rick.



September Birthdays

KADEN LUCAS - 9/1	KIM OBERLE - 9/3	MATTHEW BAKER - 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 SCHOENBERG - 9/11
ACE DEVENNEY - 9/14	DOUG PRIVITT - 9/14	EMBER PIERSEE - 9/15	SHELBY OBERLE - 9/18	SHERYL ONCKEN - 9/19
LILY WILLIAMS-SANTORO - 9/19	GLENN DUERMAYER - 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	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
9/1	JOLENE KIRCHHOFF	CHARLIE MARCKS AUDREY LASLEY	SUE ANN SCHAEFFER	BRENT MARCKS
9/8	JOLENE KIRCHHOFF	KEITH BIRKES MARK DUNCAN	JIM LOVELESS	MIKE PIERSON AIDEN PIERSON
9/15	HELEN SCHULTZ	MELBA SHAFFER PAT FORWARD	LENA MUENCH	DOUG PRIVITT JUDI PRIVITT
9/22	SUSAN DUNHAM	LLONA WEISS BRENDA MUENCH	MAHREE SKALA	JOSH MUENCH
9/29	HELEN SCHULTZ	PHILLIP NEALE CHRISTINE STAELENS	TRICIA SONCASIE	

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:

Vice Moderator:

Secretary:

Treasurer:

Recording Treasurer:

Building & Grounds:

Fellowship & Hospitality:

Finance & Stewardship:

Inclusion & Affirmation:

Little One's Day Out:

Membership & Care:

Nurture & Education:

Outreach & Advocacy:

Worship & Music:

Pastor:

Kurt Heine

Jerry Kiesling

Alethea Tennill

Deborah Long Birkes

Christine Staelens

Ted Dachroeden

Mary Lorber-Solt

Vacant

Tricia Price

Kristin Veteto

Judi Privitt

Lena Muench

Mark Duncan

Jedd Schneider

Rev. Rick Oberle

heinekurt@gmail.com

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tricialprice@gmail.com

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rick@columbiaucc.com



CUCC Church Council

As Moderator of the Church Council it has been a truly eye opening experience on what it takes to run an organization like a church. The sheer amount of volunteer hours, ingenuity, and patience it takes for everyone involved is nothing short of amazing. This newly found interest has led me to want to know more about our Conference and how decisions at that level of the United Church of Christ affect our daily church life. Maybe the conference doesn't effect much, or maybe it does? To satisfy this curiosity, I will be attending the **Western Association Fall Meeting on September 21 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

The best part is that I won't have to travel far; it's going to be happening right here in our church! I am also excited to hear the keynote speaker, Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, talk about the book he co-wrote with Sheldon Culver, about the dark art of Steeplejacking. Pastor Rick has brought this up a few times in worship, but in case your mind was wandering during the sermon, I'll give the cliff notes. Steeplejacking is where conservative renewal groups, backed by a right-wing organization called the Institute on Religion and Democracy, use social wedge issues (like homosexuality) to infiltrate mainline churches and stir up dissent among members of the congregation, with the goal of taking over the leadership of the church, and ultimately, the denomination. This group preys on churches that are desperate and oftentimes failing. As a church that is actively trying to do the opposite by promoting inclusivity no matter who you are, it would be particularly interesting to see the other side of the coin.

So please join me on the 21 as we host our neighboring UCC congregations and make connections with our conference. Look for links to sign up in the Friday e-mails, cost is \$25 and a meal will be provided by our Women's Fellowship! See you there!

Respectfully Submitted,
Kurt Heine, Moderator



WESTERN ASSOCIATION FALL MEETING AT CUCC

The Fall Meeting of the Western Association will be here, at Columbia United Church of Christ on September 21; and we hope that many from our church will attend! This is great time to meet fellow UCC people from near and far, from the Western side of Missouri. The topic is "Steeplejacking," and the guest speaker is Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer. We will also hear from our Conference staff, Rev. Mary Nelson and Rev. Damien Lake. Lunch will be served by the CUCC Women's Fellowship.

We need your help to host! There are two shifts available: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 12:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. There will be several duties for us as hosts, from ushering during worship to welcoming people as they walk in and directing them to bathrooms. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up, or talk to [Pastor Rick](#) or [Alexandra](#) in the church office. It will be a fun day, and your friendly face will make it even more fun! Hope to see you here!

YOU CAN HELP PUBLICIZE COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!

One of the greatest challenges for our congregation is our location – many people do not know we are here. Our new signage helps; but social media publicity would help even more. YOU can help make this a reality!

Two ways you can help: first of all, give us a 5-star review on Google! To do so [CLICK HERE](#). This will take you to a "Google Search" of CUCC. Click "Google Reviews" and "write a review." This will give you the opportunity to "review" our church. A five star review will help direct others to our church, and will cause our church to "pop up" more prominently on searches. The other way to help is to "share" our CUCC posts on Facebook. Don't just "like" them, "share" them. If you "share" our Facebooks posts, you will exponentially increase our social media presence and advertise our church to a wider community of people. Get the word out – share the Good News! Don't let CUCC remain the best kept secret in town!

CUCC Church Council

The meeting was called to order on July 16, 2024 at 6:35 p.m. by Jerry Kiesling. Pastor Rick opened us with prayer.

Present: Jerry Kiesling, Christine Staelens, Ted Dachroeden, Mary Lorber-Solt, Tricia Price, Kristin Veteto, Lena Muench, Mark Duncan, Judi Privitt, Rev. Rick Oberle, and Alethea Tennill.

Judi Privitt made a motion to approve the July minutes with a second from Lena Muench. Motion passed.

Pastor Rick discussed the first chapter of *A Real Good Church* by Rev. Molly Phinney Baskette.

Unfinished Business:

- Policy and Procedures Manual Update - Executive team will meet at 5:30 p.m. before the next Council Meeting to work on this.
- Land Donation Update - Do not have any updates.
- Scouting America Troop Charter - Pastor Rick will meet with them next week. On August 19 the Scout Troops will host a BBQ at the Shelter House. Congregation members are welcome to join them. Pastor Rick is looking for a team of 4 to 6 people to work with the Scout Troops.
- Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team Chair - We are still in need of a chair for this Team. Jerry will meet with them in August.
- Ministry Team Fair - Sunday, August 25. Each Team is ready to lead/participate in worship service. Tables will be set up in the Gathering Area to hand out information.
- Western Association Fall Meeting - Saturday, September 21. Women's Fellowship will prepare food for the meeting. There will be a speaker discussing "Steeple Jacking," the term for when an organization tries to pull UCC churches out of UCC.
- Worship Bulletin Insert Discussion - There was some discussion regarding inserts. We will no longer have inserts in the bulletin. A new bulletin board was set up between the front doors to display flyers on what would be the bulletin inserts.

New Business:

- Vision Team Plans 2024 - There will probably be a meeting in August or September.
- 2025 Budget - Please turn in your budgets to Deborah Birkes by September 1.
- Tiger Security Camera Bid - We need more cameras to cover our new air conditioning units and other blind spots around the building. Ted presented a bid for \$1985 from Tiger Security for additional cameras; the bid was approved by Council.

Pastor's Report: Pastor's Report is attached. Financials were presented. Our Joyful Giving is above budget; however, our expenses are also above budget. Some of this is due to when the bills come in for yearly charges.

Ministry Reports:

- Building & Grounds - Ted is busy cutting down honeysuckle.
- Fellowship & Hospitality - August 25: for Volunteer Appreciation day we will have donuts after service. Working on Rally Day in September.
- Finance & Stewardship - The chair position is still vacant. Will work on planned giving for the endowment.
- Inclusion & Affirmation - Report attached.
- LODO - LODO made about \$4,000 on the sale. There is an Amazon wish list for items needed.
- Membership & Care - Report attached.
- Nurture & Education - VBS will be July 29-31. 59 kids have signed up for VBS.
- Outreach & Advocacy - Report attached.
- Worship & Music - Report attached.

Pastor Rick closed us in prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Tricia Price, second by Mary Lorber-Solt.

Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Alethea Tennill, Secretary



Music & Worship

We're excited to begin a new season of music at CUCC.

We will begin rehearsals for Chapel Ringers on Wednesday, August 28 at 6:00 p.m. and Celebration Singers on Wednesday, August 28 at 7:00 p.m.

To play in the bell choir, you certainly want to have a background of reading music notation. However, in the Celebration Singers, anyone could come to rehearsal and be successful. Feel free to join us even on just a trial basis. No long-term commitments are needed.

Being part of a musical ensemble is not only musically and creatively fulfilling, but it is a great way to build community. We always have a wonderful time together and would welcome new members.

Furthermore, singing in the Celebration Singers is a way to deepen your worship. Our anthems are planned around weekly sermon themes. We have wonderful repertoire planned that we are excited to share with everybody.

Respectfully Submitted,
Casey Wood Music
Coordinator



WELCOME TO QUORUS!

Columbia United Church of Christ is pleased to be in partnership with Quorus, the LGBTQIAA Choral ensemble of Columbia!

Quorus will be using our facility for rehearsals in the coming months, and we will have an opportunity to work with them for upcoming performances. We hope to have a Quorus fundraiser here this Fall, as well.

Quorus would love to have CUCC members join their choir! To learn more about Quorus, [CLICK HERE](#).

If you are interested in joining them or talking to Audra Sergal, their director and coordinator, [CLICK HERE](#).



Fellowship & Hospitality

Greetings! I hope this finds everyone as well and as happy as can be. We have some fun events coming up, the first being Rally Day! It kind of marks the end of summer, but also the beginning of many of our church activities. Sunday School will restart, our choirs, both bell and voice, will once again bless our ears with their songs of joy, and our worship service will go back to regular hours of starting at 10:30 a.m. To celebrate all of this we have Rally Day! This year we are blessed to have our official 'fish fryers' back, Ron Tennill and Fred Malicoat, so prepare yourselves for some good eating!

After that, we are working and planning for our first 'Fall Festival' coming this October! So stay tuned as we 'fall' into a busy and fun time of year and as always, please join us in fellowship, and in making our church a 'hospitable' place for all.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lorber-Solt

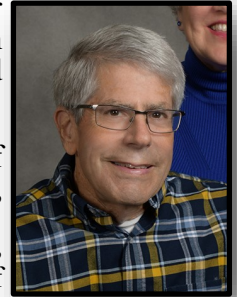


Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team

Faithful Financial Stewardship is everyone's responsibility. We see a good example of this in the Old Testament book of Nehemiah. The Jewish people had been living in exile in Babylon for some time and under the thumb of several different rulers. Two groups of exiles under two different rulers were allowed to return to Jerusalem to work on rebuilding the temple. Nehemiah led two groups under another ruler back to Jerusalem to work on rebuilding the city's wall. All the exiles living in Jerusalem assumed responsibility for different sections of the City's protective wall. Everyone pitched in as they were able, and the wall was completed in fifty-two days!

We at Columbia UCC have many different Ministry Teams. All are working on a part of our vision of God's work. The work continues because of your contributions of time, talent, and treasure. Thank you to everyone.

Respectfully Submitted,
Bary Kirchhoff



"Faithful Christian Stewardship is the understanding that everything we have; our time, our talent and even our treasure; belongs to God, and we are just stewards of it."

-Rev. David Lewis Beebe

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
July Income	\$27,193.92	\$28,635.00	(\$1441.08)
July Expenses	\$38,867.25	\$29,978.26	\$8,948.99
YTD Income	\$219,774.14	\$205,440.00	\$14,334.14
YTD Expenses	\$239,950.00	\$221,673.20	\$18,276.80
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$20,175.86)	(\$16,233.20)	(\$3,942.66)
July Joyful Giving	\$26,244.92	\$27,500.00	(\$1,255.08)
YTD Joyful Giving	\$209,756.87	\$198,000.00	\$11,756.87

Worship Attendance

Date	Attendance
7/7	97
7/14	96
7/21	69
7/28	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.

Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

Jonathan Haidt (PhD in social psychology) has written a 2024 book, “The Anxious Generation; How the Great Rewiring of Childhood is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness.” In this book, he presents evidence of how our advancing technology (especially the smart phone) is changing how children perceive the world and their place in it. He also highlights how that same technology is creating havoc in the adult world.

This book is highly recommended to anyone with children and/or grandchildren. There is so much to reap from his work, but for our Communicator, let us focus on just one chapter called: “Spiritual Elevation and Degradation.”

Mr. Haidt notes that when individuals see morally beautiful actions, they feel lifted up. When individuals participate in spiritual rituals such as attending church, eating with friends, walking in the park, etc., we are lifted up. True religions urge us to be less judgmental, more forgiving, and slower to anger. He states that we all have a “God-shaped hole in our human hearts that yearns for meaning, connection and spiritual elevation.”

In contrast, social media often depicts negativity, and those words and pictures bring individuals down. That virtual world is disembodied, asynchronous, and disruptive. We carry that disruption in our pockets via our smart phones. This leads to a focus on ourselves more, too: Who is texting? What is that alert? How many likes did I get? Why isn’t anyone responding? When will someone like me? Imagine how this affects a pre-teen/teenage mind. Teens already have a full plate with their changing bodies, school pressures, developing insights and opinions.

Mr. Haidt doesn’t just describe the issues and show evidence of their effect on all of us; he offers solutions especially for our youth. Some actions require collective intervention, but there are things that parents can do, as well:

- No smartphones before high school. If needed, provide only basic phones for contact.
- No social media before the age of 16 (at the earliest).
- Encourage schools to be phone-free all day, not just during classes.
- Encourage more independence in play and more supervision online for children.
- Parents/Grandparents, be role models and put your phones down, pay attention to your loved ones without that distraction.

For those of us already addicted to our phones (young and old alike), these steps will be challenging, but the mental and physical health of ourselves and our children is at stake.

In closing: Proverbs 22:6 – *“Train up a child in the way they should go; even when they are old, they will not depart from it.”*

Respectfully submitted,
Alisa Lau-Sieckman



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

Staff and Families are excited to kick off our 2024-2025 school year on August 26, 2024! Our first month will include settling into routines and learning about school expectations. Each year we love watching our students grow in their development and build friendships with one another.

Introducing our 2024-2025 LODO Staff:

Director: Erika Maltsbarger
Assistant Director: Ashley Mills
Lightning Bugs Teacher: Christina Dencker
Lambs: Avis Kim
Lions: Jacque Sweany
Leopards: Trevia May
Leap Frogs: Rachel Demand
School Aide: Venita Shackelford
Afternoon LODO+ Staff: Malea Mondhink

In Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger



LODO AMAZON WISHLIST

LODO has an Amazon Wish List that is updated throughout the year. This list includes items to replace those that have been well-loved, items that will add to our learning activities, and supplies that are used frequently.

If you are interested in contributing to the LODO Ministry, please consider purchasing an item from our list.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3135KEL32FTBN?ref=wl_share



Nurture & Education

Howdy, CUCC Family! SOMEHOW it is September SOMEHOW Rally Day is quickly approaching.

I am a firm believer in fresh starts. Whether it's a student at school or my own kids having "hiccups" in their day, I tell them there is always an opportunity for a fresh start. Fresh starts also come into play for the school year: new learning opportunities, new skill sets and interests, new perspectives. As we approach our new Sunday School year, I am optimistic that we will all benefit from having a fresh start this year - of course, carrying over our joy, experiences, and knowledge from last year and so many years prior. We are hopeful that so many will consider the ways that they can help our ministry team support the learners of all ages at CUCC. There are so many positions, most of which don't require much work at all, just a little time and a lot of love.

Here's a rundown of what we have planned so far:

- ☞ Rally Day is Sunday, 9/8. We're calling everyone to "Seas the Day!" and join us as we "dive" right in this fall.
- ☞ Adult Bible Study- Sundays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. upstairs in the Education Wing.
- ☞ Fellowship Time- Sundays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. in The Gathering Area. We'll have donuts!
- ☞ Sunday School- Sundays, 9:00-10:00 a.m., 3 years-12th grade. 3 years-5th grade will meet upstairs in Education Wing, while grades 6-12 meet downstairs in the Youth Lounge.

Additional Adult Education Opportunities:

- ☞ Contemporary Book Study- "How to Fight Racism" by Jemar Tisby. Meets 9/15, 9/22, and 9/29 from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Books will be available.
- ☞ Raising Good Humans- Our first gathering is 9/15 from 9:00 - 10:00 a.m. upstairs in the Education Wing (last room on the right.) It's a lighthearted time for parents and guardians to meet up, share about the rollercoaster that is raising kiddos, and just have a great time together! We'll take care of the donuts- just bring yourselves! Nursery care available for littles ages two and under.
- ☞ Healthy Relationships Training- Sunday, 9/29 after 10:30 worship. This is for anyone who currently works with our kiddos and youth or may be doing so this school year. As part of our commitment to our Safe Church Policy, we hold this annually to brush up on best practices for maintaining a safe and loving environment for all of our kiddos and youth. This is well-suited for both "first-timers" and "regulars." We will do our best to keep things brief, probably an hour or so. There will be snacks! We will also have nursery care available for kiddos ages five and under.

We're also going to be more intentional about tying our rubric into each Sunday's lesson. We have found that the majority of our kiddos and youth could use a brush up on things such as the 10 Commandments. We will also include Bible story favorites, as well as targeted games and activities. We are trying something new by using Bible story books geared for each age group. We are trying to present the stories in a meaningful and memorable way to help our kiddos and youth store them in their brains forever!

We are eager to have more of our CUCC Family help with our classes each Sunday. Please prayerfully consider how you could help with this, even if it's a Sunday here and there, any help is amazing! If it would make you feel more comfortable to "shadow" one of our regular crew, that's totally an option as well. Let me know if you're interested, please, or want to know more. We will be checking in with folks as well, we appreciate your consideration in advance!

One more thing, we have new curtains in the Education Wing! Not only do they give our rooms a quick refresh, but they are helping to keep the temperature more consistent in the rooms. These curtains are wonderful; however, the length of the curtains don't fit our needs. If anyone who has the knowledge and ability to hem curtains would be willing to hem them up for us, we would appreciate it!

May we all prayerfully consider our opportunities to have a fresh start and "SEAS the Day" this year in all that we do. It's such a blessing to be part of a faith community that loves and supports our learners of all ages unconditionally.

With Love,
Lena Muench



COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST PRESENTS

RALLY DAY

SEPTEMBER 8, 2024



9:00 A.M. **10:00 A.M.** **10:30 A.M.** **11:30 A.M.**

Sunday
school
resumes for
all ages

Fellowship
time in The
Gathering Area

Worship with
music from the
Celebration
Singers &
Chapel Ringers

Fish Fry lunch
with games
and activities
for the youth



Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team



The August 19 meal at Loaves & Fishes consisted of: chicken alfredo, spaghetti, salad, bread, and cookies. Jessica Jenks prepared and provided the PBJ's. Thank you to servers: Mary & Tom Solt, Debby (Mary's sister), Judi Privitt, Jessica Jenks, Jo Ellen Grace, and Deborah Birkes. Doug Privitt took care of all of the dishwasher duties. Thank you so much to everyone! We had approximately 135 servings.



As previously mentioned in a Friday Email, CUCC helped our Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary (AHL) School students get off to a good start for this school year 2024-2025 with our collection efforts (school started August 20, 2024).

CUCC members gave over 400 pink erasers, plus 1,630 eraser tips to get their school year started! You also gave donations of clothing, backpacks, and other school items. AHL is so appreciative, and they are one of our larger CPS elementary schools with almost 500 students. Pastor Rick and I will be meeting soon with Principal Minear and staff to coordinate our calendars for events, needs, partnership, etc. Thank you, CUCC, for all your support for our youth, especially those with needs.

-Llona Weiss, CUCC AHL Coordinator



Food Bank Volunteer Shift to Resume September 24

After an unexpected August extension of the summer schedule, the Food Bank will begin evening shifts again in September. CUCC will send a crew of volunteers at 5:30 p.m. on September 24, at 2101 Vandiver Drive (look for the big orange spoon).

Many hands make light work! [CLICK HERE](#) to Sign up

If you need more information please contact [Mahree Skala](#).



CROP Walk

**CROP HUNGER WALK
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15**

STEPHENS LAKE PARK - GORDON SHELTER

1:00 REGISTRATION * 1:30 WELCOME AND STEPOFF * 1:45-3:00 WALK

NEW 3:00-3:45 MUSICAL SHOWCASE

Its CROP Walk time of year again! Another opportunity to raise money for Church World Service and four local ministries. Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry, Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry, and Fifth Street Christian Church Feed the Community Program all benefit from donations.

Last year's "Cross Missouri CROP Hike" has expanded this year to include biking. To publicize the Walk, Don Harter has organized the trek walking from Columbia to St. Louis Sept 22-29 and/or bike St. Louis to Kansas City Sept 30-Oct 6. Participants are encouraged to walk or bike any or all the distance. Contact Don at harterd@missouri.edu or 573-445-3258 for information on the itinerary and accommodations. Or go to the SignUp Genius site to sign-up, get more information, or see who you might want to join for a walking or biking segment. [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up.

Our collection of canned goods for the CAN-STRUCTION continues until Walk Day. A cart for donations is in The Gathering Area. Needed are staple, high-protein food items such as canned chicken, canned tuna, canned beans, beef stew, chicken & dumplings, chili, pork, beef, and peanut butter. Donations will be taken to Gordon Shelter on Walk Day and distributed to the four local ministries.

CROP Musical Showcase is a new addition to the day's activities. Local youth will share their vocal, instrumental, and dance talents to end the walk on an energizing note. Music will be one more way to inspire us to keep on stepping out against hunger. Contact our Music Coordinator, [Casey Wood](#), for information about how you or your group can be part of the Showcase lineup.

Again this year, Shakespeare Pizza will donate 15% of all sales on CROP Walk day. Required coupons are available on the bulletin board in the gathering area, or you can [CLICK HERE](#) to get the coupon. CUCC goal this year is \$4,000. Donations can be made at the [church website](#), by check in the Sunday collection, or a check to the church office. You can also donate on the [CROP Walk website](#) or at Gordon Shelter on Walk Day. But don't stop there! Consider contacting family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues about this important mission. Invite them to lace up, join us on September 15 to walk, and to make a donation.

**WE CONTINUE TO WALK AND WORK TOGETHER TO FIGHT HUNGER LOCALLY AND
WORLDWIDE ONE STEP AT A TIME.**



Scouting America and CUCC

KICKOFF BBQ AT CUCC

On August 19, the relationship between Scouting America and Columbia United Church of Christ began in earnest with a Kickoff BBQ at the CUCC Shelter House! Over 200 people (scouts, parents, and church members) were in attendance to celebrate this new beginning. The Shelter House and the ground surrounding it were filled with the laughter of children and the joys of folks coming together around a common cause. A brief ceremony inaugurated the new student leaders of each troop, and Pastor Rick addressed the Scouts and their parents, welcoming them to CUCC. It was an amazing day and just the beginning of what is to come in our new relationship with Scouting America!



SCOUTING AMERICA AND CUCC

What is our relationship with Scouting America? We are the charter organization for four Scouting America units, which includes over 150 children, youth, and adult leaders. These units are:

- **Cub Scout Pack 5183** – The younger group of Scouts, with boys and girls from kindergarten age through 5th grade. They will be meeting every other Monday at CUCC.
- **Scouting America Troop 4475** – The girls troop. They are a very active and very large troop of girls from 6th-12th grades. They will be meeting every Monday at CUCC.
- **Scouting America Troop 708** – The boys troop. Like the girls troop, they are from 6th-12th grades and are very active. They are the largest Scouts troop in Columbia! They meet every Monday, too.
- **Venture Crew 5334** – This is a focused co-educational group of older youth, from High School through college age. They meet select days, based on the projects they are currently working on.

These Scouting America units are not just an “outside group” using our facilities. As the Charter Organization for these four units, they are a part of us and we are a part of them. Or, as Pastor Rick stated in worship recently, “they are our scouts, and we are their church.” Working together, in covenant, we will share the joys of common life and enhance one another’s mission, all to the glory of God.

CHARTERING SUNDAY– SEPTEMBER 22

We will celebrate our partnership with Scouting America on September 22 in worship as we invite the Scouts to join us to officially recognize our charter. On that Sunday, we will have a scout-filled Sanctuary and share a covenant to work together for the common good. We will have a symbolic signing of our Scouting America Charter Agreement, and celebrate afterward with fellowship together. Come join us on September 22; and if you can still fit into your old Scouts uniform, feel free to wear it!



International Missions

CUCC IS WORKING IN CAMBODIA

Children's Future International (CFI) is dedicated to improving the lives of vulnerable children and families in Cambodia. CFI focuses on education, healthcare, and social support. It operates educational center that provide underprivileged children access to quality education, life skills, and vocational training. CFI also offers healthcare services, including vaccinations and medical care, addressing the community's healthcare needs. Beyond this, it empowers families through livelihood programs and community development initiatives. CFI's commitment to breaking the cycle of poverty, promoting education, and enhancing the overall well-being of Cambodian children and families has a deep and lasting impact on the community.

Through Global Ministries, CUCC is a partner in mission with Children's Future International (CFI) in Cambodia and, through them, we are actively working with many families in Cambodia. This month, please keep Global Ministries, CFI, and the people of Cambodia in your prayers!



GLOBAL MINISTRIES- EMPOWERING WOMEN IN INDIA

from www.globalministries.org

In 2009, The Centre for Social Equity and Inclusion (CSEI) was initiated in India by Global Ministries Mission Partners to build creative spaces, expand opportunities, and enhance the skills of youth from marginalized communities to access their rights and play a due role in society.

Unequal quality of education and discrimination in opportunities are key to maintaining large sections of the Indian population vulnerable and in poor development indicators. Young people from Dalit, Tribal, Minority, and other marginalized communities remain out of schools/colleges and enter the vicious cycle of poor technical and life skills, unemployment, migration, and poverty.

CSEI believes that promoting quality education and 21st-century skills for young people can empower them and their communities and contribute to national development. Girls from these communities face multiple challenges, such as low worth and value in family, barriers to mobility, household burdens, high dropout from education, early marriages, and negligible opportunities to enhance their personality, leadership, or learning. Since the pandemic, CSEI has laid special emphasis on adolescents in these communities through the Girl's Learning and Leadership Program (GLLP).

The GLLP enrolls Girl Champions (GCs) and Education Fellows (EFs), who are trained and further organize peer group members to promote social equity, inclusion, constitutional and legal literacy, sensitivity to gender, sexuality, and adolescence, governance, and other relevant social information.

To respond to children's poor school performance, CSEI began building curriculum modules in English, Math, Science, Digital, and Life Skills to support first-generation learners in effectively completing schooling at class 10. Math and Science curricula development was initiated with support from Global Ministries.

Since 2020, CSEI has trained:

- 60 Girl Champions, who further created a gender-sensitive learning environment for 1200 peer group girls across 60 habitations during the pandemic, busting isolation, depression, and fear.
- 90 Girl Champions who reached out to 1000+ peer group members to build foundational English language and life skills in 90 habitations.
- 11 Math fellows, who supported 1500 children in classes 6-8, reduced their fear of Math and facilitated the clarity of foundational concepts across 11 schools in Bihar and UP.
- Organized Science melas (festivals) in 60 habitations discussing health, hygiene, nutrition, safe drinking water, water conservation, and skills to measure – building interest among children in electricity, light, magnetism, and many other science concepts through activities to interest them.

THANK YOU!

In our time of loss you have given us peace and healing through your comforting words. We are forever grateful. Thank you so much for your thoughts, prayers, and kindness. May God bless and keep you.

The Weiss Family

Thank you for your recent gift of \$400 to The Food Bank Market. The Food Bank is proud to serve our neighbors in this important community space, the largest food pantry in our service area. As the summer season transitions in to the school year, families in our communities are settling into their routines. Your generosity helps bring an element of hope and stability to households who are struggling to fill their tables. The Food Bank, The Market staff, and our volunteers would not be able to serve more than 10,000 individuals each month without support like yours.

Thank you for being an integral part of our mission. We appreciate your support and will use your donation efficiently and effectively to provide food at no cost to neighbors in our community.

Gratefully, Lindsay Young Lopez, President and CEO of The Food Bank

Thank you to your Outreach Committee for gifting Columbia Older Adult Ministry \$500. We continue to share compassion, love, and care with older adults in the many of the long-term care and retirement communities in Columbia. Recently while singing hymns with the residents at the Arbors by Bluff Creek Terrace, one of the residents kept thanking me for coming to sing hymns with them. He said he enjoys singing the “old favorites.” He is joined by another resident in saying “amen” after we sing each hymn. And though he doesn't always get the words right, he sings from the heart as he praises God. Thank you for being part of the caring team of COAM.

Blessings, Sally A. Robinson, Director of Older Adult Ministry of Columbia

Thank you for your generous donation of \$1,500 to THE FISH Fund at Voluntary Action Center (VAC), received on 7/10/2024. 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 our agency's ability to continue the meaningful work we are so passionate about - helping our community thrive!

In the 2024 first quarter, VAC's FISH Fund served 506 unduplicated individuals and 458 unduplicated households in Boone County. The top three immediate basic needs services provided through VAC's FISH Fund in 2024 were: \$7,877 for 400 gasoline vouchers, \$2,787 for medical expenses, and \$3,112 for identification expenses. VAC exists to empower possibilities, and you are investing in our community's resiliency!

With gratitude, Stacie Pottinger, Chief Development Officer of VAC

SPECIAL THANK YOU TO LENA, GINA, AND THE VBS CREW

A special word of thanks to the entire Vacation Bible School Crew, but most especially Lena Muench & Gina Pierson, who gave much of their time, talent (and probably treasure) to make VBS 2024 a HUGE success! We had 67 children registered, and 58 adult volunteers. The entire church was transformed into “Camp Firelight.” There was SOOO much effort put into this, and the children who attended had their lives transformed in wonderful ways. Lena and Gina – you “donut” know how much we appreciate you!

On the Church Calendar in September

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am- Fellowship 9:30am- Worship	2 LABOR DAY OFFICE CLOSED	3 10am- Quilters 6:30pm- Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	4 6pm- Chapel Ringers 7pm- Celebration Singers	5	6	7
8 9am- Sunday School 10am- Fellowship 10:30am- Worship	9 5pm- Membership & Care Ministry Team 6pm- Scouts 6:30pm- Worship & Music Ministry Team	10 10am- Quilters 6:30pm- Outreach & Advocacy 6:30pm- Troop 708	11 6pm- Prayer Shawl 6pm- Chapel Ringers 7pm- Celebration Singers	12 9:30am- Women's Fellowship 5:30pm- LODO Ministry Team	13	14
15 9am- Sunday School 10am- Fellowship 10:30am- Worship	16 4:30pm- Loaves & Fishes 6pm- Scouts	17 10am- Quilters 6:30pm- Council	18 6pm- Chapel Ringers 7pm- Celebration Singers	19 6pm Troop 4475	20	21 WESTERN ASSOCIATION MEETING
22 CHARTERING SUNDAY 9am- Sunday School 10am- Fellowship 10:30am- Worship	23	21 10am- Quilters 5:30pm- Food Bank	25 6pm- Chapel Ringers 7pm- Celebration Singers	26 6:30pm- Vision Team	27	28 PRIDEFEST
29 9am- Sunday School 10am- Fellowship 10:30am- Worship 12:00pm- Healthy Relationships Training	30 6pm- Scouts					

The Communicator

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



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Interested in Church Membership?

If you are interested in joining,
please contact **Rev. Rick Oberle**.
rick@columbiaucc.com

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

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.

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.