

THE COMMUNICATOR

May 2024

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

"Psalms"

For the past few weeks, since Easter, I have been taking a personal journey through the book of Psalms.

My inspiration for this journey was the impending arrival of my former Seminary Professor, Dr. J. Clinton McCann. Dr. McCann is an expert on the Psalms, having written several books and dozens (maybe hundreds) of scholarly journal entries on the Psalms. He was here at CUCC April 21 and 28 leading a Bible study class on the Psalms and, in anticipation of this event, I began walking a bit more closely with this incredible book.

When I was a student at Eden, I took a fall semester course focused solely on the Book of Psalms. It was very illuminating course. We dug deep into many of the Psalms in class, participated in an overview of the entirety of the book, and even looked at modern cultural adaptations of "Psalmy" themes.

The capstone project for the class was to prepare a "Psalms Journal." Each student in class was to pick ten Psalms and analyze them. I picked Psalms 1, 3, 22, 51, 150, 113, 23, 90, 82 and 2. For each Psalm, I walked through each verse, discussing the individual imagery, what these images mean to me, and what they could have meant to the original audience. Then, I studied scholarly journals and books written in reference to that particular Psalm. Finally, I looked at the big picture; what the story arc of that Psalm is and how that story arc intersects with other wisdom narratives in the Psalms, and other stories of our traditions. I also included items of current cultural significance that related to that particular Psalm.

My Psalms journal took a lot of work to put together, but it was very good and enjoyable work. By the end of the class and the production of the Journal, I had come to a whole new understanding of the wisdom that is encapsulated in the Book of Psalms and the beauty of Jewish storytelling. I learned more than just the structure and meaning of a handful of Psalms in the course of my work that semester; I learned how to appreciate the beauty and wisdom of the entire Old Testament; and how to draw God's Wisdom for yesterday and today out of these beloved stories of our traditions.

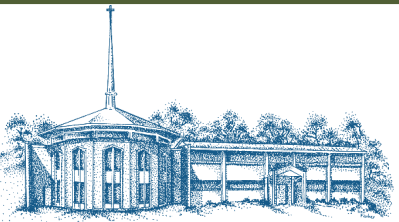
I looked at my old Psalms journal this past month, re-reading my analysis of those ten psalms, my class notes for the semester, and the handouts distributed by Professor McCann. As I looked them over, I appreciated once more the work that God allowed me to do that semester to get closer to Them. For fourteen weeks, my life revolved around the Psalms; and my faith, my heart, my life was enriched because of that intense fourteen week focus. Deliberate work and effort are helpful to fully appreciate all God has to offer.

We live in a context that is coming to appreciate education and study less and less. Scientific study and authority is disputed by anti-vaxxers and flat-earthers because of irresponsible posts on social media. Politicians spout lies that run counter to fact on social media platforms, and people believe them even when fact-checkers point out their errancy. People quote the Bible erroneously, sure of their convictions because they read it on a bumper sticker or heard it at their grandmother's knee, without bothering to crack open the book for themselves. None of these anti-intellectual approaches bring people closer to the truth; and in some cases, these efforts are physically harmful.

The result of deliberate work and intentional focus in studying the Bible is a closer relationship with God; and that end is definitely worth the means. Here at CUCC we offer many Bible Study opportunities over the course of the year; most notably, every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. This summer, we will have another daytime weekday Bible Study, and we often have evening options. Don't be afraid to jump in and learn more; it is well worth the work!

-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

Steven Jannetti

Organist/Accompanist

Alexandra Roper

Office Administrator

Erika Maltzbarger

Director, Little One's Day Out

Caleb Berry

Custodian

Sunday Schedule:

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

Office Hours:

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

Phone:
(573) 445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com

Website:
www.columbiaucc.com



LADIES - MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The Women's Fellowship will meet again on May 9 in the Gathering Area at 9:30 a.m. We will have breakfast together, share our Bible study lesson for the day, and do the work of the church.

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! Come join us for food and fun and Bible Study!

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.

Pat Forward, Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair, will be talking to our children and youth over the next several Sundays 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.

TRIVIA NIGHT AT CUCC

The next great Trivia Night at CUCC will be Saturday, May 11, 2024 in the Fellowship Hall! We had such a fun time last year, we wanted to do it again. To whet your appetite, here is a Trivia Question; which of the following are true?

- A. Cost is \$20/person or \$150 for a table of 8
- B. Downtown Appliance is providing the prizes for Trivia Night
- C. You can sign up solo or with a team
- D. Teams are no more than 8 people
- E. Drinks are available for purchase
- F. Snacks are provided and you can bring your own
- G. Proceeds go to the Building Fund
- H. You should book your table now
- I. ALL OF THE ABOVE

The answer is I-ALL OF THE ABOVE! All funds raised will towards our Building Fund project of replacing our aging HVAC units. Book your table now, and pay at the door. To do so email Alexandra in the church office or [CLICK HERE](#).



🌸 May Birthdays 🌸

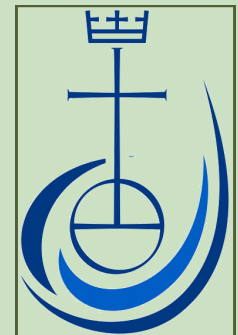
Paul Klick - 05/01	Brenda Muench - 05/03	Christine Staelens - 05/03	Payton Bach - 05/04
James Melton - 05/05	Tim Staelens - 05/05	Betsy Murphy - 05/08	David Fischer - 05/10
Harper Furney - 05/10	Keith Birkes - 05/13	Asher Nieman - 05/13	Alexandra Roper - 05/14
Travis Brookshire - 05/15	Anne Heine - 05/15	Virginia Zumwalt - 05/17	Marcella Dolezal - 05/18
Kennedy Lucas - 05/19	Mari Ann Keithahn - 05/20	Hayley Dennis - 05/21	Abe Heine - 05/21
Tracy Bach - 05/24	Debbie Meers - 05/26	Louis Nieman - 05/26	Roberta Settergren - 05/26
Emmalee Heine - 05/28	River Minor - 05/28	Grayson Oberle - 05/28	Elaina Beckmann - 05/29
Anna Marcks - 05/30	Morgan Lavelly - 05/31	Finn Schneider - 05/31	

Sunday Volunteer Schedule for May

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Tech Booth
05/05	BRENDA MUENCH JOHN MUENCH	PAT FORWARD MARY LORBER-SOLT	AUDREY LASLEY	LORRY DREIER BRENT MARCKS
05/12		KEITH BIRKES DEBORAH LONG-BIRKES	LLONA WEISS	JOSH MUENCH DOUG PRIVITT
05/19	AUDREY LASLEY	LLONA WEISS CHRISTINE STAELENS	PAT FORWARD	MIKE PIERSON TREVOR PIERSON
05/26		MARY LORBER-SOLT	MAHREE SKALA	CARISSA GRAVES JOHN GRAVES

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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



Moderator's Moment

The Church Council is always looking for new ideas and ways to bring in new members. After all, the book of Genesis tells us to "be fruitful and multiply." Most recently we explored the idea of hosting a car show. Though this idea didn't pan out, we on the Church Council are still hungry for the opportunity to spread our name and message throughout the community, despite our locational challenges. We are looking forward to another successful Trivia Night on May 11. This is a perfect way to invite community members and friends out to our location and have a little fun, while testing your knowledge of the trivial.

I also want you to come to the Congregational Meeting with ideas on community-type events that could bring new folks out here to see what we're all about. A talent show, family fun fest, Fall harvest party; all were all ideas that were discussed, but we would also like to hear from you what fits best in line with our values and beliefs as a congregation.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kurt Heine, Moderator



Notice How Clean It Looks on the Way to Church? Thank your Clean Up Columbia Crew

On a beautiful, cool, and sunny Saturday in April, 17 volunteers spiffed up the roadside near church. We picked up 36 bags of trash plus several odd items including a mattress, tire pieces and downed road signs.

Many thanks to the volunteers who helped tend to God's creation: Ted and Mona Dachroeden; Jane and Mark Duncan; Chloe Eveler; Barbara Fotsch; Jo Ellen Grace; Audrey Lasley; Connie and Jim Loveless; Darla Privitt; Judi Privitt; Karl and Mahree Skala; Ginny van Hove; Llona Weiss; Raelyn Zimny.



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION DRIVE FOR COYOTE HILL

Women's Fellowship would like to invite the CUCC congregation to join them in donating birthday celebration items for children and teens in foster care through Coyote Hill Foster Care Ministries. The goal is to provide Coyote Hill with 100 "Birthday Celebration Baskets" they can give to families with foster children, to celebrate their birthdays. This helps lighten the load for foster parents to provide all the necessary items to make a birthday special for each child in care. The "Birthday Celebration Baskets" will each have the following items:

- One cake pan (optionally disposable)
- One box of cake mix
- One container of icing
- One container of sprinkles
- One package of candles
- One package of balloons
- An item that you feel would make the celebration special (birthday hats, birthday pin or sash, birthday cake topper, etc.)

Donations can be put into the bin in the gathering area outside of the sanctuary, labeled "Coyote Hill." Please provide the items together in one tied bag so each bag can be handed out already assembled as a set. All donations are needed by or before June 2 as they will be picked up the first week of June. Thank you for helping support children and young people in foster care!

In Peace and Joy,
April Rothweiler



CUCC Church Council

CUCC Council Meeting
March 19, 2024

Kurt Heine called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Pastor Rick led us with a prayer.

Present: Rev. Rick Oberle, Judi Privitt, Tricia Price, Mark Duncan, Pat Forward, Christine Staelens, Kurt Heine, Mary Lorber-Solt, Ted Dachroeden, Sue Ann Schaefer, and Lorry Dreier.

Mark Duncan made a motion to approve the February minutes, second from Tricia Price. Motion passed.

Mary Lorber-Solt discussed our book *Reorganized Religion*, Chapter 10: "The Church We Hoped For." The chapter discussed multiracial congregations and groups that are successful. Common factors are to offer hospitality and friendship. To qualify for multiracial congregation, it is defined as one that includes 20 percent or more of participants who are not part of the dominate racial group in that religious community. Typically, this is a one-way street to join predominately white congregations. The Hope is in the younger generation for a multiracial congregation. Lorry Dreier will discuss the Conclusion at our April meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Policy and Procedures Manual Update – The Personnel Committee did not meet.

Inclusion Ramp for sanctuary – It has arrived and we need to set up.

Land Donation – Documents were sent and we are waiting on a response.

Nominating Committee – Members in process of filling open roles.

Trivia Night – May 11 to benefit Building Fund.

Car Show – Tentatively August 24 to benefit Building Fund; need additional details.

Quorus – Discussed joining together on possible singing events and ushering at their concerts.

Establishment of LODO Designated Fund – Need to draft a Policy.

LODO Rummage Sale – Judi Privitt made a motion to approve Option 1: Traditional Rummage Sale with a second from Sue Ann Schafer. The motion passed. Dates are June 27-29.

Shelly Adams Graduation on May 17 – Discussion on graduation gift and Cake/Punch Reception before church on May 19.

NEW BUSINESS:

Annual Meeting – Ministry Teams "elevator speech" – Each team has a piece of the pie on what each Ministry team does/accomplishes with the money and impacts on people and children.

HVAC Bid – Replace two units – F6 and F9 = \$17,500 Per Fred Malicoat. Ted Dachroeden made a motion to approve replacement of both units for \$17,500 with a second from Mark Duncan. The motion passed.

Worship Time for the Summer – Worship at 9:30 a.m. beginning June 9 through September 1. 10:30 a.m. time will resume on September 8, Rally Day.

Bring a Friend Sunday is April 21 – Taco Bar following service in Fellowship Hall – Taco Bar Sign Up Genius email to follow.

Pastor Rick's Report – attached in the drive - He talked about Stewardship and Time & Talent Sheets.

Financials were presented. We are above budget for Joyful Giving year-to-date as of March.

Ministry Team Reports

Fellowship and Hospitality – Upcoming events: 5/11 Trivia Night, 5/19 Congregational Meeting (potluck).

Finance and Stewardship – Report attached.

Membership & Care – Report attached - Bring a Friend Sunday is 4/21.

Nurture & Education – Report attached.

Worship & Music – Report attached.

Pastor Rick led a prayer to close the meeting. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Lorry Dreier, Acting Secretary for Alethea



Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team

The month of May means Summer is almost here. This entire congregation has done a great job of supporting the Church so far this year, and you all deserve a great round of applause for all you have done! From supporting the church financially to doing the work around the church, you have done well. Now, with summer on the horizon, we have to remain faithful in our support of CUCC. I enjoy getting away and enjoying the outdoors as much as anyone; but please, as you do, keep the church in mind. You can set up recurring giving through Kindrid (our online giving app) or go to the church website and click the donate tab at the top of the page to give there. We appreciate your continued support!



-Doug Privitt, member- CUCC Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
March Income	\$30,756.92	\$38,650.00	(\$7,893.08)
March Expenses	\$31,885.74	\$36,138.22	(\$4,252.48)
YTD Income	\$111,545.56	\$95,210.00	\$16,335.56
YTD Expenses	\$95,352.49	\$98,881.74	(\$3,529.25)
Surplus/(Deficit)	\$16,193.07	(\$3,671.74)	\$19,864.81
March Joyful Giving	\$29,657.37	\$37,500.00	(\$7,842.63)
YTD Joyful Giving	\$108,138.01	\$91,500.00	\$16,638.01

CUCC Finishes First Quarter Financially Secure!

For the first time in memory, CUCC finished the first Quarter of 2024 “in the black” financially; both “cash flow” and “budget”!

Our Actual Income exceeded Budgeted Income by \$16,335 and our Actual Expenses were **BELOW** Budgeted Expenses by \$3529. This resulted in positive cash flow of \$19,865. Usually, this time of year, we are realizing a negative cash flow.

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministries of this church! Keep up the good work as we head into the second quarter of 2024!

Worship Attendance

Date	03/03	03/10	03/17	03/24	03/29	03/31	03/31	Total
Attendance	75	118	137	100	45	23	169	667

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.

Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team

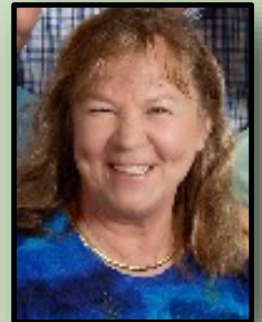
Greetings to one and all from your Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team. I hope this finds everybody enjoying this beautiful time of year.

May is a busy month: we have Trivia Night on Saturday, May 11; Mothers' Day on May 12; Pentecost and the Annual Meeting on May 19; and Memorial weekend May 25-27. So many things to do.

I'd like to focus on Pentecost, which is also the day of our Congregational Annual Meeting. As a congregation we will be voting on new council members, line items in the business of running our church, and enjoying a wonderful potluck/carry-in lunch provided by all. We will also be looking at creating something "new," an event to stir the interest and involvement of our congregation and community. So put on your thinking caps, as we will be passing out a multiple choice checklist, with a spot for "other" -- your ideas on what we can do as a community event. I look forward to many wonderful suggestions and ideas.

Until next month: be safe, be healthy, be blessed.

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



ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK MEAL

The Annual Congregational Meeting of Columbia United Church of Christ will be held after worship in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday, May 19, 2024. The meeting will be a dynamic presentation of "elevator speeches," where each of the Ministry Teams and Council will have a chance to present a visual narrative about their missional impact on God's World in 2023/2024 and their management of the church budget.

Columbia United Church of Christ is changing God's world for the better; and this showcase will give you the opportunity to see just what we are doing to make this missional impact.

As part of our vision plan for financial stability, you will also have the opportunity to vote on establishing a CUCC Endowment Fund. Specific language for the Endowment Fund was distributed to the Congregation on March 17, has been posted on the Council bulletin board in the Gathering Space, and has been included in Friday emails in April and May. Essentially, the Endowment Fund would be established to address the vision articulated in the CUCC Strategic Plan - "Establish financial security for our ongoing ministry programs."

From the proposed Endowment Fund description:

"The purpose of this fund is to enhance the ministry work and mission outreach of Columbia United Church of Christ by supplementing the Annual Budget of the Congregation. Gifts to the fund shall accumulate until the principal amount of \$500,000 is received, after which the income generated from the investment of the principal will be expended according to these guidelines.

A 4% draw on a rolling 12-quarter average of the fund balance may, at the discretion of the Church Council, be realized to supplement the annual ministry expenses of the congregation. These ministries may include efforts towards community outreach and advocacy, inclusion and affirmation, nurture and education, worship and music, fellowship and hospitality, caring for our members and encouraging faithful stewardship, supporting our preschool ministry, supporting the wider United Church of Christ community, as well as maintenance of our facility."

We will also elect new Council members and recognize retiring ones, thanking them for their years of service to this church. There will be a pot-luck meal hosted by the Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team, as well! Bring a dish to share! Plan to be here on May 19 for food, fun, and fellowship; and to do the Worshipful Work of the church!



Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

I told my daughter that I had just watched a documentary on Dr. Ruth. At 42, my daughter's response was, "Who is Dr. Ruth?" Those of us of a 'certain age' do know who she is. However, in watching her documentary there is so much more to this woman than I had ever known. We submit this in honor of the Holocaust Remembrance Day (Yom HaShoah) observed on May 6.

Karola Ruth Westheimer (Dr. Ruth) was born in 1928 to a Jewish family in Germany. At age ten, she watched as the Nazi Gestapo came to their home and took away her father. Not long after, with so much hatred brewing in Germany for the Jewish citizens, her mother was able to send Karola to Switzerland on a train that carried dozens of Jewish children to safety. Karola was never hugged again as a child. She later learned that her father died in Auschwitz. Her mother was listed as 'disappeared/murdered' via the Holocaust Remembrance Center.

Karola was placed in a Swiss orphanage. Being a girl, she was not allowed to have books or any schooling; her duty was to labor. Boys attended school, and she befriended a boy at the orphanage who smuggled books to her at night. Karola read them on a stairway via moonlight.

Once World War II was over, 16-year-old Karola joined the Jewish Zionist underground paramilitary

organization (later called the Israel Defense Forces) and was trained as a sniper. She was chosen for that post because of her small stature of four foot seven inches. On her 20th birthday, Karola was seriously wounded in action by an exploding shell during a mortar fire attack on Jerusalem. She had near fatal injuries, was temporarily paralyzed and almost lost both feet. It was a slow and painful process, but she did make a full recovery.

At 22, she moved to France and studied psychology, earning an undergraduate degree, despite not having a high school education. In 1956, she immigrated to the United States and continued to study earning a masters and later a doctorate in Family-Life Studies. She specialized in helping couples with intimacy issues.

Having lost her entire family in the Holocaust, Dr. Ruth rejoices in her children and her grandchildren. She is a shining example of the phrase: "Where there's a woman, there's a way."



COME, JOIN THE TEAM!

The Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team is a fun group of people who gather together to share the joy of proclaiming the Inclusive Love of God. We would LOVE to have you on the team! There is a spot here just for you, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey! We meet 4-5 times/year to support the inclusive ministries of the church. If you would like more information, talk to Tricia Price, Tricia Soncasie, Kristy Hayward, Lydia Whitacre, or 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

Don't cry because it is over. Smile because it happened. – Dr. Seuss

May brings many emotions as we come to the end of our school year. We are sad to see students leave for kindergarten and move on to next year's classrooms, but we celebrate all the amazing memories we have made this year and those of our students' time at LODO. We have watched them grow for one or more years and know that our students are ready to continue their educational journey with a love for learning and the skills necessary to be successful in their future classrooms. Our Pre-K students will graduate on Thursday, May 16 at 6:30 p.m. Our last day of the 2023-2024 school year will be Friday, May 17.

April Happenings

LODO hosted our annual Literacy Night on Thursday, April 11. Nine LODO Families and one CUCC Family attended a fun evening of activities based on "Pete the Cat." A fun time was had by children, families, and staff! Student Conference week was held April 15-19. Conferences are a wonderful time for our teachers and families to discuss information on their child's overall development and learning growth throughout the school year.

LODO Rummage Sale Fundraiser (June 27-29)

The LODO Ministry will hold a Rummage Sale in the CUCC Fellowship Hall to raise money for the Little One's Day Out (LODO) Ministry Fund. This fund will provide supplemental support to the LODO Operating Budget for things such as playground upgrades, durable goods for classrooms, remodeling projects, or maintenance needs. The fund may also be used for tuition assistance for families with financial challenges or to provide enhanced programming, such as bringing in a guest speaker or activity for curriculum enhancement or staff professional development.

CUCC Members can help by donating gently used items to the rummage sale (clothing, books, toys, household goods, furniture, etc.). All items will be offered for sale, and items remaining after the sale will be provided to local non-profit organizations. Donations will be accepted beginning Monday, June 3. Please encourage friends and family to donate items to our sale to help us raise funds to support the LODO Ministry, and invite friends and family to shop the sale! More information will be distributed in the weeks prior to the rummage sale by email and social media.

In Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger



Upcoming Events

- May 3 – Spring LODO Family Picnic at Smith Park
- May 6-10 – Staff Appreciation Week
- May 16 – LODO Pre-K Graduation - 6:30 p.m. - Sanctuary
- May 17 – Last Day of 2023-2024 School Year
- Jun 27-29 – LODO Rummage Sale - Fellowship Hall

Looking Ahead to 2024-2025

- Aug 12 – 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. LODO Staff Annual Planning Meeting (Fellowship Hall)
- Aug 22 – 5:30-7:00 p.m. – Back to School/Meet the Teacher Night
- Aug 26 – First Day of 2024-2025 School Year

Let's Thank Our LODO Staff
for "Bee-ing" the Best!



May 6th-10th

Our parent committee has planned a week
of celebration for our LODO Staff.

If you would like to support the LODO
Ministry during Staff Appreciation Week,
please consider a monetary donation or
an item from our Amazon Wish List.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3135KEL32FTBN?
ref=w_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3135KEL32FTBN?ref=w_share)

Link to the Amazon Wish List is also available on the CUCC website under the "LODO Preschool" button.

Nurture & Education Ministry Team

Sunday School - 9:00-10:00 a.m. – Sunday Mornings - There are classes for all ages.

Nursery - Laynee, our Nursery Supervisor, is in the nursery every Sunday, starting at 10:00 a.m. until the end of Worship. The nursery welcomes all children, ages kindergarten and younger.

Pre-K through High School - We are using the Mini Revolutions curriculum to engage our young children and youth in learning.

Adult Bible Study - The Adult Bible Study class starts with the lectionary text for the Sunday Service. We may explore the text for the entire class, or it may just be the starting point for wherever our thoughts take us. Come explore with us. April 21 and 28, Clint McCann, from Eden Seminary, will lead Adult Education.

Raising Good Humans - This parent group meeting, led by Lena Muench, will meet for the last time until the Fall, on Sunday, May 19, 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. Nursery coverage is provided on this day, starting at 9:00 a.m. Parents with children of all ages are welcome.

Past Events

Easter Bake Sale - The bake sale was a huge success, raising over \$480 for the Nurture & Education Fund. Thank you to everyone who donated and who purchased baked goods. A big thank you to Lorry Dreier and Gina Pierson for organizing and running the bake sale.

Earth Day - April 21 - Nurture & Education Ministry Team hosted a CUCC Table at Columbia's Earth Day Celebration downtown, 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Seed packets, church brochures, and VBS flyers were passed out, along with a Raffle Basket given away. Thank you to Paula Wilson, Audrey Lasley, Linda Neale, Lorry Dreier, Danielle Dreier, Dave Forward, and Pastor Rick for setting up and staffing the booth. During the Sunday School hour on that Sunday, we celebrated Earth Day by making seed bombs, edible dirt cups with gummy worms, and singing. We ended the morning, participating in the planting of the new tree in the circle drive.

New Tree in the Circle Drive - A new red maple tree has been planted in the circle drive. The previous tree was blown down in a storm and needed to be replaced. Thank you to Alisa Lau-Sieckman for the wonderful idea to tie the planting of a new tree with Earth Day, and with our Sunday School classes, and to Jim and Connie Loveless and Mahree and Karl Skala for the research on the kind of tree to plant, securing the purchase and delivery of the tree, and planting it with our Sunday School children and youth. Thank you to Llona Weiss for talking to us about Earth Day.

Upcoming Events

Celebrating our Graduates - May 5 - We will be celebrating our 2024 Graduates with a reception at 10:00 a.m. in the Gathering Area with cake, and in worship that morning.

May's Spirit Sunday - May 19 - Celebrating Pentecost, during the Sunday School hour, 9-10 a.m., for our children and youth.

Memorial Day Weekend - May 26 - There will be NO Sunday School this day for children and youth.

End of the Year Picnic - June 2 - We will have a fun, interactive Sunday School hour revealing this year's Vacation Bible School (VBS) theme, *Camp Firelight: A Summer Camp Adventure with God*.

Summer Camp at Camp Mo-Val - Please see Pastor Rick if you are interested in your children attending camp this summer at Camp Mo-Val. CUCC will pay \$400 towards each camper's fee to attend.

Vacation Bible School (VBS) - July 29-31, 2024 from 5:15 to 8:15 p.m. Save these evenings for your children, 3 years through 5th grade, to experience our exciting annual VBS. We are looking for volunteers, ages 6th grade through adult, who would like to help any or all of those evenings. Thank you to Lena Muench and Gina Pierson for co-chairing this event. Registration is now open and accessible on our church [website](#).

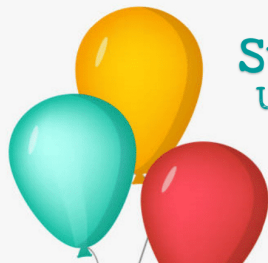
**There will be no Sunday School over the summer,
returning on Rally Day at 9:00 a.m. on September 8.**

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Forward



Calling all
Sunday School
Kiddos/Youth!
(ages 3-12th grade)

Join us for our
**PENTECOST
PARTY**



Sunday, May 19 @ 9:00
Upstairs in Sunday School rooms

A fun-filled time with
crafts, games, and snacks!

Bring a Friend
(or a few!)



VBS Preview Party

(ages 3-12th Grade)

Sunday June 2, 9:00-10:00 a.m.

Vacation Bible School

July 29-31, 5:15-8:15 p.m.

Attendees: Ages 3 through finishing 5th Grade

Volunteers: (finishing 6th grade through adult) needed, too!

Registration for attendees and volunteers:

www.ColumbiaUCC.com



Worship & Music Ministry Team

This past week we had a joint performance with the University Singers and the Choral Union Symphonic Chorus at the University of Missouri. We were fortunate to perform two major Choral Works: The "Lord Nelson" Mass by Franz Joseph Haydn and the "Credo" by Margaret Bonds.

Within the choral community, most people are familiar with the Nelson Mass. It is a setting of the Catholic Mass in the classical era. It's been performed countless times over centuries. This is not the case with "Credo."

Margaret Bonds was an African-American composer working mostly throughout the 1950s and 1960s. This piece was a setting of poetry from W.E.B. Dubois written in 1904.

For those who are unfamiliar with the Mass, the "Credo" movement translates to "I Believe." In most settings, it states, "I believe in the Father, and in the Son, and in the Holy Spirit." In Dubois' text, however, the "I believe" prompt is used to express beliefs about the experience of black Americans. At times the text is hopeful, stating, "I believe that all men, black, and brown, and white are brothers." At other times it laments the sorrowful reality of many black Americans: "I believe in the Devil and His angels who wantonly work to narrow the opportunities of struggling human beings, especially if they be black."

For several decades, this piece has been mostly unknown in the choral community. However, in the past five years, organizations such as the American Choral Directors Association have worked to spotlight underrepresented composers like Bonds. We believe that it is important to tell new stories through choral music and to highlight new perspectives.

Since 2020, the "Credo" has become a very important work in the choral canon. Sheet music distributor, JWPepper.com has determined that in 2024 alone there will be 150 public performances of Margaret Bonds' work.

Respectfully Submitted,
Casey Wood,
Music Coordinator



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!

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](#).

Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team

The May CUCC shift will be at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 28 at the Food Bank on Vandiver Drive. This will be our last evening shift until August. Please sign up to help our hungry neighbors [HERE](#) or contact Mahree Skala for help.

In March we had a small but mighty crew: Jo Ellen Grace; Connie Loveless; Brenda and John Muench; Mahree Skala. We all packed frozen chicken tenders into family-sized bags.

For more information or if you have trouble signing up, contact Mahree Skala at skalamahree@yahoo.com or 573-474-2195.



The April 15 meal at L&F consisted of spaghetti (made by Mary Lorber), lettuce salad (donated by Hy-Vee), garlic bread and a variety of desserts (made by Jolene Kirchhoff). PBJ's were made and provided by Mahree Skala. Servers/helpers were Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Doug & Judi Privitt, Patty Beeson, Keith & Deborah Long-Birkes, and Jim Loveless. We had approximately 61 firsts and 13 seconds. This was our first time serving at RATI (Room At The Inn). It went well, and we adjusted to the few minor changes. Thank you to EVERYONE! Please let me know if you would like to help in any way!

Respectfully submitted, Audrey Lasley



Pastor Rick and I met with Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary's Principal Amanda Minear and Home School Coordinator Thel Sargent on April 17, and the remainder of the school year is busy! Again, AHL keeps stating how thankful they are for all that CUCC does for AHL. Our collection of treats for the MAP testing weeks were well appreciated and enjoyed. Our next collection is for

Teacher Appreciation Week during the week of May 6-10, 2024. The cart will be in the Gathering Area for any and all donations for the public school teachers who work so hard with our students all year long. I will pick up the donations on Sunday May 5, 2024. They like coffees, teas, chocolate, cookies, popcorn, muffins, chips, nuts, soda, etc.



Friday, May 10 at 7:15 a.m. is the 40th Annual Partners in Education Celebration Breakfast: Inspire Greatness at the Holiday Inn Expo Center. If you are interested in attending please see Llona about obtaining a ticket for \$25. Also on Friday, May 10 is AHL's School Carnival from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. Please let me know if you would like to volunteer any time during those couple hours, so the parents and teachers can spend more fun time with the students. You can volunteer for games, raffle, silent auction, or concessions on Sign-Up Genius [HERE](#) or just let me know and I can help you. I already have some CUCC members who committed, and that is great!

The 5th graders will be going to St. Louis again this year to BizTown, which is a wonderful Junior Achievement learning experience, and AHL is in need of volunteers. You can sign up [HERE](#). If you are interested, please see me or Pastor Rick about riding together to St. Louis on Tuesday, May 14 (approximate time 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.)

To start the 2024-2025 school year, CUCC will be collecting school supplies for AHL students in the form of erasers (pink erasers and eraser tips for pencils). We plan to start this collection in July and deliver to AHL by August 5 so they can coordinate their student supplies.

Again, you are such a wonderful, supportive congregation! THANK YOU!

Respectfully Submitted,
Llona Weiss



International Missions

CUCC IS WORKING IN ECUADOR

The Ecumenical Foundation for Development, Integration, Training, and Education (FEDICE) in Ecuador is a transformative organization dedicated to holistic development. FEDICE works at the intersection of faith and social justice, fostering sustainable change in communities facing great challenges. FEDICE's initiatives encompass education, healthcare, economic empowerment, and indigenous rights. FEDICE empowers local communities by providing access to education, healthcare services, and microfinance opportunities. Additionally, it advocates for the rights of indigenous populations and supports sustainable agricultural practices. FEDICE's collaborative approach, grounded in ecumenical values, improves living conditions, preserves cultural heritage, and promotes social equality in Ecuador.

Through [Global Ministries](#), CUCC is a partner in mission with The Ecumenical Foundation for Development, Integration, Training, and Education (FEDICE) and, through them, we are actively working in many families in Ecuador. This month, please keep Global Ministries, FEDICE, and the people of Ecuador in your prayers!



GLOBAL MINISTRIES CHILD AND ELDER SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

Supporting children and elders with the love and services they deserve is one of the greatest gifts of kindness you can share. Through your support, the [Global Ministries](#) Child and Elder Sponsorship Program partners with churches and agencies all over the world to provide services that create opportunities and affirm dignity.

Child Sponsorship Opportunities

Your gifts through [Global Ministries](#) Child Sponsorship make a difference! The Child Sponsorship program works closely with partner organizations that have long-established links with the UCC and Disciples. Collaborating with partners, your gifts to Child Sponsorship provide food, basic health care, clothing, and in some cases housing, school fees, uniforms, books, and training.

Elder Sponsorship Opportunities

In many countries, an individual is not entitled to government assistance after retirement unless they have worked for the government. Global Ministries Elder Sponsorship centers assist elders who have no place to live and no family to care for them. Your sponsorship of an elder helps provide shelter, medicine, and meals. Elders are given the opportunity to live out their lives in dignity and solace in an environment where they feel loved and cared for.

Sponsorship gifts can be given as [holiday gifts](#), [in honor or memory of someone](#), or a [one-time gift to use where most needed](#). 100% of sponsorship gifts will be used for the child or elder you sponsor and is not used to support the Child and Elder Sponsorship Program costs. To make a general gift in support of the Child and Elder Sponsorship program, you may do so online or by check. For more information visit the [Global Ministries Sponsorship Page](#) on their website.



Thank You!

I attended a talk by writer Annie Dillard at Orchestra Hall in Chicago in about 1990. Somehow, she was permitted to light a cigarette as she walked up and down the stage, talking to us.

During the question-and-answer period someone asked something like, “You often mention God in your work. How can someone as educated and intelligent as you are be so certain God exists?” She shrugged her shoulders, cigarette in hand, and said, “We’ve met.” Then she went on to the next question.

During the past weeks, Jolene and I have been blessed to meet God in so many of you. The meeting came in the cards, in the meals delivered, in the flowers, and most of all in your prayers. We thank you.

Barry and Jolene Kirchoff

Global Ministries thanks you for your gift in the amount of \$500. Your gift will go towards Melel Xojabal in San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico, which supports children and youth. Gifts like yours help manifest the bold vision that all God’s people and creation share in God’s abundant life. Because of your generosity, we can work mutually alongside our partners who fight for justice, care for our world, and build community. Your gift is a witness of peace and resilience for people worldwide who unite and rebuild in adversity.

Sincerely,
Cynthia Newman
Acting Director of Strategic Engagement
and Assistant Vice President of Global Ministries

Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School thanks Columbia United Church of Christ for “Walking the Talk.” Volunteers like Llona Weiss, Melba Schaefer, Mahree Skala, Judi Privitt, and more often help to coordinate drives and fundraisers for the school. For example, they have volunteered for AHL Carnival, an event held for students and families to celebrate the end of the year. Recently, the drive for Parent Teacher conferences garnered snacks to help teachers power through the long week. Other drives have included items such as: coat, boots, and mittens; school supplies; food and snacks; etc.

We are grateful to have CUCC as a Partner in Education.

-Alpha Hart Lewis

Thank you for your generous gift to Back Bay Mission! Your gift to *Friends of the Mission* makes it possible to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast.

Your gift is already at work strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives. You’re helping a homeowner stay in their home, providing homeless families with apartments, making sure people have enough food, and giving people the support they need to make their lives better.

Most importantly, your gift is making sure that Back Bay Mission is here to provide a safe and welcoming place for everyone who comes through our doors. Thank you for partnering with us through your generous gift. We - and those we serve - are ever grateful.

In Grace and Peace,
James Pennington
Executive Director of Back Bay Mission

CUCC presents...
Columbia United Church of Christ

TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday May 11, 2024 | Fellowship Hall
Doors at 6 p.m. | Trivia at 6:30 p.m.

\$20 individually or \$150 for a full table of 8
Use the QR code to sign up now and pay at the door.

POP QUIZ!



1. Which of the following is true?

- Downtown Appliance is providing the prizes
- You can sign up solo or with a team
- Teams are no more than 8 people
- Drinks are available for purchase
- Snacks are provided and you can bring your own
- Proceeds go to the Building Fund
- You should book your table now
- ALL OF THE ABOVE



On the Church Calendar in May

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 6:00 - Chapel Ringers 7:00 - Celebration Singers	2	3	4
5 9:00 - Sunday School 10:00 - Fellowship 10:30 - Worship 12 - Nurture & Education	6 6:30 - Worship & Music	7 10:00 - Quilters 10:30 - Staff Meeting 6:30 - Outreach & Advocacy	8 6:00 - Prayer Shawl Group 6:00 - Chapel Ringers 7:00 - Celebration Singers	9 9:30 - Women's Fellowship 5:00 - Coyote Hill Support Group	10 5:30 - AHL Carnival	11 6:00 - Trivia Night
12 9:00 - Sunday School 10:00 - Fellowship 10:30 - Worship	13 5:00 - Membership & Care Ministry Team 6:00 - Girl Scouts	14 10:00 - Quilters 10:30 - Staff Meeting 6:30 - Finance & Stewardship	15 10:00 - Pastor Rick leads worship at The Bluffs 6:00 - Chapel Ringers 7:00 - Celebration Singers	16 6:30 - LODO Graduation	17 Fellowship Hall booked	18 Fellowship Hall booked
19 9:00 - Sunday School 10:00 - Fellowship 10:30 - Worship 12:00 - Annual Congregational Meeting	20	21 10:00 - Quilters 10:30 - Staff Meeting 6:30 - Council Meeting	22 6:00 - Chapel Ringers 7:00 - Celebration Singers	23	24 10:00 - Jean Strothmann Memorial Service	25
26 9:00 - Sunday School 10:00 - Fellowship 10:30 - Worship	27 OFFICE CLOSED MEMORIAL DAY	28 10 - Quilters 10:30 - Staff Meeting 5:30 - Food Bank	29 6:00 - Chapel Ringers 7:00 - Celebration Singers	30		

The Communicator

Columbia United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation - ONA #1575
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Columbia, MO 65202-3296
573-445-7931



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ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



Interested in Church Membership?

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

**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

Columbia United Church of Christ Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant

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

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

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

LODO PLAYGROUND RESPECT

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

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