

THE COMMUNICATOR

June 2023

Hello
JUNE

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

"Pride Month"

The month of June has always been a special month to Oberles, not because it is Pride Month but because it has historically been Birthday Month. My birthday is June 5. I had two younger sisters born on June 18 and June 21 and a younger brother born on June 25. My parents' anniversary was June 30 and my grandparents' anniversary was June 14. Throw Father's Day in there, and the month of June was a month of celebration.

There were times when we would have combined celebrations, but even when we did, my parents took care to ensure that we each had our special day observed. By the time June 25 came around, we were growing weary of cake and ice cream and singing, but we celebrated anyway. It was important to lift up the identity, dignity, and value of each sibling.

Why do we celebrate birthdays? I mean, is it really any great accomplishment just having not died one more year? Is there anything magical that happens to us on the anniversary of our emergence into this world? Other than the significance humans place on "landmark ages," does marking the anniversary of our birth really matter?

Celebrations do matter, birthdays included, because days of celebration give us an opportunity to remember our history, claim our identity, and affirm our value (dignity, worth, etc.). When we recognize our birthdays (realizing that some are reticent to do so), we tell the story of who we are and our history. We remember birthdays past and how we have grown beyond them. We claim our identity as a Gemini, a June baby, a summer child (or whatever month you were born). When others sing "Happy Birthday" to us, expressing their love, our value in their eyes is affirmed. We are recognized as blessed and beloved because our birthday is celebrated.

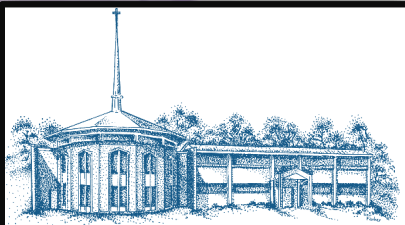
The same can be said of every major holiday. Christmas became a holiday because early Christians were being picked on by the pagans who had all kinds of cool rituals surrounding Saturnalia. To tell their history (the story of Jesus), claim their identity as Christians and affirm their value (dignity, worth, etc.), they created the Christmas holiday. When Americans of Irish ancestry were being disenfranchised by less-gingerly blessed immigrants to the North American continent, they told the stories of their heritage, claimed their identity as Irish, and affirmed their value (dignity, worth, etc.) by developing the United States celebration of St. Patrick's Day in a way that surpasses that observance in Ireland. When the citizens of the United States revolution were being disenfranchised by the British, they told their stories, claimed their identity, and affirmed their value (dignity, worth, etc.) by creating an Independence Day observation. This holiday, as it evolved, became even more an expression of history, identity, and dignity.

You would think that, in this day and age, oppression of Queer Communities would be a thing of the past, but in this last legislative session, in state houses across the country, over 400 anti-gay and anti-trans bills were introduced with the sole purpose of attempting to diminish the rights of people with diverse sexual orientation and gender identity. Most were defeated in committee, but many passed. Here in Missouri, two pieces of legislation were approved that deny trans children healthcare rights and restricts them from participating in sports aligned with their gender. One gay Missouri legislator who fought these bills commented, "they can't come after me any more (as a gay man), so now they are coming after the children."



In this day of visceral anti-gay hatred expressed at leadership levels in our statehouse, Pride Month is even more important than ever: to tell the stories of oppression in Queer communities, to help God's beloved children claim their true identity, and to affirm their value, dignity, and worth, just as God Created them. May God's Blessings be with all of God's children this Pride Month, no matter who they are or how God created them.

-Pastor Rick



News & Updates

UPCOMING EVENTS

**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

MJ King

Office Administrator

Brandon Brown

Music Coordinator

Amy Crousore

Organist/Accompanist

Erika Maltsbarger

Director, Little One's Day Out

Caleb Berry

Custodian

**Summer Worship
Schedule starts 6/11:**

9:00 Fellowship Time

9:30 Worship

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday

9am- 3pm

Phone:

(573) 445-7931

Email:

office@columbiaucc.com

Website:

www.columbiaucc.com



ATTENTION WOMEN OF ALL AGES

Are you a tea drinker?

Do you have teapots or cups and saucers at home that hold a special meaning in your heart?

You are cordially invited to attend **High Tea** on Thursday, June 8, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. in the CUCC Fellowship Hall. A program and refreshments will be provided.

Feel free to bring those special cups and saucers or teapots that are near and dear to you and share, if you wish, their stories with the group.

Come, and be surrounded by great Community.

Sponsored by Women's Fellowship



*** Help us plan for refreshments by signing up on the sign-up sheet in the Gathering Area! Talk to **Melba Shaffer** if you have any questions!



END OF YEAR PICNIC AND PENTECOST PARTY!

Celebrate Pentecost on 6/4 with fun and games at CUCC!

Our Sunday School classes will celebrate the end of year with fun and games during the 9:00 a.m. Sunday School hour, previewing this year's Vacation Bible School. There will be a

bounce house and games to help the kids finish off the Sunday School year.

In Worship, we will celebrate Pentecost with many exciting activities, including reception of new members and installation of our new Church Council.

After worship, the Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team will host an all-church BBQ with hot dogs, hamburgers, and all the usual sides! The bounce house will be here after worship, as well, for all to enjoy!

Don't miss Worship on June 4 as we celebrate Pentecost and the end of our Sunday School program year! Great fun and fellowship together!

Moderator's Moment

“I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together. All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, were the church together!”

This hymn used to be sung frequently at CUCC and it runs through my mind sometimes at seemingly random moments. Recently though, the moments don't seem so random. One instance was just the other day, during the annual congregational meeting as the short video that Dominick Lee put together. The most dramatic scene by far was the raising of the steeple. There were pictures with the patina of the 60's showing massive cranes hoisting the metal crucifix into the air, and finally, resting it down where it sits today.

“The church is not a building, the church is not the steeple, the church is not a resting place, the church is the people”

Indeed behind our flashy copper colored steeple and funky circular walls are the people. We come here to worship the Lord, and live out his message. We come here to educate children with Jesus' words. We break bread and take the sacraments. We celebrate life and death on earth and life everlasting. But it is just a building, a material thing that could be taken from us by tornado or consumed by fire, as our fellow church members found out in the 60s.

Our current campaign to update the sanctuary is not nearly as big as an undertaking (Thank God! Think of inflation!!!), but I kind of think of it as a miniature version of the ground breaking. We aren't responding to a major disaster, but we are improving and maintaining what we have so graciously inherited. We are making our place of worship something we, “the church together,” can be proud of.

Kurt Heine,
Moderator



Worship and Music Ministry Team

The people in this congregation sure know how to make me feel special. Thank you so much for your show of love and support in my recent milestones of my recital and graduation! I feel truly blessed for our time together. At the moment, I don't know what the future holds, but I know for sure that CUCC has set a high bar for my expectations at my next post.

We are quickly approaching the summer breaks of the Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers. The music ministry is seeking your musical talents during Sunday morning worship services from June 18 through August 20. You can sing or play an instrument during the “anthem” portion of the service or participate as the song leader. CUCC is blessed to have many talented members, and the summer months are the perfect time to use those gifts for God's glory.



If you would like to sign up to either do the anthem and/or be the song leader, [CLICK HERE](#) to sign up, or send an e-mail to brandon.michael.brown@gmail.com, or call the church office.

Thank you in advance for the wonderful music,

Brandon Brown, M.M.
Music Coordinator

CUCC Church Council

CUCC Council Meeting—April 18, 2023

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

Present: Kristy Hayward, Sue Ann Schaefer, Mike Pierson, Tricia Price, Lorry Dreier, Mark Duncan, Ted Dachroeden and Alethea Tennill.

Pastor Rick discussed Chapters 17 and 18 in the book A Bigger Table by John Pavlovitz.

Unfinished Business:

- Spots were filled for stewardship duties.
- Worship Sanctuary Updates: We have received \$94,000 in pledges for the capital campaign. Trivia Night will be May 13th, Car show will be August 26th.
- Heritage Team: They are working on a choir reunion with Brandon Brown and Virginia Rathert. Our guest speaker will be John Dorhaver and Damien Lake.
- Nominating Committee is continuing to work on filling spots in the church council and LODO board.
- We have hired Ashley Long to clean the church on a weekly basis, She starts May 1st.
- Personnel Updates: Raj Tolani is no longer with us. MJ is covering her duties.
- Annual Meeting Plans – Impact statements are due to Kristy by the end of the week. Will we allow virtual participation at the Annual Meeting? Ted Dachroeden made a motion that we make virtual voting available at the annual meeting. Mark Duncan seconded it. Motion passed.

New Business:

- Shelly Adams is being recommended for a member in Discernment Status with the Western Association Committee on Ministry. Mike Pierson made the motion, Sue Ann Schaefer seconded, Motion passed.
- Summer worship will start on June 11th Worship will start at 9:30 a.m.
- LODO would like to add an Assistant Director position to help the Director and other duties. Mike Pierson made the motion we approve this position, Tricia Price seconded it, motion passed. A budget was submitted for the next school year. Kurt Heine made a motion to approve the budget, Tricia Price seconded it, motion passed.
- A bid was solicited for the North Stairwell Door and additional cameras. A motion was made by Ted Dachroeden that we add a west stairwell door to the control system and add cameras to the North and South side of the building. This will come from the building fund. The motion was seconded by Sue Ann Schaefer. Motion Passed. Ted Dachroeden made a motion to replace 2 HVAC ground units for \$17,466.10. Sue Ann Schaefer seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- Pastor's report is attached. Pastor Rick does have 4 tickets STOP HUMAN TRAFFICKING Sock Hop. The General Synod is this summer in Indianapolis.
- Financials were presented.

Ministry Reports:

- Inclusion & Affirmation: Tricia Price-report submitted May 6th at 10 am they will follow the African American Heritage Trail downtown led by Barbara Harrell.
- LODO: Lorry Dreier – shared above.
- Membership & Care: Jessica Lucas, report submitted.
- Nurture & Education: Lydia Whitacre: no report
- Outreach & Advocacy: Mark Duncan-report submitted
- Worship & Music: Mike Pierson-Brandon Graduate recital is May 7th at 3pm. Looking into a replacement for Brandon if he does not stay in the area.

Pastor Rick led us in a closing prayer

Mike Pierson made a motion to adjourn; Tricia Price seconded the motion. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alethea Tennill, Secretary



June Birthdays to Celebrate

Alex Oberle 6/1	Jackie Arms 6/4	Helen Keithahn 6/4
Rick Oberle 6/5	Mark Duncan 6/6	Kibaro Kakozi 6/6
Don Helmreich 6/10	Isis Piersee 6/10	Mark Hall 6/11
Garrett Walker 6/11	David Meyer 6/14	Neal Sprick 6/15
Jamie Rapp 6/17	Kitty Rogers 6/20	Corey Grace 6/20
Raelyn Zimny 6/21	Holly Fuller 6/21	Lauren Helmreich 6/25
Jonathon Fuller 6/25	Kelly Major 6/26	John Bullerd 6/26
Tricia Soncasie 6/27	Matt Lucas 6/27	Lloyd Mickelson 6/29
	Andrew Privitt 6/29	

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR JUNE

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for June. We would love to see some new faces sharing their time and talents in this capacity. Part of being in the church family is often expressed by sharing the roles that make all of our members and guests feel an extravagant welcome. If you can fill a needed role now or in the future, please let one of the leaders know. We appreciate you sharing your gifts of time and talent with our CUCC family!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Tech Booth	Hospitality
6/4 Sunday School Picnic	Carol Duermeyer	Chrisine Staelens	Lindsey Oberle	Ted Dachroeden Dominick Lee	Mona Dachroeden
6/11 9:30 Worship	Jessica Lucas	Llona Weiss	Sue Ann Schaefer	Mike Pierson Trevor Pierson	Helen Schultz
6/18 Father's Day	Susan Dunham	NEED	Jim Loveless	Lorry Dreier Doug Privitt	Audrey Lasley
6/25 ONA Sunday	Helen Schultz	Brenda Meunch John Meunch	Pat Forward	Josh Muench John Graves	Inclusion Team

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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



Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

As we look to our 100th Anniversary, we remember all the family and friends who have paved the way and made CUCC what it is today. With honor and pride, we are fortunate to carry on the legacy that was started years ago.

Now, we are another step closer to reaching our fundraising goal for the **New Century Sanctuary Capital Campaign**. Stay tuned; we will have more fundraising opportunities in the future. You will soon see the upgrades begin to take place; however, our **Joyful Giving** is behind budget. Please continue to help support all the wonderful programs our church has to offer.

There are several ways to donate. You can send a check to the church office and write a memo that it's for the Campaign or Joyful Giving. You can also text GIVE to 573-240-4041 or visit our website, www.columbiaucc.com and click **DONATE**.

Our congregation is growing, and we want to continue to open our doors to new members and a beautiful updated sanctuary will be very inviting. Thank you for your generosity!!



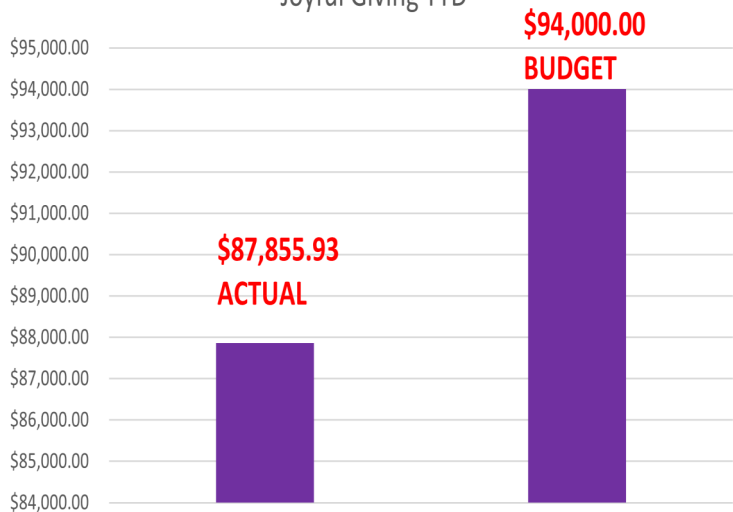
-Paula Wilson

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
April Income	\$22,599.49	\$27,500.00	(\$4,900.51)
YTD Income	\$87,855.93	\$94,000.00	(\$6,144.07)
April Expenses	\$32,686.17	\$30,207.86	\$2,478.31
YTD Expenses	\$137,848.32	\$126,437.27	\$11,411.05
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(\$48,350.04)	(\$29,703.95)	(\$18,646.09)
April Attendance	642		

Date	Attendance
4/2/23	117
4/7/23 Good Friday	49
4/9/23 Easter Sunrise	22
4/9/23 Easter 10:30 Worship	150
4/16/23	111
4/23/23	102
4/30/23	91
Total	642

Joyful Giving YTD



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.

LODO Ministry Team

Graduation Time!

Another school year has come and gone with so many new friendships made and many new skills learned by our students. LODO will be closed for the summer and we look forward to starting our 2023-2024 school year on August 28, 2023 with returning and new families. We have several maintenance projects scheduled while we are closed to keep our preschool up to date.



CONGRATULATIONS Pre-K Graduates

2023 LODO Graduates:

Asher, Walker, Jackson, Faith, Avery, Molly, Hadley, Everleigh, Everly, Margaux, Cormac, Renely

WE WISH YOU ALL THE BEST AS YOU LEAVE LODO AND HEAD OFF TO KINDERGARTEN!

Our graduates were celebrated in a commencement ceremony on Thursday, May 18. We enjoyed hearing each student's answers to their graduation interviews, watched a wonderful slideshow celebrating our graduates' years at LODO and celebrating the class writing project, and listened to fun songs from our Leap Frog students celebrating graduation. Afterwards, we had great fellowship with a cookie reception.

2023-2024 School Year

As you are out and about this summer, please help us spread the word that limited space still remains in our classrooms for the 2023-2024 school year! Tours can be scheduled by contacting **Erika Maltsbarger** at **LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com**. You can also help by sharing our social media posts regarding enrollment on Facebook and Instagram.

Congratulations!

Have a wonderful summer!
Erika Maltsbarger



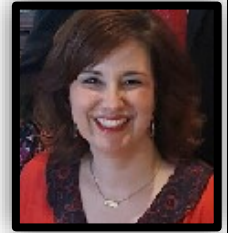
LODO UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

Pardon our mess! Lots of construction will be happening in the LODO classrooms this summer as we continue to grow our preschool ministry! We will be getting new flooring in our Lightning Bugs classroom, painting all of our classrooms, and maintaining the existing tile floors. In addition to all that, the church will be replacing two HVAC units, which usually entails working in the LODO classrooms. All of this work means moving the furniture out of the classrooms and into the hallway and Fellowship Hall. June and July will be the key months for this activity, so we can hit the ground running in August and really grow our ministry. We have a record number of new students enrolled for next year, so we are looking forward to a fantastic school year. As always, keep us in your prayers as we move forward, serving our community!

Membership and Care Ministry Team

We are working to finalize our new Church Family Album. If you plan to submit your own photo, send it to **MJ in the Church Office** along with the submission fee. If you plan to use a photo from a previous directory, let MJ know. If you did not get your picture taken and haven't had contact from the Directory Team, please contact MJ in the church office to be included in the Church Family Album. The Membership & Care Team is currently finalizing details and choosing photos for the Activities pages in our Church Family Album.

-Jessica Lucas



Health Ministry Care Team News:

Mark your calendar to attend the next two "Stay and Learn" presentations after church in Fellowship Hall. Snacks and drinks provided. Sign-up in the Gathering Area or email **Anne Heine!**

June 11 - Keep your Keys: *Aging Best* staff member Kathy Deeken will provide information on driving safety, including tools and resources to help keep you safe on the road, how to stay medically and physically fit to drive, and when and how to prepare for driving retirement.. (See flyer for more information) - Swag will be provided!

July 16 - Dementia & Aging Best Resources: *Aging Best* staff member Melissa Schulte will share how to understand the social signs of Dementia and learn effective ways to communicate with those affected by it. Call me, Anne Heine, if you have any questions (573-529-1543).

Also, if you need help getting to the doctor or need support regarding your health care, contact me and we'll see what we can do to help. We're here for you. We have also added Narcan to the medical bag on top of the AED. This medication is used when an overdose is suspected. There are great YouTube tutorials on how to administer if you are interested in learning more. Be safe out there! Here's to good health to thee!



Anne Heine and your Health Ministry Care Team (Mona Dachroeden, Mary Lorber-Solt, Emily Heine, and Stefanie Zimny)



FREE presentation on driving safety

Topics covered include:

- How to stay medically and physically fit to drive
- When and how to prepare for driving retirement
- Tools and resources to help keep you safe on the road

Sunday, June 11th, 10:45 AM
Columbia United Church of Christ
3201 I-70 Dr. NW, Columbia, MO 65202

Please contact Kathy Deeken at 573-540-1100 to register

Need more information?

Beth Koster, Coordinator of Outreach kosterb@health.missouri.edu or call (573) 884-7143

 Health Care

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.

From Your Student Pastor...

I'm writing this from the Reading Room at Eden Theological Seminary. It's graduation day today. I hadn't planned to come. But I needed some hope this week. Getting the chance to celebrate a group of people I've come to know and love graduate and move on to the next season of their ministries is a very hopeful thing.

It's been a tough several weeks for my husband and me. We've received some difficult news about his health and are awaiting what may be even more difficult news. We are in a liminal time – suspended between what was and what will be. And those are the times in my life when it's hard for me to find hope. So I have to be purposeful about it.

Did you know that there's a woman in our congregation who is a former teacher who learned that one of her students regularly had no breakfast, so she made him a bowl of oatmeal every morning. Every morning that boy knew a bowl would be waiting for him at a table at school when he got there. Her love and compassion gives me hope.

Did you know that there's a man in our congregation who helps build devices to bring the freedom of mobility to people with physical disabilities who live halfway around the world and who he will never meet? His care and commitment bring me hope.

I believe that God has a mission in this world, and that mission is justice, mercy, and the common good. I believe God invites us to be part of that mission. Therefore when we participate in God's mission, we bring hope to a world that really needs it. We bring hope to people who really need it.

In this congregation, there are plenty of examples of people participating in God's mission. And that gives me hope.

Shelly Adams, Student Pastor



General Synod

Every two years, members of the United Church of Christ come together for a family reunion: a time for education, action, business, and worship. This event is called "General Synod," and this year it is being held June 30 - July 4 in Indianapolis, Indiana.

General Synod gathers over 700 delegates from local churches across the country for the worship and work of the church. In addition, over 2000 visitors, presenters, and honored guests convene with the Synod delegates to constitute the gathered community of faith.

Each gathering of **General Synod** also features Resolutions of Witness that are brought to the Synod from Local Churches, Conferences, and Associations. It is important to note that these Resolutions are not "handed down" from denominational officers, but they are "handed up" from local congregations. Most of these Resolutions advocate for justice issues, such as affirming the rights of Women to Comprehensive Healthcare (which includes abortion access), affirming the worth of educators in the light of oppressive legislation (such as the draconian anti-education laws in Florida), and affirming the worth of transgender people facing oppression by numerous state legislatures across the country. Each of these Resolutions represents issues that are important to various churches across the denomination, and because we are in community together, we lift up their right to advocacy.

This year, there are 15 Resolutions of Witness being brought to **General Synod** by various Local Churches, Associations, and Conferences across the country. Copies of these Resolutions are available in the coatroom at church, or they can be emailed to you by request. As you read them, prayerfully consider the children of God who are being impacted by these situations. If you would like to go to **General Synod** this year, or have any questions about the Business, Education, or Worship at Synod, talk to **Pastor Rick!**



Heritage Team

The 1970s – New Building, Settling In, New Challenges

A small congregation, a new church building, and the many challenges of “settling in” faced the members of CUCC at the beginning of the 1970s. Under the leadership of Rev. Jerry Jordan in the early 1970s, membership was increasing. Additional Sunday School teachers were needed as enrollment continued to rise. However, the monthly mortgage payment added financial difficulties for the congregation. Financial issues would continue to plague the church through most of the 1970s. Minutes from the January 1970 Annual Congregational Meeting indicated the church had a \$90,000 loan from Citizens Savings & Loan Association and a \$5,000 loan from United Church Board of Homeland Ministries. During the early 70s, it was a struggle at times to cover all the monthly bills. In January of 1970, funds were not available to cover both the mortgage and the pastor’s salary. Fundraisers of every kind were held to help with cover day to day finances.

On March 31, 1973, Rev. Jordan submitted his letter of resignation in order to become pastor of a church in Colorado. His last Sunday at CUCC was the last Sunday in June 1973. Rev. Jordan was instrumental in guiding the congregation through building the church and beginning a new era of CUCC. His energy, optimism, leadership, and most of all, faith guided the members in the right direction.

In February 1974, Rev. Fred Brandenburg became CUCC’s next pastor. Little did the congregation know, this relationship would last **30 years!** Once again, we were led by a “coach” with such deep faith in not only the church but in the members themselves. The story of the Brandenburgs’ time at CUCC would fill many pages.

Other events that occurred in the 1970s:

- **OUTDOOR WORSHIP AREA:** A committee was appointed in 1974 to consider building an outdoor worship area. Plans were approved for an area just north of the church. It would consist of wooden benches, a cross of rough logs, an altar, and a fire ring. Men’s Fellowship oversaw construction hoping for completion by Easter Sunrise Service 1975.
- **GEORGE IANKE MEMORIAL SHELTERHOUSE:** Congregation approved plans for the shelter house, and groundbreaking took place in September 1975. George was a member of CUCC and oversaw the building of the new church. A grant from *Rott Foundation* for \$3,500 was received to build the shelter. Friends from *Columbia HBA* and *Shriners* organizations offered help mostly in the form of labor and equipment. Construction was completed in 1976, a fitting tribute to George.
- **ADOPT-A-STUDENT:** Shelley Brandenburg presented this program to the council in 1975. It was approved and met with much enthusiasm by college students and “parents.” The purpose was to serve as a “home away from home” with an occasional home-cooked meal and even trading babysitting for use of laundry facilities. Years later many “parents” are still in touch with their adopted student.
- To cut expenses, families filled the custodial positions, Men’s Fellowship cut the grass and cleared the driveway in winter then sealed the driveway in summer, Women’s Fellowship cleaned the kitchen and nursery, and volunteers transported students to church and back to dorms. Then one winter, to help lower heating bills, choir rehearsal was held at the home of the Loveless family rather than heat the church sanctuary!
- **And, briefly, more events:**
 - ⇒ Humpty Dumpty Nursery School was the first preschool to meet at CUCC, in the 1970s.
 - ⇒ In 1971 Prof Krusekopf donated \$500 to enhance the church’s driveway (widen and landscaping).
 - ⇒ A baby grand piano was purchased in 1975 with a gift from the Elsa Nagel estate and special donations from church members. This piano is still being used.
 - ⇒ CUCC’s 10th Anniversary celebration began in June 1979 with a confirmation renewal service. On June 24, Rev. Jerry Jordan returned to lead service. On September 9, the congregation gathered at The Chapel location for a brief ceremony; then, they carpoled to CUCC. September 23 was a Rededication Service. Prof. H. H. Krusekopf, founder of the Evangelical Students Club in the 1920s (forerunner of CUCC) passed away in 1979 amid the 10th Anniversary celebrations.

This barely scratches the surface of what transpired in the 70’s at CUCC. Next month – the 1980s!

-Jolene Hackman



International Missions

CUCC IS SERVING IN GUATEMALA

Guatemalan Cultural Action (ACG) was established by Mayan Guatemalans affected by civil war in their country. The founders were former refugees and displaced people who returned to their rural lands to rebuild their lives following war. ACG provides support to communities through projects in education, culture, economics, and ecology, as well as income-generation projects. ACG has provided loans and training for livestock-raising and community development projects. Additionally, ACG organizes skill-building courses such as training in traditional Guatemalan weaving and cooking. ACG honors indigenous Mayan and Christian spirituality and culture to build a climate of peace, solidarity, and improved futures for all.

Columbia United Church of Christ is a partner with ACG through Global Ministries, our mission partner agency shared with the Disciples of Christ. Through Global Ministries, we have mission partners all over the world, and CUCC is making a difference – even in Guatemala!



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

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

[The Institute](#) is not the only Global Ministries Mission partner in Chiapas. On our last trip, we had the opportunity to work with another one of our Mission Partners, [Melel Xojobal](#), an agency that works solely with children in need. [Melel Xojobal](#) means “True Light” in the indigenous Tzotzil language, and they focus on being a light of hope for children whose only other alternative is the dark of hopelessness.

When I was on Sabbatical last September, I spent a month living in Chiapas, in the city of San Cristobal, working with [The Institute](#) and [Melel Xojobal](#). I was able to fully immerse myself in their work and develop an even greater understanding of the culture, the mission, and the identity of the people of Chiapas. I am very excited to return to Chiapas, and I hope you will join me!

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

The cost for this trip is \$1500. This includes airfare, lodging for 7 days and 6 nights, food for that timeframe, transportation to and from the airport in Tuxtla Gutierrez and other transportation, and other incidentals. All expenses are included in that price except souvenirs you may wish to buy. For a week-long mission trip, it is very economical. **Everyone who participates must be able to show proof of COVID vaccination and boosters and have a current passport.**

There is a limit of ten people for this trip – so make your commitment early! Due to transportation issues, we cannot have more than this number. [If you would like to go, talk to me \(Pastor Rick\).](#) I have packets with detailed information and registration materials. Registrations and deposits must be turned in by September 1. This will be an amazing, life-changing experience! Make plans now to come along!

New Century Sanctuary

The New Century Sanctuary campaign is well on its way to meeting our fundraising goal of \$150,000. As of May 15, when the New Century Sanctuary met, the total raised, including pledges, was \$136,585. This also includes proceeds of \$1,938 from the fun-filled Trivia Night and T-shirt sales (still on-going at the time of writing this).

Since we have hit 75% of our total goal, we are meeting with contractors to get the renovation project moving forward.

Thanks to all who submitted Feedback. We hope everyone's questions and concerns were answered and discussed at the Annual Congregational Meeting on May 21.



Many thanks for your donations, fundraising participation, and prayers as we continue the Sanctuary Renovation journey.

If you would like to give today, please feel free to mail a check to the church office Give Online with NCS in the memo line, [CLICK HERE](#), or scan the QR Code.

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Ann Schaefer



CELEBRATING GAY PRIDE MONTH

WHY PRIDE MONTH?

Ever since the Stonewall Oppression in 1969, June has been a month to celebrate Gay Pride.

On June 28, 1969, the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar in Greenwich Village, New York, was raided by the New York City vice squad in an attempt to diminish the dignity of an entire population. People whose only crime was that God created them diversely were beaten, herded into police cars, and arrested. This set off a series of protests and marches in an effort to restore dignity to that oppressed community leading to a movement that was the genesis for Pride Month as we celebrate it today. One year later, in 1970, the event was commemorated with the first ever Gay Pride parade and assembly. Every year since then, June has been a month to celebrate Gay Pride.

A recent article in Rolling Stone magazine lifts up several reasons why it is important to celebrate Pride month.

First of all, Pride month commemorates the historical traumas of Queer communities. It gives all of us a chance to remember the historical oppression towards Queer communities that has been present in our society in varying degrees over the decades and the events that have been the focal points of that oppression: from the Stonewall Oppression, to the killing of Matthew Shepherd, to the oppressive legislation passed this year by the Missouri State Legislature. Only by remembering these events, can we make attempts to not repeat it. If we pretend they did not happen, we are doomed to repeat our mistakes.

Pride month also gives us an opportunity to recognize the progressive strides we have made towards justice and equity for all of God's children. Marriage equality has become the law of the land. Society has become more affirming of diverse gender fluidity. Thirteen members of Congress identify as Lesbian, Gay, or Bisexual. This is the largest number ever in history. Two states have gay governors, and there are more than 1000 LGBTQIA legislators in state houses across the US. This sort of inclusion and affirmation would not have been possible in 1969. We have come a long way towards equity.

Pride month allows people to celebrate who they are. For many decades, God's diverse children had to hide how God created them for fear of reprisal. Denying your true identity is perhaps the greatest sin of all. But now, as people are more free to express their true, God-given identity, Pride month provides a vehicle for that expression to be celebrated. Pride month affirms all God's children as beloved and blessed, no matter how God created them.

Finally, Pride month also reminds us that we have a long way to go. Despite the fact that Queer communities are more visible than ever before, oppression is on the rise. This past legislative session, across the United States, more than 400 anti-gay and anti-trans bills were introduced in state legislatures, and several of them were passed. Hate crimes towards Queer communities have risen precipitously in the past few years. We are a long way from the prayer for unity that Jesus articulates in the Garden of Gethsemane, and Pride month gives us a chance to reflect on that.

Celebrate History, Dignity, Identity, and Opportunity as we strive for Unity this Pride Month!

Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team

Strengthen the Church Offering

Strengthen the Church offering is traditionally taken on the first Sunday of Pentecost. This year we will be observing Pentecost on June 4, 2023. The Strengthen the Church Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, our generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults.

-Mark Duncan



LOAVES & FISHES

The May 15 meal at Loaves & Fishes consisted of many yummy items donated by Alice Moon from her reunion luncheon. These food items were meatloaf, chicken tenders, au gratin potatoes, green beans, and cherry crisp. The guests loved all of it! Thank you, Alice, for your kind donation! We also served spaghetti (made by Mary Lorber-Solt and her friend, Valerie), lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson), and a variety of cookies. PB&J's were made and provided by Jessica Jenks. Servers were Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Valerie & Bill (friends of Tom & Mary), Nicole & Lawson Flood-Lorber, Judi Privitt, Patty Beeson, and Anne Heine. Dishwashers were Doug Privitt and Jim Loveless. What an awesome crew! We served approximately 92 firsts and approximately 50 carry-outs and seconds. Thank you everyone!

-Audrey Lasley

COME SERVE AT THE FOOD BANK



Many thanks to our great Food Bank team for their efforts over the past school year! In April, Jo Ellen Grace, Connie Loveless, Mahree Skala, Tricia Soncasie, and Llona Weiss, along with some very energetic students, helped package almost a ton of dry macaroni. The Food Bank is moving to summer hours in June and July, so our next CUCC shift will be on August 22. Meanwhile, they still need volunteers on weekdays and Saturdays, so feel free to sign up individually if you can spare some time.

If you have any questions, contact [Mahree Skala](#) or [Mark Duncan](#).

ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY PARTNERSHIP FRIEND UPDATE

Brandon, Amy, Jared, Amanda, Kelly, Jamie, Pastor Rick, and CUCC Celebration Singers:

Thanks to each of you so much for making the joint music effort happen at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary's Fine Arts Night on Thursday, April 27, 2023! It was amazing, and brought tears to my eyes. *Lift Every Voice and Sing!* From what I could see the 5th graders were interested in how our CUCC choir sang, and the CUCC choir members appeared to enjoy their time with the AHL students.

I cannot thank each of you enough for the time and energy you took to make this happen. And Brandon, please give my sincere thanks to all of our CUCC choir members who drove the distance to make this beautiful music.

It truly was amazing!
What a partnership! THANK YOU!!!

Very Sincerely,

Llona Weiss
Liaison for CUCC to AHL, our
Partnership Friend



Thank You!!

I would like to echo what Llona has said. We are so thankful for the time you put in to this and to our kids. I've had many students talk to me about how impressed they were with your choir. You certainly made an impact! Thank you, thank you, thank you!



Dr. Amanda Minear

**PRINCIPAL
ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY**

5801 Arbor Pointe Parkway, Columbia, MO 65202
(573) 214-3200



Global Ministries thanks you for your gift in the amount of **\$500**. As indicated, your gift will be used for the Bishop Samuel Ruiz Multipurpose Facility building project or for the work of the i\Institutional

Advancement office of the Institute for Intercultural Study and Research (INESIN) in Mexico. Gifts like yours support Global Ministries and global partners working together for justice, reconciliation, and peace.

Global Ministries works and connects individuals and congregations to Child and Elder Sponsorship partners around the world, such as the Kalauman Center. Each center hosts a welcoming space where each child is loved and

able to grow, learn, and imagine their own bright future!

Thank you for joining us in making a difference in the lives around the world.

Blessings,

Kelsey Cameron Rose
Senior Associate for Resource Development

Dear CPS Volunteer,

Volunteers help sow the seeds of success for our scholars. We are grateful for the gift of time you provide to Columbia Public Schools. You make a difference in the lives of our scholars and in our schools.

From planting the pathway to opportunities to providing the resources and support necessary to achieve a school year full of growth, innovation, and achievement - thank you for putting our scholars first.



Columbia
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

With
Appreciation,

Brian
Yearwood,
Superintendent

June

CUCC Men's Fellowship,

Thank you for your gift of **\$300**. Your generosity makes an impact in the lives of individuals that VAC serves daily through our FISH Fund - Faith in Service and Humanity Fund.

In the first quarter of 2023, the FISH fund assisted 509 individuals in the amount of **\$19,438.27** for gas, identification, medical co-pays, etc. If you are interested in having VAC share information about the FISH fund, what we do and/or our mission to respond to the immediate basic needs of individuals and families within our community, please reach out. VAC is so appreciative of your organization's support and could not continue to do what we do without you. We look forward to your continued support.

With thanks and appreciation,
Ed Stansberry, Executive Director



CUCC,

Thank you for acting against hunger with your recent gift of **\$800**.

Your act of kindness goes a long way in making a tangible difference in the lives of people in our communities. One in seven Missourians faces food insecurity on a regular basis, and we remain committed to making a difference in the lives of those who need it most.

With your support, we will make this year another success in serving the most vulnerable of our community. Every month, over 100,000 Missourians are helped by our work. That is only possible through your support.

Thank you for your contribution to ending hunger. With it, we will look forward to a prosperous year.

Gratefully,
Lindsay Young Lopez, President and CEO





Missouri Walk For Neurofibromatosis

OVER 2 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE NEUROFIBROMATOSIS!

9 AM START
10 AM WALK

WALK4NF
Saturday
June 24th, 2023
at
Stephens Lake Park
Columbia

HAVE FUN!
GET TOGETHER!
SUPPORT PEOPLE!
PROVIDE HOPE!
RAISE AWARENESS!
CHANGE LIVES!



Food! Music! Raffle! Dancing! And a Little Walk!

MISSOURI WALK FOR NEUROFIBROMATOSIS

Neuro what? Neurofibromatosis or NF for short. NF is the most common genetic disorder caused by a single gene. It's more common than Cystic Fibrosis, Huntington's Disease, Tay-Sachs, and hereditary Muscular Dystrophy ALL COMBINED!!! Yet you rarely hear of it. We want to change that.

That's why we are having the Missouri Walk for Neurofibromatosis. The Walk is on Saturday, June 24 at Stephens Lake Park. Registration starts at 9:00 a.m. and the walk will start after everyone has registered and received their shirts. The deadline for registration with a T-shirt is June 3.

There will be free food, drinks, music, raffles, and silent auctions. Several restaurants have either donated gift cards or gift certificates in the central Missouri and Branson areas. We hope to make this walk so big that one day the University of Missouri will take notice and start an NF clinic here so that people won't have to travel to St. Louis for expert care. To register, [CLICK HERE](#) or talk to [Kristi Saylor](#) for more info.



Calling all
SUPERHEROES to
our Vacation Bible
School Preview!

Sunday, June 4
9:00 - 10:00 a.m. @ the Pavilion



An Open and Affirming Congregation
3201 I-70 Drive NW, Columbia
573-445-7931
office@columblaucc.com



On the Church Calendar in June



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>4 Pentecost</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Sunday School/WBS Preview 10:00 a.m. Fellowship 10:30 a.m. Worship 12:00 p.m. Sunday School Picnic <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p>5</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10 a.m. Quilters</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1</p> <p>6:30 p.m. Nurture & Education Ministry Team</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6 p.m. Church Council Retreat at Heidelberg</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>11</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Brunch & Learn - Health Ministry Care Team <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p>12</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. LODO Ministry Team 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts in FH</p>	<p>13</p> <p>10 a.m. Quilters</p>	<p>14</p> <p>6:00 p.m. Prayer Shawl Team</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18</p> <p>9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Heritage Team <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p>19</p> <p>10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting</p>	<p>20</p> <p>10 a.m. Quilters 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>
<p>25</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	
<p>Youth Group Mission Trip</p>						
<p>9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i></p>	<p><u>Church Office Closed</u></p>	<p>10 a.m. Quilters</p>				
<p>General Synod in Indianapolis</p>						

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? **Become Part of Our Church Family**
If you are interested in joining, please contact Rev. Rick Oberle.
rick@columbiaucc.com

**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.