

THE COMMUNICATOR

August 2023

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

"Interim Ministry"

A few days ago, I was talking with John Bracke about the possibility of him and Mary coming back for our Centennial Celebration in September. They most likely are not going to be able to make it because of other obligations, but we had a great discussion, much of it about the challenges and opportunities of Interim Ministry.

As well as being a member of the congregation, John was the Interim Pastor here at CUCC for two years prior to my arrival. He and Mary moved to South Carolina two years ago, and the church he is now attending is heading into an interim time. Our discussion soon turned to some of the challenges he faced here serving as our Interim Pastor and the challenges of interim ministry in general.

The standard agenda for Intentional Interim Ministry work is to examine and celebrate the past, identify the traumas and challenges, ask the difficult questions, and dream about the future, then make plans for that future, in an attempt to leave that ministry setting in a better place than it was when they arrived. John did this work with our congregation before my arrival, laying a firm foundation on which our mutual ministry has been built these past six years. We have grown in wonderful ways as a family of faith since I started here on September 1, 2017, and a large part of that growth is due to the foundation of faith John facilitated during his interim ministry here.

This led to a discussion last month at our Church Council meeting. What if we all thought of ourselves as doing interim ministry work? Church Council members serve staggered two year terms, with the possibility to renew for two years, a maximum of four. Interim Ministers often serve churches for 2-3 years; coincidentally, the approximate length of a term on Council. Some churches have council members who think of themselves as ensconced in lifetime appointments, but not ours. Our church leadership structure is designed to be interim.

I invited them to think about that for a minute; what if they all thought of themselves as interim ministers? How would they, as leaders of the church, examine the past, identify the traumas and challenges, ask the difficult questions, and dream about the future and then make plans for that future, in an attempt to leave that ministry setting in a better place than it was when they arrived?

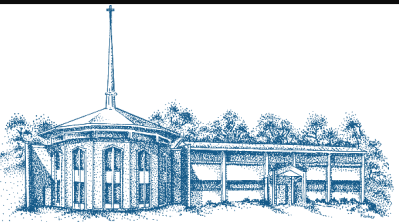
Last month we said goodbye to Brandon and Amy, two great leaders of this church (Amy is still a member, just not serving in leadership anymore). As we did, we thought about interim ministry. They served us well for a time, and now they are gone to do ministry in other places. We celebrate the time we shared together, we grieve our separation, but we look forward to new ministries that will happen with those who come after.

The truth is, we are all interim. Interim ministry in the church is unavoidable; we are all limited human beings with finite life spans and finite years of ability and acuity. We remember the Saints of the Church and the gifts they left behind. But what will our legacy be? What will we leave behind, and how can we make sure this ministry setting is in a better place when we go than it was when we arrived?



Our year-long mantra for 2023 is "Celebrating our Past, Embracing our Future." But maybe we need to add to that a bit. Part of "Embracing our Future" is envisioning our future, and taking steps to ensure that it is good. The prophet Isaiah proclaimed, "*Prepare the way of the LORD.*" (Isaiah 40:3). Perhaps part of that preparation is envisioning our future and preparing the way. Our Vision Team is hard at work trying to articulate that vision, and they will be asking you to participate in the visioning process. You should be hearing more about this in late August and early September; how you can dream about the future of the church. I hope you will join us in envisioning!

-Pastor Rick



**COLUMBIA
UNITED CHURCH
OF CHRIST**

**3201 I-70 DRIVE NW
COLUMBIA, MO 65202**

Rev. Rick Oberle

Pastor

Rev. Fred Brandenburg

Pastor Emeritus

Shelly Adams

Student Pastor

MJ King

Office Administrator

Erika Maltsbarger

Director, Little One's Day Out

Caleb Berry

Custodian

Summer Schedule:

8:30 a.m. Bible Study
9:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
9:30 a.m. Worship

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday
9am- 3pm

Phone:
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News & Updates



NCS Construction Update:

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



Important Security Notes

- LODO Entrance - If no one else is in the building, do not use this door to enter. It will set off the alarm and the motion detectors as you make your way to the security panel.
- If the alarm does go off on you, you need to contact someone from Building and Grounds who knows the passcode for the alarm company. Fred Malicoat is willing to be on call for these situations. To contact him, call 573-489-5122.
- Lately, we have had a lot of people setting the alarm off. If you are leaving and setting the alarm, please be sure to check the building to make sure no one else is present.
- If you come in the church outside of normal hours and someone else is already present, please let them know you are here so they won't set the alarm on you.

August Birthdays to Celebrate

Kelsey Devenney 8/2	Von Walker 8/2	Karen Webster 8/2
Chuck Lasley 8/3	Kim Major 8/4	Judi Privitt 8/4
Diane Maxwell 8/5	George Zimny 8/7	Evelyn Grace 8/12
Jerry Kiesling 8/14	David Forward 8/16	Joe Remeika 8/17
Sharon Crousore 8/18	Chelsey Markway 8/19	Everleigh Oberle 8/21
Carol Stoll 8/26	Troy Bentlage 8/27	Jolene Kirchhoff 8/27
Adriana Nieman 8/28	Laurie Frew 8/29	Andie Rapp 8/29
Anita Sanderson 8/29	Elias Walker 8/30	Harry Besleme 8/31
	Becky Weston 8/31	

SUNDAY VOLUNTEER SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

Below is the Sunday Volunteer Schedule for August. 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
8/6	Susan Dunham	Jerry Kiesling & Melba Shaffer	Pat Forward		Audrey Lasley
8/13	Audrey Lasley	Mahree Skala	Kennedy Lucas	Mike Pierson	Mary Lorber
8/20	Carol Duermeyer	Llona Weiss	Todd Hackman, Carole Barner, Josh Privitt		Jo Ellen Grace
8/27	Judi Privitt	Pat Forward	Lena Muench	Doug Privitt	Sue Ann Schaefer

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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



Moderator's Moment

We just had our second meeting with the new church council, and I left feeling very excited and hopeful. It really seems like everyone is coming in to their leadership roles with fresh energy and new ideas, and I think this will be reflected in their communicator articles this month. I'm definitely seeing the benefit of new voices and fresh ideas coming to the table and am impressed at how the recurring chairs seem to be taking that energy back to their committees, too!

Jerry Kiesling, Vice Moderator, has us all thinking about how we can visualize and track the true impact that this church has on the broader world, to better demonstrate to the congregation where our time, talent, and treasure (or the three Ts) are going! Think huge thermometer, but instead of tracking dollars, it's tracking ministry. Stay tuned!

On the other side of the coin, we are saying some goodbyes. Both our Music Coordinator Brandon Brown and Organist Amy Crousore are riding off into the sunset after new opportunities. They will be sorely missed and at the moment it's hard to imagine that we could ever replace them with talent and dedication of the same caliber. They have both, in their own ways, added much needed musical flavors to each and every service. I can truly say that when I walk into the doors of the sanctuary, I know that I will be met with beautiful handpicked and well-rehearsed musical delights. It has been an honor worshiping alongside these two excellent humans and I wish them well on their new endeavors. Thank you Amy and Brandon!

Kurt Heine,
Church Council Moderator



Worship and Music Ministry Team

As many of you know, our time with our Music Coordinator, Brandon Brown, and Organist/Accompanist, Amy Crousore, has come to an end. Brandon received his Masters degree in Choral Conducting and will be moving on in search of a Doctoral program or collegiate teaching position. Amy has taken a position in St. Louis and will be moving there soon. We wish both of them well and extend a hearty thank you to both of them for all their musical contributions to worship at CUCC!

A search for our new Music Coordinator has begun. We received a few resumes from interested candidates and contacted two of them for interviews. One candidate has been interviewed, while the other has removed his name from consideration. Our goal is to fill the position and have that person accepted by the Council Executive Committee on August 15. They would start their duties at either the August 23 or August 30 choir rehearsal. In regard to the organist position, we are planning to rely on the generosity of a few of our members who have keyboard skills through the month of August. It has become necessary to do a salary survey of this position at other churches in Columbia since the organist salary has not been updated for quite some time. Waiting until the end of August will allow us to conduct the survey and come up with a new salary figure to be presented to Council for the remainder of the year and the congregation for the 2024 budget. It will also allow the new Music Coordinator to weigh in on the hiring of that position.

Many thanks in advance to those members who will contribute their time and talent at the keyboard and as song leaders while we are migrating through this time! I look forward to the time when we can introduce our new Music Coordinator and Organist to you in the near future!!

Mike Pierson
Worship and Music Team Chair



CUCC Church Council

CUCC Council Meeting — June 20, 2023

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Kurt Heine. Pastor Rick opened us with prayer.
Present: Kurt Heine, Jerry Kiesling, Christine Staelens, Ted Dachroeden, Mary Lorber-Solt, Keith Birkes, Mike Pierson, Tricia Price, Lydia Whitacre, Mark Duncan, Rick Oberle, and Alethea Tennill.
Mike Pierson made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Christine Staelens. The motion passed.

The May minutes will be approved at the July meeting.

Keith Birkes discussed our new book “Reorganized Religion.” The author of this book is a reporter that has worked for *Religion News Service*, *Sojourners*, and *The Christian Century*. He says that much of religion is dying on the vine. After WWII, religion grew exponentially until about 20 years ago. Most people now think that religion does not fit their need or is irrelevant. With religious trauma – you either fit or you don’t. Christine Staelens will discuss Chapter 2 at our July council meeting.

Unfinished Business:

Spots were filled for stewardship duties.

Council Retreat Review – Local Church governance was discussed.

Worship Sanctuary Updates: New Sanctuary Renovation was discussed. A motion was made by Mike Pierson to accept Brighter Day’s bid on Chancel Wall Installation \$1,400.00 and a Chancel Wallpaper purchase of \$1,751.70. He requested the purchase of wall painting materials and paint with a limit of \$500.00. Mark Duncan seconded the motion. Motion passed.

Heritage Team: The third postcard was sent out with July/Aug/Sep events. The ice cream social is July 16 from 2-4 pm at Hulen Lake. The caterer for September 30 has been chosen. We are expecting about 300 people at the Saturday night dinner at The Farmers Market Pavilion. Everyone needs to RSVP so we have a head count. There is no cost for the dinner. Todd Hackman, Carole Barner, and Josh Privitt will come back and preach August 20.

The Children’s Library Donation will be put in the NW corner of the Sanctuary. Pastor Rick will pick up the books next week.

Policy and Procedures Manual Update – Personnel Committee will start review August 15 at 5:30.

HVAC systems replacements started today.

New Business:

Vision Team will focus on engagement for everyone in the church.

Pastor Rick’s report was on the Council Shared Drive.

Financials were presented. We are under budget on giving about \$12,660, but over budget on expenses \$16,000.

Ministry Reports:

Building and Grounds – Several repairs were completed around the church.

Fellowship and Hospitality – Church BBQ was a success, 78 were in attendance.

Finance and Stewardship – Report is on the Shared Drive. They are working on financial policies and procedures.

Inclusion & Affirmation – They will meet in August.

LODO: Lorry Dreier – Enrollment is above 80%. They are looking for an Aide position to be filled. New flooring is installed in the Northwest classroom.

Membership & Care – Judi Privitt submitted a report.

Nurture & Education – Lydia Whitacre submitted a report.

Outreach & Advocacy – Mark Duncan submitted a report.

Worship & Music – Mike Pierson stated that Brandon is leaving at the end of July. The job description will be sent to Dr. Boyd at the University. Brandon may have a few suggestions.

Pastor Rick led a closing prayer

Mike Pierson made a motion to adjourn, Mary Lorber-Solt seconded the motion.

Motion passed. Meeting adjourned



Respectfully submitted,
Alethea Tennill, Secretary

Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team

Why do we give to the church? The church has been a big part of our lives. Through weddings and births, baptisms and confirmation the church has led the celebrations that mark significant events in our lives. The church has also supported us in difficult times of sickness and loss. We believe others need this same support.

Why do we give to the church? The church plays a big role in the Columbia community supporting Loaves and Fishes, the Food Bank, the Voluntary Action Center, Habitat for Humanity, and a myriad of other agencies. Much of our support is hands-on volunteering, but part is also financial.

So, we give to the church because we see the work the church does in the lives of its members as essential. Same thing for the work the church does in our community. Our engagement with people in need of help within our community is also essential.



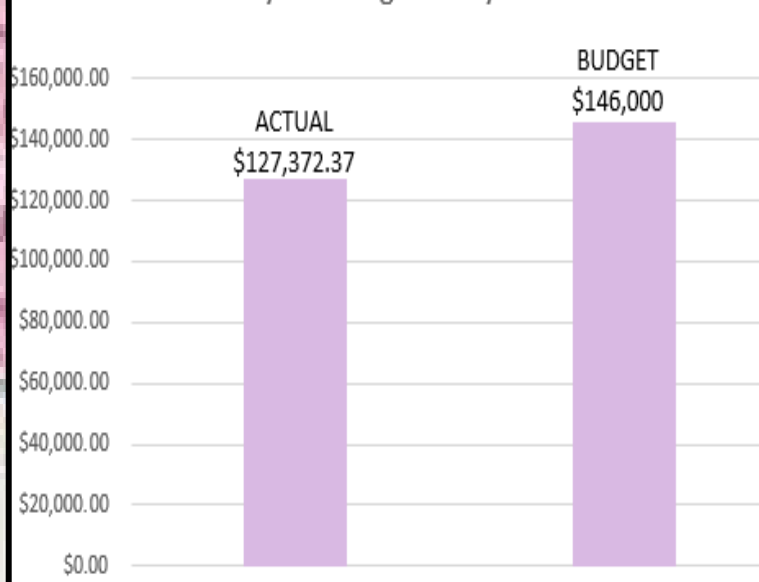
Barry Kirchhoff
Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Member

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
June Income	\$19,874.51	\$27,608.33	(\$7,733.82)
YTD Income	\$129,630.30	\$150,024.98	(\$20,394.68)
June Expenses	\$34,029.44	\$32,698.21	\$1,331.23
YTD Expenses	\$205,377.71	\$188,628.16	\$16,749.55
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(\$14,154.93)	(\$5089.88)	(\$75,747.41)
June Attendance			307

Date	Attendance
6/4/23	98
6/11/23	74
6/18/23	81
6/25/23	54
Total	307

Joyful Giving January to June



CUCC ONLINE GIVING

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

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

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

Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

Our team will be taking the next several months to look at diversity challenges and success stories over the past 100 years. We hope this adds a colorful layer to our celebration of CUCC's Anniversary.

In the late 1800's, many Germans came to the US to escape religious conflicts, military conscription, and the lingering poor agricultural conditions in northern Germany. They brought with them new farming techniques, new educational ideas, along with science and artistic talents. During this time period, Americans were often associated with their country of family origin. People identified as German American, Irish American, Japanese American, etc.

Germans assimilated well into government and military institutions into the early 1900's. They continued to speak German when at home, cook their recipes, and celebrate their customs and holidays. The atmosphere changed with the whispers of WW1 around 1914. Friends and neighbors were now suspicious of Germans. Anti-German sentiment began to fuel burning of German texts and bullying of anyone speaking German; businesses were boycotted and violence against Germans was on the rise. To prove their loyalty to the United States, many Germans enlisted. The following is one German boy's story:

Otto Edwin Radke grew up in a small Illinois town. He was a second-generation German American who didn't speak the native tongue. He knew little of his German heritage. He was the oldest of several children living modestly and happily with their parents. That is, until the war. As with other German families, he was ridiculed, threatened, and somewhat isolated.

To help his family, Otto lied about his age to enlist. He was 16 years old. His training took place with the 132nd Infantry Regiment at Camp Logan, Texas. After that training, his division set sail for France. There, they were trained in trench fighting, bayonet use, and artillery practice.

Eventually, his unit arrived on the front line in France against the Germans. Trench warfare was dangerous, dirty, and squalid. The men were packed into small spaces leading to disease, horrible sanitation, and vermin infestation. Rain would soak their clothes, leading to more illness. Then, there were the actual war weapons: artillery, machine-guns, airplane attacks, sniper fire, and poison gas.

Otto's military service only lasted 148 days, when he and his cousin died during an attack on October 11, 1918. When he enlisted, his family displayed a blue star in the window indicating they had a son serving in the war. When he died, his mother became a "Gold Star Mother."

The family also received a memorial citation saying: "He bravely laid down his life for the cause of his country. His name will ever remain fresh in the hearts of his friends and comrades. The record of his honorable service will be preserved in the archives of the American Expeditionary Forces." His family undoubtedly lamented the hometown prejudice that pushed their son into the war.

Twenty-three years passed between WWI and WWII. Germany was again the enemy and German Americans, again, faced distrust and discrimination.

Alisa - On a personal note, my father was from a totally German background. He enlisted in WWII. His service was on the USS Hornet and, when it was sunk, the USS Lexington. I don't believe he experienced any racism. He was, however, very embarrassed to be of German heritage.

-Alisa Lau-Siekman, Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team Member



CUCC OPEN AND AFFIRMING/INCLUSION COVENANT

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

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



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

LODO Ministry Team

We are excited to start our 2023-2024 school year on August 28! We have very limited spaces remaining in our classrooms and we have new staff members to introduce in September! Help us spread the word about LODO and the loving environment we provide for our young learners.



Class Availability

Lightning Bugs (1-2's) – All Days are Full

Lambs (2-3's) – Friday Only Availability

Lions (3-4's) – Wednesdays are Full

Leopards (3, 4, 5's) – Tuesdays are Full

Leap Frogs (4-5's) – Tuesdays are Full

LODO+ Extended Day – Wednesdays are Full

Amazon Wish List

LODO has an Amazon Wish List that will be updated throughout the year. This list includes items to replace those that have been well-loved, items that will add to our learning activities, and supplies that are used frequently. If you are interested in contributing to the LODO Ministry, please consider purchasing an item from our list. Monetary donations can also be made, which we will use to purchase needed supplies and learning activities. To give, click HERE or visit:

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

Important Dates

Monday, August 14 – 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. – Staff Planning Meeting/Staff Return to Prepare for the School Year

Tuesday, August 22 – 6:00 p.m. - LODO Staff CPR Training (Fellowship Hall)

Thursday, August 24 – 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. – Back to School/Meet the Teacher Night

Monday, August 28 – First Day of LODO 2023-2024 School Year



With Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger

A Quick Thank You

Thanks to everyone for the prayers, words of encouragement, food, cards, visits, and phone calls following my recent surgery. I'm blessed to be part of such a caring community. God bless. ---- Jessica Jenks

Membership and Care Ministry Team

Committee members (and other helpers) are putting the final touches on our new Church Family Album. I know everyone is excited to see the final product. Many thanks to Carol Duermeyer, Jolene Kirchhoff, Jolene Hackman, and MJ for their extra efforts completing this project.

It may be the laid back days of summer, but your Membership and Care Ministry Team continues to work diligently to make sure our members are cared for in incredible ways.

CARE (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) is a sub-committee of the Ministry and Care Ministry Team. Various CUCC members work together to meet the diverse needs of our congregation. The CARE teams are as follows: Prayer Team Ministry, Health and Wellness Ministry, Meal Ministry, Handy Helper Ministry, Visiting Ministry, Transportation Ministry, Shawl Ministry, Note Writers/Card Ministry, Flower Ministry, and Bereavement Ministry.

If you are interested in serving on one (or more) of these ministry teams or would just like more information, please contact Jolene Kirchhoff (jolenekirchhoff1@gmail.com) or Judi Privitt (judiprivitt811@gmail.com).

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



CLERGY PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

The Clergy Personnel Committee met with Pastor Rick in June. This committee at CUCC aims to maintain the relationship between the members and the pastor of the congregation; the goal is to support the effectiveness of our church's mission. John Graves and Pat Forward continue to serve on this committee, and I am honored to join them to take the place of Judi Privitt, whose term recently expired.

When we met, we discussed the positivity that seems to be circulating through the church with the exciting remodel of the sanctuary and the many celebrations of the congregation's 100th anniversary this year. The Church Council has gained some new members this Summer, and the group is off to a great start following a productive and enjoyable retreat. The committee also discussed some challenges of the wider UCC conference including continued efforts to help Camp MoVal reach fuller potential as well as challenges of our congregation such as continued low turnout for Sunday School and other events for our younger members.

A theme at the center of the committee's meeting was, and likely will continue to be, considering the next 10 years in the life of CUCC. We are thankful that Pastor Rick is contemplating the path our church might take over that time and what CUCC may look like when we get there. We will meet again in September to continue our discussions.

Kristy Hayward, member
Clergy Personnel Committee



NCS

So far the renovation work has been somewhat slow, though noticeable! The windows and window film are completely installed and beautiful! The old wallpaper on the front chancel wall is completely gone and some sample paint colors have been applied to a couple of the wall surfaces. HOWEVER, the bulk of the work is about to begin, and August will see several changes made! Saturday, July 29, some of our members worked on painting the lower wall surfaces. On August 1, *Brighter Days Finishing* will be in to hang the new wallpaper on the chancel wall. On August 21, *AiPainting Plus* will come in for a few days to prep and paint the entire ceiling. Shortly after that is finished, *Dave Griggs Flooring America* will be in to lay the new carpet! We are very hopeful that most of the big projects will be completed prior to Rally Day on September 10 and that the entire project will be completed by our 100th Anniversary Celebration on October 1!

Membership and Care Ministry Team Continued...

Health Ministry Care Team News:

We had 20 people attend our July 16 *Stay and Learn* presentation on Dementia. We learned how to identify and communicate with those affected by this condition. Keep your brains and bodies active and engaged to help ward off Dementia, and if you identify signs, get in early to your health care provider for treatment and support as medications can help slow its progression. We'll have Melissa come back in October to share information on Aging Best Resources. Stay tuned for more information.

The Aging Best Staff are willing to provide a free workshop on *Steps to a Healthy Life* at our church if we have enough interest. Topics covered would be:

Chronic Disease Self-Management

(Steps To A Healthy Life)

Chronic Pain Self-Management

(Steps To A Healthy Life with Chronic Pain)

Diabetes Self-Management

(Steps to live a Healthy Life with Diabetes)

A summary is below:

Steps To A Healthy Life- This umbrella title includes Chronic Disease Self-Management, Diabetes Self- Management, Chronic Pain Self Management, and more. These programs assist individuals with building confidence in managing health, staying active, and engaging in proactive, healthy behaviors, particularly focused toward the specific area of emphasis. They are held once per week for 6 weeks for 2.5 hours and include a book and CD for participants to keep. There is no charge for these workshops to either participants or the church.

They are flexible on days/times that work best for those interested. So if you wish to participate or if you have any questions, please contact me, Anne Heine, at 573-529-1543 (cell) via text, call or email me at Heine@missouri.edu.

Remember, we're here for you so if you or anyone you know in our church needs help with health care issues, transportation to a health care appointment, the hospital, or with any health care questions let us know or contact the church office and they can get the message to us. Thanks!

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

The infographic is titled "Missouri IMMUNIZATION COALITION COVID-19 VACCINATION VAX FACTS ✓". It contains seven fact-based questions and answers:

- Can getting a COVID-19 vaccine make me magnetic?**
FACT: COVID-19 vaccines will not make you magnetic. COVID-19 vaccines do not have any ingredients that can create an electromagnetic field. All COVID-19 vaccines are free from metals.
- Were the COVID-19 vaccine trials too rushed to be safe?**
FACT: No vaccine development steps were skipped. All steps were taken to ensure COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. The technology behind COVID-19 vaccines has been in development for decades.
- Can the COVID-19 vaccines cause infertility?**
FACT: There is no evidence that vaccine ingredients or antibodies made after COVID-19 vaccination cause any fertility problems (problems trying to get pregnant) now or in the future for women or men.
- Is it more dangerous to get a COVID-19 vaccine than to become infected with COVID-19?**
FACT: Getting vaccinated is a safer way to build immunity than getting sick with COVID-19. Nearly all COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths are in unvaccinated patients. COVID-19 vaccines are going through the most intense safety monitoring in U.S. history.
- Do COVID-19 vaccines contain microchips?**
FACT: COVID-19 vaccines do not contain microchips. Several doses come in each vaccine vial, so it is impossible to put a microchip in each dose.
- Are COVID-19 vaccines safe for children?**
FACT: Children can become very sick with COVID-19 if not vaccinated. Some children experience severe symptoms that can be deadly. COVID-19 vaccination has been shown to be safe and is now recommended for everyone 6 months and older.
- Are COVID-19 vaccines safe to get during pregnancy?**
FACT: COVID-19 vaccination is safe and recommended for people who are trying to get pregnant or might become pregnant in the future. Their partners should also be fully vaccinated.

Get the Facts | moimmunize.org



Coming Up Soon...

WALK. GIVE. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Columbia
CROP HUNGER WALK

SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

COLUMBIA, MISSOURI

***Western Association
Fall Business Meeting***

September 16, 2023

10:00 AM - 3:00 PM (Register 9:30 AM)

at

St Peters Evangelical UCC

309 NE Pine St, Billings, MO 65610



**Rev. Dr. Jane Fisler
Hoffman**

***“The Importance of
Covenant in Our
Life Together”***

Register at mmsucc.org

Onsite Attendance (Includes Meals): \$25.00

Virtual Attendance via Zoom: \$10.00

Crop Hunger Walk

Mark Your Calendar

September 17

Stephens Lake Park - Gordon Shelter

1:00 Program, 1:30 Step-Off

In its 28th year, the CROP HUNGER WALK continues to fight against the challenges of poor health, disaster, unemployment, and other concerns that leave our local and global neighbors hungry. You can join the fight to help provide the food and support they need for today and sustainable food security for them tomorrow. The theme this year is WALK TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD.

As in the past, 25% of the funds donated will go to four local agencies who fight hunger through food and meal programs. Church World Service (CWS) receives 75% of the funds to use in the global fight. The four agencies are Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry, Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry, and Fifth Street Christian Church Feed the Community Program. In 2022, these agencies received over \$5,500 to aid their ministries.

And, as in past years, all Shakespeare Pizza locations will donate 15% of sales on WALK Day.

For more information, or if you would like to start a CROP Walk Team, join a team, or donate, go to www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiamo. Donations can also be made on the church website, in Sunday Worship Offering basket, or by check to the church office.

Our congregation has always been a strong supporter of the CROP Hunger Walk. We frequently are first or second in the dollar amount collected, surpassing much larger congregations. This is evidence of our commitment to the community and the world in following Jesus' teachings to help the least of us. Please join the CROP HUNGER WALK on September 17 to WALK TOGETHER FOR A BETTER WORLD.

-Jessica Jenks

Heritage Team

CUCC – 1990 to 1999 "To Build or Not to Build"

by Jolene Hackman

CUCC started the decade of the '90s with 381 members and on 12-31-99 membership was 487. That was a problem, albeit a GOOD problem. CUCC needed more space to continue to grow. More Sunday School classes were needed, more office space, a larger more efficient kitchen, a music room, and storage space. There had been occasional conversations about expanding the church. Now was the time to decide. Do we build or do we not build?

At the 1992 Annual meeting, a request was made to pursue an effort toward the idea of church expansion. And so, it began. Information taken from council minutes and annual reports:

- 1992: Council presents a plan for expansion at congregational meeting on 10-17-92.
- 1994: Building Design & Construction Committee and Building Fund Raising Committee were appointed. Chin & Associates Architectural Firm from Columbia was chosen for expansion program. Malicoat/Winslow Engineering approved as mechanical engineers.
- 1995: Council approves expansion plans. Plans submitted to congregation and plan passed unanimously. Congregation gives approval to Finance Committee to conduct capital fund campaign
- 1996: By May of 1996 Capital campaign pledges totaled \$616,078.00. The Architect presented a contract for cost of design for \$66,500.00 to Council.
- 1997: In August of 1997, the Building Committee recommended to accept bid from Wisch & Vaughan Construction Co. from Jefferson City as general contractor, to retain architect on hourly basis as needed, present \$875,000 as final bill. Ivan Sanders, Fred Malicoat, and Cliff Beckman to be construction administrators.
- 1998: In August of 1998, Ballots were mailed to members to vote to proceed with construction. Results were 235 in favor, 16 opposed, 3 abstentions. Council considered the motion carried. In September of 1998, we had groundbreaking for the new wing
- 1999: New Education Wing was dedicated on April 11 with 200 attending. Rev. Todd Hackman was guest speaker.

The 1990s wasn't just about building an Education Wing; although, it seemed that way. Many wonderful events took place in the '90s along with a few events that saddened our hearts deeply.

- 1990: Goodbye to choir director Mark Shaffer, and Hello to the new director JoEllen Grace.
- 1991: Celebration of Fred's 25th Anniversary of Ordination in July. Funeral/Life Celebration of Seth Brandenburg, son of Fred & Shelley Brandenburg. Seth passed away on October 7, 1991 after a bout with cancer.
- 1993: Helped flood victims in Hartsburg by preparing meals, helping clean UCC church there, and gave monetary aid. Celebrated the 25th anniversary of Columbia UCC at this location.
- 1994: On September 20, 1994, Wes and Rachel Kirchoff, children of Barry and Jolene, died together in an automobile accident on their way to school. It profoundly affected all of us in the church family and community, as well.
- 1995: Two new lecterns and new altar/table were made by Virgil Biesemeyer. Todd Hackman's Graduation from Eden Seminary and Ordination at CUCC.
- 1996: Carole Barner became new Christian Education Director. New pictorial directory.
- 1997: Ground breaking on September 7 for new addition, with the help of an antique plow.
- 1998: Youth Workcamp at Wind River Indian Reservation in Wyoming
- 1999: Outreach Committee votes to sponsor another refugee family.



We made it through the '90s, and we were ready to tackle the New Millenium! Bring it on!!!!

International Missions

CUCC IS SERVING IN LESOTHO

The Lesotho Evangelical Church in Southern Africa (LECSA) is one of Africa's oldest Protestant churches. LECSA runs approximately 580 primary and secondary/high schools in the country. Primary school education at LECSA schools is free for students, but schools have very limited budgets for purchasing extras, such as school supplies, teaching materials, art supplies, and sports equipment. In many classrooms, desks, tables, and chairs are scarce. Through Global Ministries special projects, funds have been raised to help meet these classroom needs. Improving learning and teaching conditions has helped to raise classroom performance, maintain the dignity of staff and students, and build the community's pride in their schools.

Columbia United Church of Christ is a partner with LECSA 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 Africa!

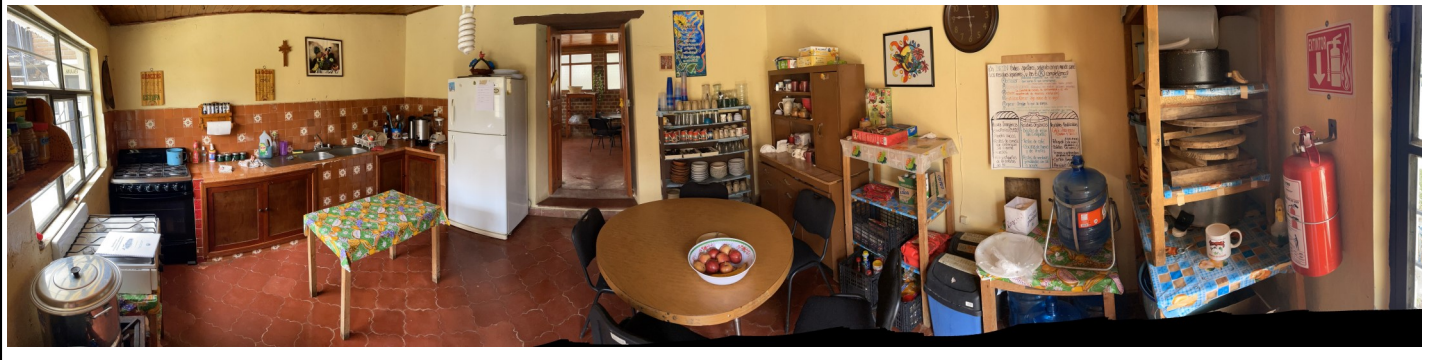


MISSION WITH CHIAPAS – IMMERSION EXPERIENCE 2023, OCTOBER 3-10

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

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

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



Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team

Christmas in August Special Offering—

Please Help Serve Those Who Have Served Us

On August 13 we will have the opportunity to contribute to the Christmas Fund ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ.

The Christmas Fund has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ for over 100 years, providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas 'thank you' gift checks each December to our lower-income retirees.

Martha Baldwin shared her mother's story—

"I was raised in New England while my father served at churches in Massachusetts and Connecticut. My mother served alongside my father as a partner in ministry for 25 years," Baldwin said, noting that her mother is now 88 years old.

"The annual Christmas Fund checks are so appreciated and allow her to give back to her community and provide for special Christmas gifts to her grandchildren and great grandchildren."

Your gifts are needed more than ever to help the growing number of retirees whose low-income annuities make it difficult to meet increasing living costs. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care. Please give generously.



LOAVES & FISHES

The July 17 meal at Loaves & Fishes consisted of spaghetti, salad, bread, and cookies/brownies. Judi Privitt and Anne Heine made the brownies. Spaghetti was made and prepared by Mary Lorber-Solt and Audrey Lasley. PB & J's were made and provided by Mahree Skala. Servers for the evening were Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Mary's sister, Debby, Judi Privitt, Anne Heine, and Whitney Wipfler. Dishwashers were Doug Privitt and Jim Loveless. We served approximately 83 firsts and 47 seconds and carryouts. Thank you so much to everyone who helped!



-Audrey Lasley

Share Food, Bring Hope



Sharing food is one of the most basic ways to connect with our fellow human beings. Jesus demonstrated this time and again, right up to the Last Supper. We have the opportunity to help feed many people throughout central Missouri,

by volunteering to sort and package food at the Food Bank. Sharing food is bringing hope!

The next CUCC shift at the Food Bank will be on Tuesday, August 29, 5:30-7:30 pm. All are welcome to participate in light labor and good fellowship. We need both new and experienced volunteers.

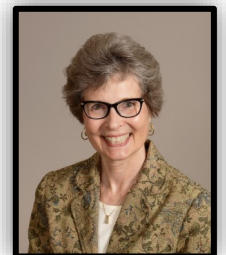
More information is at <https://sharefoodbringhope.org/>. The CUCC signup link will be provided through the Friday emails, or if you have any questions, contact **Mahree Skala**.

ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY PARTNERSHIP FRIEND UPDATE

START COLLECTING FOR ALPHA HART 8/6-8/27

Starting Sunday, August 6 and throughout the month of August, we will be collecting packages of dry erase markers to be donated to Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School!

They have requested the **Expo brand** of dry erase markers. In honor of our 100th anniversary, we would like to collect 100 packages of **Expo Dry Erase Markers** for Alpha Hart! Bring your marker donation to church Sundays in August. See Llona Weiss for more details.



Very Sincerely,
Llona Weiss,

Liaison for CUCC to AHL, our Partnership Friend

2023 “Trail of Tears” Pilgrimage

Barry Kirchhoff, Jolene Kirchhoff, and Llona Weiss traveled with a pilgrimage group sponsored by the local organization called **Race Onward** on a journey through the *Trail of Tears*. We traveled by bus for approximately 2,700 miles, through 8 states and 5 Native American nations during July 10-17, 2023, attempting to follow some of the original routes traveled during the forced Indian removals in 1838-39. Our purpose was to trace and understand the historic forced relocations (1831-1839) of the Native Peoples known as “The Five Civilized Tribes” (Cherokee, Creek/Muscogee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole) and see and discuss the consequences in contemporary society. We explored how the actions against Native Americans violated the teachings of Jesus and looked at society today.

Barry said, “I didn’t give the trip a lot of thought beforehand. I guess I thought I was going as a ‘spectator’. As the bus left Columbia, though, my thinking opened, and the idea of being a ‘spectator’ slowly dissolved. One stop was Red Clay State Park, the last seat of the Cherokee national government. The site included a spring and a spring pool in a beautiful, park-like setting. As we walked around, I knew I had entered a ‘thin space.’ (Shelly Adams introduced me to this term.) It is one of the spaces where the distance between heaven and earth collapses. I don’t know how to describe it. It was the end of being a ‘spectator’, though. The beauty of the place contrasted so much with the image of the Cherokee being forced from their homes. From then on, I was immersed in the experience.”

Jolene thought, “What a memorable and educational experience. I certainly wasn't taught about the forced evacuation of these tribes and their relinquishing millions of acres when I was in school. It reminds me of the saying 'the more things change, the more they stay the same'. And, with the sadness comes the beauty and resilience of some of the tribes to have a successful nation living in harmony with the rest of us. If we can only follow their example.”

Llona mentioned, “I had two tearful experiences during the week. One experience happened at Blythe’s Ferry where the Native Americans crossed the Tennessee River. As I was standing with two other group members looking out across the river, I seemed to feel the presence of those who traveled before us. We three held hands and prayed together, and I cried. The other experience was while we sang “Rock of Ages” during the church service at Old Baptist Mission Church in Westville, Oklahoma, and I felt my deceased dad’s presence, and I cried.”

Each day, we had Bible verses from the First Nations Version dealing with Anticipation, Hope, Conflict and Compromise, Sustenance, Authority, Resurrection, The Path, and Last Instructions to contemplate as we traveled. What will we do from here? It was an experience we won’t forget. You never know what it is like, until you walk in someone else’s moccasins!

Submitted by: Barry Kirchhoff, Jolene Kirchhoff, and Llona Weiss.



CUCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND AT WORK

The Columbia United Church of Christ Scholarship Fund is a new fund created in October 2019 by repurposing the former Memorial Education Fund. The original fund was established in 1972 by Professor H. H. Krusekopf as a memorial to his late wife, Nancy. Over the years, significant contributions to this fund were made in memory of Professor Krusekopf, Elsa Nagel, Seth Brandenburg, Wesley Kirchhoff, and Rachel Kirchhoff.

The new fund was established to enable continuing education endeavors among all members of this congregation, expanding the range of financial opportunities to continuing education in general, beyond the scope of ministry. Applications for scholarships are due by April 1 each year and are reviewed by a team consisting of the Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Chair, the Nurture & Education Ministry Team Chair, the Vice Moderator of the Council, and the Pastor. All applicants must not only be church members, but be active in the life of the church.

This year, for our fourth class of recipients, we awarded scholarships to five people: **Kaden Lucas, Ember Piersee, Shelly Adams, Hayley Dennis, and Lindsey Oberle**. Special consideration was given to Shelly Adams for Seminary education, reflecting the spirit of the original incarnation of this fund.

This fund is invested with United Church Funds, one of ten Designated Funds that make ministry matters happen in earnest in this congregation. It is open to contributions. To donate, talk to [Sue Ann Schaffer](#) or [Christine Staelens](#).

Youth on a Mission!

URBAN MISSION EXPERIENCE– ST. LOUIS

The High School Youth of Columbia United Church of Christ were mission bound this summer – all the way to St. Louis!

We travelled to St. Louis June 25-28 in a rented 15 passenger van to work with **Epiphany United Church of Christ**, a historic congregation in Benton Park, and the **Urban Mission Experience**. Epiphany/UME provided us a place to stay, hosted us for a meal and an educational seminar, and coordinated mission work for us all around the city.

Our first day, we worked with the **English Cave Garden**, a community garden in Benton Park. We cleared out debris, weeded some community beds, and learned a bit about the history of the “English Cave,” an old brewer’s cave which was directly underneath us! There is currently no access to the cave, but they are working on constructing an entry point!

Tuesday, we worked at the **St. Louis Food Bank**, packaging over 10,000 pounds of produce during our work shift. It was an amazing time working with other groups and helping feed the hungry. We participated in a community clean up in Benton Park later Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday, we worked at **Lydia’s House**, cleaning their community center inside and out.

While in St. Louis we also had some fun visiting the Zoo, the Arch, Grant’s Farm, and Ted Drewes. We visited the **Cathedral Basilica**, the center of the Roman Catholic Diocese in St. Louis and received a tour from one of the docents. The Cathedral Basilica contains one of the largest collections of mosaic in the world. Construction began on the Cathedral in 1905, but the mosaics were not completed until 1988! It was an amazing sight for us.

Many thanks to Jo Ellen Grace, who was our chaperone on the trip. She stepped up at the last minute to join us and make it all possible, and she enjoyed it thoroughly! Those of you who do not hang out with our youth don’t have any idea what you are missing! Ask Jo Ellen about her experience!

Pastor Rick and Lena Muench will be putting together a schedule of mission work, trips, and other youth activities for our 5th-12th graders for the 2023-2024 school year in the next few weeks. Look for more information about upcoming activities, and keep our youth in your prayers in their future endeavors!



On the Church Calendar in August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 10 a.m. Quilters	2	3 Pastor Rick on Vacation	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Pastor Rick on Vacation						
9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>		10 a.m. Quilters				
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Pastor Rick on Vacation						
9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.. LODO Staff Meeting in FH	5:30 p.m. Council Executive Team 6:30 p.m. Council Meeting		5:30 p.m. Nurture & Education 6:00 p.m. Girl Scouts in FH 6:30 p.m. Inclusion and Affirmation		
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Seminary Heritage Sunday						
9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Potluck Brunch	10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m. Quilters 6:00 p.m. LODO CPR Training in FH		5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. LODO Back to School Night		
27	28	29	30	31		
9:00 a.m. Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship <i>*Worship Livestreaming on our CUCC Website</i>	LODO 1st Day					
	10:30 a.m. Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m. Quilters				

THE COMMUNICATOR

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

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



Interested in Church Membership? **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.