The Communicator

November 2026

From the Pastor's Keyboard . . . *"Covenant"*

It seems that I am entering a period of ordinations... Two of my friends, both of whom I have known for many years, are going to be ordained into Christian ministry in the next two months (November 15 and December 6). My friend Gabriel, who just started serving Immanuel UCC in Sedalia, was ordained on September 20. I have two other friends who are finishing up the ordination process and expect to be ordained next year. All of these people are wonderful pastors already, and are great assets to the church.

Their ordination reminds me of my ordination. Next May, I will celebrate the 20th anniversary of my ordination (May 27, 2007). What a day that was! My childhood pastor preached the service, which was held at my home church, Eden UCC in Affton, MO. There were people there from my childhood church, each of the churches I served in Seminary, my home church, and even a delegation from the church I was called to serve in Owensville. Perhaps the most inspiring part was the "laying on of hands" where all the clergy present placed their hands on my head, shoulders, back, etc. to offer a prayer of blessing to God; prayers that my service to God over the course of my ministry would be faithful and inspired. It was an incredible moment.

At the end of the service, I was presented with a Christian stole as an ordination gift. The stole is a symbol of ordination; but it is not a symbol of prestige. It is a symbol of servanthood. The stole that was placed on me that day, like the stoles I continue to wear each Sunday, represent the towel Christ used to wash the feet of his disciples. The stole is a symbol of servanthood. Pastors are called, through ordination, to be Christ's servant leaders in the world.

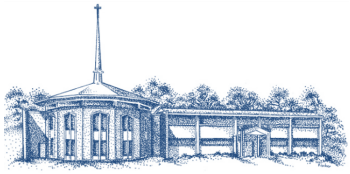
The act of ordination is a covenant between four parties. An ordination recognizes that the person (ordinand) is called by God, that the ordinand accepts that call, that the call is recognized by the wider church (represented by the Association), and that the person has been called to a particular ministry (usually a local congregation). So, God, the ordinand, the Association, and the calling body are all joined in covenant to recognize, authorize, and set apart this ordinand. It is a holy and powerful moment.

With all these ordinations and installations, I have been thinking about the covenantal relationships we share within our church, and among churches in our Association and Conference. What are ways that our covenantal relationships have provided us with aid and support when needed? What are ways our covenantal relationships have been strained over the years? What are the "wedge issues" that detractors use to try to strain the covenantal relationships we share as a body of Christ? Where is God in the messiness of human fulfillment of covenant?

As a partner church of the Missouri Mid-South Conference, we are in covenant with 140 other churches in Missouri, Memphis, and Arkansas who all are working just as hard as we are to discern how God is calling them to be church. We are all struggling with attendance issues, financial issues, social justice issues, context issues. Some churches are struggling with older buildings and the headaches they bring, others are struggling with newer settings and how to live their identity in these settings. Some are celebrating 175 years of ministry, some have been around ten years or less. We are a diverse denomination; but we are united by the covenant we share. Together we are the United Church of Christ.

This month, the Missouri Mid-South Conference will gather together for our Conference Annual Gathering (CAG), November 6-7 in St. Charles. The theme of that Conference is "Reclaiming our Connection" and as we gather, that is what we will be doing; reclaiming the connection we share as members of the Missouri Mid-South Conference. **CLICK HERE** for more information. As we do, we will celebrate the covenant we share and the dreams we dream together. As we gather, I hope you all will keep us in your prayers as a Conference and celebrate what God is calling us to be. (We have 13 people from CUCC signed up for CAG so far! This is amazing! We are #1 in the Conference for CAG attendance!)

Here at CUCC, we have a covenant that we share; to work together for God's glory in the world. As we gather, as we celebrate the sacraments, as we share the stories of our traditions and explore their wisdom together, we live into the covenant we share. May we remember our covenant for many years to come as we celebrate God's glory together!



Columbia UCC

Our Staff

Rev. Rick Oberle
Pastor

Rev. Fred Brandenburg
Pastor Emertius

Mike Pierson
Music Coordinator

Alexandra Roper
Office Administrator

Sara Koenig
Preschool Director

Caleb Berry
Custodian

About Our Church

3201 I-70 Dr. NW,
Columbia, MO 65202

Office Hours

Monday-Friday
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Contact Us
Phone:
(573) 445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com

Website:
www.columbiaucc.com

Schedule

Sunday
9:00 a.m.
Bible Study/Sunday School
10:00 a.m.
Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m.
Worship Service

Tuesday
10:00 a.m.
Quilters

Wednesday
6:00 p.m.
Chapel Ringers
7:00 p.m.
Celebration Singers

Your Church Council

Moderator:	Jerry Kielsing	Finance & Stewardship:	Sue Ann Schaefer
Vice Moderator:	Corinne Remeika	Inclusion & Affirmation:	Ashley Ramirez
Secretary:	Tricia Soncasie	Little One's Day Out:	Darla Privitt
Treasurer:	Aimee Andersen	Membership & Care:	Judi Privitt
Recording Treasurer:	Christine Staelens	Nurture & Education:	Jessica Lucas
Building & Grounds:	Allen Posz	Outreach & Advocacy:	Mahree Skala
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Mary Lorber-Solt	Worship & Music:	Kitty Rogers
	Pastor:	Rev. Rick Oberle	

This Month's Worship Volunteers

Date	Greeter	Ushers	Worship Leader	Technology Booth
11/01	Jolene Kirchhoff	John Muench Brenda Muench	Pat Forward	Brent Marcks Ted Dachroeden
11/08	John Muench Brenda Muench	Pat Forward Phillip Neale	Llona Weiss	Lorry Dreier Josh Muench
11/15	Sue Ann Schaefer Carol Duermeyer	Llona Weiss Christine Staelens	Sue Ann Schaefer	Carissa Graves John Graves
11/22	Donna Marsh	Keith Birkes Jerry Kiesling	Tricia Soncasie	Judi Privitt Doug Privitt
11/29	Kitty Rogers	Dorothy Williams Yvonne Williams	Judi Privitt	Brent Marcks Doug Privitt

Birthdays This Month

Lawson Flood-Lorber - 11/02	Val Schoeneberg - 11/03	Megan Schoeneberg - 11/04
Patty Beeson - 11/06	Brad Boyd Kennedy - 11/08	Joe Heine - 11/09
Barry Kirchhoff - 11/09	Gus Heine - 11/11	Vernie Blank - 11/12
Coline Duncan - 11/18	Patty Schroeder - 11/18	Emmanuel Kibaro - 11/19
Deborah Long - 11/19	Landon Muench - 11/19	Mark Wilson - 11/19
Bryan Forward - 11/22	Esther Kibaro - 11/22	Vincent Veteto - 11/22
Bryan Crousore - 11/23	Roger Meers - 11/23	Jedd Schneider - 11/23
Karl Skala - 11/23	Lloyd Viehland - 11/23	Bonnie Whitmore - 11/23
Mason Jaberg - 11/24	Hope Keithahn - 11/24	David Forward Sr. - 11/27
Zander Wells - 11/27	Shirley Gallaher - 11/28	Denny Hotle - 11/28
Alisa Lau-Sieckman - 11/28	Ginny Van Hove - 11/29	

VAC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 11/08

Columbia UCC has agreed to sponsor gifts and household goods for 45 people through the Voluntary Action Center (VAC) Christmas Program. Please help share some Christmas cheer with those who are struggling to pay for day-to-day life and can't afford holiday gifts and food. To learn more, visit **www.vacmo.org/resource-center/programs/holiday**.

Names, wish lists, and instructions will be available in the gathering area starting November 8, and gifts must be brought to the church by December 6. The suggested amount to spend per person is $75. If you can spend more, please sponsor more than one person so we can help as many as possible.

Monetary donations are also welcome. Help make a child, parent, elderly or differently abled person happy this Christmas!

VAC



Moderator's Moment

As November arrives and we look toward Thanksgiving, we are reminded of the many blessings God has graciously given us. In the hymn "Now Thank We All Our God," we sing words that invite us to pause, reflect, and give thanks to our faithful and loving God.

The hymn reminds us that God has been our help in the past, remains with us today, and will continue to guide us in the days ahead. Even when life brings challenges or uncertainty, we can find comfort in knowing that God's love never fails. Our gratitude is not based solely on what is going well in our lives, but on the assurance that God walks with us through every season.

Scripture calls us to this spirit of thanksgiving in 1 Thessalonians 5:18: "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you." These words encourage us to cultivate grateful hearts, not just on Thanksgiving Day, but throughout the year.

As a congregation, we have much to be thankful for: our shared faith, the fellowship we enjoy, the hands that serve, the hearts that care, and the opportunities we have to share Christ's love with others. Each act of kindness, each prayer offered, and each moment of encouragement is a reminder of God's presence among us.

May this season renew our gratitude and strengthen our commitment to serve God and neighbor with joyful hearts. As we gather with family, friends, and our church community, may our words and actions reflect the thankfulness we sing.

Now thank we all our God!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jerry Kiesling,
Moderator



Interfaith Potluck Dinner

November 14, 2026 | 5 p.m - 7 p.m.

We are excited to host our first interfaith potluck. We expect lively discussion about various theologies, beliefs, and philosphies. Please bring a potluck item to share. RSVP using the QR code or contact us at office@columbiaucc.com | 573-445-7931.

RSVP Here

Council Minutes

The meeting was called to order on September 15, 2026 at 6:34 p.m. by Jerry Kiesling. Pastor Rick opened with prayer. Present: Jerry Kiesling, Aimee Andersen, Darla Privitt, Corinne Remeika, Mahree Skala, Sue Ann Schaefer, Allen Posz, Ashley Ramirez, Mary Lorber-Solt, Judi Privitt, Jessica Lucas, Tricia Soncasie, Pastor Rick Oberle. Sue Ann made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Allen. Passed unanimously. Aimee made a motion to approve the August minutes, amended with correction of a typographical error, seconded by Judi. Passed unanimously. Aimee led a discussion of *Recreating the Church: Leadership for the Postmodern Age*, part II: "Challenges Confronting Mainline Churches Today."

Unfinished Business:

- Upcoming Sunday Volunteer Sign-up: Openers will continue to touch base with closers. Next month we will discuss whether the offering counters should be added to the spreadsheet.
- Ongoing building projects:
  - New light for sign: Allen is working with Mike and Scott Rapp. New wiring and an LED light are both needed.
  - Solar project: no update.
- The Ministry Teams Fair - 09/13: New members appreciated the opportunity to explore everything our church does and how they may serve. For future reference, we may wish to consider how individuals of differing abilities can contribute to our teams. Treats on each table were well-received.
- Western Association Fall Meeting, Springfield, MO - 09/19: Those attending will carpool, leaving around 7:00 a.m. and returning by 6:00 p.m.
- The Conference Annual Gathering (CAG), St. Charles, MO - 11/06-11/07: Registration and hotel reservations are due by October 1. Financial assistance is available. Pastor Rick is on the planning committee and you can expect workshops, dynamic guest speakers, worship, prayer and scripture all flowing together at the meeting.

New Business:

- Annual Financial Review: Thanks to Aimee, Paula Wilson, and Pat Forward; we now have a solid template and checklist moving forward.
- Proposed Budget: Ashley made a motion to approve the budget, seconded by Jessica. Passed unanimously. A summary will be presented to the congregation at the proposed budget meeting in The Sanctuary following worship on October 11. Aimee is available to discuss any aspect of the budget. Corinne will run the meeting in Jerry's absence; we need 20% (roughly 53 people) present for a quorum. Zoom will be available. Team Earth will also be on the agenda presenting our Creation Justice Covenant. Pastor Rick will send out the meeting notice.
- CUCC Publicity: Pastor Rick opened discussion about the need for publicity/marketing/advertising for our church. We receive regular solicitations and it would be helpful to have a group making decisions regarding our participation. More importantly, we could develop strategies for CUCC messaging to the broader community. Jerry suggested a blog utilizing Communicator articles, and is willing to serve on a committee. We will also ask Edie to help.
- PrideFest: We need volunteers! See Ashley if you can help on September 26 or 27.
- Response Team: Pastor Rick expressed the need to have a three-person team available to handle allegations of abuse or harassment. This team, composed of a woman, man, and one other individual would respond in the event that the matter is unresolved by the minister and moderator. Nurture & Education will update the 2017 policy. Jessica Lucas and Allen Posz agreed to serve; Jessica will invite Kristy Hayward. Council will revisit this topic next month.

Pastor's Report and Financial Report attached. Pastor Rick closed us with prayer.
Aimee made the motion to adjourn, seconded by Ashley.
Passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Tricia Soncasie,
Secretary

Fellowship & Hospitality

Greetings one and all! I sincerely hope this finds everyone happy, healthy, and staying warm as winter approaches. For the past several months, a little tune keeps popping into my head, (along with the person who used to sing and play this on his ukulele) 'A Place in the Choir.' The refrain is what I remember most, "all God's critters got a place in the choir, some sing low, some sing higher, some sing out loud on the telephone wire, and some just clap their hands, or paws, or anything they got now."

There are 4 verses that go with this song, all extolling everybody's "place in the choir," whether it's a chirp, hum, moo, or buzz, everybody contributes to this orchestra called "life." As a church and church family, we all need to contribute to the melody, if you can't sing, then clap. Don't cook? Wash a dish. Not a leader? Then "bee" a helper. There is a place for all in our church- maybe you might need to step out of your comfort zone. Trust me, it can be done… LOL. Look around, find your niche, or be bold, and do something you've never done before; it's a great experience. With all of our Ministry Teams available, fellowship groups, etc, go find your "place in the choir" and sing, clap, or anything you got now…

Upcoming events... we will host a Veterans Day Breakfast on November 8th at 9:00 a.m. with a guest speaker; all are welcome to attend to help honor our Veterans! And mark your calendars for our Advent Banquet on December 13, after the Advent Cantata. It is going to be a great time!

As always, bee happy, bee grateful, bee blessed, and always, bee yourself.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Lorber-Solt,
Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Chair

Joy To The World- Advent 2026

JOY TO THE WORLD! This phrase is closely associated with Advent and Christmas; and when one hears those prophetic words, the familiar song by Isaac Watts comes to mind. But did you know that this song was not originally written about Christmas?

In 1719, when Isaac Watts penned the lyrics with which we are so familiar, Christmas was not as popular a holiday as it is today. Watts wrote those lyrics as a poetic paraphrase and Christ- centered revision of Psalm 98. He was writing, at the time, about the "second coming" of Jesus, not about Christmas. But after his poem was set to music in 1848, it soon became a holiday tradition. Now, we understand that "Joy to the World" is what Christmas is really all about.

This Advent Season, we will be shouting "Joy to the World" as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus once more in our midst. Advent will begin on November 29, as we focus on "The Joy of Anticipation- Hope for the World." Advent Sundays will continue with "The Joy of Serving God" on December 6, when our Confirmation students will offer their testimonies, and be confirmed in worship. On December 13, we will celebrate "The Joy of the World" with our Cookies by the Pound sale, our Advent Cantata, and our Advent Banquet. On December 20, the theme is "God's Joy Opens our Hearts to Love" as we receive our Sunday School Christmas Program.

We will have two services for Christmas Eve; 7:00 & 10:00 p.m. with special music and communion at both. "The Joy of the World" will be the theme for these services, and we will sing "Silent Night" by candlelight.

On December 27, the theme is "Why This Jubilee?" as we focus on the Shepherds and their proclamation of Joy. On January 3, we will hear about Anna and Simeon receiving Jesus as we "Witness to God's Joy."

Come celebrate Joy this Advent/Christmas season with your CUCC family!

Finance & Stewardship

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
September Income	$30,289.00	$31,515.68	(-$1,226.68)
September Expenses	$37,230.73	$32,297.58	$4,933.15
YTD Income	$245,525.71	$259,815.44	(-$14,289.73)
YTD Expenses	$308,053.53	$300,949.72	$7,103.81
Surplus/(Deficit)	(-$62,527.82)	(-$41,134.28)	(-$21,393.54)
September Joyful Giving	$29,617.00	$30,825.68	(-$1,208.68)
YTD Joyful Giving	$236,712.75	$246,605.44	(-$9,892.69)

Every gift is received with love and favor to do God's work. We're able to provide these gifts while we're here on earth and even when we leave this earth. Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) are one way to give to our church and other organizations.

There are certain requirements to ensure you're eligible to complete a QCD:

1. For your first QCD, you must be age 70 ½ years old on the exact day the distribution is made and not just turn 70 ½ at some point during that calendar year.
2. QCDs can originate from Traditional or Roth IRAs and not through 401k or 403b plans through your employer. (Note: You can take the first step to rollover funds from these type of plans into an IRA and then complete the QCD.)
3. Contributions must go to a Qualified 501(c) (3) public charity. CUCC falls under this type of charity.
4. Taking money from the IRA and depositing into your bank account before writing a check to the charity ruins the tax-free status as a QCD. The money must go directly to the charity.

You can also name CUCC to receive assets in your will, on a Life Insurance policy, and on IRA accounts, etc. An Estate Attorney can assist you with documenting your wishes now, so it happens seamlessly once you pass.

We're fortunate to have many Designated Funds to choose from. One of these is our Endowment Fund. This fund was created two years ago. Once we reach $500,000, we can start to use a percentage of the earnings to create funding for new opportunities to serve God in our community and beyond.

We appreciate the donations you've made this year and those you'll consider in the future.

Respectfully Submitted,
Paula Wilson,
Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Member

Inclusion & Affirmation

Every year on November 20, Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR) is recognized internationally to honor the memory of transgender and gender nonconforming people who lost their lives to discriminatory violence. This day was originally founded in 1999 by transgender advocates Gwendolyn Ann Smith, Nancy Nangeroni, and Jahaira DeAlto to honor the life of Rita Hester, a transgender woman who was murdered in Allston, Massachusetts in 1998.

In November of 1999, the first TDoR was celebrated in Boston and San Francisco. Today, TDoR is celebrated worldwide. A typical TDoR memorial will include reading the names of transgender and gender nonconforming people who have died within the past year. There may also be candlelight vigils, dedicated church services, marches, art shows, food drives, and film screenings.

The Human Rights Campaign has been tracking fatal violence against transgender and gender nonconforming people since 2013. They have reported at least 400 cases of fatal violence, noting that there is no way to know truly how many cases there actually are as a lot go unreported or misreported. Out of these reported cases, 70.4% of victims were people of color. 82.3% were transgender women. Gun violence is the leading cause of death in these attacks, with 71.2% of known victims since 2013 being killed with firearms.

> *"Every person deserves to feel safe, to be treated with dignity, and to live their truth without fear. The annual release of this crucial report, which honors the beloved members of the transgender and gender nonconforming community who have been taken from us in the past year, is a somber and devastating reminder of why our fight for that dream continues. This year, these deaths are punctuated by a political movement and powerful politicians who have fanned the flames of hate and are driving our trans siblings even further to the margins of society, all as part of a misguided, cynical attempt to divide and conquer the country. Every anti-equality politician, from Donald Trump and his cabinet, to those in Congress and state Legislatures, needs to see these numbers, see these names and faces, and see the cost of the cruelty they have greenlit. HRC will continue to do everything in our power to fight for our trans siblings, hold hateful politicians to account and build a world where reports like this are no longer needed."*
>
> -Kelley Robinson, Human Rights Campiagn President

You can make plans to support trans members of your community. You can hold space to remember those who were lost this year. Take steps to educate yourself about transgender and non-binary people. Get to know the legacies of the trans people we have lost. Model correct pronoun and name use, and encourage those around you to do the same.

Sources: GLAAD, Human Rights Campaign, A4TE, Wikipedia



Respectfully Submitted,
Kasper Ramirez
Inclusion & Affirmation Team Member

Little One's Day Out

As the end of the first quarter of school approaches, we would like to take a moment to thank everyone who has volunteered their time at LODO. We have been so grateful for the wonderful response from our church members and have truly enjoyed getting to know more people in our community!

We had a fantastic turnout for Pumpkin Fun Day and would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and local businesses who helped make the event such a success. Your generosity, time, and support mean so much to us!

As we head into November, we have several exciting events coming up, including Parent-Teacher Conferences, our annual LODO Food Drive, and our Thanksgiving Feast.

Last year, we collected over 600 pounds of food for our community! We are hopeful that this year's food drive will be just as successful, allowing us to support even more individuals and families in need.

We are also looking for volunteers to help with our Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday, November 19, from 5:30–7:30 p.m. Volunteers will assist with serving food and cleaning up after the meal. If you are interested in helping, we would love to have you join us!

Thank you again for your continued kindness, generosity, and support of LODO. We are so thankful to be part of such a caring community and look forward to all that November has in store!

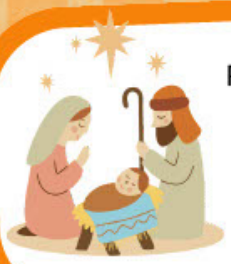
Respectfully Submitted,
Sara Koenig,
LODO Director



Nurture & Education



Our 6th-12th Grade Youth Group has been busy helping at Festival of Sharing and making both PB/J sandwiches and brownies for Loaves & Fishes! Next up- preparing a meal for families at Ronald McDonald House on **Sun 11/22**. Be on the lookout from Pastor Rick for more details!



Sunday School Christmas Program
Reherasals will begin on **Sun 11/8** during Sunday School and continue each week. We welcome all kiddos and youth ages 3-12th grade; we are in need of some adult helpers too. The program is **Sun 12/20** during worship.

Thanksgiving Food Collection
Please bring donations of non-perishable food items to church any time now! On **Sun 11/22** our kiddos/youth will process in with the items collected to kick off Thanksgiving Sunday!



CUCC Young Adult/College Ministry
The next gathering is **Sun 11/8** from 5-8 at Pastor Rick's house. All young adults/college students are welcome! For more information, talk to Ashley or Kasper Ramirez, Rev. Lauren or Jesse Lippincott, or Rev. Mike or Lilly Santoro-Williams!



Please join us on **Sun 12/6** as we celebrate Confirmation Sunday. There will also be a reception in honor of our Confirmands.



Cookies by the Pound Fundraiser- Sun 12/13
Bakers and Treatmakers- please bring homemade treats to the gathering area by 9 a.m. Buyers- be ready for an amazing selection! Sold by the pound, all proceeds benefit our N/E Programs.

SUNDAY

- **Sunday School**- 9:00-10:00 a.m., ages 3-12th grade. Meets weekly upstairs. WE'LL TAKE CARE OF BREAKFAST! So much fun planned for our kiddos and youth!
- **Adult Bible Study**- 9:00-10:00 a.m. (upstairs in Education Wing, last room on the left). Meets weekly.
- **Fellowship Time** from 10:00-10:30 weekly with coffee, snacks, & beverages.
- **Nursery** for kiddos ages Kindergarten and younger during 10:30 Worship.

Outreach & Advocacy

Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School - Partner in Education

During the month of November, Columbia UCC will continue to help pack Buddy Packs on Thursday mornings at 10:30 a.m. at AHL in the cafeteria/stage area. Thank you Sharon & Mike Rapp, Mona & Ted Dachroeden, Audrey Lasley, and Llona Weiss for volunteering in October. Mona and Llona also worked on organizing the AHL clothes/supply closet, which is an ongoing project (lots of students with many basic needs.) We will support the Good Dads program on Wednesday, November 18 at 7:00 a.m. in the cafeteria (thank you Pastor Rick, Jolene & Barry Kirchhoff, and Llona.) AHL and CUCC usually get a school photo in the monthly Good Dads newsletter. We work on some really fun activities bringing families together, with breakfast! Thanks again to Melba Shaffer and Mahree Skala for volunteering in the school library. Friday, November 13 is the AVID Academy (Advancement Via Individual Determination) at 8:30 a.m. where students share their future career aspirations and goals in their classrooms and learn what comes next. CUCC members are invited to participate; small invitation cards are in the back of the sanctuary. Thank you, again, for your amazing support for our public education students and teachers.

The Food Bank for Central and Northeast Missouri

There will be no Food Bank shift in November since they will be closed on 11/24. Our next shift will be on December 29. There's another way to help- give to the special "5th Sunday" offering on November 29.

Many thanks to those who packaged over 2,000 pounds of frozen corn on the cob in September: Sofia Marienfeld-Crenshaw, Pat Forward & her friend Teresa, Jolene & Barry Kirchhoff, Brenda & John Muench, Mahree Skala, and Tricia Soncasie. If you're interested in learning more about working at The Food Bank or Food Bank Market, contact Pastor Rick, Jolene Kirchhoff, or Mahree Skala.

Loaves and Fishes at The Opportunity Campus

The October 19 meal consisted of spaghetti (made by Mary Lorber and Audrey), veggie spaghetti (made by Judi Privitt), lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson), garlic bread and brownies. The brownies were made and donated by Tricia Soncasie, Lorry Dreier, Jessica Lucas, Brenda Muench, Lena Muench, Carolyn Malicoat, Mona Dachroeden, and Jolene Kirchhoff. Thank you to our church Youth Group for their making of peanut butter and jelly's and brownies! Other pbj's were made and donated by Mahree Skala and Jessica Jenks. Servers/dishwashers for the evening were Doug Privitt, Tim & Tricia Soncasie, Patty Beeson, Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Debby (Mary's sister), Wendy Vandegriffe, and Pastor Rick. We served approximately 160 firsts and 46 seconds for a total of 206. Thank you again to everyone involved in this outreach project.

Team Earth

Team Earth and others enjoyed a trip to the Endangered Wolf Center near Eureka, MO on October 10. Dorothy Williams, Yvonne Williams, Augie Williams, Kieran Willians, Shayne Armstrong, Cindy Deegan, Darla Privitt, Llona Weiss, Karl and Mahree Skala, Ashley and Kasper Ramirez, and Pastor Rick were all present for a total of 13 participants! Many thanks to Alisa Lau-Sieckman for arranging the tour. It was an inspiring reminder of our impact on God's amazing wildlife and the dedicated work it takes to sustain endangered species.

The estimated timeline for installation of the roof solar panels is the last week of October into the first week of November.

The congregation approved the proposed Creation Justice Covenant so the team will carry on with the application for recognition by the UCC. Stay tuned for news about the next Lunch & Learn after the holiday season.

Worship & Music

Worship Attendance	09/06	09/13	09/20	09/27
	80	87	73	82

What a great Rainbow Bells and Chapel Ringers performance on October 18! Thank you so much to Mike and Gina Pierson for all of their hard work. The Music Ministry did a wonderful job and is now gearing up for the Christmas Cantata. If you would like to participate, please let Mike know.

Lent will follow soon after, so please consider selecting a psalm and writing your personal interpretation. The worship committee would like to print our own Lenten devotional booklet this year. A sign-up sheet is available in the back of the sanctuary, and all writings will be due by December 31 to allow time for printing.

Please mark your calendars for Saturday, November 28, to help decorate the Christmas tree. We especially need Jolene Hackman for her tree-fluffing expertise! Additionally, Alex Oberle has graciously agreed to serve as our ladder man for the hanging of the greens. We will start at 9:00 a.m. and hope to finish before the football game starts.

The Worship & Music Ministry Team deeply appreciates all the help you can provide during this busy time of year.

Best Regards,
Kitty Rogers,
Worship & Music Ministry Chair

As the holidays are quickly approaching, music fills our lives even more. In the coming days, more radio stations will be playing Christmas music; department stores will be turning up the volume on holiday favorites; caroling will take place at homes around a piano or in office settings or in school hallways or... at CUCC member's residences. Yes, we will be having a CUCC Caroling Night on a Sunday night in December (13th or 20th - TBD)! All are welcome to join us for spreading mirth and then coming together for some punch and cookies afterwards. More details will be coming out soon.

Along with the caroling, the Celebration Singers will be performing a few extra anthems on December 13 as part of our Advent Cantata" or "sermon in song". If you can't join us every week but would like to sing on the 13th, see me any Sunday between now and then for details. We will be doing some longer Wednesday night rehearsals so we have time to rehearse regular Sunday anthems as well as the additional music for the cantata.

The Chapel Ringers will continue their season with performances during worship on November 22 and December 20.

Wishing everyone at CUCC a happy, merry, and peaceful holiday season! Singing and making music has been shown, scientifically, to heighten all of those emotions. We'd love to share that with whomever wants to fully experience the JOY that music can bring to our lives.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Pierson,
Music Coordinator

HELP US FEED LOCAL FAMILIES

HUNGER AFFECTS 1 IN 7 PEOPLE
TOGETHER, WE CAN PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Drop off non-perishable food items in the box at sign-in kiosk
- Donate a monetary contribution by placing money in an envelope and writing LODO Food Drive (all money will go to The Food Bank)

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Every day, families in our community go to bed hungry. Your donation helps us provide fresh meals and groceries to those who need it most.

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

- Canned vegetables, beans & soup
- Rice, pasta & cereal
- Shelf-stable milk & baby formula
- Peanut butter & canned protein
- Cooking oil & spices



Drop Off From 11/1 to 11/23

DROP OFF LOCATION:
Little One's Day Out
3201 I-70 Dr. NW
Columbia, MO 65202

Scouting America

Troop 4475

Troop 4475 and Troop 708 hosted a joint Recruitment Campout in October. Scout recruits were invited to join our Troops for Scout skill stations and a night of camping. Visiting Cub Scouts were taught first aid, knots, fire building, and leadership skills through demonstrations and games led by Scouts in Troop 4475 and 708. The visiting Scouts cooked a dinner and breakfast with the Troop's Patrols and participated in a campfire program complete with songs, skits, and a reverent Flag retirement ceremony. We're hopeful that some of the Scouts who attended will decide to join our Troops in the spring as Arrow of Light Cub Scouts transition into the Troop level of Scouting.





Troop 708

September and October have been busy months for Troop 708 as we've settled back into school and our regular Scouting activities! We wrapped up September with our Watersports Campout at Camp Hohn on September 25-27. Scouts enjoyed a weekend full of canoeing, kayaking, and swimming, with some even getting the chance to go tubing on the lake thanks to Mr. Jeff Offutt and his jet ski!

On September 28, we held our Fall Court of Honor, and it was an **epic** celebration of our Scouts' accomplishments! We recognized an incredible 200 merit badges, 17 rank advancements, and 62 special awards. That's a lot of hard work and dedication worth celebrating! We held our annual Recruitment Campout on October 9-10, where we welcomed prospective Scouts to experience what Troop 708 is all about. It was a great opportunity for our Scouts to share their skills, demonstrate teamwork, and introduce new families to the fun, adventure, and friendships that Scouting offers. As always, we're grateful for the many ways CUCC continues to support Troop 708 and help make these experiences possible.



Thank You!

Thank you for standing with us against hunger with your donation of $3,078.26. Support like yours makes it possible for The Food Bank to make a lasting difference for thousands of individuals and families each month across our 32-county service area. The hope you give neighbors that are currently experiencing food insecurity and financial trade-offs amidst high costs at the grocery store is immeasurable.

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

We sincerely thank you for your generous donation to Show-Me Central Habitat for Humanity. Your donation directly helps put low-income families in affordable housing. Thanks to donors like you, several homeowners have been able to close on their homes recently. As always, we want to reminder you that projects like these wouldn't be possible without the support of donations like yours.

Sincerly,
Jennifer James,
Executive Director of Show Me Central Habitat for Humanity

Thank you for supporting Mobility Worldwide MO - Columbia. Your generosity helps provide Mobility Carts that bring freedom, independence, and hope to people around the world. Because of donors like you, lives are being transformed every day. Thank you for making this mission possible.

With heartfelt appreciation,
Karen Stohlgren,
Volunteer at Mobility Worldwide MO - Columbia

Thank you for your faithful support of the Church World Service Blankets Program! We are so grateful to have you as a partner in this important ministry. Your $510.00 donation will help to provide the gift of warmth and hope to people when they need it the most.

Thanks,
Tiffany,
Church World Service

Thank you for your donation to the United Church of Christ. Your gift of $500.00 to our Refugee Assistance program is graciously accepted. Working through a network of global and local partners, you will provide welcome, shelter, and respite for families, as well as providing long term support. Through your giving, those in need will be provided with spiritual support and physical resources to rebuild their lives.

Our ministry embraces a wider church that is global, multiracial, multicultural, open and affirming, and accessible to all. Doing justice, seeking peace, and building community are central to the identity of the United Church of Christ. Our actions to create and foster justice are rooted in the teachings of scripture and our General Synod policies. United in Christ's love, we seek justice for all.

Your gifts make love tangible. Through your generosity, you are participating in God's mission in the world in extraordinary ways.

Sincerely,
Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson,
General Minister and President of United Church of Christ

International Missions

CUCC IS WORKING IN LEBANON

The Department of Service to Palestinian Refugees (DSPR) of the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) was established in 1948. DSPR operates in multiple areas, including Lebanon, Jordan, Gaza, the West Bank, and Galilee, focusing on empowering Palestinian refugees through various programs. In Lebanon, DSPR offers vocational training in cosmetology, tailoring, and hairdressing to enhance women's economic independence and social standing. These initiatives are part of DSPR's broader mission to promote social justice, economic empowerment, and dignity for Palestinian communities.
DSPR collaborates with local and international partners to address the multifaceted needs of Palestinian refugees.



As we give thanks for all our blessings this month, let us not forget to keep **Global Ministries** in our prayers, and the work they are doing with DSPR on our behalf in Lebanon. Through Global Ministries, CUCC is working in partnership in Lebanon!

CHILD AND ELDER SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

For more than 30 years, the Child and Elder Sponsorship Program (CESP) has been bringing people together across miles, cultures, and generations. Some of our partner centers have walked with us from the very beginning. Others are newer relationships—reminding us that this story is still being written.

New Beginnings in Sri Lanka
In Sri Lanka, two of our newer partnerships are opening doors for children to learn, grow, and imagine their futures. Herman's Girls' Home in Periya Nilavanai provides a caring community for girls ages 9–18, while St. John's Boys Home in Batticaloa serves boys in that same important season of life. These homes are more than places where young people live. They are communities where children are surrounded by people who believe in their potential. Through sponsorship, you become part of that circle of encouragement—helping a child know that someone across the world is cheering them on.

A New Chapter for Elders in Palestine
There is also a beautiful new chapter unfolding in Palestine. For many years, CESP partnered with Ajyal Elderly Care, a pioneering ministry serving older adults. That legacy now continues through THIMAR, an ecumenical ministry serving women in the Palestinian community and led by Raeda Mansour, who faithfully led Ajyal for 19 years. This transition is especially meaningful as we think about the realities facing older adults around the world. But what if sponsorship could help tell a different story? Through elder sponsorship, we have an opportunity to support ministries that continue to say to older adults: You still matter. Your wisdom matters. Your story matters. And you still have something to contribute.

Sponsorship is about more than financial support. It is about relationships. It connects a child with someone who believes in their future. It helps an elder remain connected to a community where their presence is valued. It gives sponsors the opportunity to discover people, places, and stories they might never otherwise encounter. Whether you choose to sponsor a child, support an elder, invite your congregation to participate, or simply learn more, there is a place for you in this ministry. The story is still growing. Come be part of what happens next.

CLICK HERE to Learn more about the Child and Elder Sponsorship Program

On The Calendar...

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
01 9:00 a.m. - Bible Study/Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship	**02** 7:00 p.m. - Scouting America	**03 - Election Day** 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting 7:00 p.m. - TIDES Service	**04** 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers	**05** 6:30 p.m. - Troop 4475	**06**	**07** 1:00 p.m. - Vernie Blank's 105th Birthday Party
08 7:30 a.m. - Men's Fellowship 9:00 a.m. - Bible Study/Sunday School/Veterans bkfst. 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship 12:00 p.m. - Outreach & Advocacy 5:00 p.m. - Young Adults	**09** 7:00 p.m. - Scouting America	**10** 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:00 a.m. - Prayer Shawl Group 10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting 6:00 p.m. - Troop 738 6:30 p.m. - Troop 708	**11 - Veterans Day** 6:00 p.m.- Nurture & Education Ministry Team 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers	**12** 9:30 a.m. - Women's Fellowship	**13** **Office Closed**	**14** 12:30 p.m. - Quilts of Valor Ceremony 5:00 p.m - Interfaith Potluck Dinner
15 9:00 a.m. - Bible Study/Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship	**16** 4:30 p.m. - Loaves & Fishes 7:00 p.m. - Scouting America	**17** 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. - Pause to Color 6:30 p.m. - Council	**18** 7:00 a.m. - Good Dads 10:00 a.m. - Pastor Rick @ The Bluffs 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers	**19** 5:30 p.m. - LODO Thanksgiving Feast	**20**	**21** 8:00 a.m. - Scouting America Pancake Breakfast
22 9:00 a.m. - Bible Study/Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship 12:00 p.m. - Youth Group to RMD House 12:00 p.m. - Inclusion & Affirmation	**23** 7:00 p.m. - Scouting America	**24** 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:00 a.m. - Staff Meeting	**25** **Office Closed** 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers	**26 - Thanksgiving Day** **Office Closed**	**27** **Office Closed**	**28**
29 9:00 a.m. - Bible Study/Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship	**30** 7:00 p.m. - Scouting America					

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

ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

The Communicator is a publication of Columbia United Church of Christ. The stated purpose is to communicate with the congregation and community concerning the organizations and events of the church. It is a monthly publication. The deadline for article submission is the 20th of each month prior to publication.

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Columbia United Church of Christ Creation Justice Covenant

We, the members of Columbia United Church of Christ, are eternally grateful for the extravagant love we have experienced through God's bountiful blessing of creation and acknowledge our calling to be faithful stewards of these divine gifts.

As Christ's disciples, we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves, recognizing that the scriptures teach that all creatures, stars, and planets proclaim the glory of God, and are therefore included in that divine covenant. This concern for all our neighbors also calls us to acknowledge those who are unfairly impacted by environmental injustices.

Living into the joy of being stewards of God's creation and viewing the scriptures of our tradition through the lenses of compassion and dignity of all creation, we seek the Spirit's guidance to pursue a life of worship and service that celebrates and supports the divinity of creation and a theology of abundance.

We care for God's world and our relation to all God's children, creatures, and other life by being responsible for our impact on nature. We covenant to educate and inspire CUCC ministry teams, church members, families, and friends to adopt environmentally sustainable practices where possible at church, home, and in our personal lives, and to evaluate and update CUCC goals for continued progress.

Columbia UCC covenants to connect to the broader movement of creation justice as an advocate for all, regardless of who they are or where they are on life's journey - by supporting legislation and public policies that benefit the environment, by building partnerships with environmental justice allies to advocate for initiatives that address local and global threats to our environment.

Guided by this covenant, we desire that a passion for creation justice be manifested in every dimension of our congregation's life as we seek to take this commitment beyond the walls of this church to make good on our promises to God our Creator, to Jesus the Redeemer of Creation, and to the Holy Spirit the Sustainer of Creation.

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.