

# THE COMMUNICATOR

November 2024

## *From the Pastor's Keyboard...*

## *"Hope in Difficult Times"*

*Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD, O my soul!  
I will praise God as long as I live;  
I will sing praises to God my whole life long! -Psalm 146:1-2*

During the month of November, we are going to be looking at the story of Ruth and Naomi, as found in the Book of Ruth. We will explore each chapter separately in worship on Sundays in November; but the importance of the story of Ruth and Naomi is in its entirety. This story is about having hope in the midst of despair.

The story arc of Ruth and Naomi is quite a journey. It begins with hope, promise, and prosperity, as they live luxurious lives with their husbands in Moab. Naomi, her husband, and her sons, were a good Jewish family from Judah, living in Moab for comfort and prosperity during a time of famine in Judah. Naomi and her family had plenty. The sons took Moabite wives, Ruth and Orpah, and anticipated the many descendants their unions would produce.

But then tragedy struck. The men all died, leaving the women helpless. Ruth and Naomi went from prosperity to poverty overnight. Naomi even changes her name to "Mara" which means "bitter" to reflect the hard times of their current context.

But faith is their guide. Naomi shares the faith of her ancestors with Ruth, and that faith guides them to promise, provision and plenty. Returning to the land of Judah, Ruth garners the attention of Boaz, a wealthy kinsman of Naomi's. After a brief courtship, Ruth and Boaz marry and conceive a son. Naomi joins them in their household to help care for the child; and through that child, the lineage of Naomi eventually produces David, who becomes the mightiest King ever for the people of Israel.

As we examine this story arc, we see promise and prosperity lost, resulting in poverty and despair; but even in the midst of that, there is hope. Working hard in faith, Ruth and Naomi regain their security. More importantly, God works through the poverty of Ruth and Naomi to produce the mightiest King ever to rule over Israel. David is the result of Naomi's bitter turn of events. From scarcity comes abundance.

This message is one of great importance to us in this day and age. As I write this, one of the most contentious elections in our history will come to a head in just two weeks. The fate of the world will be handed over to someone new, and we will live into that season no matter who is the top vote-getter. There will be a tumultuous time between November 5 and January 20, to be sure; but no matter what bitter times we go through, our faith tells us that there is always hope. God did not forget Ruth and Naomi, even when they felt bitter in their context. In like manner, God will not forget us, no matter the bitter divide within our country.

For this presence, we give thanks. In this season of Thanksgiving, no matter how "bitter" things get, we do have much for which we are thankful; most of all, God's presence in all things. God is our rock and our redeemer no matter what; and for that, we give thanks.

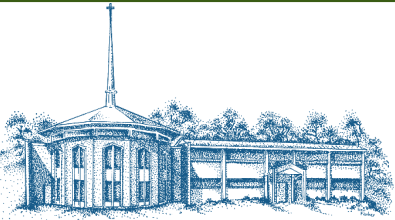


While we are giving thanks it is not too early to look ahead to Advent! The Advent Season begins December 1. Our Advent Cantata/Banquet will be December 8. That Sunday will also be our annual Cookies by the Pound sale, to benefit the Nurture & Education Ministry Team Fund. The Sunday School Christmas program is December 15. Our Women's Fellowship will be selling jellies and other goodies starting November 17, and they will have a bake sale November 24 to purchase goodies for Thanksgiving.

The season of preparation for Christ's birth is almost upon us; a wonderful time for Christians everywhere to be thankful, indeed!

*-Pastor Rick*





## **Columbia United Church of Christ**

**3201 I-70 Drive NW  
Columbia, MO 65202**

**Rev. Rick Oberle**

Pastor

**Rev. Fred Brandenburg**

Pastor Emeritus

**Shelly Adams**

Student Pastor

**Casey Wood**

Music Coordinator

**Steven Jannetti**

Organist/Accompanist

**Alexandra Roper**

Office Administrator

**Erika Maltsbarger**

Director, Little One's Day Out

**Caleb Berry**

Custodian

### **Sunday Schedule:**

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation

10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time

10:30 a.m. Worship

### **Office Hours:**

**Monday through Friday**

**9 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Phone:**

**(573) 445-7931**

**Email:**

**[office@columbiaucc.com](mailto:office@columbiaucc.com)**

**Website:**

**[www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)**



# *News & Updates*

## **SUNDAY MORNING SAFETY**

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

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

## **HELP SOMEONE CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS!**

The CUCC Christmas Gift Sponsorship Drive will start soon. To share your good cheer with someone who needs help, please go to the "tree" display in The Gathering Area and select a person to sponsor. Pick up their wish list and be sure to leave your name in the box!

CUCC has pledged to sponsor gifts and necessities for 45 people in low-income families screened by the Voluntary Action Center (VAC.) They include children and their parents or grandparents, as well as disabled adults. VAC suggests we purchase at least one new gift or household item (\$50-75 per person.) We may also contribute funds for holiday meals (optional this year.) If you plan to spend more than \$75, please adopt more than one person so we can help as many as possible. Take an information sheet from the display for further details.

A gift or two, some simple household items, or a holiday meal can make Christmas bright for someone who would otherwise go without. Deadline for return of gifts and food donations is December 8.

## **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP UPDATE**

Women's Fellowship will begin their annual jam, jelly, honey etc. sales on Sunday, November 17 in The Gathering Area. We're a one stop shop for easy, consumable gifts!


In anticipation of your Thanksgiving preparations and/or travels, we will hold a sweet breads sale on Sunday, November 24. Plan to pick up something yummy to share with your family.

Our next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, November 14, at 9:30 a.m. in The Gathering Area. All ladies are invited to join us for good food, good fellowship and a good time. This month's topic is Food Justice; our program will be led by Melba Shaffer.

## **ADVENT CANTATA/BANQUET**

Our annual Advent Cantata/Banquet will be held on Sunday, December 8 this year; mark your calendars! The choirs have begun rehearsing the cantata and the menu is being finalized for the banquet. Watch for upcoming Friday emails for a sign up sheet for the banquet. Since it is catered, we need a participant count. Talk to Mary Lorber if you have any questions! Happy Advent!

# November Birthdays

Lawson Flood-Lorber - 11/02	Lucy Smith - 11/02	Val Schoeneberg - 11/03
Megan Schoeneberg - 11/04	Cliff Beckman - 11/06	Patty Beeson - 11/06
Brad Boyd Kennedy - 11/08	Joseph Heine - 11/09	Barry Kirchhoff - 11/09
Gus Heine - 11/11	Vernie Blank - 11/12	Lillian Smith - 11/14
Luke Wedemeyer - 11/15	Coline Duncan - 11/18	Patty Schroeder - 11/18
Emmanuel Kibaro - 11/19	Deborah Long-Birkes - 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	James Elliott - 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 - 11/27	Levi Markway - 11/27
Zander Wells - 11/27	Alisa Lau-Sieckman - 11/28	Denny Hotle - 11/28
Shirley Gallaher - 11/28	Ginny Van Hove - 11/30	

# Sunday Volunteer Schedule for November

Date	Greeter	Usher	Worship Leader	Tech Booth
11/03	Jolene Kirchhoff Sue Ann Schaefer	Mark Duncan Jane Duncan	Pat Forward	Brent Marcks John Graves
11/10	Kristy Hayward	Pat Forward	Sue Ann Schaefer	Judi Privitt Doug Privitt
11/17	Carol Duermeyer	Llona Weiss	Judi Privitt	Mike Pierson Trevor Pierson
11/24	Susan Dunham	Jim Loveless John Muench	Tricia Soncasie	Lorry Dreier Carissa Graves



# Moderator's Moment

Fall is in full swing and that makes me think of the fall harvest. Now, most of us are not farmers; but living in Missouri, we still have some connection to the fall harvest whether we like it or not. We may get stuck behind a combine going down a two-lane lettered highway, or we may breathe in some agricultural dust in drier years; but we all benefit from the food that is produced. The number of farms in this country has been on the decline since 1982. In the most recent agricultural census, there were 1.89 million U.S. farms in 2023, down seven percent from the 2.04 million found in the 2017 Census of Agriculture. So with less and less people going into the farming business, what, as modern Americans, do we harvest? What should we be celebrating at these big harvest parties?

I'd be willing to guess back in the Native American and pilgrim days, the size of the harvest party largely depended on how good the harvest was each year. In a way, globalism has put an end to these hyper local ups and downs and on the whole I would have to imagine that's a good thing. But again, what exactly does the modern person harvest? Is it money? Status? Objects? Relationships? I think I will leave it as an open ended question to ponder. And you may find yourself answering it as this season of reflection begins, perhaps at the Thanksgiving dinner table or in a quiet moment. I believe those things that you are most grateful for at the end of the year reflect what you have been working towards.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kurt Heine, Moderator



# Fellowship & Hospitality

Greetings! Well! If you didn't make it to the Fall Festival, you missed a beautiful afternoon and evening. We were blessed to have some Scouts and their parents present for hot dogs, s'mores, and games - plus a nice fire pit to roast the marshmallows on. A big shout out to all who helped make this event possible, you know who you are! Our team will be working on trick-or-treat bags for Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School, and then it's time to think of our Veterans' Appreciation Breakfast on November 10. Our Christmas Advent Banquet is also just around the corner, so stay tuned for more news on our exciting, upcoming events.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lorber-Solt  
Ministry Team Chair



## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	Kurt Heine	<a href="mailto:heinekurt@gmail.com">heinekurt@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	Jerry Kiesling	<a href="mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com">rollzierp50@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Alethea Tennill	<a href="mailto:atennill108@gmail.com">atennill108@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Deborah Long Birkes	<a href="mailto:dlong@elon.edu">dlong@elon.edu</a>
<b>Recording Treasurer:</b>	Christine Staelens	<a href="mailto:tigersfour@gmail.com">tigersfour@gmail.com</a>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds:</b>	Ted Dachroeden	<a href="mailto:gpadoc4gd@gmail.com">gpadoc4gd@gmail.com</a>
<b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality:</b>	Mary Lorber-Solt	<a href="mailto:eldercow@gmail.com">eldercow@gmail.com</a>
<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship:</b>	Vacant	
<b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation:</b>	Tricia Price	<a href="mailto:tricialprice@gmail.com">tricialprice@gmail.com</a>
<b>Little One's Day Out:</b>	Kristin Veteto	<a href="mailto:kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com">kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership &amp; Care:</b>	Judi Privitt	<a href="mailto:judiprivitt811@gmail.com">judiprivitt811@gmail.com</a>
<b>Nurture &amp; Education:</b>	Lena Muench	<a href="mailto:cfc323@yahoo.com">cfc323@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy:</b>	Mark Duncan	<a href="mailto:markduncan2@mchsi.com">markduncan2@mchsi.com</a>
<b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>	Jedd Schneider	<a href="mailto:elusive4thtenor@icloud.com">elusive4thtenor@icloud.com</a>
<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Rick Oberle	<a href="mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com">rick@columbiaucc.com</a>





# CUCC Church Council

Kurt Heine called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m., and Pastor Rick opened the meeting with a prayer. Present: Kurt Heine, Jerry Kiesling, Christine Staelens, Ted Dachroeden, Mary Lorber-Solt, Tricia Price, Judi Privitt, Rick Oberle, and Jedd Schneider. Tricia Price made a motion to approve the September agenda which was seconded and passed. Mary Lorber-Solt moved to approve the minutes, also seconded and passed. Judi Privitt shared a summary of chapters 3 and 4 of our book study, *A Real Good Church* by Rev. Molly Phinney. Lena Muench will discuss Chapter 2 at our October meeting.

## Unfinished Business

- Policy & Procedures Manual Review Update: The executive committee brought an updated Personnel Policy, and it was approved by council.
- Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Chair: Position is open and we are trying to fill it.
- Ministry Teams Fair Evaluation: It was great, but next time we need to do it in September when there will be more people in attendance. We had a few people sign up for specific events or projects, but not ministry teams as a whole. We might leave some leftover signups and flyers on the table in the coat room.
- Western Association Fall Meeting: September 21. We need a few more volunteers to sign up.
- New Light for Sign: Fred Malicoat is working a bid for it.
- Vision Team Plans 2024: The meeting is September 26 at 6:30 p.m.
- Scouts Chartering Sunday: September 22. Pastor Rick has worked with the scouts on plans. They're going to do a liturgy, and scouts will participate in different parts of the service. Fellowship is going to provide a treat after the service, maybe doughnuts or cupcakes.

## New Business

- 2025 Budget: Keith Birkes brought us the 2025 budget from the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team. They have compiled it with input from the ministry teams and reviewed administrative expenses. The budget has been sent out via email for all to review. The motion passed to approve the budget.
- Forensic financial review: Pastor Rick and Christine Staelens have been talking about hiring a company to go over our financial records and figure out discrepancies dating back years. We have a bid from one company but we need a few more bids to compare.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Rick focused his report on the book of Acts in his report and how we are doing the work of the church.

**Financials Report:** We are over budget in income but even more over budget in expenses, but some of that is just because of the timing of how stuff gets paid. We are still doing better than most years.

## Ministry Team Reports:

- **Building & Grounds:** October 5 from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. will be an outside work day. Some scouts are helping as well as congregation members.
- **Fellowship & Hospitality:** We served 80 plates at the Rally Day fish fry. Our next meeting is October 14, before the Fall Festival.
- **Finance & Stewardship:** vacant
- **Inclusion & Affirmation:** Please sign up for our booth at PrideFest.
- **LODO:** Numbers are a bit low, but there are very specific reasons for each family. They just approved a new computer for Erika. One staff member just resigned due to illness.
- **Membership & Care:** Report submitted.
- **Nurture & Education:** Report submitted.
- **Outreach & Advocacy:** Report submitted.
- **Worship & Music:** Taizé services are coming up. They're working on putting the music for the Lord's Prayer in the back of the hymnal and creating protocols for making sure the people running the slides in the service understand what they need to do.

Pastor Rick closed us in prayer. Judy Privitt moved to adjourn, and Jedd seconded. The motion passed, and the meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tricia Price,  
Acting Secretary



# Music & Worship Ministry Team

Hi all. As we enter the last quarter of the year, I have some CUCC music-related opportunities to tell you about.

During the November 17 Sunday worship service, we will be inviting all the Sunday School children to perform the anthem with the Celebration Singers. To prepare for this performance, I will hold three short rehearsals with the kids. These rehearsals will be November 3, 10, and 17; all of them from 9:40 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the music room. The kids don't need to read music, and none of them will have to sing a solo. So, please have your kids join us on those days.

Second, we are starting to prepare for our "Advent Cantata," which will take place on December 8 during the 10:30 worship service. Even if you've never sung in the choir before, we'd love to have you join us for this. Cantata-specific rehearsals are on Wednesdays, November 13, 20, and December 4. These rehearsals will be held from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Finally, both the Celebration Singers and the Chapel Ringers will be performing at the 7:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. We'd love to have you join us for that as well. We are also working on music for the later service.

While we do have the choir perform every Sunday at the worship service, we'll always accept extra performances and special music during worship. If anyone wants to contribute to worship music outside of the choir, please let me know.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Casey Wood  
Music Coordinator



## WELCOME TO QUORUS!

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

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

Quorus would love to have CUCC members join their choir! To learn more about Quorus, **CLICK HERE**.

If you are interested in joining them or talking to Audra Sergal, their director and coordinator, **CLICK HERE**.



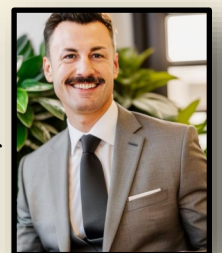
## **EXCITING TIMES LAY AHEAD WITH WORSHIP & MUSIC AT CUCC!**

Another 6-week run of Taizé worship begins Wednesday, November 6 at 5:30 p.m. Come experience this contemplative worship mode as Steve Jannetti leads us in a service of prayerful, minimalist songs, and readings as a time for deep Advent reflection.

The Celebration Singers and Celebration Ringers will continue to prepare for Advent. Our Advent cantata will be presented Sunday, December 8, featuring a smattering of varied seasonal anthems. There is still time to lend your voice or your hands to these ensembles before the holiday season, so please join us at Wednesday rehearsal anytime!

What do you want to see from the Worship & Music committee through this season of anticipation and preparation? I want to hear from you. Please reach out to me anytime with your joys and concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jedd Schneider





# Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team

## WHAT IS A DONOR ADVISED FUND (DAF) ????

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is a charitable investment account that allows individuals to donate cash, stocks or other assets to support charities. DAF's are administered by a sponsoring organization and the account earns interest until the time at which you choose to grant to the Nonprofits of your choice.

There are immediate income tax deductions for the deposits of cash, stocks or other assets. You can name children or trusted family members to continue your tradition of giving for future generations. The cash, stocks or other assets you select for the DAR cannot be removed unless it's through a grant to a nonprofit of your choice. You can make an impact on the future of Columbia United Church of Christ today and for years to come. One way to make this happen is by donating to our new Endowment Fund through a DAF.

For more information about a DAF, please contact your Investment Advisor, your accountant, or Matt Wagner, Vice President with United Church Funds. Matt Wagner's email is [matt.wagner@ucfunds.org](mailto:matt.wagner@ucfunds.org) and his phone is 332-219-8760.

Respectfully Submitted,  
-Paula Wilson



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

## Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
September Income	\$27,265.16	\$33,450.00	(-\$6,184.84)
September Expenses	\$40,186.50	\$38,305.56	\$1,880.94
YTD Income	\$268,403.28	\$265,975.00	\$2,428.28
YTD Expenses	\$310,609.25	\$291,361.20	\$19,248.05
Surplus/(Deficit)	(-\$42,205.97)	(-\$25,386.20)	(-\$16,819.77)
September Joyful Giving	\$26,590.16	\$31,500.00	(-\$4,909.84)
YTD Joyful Giving	\$257,008.16	\$255,500.00	\$1,508.16

## Worship Attendance

Date	Attendance
09/01	66
09/08	115
09/15	110
09/22	121
09/29	94

## 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](http://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

There is a 2022 website called 'SC training.' The "SC" stands for Safety/Culture training. It's target audience is employers, but several of their statements could apply anywhere to any organization or, even, to individuals. Here are a few examples.

**Ethnic and Cultural Differences:** Each of our identities have a basis in the culture and customs we observed and experienced growing up. As we all have unique upbringings, these differences can, at times, illicit positive or negative feelings in others. It is important to learn how to calmly discuss these issues in order to find resolutions that are acceptable to all. **Alternative lifestyles** (lifestyles that differ from society's 'norms'): When we hear that phrase, we often think of the Queer community. However, alternative lifestyles also include: veganism, choosing to be childless, modifying one's body (tattoos, bright hair coloring, etc.) and unusual hobbies - just to name a few. Accepting our differences and/or preferences begins with understanding the reasons behind those choices. Those discussions can assist with understanding and acceptance of identities that are different from our own. **Non-Inclusive Diversity:** As the saying goes, "diversity is a fact – inclusion is an act." Diversity without inclusion, within any type of community, defeats the purpose of being diverse. Thus, having a roomful of individuals from various walks of life, but only catering to the dominant subgroup, is counterproductive. (Source: training.safetyculture.com)

"It's hard to keep an open mind if you don't have an open heart. You don't have to agree with what people think to learn from how they think. You don't have to share their identity to be curious about what shaped it. Treating people with civility is a prerequisite for discovery." -Adam Grant, organizational psychologist.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alisa Lau-Sieckman



## News You Can Use from your Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

- ✍ Join us for movie and pizza night: Saturday, November 2 at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We'll watch "Origin," a 2023 film written and directed by Ava DuVernay, based on the life of Isabel Wilkerson when she wrote the book Caste: Origins of our Discontents. Rated PG-13. [CLICK HERE](#) to RSVP
- ✍ What a weekend at Mid-MO PrideFest 2024! We are grateful for the following volunteers who handed out giveaway bags: Lilly Jaberg, Mick Crowley, Tricia Soncasie, Carissa Graves, Shelly Adams, Elaine Trout, Mahree Skala, Edie Diehl, Lydia Whitacre, Helen Schultz, Cindy Deegan, Tricia Price, and Pastor Rick.
- ✍ A BIG Thank You to the outdoor Nativity scene painters: Shelly Adams, Maia Crenshaw-Marienfeld, and Tricia Price.
- ✍ "Embracing the Dream: Columbia Commits to Action" is the theme for the Columbia Values Diversity Celebration, Wednesday, January 29, 2025, from 7:00-9:00 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Expo Center. Let Pastor Rick or Tricia Price know if you'd like to join our table.

## 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 should certainly count our blessings, but we should also make our blessings count."* -Neal A. Maxwell

Little One's Day Out had a super fun October! Our month started with school photos by Johnson Photography. Being present to see our students giggle and smile for photos is extremely heartwarming. We are thankful for the young hearts in our program that brighten our days by learning new skills and bringing laughter and fun to our daily lives.

Our annual Pumpkin Fun Day was held on Friday October 11. It was a fun morning of fall themed crafts, activities, and games. Many thanks to our staff, families, and volunteers that helped to make this a memorable event for our students! Our volunteers included Judi Privitt, Llona Weiss, Jo Ellen Grace, Alexandra Roper, Cordelia Maltsbarger, and Lexi Long.

Little One's Day Out was the winner of "Clear 99.3 Delivers" on October 16. Morning hosts Scotty and Liz delivered a delicious meal from D.Rowe's restaurant for the LODO staff. Maybe you heard them mention us on the radio that week!

Ms. Erika attended the Columbia Orthopedic Group Trunk-or-Treat on October 26, representing LODO, and handed out over 500 bottles of bubbles and lots of candy to the youth of our community.

On November 14, we will celebrate with our families and staff at our annual Thanksgiving Feast, held in the CUCC Fellowship Hall from 6:00-8:00 p.m. This is a wonderful fellowship event for our preschool program and includes a delicious meal. Our staff will meet with parents/guardians for Student Conferences between November 18-26. We value this opportunity to have intentional conversations with families about their child's overall development.

In Love and Laughter,  
Erika Maltsbarger





# Nurture & Education Ministry Team

- ✳ **Blessing Boxes** are a beloved fall tradition at CUCC! We love sending care packages to our college, trade school, and military crew. We have a tentative list, but want to make sure we don't miss anyone! Please submit any names and addresses to Alexandra no later than November 7. Even if you think they "could" be on our list already, please send her their information!
- ✳ Please bring nonperishable food items (high-protein items encouraged) to church on Sunday, November 24. Our kiddos and youth will process into The Sanctuary carrying the items, placing them at the altar to offer our thanks to God for the abundance in our lives. All items will be donated to the Food Bank Market.
- ✳ **Christmas Program Practices** will begin on Sunday, November 24. We'll practice from 9:30-10:00 a.m. on November 24, December 1, December 8, and December 15. Still be sure to come to Sunday School at 9:00 a.m.! The program will be for all of our Sunday School kiddos and youth (ages 3-12th grade.) Can't make it to all of the practices? No worries! Our kiddos and youth will present their Christmas Program on Sunday, December 15 during worship.
- ✳ **Cookies by the Pound**, our festive fundraiser, will be on Sunday, December 8. We need both bakers and buyers! Please bring your homemade treats (cookies, candies, etc.) to the gathering area by 9:00 a.m. We will sell all treats "by the pound," and funds raised will benefit Nurture/Education Ministry Team projects. Any form of payment such as cash, check, Kindrid, or Venmo is welcome!

Adult Bible Study: Sundays, 9:00-10:00 a.m. (upstairs in Education Wing, last room on the left.)

Sunday School: Sundays, 9:00-10:00 a.m., ages 3-12th grade. PreK-2nd Grade and 3rd -5th Grade classes are upstairs in the Education Wing, 6th -12th Grade are downstairs in Youth Lounge. We'll have breakfast every Sunday morning- one less thing to get ready in the morning before heading to church!

**We still need your help.** Before you read on, know that by helping us you are not committing to being on the Nurture/Education Ministry Team or attending any team meetings. We hope this makes helping seem more approachable. We have spots for greeters/floaters for Sunday morning, and leaders especially in our 3-5 grade class (but also a handful for 6-12.) We know everyone's busy and involved in lots of things at church already. Also, that many of you already attend Sunday Morning Adult Classes, but hope you'd be willing to help us out on occasion. This doesn't require a certain level of commitment. Even signing up for one Sunday would be a huge blessing.

- ✳ **Greeter/Floater:** Welcome folks/show them where to go for Sunday School from 8:45-9:15 a.m. Then from 9:15-10:00 a.m., pop into the three classes (PreK-2 and 3-5 upstairs, then 6-12 downstairs) to put away breakfast items, see if any help is needed, etc.
- ✳ **Leader:** Don't be scared...you can do this...promise! Think of it more as "we'll have everything ready for you - we'll give you a heads up prior as to the plan du jour - just show up and do the things with the kids." Love 'em and have fun with 'em. If it would make you feel more comfortable to "shadow" one of our regular crew, that's totally an option as well.

To sign up [CLICK HERE](#) (you can also scan the QR code):

I am always happy to field ANY questions or ideas that you may have!  
My cell is 573-881-2571.

It is a busy time of year, but it is filled with so much joy and anticipation. Thanks for your support of our kiddos, youth, and learners of all ages!



With Love,  
Lena Muench  
Nurture & Education  
Ministry Team Chair





# Taizé Prayer

WEDNESDAYS AT 5:30 P.M.  
NOVEMBER 13 - DECEMBER 18  
COLUMBIA UCC | 3201 I-70 DR NW  
COLUMBIAUCC.COM

JOIN US FOR HALF AN HOUR EACH  
WEDNESDAY EVENING THIS ADVENT  
SEASON, TO GATHER IN A RELAXING  
SERVICE OF PRAYER, SONG, AND  
CONTEMPLATION BY CANDLELIGHT.

TAIZÉ IS A HISTORIC FRENCH STYLE  
OF MEDITATIVE PRAYER THAT CALLS  
US TO DWELL DEEPLY ON CHRIST'S  
PRESENCE AROUND AND WITHIN US.





# Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team



The October 21 meal at L&F was an assortment of leftovers and freshly made spaghetti. We served brisket and pulled pork sandwiches, coleslaw, and macaroni & cheese which were left from previous church luncheons. Mary Lorber and Audrey Lasley made the spaghetti. Our desserts consisted of a variety of cakes and cookies. Jessica Jenks made and provided the PB&J sandwiches. Our servers for the evening were Jessica Jenks, Tom & Mary Lorber, Mary's sister, Debby, Doug & Judi Privitt, Patty Beeson, and Preh, a student. Jim Loveless did a great job of keeping up with the dishwashing. We had approximately 115 servings. Thank you to everyone!

In September, we bagged a new item called "Gems," a bright blue cereal. There were 14 helpers: Mona and Ted Dachroeden, Jo Ellen Grace, Rita Grace, Jessica and Kennedy Lucas, Mahree Skala, plus seven Scouts (From Troop 708: Alex Moss and his mom Aimee, and from Troop 4475: Alex & Erin Hardy, Colby Nazario, Emily Smith, and their leader Janie Smith.) It was wonderful to have the help of the energetic Scouts and their leaders!

The upcoming CUCC Food Bank Shift is on November 26, 5:30-7:30 p.m. We never know what our task will be, but it's always something nutritious. Our next shift is scheduled for November 26 at 5:30 p.m. Hope you can join in!

To sign up for our November shift, [CLICK HERE](#) or talk to Mahree Skala.



## **Thank you CUCC members for continuing to think about Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School (AHL) when you have items to donate.**

I delivered several backpacks in October that were much appreciated. On October 4, I attended the CPS Faith-based Advisory Committee meeting with Superintendent Dr. Yearwood and Ms. Jennifer Maddox (CPS Director of Health Services) and Dr. Jeff Klein (Chief Academic Officer.) There are a number of different faith groups represented at these meetings and it is a good opportunity to meet and work with them in aiding our youth to attend school and learn and grow. Dr. Yearwood encouraged the Faith community to talk with parents and families to engage in their children's schools through PTAs, various organizations, and volunteering that connects their youth to the schools and learning.



He also asked us to share the CPS data:

- \*over the past 2 years we have increased our attendance from 73% to 80% with a goal of 90% in 2026-27.
- \*our graduation rate has increased to 90.1%.
- \*we have decreased our out of school suspensions from 3684 to 3202 and our goal is to continue decreasing out of school suspensions because our students cannot learn when they are not in school.
- \*goal of 3% proficiency on MAP exams each year (math and communication arts).

This information is available on the CPS website.

It was so exciting on October 18 when I visited with Kindergarten students at the AVID Academy day and they told me, and showed me through their drawings, what they wanted to be when they grew up: police, doctor, motorcycle racer, dad, ballerina, mom, ninja, gymnast, princess!

Pastor Rick and I plan to attend the AHL PTA Trunk-or-Treat at school on October 30 and share in the festivities with acknowledgment of CUCC as a Partnership Friend of AHL. Also, Pastor Rick, our Scouts, and AHL have discussed looking to the future for opportunities to work together. Such excitement!!!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Llona Weiss  
Liaison for CUCC to AHL





# Scouting America

In October, Troops 708 and 4475 hosted a joint recruiting campout at Jefferson Farms in Columbia. Cub Scouts from area packs came out for a day of activities and the opportunity to camp with their families.

The recruitment campout is one of the most favorite campouts for the Scouts. For most of the campouts during the year, both troops do their own thing; but for a few special weekends, they come together for fellowship through Scouting. It's a tradition both troops look forward to. "I think both troops just have a good time hanging out with each other," says Tessa Steele, a fourth-year Scout.

Scouts staffed many activity stations, such as archery, knot tying, first aid, fire building, and fishing. The campout gives Scout the opportunity to practice their leadership skills as they plan the activities for the younger Cubs.

The Scouts lead the Cubs at each station, teaching them how to complete the activities and sharing what it's like to be a Scout. Afterwards, the Cubs joined each Scout patrol to cook dinner on their own. No adult help needed!

As the sun sinks below the horizon, everyone gathered around a campfire and the Scouts shared with the Cubs a time-honored tradition of retiring American flags. The Scouts followed a set protocol to show the proper respect during a ceremony that culminates in burning each flag. The Scout handbook states, "When the national flag is worn beyond repair, burn it thoroughly and completely on a modest, but blazing, fire. This should be done in a simple manner with dignity and respect. Be sure the flag is reduced to ashes unrecognizable as a former flag."

Photos by Brian Kratzer





# International Missions

## CUCC IS WORKING IN JAPAN

The Asian Rural Institute (ARI) in Japan is committed to sustainable rural development and leadership training. Founded in 1973, ARI brings together individuals from diverse backgrounds across Asia and Africa. Participants engage in hands-on learning, sustainable agricultural practices, and community development projects, promoting food security, and poverty alleviation. ARI's emphasis on leadership, gender equality, and spirituality fosters well-rounded, socially conscious leaders. By equipping participants with skills and values for sustainable change, the Asian Rural Institute significantly contributes to improving the lives of rural communities and advancing global efforts towards sustainable agriculture and rural development.

Through **Global Ministries**, CUCC is a partner in mission with The Asian Rural Institute (ARI) and, through them, we are actively working with many families in Japan. This month, please keep Global Ministries, ARI, and the people of Japan in your prayers!



## DR. NIBEDITA PRAMANIK AND THE EVANGELICAL HOSPITAL SOCIETY KHARIR

On Sunday, October 6, Dr. Nibedita Pramanik was our special guest for the 9:00 a.m. Adult Education Sunday School hour, and 10:30 a.m. worship. We were thrilled to have her with us for these special times of education and fellowship. After worship, Anne Heine and the Health Ministry Care Team took her out for lunch, and a tour of University Hospital. It was an amazing day of building a connection with one of our global mission partners.

Dr. Pramanik is a Global Missions Co-Worker (Missionary) with **Global Ministries**, the shared mission agency of the United Church of Christ/Disciples of Christ. Through Global Ministries, we have a presence with 250 mission partners all around the world, in 90 countries.

**The Evangelical Hospital Society** in Kharir, India is one of those mission partners; and Dr. Pramanik is the director of this Hospital. Dr. Pramanik share a bit of their history with us in her presentation on October 6:

*In 1923, The German Evangelical Synod (our predecessor) sent Rev. Herman Feierabrand and his spouse, Marie Feierabrend (RN), along with their children, to Kharir to establish a congregation. The Mukti Marg Church was established in 1923, (the same year our church was established). They also established an orphanage and a school. All of these are thriving to this day. However, two of their children died of communicable diseases in this first year of missionary work. The nearest medical facility was three days away. Healing from this tragedy, they petitioned the Evangelical Synod to form a hospital in Kharir. The Synod agreed, and the Evangelical Hospital Society was formed in 1930. What started as a 4-bed hospital in 1930 has now grown into a 110-bed multispecialty secondary level hospital complex, working together with the school and the orphanage.*

**Evangelical Hospital Society** in Khariar treats the poor with the best medical care, adopting new cost effective technology to provide holistic care. They strive to be Christ's witness through their service to the community. Their outpatient services include specialties in general surgery, orthopedics, pediatrics, obstetrics and gynecology, palliative medicine and psychiatry. Internal services include 24 hour a day, 7 day a week emergency services, critical care services, recovery services, and more. They have full radiological services and advanced laboratory services including hematology, biochemistry, and microbiology labs; as well as a blood bank. This is just one of the missions we, as a congregation, support through our support of Global Ministries and the National United Church of Christ. Please continue to keep Global Ministries, The Evangelical Hospital Society, and Dr. Pramanik in your prayers!





# On the Church Calendar in November

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 OFFICE CLOSED	2 5:00 p.m. - Inclusion & Affirmation Movie Night
3 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship 12:00 p.m. - Nurture & Education Ministry Team	4 5:00 p.m. - Membership & Care Ministry Team 6:30 p.m. - Worship & Music Team	5 ELECTION DAY 9:00 a.m. - LODO Staff Meeting 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting	6 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers	7	8	9
10 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 9:00 a.m. - Veterans Breakfast 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship	11 6:00 p.m. - Scouting America	12 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. - Troop 708 6:30 p.m. - Outreach & Advocacy Team	13 5:30 p.m. - Taizé Service 6:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Team 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers	14 9:30 a.m. - Women's Fellowship 6:00 p.m. - LODO Thanksgiving	15 FELLOWSHIP HALL IN USE - CONFERENCE EVENT	16 FELLOWSHIP HALL IN USE - CONFERENCE EVENT
17 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship 12:00 p.m. - Lunch & Learn: Team Earth	18 4:30 p.m. - Loaves & Fishes 6:00 p.m. - Scouting America	19 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. - Council Meeting	20 10:00 a.m. - Pastor Rick leads worship at The Bluffs 5:30 p.m. - Taizé Service 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers	21 6:00 p.m. - Troop 4475	22	23
24 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship	25 6:00 p.m. - Scouting America 6:30 p.m. - Fellowship & Hospitality Team	26 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. - Food Bank	27	28 OFFICE CLOSED - THANKSGIVING	29 OFFICE CLOSED - NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE DAY	30



# The Communicator

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



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## ELECTRONIC SERVICE REQUESTED

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



**Columbia United Church of Christ is home to four Scouting America Units, chartered through our congregation:**

Cub Scout Pack 5183  
(Kindergarten through fifth grade)  
Scouting America Troop 4475  
(Girls Troop)  
Scouting America Troop 708  
(Boys Troop)  
Venture Crew 5334 (older youth)



### Interested in Church Membership?

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

**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

**Columbia  
United Church  
of Christ is a proud  
sponsor and  
supporter of Quorus!**



### 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.