

# The Communicator

June 2025

## From the Pastor's Keyboard . . .

*"A Pentecost Moment"*

*And he (Peter) testified with many other arguments and exhorted them... and that day about three thousand persons were added. They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved. -Acts 2:37-47*

Our Tuesday afternoon Bible Study group has been looking at the Book of Acts and all the ways the early church was fired up by the Holy Spirit to do God's work in the world. In this section, the Holy Spirit inspires Peter to preach to the crowds gathered in Jerusalem; and because of his testimony, three thousand people were added.

This is not a story of institutional support or doctrinal mandate; this is a story of the power of testimony. God's Holy Spirit did not "inspire" three thousand people to join the church, God's Holy Spirit inspired Peter to reach out to a community of people who were hungry to hear a message of faith with integrity. The Holy Spirit did not act alone; They acted through Peter and the other Apostles.

Our church is in a Pentecost moment. After the ravages of the pandemic and the attrition of membership due to the cultural effects of that pandemic, we are in a Pentecost moment. We have a new LODO Director, and a new Music Coordinator, both with new visions for ministry; we have an Administrative Assistant with fresh new ideas and great skills and a fantastic Organist/Accompanist. All three section leaders are planning to come back this fall, and several frequent guests are interested in becoming more connected with the church. We are fully staffed to do great things in the time that is to come. We are in a pivotal moment in the life of our congregation.

But the Holy Spirit is not going to revive the church all on Their own; just as the Holy Spirit did not, independently, add three thousand people to the early church. The Holy Spirit needs "Peters" to get the job done. Just like that first century community of faithful people who were dismissed as irrelevant by religious leaders, we have a world full of people who have been turned off by hypocritical church. The right message will bring new vitality to our congregation, if we are bold enough to preach it.

But why would we want to do such a thing? Is it all about keeping the doors to this church open? Is it about institutional vitality alone? If that is the only reason we "do church" then our work is essentially irrelevant. Our witnessing is not just about paying the bills for this institution; it is about spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to a world that needs to hear it- just like Acts 2. We are called to glorify God, not this church; but one of the ways we glorify God is by bringing institutional stability to God's church; in this setting, Columbia UCC.

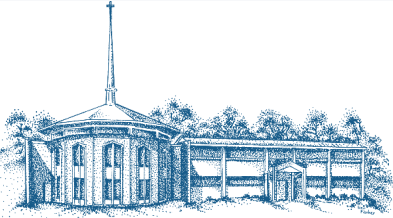
Columbia United Church of Christ needs a marketing team. But the marketing team that we need is not just a "committee" of 6-8 people; it is a team of 200+ people; the members of this church. We all need to be the "marketing team" for Columbia UCC by sharing the Good News, witnessing just as Peter did to all who will hear. Social media posts, word of mouth, direct invitations, and even casual conversation will help draw people to our church. But they won't know the glories of loving Christ if you don't show them the way.



- Question- can people tell you are a member of CUCC from your Facebook page?
- Question- do your friends/co-workers know you go to church?
- Question- how can you work "church" into casual conversation with your friends?

This summer, many people "take off" from church. I encourage you to use this summer to introduce some of your friends to Columbia UCC through social media, word of mouth, direct invitation and casual conversation. Bring a friend Sunday is not just once a year; it is our call as Christians to practice this every Sunday. We are Pentecost people; let's all go out and share the Good News!

**-Pastor Rick**



# News & Updates

## Columbia United Church of Christ

3201 I-70 Drive NW  
Columbia, MO 65202

**Rev. Rick Oberle**  
Pastor

**Rev. Fred Brandenburg**  
Pastor Emeritus

**Shelly Adams**  
Student Pastor

**Mike Pierson**  
Music Coordinator

**Steven Jannetti**  
Organist/Accompanist

**Alexandra Roper**  
Office Administrator

**Sara Koenig**  
Director, Little One's Day Out

**Caleb Berry**  
Custodian

### Summer Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Fellowship Time  
9:30 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)



### STRENGTHEN THE CHURCH UCC

We will participate in the 2025 Offering, **Strengthen the Church** (STC) on June 8, Pentecost Sunday. The Offering reflects the shared commitment of people across the United Church of Christ to cooperatively build up the UCC. Conferences and the national setting equally share the gifts given by members and friends through their local congregations. The funds raised support leadership development, new churches, youth ministry, and innovation in existing congregations.

As God calls our congregations to be the church in new ways, your generosity will plant new churches, awaken new ideas in existing churches and develop the spiritual life in our youth and young adults. Some of the offering is used to support youth in attending the General Synod.

The 2025 theme for Strengthen the Church is "Great and Wide." This phrase, from Psalm 104, represents the diverse and playful nature of the multitude of ministries the offering supports. Whether the offering supports an outdoor worshipping community in Wisconsin or the National Ministries MESA team who builds systems to connect pastors and congregations, the movement of God is apparent.

### WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP ROAD TRIP

Ladies - are you ready for a road trip? Mark your calendars to join Women's Fellowship on Thursday, June 12, 2025 for an adventure visiting some of the organizations we have made contributions to. We will meet at church at 8:45 a.m. and board the bus to visit the Food Bank Market, Room At the Inn, and the Opportunity Campus site. This will be followed by a brown bag lunch at Love Coffee. Please let Jolene Kirchhoff or Jo Ellen Grace know if you plan to attend. The deadline to order lunch is June 9. You can find the lunch menu online at <https://www.columbia lovecoffee.org/menu>.

### HOW WE PROCESS THE CHANGES IN OUR LIVES

On June 22 after worship, we will meet in Fellowship Hall for a workshop led by Corinne Remeika exploring how each of us copes with changes in our lives. The goal is for each of us to consider where we are now in our skills, what resources there are from which we can choose, and how choices can help transform us and strengthen our trust in God's presence in our daily lives. There will be a packet of handouts with information about processing challenges in life and a list of resources. There will also be information on learning proper coping skills for those in every stage of life, ranging from childhood to older adulthood. Additionally, there is information for those who are parents, guardians, or those interact with children. Please sign up for the workshop using the sign up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary or contact Corinne at 573-449-7574.

# Moderator's Moment

As summer begins, many of us will travel, take vacations, and participate in activities to rest and have renewal. In Titus, chapter 3, verse 5, we are reminded that, "God saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit." June 8 is Pentecost Sunday, a celebration of God's gift of the Holy Spirit to each of us.

On June 8, our Scouting America units will lead us in worship. Later in the month, we will celebrate our Open and Affirming Covenant and our commitment to welcome all of God's people into our church. This is a great example of how Columbia UCC members made a real effort to live into their faith and share their faith and God's love with every person. Every person, no matter who they are or where they are on life's journey. Sometimes it isn't easy to share our faith, but seeing members at PrideFests, Earth Day events, and in our online presence allows people to know we are here. These actions allow us to reach more of God's people like the Scouts, the Quorus, and many others needing God's love.

From the first time I attended services (after I watched online for a couple of months) the genuine acceptance we felt helped feel the extension of God's love and the work of the Holy Spirit through you. Other people are also looking for this kind of love and acceptance. Let's share that with them as we share Facebook posts, telling our friends and families about what our church means to us, and spread the love we have at CUCC!

Thank you for allowing me to be your Moderator. Columbia UCC has so many things happening and I appreciate each and everything you all do.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jerry Kiesling,  
Council Moderator



## GENERAL SYNOD JULY 11-15

**General Synod**, the biennial national gathering of the United Church of Christ, is happening this summer in Kansas City! This is a time for incredible worship, education, and faith sharing experiences. This is the closest it will ever be to Columbia— your chance to experience the joy of Christian Fellowship at this setting! Pastor Rick will be attending several days during this time, including the community worship celebration on Sunday afternoon (July 13) at 2:00 p.m. If you would like more information, talk to **Pastor Rick!**

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	Jerry Kiesling	<a href="mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com"><u>rollzierp50@gmail.com</u></a>
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	VACANT	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Alethea Tennill	<a href="mailto:atennill108@gmail.com"><u>atennill108@gmail.com</u></a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Deborah Long Birkes	<a href="mailto:dlong@elon.edu"><u>dlong@elon.edu</u></a>
<b>Recording Treasurer:</b>	Christine Staelens	<a href="mailto:tigersfour@gmail.com"><u>tigersfour@gmail.com</u></a>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds:</b>	Ted Dachroeden	<a href="mailto:gpadoc4gd@gmail.com"><u>gpadoc4gd@gmail.com</u></a>
<b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality:</b>	Mary Lorber-Solt	<a href="mailto:eldercow@gmail.com"><u>eldercow@gmail.com</u></a>
<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship:</b>	Shelly Adams	<a href="mailto:shellyraeadams@gmail.com"><u>shellyraeadams@gmail.com</u></a>
<b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation:</b>	Ashley Ramirez	<a href="mailto:ashknight0628@gmail.com"><u>ashknight0628@gmail.com</u></a>
<b>Little One's Day Out:</b>	Kristin Veteto	<a href="mailto:kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com"><u>kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com</u></a>
<b>Membership &amp; Care:</b>	Judi Privitt	<a href="mailto:judiprivitt811@gmail.com"><u>judiprivitt811@gmail.com</u></a>
<b>Nurture &amp; Education:</b>	Lena Muench	<a href="mailto:cfg323@yahoo.com"><u>cfg323@yahoo.com</u></a>
<b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy:</b>	VACANT	
<b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>	Edie Diel	<a href="mailto:edie@thedandegroup.com"><u>edie@thedandegroup.com</u></a>
<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Rick Oberle	<a href="mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com"><u>rick@columbiaucc.com</u></a>





# Sunday Volunteer Schedule for June

Date	Greeter	Usher	Worship Leader	Tech Booth
06/01	Carol Duermeyer	Keith Birkes Deborah Birkes	Judi Privitt	Doug Privitt Ted Dachroeden
06/08	Jessica Lucas	Scouts	Scouts	Josh Muench Lorry Drier
06/15	Anne Heine	Llona Weiss Audrey Lasley	Sue Ann Schaefer	Brent Marks Doug Privitt
06/22	Helen Schultz	Mahree Skala Phillip Neale	Tricia Soncasie	Carissa Graves John Graves
06/29	Sue Ann Schaefer	Brenda Muench John Muench	Pat Forward	Lorry Dreier

## JOIN US IN JUNE FOR OPEN AND AFFIRMING SUNDAY

June 29 is Open and Affirming Sunday in the United Church of Christ; and we will be celebrating here at CUCC! Quorus will be with us, offering praise to God's diverse Glory, and Staci Cooper will be with us, sharing God's Word. Staci is a Seminary Student from the Kansas City area, and is a Member in Discernment in the Western Association. She has a unique perspective on Inclusion and Affirmation from her particular context; and is quite a dynamic speaker! Come hear Staci and Quorus as we renew our ONA covenant!

## June Birthdays

Alexander Oberle - 06/01	Jackie Arms - 06/04	Helen Keithahn - 06/04
Rick Oberle - 06/05	Mark Duncan - 06/06	Kibaro Kakozi - 06/06
Isis Piersee - 06/10	Mark Hall - 06/11	Garrett Walker - 06/11
Jamie Rapp - 06/17	Corey Grace - 06/20	Kitty Rogers - 06/20
Holly Fuller - 06/21	Raelyn Zimny - 06/21	Jonathan Fuller - 06/25
Lauren Helmreich - 06/25	John Bullerd - 06/26	Kelly Major - 06/26
Matt Lucas - 06/27	Tricia Soncasie - 06/27	Mike Williams - 06/27
Lloyd Mickelson - 06/29	Drew Privitt - 06/29	

# Columbia UCC Council Minutes

The meeting was called to order on April 15, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. by Kurt Heine. Pastor Rick opened with prayer. Present: Kurt Heine, Deb Birkes, Christine Staelens, Mary Lorber-Solt, Tricia Price, Kristin Veteto (Zoom), Mark Duncan (Zoom), Pastor Rick Oberle, Alethea Tennill (Zoom), Edie Diel, Judi Privitt. Tricia made a motion to approve the agenda with a second from Mary; motion passed. Tricia made a motion to approve the March minutes with a second from Judi; motion passed.

## **Unfinished Business**

- \* Nominating Committee for 2025: working on filling the slate for the upcoming term
- \* Annual Congregational Meeting May 18, 2025: Ministry team chairs will gather and tell stories about our year. The Finance & Stewardship team will give a financial report about the first quarter. We'll do a modified potluck, with the Council and Fellowship & Hospitality team signing up to bring foods. Judi will send out a Signup Genius.
- \* Thanking the congregation: some of us have already mailed out our thank you notes or turned them in to Alexandra. The rest of us will try to get them done soon.
- \* Vehicle donation: Finance & Stewardship sent us a motion to accept the donation of Shelly Adams's husband's car. Motion passed. The proceeds will go in the Endowment Fund.

## **New Business**

- \* Scholarship Committee recommends 2025 Scholarship applicants Kaden Lucas & Ember Piersee receive \$2,000 each. Motion passed.
- \* Personnel Committee recommends hiring Mike Pierson as Music Coordinator. Motion passed.
- \* Building and Grounds Ministry Team recommends replacing 3 HVAC Units. Motion passed.
- \* LODO Ministry Team recommends LODO Budget 2025-2026. Includes teacher raises to bring us up to standard for preschools in the area (\$18.00/hour). Includes a raise for the director; does not budget for an assistant director. Includes monthly transfers to the LODO Designated Fund. Motion passed.
- \* Parting gift for Erika: Kristin Veteto made a motion to give a \$500 gift and Mary Lorber-Solt seconded. Motion passed.
- \* Windows 11 Update: the office will need new computers to support the Windows 11 Update due to out of date hardware. Ted Dachroeden moved to purchase. Edie Diel seconded. Motion passed.
- \* Pastor's Report submitted: installation of new officers will be on June 1.
- \* Financials Report: Deborah & Christine: report submitted.

## **Ministry Team Reports**

- \* Building & Grounds: Ted is working on clearing honeysuckle and scheduling a workday.
- \* Fellowship & Hospitality: Ted and Kurt will find out how many Scouts will be here for Scout Sunday June 8; we will have a BBQ that day. With LODO out for Summer, we will leave the tables set up. We will also have a Summer Social on July 20.
- \* Finance & Stewardship: report submitted.
- \* Inclusion & Affirmation: report submitted.
- \* LODO: Kristin reported on Ashley's resignation and exit interview. Talked about ways to support the staff the rest of this year after Ashley leaves; an aide is stepping into her teaching position. The graduation ceremony will be Tuesday, May 13.
- \* Membership & Care: the team will be giving Alexandra a list of inactive members to contact and see if they want to continue being members.
- \* Outreach & Advocacy: celebrating becoming a full Partner in Education with Alpha Hart Lewis and things are going well with Team Earth. The field trip that was cancelled for weather has been rescheduled. The theme for the May Lunch & Learn is water, and there will be a composting workshop June 1.
- \* Worship & Music: Edie Diel is here for the first time, and is learning the ins and outs of the ministry team. The team is working on a celebration for Casey before he leaves.

Pastor Rick closed us in prayer. Motion to adjourn by Christine Staelens, second by Judi Privitt. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

# Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team

## Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under)
April Income	\$23,848.95	\$27,586.00	(-\$3,737.05)
April Expenses	\$41,765.78	\$31,281.00	\$10,484.78
YTD Income	\$86,894.19	\$156,836.00	(-\$69,941.81)
YTD Expenses	\$146,880.01	\$137,923.00	\$8,957.01
Surplus/(Deficit)	<b>(-\$59,985.82)</b>	\$18,913.00	(-\$78,898.82)
April Joyful Giving	\$22,834.95	\$26,519.00	(-\$3,684.05)
YTD Joyful Giving	\$84,267.19	\$150,570.00	(-\$66,302.81)

## Worship Attendance

04/06	96
04/13	119
04/18	43
04/20	159
04/27	74

### THREE WAYS TO GIVE ONLINE TO CUCC

1. Click on this link (or type into your web browser): <https://www.kindridgiving.com/app/giving/cucc>
2. Visit 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.

### THE COLUMBIA UCC ENDOWMENT FUND

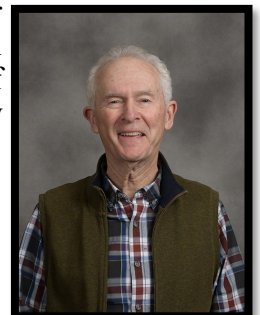
Our Church is one of the most generous, in terms of supporting our community, that exists in Columbia. We also have one of the most generous congregations in central Missouri. Unfortunately, the need for basic human needs is greater now than it has been in my lifetime.

In response to this financial need, we have approved the creation of an Endowment Fund which encourages those of our members and friends who can to make planned gifts in addition to Joyful Giving- which is our main source of funding for all of our immediate annual needs. The Endowment Fund, when it grows to \$500,000, will be used to supplement Joyful Giving up to 5% of its value annually. For the last 3 years, our Joyful Giving has fallen short of meeting our needs and as the Endowment fund grows it will help to satisfy our financial needs to serve our community in the ways we want.

Probably the best example of planned giving is through your will or Trust. By designating Columbia UCC as an heir in your estate planning, you can help our church fulfill its mission indefinitely after you have passed away. However, gifts to the Endowment Fund do not need to wait until you pass away! Certainly, we can accept gifts at any time for the future and security of this church. There are other ways through Planned Giving that you can contribute and any member of the Finance & Stewardship ministry team can tell you more about the process.

Please consider a Planned Gift to Columbia UCC beyond your regular Joyful Giving to help fulfill our obligation to church and community. Thank you very much for all you do.

Respectfully submitted,  
Keith Birkes  
Finance & Stewardship  
Ministry Team Member



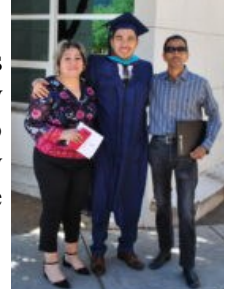


# Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

June is Immigrant Heritage Month. The following comes from: <https://civilrights.org/blog/threads-of-resilience-the-stories-of-immigrants-who-pave-the-way/> and <https://www.murthy.com/famous-immigrants>.

## The Story of Esteban

“Being a first-generation Mexican American has motivated me to pursue opportunities where I can help others. My upbringing by the U.S./Mexico border has shaped my perspective rooted in resilience, empathy for the struggles of others, and courage to always work for a better world. I am proud to be a child of immigrants because my parents have contributed immensely to this country and they have given me the opportunity to dream big.”



## The Story of Tania

“At a young age my mami made one of the toughest decisions of her life. She left the land she called home and everything she knew to birth me in a country where she had nothing, not even knowledge of the English language. I am forever inspired by her dreams and the life she envisioned for me before I was born. I am a proud daughter of Salvadoreños who continue to love fiercely despite the many barriers they face in this country. Because of them, I am strong in mind, body and spirit.”

## The Story of Nisreen

“My entire family came to America fleeing ethnic cleansing, violence, and trauma. They learned English, studied hard, and worked long hours to give us first-generation kids a comfortable and safe life. They also raised us in a strong Arab American community that supports each other and enshrines our rich heritage and traditions into those born here. Everyone deserves to live in the safety and comfort we enjoy today, no matter where they are in the world.”



## The Story of David Ho

David Ho's father left Taiwan searching for a better life for his family. Nine years later, he was able to bring them to America. At 12 years old, David Ho didn't speak English. Yet, he completed high school with honors, attended MIT and Cal Tech studying physics. That lead him to molecular biology. As a medical resident, he witnessed some of the first AIDS cases in the U.S. Ho developed the 'cocktail' now used to treat early stages of HIV. His treatment has been credited with extending the lives of HIV individuals.



*“Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer.  
Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.”  
Romans 12:12-13*

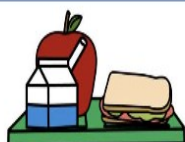
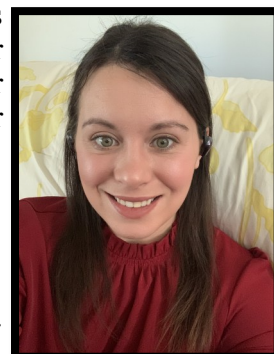
# LODO Ministry Team

Little One's Day Out had a wonderful year and we are looking forward to the next year. This summer we will be hiring for several positions. If you or someone you know loves children and is looking for employment, please feel free to email [LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com](mailto:LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com) or apply via the link on the [Little One's Day Out website!](#) We are also enrolling in our preschool program. To learn more about Little One's Day Out ministry or take a tour call (573)445- 2661.

## UPCOMING DATES:

June - Policy Council Meeting  
July 1 - Tuition Deposits Due  
August 11 - Staff Planning Day

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sara Koenig,  
LODO Director



## Columbia 2025 Summer Lunch Sites

**Free Healthy Lunches for Kids & Teens**

Monday – Friday | June 2 – August 7, 2025\*

Kids and teens age 18 and under can get free, nutritious lunches on weekdays this summer at several sites throughout Columbia.

Central		
Armory Sports & Recreation Center* CHA Stuart Parker	Lunch 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.	701 E. Ash St.
	Lunch 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. + Snack 1:30 - 1:45 p.m.	225 Unity Dr.
North		
Indian Hills Park CHA Bear Creek	Lunch 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. + Snack 1:00 - 1:15 p.m.	5009 Aztec Blvd.
	Lunch 12:00 - 12:30 p.m. + Snack 1:30 - 1:45 p.m.	1109 Elleta Blvd.
West		
Columbia Square Progressive Missionary Baptist Church	Lunch 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. + Snack 12:30 - 12:45 p.m.	1715 W. Worley St.
	Lunch 11:00 - 11:30 a.m. + Snack 1:30 - 1:45 p.m.	702 Banks Av.

\* All sites closed June 19 and July 4 \* The Armory site will operate June 2 – August 1

Lunches Provided By



In Partnership With

**CRAFTS AT COOPERS**  
of Adrienne Luther Johnson

**SATURDAYS 9 TIL NOON**  
watch socials for weather!

COOPER'S LANDING  
11505 SMITH HATCHERY RD

MARKETPLACE OPEN w/  
SNACKS + BEVERAGES

@ADRIENNE LUTHER  
for more info visit  
facebook or insta!

**FAQ:**

- SUPPLIES PROVIDED
- ALL AGES • FREE
- CHILDREN MUST BE w/ ADULT AT ALL TIMES - NO "DROP OFFS"
- COME + GO - NO STRICT LESSON

## 2025-2026 Enrollment

August 25, 2025-May 15, 2026

Lightning Bugs Class: 1 year old before 8/1/25  
(Only available 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.)

Lambs Class: 2 years old before 8/1/25

Lions/Leopards Class: 3 years old before 8/1/25

Leap Frogs/Leopards Class: 4 years old before 8/1/25

Additional information about the LODO Program in available at [www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome](http://www.columbiaucc.com/lodohome).

\*Our Leopards Classroom will be assigned and utilized as either a 3-4's class or 3,4,5's class.

Contact us for information, openings, to schedule a tour, or to enroll!

[LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com](mailto:LittleOnesDayOut@yahoo.com)  
573-445-2661



# Nurture & Education Ministry Team

THANK  
YOU!

A huge THANK YOU to everyone that volunteered in any way to make our Sunday School programs (for kiddos and adults alike!) possible!!!

♥ HAPPY ♥  
FATHER'S  
♥ DAY ♥

Wishing a wonderful day to all of the Dads and Dudes in our lives!

COMING  
SOON

Be on the lookout for ways to help with Vacation Bible School with donations of supplies or by lending us things for the week!

**MUST REGISTER BY JULY 1 FOR GUARANTEED T-SHIRT!!!**

**VACATION  
BIBLE  
SCHOOL**

**JULY 28-30**  
**5:15-8:15 PM**

**WE'LL TAKE  
CARE OF  
DINNER!**

**ATTENDEES:**  
**AGES 3 THROUGH**  
**FINISHING 5TH GRADE**

**VOLUNTEERS:**  
**FINISHING 6TH GRADE**  
**THROUGH ADULT**

**T-SHIRTS!!!**  
(REGISTER BY JULY 1)



Available at no charge to attendees by  
our Nurture/Education Ministry Team



[CUCC.MYCOKEBURYVBS.COM](http://CUCC.MYCOKEBURYVBS.COM)

# Membership and Care Ministry Team

Membership and Care met on May 5. We looked over our inactive member list and made final edits to the letter that will be mailed to all inactive members. A postcard was also included in the mailing in the hopes that recipients will return it, indicating their membership status preference.

Membership and Care will begin revising/updating the church bus usage policy.

New name tags (reflecting preferred pronouns) were briefly discussed. Our committee will continue to explore this topic at future meetings.

CARE ministry teams continue to work to provide support for our members as needed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Judi Privitt  
Membership & Care  
Ministry Team Chair



# Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team

Greetings to one and all. Whew! May has been one busy month, for everyone I'm sure, graduations, people moving, garden and yard work, our annual Congregational meeting and 'potluck luncheon' (which by the way, was totally awesome!)

I have to mention my bees, as they (and I) have been busy also; four of my hives swarmed, which we were able to recapture, replacing two hives that didn't make it over the winter, and to add two new hives. That's what bees do, they propagate, and move on, taking the old queen and about half of the hive on to a new home. Bees are not stagnant, they change their 'dance' to indicate new sources of food. When they swarm, the scouts "dance" to let the other bees know where their new home will be- they 'go with the flow'. We need to be more like the honey bee, able to change direction as needed, work towards the benefit of all, and to take care of our 'hive'. So go out there, 'create a buzz' about our church, 'work together' for the benefit of mankind, and always... 'bee yourself!'

Don't forget our Scout Sunday on June 8, where we will have an all-church BBQ luncheon after church, to honor our Scouting America kids, families, and leaders. Hope to see you there! As always, bee safe, bee healthy, and bee Blessed!

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lorber  
Fellowship and Hospitality  
Ministry Team Chair



## REFURBISHING BELLS

We love the music from our Chapel Ringers; but, the bells are getting older and are in need of a tune up. The last time they were "refurbished" was 2007, and they are well in need of another one. "Refurbishment" means sending them to Malmark Bells in Pennsylvania where they will inspect each bell and refurbish/fix the necessary components. The Worship and Music Ministry Team brought a proposal to the Church Council to do this, and the Church Council approved. The total cost for this will be a **minimum of \$3,408** and probably wind up closer to \$4,000. We currently have \$1,965 in our Worship & Music Designated Fund; not enough to cover this entire expense. If you would like to donate to this project, [CLICK HERE](#) and select the option that says, "**Worship & Music Designated Fund.**" You can also send a check to the church office with "Worship & Music Designated Fund" on the memo line; or drop an offering in the plate on Sunday.

# Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team



Members of CUCC, you have done it again! Folks at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary (AHL) and Principal Amanda Minear send so many personal thank-yous for all the love you show through your giving of food items to Stock the Lounge, Teacher Appreciation Week, and for students during MAP testing; for the homemade cookies/recipe/molasses (Jolene); for handwriting personal teacher appreciation cards (Mark); for assistance in the Library (Melba and Mahree); for donations of clothing and tableware; for being with the little Trusty Huskies during two PTA meetings (Kennedy and Jessica); for volunteering at the AHL Carnival (Muench family); for laundry assistance for a student and their family who were in need; for assistance with the Good Dads-Strong Schools program; and so more.

Also, a big thank you to all our Columbia UCC members who work in our Public Schools as teachers, aides, paras, and other staff, not only during Teacher Appreciation Week but always. You are educating and loving our youth, which is so needed. Let's enjoy summer break, and we'll refresh for the 2025-2026 school year.

Many thanks to the hardy volunteers who worked at the Food Bank this year! In April we had a group of seven: Mona and Ted Dachroeden, Connie Loveless, Brenda, John and Landon Muench, Mahree Skala, and Tricia Soncasie. We packaged raw carrots and had fun with some oddly shaped ones that looked like people and animals.

The Food Bank will not offer evening shifts during June and July so our next evening group will be in late August. However, if a summer time slot during the day interests you, please let Mahree Skala know by contacting her at [skalamahree@yahoo.com](mailto:skalamahree@yahoo.com). If we have enough people interested, we could try to make it work!



The May 19 meal at Loaves and Fishes consisted of spaghetti (prepared by Mary Lorber and Audrey Lasley), salad (provided by Patty Beeson), bread, and brownies. Brownies were contributed by Lea Marienfeld, Connie Loveless, Kristin Veteto, Susan Dunham, Kim Oberle, Lorry Dreier, and Mary Lorber. Thank you all so much! Jessica Jenks made and provided the peanut butter and jelly sandwiches. Servers for the evening were Jessica Jenks, Doug and Judi Privitt, Tom and Mary Lorber-Solt, Debby (Mary's sister), Patty Beeson, Wendy Vandegriffe, and Jim Loveless. We had approximately 128 servings. Thanks again to everyone!

## TORNADO RELIEF EFFORTS UNDERWAY

Many lives were impacted by the tornado events of May 16, especially in the City of St. Louis. Pilgrim United Church of Christ in St. Louis, MO was one of the churches that was damaged. The big stained glass window in their Sanctuary was destroyed, and the roof was torn off. They are currently not able to worship in their Sanctuary, and it looks like they will not be able to for some time. Certainly, there are many in St. Louis who were affected adversely by this event; but our hearts especially go out to our sister UCC Church.

Many folks around CUCC have asked how we can help. The most effective means of support at this time would be monetary. To that end, the CUCC Church Council has set up a recovery fund for this effort. If you wish to give to this fund, [CLICK HERE](#) and select the option that says, "**Pilgrim UCC Recovery Support.**" We will be collecting through June 15 for this effort; and at the end of the collection, the money will be sent directly to Pilgrim UCC for their recovery efforts. You can also send a check to the church office with "Pilgrim UCC Recovery Support" on the memo line; or drop an offering in the plate on Sunday.

This church has been very instrumental in providing aid to folks in need over the years; now they are the ones in need. Please keep the people at Pilgrim UCC in your prayers as they recover and rebuild.



# Worship & Music Ministry Team

Happy June, Columbia UCC, from your new Music Coordinator! I'm very excited to be taking on this new role at Columbia UCC. Although I've been thoroughly enjoying singing with the basses in my pseudo-retirement under Kristen, Brandon, and Casey, I realized that I'm ready to step back into the conductor role on a regular basis. In the interest of introducing myself to those of you who don't know my background, here are a few tidbits about myself as a musician.

I grew up attending Bethel UCC in Kansas City where my mother was the choir director for 30 years. I attended CMSU (UCM) and graduated in 1991 with a bachelor's degree in music education (Go MULES!) My master's degree is from MU in Educational Technology.

Music-related positions I've held:

First Christian Church of Centralia Choir Director – 1993-2004

Centralia High School/Middle School Choir Director – 1992-2004

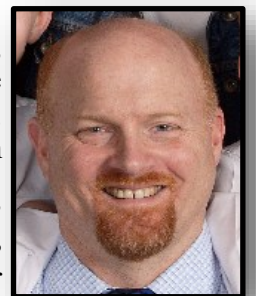
Columbia Choral Ensemble member and Assistant Director – 1994-2000

Rock Bridge High School Choir Director – 2004-2022

Some of the best memories I have are related to singing with and conducting church choirs. My school experiences often included competitions and contests that held extra stress beyond the enjoyment of watching students develop as musicians and young adults. The church choir experience is all about fellowship and, hopefully, heightening the worship experience for the congregation and singers without the stress of competition.

I look forward to remembering how to select repertoire that ties into the worship themes, challenges the singers and ringers, and inspires the listeners. I also look forward to the challenge of directing a bell choir. That part is a relatively new musical experience for me, but I know we have outstanding players already in place which makes that job much easier. We are ALWAYS looking for more voices/ringers and personalities to join us on Wednesdays and Sundays – ANY level of experience is welcome! Notice as I said above, "fellowship" comes first. We are a very friendly bunch. Please, come and join us!

In Harmony,  
Mike Pierson,  
Music Coordinator



## WELCOME AND FAREWELL ON JUNE 1

On Sunday, June 1 our worship service will include a special service of farewell for Music Coordinator Casey Wood and LODO Director Erika Maltsbarger, both of whom are leaving, as well as greetings from Mike Pierson and Sara Koenig, who are filling those positions. We will also be installing our 2025-2026 Church Council and honoring those who are retiring from Council; Kurt Heine, Mark Duncan, and Tricia Price. It will be a day of honored endings and new beginnings; we hope to see you in worship!

## WELCOME TO QUORUS!

Columbia United Church of Christ is pleased to be in partnership with [Quorus, the LGBTQIAA Choral ensemble of Columbia!](#)

Quorus uses our facility for rehearsals, and we will the opportunity to work with them as they schedule performances around the area. We are also always thrilled to have Quorus join us for worship, praising God with their inclusive repertoire. They will be with us on June 29!

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](#).





# Scouting America

## Cub Scouts

We finished the school year off strong with our Blue and Gold Banquet. This is our annual awards ceremony where we celebrate the anniversary of Cub Scouts being created, as well as where we recognize all of the hard work and accomplishments of the Cub Scouts over the past year.

Now that we are done celebrating, summer is upon us and we are ready to rest (kind of!) All of the Cubs are gearing up to enjoy swimming, biking, hiking, and summer camp opportunities over the next few months before we formally start back up again with the start of the 25-26 school year.



## Troop 4475

In May, Troop 4475 held their shooting sports campout in conjunction with Troop 708 at the Prairie Grove Shotgun Sports Club. The Scouts got to practice their archery with 3D targets plus had the chance to shoot rifles and shotguns. A few Scouts even worked on the Shotgun Merit Badge. It was a beautiful Mother's Day weekend for camping. Our newer Scouts had plenty of opportunities to practice their outdoor cooking skills and several began their Camping Merit Badge. This month was also our council's Wood Badge leadership skills course. Five leaders from our troop (three of them are also in the Pack) attended as participants. In addition, six leaders served on this course's staff. It was a great learning experience, and it is exciting watching so many of our leaders work on their advanced leadership training. We have one more monthly campout, and then we pivot to get ready for summer camp in July.



## Troop 708

Troop 708 had a great time on our Sporting and High Ropes Campout in April. We toured Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City and then took to the trees at Go Ape Zipline and Adventure Park. In May, we had our popular Shooting Sports campout where scouts had the opportunity for archery, rifle, and shotgun shooting.







# SCOUT SUNDAY

**Sunday, June 8 | 11:00 a.m.**

Join us after service for a BBQ honoring our Scouts, their leaders, and their families. Fellowship and Hospitality will be providing hotdogs, burgers, chips, and dessert. Enjoy some yard games as you eat and converse about all the wonderful activities the scouts have done this year.



# THANK YOU!

Global Ministries thanks you for your gift of \$500.00. As indicated, your gift will be used in its entirety for “Melel Xojabal in San Cristobal, Chiapas, Mexico, which supports children and youth.” Gifts like yours help manifest the bold vision that all God’s people and creation share in God’s abundant life.

Last year, Global Ministries had the privilege of hosting Dr. Nibedita Pramanik as part of the Partners-in-Residence program during September and October. Dr. Pramanik is a dedicated surgeon and the director of the Evangelical Hospital Society in Khariar, India. The hospital provides a wide range of services, from general surgery to dental care in rural districts. Despite facing various challenges, Dr. Pramanik remains steadfast in her mission. As she puts it, “I strongly felt that the Lord was leading me to be planted here in Khariar.”

In a recent webinar, Dr. Pramanik shared a striking example of healthcare disparities: a surgery that costs several thousand dollars in the United States can be performed for just \$30 in India. Similar realities ring true in all regions we serve, underscoring the profound impact of every dollar you contribute. Your support directly affects the lives of our global sibling, bringing hope to communities in need.



We deeply appreciate your contributions and the ways in which you help support God’s mission worldwide. Thank you for your continued generosity and commitment.

Sincerely,  
Cynthia Newman,  
Acting Director of Strategic Engagement  
And Assistant Vice President

Thank you for your recent gift of \$800.00. With your help, The Food Bank will continue to provide nutritious meals to 100,000 neighbors each month throughout our 32-county service area through our various programs and work with 145 partner agencies.

With warmer weather approaching, many of our local neighbors experience a refreshing sense of hope as they receive access to the vital food they need to build a foundation for a healthy life and future. This hope is especially meaningful, as we know many neighbors are currently experiencing difficult financial trade-offs amidst an uncertain economy.

We are grateful that you have chosen to make navigating these challenges a little easier for those in need and truly appreciate you entrusting The Food Bank with your charitable dollars.



Gratefully,  
Lindsay Young Lopez  
President and CEO

# International Missions

## CUCC IS WORKING IN BANGLADESH

The Christian Commission for Development in Bangladesh (CCDB)'s Climate Change Resilience Agriculture Project aims to help vulnerable communities adapt to the impacts of climate change, particularly in rural areas. The project focuses on promoting sustainable agricultural practices, improving water management, and enhancing farmer's resilience to extreme weather events like floods and droughts. By providing training, resources, and climate-smart technologies, CCDB empowers local farmers to increase productivity, reduce environmental impact, and secure their livelihoods in the face of changing climate conditions. This initiative supports both environmental sustainability and poverty reduction in Bangladesh's most affected regions.

Through [Global Ministries](#), CUCC is a partner in mission with over 200 mission partners around the world, including CCDB. Keep Global Ministries, CCDB, and the people of Bangladesh in your prayers this month as they do God's work on our behalf!



## EGYPTIAN-US DIALOGUE INITIATIVE

*From [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org); published on May 19, 2025*

The Egyptian-US Dialogue Initiative is a collaborative effort of the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS) through its Forum for Intercultural Dialogue and US churches and ecumenical partners, including the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ with Global Ministries. Launched in 2014, the Initiative recently met in New York City and Washington, DC from April 27 through May 1.

The meeting was the seventh encounter since 2016, when the initiative began. CEOSS, Disciples, and the UCC were joined by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Presbyterian Church (USA), and ecumenical organizations, including the National Council of Churches of Christ in the USA and Churches for Middle East Peace.

The Egyptian-US Dialogue Initiative seeks to build bridges of common interest – cultural, social, logistical, and religious – between the nations of Egypt and the United States. Topics of discussion include issues specific to Egypt and the US, as well as global issues. The Initiative discussed countering extremism and radical ideologies in 2025. It has previously addressed confronting terrorism and hate speech, countering disinformation, the promotion of efforts related to coexistence and dialogue, and what it means to face global pandemics such as COVID-19.

Peace comes through dialogue, sharing hopes, dreams and fears. When people from diverse nationalities and

expressions of faith can come together in dialogue such as this, the world leans a bit closer to Imago Dei– the image of God. Please continue to keep the international and interfaith work of CEOSS and the work of Global Ministries in your prayers as together we work for peace, love and justice in God's world.



# On the Church Calendar in June

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>1</b> 8:30 a.m. - Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship 9:30 a.m. - Worship 11:00 a.m. - Team Earth: Compost Workshop	<b>2</b> 7:00 p.m. Scouting America	<b>3</b> 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 12:30 p.m. - Bible Study 6:30 p.m. - Clergy Personnel Committee	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> 6:30 p.m. - Troop 4475	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>8 - SCOUTS SUNDAY</b> 8:30 a.m. - Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship 9:30 a.m. - Worship	<b>9</b> 5:30 p.m. - LODO Ministry Meeting 7:00 p.m. Scouting America	<b>10</b> 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. - Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting	<b>11</b> 6:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl Group	<b>12</b> 8:30 a.m. - Women's Fellowship Field Trip	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>15 - FATHER'S DAY</b> 8:30 a.m. - Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship 9:30 a.m. - Worship	<b>16</b> 4:30 p.m. - Loaves & Fishes 7:00 p.m. Scouting America	<b>17</b> 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 1:00 p.m. - Pause to Color 6:30 p.m. - Council	<b>18</b>	<b>19 - JUNETEENTH</b> OFFICE CLOSED	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>22</b> 8:30 a.m. - Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship 9:30 a.m. - Worship 11:00 a.m. - Health Care Team: Lunch & Learn	<b>23</b> 5:00 p.m. - Membership & Care Ministry Team Meeting 7:00 p.m. Scouting America	<b>24</b> 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. - Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>29 - OPEN &amp; AFFIRMING SUNDAY</b> 8:30 a.m. - Bible Study 9:00 a.m. - Fellowship 9:30 a.m. - Worship	<b>30</b> 6:30 p.m. - Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team Meeting 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 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.



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## Interested in Church Membership?

If you are interested in joining,  
please contact **Rev. Rick Oberle**.  
rick@columbiaucc.com

**Become  
Part of  
Our  
Church  
Family**

## 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.

## 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!**