

# THE COMMUNICATOR

August 2024

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

## *"A New Year at CUCC"*

A few years ago, we moved to a "new" structure at CUCC; a structure that focuses our ministry life on the academic year, rather than the calendar year. Council terms that begin June 1 is part of this new structure. Our new Council began meeting in June, has been making plans all summer, and is ready to hit the ground running with a full academic year of activity. Rather than our "new year" starting in January, we start our "new year" in the fall with exciting programs all ready to go when the summer ends. So, late August/early September is "the new year" for CUCC. As we move into the "new year" of CUCC, many new and exciting things are happening.

The most exciting "new thing" is our relationship with the Scouts. The Unit with whom we are chartering will be working with us in the next few weeks to make plans for the coming year and envision what our relationship will look like. I have been talking with the Unit Director about ways I can partner with them for their religious merit badges, and Alexandra has been communicating with them about scheduling. They will be intersecting with all of our Ministry Teams as we worship and serve together.

There are two big celebrations coming up with our Scouting Unit- one is a **"Back to School BBQ"** that will take place at our Shelter House on **August 19**. This will be the big rally for the entire Unit and our entire church is invited. This will be a meet and greet opportunity for the whole church, as we learn more about Scouts and they learn more about us. This will also be their first meeting date. After August 19, they will be here every Monday, and they will be utilizing most of the building.

The other big event for our Scouting relationship will be **Chartering Sunday, September 22**. That Sunday we will celebrate our Charter with a ceremony in worship and a dedication/commissioning of this Unit. The entire worship service will center around Scouting and our relationship with the Scouts. We will be inviting the entire unit to attend worship that Sunday, so we may need to set up extra chairs! It is going to be a great celebration.

Scouting is not all that is new at CUCC, though; we are also looking at new ways to revitalize our ministry teams and the work we do together. The Nurture & Education Ministry Team is changing up the way we do Sunday School and work with our youth, and they are excited to share that information with you! Parents of children and youth are invited to stick around after worship on **August 25** for a catered meal and conversation about what our new children and youth programming might look like. See articles inside for more details. Don't forget Rally Day, **September 8**! Our theme is, "Seas the Day!" There will be lots of fun, games, and food!

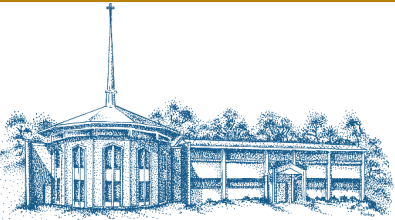
The Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team is working to do some new things this year with the formation of the new Opportunity Campus and work with Global Ministries. We will be kicking off the Opportunity Campus campaign on **August 21**, and we will be welcoming a Global Ministries Mission Co-Worker (Missionary) to CUCC on **October 6**, who will tell us about their work on our behalf in India.



There are many more exciting "new" and "renewed" things happening with other Ministry Teams as well; and all of these are the fruits of our labor in our Strategic Planning (Vision) work. Over the past ten years or so, the people of CUCC have dedicated themselves to participating in focused Strategic Planning each year. Rev. Dr. John Bracke led this charge during his time with CUCC, and we have continued in his example after his tenure was over. Each year we gather and work to discern how God is calling us to be the church; this work has resulted in our ongoing Strategic Plan and our annual Implementation Plans. All of the excitement around our church is happening because we were bold enough to envision what could be, and brave enough to live into those visions.

But strategic planning and implementation plans are never over; they are the ongoing work of the church. Keep on dreaming as we grow into the vision Christ has in store for us; his hands and feet, working in the world!

*-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

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)



# News & Updates

## SUNDAY MORNING SAFETY

For the safety and security of our church, and the people present, a Church Council member will now be available in the Gathering Area each Sunday during worship. The Council Steward will be 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 worship guidelines.

## STORAGE AREA CLEANUP

The furnace room storage area, which is off of the Fellowship Hall, has been cleaned up! Many, many thanks to Mary & Tom Solt and Doug & Judi Privitt. Both freezers got cleaned out and defrosted! So, if there is something you had in the freezer or just laying in the room and you can't find it, contact Audrey Lasley. Thank you to everyone who donated to-go containers and plastic silverware to be used at Loaves & Fishes- *but* they no longer hand out to-go's so we no longer have a need for those items. Also, if you do put something in the freezer, please label with what it is, whose it is, and the date. If it is in the freezer longer than 6 months from what it is dated, question if you still want it. We plan to stay on top of it.

Thank you again!  
Audrey Lasley

## THE CHRISTMAS FUND- CHRISTMAS IN AUGUST

Many people who serve the church do so with great love but small financial compensation. This is especially true of retired clergy and their spouses. The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. This year's collection date is August 4. You can also make an online donation anytime- [CLICK HERE](#).

Funds from this offering provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks. Please give generously to the Christmas Fund Special Offering.



# August Birthdays

KELSEY DEVENNEY - 08/02	VON WALKER - 08/02	KAREN WEBSTER - 08/02	CHUCK LASLEY - 08/03	KIM MAJOR - 08/04
JUDI PRIVITT - 08/04	DIANE MAXWELL - 08/05	GEORGE ZIMNY - 08/07	EVELYN GRACE - 08/12	JERRY KIESLING - 08/14
DAVID FORWARD - 08/16	JOE REMEIK - 08/17	SHARON CROUSORE - 08/18	CHELSEY MARKWAY - 08/19	EVERLEIGH OBERLE - 08/21
SAM DUNCAN - 08/26	CAROL STOLL - 08/26	TROY BENTLAGE - 08/27	JOLENE KIRCHHOFF - 08/27	ADRIANA NIEMAN - 08/28
LAURIE FREW - 08/29	ANDIE RAPP - 08/29	ANITA SANDERSON - 08/29	ELIAS WALKER - 08/30	HARRY BESLEME - 08/31
BECKY WESTON - 08/31				

## Sunday Volunteer Schedule for August

DATE	GREETERS	USHERS	WORSHIP LEADERS	TECH BOOTH
08/04	JOLENE KIRCHHOFF	LLONA WEISS MELBA SHAFFER	SHELLY ADAMS	JOHN GRAVES CARISSA GRAVES
08/11	CAROL DUERMAYER	CHARLIE MARCKS MAHREE SKALA	MIKE WILLIAMS	MIKE PIERSON
08/18	DONNA MARSH	PHILLIP NEALE	LLONA WEISS	BRENT MARCKS LORRY DRIER
08/25	BRENDA MUENCH JOHN MUENCH	AUDREY LASLEY MARY LORBER	PAT FORWARD	JOSH MUENCH TED DACHROEDEN

### COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

**Moderator:**

**Vice Moderator:**

**Secretary:**

**Treasurer:**

**Recording Treasurer:**

**Building & Grounds:**

**Fellowship & Hospitality:**

**Finance & Stewardship:**

**Inclusion & Affirmation:**

**Little One's Day Out:**

**Membership & Care:**

**Nurture & Education:**

**Outreach & Advocacy:**

**Worship & Music:**

**Pastor:**

Kurt Heine

Jerry Kiesling

Alethea Tennill

Deborah Long Birkes

Christine Staelens

Ted Dachroeden

Mary Lorber-Solt

Vacant

Tricia Price

Kristin Veteto

Judi Privitt

Lena Muench

Mark Duncan

Jedd Schneider

Rev. Rick Oberle

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[rick@columbiaucc.com](mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com)



# CUCC Church Council

The meeting was called to order at 6:39 p.m. by Jerry Kiesling. Pastor Rick opened us with prayer. Present: Jerry Kiesling, Christine Staelens, Ted Dachroeden, Mary Lorber-Solt, Tricia Price, Kristin Veteto, Lena Muench, Mark Duncan, Rick Oberle, Alethea Tennill, and Jedd Schneider. Motions to approve the agenda and the May minutes were made and seconded. Both motions passed.

## Unfinished Business:

- Policy and Procedures Manual Update: Still waiting on updates for Family leave and LODO updates
- Scout Troop Charter: The Scout Troop is voting tonight on moving to our church.
- Bus Purchase is complete.
- Council Retreat Recap: Each Ministry Team needs to look at their job description. Ministry Teams should all look for ways to work together.
- Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team Chair: We are still in need of a chair for this team.
- Ministry Team Fair: Set for August 25. Each team will give a brief talk during church. They will have a table in the Gathering Area with their information on the table
- Western Association Fall Meeting: September 21. Women's Fellowship will prepare food for the meeting. There will be a speaker discussing Steeple Jacking which is organizations trying to pull UCC churches out of UCC.

## New Business:

- Quorus partnership: Possibility of a concert this fall. Inclusion Team made a motion to host the fund-raising concert for Quorus on October 12. Motion Passed. Quorus may help with Pridefest Booth in September.
- Finances: There was some discussion on cost of printing bulletin inserts. A bulletin board will be put in the gathering area for all announcements.
- Ministry Team Intersections and Clarifications: All Ministry Teams should work together. "How we are called together to be the church; each team contributing to the work of each one and the whole of the church" Copied from Pastor Rick's report.
- Vision Team Plans 2024: There will probably be a meeting in August or September.
- Clergy Personnel Committee appointment: John Graves' term has ended. Lena Muench made a motion that we appoint Mike Pierson to the Committee. Tricia Price seconded the motion. Motion passed.

## Ministry Reports:

- Building & Grounds: Ted is busy cutting down honeysuckle.
- Fellowship & Hospitality: The Fellowship and Hospitality is planning an all-church trip to see "Fiddler on the Roof" at The Muny on July 21. Meet at church around 4 p.m. It will cost approximately \$40 not including dinner. RSVP are due June 24.
- Finance & Stewardship: Vacant
- Inclusion & Affirmation: ONA celebration is this Sunday with rainbow donuts. There will be readings of "coming out" stories during church.
- LODO: Enrollment is up. A new printer is needed for Erica. There are some grants available that they will check into. She will also need a new computer in the next year.
- Membership & Care: Bus purchase is completed. There was some discussion on how to support the Heine family during this difficult time.
- Nurture & Education: Report attached. VBS will be July 29-31.
- Outreach & Advocacy: July 2 is the next meeting. The next event is the Craft Beer and Carts on July 14 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the MU Healthcare Pavilion. They are hoping to raise money for two carts.
- Worship & Music: Worship experience is tomorrow night with Taizé Prayer. The next meeting is July 1.

Pastor Rick closed us in prayer. Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Alethea Tennill, Secretary



## Moderator's Moment

When I think of summer I think of waves. Waves loudly crash into the shore, then recede back giving a sense of peace and clarity. A reset, then the process starts again. Crash, serenity and on and on. It's this rhythm that people find most captivating, you can get lost in it. Sure there are the literal waves you could catch on a vacation to a coast, or the local pool but there are also waves of activity: summer camps, vacations, projects etc. followed by extended pauses. Lulls in the activity are necessary, especially here in Missouri where the heat and humidity can be oppressive. As a youngster I would play outside and get so worked up I would give myself migraines, the throbbing light-sensitive kind, and the only way to recover would be to take a nap in a cool dark room. So I guess you could say every day was like a wave crash, draw inward, repeat.

I hope everyone is having a nice summer full of activity, followed by rest and relaxation. I think our church has done a fine job providing for these types of activities throughout the summer. From the crash of VBS and Craft Beer and Carts Sunday, to the peace of the Taizé mid-week prayer services. You must remember be like a wave and give yourself times of thought and meditation between the busier parts of life. Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kurt Heine, Moderator



## Fellowship & Hospitality

Greetings and Salutations, I hope this finds everyone as well as can bee!

Well, you spoke, we listened. The results of the 'Activity Surveys' have been tallied, with the winner being a Fall Harvest Party. So come October 20, we will have hot dogs, s'mores, drinks, karaoke, and games, sounds fun, right? Second was a Bingo/Family Game Night, to be held in January, date TBA. Lots of great ideas were presented, and I appreciate everyone's input. For those who may be interested, our next Fellowship and Hospitality team meeting is on Aug. 26 at 6:30 p.m. We will be discussing Rally Day, and our Fall Festival.

A sincere thank you to all who assisted with the End of the Year Picnic. Remember, "many hands make light work."

Respectfully submitted,  
Mary Lorber-Solt



# Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team

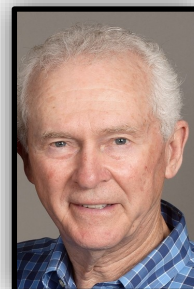
## THE CUCC ENDOWMENT FUND

Now that CUCC has officially established our Endowment Fund, the Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team wants to encourage every member and friend of our congregation to consider the opportunities it offers. The overall purpose of the new fund is to help stabilize our finances by encouraging planned giving over the long term. It is not intended to alter our annual joyful giving but rather to stabilize and supplement our annual budget through estate, memorial and other planned contributions.

There are several ways to think about the Endowment Fund and estate planning as very important for us all. A bequest in your will allows you to help CUCC for generations to come. A direct gift to the fund, assigning required minimum distributions from your IRAs, and naming the fund as a life insurance beneficiary as well as other opportunities are ways to help build the fund.

Any member or I of the Finance and Stewardship Team will be happy to visit with you about the details involved. Your lawyer, financial advisor and the United Church Funds managers are also excellent sources of more information and help to get started. Thanks to all our members and friends who contribute to CUCC in so many important ways. Along with all current needs we all can help future generations in our church benefit through planned giving. Please consider this opportunity!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Keith Birkes



## Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
June Income	\$31,498.32	\$25,735.00	\$5,763.32
June Expenses	\$29,340.92	\$33,223.47	(\$3,882.55)
YTD Income	\$192,571.23	\$176,805.00	\$15,766.23
YTD Expenses	\$201,064.50	\$191,754.94	\$9,309.56
Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$8,493.27)	(\$14,949.94)	\$6,456.67
June Joyful Giving	\$30,891.32	\$25,000.00	\$5,891.32
YTD Joyful Giving	\$183,511.95	\$170,500.00	\$13,011.95

## Worship Attendance

Date	Attendance
6/2	114
6/9	67
6/16	54
6/23	71
6/30	70

## 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.

# Music & Worship

Greetings! It is my privilege and pleasure to serve as your new Worship & Music Ministry Team chair. As I take on this task as a newish CUCC member, and as we move through the dog days of summer into a new academic year, I invite you to join an ongoing conversation on how we might elevate, enhance, deepen, and strengthen our worship and music experiences. We well know the Psalmist invites everything that hath breath to praise the Lord. Yet Psalm 150 further instructs to: "Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp. Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals."

In other words, we are to use all available means and modes of human expression to worship and glorify our Creator God. But are we at CUCC fulfilling this mandate? Has our congregation truly offered up all our multiplicitous talents and gifts in praise? Are current CUCC worship and music experiences meeting your needs?

I want to hear from you- each and every one. Click [HERE](#) to fill out a congregational survey seeking to know more about your personal worship and music needs and wants. But that's merely a start. I invite you to email me, call me, talk to me about how to worship Creator God with all our talents. So let's keep the conversation going and seek new ways to lay all the beautiful colors of our human expression at the altar of our Creator God's fathomless love.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Jedd Schneider



## Scouting America and CUCC

### **YOU ARE INVITED- SCOUTING AMERICA KICKOFF BBQ 8/19**

Columbia United Church of Christ will begin our official relationship with Scouting America on August 19; they have invited us to join them for a kick-off BBQ at the CUCC Shelter House that evening, beginning at 6:30 p.m. The Scouts will provide the food, and we will join them in fellowship. This will be a great way to get to know them and begin our relationship together. We hope to see you there!

### **A TRUE PARTNERSHIP**

The relationship between CUCC and Scouting America is one that is more than just letting someone use our space; we are going to be true partners in every sense of the word. We are their "chartering organization" and as such, we are a part of their life and they are a part our life. They are "our scouts" and we are "their church" and as that relationship evolves, we will work together to support each one's goals and aspirations.

### **CHARTERING SUNDAY**

To celebrate our charter with the Scouts, we will have a Chartering Sunday on September 22. On that Sunday, the Scouts will be in worship with us, and our liturgy will center on the Scouting Mission, Law and Oath. We will have a liturgy of partnership to "sign" the charter and will celebrate after worship. Watch for more information as we move into September!

### **THE CUCC SCOUTING LIASON TEAM**

To make our relationship even more beneficial, we are looking for 4-5 CUCC members to serve on a liaison team, along with Pastor Rick. This liaison team will meet with the leadership of the scouts 3-4 times each year, and be a conduit for information and coordination, along with church office staff; as well as being a support team for the scouting program. If you would like to be on this liaison team, talk to [Pastor Rick](#).

**WELCOME TO CUCC, SCOUTING AMERICA!**

# Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

On August 1, 1944, a 14-year-old wrote in her diary, "I keep on trying to find a way of becoming what I would like to be, and what I could be, if... there weren't any other people living in the world." That is the voice of an adolescent trying to figure out their place, their future in a chaotic world. That quote is taken from the last entry in Anne Frank's diary. Her family's hiding place was discovered three days later by the Nazis. She died in the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp seven months later. Her crime: being born a Jew.

None of us get to choose our parents, birth place, family background, social class, family religion/spiritual beliefs, skin color, gender, physicality, etc. None of us have that choice. So, why is antisemitism (known as "the longest hatred") so widespread in our world?

Hostile actions and discrimination against Jewish people dates back to the third century B.C. and, at that time, was most likely an ethnic issue. Antisemitism has never waned. The ancient Greeks, Romans, and Muslims all had writings negatively depicting the Jewish people. It became more pervasive with the creation of the New Testament. Matthew 27:25 (which takes place after Pilate washes his hands and declares himself innocent of Jesus' blood) states that the crowd attending his trial proclaimed of Jesus's death, "His blood be on us and our children." It is speculated that this verse has caused more Jewish suffering throughout history than any other passage in the New Testament. The interpretation, by many, is that Jews are *collectively* responsible for the death of Jesus. Our denomination, the global UCC church, officially condemned that view in 1987. The following is, in part, that resolution:

## RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UCC AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY

Christianity, developing its faith and identity, its life, and its creativity from a common heritage with Judaism, has a unique relationship to the Jewish people. The New Testament can only be adequately understood in the light of this common heritage with the Jewish people. The New Testament testifies to how painful was the historical process of separation of the Christian community from the Jewish people.

We in the United Church of Christ acknowledge that the Christian Church has, throughout much of its history, denied God's continuing covenantal relationship with the Jewish people expressed in the faith of Judaism. This denial often has led to outright rejection of the Jewish people and to theologically and humanly intolerable violence. The Church's frequent portrayal of the Jews as blind, recalcitrant, evil, and rejected by God has found expression in much Christian theology, liturgy, and education. Such a negative portrayal of the Jewish people and of Judaism has been a factor in the shaping of anti-Jewish attitudes of societies and the policies of governments. The most devastating lethal metastasis of this process occurred in our own century during the Holocaust.

Therefore, the Sixteenth General Synod of the United Church of Christ affirms its recognition that God's covenant with the Jewish people has not been rescinded or abrogated by God, but remains in full force, inasmuch as "the gifts and the call of God are irrevocable" (Rom. 11:29).

Have you wondered how Anne Frank's diary survived the Holocaust? It is because Otto Frank, Anne's father, survived. He lost his wife and both his daughters, Margot and Anne. Once rescued from Auschwitz, he went back to the Netherlands, where they had been hiding, and found that friends had kept several of the family's things including Anne's diaries. It was a while before he could bring himself to read them, but once Otto started, he couldn't put her writings down. Two years after the war's end, he found a publisher and the world came to know Anne, her family, and their existence in hiding.

Otto died in 1980 and said this in one of his last interviews: "I am almost ninety now and my strength is slowly fading. But the mission that Anne passed on, keeps giving me new strength – to fight for reconciliation and for human rights across the world."

Respectfully submitted,  
Alisa Lau-Sieckman



# LODO Ministry Team

## LODO IMPORTANT DATES

Monday August 12 - 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.  
Staff Planning Meeting (Fellowship Hall)

Tuesday August 13 - Friday August 23  
Staff Workdays to Prepare for the School Year

Tuesday August 20 - 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
LODO Staff Team Building Day (Off-Site)

Thursday August 22 - 5:30 - 7:00 p.m.  
Back to School/Meet the Teacher Night

Monday August 26  
First Day of LODO 2024-2025 School Year

## LODO AMAZON WISHLIST

LODO has an Amazon Wish List that is updated throughout the year. This list includes items to replace those that have been well-loved, items that will add to our learning activities, and supplies that are used frequently.

If you are interested in contributing to the LODO Ministry, please consider purchasing an item from our list.

[https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3135KEL32FTBN?ref=wl\\_share](https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3135KEL32FTBN?ref=wl_share)

We are excited to start of 2024-2025 school year! We have limited space available remaining in our classrooms. Please help us spread the word about LODO and our loving learning environment by sharing our social media posts.

## LODO Rummage Sale Fundraiser Success

Thank you to ALL the volunteers that assisted with this endeavor! Your many hours of hard work to sort donations, set-up, price items, and participate in the sales days made the rummage sale fruitful! Thank you to everyone that donated items to the sale! We received so many great contributions that turned into usable funds for LODO. Thank you to those that shopped our sale!

We raised just under \$4,000 for the LODO Ministry Fund which will be available for future projects! We also provided unsold items to anyone in the community that had a need after our sale was complete, and donated items to other non-profits: The Wardrobe, Habitat for Humanity, and The Assistance League/ Upscale Resale.

In Love and Laughter,  
Erika Maltsbarger



# Membership & Care Ministry

Your Membership and Care Ministry Team stays busy through the summer months.

- ✦ We discussed options for the brown van (sell, keep, etc.), and hope to make a final decision at our September meeting. Please let me know if you have any input.
- ✦ We continue discussing and planning for the next steps using the CUCC Strategic Plan for 2024 as our guide. Some items discussed are:
  - ✦ Advertising our presence via social media and other avenues.
  - ✦ Helping members become involved in the life of our church.
  - ✦ Aging members who need additional support and how to identify those needs.
  - ✦ Supporting our young adults (ages 18-35) - what are their needs and how can we support them.
- ✦ Plans are in the works for our CUCC Ministry Team Fair presentation on Sunday, August 25. We hope to see you there.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Judi Privitt



# Nurture & Education

Hello, everyone! As you are receiving this, we will be finishing up Vacation Bible School. At “press time” we had 62 attendees—this is a RECORD! Many thanks to those who have spread the word this year—especially Pastor Rick and Alexandra for being God’s feet, distributing door hangers to the neighborhoods by church. We were blessed to meet so many new kiddos and their families. Thank you to everyone for showing them that “we are Christians by our love.”

We were so excited to “try something different” by involving as many as possible to help make VBS a success in even more ways! Besides your generous support of VBS in our annual budget, you donated items, funds to purchase additional supplies, and let us borrow all sorts of outdoorsy things to make our church look camp-ready for our adventure! Not to mention the 30+ volunteers who served at VBS. And last but not least, the continuous prayers for us as we charted into some unknowns as we dreamed even bigger this year—God is good!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

You DONUT know how much we appreciate you! Help us celebrate an awesome VBS adventure and our CUCC family and friends! Please join us for Donuts, Juice, and Coffee following 9:30 a.m. worship on Sunday 8/11 as our way of saying “thank you.”

We would LOVE your input! There will be a Curriculum Planning Workshop on Thursday 8/22 at 6:00 p.m. We assure you it will be much more fun than the name suggests. Help us make our Sunday School program even more meaningful for our kiddos and youth.

We are shaking things up for Sunday School and Youth Activities this year and can’t wait to tell you about it! Families of kiddos/youth, please join us after worship on Sunday, August 25 for a “lunch and learn” about all that we have up our sleeves this year. It will be so much fun! This is for the kiddos/youth AND the grownups. Nursery care will be provided. We will be catering from Dickey’s BBQ, so we will need a headcount for everyone attending. Please e-mail [Alexandra](mailto:office@columbiaucc.com) (office@columbiaucc.com) no later than Thursday, August 15.

- Rally Day is Sunday, 9/8. We’re calling everyone to “Seas the Day!” and join us - we love a good play on words and it’s perfect as we “dive” right in this Fall. (Yeah, we’re fans of puns too!)
- Adult Bible Study- 9:00-10:00 a.m. (upstairs in Education Wing, last room on the left). Meets weekly.
- Fellowship Time- 9:00-10:00 a.m. (upstairs in the Gathering Area). We’ll have donuts and such- a great time to catch up with friends old and new!
- Sunday School- 9:00-10:00 a.m., ages 3-12<sup>th</sup> grade. It’s o’fish”al - so much fun planned for our kiddos and youth! Meets weekly (upstairs in Education Wing).

## Additional Adult Education Opportunities

- Contemporary Book Study- “How to Fight Racism” by Jemar Tisby. Meets 9/15, 9/22 and 9/29 at 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. Books will be available (free-will donation.)
- “Raising Good Humans”- a lighthearted time for parents and guardians to meet up, share about the rollercoaster that is raising kiddos, and just have a great time together! It will be from 9:00-10:00 a.m. Stay tuned for fall dates!

Whew! That’s quite a lineup—we’re excited and hope you are too!

The party continues. Praise God for fun times and opportunities to serve the youngest and eldest of learners at CUCC, and everyone in-between!

With Love,  
Lena Muench





**WE ARE SHAKING THINGS UP FOR SUNDAY  
SCHOOL AND YOUTH ACTIVITIES THIS YEAR  
AND CAN'T WAIT TO TELL YOU ABOUT IT!**

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We're taking care of lunch- Dickey's BBQ!!! We will need a head count for everyone attending.

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BARBECUE PIT<sup>®</sup>  
est. 1941

Please e-mail Alexandra no later than Thursday, August 15, [office@columbiaucc.com](mailto:office@columbiaucc.com).



# CROP Walk

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2024

STEPHENS LAKE PARK – GORDON SHELTER

1:00 P.M. REGISTRATION | 1:30 P.M. WELCOME AND STEPOFF | 1:45-3:00 P.M. WALK

NEW - 3:00-3:45 P.M. MUSICAL SHOWCASE

“BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES” is the theme of this year’s CROP Hunger Walk. For 29 years, the Columbia CROP Walk has provided another opportunity for our community to respond to the needs of the poor, the hungry, the unemployed and those dealing with disaster, both locally and around the world.

Four Columbia ministries that provide hunger relief will receive 25% of the money donated. They are Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen, Russell Chapel Community Food Pantry, Destiny Worship Center Food Pantry and Fifth Street Christian Church Feed the Community Program. In 2023 these programs received over \$6,200 from the CROP Walk. Church World Service (CWS) receives 75% of the donations. CWS is a collaborative ministry of 30 faith organizations, working to provide customized, innovative and sustainable solutions to hunger and poverty in the USA and around the world.

As in past years, all locations of Shakespeare Pizza will donate 15% of all sales on Walk Day. Now that’s a good excuse to eat pizza, put a few in the freezer and buy gift cards for your early holiday shopping! The inaugural Cross Missouri CROP Walk was a great success last year. Don Harter, a member of Broadway Christian Church, walked from Columbia to St. Louis and Columbia to Kansas City to promote the CROP Hunger Walk. Don is organizing a walk again this year AND adding a bike ride. If this is something you would be interested in exploring, please contact Don at [HarterD@missouri.edu](mailto:HarterD@missouri.edu) or call [573-443-3258](tel:573-443-3258). Be assured that hiking and cycling only a portion of a day’s trek, rather than the entire distance planned for a particular day, is very much an option. Click [HERE](#) to see the route, each day’s distance, services provided, overnight accommodations and potential participants. If you are a hiker or a biker or just want to meet Don at one of the trailheads to say hello, give him a cold drink and a word of encouragement, check it out!

NEW and EXCITING in 2024 is a Musical Showcase at the end of the Walk. Local youth and adults are being recruited to perform at the Gordon Shelter after the walk to celebrate the CROP Walk and to energize us to go out to BUILD RESILIENT COMMUNITIES. Bring a chair, relax and enjoy the show after a nice walk. We are blessed with a tremendous amount of musical talent in our congregation. If you are interested in sharing your vocal/instrumental gifts, please contact Don Harter at [HarterD@missouri.edu](mailto:HarterD@missouri.edu). Meredith Shaw, a local artist, will be there to help make the event a special one.

Another new activity is CAN-STRUCTION! Beginning August 18, we will begin collecting high protein canned food items that will be delivered to the Gordon Shelter on Walk Day. Canned goods can also be donated directly at the shelter as well. Together participants will build a “can sculpture” – it may be a castle, a boat, a pyramid or whatever comes to the imagination. Requested canned food is tuna, chicken, peanut butter, chili beans, beef stew, chicken and dumplings, pork beef, baked beans and chili. Food items will be donated to local food program partners.

THE 2024 CROP HUNGER WALK HAS FOUR GOALS: 1) Collect \$26,000; 2) have 125 walkers; 3) together have a tally of 800 miles walked; and 4) collect at least 250 cans of food. For these last 29 years, CUCC has been an avid supporter of the CROP Hunger Walk. The goal this year is \$4,000. How can you help achieve this goal? Of course, one way is by donating. Go to [www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiamo](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/columbiamo) Click on “donation”, choose an amount and enter Columbia United Church of Christ as the participant you are supporting. Donations can also be made through Kindred Giving on CUCC website or by check in the Sunday offering or to the church office. Donations can also be made on CROP Walk Day at the event. Want to do more? At the same website, you can join a team or create a team of your own. Then contact family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, etc. asking for support of the CROP Walk. Mark your calendar for September 15 to lace up your shoes and join us for a walk to help in BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES one step at a time through the 2024 COLUMBIA CROP HUNGER WALK.

# Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team

Call to Order by Mark Duncan with Independence Day Reflections and prayer led by Pastor Rick.  
Minutes from our last meeting, May 7, 2024 were approved by consent.  
Next Meeting date: September 10 at 6:30 p.m. Noted that our budget is due by September 1, 2024.

## Ongoing Business:

- “Thank You’s” from: UCC Global Ministries-Mel Xojabal-Chiapas, RIP Medical Debt, Neighbor for Clean Up Columbia, UCC Our Churches Wider Mission and 5 for 5.
- Mobility Worldwide Fundraiser: July 14 at noon at the MU Healthcare Pavilion on Ash St. Our goal is to be a “Band Sponsor” where we would raise \$800. Will be close to 2 carts, with cost of cart now \$425.
- CROP Walk will be our focus for late Summer/early Fall announcement.
- Exploring Creation Justice: Shelly Adams, Llona Weiss, Mahree Skala will be the core team with others invited for “Team Earth.” The first meeting is July 14 and a Book Study on “Green Faith” will start on July 21 for four weeks at 10:30 a.m.
- Missourians for Constitutional Freedom: Results of Petition is now at County Clerks, verifying signatures and appears on track for November ballot. You can read more in the following article: [CLICK HERE](#)
- Special Mission Sunday: The idea to invite the local organizations to join us for a Sunday. Possibly have a visual thing on local missions, graphically representing what we are doing.

## New Business:

- Gift from David Martin Estate for Loaves and Fishes for \$2,500 received.
- City of Refuge Report: Pastor Rick and Deborah Long Birkes noted many volunteer opportunities, and exciting news for a child care center opening. They have a driving simulator to assist people in getting a driver’s license. We provide \$1,000 per year in support. Barry Stoll is glad to attend and present at church anytime.
- Scouts voted unanimous with all groups to charter with CUCC and we discussed many opportunities to augment our volunteer support with this partnership and they are very excited for the opportunity.
- Global Ministries Speaker: weekend of October 5-6. [CLICK HERE](#)
- Christmas in August will be August 4, 2024.
- Reviewal of Vision Statement and our connections/intersections across ministry teams. We see some good opportunities with the Scouts as we evolve that partnership. Our advocacy for women’s rights and reproductive health care access and the exploration of a Creation Justice Covenant is consistent with our vision. Perhaps some partnerships with other churches may be opportunities that are ahead. We have a good sense of being on track with our strategic plan.

## Ministry Team Reports:

On August 25, we will have a Ministry Time and Talent Recruiting Event, with each ministry team having a table with information in the gathering area and two to three minutes each in the service. We are going to do 30-45 second elevator speeches for ours: Audrey on Loaves and Fishes, Llona on AHL, Shelly on Creation Justice, and Mahree on the Food Bank. Mark will be the “interviewer” and will bring a table for display items.

We also discussed Festival of Sharing. Pastor Rick will send some information on that. It will run mid-September through October for Church World Service where reading and writing kits will be collected.

Mission Moments for August and September will be on CROP Walk.  
Mark adjourned with prayer.

Mark Duncan,  
Outreach and Advocacy



# Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team



The July 15 meal at Loaves and Fishes consisted of hamburgers, potato salad, baked beans, & coleslaw (all food that was leftover from the June 2 church picnic), spaghetti, salad (provided by Judi Privitt), bread (provided by Mary Lorber), and cookies. Jessica Jenks made and provided the PB&J's. Servers were Judi Privitt, Mary & Tom Solt, Jo Ellen Grace, Darla Privitt, Lydia Whitacre, Pastor Rick, and Laurie Frew. Doug Privitt took care of the dishwasher duty. We served approximately 135 servings which were firsts and seconds. Thank you to EVERYONE!! Our next serving date is August 19.



Alpha Hart Lewis partnership is seeking erasers for the back to school fund drive through 8/5. There is a Council Day and New Educator Breakfast that we will have information about our church distributed, Llona handling. Two new assistant principals are Carly Wilson and Jessica Cummings.



## **Food Bank Volunteer Shift to Resume on August 27 - Save the Date!**

We'll be back at the Food Bank at 5:30 p.m. on 8/27 to help feed the hungry. A signup link will be shared later in the month via the Friday Email, but please mark your calendars now.

## **YOU CAN HELP PUBLICIZE COLUMBIA UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST!**

One of the greatest challenges for our congregation is our location – many people do not know we are here. Our new signage helps; but social media publicity would help even more. YOU can help make this a reality!

Two ways you can help: first of all, give us a 5-star review on Google! To do so [\*\*CLICK HERE\*\*](#). This will take you to a "Google Search" of CUCC. Click "Google Reviews" and "write a review." This will give you the opportunity to "review" our church. A five star review will help direct others to our church, and will cause our church to "pop up" more prominently on searches. The other way to help is to "share" our CUCC posts on Facebook. Don't just "like" them, "share" them. If you "share" our Facebooks posts, you will exponentially increase our social media presence and advertise our church to a wider community of people. Get the word out – share the Good News! Don't let CUCC remain the best kept secret in town!

## **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.

# THANK YOU!

Thank you for the wonderful outpouring of support for Michael, Kate and family during this difficult time. The prayer vigil was uplifting and powerful! It was great to see you there, and we appreciate the effort that went into putting the lovely readings, music and words of comfort together. Your cards, emails, food, hugs, prayers, love and support continue to sustain us. God bless you, our thoughtful church family.

Sincerely, Anne Heine, Kate Elliott, and family

Dear Cheerful Givers,

I write to express our sincere appreciation for your gift of \$500.00 provided in June 2024. Your timing was perfect, as we have created two new programs for working with young people that started in June of 2024 and occur on Wednesdays. I was just asked if we could buy presentation outfits for the college students and for the little girls enrolled in the Liturgical Dance class. We also want to plan a field trip for the boys enrolled in the mentoring program. As a new program we had not budgeted funds for these requests. Then I was handed a piece of mail. It was your envelope with a donation!!

I called this morning to get your email address so I could send this letter and more communication in the coming weeks. We are so grateful to givers like yourselves who give and trust us to use the funds wisely.

I spoke with Alexandra on the phone, and I let her know when our littles are ready to share their dance, I would love to have the opportunity for you to see what you have invested in.

Appreciatively,  
Dr. Janice Dawson-Threat, Founder/ Executive Director  
Grade A Plus Incorporated

Your gift to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Mid-Missouri gives families like Cecil's what they need the most - each other. Thank you for your donation of pull tabs to support our RMCH guest families and the our children. Your efforts make a real difference! Thank you for inspiring hope with your support.

-Your Friends at Ronald McDonald House Mid-Mo

Thank you for all you have been doing and have done for children impacted by foster care! The birthday celebration bags of cake, icing, cake pans, etc. will be a *huge* blessing to families as they rejoice over the lives of these beloved young people. Thank you also for the opportunity to speak on May 19 about Foster Care Awareness. You all are an amazing congregation!

With joy, April Rothweiler

Thank you for your generous donation to the United Church of Christ to support refugee assistance in the Middle East. Your gift of \$1,300 was received in April 2024. Through your gift, families who have been displaced and need shelter and basic necessities will receive support. Through your generosity, you are participating in God's mission in the world in extraordinary ways.

In faith, Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of UCC

Thank you for your generous gift to Back Bay Mission! Your gift of *Friends of the Mission* makes it possible to meet the most urgent needs of the poor and marginalized of the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Your gift is already at work in strengthening neighborhoods, seeking justice, and transforming lives. You're helping a homeowner stay in their home, providing homeless families with apartments, making sure people have enough food, and giving people the support they need to make their lives better. We really appreciate your support Columbia UCC!

In Grace and Peace, James Pennington, Executive Director of Back Bay Mission

# International Missions

## CUCC IS WORKING IN LEBANON

Amid Lebanon's ongoing economic and social crises, the Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) has played a crucial role in supporting children and their families. Recognizing the difficult circumstances, the UAECNE has intensified its efforts to provide humanitarian aid, food, and necessities to ease the impact of these crises and disaster for vulnerable Armenian children. Additionally, the UAECNE has maintained its commitment to education, offering scholarships and after-school programs to ensure children continue learning despite these challenging times. Through its unwavering dedication, the UAECNE remains a beacon of hope, offering critical assistance and stability to children and families in Lebanon and the region during such difficult times.

Through Global Ministries, CUCC is a partner in mission with The Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches in the Near East (UAECNE) and, through them, we are actively working with many families in Lebanon. This month, please keep Global Ministries, UAECNE, and the people of Lebanon in your prayers!



## UAECNE COMMEMORATES CENTENNIAL

*from [www.globalministries.org](http://www.globalministries.org) July 16, 2024*

The Union of Armenian Evangelical Churches of the Near East (UAECNE) gathered for a celebratory service on June 30 at the First Armenian Evangelical Church of Beirut. The gathering was attended by representatives from all over the world, including the United Church of Christ, represented by delegates from Global Ministries.

"The centennial celebration showed us once more that in spite of all the challenges we face today, the mission of the church can only be realized through serving others, in the likeness of Christ," said Rev. Dr Paul A. Haidostian, president of Haigazian University. "Our focus was not on celebrating 'ourselves' or 'our church,' but on Christ, and the mission of the whole Body. Over four days, we deeply enjoyed our intra-UAECNE fellowship, as well as the encouragement of our ecumenical family."

The service included a segment of welcoming speeches, the reading of Psalms, responsive prayers with the participation of the congregation, and the reading of the Bible in Armenian and Arabic. The main focus of the service was the Lord's Prayer, which was the central theme of the message delivered by Haidostian.

Haidostian concluded his sermon affirming that "The celebration of this centennial is God's peace amid the indescribable storms faced by the Armenian people and the countries of the Middle East. The celebration of the centennial is the example and path of church unity through Christ. The celebration of the centennial is once again the restoration of the Lord's Prayer, the Lord's atmosphere, and the renewal of the church."

For the next three days, the UAECNE 77<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the was held in the Armenian Evangelical churches of Ashrafieh, New Marash, and New Amamos, with the presence of 70 delegates and guests from Lebanon and other countries. The 77<sup>th</sup> General Assembly concluded with a Service of Communion and a candle lighting prayer ceremony, renewing a sense of calling and commitment as the delegates journeyed to their countries and churches.

The Rev. Dr. Karen Georgia Thompson, General Minister and President of the United Church of Christ, and Dr. Peter Makari, Global Relations Minister for the Middle East and Europe in Global Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and United Church of Christ, represented the UCC and Global Ministries at the Union's General Assembly.



# On the Church Calendar in August

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 Pastor Rick on vacation through 8/14	2	3
4 9 a.m. - Fellowship 9:30 a.m. - Worship 11 a.m. - Book Study with Shelly	5 7 p.m. - Troop 4475 Meeting	6 10 a.m. - Quilters	7	8	9	10
11 9 a.m. - Fellowship 9:30 a.m. - Worship 11 a.m. - Book Study with Shelly	12 9 a.m. - LODO Staff Meeting	13 10 a.m. - Quilters	14 Pastor Rick back from vacation	15 6:30 p.m. - Nurture & Education Ministry Team	16	17
18 9 a.m. - Fellowship 9:30 a.m. - Worship	19 4:30 p.m. - Loaves & Fishes 6 p.m. - Scouts BBQ	20 10 a.m. - Quilters 6:30 p.m. - Church Council Meeting	21 4:00 p.m. - Opportunity Campus kickoff at Midway	22 6:00 p.m. - LODO Back to School Night 6:00 p.m. - Nurture & Ed. Curriculum Workshop	23	24
25 9 a.m. - Fellowship 9:30 a.m. - Worship 11:00 a.m. - Parents gathering with Lunch	26 First day of LODO 6 p.m. - Scouts 6:30 p.m. - Fellowship & Hospitality	27 10 a.m. - Quilters 5:30 p.m. - Food Bank 6:30 p.m. - Clergy Personnel Committee	28 6 p.m. - Chapel Ringers Rehearsal 7 p.m. - Celebration Singers Rehearsal	29 5 p.m. - Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	30	31

# The Communicator

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

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



### Interested in Church Membership?

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

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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.