

THE COMMUNICATOR

October 2024

From the Pastor's Keyboard...

"What an Impact!"

As I write this, I am sitting here at my desk, in awe at the incredible work this congregation is doing in the world, the impact we are having on our community, and the lives we are touching. It has been an amazing weekend.

On Saturday, September 21, we hosted 65 members of UCC churches in our UCC Association, the western half of Missouri. Over 30 congregations were represented. 20 CUCC members showed up in shifts to help lead worship, prepare communion, work the tech booth, usher, greet, prepare and serve food, direct people to bathrooms, and do general hospitality duties. We were able to facilitate one of the most enjoyable and meaningful Western Association meetings in recent memory and make an impact on the UCC because we were willing to do the work of the church and open our doors to our ecclesial community. It was an amazing day.

The next day, we welcomed over 50 Scouts, Scout Leaders, parents, and friends of Scouts into our Sanctuary to celebrate our new charter with four Scouting America Units. We expressed covenant together through liturgy, scripture, and prayers; and we celebrated this new partnership. The Scouts and Leaders were all amazed at our openness, our hospitality, and our desire to share God's love with them. They have been refreshed by us, and we have already made an incredible impact on them. It was an amazing morning.

That Sunday evening, I came by church to get some work done and took a break to listen to Quorus, Columbia's LGBTQIA+ Chorus, who were rehearsing in our Sanctuary. Forty Quorus members were celebrating God's inclusive love, singing praises in our welcoming space. They took a break from their rehearsal to express their thanks to me for all that CUCC has done for them. *For some of them, this was the first time a church loved them.* We have made an incredible impact on Quorus; and as I listened to their rehearsal, my heart leapt in my chest. It was an amazing evening.

Now it is Monday evening. Over 100 Scouts, Scout Leaders, Scout Parents, and friends of Scouts are filling our building while I write this. They are learning, they are growing, they are evolving into faithful and productive members of society, because we offer them space, support, and love. The Scout leaders could not shape these youth as they do without our support. We are making an incredible impact on these Scouts. As I listen to their joyful noise in the Fellowship Hall and upstairs (my office door is open to enjoy the noise) my heart is full. It is, once again, an amazing evening.

Tomorrow morning, September 23, I know that 38 preschool children and their parents/guardians will enter these doors, eager to learn the stories of Jesus as well as the alphabet and how to handle big emotions. Every day, our LODO preschool ministry shapes young minds, young hearts, young souls; and their parents as well. We are making a huge impact on these LODO families. I know that tomorrow morning, like most mornings around here, will be an amazing morning.

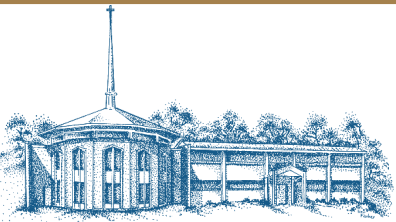
A few weeks ago, we went to Pridefest in Marshall, MO to share God's love with the marginalized community there and this weekend, we will do the same here in Columbia. We are getting out into the community and loving those who need to be loved the most. We have made and will make a huge impact on those who need to hear God's Inclusive message of love.



I am in awe at what an amazing congregation this is. To make such an impact on God's world in such incredible and visible ways is to truly be the church, to truly be Jesus' hands and feet just the way Jesus intended.

All that we are doing is because of **YOU**. Your work and support of this church (physical, spiritual, and financial), your devotion, your care for the mission of Christ, your desire to make an impact in the world; **YOU** are what makes this church make the impact we are making. *What an impact!* This truly is an amazing place; and the fun is just beginning. **YOU** are truly making God's Kingdom a reality; right here, right now; and it is good!

-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

Casey Wood
Music Coordinator

Steven Jannetti
Organist/Accompanist

Alexandra Roper
Office Administrator

Erika Maltsbarger
Director, Little One's Day Out

Caleb Berry
Custodian

Sunday Schedule:

9:00 a.m. Faith Formation
10:00 a.m. Fellowship Time
10:30 a.m. Worship

Office Hours:
Monday through Friday
9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Phone:
(573) 445-7931

Email:
office@columbiaucc.com

Website:
www.columbiaucc.com



SUNDAY MORNING SAFETY

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

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

Neighbors in Need Special Mission Offering

In 2024, the Neighbors in Need theme is "Mental Health Justice For All!" This year's focus is on Mental Health Justice. A just world for all is a world where the human rights and well-being of people with mental health challenges are respected, no matter who you are or where you are in life's mental health journey.

One-third of the offering supports Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds are used by Justice and Witness Ministries to provide grants to UCC churches and organizations as well as supporting a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects.

We will collect the offering on October 6, 2024, as part of World Communion Sunday. You can also [CLICK HERE](#) to donate. Thank you in advance for your support and generosity.

CUCC VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

LODO PUMPKIN FUN DAY

FRIDAY OCTOBER 11

9:15AM-11:45AM

Little One's Day Out will hold its annual Pumpkin Fun Day on Friday October 11. We need assistance from 9:15am-11:30am to help run games and activity stations to allow the LODO Staff to focus on the supervision of students. Our event will be held on the North Hill and the Shelter House. If weather is inclement, the event will be held inside the church.

If you are available to help us with this fun event, please contact Ms. Erika at littleonesdayout@yahoo.com or 573-445-2661.

October Birthdays

Laura Lentz - 10/01	Stephanie Lee - 10/03	Eric Dreier - 10/04	Gina Pierson - 10/05
Hugo Wilmsmeyer - 10/05	Wesley Wells - 10/06	Dean Barry - 10/11	Jane Duncan - 10/13
Chris Tennill - 10/13	Rebeca Holley - 10/14	Dominick Lee - 10/14	Alicia Wilson - 10/15
Charles Marcks - 10/16	Ruth Hotle - 10/18	Hannah Wedemeyer - 10/18	McKinzie Arms - 10/22
Norah Schultz - 10/22	Ron Tennill - 10/22	Doug Oncken - 10/24	Caleb Muench - 10/25
Dale Vetter - 10/25	Dorothy Vetter - 10/25	Carissa Graves - 10/26	Mariann Bullerd - 10/27
Brayden Beckmann - 10/28	Hazel Keithahn - 10/28	Jessica Jenks - 10/28	Casey Wood - 10/30

Sunday Volunteer Schedule for October

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Worship Leaders	Tech Booth
10/6	Anne Heine	Mary Lorber Pat Forward	Llona Weiss	Brent Marcks Ted Dachroeden
10/13	Jessica Lucas	Llona Weiss Jerry Kiesling	Kennedy Lucas	Doug Privitt Judi Privitt
10/20	Donna Marsh	Christine Staelens Phillip Neale	Audrey Lasley	Mike Pierson John Graves
10/27	Mary Lorber	Jim Loveless	Lydia Whitacre	Josh Muench Lorry Dreier

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling	rollzierp50@gmail.com
Secretary:	Alethea Tennill	atennill108@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Deborah Long Birkes	dlong@elon.edu
Recording Treasurer:	Christine Staelens	tigersfour@gmail.com
Building & Grounds:	Ted Dachroeden	gpadoc4gd@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Mary Lorber-Solt	eldercow@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship:	Vacant	
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Tricia Price	tricialprice@gmail.com
Little One's Day Out:	Kristin Veteto	kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com
Membership & Care:	Judi Privitt	judiprivitt811@gmail.com
Nurture & Education:	Lena Muench	cfg323@yahoo.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music:	Jedd Schneider	elusive4thtenor@icloud.com
Pastor:	Rev. Rick Oberle	rick@columbiaucc.com



Moderator's Moment

As the leaves start to fall and the heat lamp that is the sun burns a little less brightly, thoughts of pumpkin carving and costumed children come waltzing into our minds.

Though practically unrecognizable now, Halloween indeed has Christian origins. After all, it is the night before the Christian celebration of All Hallows or All Saints Day when the living honor the dead (including Saints, martyrs, and the faithful departed.) It is celebrated in a great many countries across the world and comes in many different varieties: Dia de Los Muertos in Mexico, and Hungry Ghost festival in China, where it is customary to float river lanterns in honor of the dead.

Some Christians historically abstained from eating meat on All Hallows Eve, opting for vegetarian dishes including apples, potato pancakes, and soul cakes. These soul cakes are like shortbread biscuits and were given out to "soulers," who would go door to door singing songs about and praying for the dead. It is thought by many that this is where the tradition of trick or treat evolved from. Some churches today carry in this tradition, especially in Portugal and the Philippines. It is so very interesting to me to see the ways that differing cultures can take ideas and customs from the Christian diaspora and adopt them to fit in their needs and preferences and the true feeling is not lost. Not as long as we remember it.

This congregation has had more than its share of losses this year, so please take a moment amidst all the secular pomp and flare of Halloween to remember those that have gone before us. I know I will be thinking about our family member Michael Elliot. We will remember all those who died this past year in worship on November 3, as we light candles in their honor and celebrate All Saints Day. If you have a name to be included in the remembrance service on that day, talk to me or [Pastor Rick](#).

Respectfully Submitted,
Kurt Heine, Moderator



Membership & Care Ministry Team

Membership and Care Ministry Team kicked off this back to school season with the Ministry Team Fair on August 25. It was great sharing the work of this team with the congregation. Several congregants expressed interest in our CARE (Compassionate Actions Reward Everyone) groups. Please reach out if you are interested in joining one of our groups. The groups are: Handy Helpers, Visiting members, Meal Ministry, Transportation, Prayer Shawl, Prayer, Note Writers/Cards, Flower, and Health and Wellness.

Our ministry team is beginning to identify members who might benefit from additional contact with another church friend during the week.

We are also coordinating a Youth Adult Gathering on October 13, with a meal and games at Doug and Judi Privitt's house. We hope to see lots of our young adults (ages 18-35) at this fall kickoff event.

Our next meeting will be November 4 at 5 p.m.
Anyone is welcome to join us.

Respectfully Submitted,
Judi Privitt
Membership & Care
Ministry Team Chair



CONGREGATIONAL BUDGET/VISION MEETING OCTOBER 27

The Annual Congregational Budget/Vision Meeting will be held on **Sunday, October 27** right at the end of the worship service. The proposed budget will be emailed to the congregation in early October, and copies will be available in the rear of the Sanctuary. The Vision Team will be presenting their implementation plans for how we will live into our CUCC Strategic Plan for the coming year as well. Stick around after worship on October 27 for this worshipful work of the congregation!

CUCC Church Council

CUCC Council Meeting—August 20, 2024 | CUCC fellowship Hall 6:30 p.m.

The meeting was called to order at 6:47 p.m. by Jerry Kiesling. Pastor Rick opened us with prayer.

Present: Kurt Heine, Jerry Kiesling, Christine Staelens, Deborah Long-Birkes, Ted Dachroeden, Mary Lorber-Solt, Tricia Price, Judi Privitt, Lena Muench, Mark Duncan, Jedd Schneider, Rick Oberle, and Alethea Tennill.

Judi Privitt made a motion to approve the August agenda with a second from Lena Muench. The motion passed.

Ted Dachroeden made a motion to approve the July minutes with one change Mary Lorber- Solt seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Ted Dachroeden discussed “The Building” chapter of *A Real Good Church* by Rev. Molly Phinney. Lena Muench will discuss Chapter two at our September meeting. There were many interesting ideas that inspired us in this chapter. We could use a few more signs downstairs and update some signs that are upstairs. Ted is still working on getting rid of the honeysuckle and dead tree stumps in our yard.

Unfinished Business:

- ☆ Policy and Procedures Manual Update: Executive team met at 5:30 p.m. before the Council Meeting. The Executive Team will give Deborah Birkes salary recommendations for the new budget. They finished going over the Policies and Procedure Manual
- ☆ Land Donation Update: Do not have any updates.
- ☆ Finance and Stewardship Ministry Team Chair: We are still in need of a chair for this Team.
- ☆ Ministry Team Fair: August 25. Each Team is ready to lead/participate in worship service. Tables will be set up in the Gathering Area to hand out information.
- ☆ Western Association Fall Meeting : September 21. Women’s Fellowship will prepare food for the meeting. There will be a speaker discussing “Steeplejacking” which is when organizations try to pull UCC churches out of the UCC denomination. We need three delegates from our church to represent us.
- ☆ Tiger Security Cameras: Four new cameras have been installed for safety.
- ☆ Worship Bulletin Insert Discussion: There was more discussion regarding color inserts. Lena Muench made a motion that we adopt the new Bulletin Guidelines as outlined in the new Office Procedural Manual. Tricia Price seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- ☆ New Light for Sign out Front: Ted is looking into the cost of lights for our sign out front.
- ☆ Free Tree from “Forest Releaf”: We can get a grant to get a free tree. Maybe the scouts can help us on this project. Ted, Jedd, and Kurt can work with the Scouts to pick an appropriate tree.

New Business:

- ☆ Vision Team Plans 2024: There will be a meeting September 26 at 6:30 p.m. Jerry hopes to brainstorm ideas for 2024-2025.
- ☆ 2025 Budget : Please turn in your changes to Deborah Birkes by September 1.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor’s Report was presented.

Financials were presented. Our Joyful Giving is above budget; however, our expenses are also above budget. Some of this is due to when the bills come in for yearly charges.

Ministry Reports:

- ☆ Building & Grounds: Helped LODO with playground equipment
- ☆ Fellowship & Hospitality: Next meeting is Aug 26. Working on Rally Day meal and the New Fall Festival.
- ☆ Finance & Stewardship: Chair is still Vacant. Will work on planned giving for the endowment.
- ☆ Inclusion & Affirmation: They are meeting August 22.
- ☆ LODO: There is an Amazon wish list for items needed for the next school year.
- ☆ Membership & Care: See report.
- ☆ Nurture & Education: See report.
- ☆ Outreach & Advocacy: Raised \$995 for Mobility Worldwide.
- ☆ Worship & Music: 9/1 is the last Sunday for 9:30 a.m. worship. Choir starts 8/28.

Pastor Rick closed us in prayer.

Motion to adjourn by Mary Lorber-Solt, seconded by Lena Muench. The motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Alethea Tennill, Secretary



Music & Worship Ministry Team

JOYFUL WORSHIP WITH THE SCOUTS ON “CHARTERING SUNDAY”

On Sunday, September 22, we celebrated “Chartering Sunday” at CUCC; the day we recognized our new charter with Scouting America. Over 50 Scouts, Scout Leaders, and parents of Scouts participated in our worship service that day, signing our new charter, and participating in a liturgy celebrating the covenant we share. After worship, the Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team provided donuts for the Scouts.

As the Chartering Agency, these are “our” Scouts and we are “their” church. This is a true partnership in every way as we work together to enhance each one’s mutual ministry, celebrate and develop the gifts of youth, and glorify God in new and exciting ways. Jeff Offut, one of the Unit Committee Leaders, led the covenant with the church and several of the Youth Leaders participated in worship, offering testimony and reading scripture.

We are home to four Scout units:

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



WELCOME TO QUORUS!

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

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

Quorus would love to have CUCC members join their choir! To learn more about Quorus, [CLICK HERE](#).

If you are interested in joining them or talking to Audra Sergal, their director and coordinator, [CLICK HERE](#).



Fellowship & Hospitality

Greetings and salutations! Well, Fall is here, most of my hummers are gone, and the bees are being prepped for Winter, but our Ministry team is shifting into high gear planning several events. That being said, I want to give a huge shout out to Ron Tennill and Fred Malicoat for the best fish fry ever! Thank you, thank you! We served a total of 80 plates, with many seconds. A great Rally Day indeed, and thank you to all who helped set up, take down tables and chairs, cooked, and washed dishes. Many hands make light work.

Next on the agenda is our **Fall Festival, October 20** from 4:00-7:00 p.m. We will have a hotdog roast, s'mores, chips, and drinks, with lots of fun outside activities, like horse shoes, washers, ladder golf, and more! Fun, food, and fellowship- it doesn't get any better than that! If you would like to help in any way, there are sign-up sheets in the coat room.

We have a Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team meeting on October 14 at 6:30 p.m.; feel free to stop by. All are welcome. Until next month, bee safe, bee thankful, and always... bee Blessed.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lorber-Solt
Ministry Team Chair



Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team

THE CUCC ENDOWMENT FUND

Have you remembered CUCC in your will? In the years to come, this is a question you may hear now and again as we work to build up the CUCC Endowment Fund. We have set a goal of raising \$2 million in the next five years to build it up to a capacity where the growth from the fund can help supplement our annual budget. **A balance of \$2,000,000 would realize \$80,000/year for our annual budgeted ministry work!**

Planned gifts are planned for during a donor's lifetime, but not realized by the beneficiary (in this case, the church) until after the donor's death. Planned gifts are a wonderful way to leave a legacy, to ensure that God's mission will continue in this place, long after we are no longer here. There are several ways to structure your planned gift, depending on your objectives. Some of these include:

- A bequest in your will, either an amount or a percentage (no minimum balance necessary)
- A Charitable Gift Annuity (must be a minimum of \$10,000)
- A Charitable Remainder Trust (must be a minimum of \$50,000)
- Outright gifts of life insurance, an IRA, real estate or appreciated trusts (no minimum balance necessary)

While the fund will grow through planned giving, it is also open to contributions at any time. Though we encourage estate planning toward this fund, we should aspire to build it through living gifts as well. Once the fund reaches \$500,000 (the defined principal) we have the ability to begin realizing a 4% draw of a rolling 12-quarter average, to be used to meet our annual budget. While the fund grows, our annual draw will grow, and the ministries of this congregation will grow. To give, or to make a planned gift, talk to Keith Birkes, Paula Wilson, Sue Ann Schaefer, Doug Privitt, Christine Staelens, Deborah Birkes, Barry Kirchhoff, or Brent Marcks!

Financial Update

	Actual	Budget	Over/ (Under)
August Income	\$22,143.98	\$27,085.00	(-\$4,941.02)
August Expenses	\$28,812.51	\$31,382.44	(-\$2,569.93)
YTD Income	\$241,918.12	\$232,525.00	\$9,393.12
YTD Expenses	\$270,402.76	\$253,055.64	\$17,347.12
Surplus/(Deficit)	(-\$28,484.64)	(-\$20,530.64)	(-\$7,954.00)
August Joyful Giving	\$20,661.13	\$26,000.00	(-\$5,338.87)
YTD Joyful Giving	\$230,418.00	\$224,000.00	\$6,418.00

Worship Attendance

Date	Attendance
8/4	58
8/11	67
8/18	59
8/25	79

CUCC ONLINE GIVING

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

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

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

Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

Stephen Gettinger, a retired journalist, wrote an amazing article about his family's journey with Alzheimer's. It was published via the New York Times. A synopsis of that article follows.

Mr. Gettinger's mom had Alzheimer's for 30 years. He remembers his mom waking up his dad in the middle of the night to search for her mother who had died years before. His dad would 'give in' and drive mom around their town until she was lulled back to sleep.

Gettinger declares, however, that was far from the whole story. With the progression of his mom's Alzheimer's, she became less depressed, something that had been a lifelong issue for her. She was pleasantly surprised by the same event over and over again. She blew kisses to everyone and enjoyed her job of folding napkins. He notes that she was happy. Via his interviews and research with other families, he has learned that more than six million Americans with Alzheimer's have a reasonably 'tolerable experience' with the condition. Those numbers will increase as the baby boomer generation ages.

Indeed, he is now 74 and has himself been diagnosed with Alzheimer's. His symptoms included being unsteady on his feet, difficulty hearing, a change in posture, some issues with swallowing, forgetting more, and getting "infuriated" with his computer. He was aware, that with his family Alzheimer's history, he could develop it, yet the diagnosis was chilling. Over the weeks after his official diagnosis with a neurologist, he followed the practical suggestions made to help him and his family. His medications were reviewed and altered. He got new glasses. He began physical therapy. He was encouraged to go back to the gym. These changes, obviously, do not alter the course of the condition, but they did improve his mood, gait, balance, posture, strength, and stamina. He also notes that he is one of the truly lucky ones with a resourceful spouse, attentive children, good health insurance, great doctors and the benefit of decades of medical research.

Mr. Gettinger refutes calling those with Alzheimer's victims, sufferers, or even patients. They are still individuals in pursuit of happiness. This is how he ended his article: "As activities and some aspects of my previous life inevitably fade away, I hope to be similarly graced by deepening of other capacities. Now, if anyone were to offer me the same deal as my mother's – to live to 89 with receding memories, but to drift away in sleep still enjoying life and bringing joy to others – I'd grab it in a second."

Greater Missouri Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association serves 86 counties in Missouri and 10 in Illinois. There are 120,000 people, as of 2020, in our region currently living with Alzheimer's and their caretakers. Over 319,000 family and friends are providing unpaid assistance to individuals living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Their help line is: 800-272-3900. The local office is at 2609 E. Broadway, Suite 119.

Respectfully submitted,
Alisa Lau-Sieckman



News You Can Use from your Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team

- ❖ Join us at our next meeting! Sunday, October 27, after church.
- ❖ Help re-paint the outdoor Nativity set! Date and time coming soon.
- ❖ We sponsored a booth at the inaugural MORR Pride Fest in Marshall, MO. CUCC was the only church showing support in-person. Thank you to Pastor Rick, Alexandra Roper, Elaine Trout, Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Eloy Montenegro, David Duvall, and Tom (Eloy's friend) for Loving Out Loud with glitter blessings!
- ❖ We sponsored a booth at Mid-MO PrideFest 2024. Thank you to the following helpers who filled our giveaway bags: Alexandra Roper, Alisa Lau-Sieckman, Elaine Trout, Judi Privitt, Jo Ellen Grace, Jolene Kirchhoff, Lynn Tsapelas, and Melba Shaffer.
- ❖ Thank you to Melba Shaffer for getting the Mayan Tapestries wall-ready.
- ❖ Save the date! The Columbia Values Diversity Celebration will take place on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, from 7-9 a.m. at the Holiday Inn Expo Center. This year's theme is "Embracing the Dream: Columbia Commits to Action." We will buy a table.

Save the date: Movie and Pizza night: Saturday, November 2 at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will watch the movie Origin, a 2023 film written and directed by Ava DuVernay, based on the life of Isabel Wilkerson when she wrote the book Caste: Origins of our Discontents. This film is rated PG-13. All are invited to attend this special movie and pizza night! Great discussion will follow the movie!

LODO Ministry Team

LODO have had a great start to our school year. Our students are settling in to classroom routines and forming friendships with peers. We started off with a Fall Family Picnic on Friday, September 6 and had close to 100 participants including our LODO families and staff! The weather, food, and fellowship made for a wonderful evening as our families connected with one another. We have many activities and special events planned during October.

We are looking for CUCC volunteers to help with our Pumpkin Fun Day on Friday, October 11 from 9:15 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. Volunteers will help with activity stations so that our staff can maintain supervision of the students at each station. Please see the information below.

Wishing you all a happy Fall!

In Love and Laughter,
Erika Maltsbarger



"Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it"
-Proverbs 22:6 NIV

I've been meditating on this scripture lately and it seems very appropriate to CUCC's ministry through our Little Ones Day Out (LODO) program. It is a great opportunity to be in the place of service to young children and their families. I strongly believe this is where we can make the most impact on our society! This *IS* how we change the world: one child at a time...one family at a time! We see in research time and time again- the importance of early childhood for both neurological brain development and for the growth and progress of society. Early childhood is such an important time to steward well, and LODO is our opportunity as a church to do just that. This year we've welcomed many new families to the LODO program; that is exciting and something we are being intentional with.

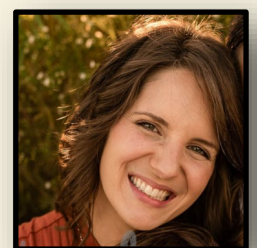
The LODO Ministry Team has been busy the last few months with our quarterly meeting in September and hosting a booth at the Aug 25 Ministry Team Fair. There we shared about the unique characteristics of this team and how church members can support the LODO ministry through volunteering and financial support on the [Amazon Wish List](#).

At our last meeting we reviewed current LODO enrollment, approved the purchase of a much needed Director's computer, and engaged in a fruitful discussion of how we can best collaborate with other organizations and continue to network and share about the LODO program within our community. We also officially approved participation in COMO Gives with a \$20k campaign goal for the LODO program, which you will hear more about in the coming months!

I'll leave you with the lyrics of our most recent response at church to ponder and meditate on as we keep the littles ones at LODO in our hearts and minds:

*"Tell me the stories of Jesus I long to hear;
things I would ask him to tell me if he were here: scenes by the
wayside,*

Blessings,
Kristin Veteto
LODO Ministry Team Chair



Nurture & Education Ministry Team

Our new “Sunday School Year” is off to a GREAT start!

Here’s a rundown of our Sunday Morning lineup:

- ✦ Adult Bible Study: 9:00-10:00 a.m. (upstairs in Education Wing, last room on the left). Meets weekly.
- ✦ Sunday School: 9:00-10:00 a.m., ages 3 years of age to those in 12th grade. PreK-2nd Grade and 3rd-5th Grade classes upstairs in Education Wing, 6th-12th Grade downstairs in Youth Lounge.
- ✦ Fellowship Time: 9:00-10:00 a.m. (upstairs in the Gathering Area).
- ✦ “Raising Good Humans”: Our next gathering is 10/20 9:00-10:00 a.m. upstairs in the Education Wing (last room on the right). It’s 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! Nursery care available for littles ages 2 and under.

Having breakfast EVERY Sunday at the start of Sunday School is a hit so far! We have toasters and microwaves in each room now, and are looking forward to more fun and fellowship as we gather each Sunday. Hint, hint - have your kiddos/youth there by 8:55 a.m. so they don’t miss out on this! The kids and youth are enjoying our new curriculum structure (THANK YOU, GINA!!!) which focuses on helping them “learn the things we want them to know for life in a fun and meaningful way.” Say that five times.

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

Here are a few details about the openings:

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



[CLICK HERE](#) for a link to sign up (you can also scan the QR code.)

I am always happy to field ANY questions that you may have. My cell is 573-881-2571. Thank you for your consideration (and hopefully signing up)!

One more thing - I’m finally getting the rest of the new window coverings ironed and hung in the Education Wing. As I mentioned last month, we couldn’t find “standard issue” ones that were the right length—and although I can sew I’m fairly sure they would all end up being different lengths. They look “fine”, but would definitely benefit from a quick hem--if you’re willing to help us do that, we would be soooooo appreciative—just let me know if you’re willing to do “some” or “all”!

I think back to when the boys used to watch “Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood” (the modern day, animated spinoff of “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood.”) One of the songs that always sticks with me says “Everyone is big enough, big enough to do something.” God makes each of us “big enough” to do “something.” What is your “something” to help Nurture/Education? It takes a big team.

Everyone makes a difference. Thanks for your time, talents, love, and prayers.

With Love,
Lena Muench
Nurture & Education
Ministry Team Chair



Creation Justice

This Month in Creation Care History:

- 🌍 **Jay Norwood “Ding” Darling** was born in October 1876. He witnessed firsthand changes as the Euro-American population pushed west, often leaving wastelands where natural beauty and wildlife had always been. He was known as “the best friend a duck ever had,” as his conservation efforts focused on decreasing excess hunting, land clearing, and preserving wetlands. The subtropical barrier island of Sanibel, Florida, is home to a wildlife refuge named for Darling. The refuge has the distinction of being the largest undeveloped mangrove ecosystem in the United States.
- 🌍 In October 1968, after much controversy and compromise with timber companies, Congress approved the establishment of **Redwood National Park**. Redwoods are the tallest of all trees, growing up to 400 feet with a life span of 2,000 years. Before Europeans arrived, northern California was home to more than two million acres of old-growth redwoods. These lands have been an important part of the practical and spiritual lives of Indigenous peoples. Euro-American immigrants who discovered gold in the area posed a serious threat to the redwoods, resulting in outcomes that were devastating for indigenous humans, wildlife, and tree populations. In the 1910s, concerned citizens realized that the tree giants were on their way to extinction. It took more than 50 years (after which 95 percent of the redwoods were gone) for the National Park to be created. These majestic trees are now protected.
- 🌍 **The Clean Water Act**, enacted in October 1972, arose from the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1948. Its purposes are to ensure safe drinking water, restore and maintain oceans, watersheds, and ecosystems with the goal of protecting human health, supporting economic and recreational activities, and providing clean habitat for fish and other wildlife.

In 2001, the U.S. Supreme Court limited Federal oversight of millions of acres of wetlands, leaving that oversight to the States. Many see this as a significant step backward in protection of these wetlands that serve several important functions, including providing critical habitat for fish and wildlife, purifying polluted water, and buffering the effects of storms and floods.

- 🌍 **St. Francis of Assisi**, the Patron Saint of Ecology, was born in October 1181. St. Francis gave up his wealth, lived in poverty, and preached the Christian doctrine that the world was created good and beautiful by God. It is said that he even preached to the birds. In 1223, he was the first to create a Nativity for the Christmas season, complete with live animals.

“Everybody needs beauty as well as bread, places to play in and pray in, where nature may heal and cheer and give strength to body and soul alike.”

- John Muir, “Father of the National Parks”

Respectfully Submitted,
Shelly Adams



Coming Soon! Team Earth Creation Justice Lunch & Learn: Recycling

CUCC's Team Earth will host the first of several Creation Justice Lunch & Learn Forums on Sunday, October 20, 2024. We'll meet in Fellowship Hall right after worship and begin with a light lunch.

October's topic is: recycling. We'll be hosting a City of Columbia volunteer ambassador to present on this topic. We'll have plenty of time for questions, so bring yours with you and we'll all learn together. CUCC's Team Earth will be hosting a “Lunch and Learn” every third Sunday for this academic year on green topics; mark your calendars for November 17, 2024 and January 19, February 16, March 16, 2025 on topics such as solar power, climate justice, composting, and the science of climate change.

Recycling is an important economic driver, as it helps create jobs and tax revenues. The Recycling Economic Information (REI) Report found that, in a single year, recycling and reuse activities in the United States accounted for 757,000 jobs, \$36.6 billion in wages and \$6.7 billion in tax revenues. This equates to 1.57 jobs, \$76,000 in wages and \$14,101 in tax revenues for every 1,000 tons of material recycled. (Source: EPA.gov)

Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team



The September 16 meal at Loaves and Fishes consisted of chicken alfredo (made by Mary Lorber), spaghetti (made by Judi Privitt), lettuce salad (provided by Patty Beeson), bread, and cookies. PBJ's were made and provided by Jessica Jenks. Servers/dishwashers for the evening were Jessica Jenks, Tom & Mary Lorber-Solt, Patty Beeson, Doug and Judi Privitt, Mark Duncan, Keith Birkes, and Pastor Rick. There were approximately 148 servings.

Thank you so much to everyone who helped out!

-Audrey Lasley, coordinator

ALPHA HART LEWIS PARTNERSHIP UPDATE



Columbia Public Schools are in full swing, and Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary is going strong! Thank you again, CUCC members, for all your support for our Partner in Education. Pastor Rick and I met with Principal Amanda Minear, Home School Coordinator Thel Sargent, Assistant Principal Carlie Wilson, and Assistant Principal Jessica Cummings on September 18 to discuss our partnership activities and assistance for the upcoming year.

- ✦ 10/18 from 8:30-9:30 a.m. AHL is having its annual AVID Academy for families and friends to explore careers with students, with the theme being "Learning is an Adventure to Future Opportunities through College and Career Readiness." You are invited to come!
- ✦ 10/30 from 5:00-7:00 p.m. AHL is having its AHL PTA Trunk-or-Treat at school and CUCC families are invited to share a trunk for Halloween treats.
- ✦ 12/17-12/19 around 2:15 p.m. will be party days for the different grades and CUCC folks are welcome to volunteer to help with the activities.
- ✦ 01/10/25 is "Dress fancy" lunch with the students reading during the lunch periods.
- ✦ 03/17/25 is Biz Town in St. Louis, where CUCC folks have volunteered in the past.
- ✦ 04/10/25 is Multi-Cultural Day with the Huskie Harmony choirs singing; we might see if we can include some CUCC choir singers.
- ✦ 05/9/25 is the PTA Carnival from 5:30-7:30 p.m. CUCC is welcome to provide volunteers again as in years past and/or donations for raffle baskets.
- ✦ 05/16/25 is Field Day all day with fun activities and CUCC folks are welcome to volunteer.

We also discussed future activities at CUCC and invited AHL families to participate. Our discussion of the Scouts who are chartered with CUCC was of much interest, along with the MAC Scholars at AHL, and we will discuss further opportunities where we can all help each other with projects, work, etc. If you are interested in volunteering with any of the above, or have questions, please see [Llona Weiss](#) or [Pastor Rick](#).

Respectfully Submitted,
Llona Weiss
Liaison for CUCC to AHL



2024 FESTIVAL OF SHARING

As a cooperative response to hunger, poverty and justice in Missouri and beyond, the Festival of Sharing hopes to support projects and programs that help neighbors experience healthy and full lives. Their efforts include: providing funding, resources, and goods; sharing information on agency efforts in Missouri; and praying for the collective work of people of faith.

This year, CUCC's focus is "MO Student Dental Kits." Beginning October 13, lists of needed items along with gallon size zipper storage bags will be available in The Gathering Area. Filled bags need to be returned by October 27. The cost of filling a bag is approximately \$13. Each bag should contain two *adult soft toothbrushes* (in the original package), *four child-size soft toothbrushes* (in the original package), *one fluoride toothpaste* (six oz or larger), *one dental floss* OR *one package of floss picks* (any size). The need is great. In 2023, almost 3,800 dental kits were requested, with only 2,066 shared.

Each year the Festival also has a quilt auction. It is an online auction starting at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, November 3 to Saturday, November 9. For more information and to access the auction site go to www.festivalofsharing.org. Proceeds from the auction benefit the Church World Service Blankets Program.

Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team

SEPTEMBER 10, 2024 OUTREACH AND ADVOCACY TEAM MEETING

PRESENT: Mark Duncan, Mahree Skala, Pastor Rick Oberle, Llona Weiss, Shelly Adams, Audrey Lasley, Barry Kirchhoff, Judi Privitt, Keith Birkes, and Jessica Jenks. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Mark, who led a devotional prayer. Minutes of the July 2, 2024 meeting were accepted by acclamation.

Next meeting date is November 12 at 6:30 p.m.

ONGOING BUSINESS

- ☆ Thank you notes: we received from several agencies and ministries which received donations from CUCC.
- ☆ Mobility Worldwide Fundraiser: CUCC donated \$995, which is enough for more than two carts.
- ☆ CROP Walk: Jessica gave an update on final preparations for the Walk.
- ☆ Exploring Creation Justice, Team Earth: Shelly, Mahree and Llona gave a summary of upcoming speakers and activities being planned. The Team meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month.
- ☆ Missourians for Constitutional Freedom: Mahree reported that Amendment 3 will be on the 11/5 ballot.
- ☆ Moms Rising: This organization provides free postcards and mailing lists, asking individuals to write a card simply asking people to get out and vote. A church member asked about The Outreach Team supporting the campaign, and while we will not specifically support the effort, the church member can certainly approach individuals with the request.

NEW BUSINESS

- ☆ Race Onward Update: Barry has posted updated information on the bulletin board in the gathering area.
- ☆ Budget: 1.) An increase of \$500 to the budget was requested. It was moved by Llona and seconded by Shelly that this increase go to Center Project. Their mission is to provide a safe, affirming space to learn, grow, build community, and access support and resources, historically focusing on the LGBTQIA+ community; 2.) The St. Francis House is closing, and the property is for sale. There was discussion about how to distribute the funds intended for that program. It was moved by Mahree and seconded by Shelly that the \$1,100 designated in September, 2024 be redirected to Room at the Inn. The September donation to St. Francis/Lois Bryant Houses is being voided; 3.) For the 2025 budget, with the closing of St Francis/Lois Bryant Houses, a motion by Llona was made to increase donations to Turning Point (\$3,100) and VAC (4,100); 4.) Loaves and Fishes will not be added as a line item in the 2025 budget but will remain as a designated fund to be used as needed.
- ☆ Special Mission Project for 2024: a motion by Llona was seconded by Shelly to approve \$5,000 to the Opportunity Campus/VAC project.
- ☆ Global Ministries Speaker at CUCC: Pastor Rick provided a link to introduce Dr. Nibedita Pramanik, the director of Evangelical Hospital Society in Khariar, India. She will be the speaker on October 6.
- ☆ Fifth Sunday offering: September 29

Mission Moments

- ☆ 10/6 Neighbors in Need collection: Mark will submit an article for the October Communicator
- ☆ 10/13 Festival of Sharing: Jessica will lead and submit an article for the October Communicator, and talk about it in worship on 10/13.
- ☆ 10/20 and 10/27 Festival of Sharing/MO Student Dental Pack: Pastor Rick will lead these.

The meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m. Pastor Rick offered a closing prayer.

Mark Duncan,
Outreach and Advocacy
Ministry Team Chair



NEXT FOOD BANK OPPORTUNITY 10/22

The next CUCC shift at the Food Bank is on Tuesday, October 22 at 5:30 p.m. Help feed the hungry - we never know what the task will be! Whether we make boxes, sort produce, or package pasta, it's always a fun and worthwhile evening.

To sign up to help, [CLICK HERE](#) or contact [Mahree Skala](#) for more information. It is always a fun evening, and many hands make the workload much lighter!



Scouting America

At their September Court of Honor, Troop 4475 celebrated their first Eagle Scout - Nora Schneider.

To become an Eagle, a Scout must complete a minimum of 21 merit badges, fulfill leadership roles, display outdoor skills, demonstrate the Scout Oath and Law, develop a comprehensive service project for the community, and show leadership in completing their project.



Nora served as Troop 4475's first senior patrol leader when the troop formed in March 2020. As an active member of 4475, Nora has been a troop guide, a Junior Assistant Scoutmaster, and is an active member in Scouting's camping honor society the Order of the Arrow. She has also served as camp staff at Camp Hohn for several summers. For her Eagle project, Nora built an educational display board for Jefferson Middle School to display information related to the JMS Zoo, chickens, and the Columbia STEM alliance waste reduction program. Nora Schneider advanced to Eagle Scout rank at her Board of Review on May 28, 2024. **Congratulations, Nora!**

Scout Troop 708 Water Sports Campouts and Court of Honor

In September, Troop 708 held a Court of Honor on Monday, Sept. 16, for all Scouts who earned merit badges during the summer and advanced in rank. 30 Scouts earned 107 merit badges! Ten Scouts earned special awards. 13 Scouts advanced in rank and one Scout became an Eagle Scout, the highest rank!

Connor Maltsbarger was recognized for achieving Eagle Rank on July 10. To earn Eagle, Connor held leadership positions in the troop, earned at least 21 merit badges and completed a service project. For his project, Connor lead a volunteer team to build shelves in the storage area at CUCC. In addition, Connor also earned a bronze and gold palms, which means he earned at least additional 15 merit badges!

As with all Scouting events, the program was run by the Scouts themselves. The ceremony is led by the Senior Patrol Leader, the Scout who is elected by his peers to lead the entire troop. Kai Kuroki was elected as SPL during summer camp. After he was elected, Kai named two Assistant Senior Patrol Leaders, Keegan Offut and Noah Cramer.

The special awards recognized the Scouts' achievements at High Adventure camps. This summer, Scouts from Troop 708 and 4475 went to Northern Tier, a Scout camp at the Boundary Waters in Minnesota. Scouts canoed more than 50 miles and even crossed over into Canada. They earned awards for environmental and spiritual service called the "Northern Tier Lake Monitoring Program" and "Duty to God."

In addition to adventure, Scouts from 708 attend or taught at a week-long leadership camp called, "National Youth Leadership Training" or "NYLT." Scouts practiced leadership, communication and teambuilding.

Finally, as a last hurrah to summer, Scouts attended their annual "Water Sports Campout" at the Lake of the Ozarks. Scouts enjoyed skiing, or trying to ski, tubing, fishing and swimming.



International Missions

CUCC IS WORKING IN VENEZUELA

The Evangelical Pentecostal Church of Venezuela (UEPV) is a prominent Christian denomination in Venezuela with a rich history and significant influence. Founded in the early 20th century, the UEPV emphasizes charismatic worship, spiritual empowerment, and Evangelism. It has a strong presence in Venezuela, running churches, educational institutions, and community outreach programs. The UEPV plays a pivotal role in the country's spiritual landscape, fostering faith, unity, and social engagement among its members. Contributing to the spiritual and moral development of individuals and communities, the UEPV makes a lasting impact on Venezuela's religious and cultural fabric.

Through **Global Ministries**, CUCC is a partner in mission with The Evangelical Pentecostal Church of Venezuela (UEPV) and, through them, we are actively working with many families in Venezuela. This month, please keep Global Ministries, UEPV, and the people of Venezuela in your prayers!



DR. NIBEDITA PRAMANIK WILL BE AT CUCC OCTOBER 6

Dr. Pramanik is the director of Evangelical Hospital Society Khariar, India. She has been serving this institution since 2007 in different capacities: as a junior medical officer, as a general and laparoscopic surgeon, and starting in 2015 as the director of the hospital. She trained at the CMC Vellore medical school and received additional training in urology in 2022. She was moved by the poverty and crying medical need of the area and heeded God's call for her to commit her life to missions. She dreams of making Evangelical Hospital Society Khariar a well-equipped tertiary care hospital that will be able to provide competent compassionate service to the most critical patients. She has additionally undergone training and education as a palliative consultant and has a heart for dying patients.

She says, "I strongly felt that God was leading me to be planted here in Khariar, and I was moved by the crying need for medical help in this region. I dedicated my life to missions at the tender age of 24 years to serve long-term in Khariar. I have the vision to make Khariar not just a surviving mission hospital, but a thriving mission hospital, a mini CMC, and a tertiary-level medical center with a medical school in the future. I hope to be able to let the churches (both UCC and the Disciples) and individuals know about how this little frail four-bed medical mission started in 1930 and has grown into a 110-bed secondary level multispecialty hospital. I want to share with them about the trying conditions of persecution and financial strains that this organization has suffered, and yet been richly blessed by the prayers, good wishes, and contributions of the churches and individuals. I want to testify to my brothers and sisters in the US on how God has enabled us to stand against all odds and be a progressive hospital adopting modern technology in medicine and surgery with a spirit of Christ's love and compassion, and offering competent care to the poorest of poor at very affordable prices, while all of the staff working in very low salaries, and striving to serve and follow Christ. I want to inform them about the needs and plans of this organization. I also want to inform them about the orphanage and the school that the hospital supports."

Dr. Pramanik's is a member of Mukti Marg Church, Church of North India, Khariar; one of our Global Ministries Mission Partners. She is currently in the US, visiting UCC and Disciples Churches. ***We will be honored to have her here on October 6, joining us to celebrate World Communion Sunday. Don't miss worship on October 6, to meet Dr. Pramanik!***



THANK YOU!

You have assisted persons with mobility difficulties like this boy in Kenya with leg braces. It will be easier or him to go longer distances from home. Thank you for your check for \$995. You are helping to produce over 35 Mobility Carts each week with one or two shipments each month. Columbia UCC, with your help, we will continue to lend a hand to children to move from home to school or play with others.

Providing independence, Karen Stohlgren, Volunteer at Mobility Worldwide

THANK YOU FROM THE WESTERN ASSOCIATION

On Saturday, September 21, CUCC hosted 65 guests from the Western Association of the Missouri Mid South Conference of the United Church of Christ for the Association Annual Meeting. The guest speaker was the Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer, who spoke about "Steeplejacking," an insidious tactic utilized by outsiders to sow dissention and discord in the United Church of Christ. His talk was informative and illuminating! Worship was led by Pastor Rick and Shelly Adams; and Association Moderator Tim Fairley offered a Moderator's report on the state of the Association. Rev.

Damien Lake, our Associate Conference Minister, and Rev. Mary Nelson, our Transitional Conference Minister, also shared information about Conference Activity.

Rev. Farley expressed thanks to Columbia UCC for exemplifying extravagant hospitality to the church members and guests gathered. A special word of thanks goes to our CUCC Women's Fellowship, who prepared an amazing lunch for everyone to share. We rolled out the red carpet well, and the Association was very grateful for our hospitality. Thank you everyone who pitched in to host and coordinate worship, helping make this day an amazing event!



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.

On the Church Calendar in October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>6 World Communion/ Global Missions Sunday 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship 4:00 p.m. - Young Adults Group at Privit's house</p>	<p>7 6:00 p.m. - Scouting America</p>	<p>8 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. - Troop 708</p>	<p>9 6:00 p.m. - Prayer Shawl 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers</p>	<p>10 9:30 a.m. - Women's Fellowship</p>	<p>11 9:30 a.m. - LODO Pumpkin Fun Day</p>	<p>12 YOM KIPPUR 8:00 am - Church Work Day</p>
<p>13 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship 4:00 p.m. - Young Adults Group at Privit's house</p>	<p>14 INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY 6:00 p.m. - Scouting America 6:30 p.m. - Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>15 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. - Council Meeting</p>	<p>16 10:00 a.m. - Pastor Rick leads worship at The Bluffs 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers</p>	<p>17 1:00 p.m. - Race Onward meeting 6:00 p.m. - Troop 4475</p>	<p>18 CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING 8:30 a.m. - AVID Academy at Alpha Hart Lewis</p>	<p>19 CONFERENCE ANNUAL GATHERING</p>
<p>20 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship 12:00 p.m. - Lunch & Learn: Recycling 4:00 p.m. - Fall Party</p>	<p>21 4:30 p.m. - Loaves & Fishes 6:00 p.m. - Scouting America</p>	<p>22 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 5:30 p.m. - Food Bank</p>	<p>23 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 8:00 a.m. - Troop 4475 Planning Meeting 9:00 a.m. - Quilts of Valor Rummage Sale</p>
<p>27 BUDGET MEETING 9:00 a.m. - Sunday School 10:00 a.m. - Fellowship 10:30 a.m. - Worship/Meeting 12:00 p.m. - Inclusion Team 6:30 p.m. - Pastor Rick leads worship @ Lenoir</p>	<p>28 6:00 p.m. - Scouting America</p>	<p>29 10:00 a.m. - Quilters 10:30 a.m. - Staff Meeting 6:30 p.m. - Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting</p>	<p>30 4:30 p.m. - Trunk or Treat at Alpha Hart Lewis 6:00 p.m. - Chapel Ringers 7:00 p.m. - Celebration Singers</p>	<p>31 HALLOWEEN</p>		

The Communicator

Columbia United Church of Christ
An Open and Affirming Congregation - ONA #1575
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The Communicator is a publication of Columbia United Church of Christ. The stated purpose is to communicate with the congregation and our friends concerning the organizations and events of the church. It is published once each month. The deadline for articles is the 20th of each month.




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




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

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



Interested in Church Membership?

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



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Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant**

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You are welcome here!

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

LODO PLAYGROUND RESPECT

Please help us keep our playground safe for all children by following these guidelines:

- ◆ The CUCC playground is designed for, and should be used by, **only children ages 8 and younger**.
- ◆ Adult supervision is required while children are on the playground.
- ◆ Mulch must stay on the ground. When children dig up mulch it creates holes that are tripping hazards. Children should only dig in the sandbox.
- ◆ Sand should stay in the sandbox. Please do not allow sand to be carried and dumped in the playhouse or on play structures.
- ◆ Use playground equipment in the manner it is intended.