

Columbia United Church Of Christ

May 10, 2026
"Sixth Sunday of Easter"



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.

**Columbia
United Church
Of Christ**



May 10, 2026

10:30 a.m.

"Mother's Day"

**indicates that all are invited to stand, if comfortably able*

*"Parenting orphans and defending widows
is God's holy habitation
-Psalm 68:5*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

Connie Loveless
Beethoven/Helvey

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 68)

Sue Ann Schaefer

Sing to God, sing praises to God's name!

Lift up a song to God, Creator of all!

God is our God, our Rock and Salvation.

Let everyone rejoice before God!

God is a loving parent to all in need;

God's provision is for all!

God lifts up the downtrodden;

God embraces the powerless!

Give Glory to God, whose majesty is over all!

God's love is abundant; steadfast and true!

Blessings be to God!

Let all of Creation proclaim God's glory!

Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn

"Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!"

#257

*Opening Prayer

Sue Ann Schaefer

God of loving inclusion; we gather here today celebrating the joy You have given us. The diversity of family systems in our world is a reflection of the diversity of Your presence, as we are created in Your image. We give thanks for this divine reflection. Forgive us for the times we try to confine Your creation to exclusive boxes. Teach us to open our hearts and our minds to all the ways You call us to embody Your love, as we celebrate family systems in all their diverse forms. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

The promises of Jesus' Resurrection both comfort and challenge us on this continued Easter Season journey. God is our shepherd; God never leaves us alone. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response

"Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja"

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!

Halle-lu-ja! Halle-lu-ja!

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

"Tell me the Stories of Jesus"

(Sung as children return to their seats)

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;

Things I would ask him to tell me, if he were near:

Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea

Stories of Jesus, tell them to me!

Mission Moment

"Blanket Sunday"

Mahree Skala

New Testament Lesson

Acts 17:22-29

Sue Ann Schaefer

The Apostle Paul travels to Athens and speaks of God's omnipresence. He contrasts their pantheistic nature (a plurality of gods) with a panentheistic (one all-encompassing) understanding of God. Paul tells us that God is in everything, since the beginning of time.

Page #902

Gospel Lesson

John 14:15-21

Sue Ann Schaefer

Jesus uses family systems analogies to speak of the divine chorus, hinting at a Triune nature of God. By equating God to family systems, Jesus is painting a picture of God that is comforting and familiar to his disciples. He will not leave them orphaned.

Page #877

Anthem

"A Home of Grace"

Joseph M. Martin

Celebration Singers & Family Choir

Sarah Young, Conductor

Sermon

"Family Dynamics"

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#28

In recognition of all who fill nurturing and supportive roles in our Christian Community, mothers and others of every gender identity and sexual orientation, we give thanks for their faithful guidance.

Creator God; like a mother eagle teaching her young to fly,
You push us to stretch our wings while continuing to lift us up.

We thank You, God, for nurturing us.

Like a mother bear, furious when her cubs are in danger,
You bring justice on those who practice oppression.

We thank You, God, for nurturing us.

Like a Mother's arms wrapped around us,
Your Holy Spirit comforts us and keeps us safe.

We thank You, God, for nurturing us.

We know that You have placed special helpers in our lives, and in thanksgiving, we praise You for the gift of all who nurture us; mothers and others of every gender identity who support us.

We thank You for their willingness to nurture us, and for their trust in You to guide them through the fears in their role.

We thank You also, nurturing God, for those of every gender who may not have been our mothers, but give us an abundant life:

We thank You for teachers, relatives, grandparents, siblings, pastors, elders, supervisors, mentors, spouses, and friends of all gender identities who share their wisdom with us.

We ask Your tender mercies on all those whose mothers now sing with the heavenly chorus and whose tears are not yet dry from losing them.

Grant them Your peace, which passes all understanding.

We pray for parents and children who are alienated from each other by harsh words, distance, or misunderstanding and those who are not able at this time to live into their parental roles.

Grant them Your grace to forgive each other and love again.

We pray for those whose children defend our way of life as firefighters, officers of the law, and in the military.

Grant them confidence in Your presence with their children in the every day risks of their important vocations.

God, we give thanks for all these nurturers in our lives, and Your love that continues to embrace us. Amen.

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

The LORD's Prayer

In an effort to encourage inclusion, we suggest using the address "Creator God" in our unison recitation of The Lord's Prayer. You are certainly welcome to say "Our Father" instead of "Creator," "Trespases" instead of "debts," or "Thy" instead of "Your" if you prefer.

Creator God in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*Meditation Hymn "In the Bulb there is a Flower" #433

Sharing our Announcements Pastor Rick

Invitation to the Offering

*To give online text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041
You can also give online by visiting our website:
www.columbiaucc.com*

Offertory "Make Me a Channel of Your Peace" Connie Loveless
Temple/Hayes

*Prayer of Dedication Sue Ann Schaefer

God of Blessings; take these gifts we offer You today and use them to continue the work of Jesus in the world. Use them to love, to comfort, to challenge and to serve. Take them and multiply them that all may know the embrace of Your love. Amen.

*Benediction Pastor Rick

*Response "Let There Be Peace on Earth"

***Let there be Peace on Earth and Let it Begin with me!
Let there be Peace on Earth; the Peace that was meant to be!***

***With God our Creator, Children all are we!
Let us walk with each other in perfect harmony!***

Let Peace begin with me; let this be the moment now!

With every step I take let this be my solemn vow:

***To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally!
Let there be Peace on Earth; and let it begin with me!***

Postlude "Rejoice, Give Thanks and Sing" Connie Loveless
Darwall/Carter

Columbia United Church of Christ

3201 1-70 Drive NW; Columbia, MO 65202

Phone: 573-445-7931

Pastor's cell: 573.241.2027

Website: www.columbiaucc.com

Pastor: Rev. Richard Oberle rick@columbiaucc.com
Admin. Assistant: Alexandra Roper office@columbiaucc.com
Moderator: Jerry Kiesling rollzierp50@gmail.com
Music Coordinator: Mike Pierson mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com
Organist/Accompanist:
LODO Director: Sara Koenig lodo.sara.koenig@gmail.com
Custodian: Caleb Berry calebprenticeberry@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Sue Ann Schaefer
Song Leader: Sarah Young
Ushers: Mary Lorber & Phillip Neale
Greeters: Kitty Rogers
Technology: Adam Veteto & Ted Dachroeden
Council Stewards: Ted Dachroeden & Mary Lorber

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Mahree Skala
Song Leader: Killian Boyd
Ushers: Llona Weiss & Pat Forward
Greeters: Deb & Roger Meers
Technology: Doug & Judi Privitt
Council Stewards: Christine Staelens & Judi Privitt

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator: Jerry Kiesling rollzierp50@gmail.com
Vice Moderator: Corinne Remeika remeikas@tranquility.net
Secretary: Alethea Tennill atennill108@gmail.com
Treasurer: Deborah Birkes dlong@elon.edu.com
Recording Treasurer: Christine Staelens tigersfour@gmail.com
Building & Grounds: Ted Dachroeden gpadoc4gd@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality: Mary Lorber eldercow@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship: *Vacant*
Inclusion & Affirmation: Ashley Ramirez ashknight0628@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: Mahree Skala skalamahree@yahoo.com
Worship & Music: Edie Diel edie@thedandegroup.com
Pastor: Rev. Rick Oberle rick@columbiaucc.com



Online Giving

NURSERY CARE is available for children in kindergarten and younger in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING/POT LUCK - 5/17

Next Sunday is our Annual Congregational Meeting! The Church Council has a great agenda planned to share the joy of church with you! There will be a pot luck meal prior to the meeting, at noon. Stick around and bring a dish!

SCOUTS SUNDAY/BBQ - 5/31

Don't miss worship on 5/31! Our Scouts will be leading the service, giving us a recap of their year. After worship, we will share a BBQ lunch together, hosted by our Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team!

SAVE THE DATE - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Get ready to blast off! This year's Vacation Bible School will be out of this world. Save the date for Tuesday July 14 and Wednesday, July 15 for two days full of cosmic Christian fun. Registration information for helpers and attendees is in the Friday email, and on our website. Questions? Ask Lena Muench.

GUEST SUMMER MUSICIANS

While the Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers take their summer break, we are looking for those who would love to share their talent and time with us. If you are interested but don't have a date or song in mind, reach out to Mike Pierson. Summer worship music opportunities start June 7 and end August 16. *(Reminder– worship time will remain at 10:30 this summer!)*

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	5/10	<i>Mother's Day</i> Bible Study/Sunday School Fellowship Worship (in person and livestream) Quorus Rehearsal	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
Mon	5/11	Scouts	7:00 p.m.
Tue	5/12	Staff Meeting Quilters Membership & Care Girl Scouts Troop 708	10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Wed	5/13	LODO Graduation Celebration Singers Confirmation	6:30 p.m. 7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.
Thu	5/14	Women's Fellowship	9:30 a.m.
Fri	5/15	LODO Last Day	
Sun	5/17	Bible Study/Sunday School Fellowship Worship (in person and livestream) Annual Congregational Meeting/Pot Luck Quorus Rehearsal	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m. 7:00 p.m.

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Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

The family of Gene Detweiler... on their loss (Gail Marriott's Father)

Marna... health issues (Edie Diel's Sister)

Mary Jane Johnson... health issues (Joe Remeika' Sister)

Shirley Gallaher... recovering from hip replacement

Michael Butterworth... recovering from surgery

Christopher Tennill... on deployment in the Middle East

Jonathon Schultz... recovering from ankle surgery

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our Partner in Education

All those whose lives are affected by state sanctioned terrorism including:

Owen Ramsingh and family,

The family of Renee Good, The family of Alex Pretti,

Jack and Claudia (Pastor Rick's friends), and so many others

Our US Military... deployed in the Middle East

Health Issues:

Jeff Kies, Barry Kirchhoff, Glenn Duermeyer, Evie Marcks, Dean Barry

Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father), Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),

Kenny & Jane Holtgrewe (Marsha Posz's parents),

Julie Roper (Alexandra's Mother), Karleen Martindale (Kasper's Mother),

Mark & Connie Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link;

Martha (friend of the Veteto family), Ken (Adam Veteto's Cousin);

Marilyn Coronado & Beverly Wilcox (Corinne Remeika's friends)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Kieran Armstrong, Jen Siebert

Living in Care Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, Sue Beckman, Linda Evans, Walter & Patty Schroeder

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

Garrett Holtgrewe... (Marsh Posz's nephew)

Pregnancies in our Church Family:

Shelby Oberle & Ryan Furney; Chloe & Mark Eveler

*If you are interested in joining our Prayer Team or have a prayer request
for our team to lift up please contact*

Melba Shaffer (573) 474-2997 melbamaes@gmail.com

Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 tsoncasie@aol.com

Acts 17:22–29

22 Then Paul stood in front of the Areopagus and said, “Athenians, I see how extremely spiritual you are in every way.

23 For as I went through the city and looked carefully at the objects of your worship, I found among them an altar with the inscription, ‘To an unknown god.’ What therefore you worship as unknown, this I proclaim to you.

24 The God who made the world and everything in it, he who is Lord of heaven and earth, does not live in shrines made by human hands,

25 nor is he served by human hands, as though he needed anything, since he himself gives to all mortals life and breath and all things.

26 From one ancestor he made all peoples to inhabit the whole earth, and he allotted the times of their existence and the boundaries of the places where they would live,

27 so that they would search for God and perhaps fumble about for him and find him—though indeed he is not far from each one of us.

28 For ‘In him we live and move and have our being’; as even some of your own poets have said, ‘For we, too, are his offspring.’

29 “Since we are God’s offspring, we ought not to think that the deity is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and imagination of mortals.

John 14:15–21

15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever.

17 This is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive because it neither sees him nor knows him. You know him because he abides with you, and he will be in you.

18 “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you.

19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me; because I live, you also will live.

20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you.

21 They who have my commandments and keep them are those who love me, and those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them and reveal myself to them.”

Alleluia! Gracious Jesus!

*Eph. 1:15-23; Heb. 9:11-14**William C. Dix, 1867; alt.*

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Gra - cious Je - sus! Yours the
 2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we
 3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of an - gels, you on
 4 Al - le - lu - ia! Christ e - ter - nal, noth - ing

scep - ter, yours the throne! Al - le - lu - ia! Yours the
 left in sor - row now. Al - le - lu - ia! You are
 earth our food, our stay. Al - le - lu - ia! Here the
 can dis - rupt your reign; Al - le - lu - ia! Born of

tri - umph, yours the vic - to - ry a - lone!
 near us; faith be - lieves, nor ques - tions how.
 sin - ful flee to you from day to day.
 Mar - y, heaven and earth are your do - main.

Hark! the songs of peace - ful Zi - on
 Though the cloud from sight re - ceived you
 In - ter - ces - sor, friend of sin - ners,
 Hu - man life you ful - ly en - tered,

thun - der like a might - y flood; Je - sus, out of
 when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our hearts for -
 earth's Re - deem - er, plead for me, and the songs that
 tend - ing those we count the least, serv - ing both as

ev - ery na - tion you've re - deemed us by your blood.
 get your prom - ise, "I am with you ev - er - more."
 sound in heav - en will re - peat your gra - cious plea.
 Priest and Vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.

William C. Dix, manager of a marine insurance company, was also a gifted writer who made a significant contribution to hymnody. This hymn was written to fill a need for communion hymns in Church of England hymnals.

Tune: HYFRYDOL 8.7.8.7.D.
 Rowland H. Prichard, 1844
 Arr. Ralph Vaughan Williams, 1906

For the Beauty of the Earth

*St. 1-3, Foliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.**St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

Refrain

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

Foliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.

Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain

Conrad Kocher, 1838

Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861

In the Bulb There Is a Flower

Natalie Sleeth, 1985

Unison

1 In the bulb there is a flow - er; in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
 2 There's a song in ev - ery si - lence, seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
 3 In our end is our be - gin - ning; in our time, in - fin - i - ty;

in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise: but - ter - flies will soon be free!
 there's a dawn for ev - ery dark - ness, bring - ing hope to you and me.
 in our doubt there is be - liev - ing; in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.

In the cold and snow of win - ter there's a spring that waits to be,
 From the past will come the fu - ture; what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
 In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion; at the last, a vic - to - ry,

un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.
 un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son, some - thing God a - lone can see.

Natalie Sleeth composed her "Hymn of Promise" first as a choral anthem and then adapted it to this version for congregational singing. It was dedicated to her husband, Ronald Sleeth, who died shortly after she completed it.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985



Join Others in Sharing *Love* and *Hope*

“These blankets and kits are more than just supplies—they offer real hope when families need it most. Each one brings comfort and reminds someone they’re wrapped in God’s love.”

—Christen, Gladden Community House Food Pantry

Your Gift Does More Than You Know



**Provide Immediate
Solutions**



**Reflect Christ's
Compassion**



**Share God's
Love Boldly**

Loving God, bless these blankets. May they carry warmth, peace and your love to every person who receives one. Through these simple gifts, let your compassion be known. Amen.

Donate today! Give cash, write a check payable to CWS Blankets or visit cwsblankets.org/donate

*“And when we take your gifts to those who need them,
they will thank God.”*

—2 Corinthians 9:11

CWS BLANKETS

Wrapped in God's Love. Called to Share.

"These blankets will help keep my children warm through the coldest nights. I see God's love in the kindness of those who gave."

—A CWS Blanket recipient, *The Nehemiah Mission, Cleveland, OH*

Your gift today helps keep someone warm tonight.

Because of generous donors like you, families near and far have found comfort when they needed it most—like a single mother who received four CWS Blankets to keep her children warm.

As followers of Jesus, we are called to love our neighbors—especially in their time of need. A simple blanket becomes a holy offering: warmth on a cold night, peace after disaster and a reminder that no one is forgotten by God.


Why Your Gift Matters: When disaster strikes or a cold night sets in, your gift means everything.

- \$10** Provides a CWS Blanket to someone in need.
- \$25** Provides a CWS Blanket and a CWS Hygiene Kit, offering warmth and essential supplies.
- \$60** Family Bundle! Provides blankets and hygiene kits for an entire family, ensuring that they have what they need during challenging times.




Give today—Scan the QR code to donate and share warmth with someone in need.





May 17, 2026
12:00 p.m.




*"I am the vine;
you are the branches."
-John 15:1*

Congregational Meeting



Join us in Fellowship Hall following worship service for a potluck and our congregational meeting. There will be presentations by our ministry team chairs and council as well as delicious food to go around.



WALK4NF

Walk for Neurofibromatosis

STROLL, CELEBRATE, CONNECT!

Honor loved ones, celebrate progress, unite for a cause.



OVER 4 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE
NEUROFIBROMATOSIS!

WALK4NF
Saturday

May 30, 2026 at
Stephens Lake Park - Gordon Shelter
Columbia, MO

9:00 AM START
10:00 AM WALK

Food! Music! Raffle! Dancing! And a Little Walk!

Register at WALK4NF.ORG

