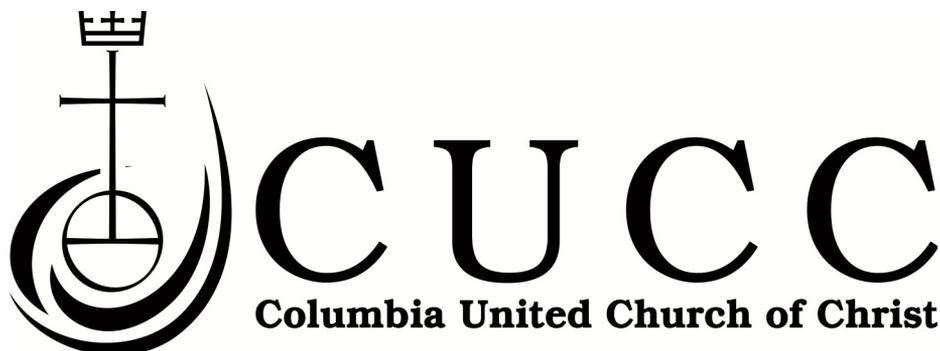


Columbia United Church Of Christ

March 1, 2026
"A New Life"



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*



March 1, 2026

10:30 a.m.

"New Life"

**indicates that all are invited to stand, if comfortably able
"I lift my eyes to the hills; from where will my help come?
My help comes from the LORD, who made heavens and earth
-Psalm 121:1-2*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Hymns of the Cross"

Steve Jannetti
Phillip Keveren

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 121)

Sue Ann Schaefer

I lift up my eyes to the hills;
From where will my help come?

**Our help comes from God,
Creator of Heaven and Earth!**

God will not let our feet be moved.
God will not slumber, but will keep watch on us.

**God is our comforter and our sure guide!
Our helper, attentive to the meditations of our hearts!**

God is our strength and shield,
Protecting us from trials day and night!

**Our going out and coming in is based in God's will;
God keeps us from all evil; God enlivens our days!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"God, Speak to Me that I May Speak"

#531

*Opening Prayer

Sue Ann Schaefer

God of new life, in this world as well as the next, we come to You today reflecting on the earthly binds that keep us away from You. New life is Your gift to us, but sometimes the baggage of the world keeps us from fully embracing that gift. Forgive us our negligence. Teach us to put aside the distractions of the world and embrace all that You have to offer us, that we may be born anew and live lives that are more reflective of Your glory; in this world as well as the next. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

As we walk this Lenten path, we draw ever closer to God. Through discipline and service, we see God's presence; offering us forgiveness, grace, and new life. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response

“Jesus, Remember Me”

*Jesus, remember me,
When you come into your Kingdom;
Jesus, remember me,
When you come into your Kingdom!*

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”
(Sung as children return to their seats)

*I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
I have decided to follow Jesus
No turning back, no turning back!*

Mission Moment

“Alpha Hart Lewis”

Dr. Amanda Minear

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 12:1-7

Sue Ann Schaefer

This story is the genesis of our faith. This is the calling of Abram, the father of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. Abram faithfully followed God from the comforts of his home to the uncertain future of wandering in the wilderness. God was paramount in his life.

Page #8

Gospel Lesson

John 3:1-12

Sue Ann Schaefer

Nicodemus, a Pharisee whom we are led to believe was relatively wealthy, came to Jesus at night, professing his faith in secret. Jesus uses a metaphor to teach Nicodemus that he has to live life differently if he wants to embrace the teachings of Jesus. Nicodemus, bound by his context, does not understand what Jesus is saying.

Page #864

Anthem

“Today We Celebrate Our Faith” Celebration Singers
Joseph M. Martin

Sermon

“New and Improved”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant”

#539

Invitation to Communion

As Jesus roamed the Galilean countryside, he was not content to limit his welcome and message to his people. Jesus reached across human borders, seeing in everyone a common heritage as a child of God. Jesus welcomed all. In like manner, all are welcome to partake in communion today, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.

Communion Prayer

Invocation

Blessing the Children “Come, Share the Lord” *(insert)*

Institution; Fraction; Distribution

Communion Music “Eat This Bread” Steve Jannetti
Berthier/Cotter

*Prayer of Thanksgiving Pastor Rick

God of new life; having shared this meal, we are renewed. With this meal, we embrace new ways of living that are more reflective of Your wisdom, and more emblematic of Your love. We pray that this meal may fire us up and inspire us to be Your agents for new ways of living in our world. Stay with us, God, and revive our aching hearts. Stay with our weary world and teach us to live new lives, more attuned to Your will. Stay with us God, even as we depart; that we may share Your presence with everyone we meet, all week long. And now we gather, Living God, as one family, singing the prayer that You taught us:

The LORD's Prayer *(sung by the congregation)*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing our Announcements Pastor Rick

Stewardship Moment “The Gift of Consistency” Sue Ann Schaefer

Invitation to the Offering Pastor Rick

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

Offertory

“There Is a Balm in Gilead”

Steve Jannetti
Phillip Keveren

*Prayer of Dedication

Sue Ann Schaefer

God of love; take these gifts and let them be used to bring your justice to all the world. Through them we serve you by serving one another. We thank you for this opportunity to give; and ask you to bless all who receive your light of hope through the ministries enabled by these gifts. 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

“I Surrender All”

Steve Jannetti
Weeden/Keveren

SCOUTING AMERICA AND CUCC

CUCC is the Charter Organization for four Scouting America units, over 150 children, youth, and adult volunteers. These units are:

- **Cub Scout Pack 5183** – The younger group of Scouts, with boys and girls from kindergarten age through 5th grade. They meet every other Monday.
- **Scouting America Troop 4475** – The girls troop. They are a very active troop of girls from 6th-12th grades. They meet every Monday.
- **Scouting America Troop 708** – The boys troop. They are from 6th-12th grades and are very active. They meet every Monday, too.
- **Venture Crew 5334** – This is a focused co-educational group of older youth, from High School through college age.

As the Charter Organization for these four units, they are a part of us and we are a part of them. “They are our scouts, and we are their church.” Working together, in covenant, we will share the joys of common life and enhance one another’s mission, all to the glory of God.

All music photocopied in the bulletin and reproduced on the video screen is done so using onelicense.net: License #A-727757

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: Steve Jannetti steve.jannetti@yahoo.com
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: Katie Jones
Ushers: Charlie Marcks & Llona Weiss
Greeters: Susan Dunham
Technology: Brent Marcks
Council Stewards: Mary Lorber



Online Giving

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Judi Privitt
Song Leader: Killian Boyd
Ushers: Pat Forward & Deborah Long Birkes
Greeters: Donna Marsh
Technology: Doug Privitt & Ted Dachroeden
Council Stewards: Lena Muench & Jerry Kiesling

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

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

OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONVOCATION- 3/7

The Annual Open and Affirming Convocation will be held at Parkway UCC in St. Louis on 3/7. This annual event is an opportunity for ONA church members to come together and share resources, opportunities, and stories about the ways God is Still Speaking in their midst. We will be taking the church bus. If you would like to come, talk to Ashley Ramirez or Pastor Rick!

TEAM EARTH LUNCH AND LEARN- 3/8

Rev. Mike Williams will lead the next installment in our investigation of our scriptural mandate towards Creation Care! Come join us for lunch, and stay for a very inspiring journey through scripture. Questions? Talk to Mahree Skala!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY- 3/15

We will continue our annual Stewardship Drive the next few weeks, culminating in our annual Stewardship Dinner on 3/15. Rev. Damien Lake, our Associate Conference Minister, will be our guest speaker that day. Plan now to attend! The dinner will be a potluck, celebrating the idea of Stewardship.

OPPORTUNITIES AT ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY

Alpha Hart Lewis could use our help packing their Buddy Packs on Thursdays from 10:30- 11:00 a.m. CUCC has volunteer opportunities through the end of the school year. If you can spare a Thursday, talk to Llona Weiss.

CUCC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE- 4/1

CUCC Scholarship applications for the 2026-2027 school year are due 4/1. Eligible applicants will be active CUCC members who have finished High School (or equivalent) and will be continuing their education at an accredited institution in the fall. Applications are available in the church office. Talk to Pastor Rick, Lena Muench, or Corinne Remika to receive one.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	3/1	Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	12:00 p.m.
Mon	3/2	Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	3/3	Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Wed	3/4	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Confirmation Class	7:15 p.m.
Thu	3/5	Book Study- "Meet Me Where I Am"	6:30 p.m.
Fri	3/6	<i>LODO OFF/CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED</i>	
Sat	3/7	Open and Affirming Convocation in St. Louis	9:00 a.m.
Sun	3/8	Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Team Earth Lunch & Learn	12:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Michael Butterworth... recovering from surgery

Evie Marcks... health issues

The family of Troy Bentlage... on their loss

The family of Harold Hackman... on their loss

The family of Cliff Beckman... on their loss

Jonathon Schultz... recovering from ankle surgery

Steve Price... recovering from infection

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

Health Issues:

Jeff Kies, Barry Kirchhoff, Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father),

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

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

Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter), Jon & Kelly Lund (Edie's friends)

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

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

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

Genesis 12:1-7

1 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.

2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”,

4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

5 Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,

6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

John 3:1-12

3 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

2 He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.”

3 Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.”

4 Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?”

5 Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit.

6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’

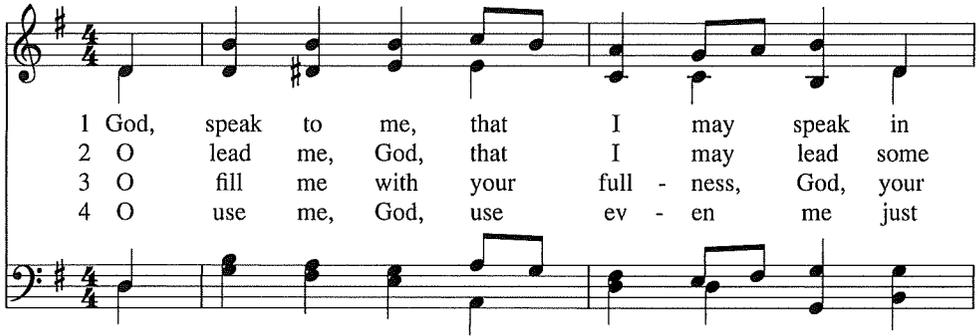
8 The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10 Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

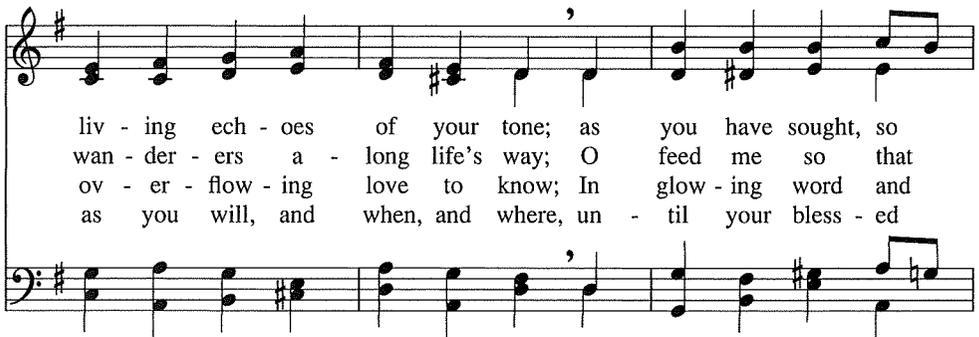
11 “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony.

12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.


1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
 3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
 4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just



liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed



let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal, Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed several hymn tunes. Canonbury was adapted from one of Robert Schumann's piano pieces.

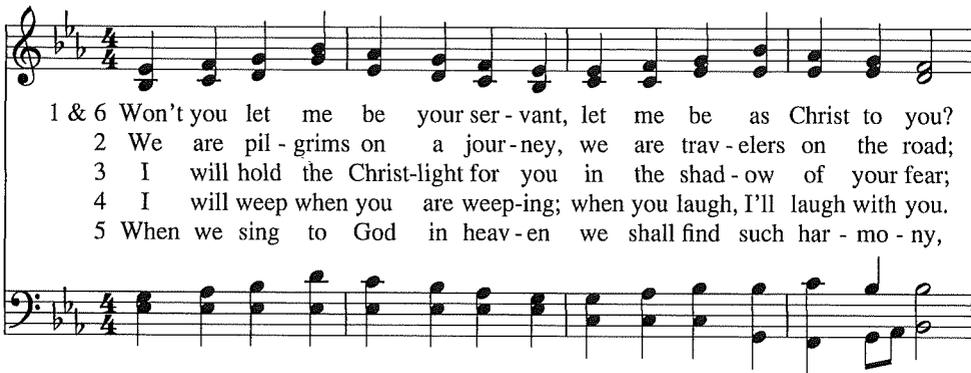
Tune: CANONBURY L.M.
 Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

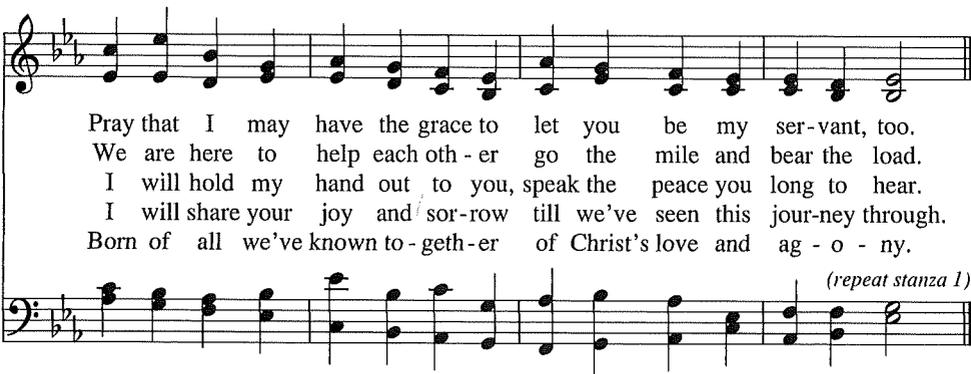
539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9–18; Col. 1:24–29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ - light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.

Come, Share the Lord

Refrain

1. We gath - er here in Je - sus' name,
 2. He joins us here, he breaks the bread,
 3. We'll gath - er soon where an - gels sing;

his love is burn - ing in our hearts like liv - ing flame;
 the Lord who pours the cup is ris - en from the dead;
 we'll see the glo - ry of our Lord and com - ing King;

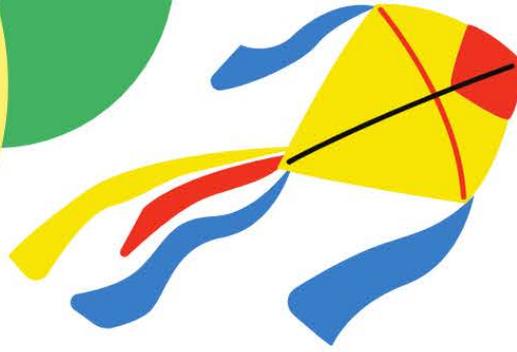
for through the lov - ing Son the Fa - ther makes us one:
 the one we love the most is now our gra - cious host:
 now we an - ti - ci - pate the feast for which we wait:

Fine
 Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.
 Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.
 Come, take the bread, come, drink the wine, come, share the Lord.

1. No one is a stran - ger here, ev - ery - one be - longs;
 2. We are now a fam - i - ly of which the Lord is head;

D. C.
 find - ing our for - give - ness here, we in turn for - give all wrongs.
 though un - seen he meets us here in the break - ing of the bread.

**AGE 2-6
YEARS**



**REGISTRATION
\$425**

**REGISTER BY THE
END OF FEBRUARY
FOR \$25 OFF!**



LODO

Little One's Day Out

**DAY
CAMP**

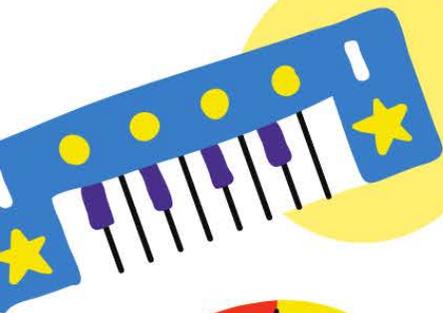
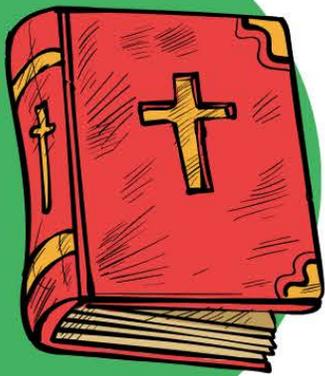
9 AM - 1 PM

JUNE 2-18

**TUESDAYS,
WEDNESDAYS,
& THURSDAYS**

ACTIVITIES

**ARTS & CRAFTS,
THEOLOGY, MUSIC,
BUILDING
SOCIAL SKILLS**



CUCC Annual Stewardship Campaign- 2026

Sharing God's Joy, Spreading God's Love!

What comes to mind when you hear the word, "Stewardship?" Most likely, "money." But faithful Christian Stewardship has less to do with our wallets, and more to do with our hearts. Faithful Christian Stewardship is how we serve God with our Time and our Talents, as well as our Treasure.

*Faithful Christian Stewardship is about Sharing God's Joy
and Spreading God's Love!*

We will be celebrating the ways we share God's joy and spread God's love on Sundays in March as we participate in our Annual CUCC Stewardship Campaign!

March 1- *"The Gift of Consistency."*

We will distribute Faith Promise Cards and talk about our blessings, and how we can use them to serve Jesus

March 8- *"Little Gifts Mean a Lot."*

We will distribute time and talent sheets, and talk about how the many little things we do every day serve Jesus

March 15- *"Sharing the Joy, Spreading the Love."*

We will collect our Faith Promise Cards and our Time and Talent Sheets and consecrate them to the service of Jesus Christ in the world.

We will celebrate our Stewardship Campaign with a Pot-Luck Meal after worship on March 15. Bring a dish and stick around for food, fun and fellowship!

Pot-Luck Meals are perfect examples of Faithful Christian Stewardship. Everyone brings a little gift (dish) contributing to the whole; and all are fed!

Our Guest Speaker in worship and at our Pot-Luck Meal on March 15 will be Rev. Damien Lake, our Missouri Mid-South Conference Associate Conference Minister. He will be sharing God's Joy with us as we explore faithful Christian Stewardship together. Come join us on March 15 for fun, fellowship, and food!

