

Columbia United Church Of Christ

July 5, 2026
"Happy Birthday USA"



CUCC

Columbia United Church of Christ

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*



July 5, 2026

10:30 a.m.

"HBD USA!"

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

*"I will cause Your name to be celebrated in all generations;
Therefore, the people will praise You forever and ever!"
-Psalm 45:17*

Welcome and Greetings/Introduction

Pastor Rick

Prelude

*"My Country, 'Tis of Thee" Arr. Robert Vandall
Jo Ellen Grace & Connie Loveless, piano*

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 45)

Lydia Whitacre

My heart overflows with love;
God's blessings are on my lips.

**God's throne endures forever;
God's scepter is a scepter of equity.**

God calls us to love righteousness
And hate wickedness.

**God has anointed God's people
To be agents of justice, righteousness and Shalom!**

Incline your ear and consider God's command;
Turn around from what was, and embrace what can be!

**God's name will be celebrated in all generations;
Let all people praise God forever and ever!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"For the Healing of the Nations"

#576

*Opening Prayer

Lydia Whitacre

God of guidance and grace; we live in a confusing world. The rationalizations of our culture and the permeability of truth often leave us dazed and confused. Like Paul, preaching in Rome, the ways of the world often confound us. Forgive us for the times we focus on the fickle nature of cultural fads and not the ultimate truth of divine realities. Focus our attention on You and Your presence in our lives. Redirect us towards Your wisdom, so we may stand up for justice, righteousness and Shalom. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Jesus calls us into relationship with all of God's children; but we often forget this mandate. But even when we do, God still loves and welcomes us, encourages and guides us. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response

“Seek Ye First”

*Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!*

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

“This Little Light of Mine”

#524

(Sung as children return to their seats)

*This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

Mission Moment

“Mobility Worldwide”

New Testament Lesson

Romans 7:14-25

Lydia Whitacre

The Apostle Paul, preaching in Rome, struggles with the dichotomy between human law and God's will. He is bound by the laws of his society and the traditions of his culture, but inspired by his faith to act in ways that defy those laws. This inner conflict brought him great consternation.

Page #918

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 11:16-24

Lydia Whitacre

Jesus talks about the fickle nature of contemporary society. They yearned for Salvation, but when they received it through John the Baptizer, they condemned him. He then critiques the political leadership of several Galilean towns, condemning them for choosing greed and hostility over mercy and hospitality.

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Anthem

“America, the Beautiful”

Arr. Fred Bock

Connie Loveless, piano; Linda Neale, flute

Sermon

“Dazed and Confused”

Pastor Rick

Invitation to Communion

Jesus reached across human borders, seeing in everyone a common heritage as a child of God. Jesus’ inclusive love 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

“O, For a World”

#575

In the Sacrament of Communion, we most clearly see Jesus in our midst. Our desire to share this presence prompts us to celebrate with our children, granting them a special blessing. During the hymn, our children are invited to come forward via the center aisle and receive a special blessing from Pastor Rick.

Institution; Fraction; Distribution

Please come forward via the center aisle to receive and share communion, remembering the ministry of Jesus Christ and the blessings he brings us. The center ring of cups contain grape juice, and the vessels on the paten contain gluten free bread.

Communion Music

“As the Deer”

Gina Pierson

Arr. Sharon Wilson

*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. We pray that this meal may eliminate our confusion with worldly ways and inspire us to give authentic witness to Your glory. 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.

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

"Here Am I, Send Me"

Gina Pierson
John Purifoy

*Prayer of Dedication

Lydia Whitacre

Take these gifts, O God, for through them we celebrate the freedom You have given us, New Life through Christ's wisdom; as well as our desire to share Your blessings with others. Bless the offering we lay before You and use it to Your will, enabling the ministries of this congregation. 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

"God Be with You Till We Meet Again"

Gina Pierson
Arr. Carol Tornquist

*CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:
Welcoming all God's Children;
Nurturing Faith and Spiritual Growth;
Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship;
Building a supportive church family;
Transforming both the congregation and community
through service and outreach*

Columbia United Church of Christ

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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:	Lydia Whitacre
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Audrey Lasley & Mary Lorber
Greeters:	Donna Marsh
Technology:	Brent Marcks & Ted Dachroeden
Council Stewards:	Sue Ann Schaefer & Allen Posz

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Mahree Skala
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Llona Weiss & Pat Forward
Greeters:	Carol Duermeyer
Technology:	Judi Privitt & Doug Privitt
Council Stewards:	Mary Lorber

Online Giving



COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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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!

CHURCH WORK DAY– 7/11

There will be an all-church work day on July 11 from 9:00 a.m.- noon. We will be painting two rooms downstairs, and doing landscaping work in our garden beds. Other projects may surface as well! Come join us and help clean up and spruce up CUCC! Questions? Ask Alan Posz.

TEAM EARTH LUNCH & LEARN– 7/12

Team Earth has been working diligently on putting together a Creation Justice Covenant for CUCC that reflects our identity as a Creation Justice Church. They are seeking your input! Come to a Lunch and Learn on 7/12 right after worship to hear more. Questions? Ask Mike Williams or Mahree Skala.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 7/14 & 7/15

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.

ASHLAND PRIDE - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED - 7/18

CUCC will once again have a booth at the Ashland Pridefest on July 18 from 9:45 a.m. – 3:15 p.m. Members of CUCC will be present to hand out affirming information about our church, as well as to be a voice of joy in the community. If you can help, contact Ashley Ramirez or sign up in the rear of the Sanctuary.

QUESTIONS OF FAITH

On July 19, there will be no “sermon.” On that day, Pastor Rick will be soliciting questions from all of you, and addressing (not necessarily “answering”) them to the best of his ability! What have you always wondered about God, Jesus, the Bible, church history, etc.? Bring your questions!

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	7/5	Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
Mon	7/6	Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	5:15 p.m.
Tue	7/7	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Membership & Care Ministry Team	10:00 a.m.
		Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team	5:00 p.m.

Church office closed 7/8-7/10 - Alexandra on vacation

Thu-Sun 7/9-7/12 COMO Mission Experience Group Here

Sat	7/11	All Church Work Day	9:00 a.m. - noon
Sun	7/12	Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Mobility Worldwide: Hearts for Carts	12:00 p.m.
		Team Earth Lunch & Learn	12:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

The Rev. Josh Privitt... congratulations on his new call to Maryland!

The family of Joan Bentlage... on their loss

The Eveler Family... on the birth of number three!

Kenny Holtgrewe... recovering from surgery (Marsha Posz's Father)

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

Cassandra Gartner... health issues (Eddie's friend)

The people of Venezuela... recovering from disaster

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

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

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, Jen Siebert

Living in Care Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Julie Roper

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:

Kristin & Adam Veteto

*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

Romans 7:14-25

14 For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am of the flesh, sold into slavery under sin.

15 I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. 16 Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good.

17 But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

18 For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability.

19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. 20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me.

21 So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. 22 For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self,

23 but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members.

24 Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death?

25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with my mind I am enslaved to the law of God, but with my flesh I am enslaved to the law of sin.

Matthew 11:16-24

16 “But to what will I compare this generation? It is like children sitting in the marketplaces and calling to one another,

17 ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we wailed, and you did not mourn.’

18 “For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, ‘He has a demon’; 19 the Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ Yet wisdom is vindicated by her deeds.”,

20 Then he began to reproach the cities in which most of his deeds of power had been done because they did not repent.

21 “Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.

22 But I tell you, on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon than for you.

23 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? No, you will be brought down to Hades. “For if the deeds of power done in you had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day.

24 But I tell you that on the day of judgment it will be more tolerable for the land of Sodom than for you.”

For the Healing of the Nations

Fred Kaan, 1965

1 For the heal - ing of the na - tions, God, we pray with
 2 Lead us for - ward in - to free - dom; from de - spair your
 3 All that kills a - bun - dant liv - ing, let it from the
 4 You, Cre - a - tor God, have writ - ten your great name on

one ac - cord; for a just and e - qual shar - ing
 world re - lease, that, re - deemed from war and ha - tred,
 earth be banned; pride of sta - tus, race, or school - ing,
 hu - man - kind; for our grow - ing in your like - ness

of the things that earth af - fords; to a life of
 all may come and go in peace. Show us how through
 dog - mas that ob - scure your plan. In our com - mon
 bring the life of Christ to mind, that by our re -

love in ac - tion help us rise and pledge our word.
 care and good - ness fear will die and hope in - crease.
 quest for jus - tice may we hal - low life's brief span.
 sponse and ser - vice earth its des - ti - ny may find.

Fred Kaan's most widely published text was first sung at Pilgrim Church in Plymouth, England, at a service of worship marking Human Rights Day in 1965. It has been used for many subsequent occasions, including the twenty-fifth anniversary of the United Nations.

Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY 8.7.8.7.8.7.
 Henry Purcell, c. 1680
 Arr. Ernest Hawkins, 1842

God the Omnipotent!

577

St. 1-2, Henry F. Chorley, 1842; alt.

St. 3-4, John Ellerton, 1870; alt.

1 God the Om - ni - po - tent! bold - ly or - dain - ing
 2 God the All - mer - ci - ful! earth has for - sak - en
 3 God the All - righ - teous One! earth has de - fied you,
 4 God the All - prov - i - dent! by your great chas - tening

thun - der and light - ning your strength to dis - play,
 all you make ho - ly, and slight - ed your way;
 yet to e - ter - ni - ty stands what you say;
 earth shall see free - dom and truth hold - ing sway;

Bring forth com - pas - sion where vi - o - lence is reign - ing;
 Bid not your wrath in its ter - rors a - wak - en:
 False - hood and wrong shall not tar - ry be - side you:
 Through the thick cha - os your reign is still has - tening:

give to us peace in our time, we pray.
 give to us peace in our time, we pray.
 give to us peace in our time, we pray.
 you will give peace in your time, we pray.

Two English hymns, one by Henry F. Chorley, a friend of Charles Dickens, and another by Church of England priest John Ellerton, are combined in this text. The tune was originally written for the Russian national anthem.

Tune: RUSSIAN HYMN 11.10.11.9.
 Alexis F. Lvov, 1833

O for a World

575

Miriam Therese Winter, 1987

Acts 4:32–35; 1 Cor. 1:26–31; 1 Pet. 3:8–12



1 O for a world where ev - ery - one re - spects each oth - er's ways,
2 O for a world where goods are shared and mis - er - y re - lieved,
3 We wel - come one world fam - i - ly and strug - gle with each choice
4 The poor are rich, the weak are strong, the fool - ish ones are wise.
5 O for a world pre - par - ing for God's glo - rious reign of peace,



Where love is lived and all is done with jus - tice and with praise.
Where truth is spo - ken, chil - dren spared, e - qual - i - ty a - chieved.
That o - pens us to u - ni - ty and gives our vi - sion voice.
Tell all who mourn: out - casts be - long, who per - ish - es will rise.
Where time and tears will be no more, and all but love will cease.



Inspired by Charles Wesley's phrase "O for a thousand tongues" and the familiar tune Azmon, Miriam Therese Winter wrote this hymn envisioning a new world order for the Presbyterian Women's Triennial Conference in 1982. It was later recrafted and recorded by the Medical Mission Sisters.

Tune: AZMON C.M.

Carl G. Gläser, 1828

Adapt. Lowell Mason in *Modern Psalmody*, 1839

5TH ANNUAL

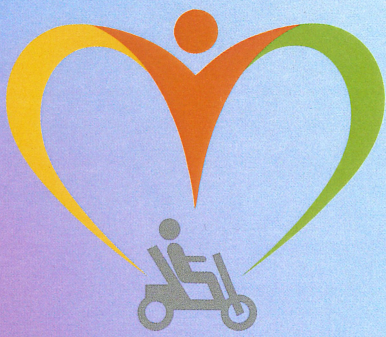
**ASHLAND
PRIDE**



2026

FESTIVAL

July 18 2026 Ashland City Park 10:00 - 3:00



FUNDRAISER FOR MOBILITY WORLDWIDE MO - COLUMBIA



HEARTS
for CARTS

HEARTS FOR CARTS

**FOOD
TRUCKS**

LEFTY'S KETTLE CORN
KONA ICE
TOM'S COFFEE
TRAIL BOSS BBQ

\$2,000
MAIN EVENT SPONSOR

\$1,000
BAND SPONSOR

\$425
CART SPONSOR



10 year old Boya had contracted Polio.

ADULTS TICKET \$20

STUDENTS TICKET \$10

KIDS UNDER 10 FREE

LIVE MUSIC

FLYOVER COUNTRY
AFRICAN DRUMS BY MORGAN

**BROADWAY
BREWERY**

SUNDAY JULY 12TH, 2026

NOON-4:00 PM

FARMERS MARKET:

MU HEALTH CARE PAVILION

1701 W. ASH ST., COLUMBIA, MO 65203

TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT DOOR INCLUDING SPONSOR TICKETS
EACH SPONSOR GETS 2 TICKETS & A CART TO DECORATE

DONATIONS CAN BE MAILED TO:
MOBILITY WORLDWIDE MO-COLUMBIA
4825 E. MEYER INDUSTRIAL DRIVE
COLUMBIA, MO 65201

GIFTOFMOBILITY.ORG

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