

Columbia United Church Of Christ

November 24, 2019
Testimony Sunday



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



November 24, 2019

10:30 Worship

"Testimony"

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

"make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth.

Worship God with gladness; come into God's presence with singing.

KNOW that the LORD is God. God made us and we belong to God.

We are God's people; the sheep of God's pasture.

-Psalm 139:11

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

Chapel Ringers

"Thank Song"

Karen Lakey Buckwalter

Bringing in the Light of Christ

Katelyn Odneal

*Call to Worship

Andie Rapp

The stories of our traditions tell us of testimony;
God's children, testifying their faith for all to hear.

**Even when it was difficult or dangerous to do so,
God's children prophetically testified to God's inclusive love.**

God calls us to offer testimony as well,
Telling all of our faith through words and deeds.

**May we always be as bold as the prophets of old;
Testifying to our faith, against all who would silence us.**

We gather today giving testimony; we gather proclaiming our faith.
We gather as God's prophets of today, sharing our faith with all.

**Our stories speak of God's Love working through us;
Our testimony speaks of God's enduring provision.
Come, let us worship God!**

*Opening Hymn

"Great is Your Faithfulness"

#423

*Opening Prayer *(Written by 2019 Confirmation Class)*

Ember Piersee

**God of Peace, you inspire us to love and care for each other, as you
have inspired others to do before us. Thank you for teaching us how
to be stewards of all that you have created, and for creating us in
your image. Teach us to create good things, as you do. Give us
courage and hope for our journey ahead so we may live harmonious
lives. We offer these prayers in Jesus' name; Amen.**

*Assurance of Blessing

Ryan Schoeneberg

One of the things that Pastor Rick always told us in Confirmation Class was that as we grow up, no matter what ever happens to us or whatever we do; no matter what choices or mistakes we make; God will always forgive us and welcome us with open arms. God loves us and offers us Salvation. We are all blessed children of God. Thanks be to God!

*Prayer Response

“Weave”

Weave, weave! Weave us together!
Weave us together in Unity and Love!
Weave, weave! Weave us together!
Weave us together; together in Love!

*Sharing God’s Gift of Peace

Ryan Schoeneberg

*At this time, you are invited to greet one another
with a hug or a handshake and the words,
“May God’s Peace be with you!”*

Children’s Time

Ember Piersee & Andie Rapp

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

I have decided to follow Jesus; (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.

The world behind me, the cross before me (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.

Living our Mission

VAC Christmas Program

Ryan Schoeneberg

Anthem

“A Jubilant Song”

Older Youth Choir

Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Gospel Lesson:

John 6:25-35

Pastor Rick

Jesus calls himself the bread of life. When we let ourselves be nourished by Jesus, we never hunger for the petty things of the world. Dedicating ourselves to the Bread of Life rather than bread of the world leads to Eternal Living in Jesus.

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Reflection on Confirmation

Pastor Rick

Our Confirmation journey began in October, 2018. In the past 14 months we have met most Wednesdays evenings from 7:00-8:30pm investigating key elements of our faith. Our units included studying Our Mission as Christians; the Nature of God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit; The Bible, what it is and how we shall study it; The Seasons of the Church and the Structure of Worship; The History of the Church and the History of the United Church of Christ; The Sacraments– Communion and Baptism; Forgiveness and Grace; and Eternal Life.

Testimonies of Faith- 2019 Confirmation Class

Ember Piersee; Andie Rapp; Ryan Schoeneberg

Andie Rapp Matthew 19:26

*Jesus looked at them and said, “for mortals, it is impossible;
but for God, all things are possible.”*

Ryan Schoeneberg Joshua 1:9

*“I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous;
do not be frightened or dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*

Ember Piersee Proverbs 16:24

*Pleasant words are like a honeycomb;
sweetness to the soul and health to the body.*

*Meditation Hymn #350
“Now, in the Days of Youth”
(ushers will collect prayer cards during the hymn)

Community Prayer

Silent Prayer

The LORD’S Prayer

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Prayer Response “Grant Us Peace”

Hear our Prayer, O Lord!

Hear our prayer, O Lord!

Hear our Prayer, O Lord!

And Grant us Thy Peace! A-men!

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life Pastor Rick

Presenting our Gifts Special Ensemble
Andre Crouch

“My Tribute”

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

*Response #420
“We Praise You, O God”

We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;

In grateful devotion our tribute we bring!

We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;

We praise your Holy Name, glad praises we sing!

*Prayer of Dedication (*Written by 2019 Confirmation Class*) Andie Rapp
God of Love, receive these gifts as we give them to you from our hearts. We are thankful for everything we have in our lives, so now we are sharing our blessings with you. Please keep our faith strong as we face the challenges this week ahead. 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 Amy Crousore & Harry Beckett
“Fantasia on Thanksgiving Themes” *Jerry Van der pol*

INCLUSION MOMENT– VETERANS

The CUCC Inclusion Team is focusing on Veterans for the month of November and the consequences of exclusion on the lives of Veterans. **There were around 20.4 million U.S. veterans in 2016**, according to data from the Department of Veterans Affairs, representing less than 10% of the total U.S. adult population. As we lift up Inclusion efforts with Veterans this month, here are key facts about those who have served in the military and how this population is changing. (*2016 data from the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Pew Research Center.*)

Gulf War era veterans now account for the largest share of all U.S. veterans, surpassing Vietnam era veterans in 2016. As of last year, there were 6.8 million American veterans who served during the Vietnam era and 7.1 million who served in the Gulf War era

The share of the U.S. population with military experience is declining. In 2016, 7% of U.S. adults were veterans, down from 18% in 1980. Projections suggest the number of veterans will continue to decline in the coming decades. By 2045, the Department of Veterans Affairs estimates there will be around 12 million veterans, a roughly 40% decrease from current numbers.

The demographic profile of veterans is expected to change in the next few decades. Currently 91% of veterans are men while 9% are women, according to the VA’s 2016 population model estimates. By 2045, the share of female veterans is expected to double to 18%. The number of female veterans is also projected to increase, from around 1.9 million in 2016 to 2.2 million in 2045. Male veterans, on the other hand, are projected to drop by almost half, from 18.5 million in 2016 to 9.8 million in 2045.

In the 2016 Congress, 20% of senators and 19% of representatives have prior military service. The share of senators who are veterans reached a post-Korean War peak of 81% in 1975, while the share among House members peaked in 1967 at 75%

Columbia United Church of Christ

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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Greeters: Audrey Lasley & Anne Heine
Ushers: Doug Privitt & Don Helmreich
Sound Booth: Matt Lucas
Worship Leader: Ember Piersee, Andie Rapp, Ryan Schoeneberg
Hospitality: Helen Schultz
Acolyte: Katelyn Odneal
Council Steward: John Bullerd



NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Greeters: Anne Heine &
Ushers: Hugo Wilmsmeyer
Sound Booth: Pete Jaberg
Worship Leader: Ember Piersee, Andie Rapp, Ryan Schoeneberg
Hospitality: Doug Privitt
Acolyte: Kennedy Lucas
Council Steward: John Bullerd

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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WELCOME GUESTS! If you are a guest visiting with us this morning, please fill out a green card found in your chair pocket; and leave it in the offering plate when it is passed. Be sure to introduce yourself to Pastor Rick! We would love to get to know you better!

NAMETAGS We strive to be a friendly and welcoming church! Members and frequent guests, please wear your nametag each Sunday so we can greet each other most effectively and become an even friendlier church!

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

VAC CHRISTMAS DRIVE

Names are now available for the VAC Christmas Drive; see the tree in the Gathering Space to find a person in need of “adopting.” CUCC is sponsoring gifts, necessities and food for 35 people this year. To be sponsor, just select a card from the tree, leave the attached slip, and pick up the information sheet with details. ***Deadline for return of gifts and money is December 8.*** For questions, talk to Mahree Skala.

COOKIES BY THE POUND– DECEMBER 8

We need your help to make Cookies by the Pound another success! Please bring your cookie donations early on December 8, and plan to purchase cookies to bring home! Only \$6/pound for a variety of delicious homemade cookies and, new this year – Homemade Candies! This was a HUGE fundraiser for our Camp Scholarship Fund last year. Begin thinking of the cookies and candy you would like to bring to this year’s event!

Cookies/Candy will be \$6/lb. Purchase as much as you would like. Please bring only home-baked cookies and candy to sell please.

Please contact Pat Forward at pdfoward@msn.com if you have any questions.

CHILDREN’S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM– “CHRISTMAS SYMBOLS”

CUCC Children’s Christmas Program – December 15, 2019 during Worship

Jessica Lucas will be directing this year’s Christmas Program for our Children and Youth. Linda Neale, Kristin Veteto, Lisa Jaberg and Paula Wilson will be assisting her. Practices will be held during the Sunday School hour each Sunday leading up to Sunday, December 8, 2019. Please contact Jessica if you have any questions, at JLucas@cpsk12.org

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	11/24	<i>Testimony Sunday/Advent workshop/Hanging the Greens</i>	
		Fellowship Time	9:00am
		Sunday School	9:00am
		Worship	10:30am
		Advent Workshop	11:30am
Tue	11/26	Quilters	9:00am-2:00pm
Wed	11/27	LODO Closed	
		Chapel Ringers	6:30pm
		Celebration Singers	7:30pm
		<i>NO Confirmation!</i>	
Thu & Fri		<i>Church Office & LODO Closed– Happy Thanksgiving!</i>	
Sun	12/1	<i>Confirmation Sunday!</i>	
		Fellowship Time	9:00am
		Sunday School	9:00am
		Worship	10:30am

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week...

Wayne Gartner... diagnosed with cancer (Laura's brother)

Norma Klemme... recovering from broken leg

Rev. Dr. David Beebe... living with cancer (Oberle's friend)

Tracy Bach... recovering from leg fracture & sprained ankle

Keith Birkes... recovering from broken ankle

Jo Ellen Grace's brother... living with cancer

Donald Long... health issues (Vena's husband)

The Devenney Family... on their move to South Carolina

Sheila... challenges in life and faith (11/17)

A brother in law with health issues (11/17)

Our church... as we live into our call as an ONA congregation

Dale Gregory; Christine Mseke, Bea Gordon;

Gary Ehrhardt; Lasley Family; Remeika/Johnson family

Amy Koerkenmeyer & the Malicoat Family;

Health Issues:

Deborah Heather (Edie Diehl's niece); Kathy Kindrick; Christie O'Very;

Nathan Schnell (Isaiah's friend); Sharon Elliott, Rev. Jim Elliott,

Finn Price (Tricia's nephew); Harold Hackman; Sue Beckman;

Dennis Froeschner; John Bullerd's step sister

Pregnancies in our church family:

Amanda Forward and Tez Wells... due any day now!

Makayla Smith and Joey Oberle...due June 3

Serving us in the military:

Alexander & Christopher Tennill, Jeffrey Sanderson

James Walker (Don Helmreich's nephew)

Tim Isom, Tyler Gibson (Oberles' friends); Daisia Baker (Isaiah's cousin);

Thomas Zumalt (Shirley Lawler's grandson)

UCC/DOC Global Ministries Missionary of the Week:

Larry Colvin, serving in Ghana

2019 Confirmation Class:

Ember Piersee; Andie Rapp; Ryan Schoeneberg

2020 Confirmation Class:

Lilly Jaberg, Hazel Keithahn, Brandon Lavelly