

Columbia United Church Of Christ

October 11, 2026

"Access Awareness Sunday"



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



October 11, 2026

10:30 a.m.

"Access for All"

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

*"Praise the LORD! O give thanks to God, for God is good.
God's steadfast love endures forever."*

-Psalm 106:1

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

*"My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" Tim Guillaume
arr. Cyndey Olson Van Duker*

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 106)

Mahree Skala

Give thanks to God; call upon God's name!

Make God's deeds known among all people!

**All of Creation expresses God's powerful presence;
Who are we to try to bind God's love?**

We seek God continually and rely on God's strength!

We seek the Peace that God offers in all our ways!

**We are God's Children
and we celebrate God's wonderful works!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"What a Covenant"

#471

*Opening Prayer

Mahree Skala

God of welcoming presence; You call us to extend extravagant hospitality to all of Your children, no matter their status or ability. Forgive us for the times we turn a blind eye, or enact policies that diminish the abilities of Your beloved children. Open our hearts to be generous in our dealings with each other, that we may always be more expressive of your love. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God is with us always, no matter what challenges face us, calling us into relationship with Them. But even when we forget this presence, God still loves us and forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise 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

Pastor Rick

**May God's Peace be with you!
And also with you!**

Children's Time

“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!***

Team Earth Moment

“Creation Justice”

Mahree Skala

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 32:1-6

Mahree Skala

As Moses is receiving instruction from God on healthy relationships, the people of Israel are constructing a golden calf to worship in place of God. What are the golden calves we construct today to take the place of God in our lives?

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Gospel Lesson

Luke 14:1-14

Mahree Skala

Jesus talks about disabilities awareness in several discourses. First, he is asked a question about healing in the Sabbath; then, he offers a parable about extravagant hospitality. Both of these parables have to do with the restoration of dignity for those from whom it has been stolen.

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Anthem "You Say" Celebration Singers
Daigle/arr. Mac Huff

Sermon "Extravagant Hospitality" Pastor Rick

*Hymn "Blessed Assurance" #473
Fanny Crosby

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 use more traditional words 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 from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*Hymn "Help Us Accept Each Other" #388

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 Tim Guillaume

*Prayer of Dedication Mahree Skala

God of Love, you inspire us to wholeness by your Holy Spirit and teach us the Wisdom of the ages through the ministry of Jesus Christ. As we learn and live and grow, we become more complete, more whole, more holy. In response, we dedicate these offerings to your work in the world. May they be used to bring restoration and wholeness to your children in need all over the world. Amen.

The Worshipful Work of the Congregation

The Annual Congregational Budget/Planning & Assessment Meeting

Call to Order	Corinne Remeika
Presentation of Proposed 2027 Budget	Aimee Andersen
Vote on Budget	Corinne Remeika
Presentation of Proposed Creation Justice Covenant	Team Earth
Vote on Proposed Creation Justice Covenant	Corinne Remeika
Presentation of Implementation Goals	Corinne Remeika
Adjournment	

*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 Tim Guillaume

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
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:	Mahree Skala
Song Leader:	Sarah Young
Ushers:	Llona Weiss & Pat Forward
Greeters:	John & Brenda Muench
Technology:	Carissa Graves & John Graves
Council Stewards:	Aimee Andersen & Tricia Soncasie

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Confirmation Students
Song Leader:	Killian Boyd
Ushers:	Christine Staelens & Fred Malicoat
Greeters:	Mary Lorber
Technology:	Josh Muench & Lorry Dreier
Council Stewards:	Judi Privitt & Jessica Lucas

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling
Vice Moderator:	Corinne Remeika
Secretary:	Tricia Soncasie
Treasurer:	Aimee Andersen
Recording Treasurer:	Christine Staelens
Building & Grounds:	Allen Posz
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Mary Lorber
Finance & Stewardship:	Sue Ann Schaefer
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Ashley Ramirez
Little One's Day Out:	Darla Privitt
Membership & Care:	Judi Privitt
Nurture & Education:	Jessica Lucas
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mahree Skala
Worship & Music:	Kitty Rogers



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!

MOVIE NIGHT - 10/16

The Inclusion and Affirmation Ministry Team will be hosting a Movie Night in the Fellowship Hall on 10/16 at 6:30 p.m. showing “The Green Book,” a movie about segregation. This movie contains adult themes and dialogue; childcare will be provided. Popcorn and soda will be available as well. A discussion will follow.

BALLOT INITIATIVES FORUM - 10/18

On 10/18, during the 9:00 education hour, Mahree Skala will present a non-partisan look at the ballot initiatives in the Fellowship Hall. She will have information about each ballot initiative, and what the impact of ratification would be for each one. All are welcome to join in for this important hour!

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING - 10/18

Our Young Adult Fellowship Group has been forming over the past few weeks, and it is growing! Our next gathering will be next Sunday, 10/18 at Lauren and Jesse Lippincott’s house. Talk to Lauren, Jesse, Pastor Rick or Ashley Ramirez for more details!

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	10/11	Men’s Fellowship	7:30 a.m.
		Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Congregational Budget Meeting	11:30 a.m.
Mon	10/12	Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	10/13	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Prayer Shawl Team	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
Wed	10/14	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Confirmation	7:15 p.m.
Fri	10/16	Movie Night- “The Green Book”	6:30 p.m.
Sat	10/17	Youth Group Trip to Festival of Sharing	7:30 a.m.
Sun	10/18	Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Ballot Initiatives Forum	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Youth Group Service Day	12:00 p.m.
		Outreach & Advocacy Team Meeting	12:00 p.m.
		Young Adult Gathering at Lippincott’s	5:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Don Privitt, Jan Barry ... recovering from health issues

The Veteto Family... welcoming baby boy Veteto!

The family of Jim Rathert... celebrating his life

The Posz family... celebrating the life of their friend, Jackson

The family of Otilla Montenegro... celebrating her life (Eloy's aunt)

Rev. Dale Parson... health issues

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, Wilbur Rafael Garces Perez,

The families of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, Lorenzo Salgado, Sebastian Guerrero,

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

Our US Military... deployed in the Middle East

In Hospice Care:

Joyce Andersen (Aimee's mother-in-law), Mark Fairley,

Mike Freeman (Corine Remeika's friend), Julie Roper (Alexandra's mother),

Fred Wilke (Alethea's father)

Health Issues:

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

Julia Marsh, Becky Weston, Connie Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link,

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

Cassandra Gartner (Edie's friend), Rev. Carolyn Held (Edie's niece),

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

Mary Jane Johnson (Joe Remeika's sister)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Assisted Living Facilities:

Dean & Jan Barry, Vernie Blank, Gary Ehrhardt, Julie Roper

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

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

Serving us in the military:

Aaron Dachroeden, Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson,

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

*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*

Exodus 32:1-6

1 When the people saw that Moses delayed to come down from the mountain, the people gathered around Aaron and said to him, “Come, make gods for us, who shall go before us; as for this Moses, the man who brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we do not know what has become of him.”

2 Aaron said to them, “Take off the gold rings that are on the ears of your wives, your sons, and your daughters and bring them to me.”

3 So all the people took off the gold rings from their ears and brought them to Aaron.

4 He took these from them, formed them in a mold, and cast an image of a calf, and they said, “These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!”

5 When Aaron saw this, he built an altar before it, and Aaron made a proclamation and said, “Tomorrow shall be a festival to the LORD.”

6 They rose early the next day and offered burnt offerings and brought sacrifices of well-being, and the people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to revel.

Luke 14:1-14

1 On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely.

2 Just then, in front of him, there was a man who had edema.

3 And Jesus asked the experts in the law and Pharisees, “Is it lawful to cure people on the Sabbath or not?”

4 But they were silent. So Jesus took him and healed him and sent him away.

5 Then he said to them, “If one of you has a child or an ox that has fallen into a well, will you not immediately pull it out on a Sabbath day?”

6 And they could not reply to this. 7 When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable.

8 “When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host,

9 and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, ‘Give this person your place,’ and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

10 But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up higher’; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

11 For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.”

12 He said also to the one who had invited him, “When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

13 But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

14 And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.”

Deut. 33:27

Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887; alt.

1 What a *cov - e - nant, what a joy di - vine, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil - grim way, lean - ing on the ev - er -
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean - ing on the ev - er -

last - ing arms. What a bless - ed - ness, what a peace is mine, lean - ing
 last - ing arms. Oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean - ing
 last - ing arms? I have bless - ed peace with my Sav - ior near, lean - ing

Refrain

on the ev - er - last - ing arms.
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms. Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se - cure from
 on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

all a - larms; lean - ing, lean - ing, lean - ing on the ev - er - last - ing arms.

*Or, "fellowship"

In a letter to two grieving friends, A. J. Showalter quoted
 Deuteronomy 33:27, "... underneath are the everlasting arms."
 Showalter then wrote this music and the refrain and sent them to
 E. A. Hoffman to provide the stanzas.

Tune: LEANING 5.5.9.D. with refrain
 Anthony J. Showalter, 1887

*Acts 17:30-31; Rev. 7:9-14**Fanny Crosby, 1873; alt.*

1 Bless-ed as - sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! O what a
 2 Per-fect sub - mis - sion, per-fect de - light! Vi - sions of
 3 Per-fect sub - mis - sion, all is at rest, I in my

fore - taste of glo - ry di - vine! Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of
 rap - ture now burst on my sight; An - gels de - scend - ing, bring from a -
 Sav - ior am hap - py and blessed; Watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a -

God, born of the Spir - it, washed in Christ's blood.
 bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 bove, filled with God's good - ness, lost in Christ's love.

Refrain

This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long;

After hearing Phoebe Knapp play this tune on the piano, Fanny Crosby composed the poem on the spot. In her almost 95 years, Crosby wrote more than 8,500 gospel hymns and songs.

Tune: ASSURANCE Irr.
 Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.



Help Us Accept Each Other

388

Fred Kaan, 1974; alt.

John 15:12; 17:20–23; Eph. 4:1–6, 11–16

- 1 Help us ac-cept each oth-er
as Christ ac-cept-ed us;
teach us as sis-ter, broth-er,
each per-son to em-brace.
Be pres-ent, God, a-mong us,
and bring us to be-lieve
we are our-selves ac-cept-ed
and meant to love and live.
- 2 Teach us, O God, your les-sons,
as in our dai-ly life
we strug-gle to be hu-man
and search for hope and faith.
Teach us to care for peo-ple,
for all, not just for some,
to love them as we find them,
or as they may be-come.

- 3 Let your ac-cep-tance change us,
so that we may be moved
in liv-ing sit-u-a-tions
to do the truth in love;
To prac-tice your ac-cep-tance,
un-til we know by heart
the ta-ble of for-give-ness
and laugh-ter's heal-ing art.
- 4 God, for to-day's en-coun-ters
with all who are in need,
who hun-ger for ac-cep-tance,
for righ-teous-ness and bread,
Bring us new eyes for see-ing,
new hands for hold-ing on;
re-new us with your Spir-it;
God! Free us, make us one!

Dutch theologian Fred Kaan was ordained in the United Reformed Church in England and Wales and has served as an international church administrator. Author of more than 200 hymns, Kaan frequently has addressed contemporary issues in his texts.

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.
Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

Creation Justice Covenant

We, the members of Columbia United Church of Christ, are eternally grateful for the extravagant love we have experienced through God's bountiful blessing of creation and acknowledge our calling to be faithful stewards of these divine gifts.

As Christ's disciples, we seek to love our neighbors as ourselves, recognizing that the scriptures teach that all creatures, stars, and planets proclaim the glory of God, and are therefore included in that divine covenant. This concern for all our neighbors also calls us to acknowledge those who are unfairly impacted by environmental injustices.

Living into the joy of being stewards of God's creation and viewing the scriptures of our tradition through the lenses of compassion and dignity of all creation, we seek the Spirit's guidance to pursue a life of worship and service that celebrates and supports the divinity of creation and a theology of abundance.

We care for God's world and our relation to all God's children, creatures, and other life by being responsible for our impact on nature. We covenant to educate and inspire CUCC ministry teams, church members, families, and friends to adopt environmentally sustainable practices where possible at church, home, and in our personal lives, and to evaluate and update CUCC goals for continued progress.

Columbia UCC covenants to connect to the broader movement of creation justice as an advocate for all, regardless of who they are or where they are on life's journey - by supporting legislation and public policies that benefit the environment, by building partnerships with environmental justice allies to advocate for initiatives that address local and global threats to our environment.

Guided by this covenant, we desire that a passion for creation justice be manifested in every dimension of our congregation's life as we seek to take this commitment beyond the walls of this church to make good on our promises to God our Creator, to Jesus the Redeemer of Creation, and to the Holy Spirit the Sustainer of Creation.



Saturday, October 24, 2026
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Ceremonial Walk at 12:00 p.m.
Stankowski Field Parking Lot
810 Tiger Ave
Columbia, MO 65201

***Will you be there to help
us cross the finish line?***

The Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk & Festival is a day of celebration, family fun and community. Guests of all ages will enjoy an array of entertainment and activities, ie; live music and dancing, bounce houses, games, face painting and so much more. Lunch, beverages and snacks will also be provided + the commemorative Step Up for Down Syndrome event t-shirt, to be worn the day of the event.

Join Norah's Team

1. Visit stepupcentralmo.org/join-team/ (QR Code)
2. Select Team "Norah the Explorer"
3. Fill out the rest of the orange form
4. Show up October 24 to Step Up for Down Syndrome

