

Columbia United Church Of Christ

April 27, 2025
"Faithful Witnesses"



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**



April 27, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Resurrection"

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

"... Praise the LORD!" -Psalm 150:1

Welcome and Greetings

Rev. Mike Williams

Prelude

"Bagatelle"

Steve Jannetti
Ludwig van Beethoven

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

Jim Loveless

In the midst of an uncertain and tumultuous world,
we come together in this time of worship.

**Whether full of doubt, full of hope, or somewhere in between,
we come together to praise God in this sanctuary.**

Together with believers around the world,
we remember God's mighty deeds
and hear stories of God's surpassing greatness.

**We praise God with song, word,
and the gift of our very selves.**

In this time of worship, let us open ourselves once more
to the power of the Holy Spirit and
the grace we receive from our Lord, Jesus Christ.

**We join with all of creation
in praising the God who made us. Praise the Lord!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day"

#241

*Opening Prayer

Jim Loveless

O God, in celebration of Earth Day, we thank You for this universe, our great home; for its vastness and riches, for the manifold blessings You have bestowed upon us, and the calling You have given us to be stewards of Your creation. As the earth cries out for liberation, we confess our part in bringing it toward the brink of catastrophe. Renew our wonder, awaken our concern, and make us once more careful tenants of the world You lend us as our home. Hear us, O Lord, our Creator and Redeemer, in the name of Christ; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Rev. Mike Williams

Beloved, in Jesus we have seen just how deeply God is willing to enter into our brokenness. While it is true we continually fall short in our stewardship of our lives, our society, and of creation itself, it is a greater truth that God does not give up on us. Christ comes to us, overrules our fears, our doubts, and our sin and reminds us that we are indeed God's beloved children. Know that we are forgiven, and be at peace. Amen.

*Prayer Response

“Sanctuary”

*Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary
Pure and holy; tried and true
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living
Sanctuary for you.*

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Rev. Mike Williams

“Halle, Halle, Halleluja”
(Sung as children return to their seats)

*Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Hallelujah! Hallelujah!*

Mission Moment

“Team Earth”

Shelly Adams

New Testament Lesson

Acts 5:27-32

Jim Loveless

After the Ascension, the Apostles began preaching and teaching and healing in Jesus' name. The leaders of the Temple are aghast, arresting them and questioning their authority. But Peter points out, “We must obey God, not human authority” and they continue to witness in Jesus' name. Page # 889

Gospel Lesson

John 20:19-31

Jim Loveless

Jesus appears to the disciples after the Resurrection and offers them a blessing. Faithful Thomas is not present at that time and, ever faithful, states his incredulity in their claims. Later, Jesus appears to Thomas as well and Thomas realizes that Christ has, indeed, risen from the dead. Page #882

Anthem

“Jesus, On the Mountain Peak”

Celebration Singers
Michael Burkhardt

Sermon

Rev. Mike Williams

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 of Community Life

Rev. Mike Williams

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

“Sarabande”

Steve Jannetti
Johann Sebastian Bach

*Prayer of Dedication

Jim Loveless

O God, before whom all creation sings together, we join with all Your creatures in offering these tokens of our praise. Pour on us Your Holy Spirit. Recreate our hearts in love that we might serve You, and the world You have given us, with all that we have. Amen.

*Benediction

Rev. Mike Williams

*Response

“God the Spirit, Guide and Guardian”
*Christ, our Savior, sovereign, shepherd,
Word made flesh, love crucified,
Teacher, healer, suffering servant,
Friend of sinners, foe of pride;
Give to those who lead Your people
Fresh anointing of Your grace;
Send us forth as bold apostles
To Your church in every place.*

*Postlude

“Te Deum”

Steve Jannetti
Antoine Charpentier

CUCC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2025 (and beyond)

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

- Advocate for policies that provide support for others
- Incorporate everyone's talents into the work and life of the church
- Formulate support & education classes for parents and children
- Improve staff training and professional development
- Ensure that our staff are paid just wages
- Discern and address the needs of our older members
- Strive to meet the needs of our members where they are

ESTABLISHING OUR IDENTITY

- Increase public awareness of our mission and location
- Increase our advertising/marketing efforts
- Consistently canvass the neighborhood north of the church
- Attract more members, focusing on youth and diversity
- Strive for intentionality incorporating youth and young adults into the life of the church
- Strive for intentionality incorporating a diverse community into the life of the church

DEVELOPING OUR FACILITY

- Continue to modernize and maintain our building and grounds
- Develop a comprehensive maintenance manual with records, goals and strategies for modernization and maintenance
- Seek out new ways to utilize our building to enhance our ministry and generate income
- Establish financial security for our ongoing ministry programs
- Establish our facility as a host site for music groups, choirs, concerts, lecturer series, and other public events

SERVING GOD'S WORLD

- Partner with other agencies that share our goals & interests
- Create a fulfilling, engaging, inclusive Sunday morning experience
- Develop partnerships with others to share our facility
- Strive for intentionality in connecting children, youth and adults to outreach and service opportunities
- Look for ways to reach out to other UCC congregations and work together for justice
- Strive to identify ways that we can be socially responsible and educated in areas of ecological justice, international mission, and other justice issues at home and abroad

Columbia United Church of Christ

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littleonesdayout@yahoo.com

Custodian: Caleb Berry

calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Jim Loveless

Ushers: Charlie Marcks & Llona Weiss

Greeters: Mary Lorber

Technology: John Graves & Carissa Graves

Council Stewards: Tricia Price & Kurt Heine

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Lena Muench

Ushers: Keith Birkes & Deborah Long Birkes

Greeters: Pat Forward

Technology: Lorry Dreier & Brent Marcks

Council Stewards: Lena Muench & Kristin Veteto



Online giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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NURSERY CARE is available for children in kindergarten and younger in room #201 in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

AHL TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK

We will be honoring the hard work of our Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary teachers during teacher appreciation week! Between now and May 4, please fill up the shopping cart in the Gathering Area with goodies for our teachers.

QUORUS IN CONCERT 4/27

Join “Landlocked Opera” and The Quorus TONIGHT for an intimate evening of choral music and solos at 7:00 p.m. at Missouri United Methodist Church. All proceeds from the event go to support the missions of Landlocked Opera and The Quorus. Come support Quorus at MUMC!

TEAM EARTH LUNCH AND LEARN 5/4

Our next Team Earth Lunch and Learn will be Sunday, 5/4 at noon! Our speaker will be talking about importance of water, how climate change is affecting it, concerns with diminishing the safety regulations regarding safe drinking water, changes regarding wastewater, etc.

HOW TO FIGHT RACISM– UNIT THREE IN MAY

We will conclude our study of the Jemar Tisby book, “How to Fight Racism” Sundays in May. We will be looking at chapters 8, 9 & 10 in the unit on “Commitment.” We will meet in the Fellowship Hall May 4, 11, & 18 at 9:00 a.m. Even if you have not read the book, come anyway! We will watch a video that covers most of the information, and have very rich discussion.

BIBLE STUDY THIS MAY– THE BOOK OF ACTS

Tuesdays in May (May 6, 13, 20 & 27), from 12:30-1:30 p.m., Pastor Rick will be hosting a Bible Study on the Book of Acts. We will talk about Peter, Paul, Stephen, Lydia and the other early disciples who expanded the message of Jesus into the first century world. Feel free to bring your lunch!

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	4/27	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Quorus Concert at Missouri United Methodist	7:00 p.m.
Mon	4/28	Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	4/29	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Wed	4/30	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Thu	5/1	Troop 4475 Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Fri	5/2	LODO Picnic	5:30 p.m.
Sun	5/4	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Book Study- “How to Fight Racism”	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	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 . . .

Sharon Elliott... on hospice

Eloy Montenegro... mourning the loss of his mother

Jerry Kiesling... mourning the loss of his uncle

Walter Schroeder... health issues

Barry Kirchhoff... health issues

Joan Grout... health issues (Sue Ann Schaefer's cousin)

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our partnership friend

The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

Lloyd Mickelson, Lauren Helmreich

Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley

Kristan Whelihan (Russell Eveler's teacher)

Ann Wilke (Alethea's mother)

Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece), Jennifer (Edie Diel's niece),

Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter), Joanne Good (Sue Beckman's friend),

Marilyn Coronado (Corinne Remeika's friend)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Care Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Helen Graves, Sharon Elliott, Harold Hackman

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, Alice Moon

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

Did you know we have a Prayer Team here at CUCC, lifting up the prayer concerns of our congregation? 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@google.com

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

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***

Joy Dawned Again on Easter Day

241

Latin, c. 5th century

Luke 24:36-37

Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

1 Joy dawned a - gain on Eas - ter Day, the sun shone
2 O Je - sus, Sav - ior, Gen - tle One, come take our
3 O Sov - ereign One, with us a - bide in this our

out with bright ar - ray; For when the A - pos - tles
hearts to be your own, That we may give you
joy - ful Eas - ter - tide; From ev - ery weap - on

hid in fear, the Ris - en Christ to them ap - peared.
all our days the will - ing trib - ute of our praise.
death can wield, your own re - deemed for - ev - er shield.

The musical score is written in 3/4 time with a key signature of two sharps (D major). It features a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The lyrics are arranged in three systems, each with a vocal line and a piano line. The first system contains three verses of lyrics. The second system continues the lyrics. The third system concludes the piece with a double bar line.

This anonymous Latin hymn of uncertain date is one of the two earliest hymns assigned to a special season. From that beginning grew a full list of medieval Latin hymns assigned to specific times and seasons.

Tune: PUER NOBIS NASCITUR L.M.
German carol, 15th century
Adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609
Harm. George R. Woodward, 1910

Acts 5:27-32

27 When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them,

28 saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.”

29 But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority.

30 The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree.

31 God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins.

32 And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

John 20:19-31

19 When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

21 Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

22 When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."

24 But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came.

25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you."

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe."

28 Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."

30 Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book.

31 But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

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