Columbia United Church Of Christ

June 1, 2025 Ascension Day



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



June 1, 2025

9:30 a.m.

"Ascension"

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

"Clap your hands, all you people; Shout to God with loud songs of joy!" -Psalm 47:1

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Prepare Thyself, Zion"

Steve Jannetti Johann Sebastián Bach

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(adapted from Psalm 47)

Judi Privitt

Clap your hands, all you people! Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

God rules over all the earth. God's majesty is a blessing to our lives.

Sing praises to God; sing praises! Sing praises to God's glorious name.

Let us join together with all people to proclaim God's glory; Let us join together with all people to sing praises to God. Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn

"Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped"

#22

*Opening Prayer

Judi Privitt

God of blessings; as we hear the story of Jesus' ascension, we know that this is not the end of Your presence in our lives. We hear the promise of Your Holy Spirit, and anticipate the power and inspiration They will bring. Forgive us for the times we lose faith in the promise of good things to come. Continue to inspire us as we live in this in-between time, anticipating Your Holy Spirit and continuing Your work in this time, this place.

In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

As Jesus ascends, he promises us the gift of the Holy Spirit that is to come. But even when we forget this promise, God loves us and Through our repentance and God's grace we are forgives us. forgiven, beloved, and blessed. Praise be to God!

*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

Pastor Rick

"Halle, Halle, Halle" (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

"Strengthen the Church"

Mark Duncan

Moment of Recognition

Kristin Veteto & Edie Diel

Today we say farewell to LODO Director Erika Maltsbarger and Music Coordinator Casey Wood. They have both served this congregation faithfully and ably and we wish them the best in their new endeavors! There will be a reception for them after worship; please stick around!

Affirmation of Ministry

Recognizing and installing the elected leaders of this church

Introduction & Presentation of The 2025-2026 Church Leadership Team

Affirmation of Servanthood

*Covenant of Mutual Ministry

Members of this household of faith, you have heard the promises of our friends in Christ who have answered God's call to service. Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant together:

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, to honor your leadership, and to assist you, so together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

*Prayer

Installation & Declaration/Recognition of Retiring Officers/Leaders

Judi Privitt

The story of Jesus' ascension forty days after the Resurrection. As he leaves them, he gives them the promise of the Holy Spirit, who will power them up soon. This event is a foreshadowing of the Pentecost story next week, as well as the rest of the book of Acts and the action that is to come.

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Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:44-53

Judi Privitt

The author of the Gospel attributed to Luke (believed to be the same person who wrote Acts) foreshadows what is to come after Jesus' ascension; the Word of God being spread to all the corners of the earth. After this foreshadowing, Jesus blesses the disciples and ascends. They were united in worship and praising God.

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Anthem

"Great is Thy Faithfulness" Celebration Singers

Casev Wood

Sermon

"Foreshadowing"

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

"Christ the Lord is Risen Today"

#233

Invitation to Communion

Jesus reached across human borders and boundaries, seeing in everyone a common heritage as a child of God. Whether they were a child, a tax collector, a Samaritan, or a leper, even when others turned them away, Jesus welcomed them. In like manner, all are welcome to partake in communion today, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.

As we gather around the communion table, God's love is gloriously revealed most clearly to us. We remember the Wisdom of Christ's ministry that is represented by the bread and the promise of Eternal Living that is represented by the cup. As God's children, let us gather together for this meal.

Communion Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, & Silent Prayer; Invocation

Blessing the Children "Hail the Day that Sees Christ Rise" #260 (verses 1, 5, and 6)

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 blessing from Pastor Rick.

Institution; Fraction; Distribution

Communion Music

"Ave Verum"

Steve Jannetti

God of joy; as we come to this table, we reflect on the blessings You have given us, and the call You place before us to serve. We pray that this meal might energize us, so we can go out into Your world and be effective stewards of Your Creation. Fire us up and send us forth from this table, speaking Your word and doing Your work. Open our eyes to Your blessings, and remind us of what truly matters in life; glorifying You. Now we gather as one family, singing the prayer that You taught us;

*The Lord's Prayer (sung by the congregation, led by Casey Wood)

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 of Community Life

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

"But the Lord Is Mindful"

Steve Jannetti
Felix Mendelssohn

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Rick

*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!

Columbia United Church of Christ

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Website: www.columbiaucc.com

Pastor: Rev. Richard Oberle Student Pastor: Shelly Adams Admin. Assistant: Alexandra Roper

Moderator: Jerry Kiesling

Music Coordinator: Mike Pierson Organist/Accompanist: Steve Jannetti

LODO Director: Sara Koenig

Custodian: Caleb Berry

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mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com steve.jannetti@yahoo.com littleonesdayout@yahoo.com caleborenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Judi Privitt

Ushers: Keith & Deborah Long Birkes

Greeters: Carol Duermeyer

Technology: Doug Privitt & Ted Dachroeden

Council Stewards: Judi Privitt & Edie Diel

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Scouting America
Ushers: Scouting America
Greeters: Jessica Lucas

Technology: Josh Muench & Lorry Dreier Council Stewards: Christine Staelens & Jerry Kiesling

Online giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator: Jerry Kiesling rollzierp50@gmail.com

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Outreach & Advocacy: Vacant

Worship & Music: Edie Diel edie@thedandegroup.com
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<u>NURSERY CARE</u> is available for children in kindergarten and younger in room #201 in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

BIBLE STUDY THIS MAY/JUNE- THE BOOK OF ACTS

This Tuesday (6/3), 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!

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE-9:30 a.m. thru 8/31

We are currently observing our summer hours; Bible Study will be at 8:30 a.m. and Worship at 9:30 a.m. There will be no Sunday School for the younger ones, but the nursery will be staffed from 9:00-11:00 a.m. We will observe this schedule thru Labor Day weekend, and resume our academic year schedule starting on Rally Day, September 7.

SCOUTS SUNDAY-6/8

As the Scouting year ends, we will be celebrating here in worship! Our Scouts will be here on June 8 to share what they have done this past year and develop our relationship further. We will have an All-Church BBQ after worship in honor of the Scouts, hosted by the Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team. Stick around after worship and get to know our Scouts!

LUNCH & LEARN-6/22

On June 22 after worship, we will meet in Fellowship Hall for a workshop led by Corinne Remeika exploring how each of us copes with changes in our lives. The goal is for each of us to consider what resources there are from which we can choose, and how choices can help transform us and strengthen our trust in God's presence in our daily lives. Please sign up using the sign up sheet in the back of the Sanctuary.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	6/1	Bible Study Fellowship Worship (in person and livestream) Composting Workshop	8:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.
Mon	6/2	Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	6/3	Quilters Staff Meeting Bible Study Clergy Personnel Committee	10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:30 p.m. 6:30 p.m.
Thu	6/5	Troop 4475 Committee Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Sun	6/8	Scouting America Sunday Bible Study Worship (in person) All Church BBO	8:30 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11:00 a.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Marsha Posz... health issues
Cody Kile... recovery from accident
Sharon Elliott... on hospice
Glenn Duermeyer... healing from broken hip
Debby Duermeyer... healing from knee replacement

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

The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

Lloyd Mickelson, Lauren Helmreich, Barry Kirchhoff,
Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley, Rachel Demand,
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),
Martha (friend of the Veteto family), Ken (Adam Veteto's cousin),
Linda Hancik and Beverly Wilcox (friends of Corinne Remeika),
Lortisha Powell (Dorothy Vetter's friend),
Joan Grout (Sue Ann Schaefer's cousin)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Kieran Piersee

Living in Care Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Helen Graves, Sharon Elliott, Harold Hackman, Walter & Patty Schroeder

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 <u>melbamaes@google.com</u> Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 <u>tsoncasie@aol.com</u>

CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:

Welcoming all God's Children;

Nurturing Faith and Spiritual Growth;

Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship;

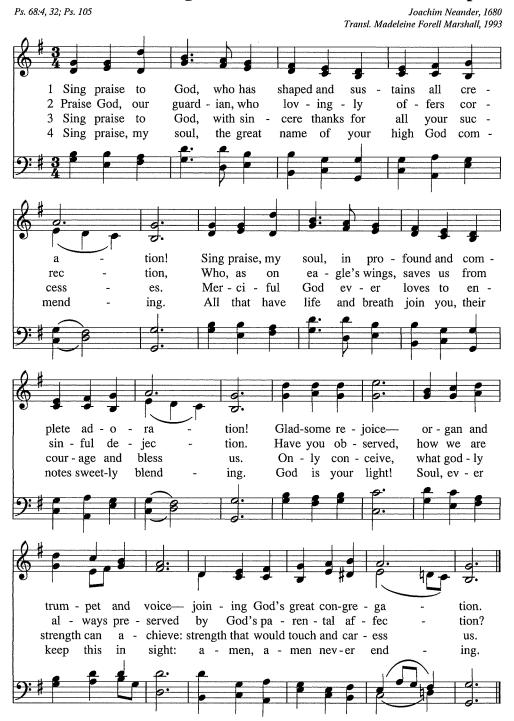
Building a supportive church family;

Transforming both the congregation and community

through service and outreach

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Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped



Joachim Neander was a dedicated, caring pastor of the Reformed Church in Düsseldorf, Germany. This was the most familiar of his fifty-six hymn texts, which were published along with many of his original tunes in 1680, the year of his death. Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8. Erneuerten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665 Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863

Acts 1:1-11

- 1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus did and taught from the beginning
- 2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.
- 3 After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.
- 4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait there for the promise of the Father. "This," he said, "is what you have heard from me;
- 5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now."
- 6 So when they had come together, they asked him, "Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?"
- 7 He replied, "It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.
- 8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
- 9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.
- 10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.
- 11 They said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven."

Luke 24:44-53

- 44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled."
- 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,
- 46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day,
- 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.
- 49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised; so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."
- 50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.
- 51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.
- 52 And they worshiped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; 53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

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Christ the Lord Is Risen Today



The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

260

Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise



- Now, though part-ed from our sight,
 Al-le-lu-ia!
 In the depths of star-ry night,
 Al-le-lu-ia!
 May our souls with you a-rise,
 Al-le-lu-ia!
 - Al-le-lu-ia! Seek-ing whole-ness at your side. Al-le-lu-ia!

There we will with you re-main,
Al-le-lu-ia!
Heirs in your e-ter-nal reign;
Al-le-lu-ia!
In the pres-ence of your face,
Al-le-lu-ia!
We will dwell in heav-en's grace.
Al-le-lu-ia!

"Why Pride?"

As we move into the month of June, you are going to be hearing a lot about Pride; especially from the Queer Community, but also from the Black Community as we recognize Juneteenth. "Gay Pride" and "Juneteenth" are opportunities to celebrate people who have been historically disenfranchised; but some may inquire as to the importance of these observances. Isn't setting some people apart from others the opposite of what Jesus calls us to do in his prayer for unity in the Garden of Gethsemane?

Well, no. When Jesus calls for unity, he is not talking about homogeneity- that is, pretending that everyone is exactly the same. In fact, Jesus' prayer for unity is about everyone having the faith that is exemplified in Jesus' ministry- that is, love for one another. If we live as Jesus lived, we will be united as one. But we won't all be exactly the same. To truly be united is to recognize each other's diversity and lift them up as examples of God's magnificent Creation.

Pride Month originated out of oppression, following the events of the June 28, 1969, Stonewall Rebellion, where a cadre of "secret" police officers raided the Stonewall Inn. Over 200 members of the Queer Community were assaulted in that raid, and two dozen were arrested. A crowd of supporters gathered that evening and in the days that followed, protesting the oppression and supporting those who had been assaulted. The following year, on June 28, 1970, the first "Pridefest" was held in Greenwich to commemorate the Stonewall Rebellion. The following June, in 1971, there were Pridefest celebrations in Boston, Dallas, Milwaukee, London, Paris, Berlin, and Stockholm; all recognizing the Stonewall event and the need to uplift the Queer Community.

The first Juneteenth celebration was on June 19, 1866, in Galveston, Texas. Juneteenth recognizes and celebrates the final end to the institution of enslaving people in the U.S. Despite the Emancipation Proclamation, issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, which ordered an end to the institution of enslaving people by presidential decree, many southern states continued the practice. It was not until June 19, 1865, that the final vestiges of slavery were abolished; the final holdout was Galveston, Texas. To commemorate this emancipation, Juneteenth celebrations began the following year.

Both of these observances were born out of oppression. They are expressions of history, identity, and dignity. Historically- it is important to remember what was, so that this sort of horrific oppression never happens again. Identity – people have an inherent need to express their identity, this is not different for people whose identities are often oppressed. Dignity – when others have tried to steal your dignity from you, it is important to reclaim it. History, Identity, and Dignity are all elements of Pride Month, Juneteenth, and, quite frankly, every holiday we celebrate.

As we lift up our siblings in Christ this month and pray for unity, let us do so remembering their history, celebrating their identity, and affirming their dignity. "That All May Be One" is the prayer of our Savior; and it is our prayer as well. Pride Month, Juneteenth, and similar observances are how that unity may finally be achieved.

-by Pastor Rick

Team Earth: Great Dads of the Animal Kingdom

Male Greater Flamingoes believe in equal opportunity parenting. They assist their lifetime mate with construction of their nest, incubating their eggs, feeding and protecting the chicks. They are all-around excellent dads, which is rather rare in the animal kingdom.

(source: nathab.com/blog/)





The Red Fox is a doting and caring dad... to a point. While the pups are young, he is the bread winner delivering food to the den for the mother and cubs. He plays and roughhouses with his offspring. However, when they are 3 months old, the food train stops. This encourages the pups to leave the den; but fox dads help them out by hiding food nearby. They then learn to forage on their own. (source: nathab.com/blog/)



Sunday, June 8 | 11:00 a.m.

Join us after service for a BBQ honoring our Scouts, their leaders, and their families. Fellowship and Hospitality will be providing hotdogs, burgers, chips, and dessert. Enjoy some yard games as you eat and converse about all the wonderful activities the scouts have done this year.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

JULY 28-30 5:15-8:15 PM



ATTENDES: AGES 3 THROUGH FINISHING 5TH GRADE









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