

Columbia United Church Of Christ

March 30, 2025

“For the Beauty of the Earth”



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**



March 30, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Extravagance"

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

*"... faithful love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD."
-Psalm 32:10*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

Solemn Prelude

Steve Jannetti
Arr. John Marsh

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 32)

Mahree Skala

When we keep silent, we waste away;
When we turn to You, O God, we are renewed!

**God welcomes us home with open arms;
Named and Claimed, we are God's children always!**

Let all who are faithful offer prayer to You;
In times of distress, the waters will not collapse upon them!

**Your Salvation is within us, O God;
Your Saving Grace our Shield!**

Instruct us as we go, O God; as we travel this Lenten journey!
Your Steadfast Love holds us steady, always on course!

**Be Glad in the LORD and rejoice!
Shout for joy, God's children everywhere!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped"

#22

*Opening Prayer

Mahree Skala

God of forgiveness and reconciliation; we are blessed by Your extravagant love and abundant grace. Forgive us for the times we neglect to show appreciation for the grace that You afford us. Forgive us for the times when we act in ways that are less than extravagant, drawing circles that are narrow rather than ones that are wide. Teach us the lessons of Your prodigal love, and remind us that we are called to be ambassadors of that extravagance; that we may glorify You in our faithful expressions in Your world. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

The beauty of the earth and all that is on it is created by God and given to us to steward. But even when we forget this mandate, God loves us and forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace we are forgiven, beloved, and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response

“Jesus, Remember Me”

*Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your Kingdom;
Jesus, remember me,
when you come into your Kingdom.*

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

“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!*

Mission Moment

“One Great Hour of Sharing”

Mark Duncan

New Testament Lesson

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Mahree Skala

In this letter, attributed to the Apostle Paul, the author appeals to the Christian Church in Corinth to consider themselves a new Creation as ambassadors of Christ. They are encouraged to put aside the old ways and adopt new ways, the ways of Christ.

Page #940

Gospel Lesson

Luke 15:11-32

Mahree Skala

This familiar parable of the prodigal father speaks of God's extravagant love and Their unconditional forgiveness. The justice of the world is retributive, as in the older son's expression of anger; but God's justice is restorative, as in the prodigal father. How does this parable encourage us to look at the world?

Page #850

Anthem

“Be Still My Soul”

Celebration Singers
Arr. Craig Courtney

Sermon

“Prodigal Living”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“What Wondrous Love is This”

#223

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 "O Jesus, I Have Promised" #493

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 "Larghetto in F" Steve Jannetti
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

*Prayer of Dedication Mahree Skala

God of hope; we give these gifts today as an expression of our love for You. We have been blessed by Your gracious provision; and our heartfelt prayer is that others may feel equally as blessed. Take these gifts and use them to share Your love with others; to shower your world with blessings; to spread Your message of hope and peace abundantly to all. Amen.

*Benediction Pastor Rick

*Response: "God, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

***God, dismiss us with Your blessing;
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;
Let us each, Your love possessing,
Triumph in redeeming grace.***

***O refresh us, O refresh us,
Travelling through this wilderness.***

*Postlude "Adagio" Steve Jannetti
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

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

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
Student Pastor: Shelly Adams	shellyraeadams@gmail.com
Admin. Assistant: Alexandra Roper	office@columbiaucc.com
Moderator: Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Music Coordinator: Casey Wood	caseyseanwood@gmail.com
Organist/Accompanist: Steve Jannetti	steve.jannetti@yahoo.com
LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger	littleonesdayout@yahoo.com
Custodian: Caleb Berry	calebprenticeberry@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg	

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Mahree Skala
Ushers:	John Muench & Brenda Muench
Greeters:	Carol Duermeyer
Technology:	Carissa Graves & John Graves
Council Stewards:	Kurt Heine

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Kennedy Lucas
Ushers:	Jim Loveless & Phillip Neale
Greeters:	Pat Forward
Technology:	Sam Byerly & Brent Marcks
Council Stewards:	Mary Lorber



Online giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling	rollzierp50@gmail.com
Secretary:	Alethea Tennill	atennill108@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Deborah Birkes	dlong@elonedu.com
Recording Treasurer:	Christine Staelens	tigersfour@gmail.com
Building & Grounds:	Ted Dachroeden	gpadoc4gd@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Mary Lorber	eldercow@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship:	Shelly Adams	shellyraeadams@gmail.com
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Tricia Price	tricialprice@gmail.com
Little One's Day Out:	Kristin Veteto	kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com
Membership & Care:	Judi Privitt	judiprivitt811@gmail.com
Nurture & Education:	Lena Muench	cfg323@yahoo.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music:	Edie Diel	edie@thedandegroup.com
Pastor:	Rev. Rick Oberle	rick@columbiaucc.com

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

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!

TAIZÉ WORSHIP DURING LENT 3/12-4/16

Wednesdays during Lent, Steve Jannetti will be leading us in Taizé worship. Each Wednesday thru April 16 we will gather at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a half hour of meditation and reflection. All are invited!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE 4/1

Scholarship applications for active members pursuing higher education are available in the church office for the 2025-2026 academic year. All applications are due by April 1. Copies of the application are available in the church office.

ERIC MOELLER IN CONCERT 4/4

Eric Moeller, an up and coming “Springsteen-like” pastor/musician will be offering a FREE concert here at CUCC on Friday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m. His genre is Progressive Christian Rock, and his songs highlight the social justice challenges and imperatives that face our world today. All are invited!

WORK DAY AT BLUE SPRINGS TERRACE 4/5

The Western Association is hosting a work day at Blue Springs Terrace on April 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This is the annual Western Association fellowship gathering. All are invited to attend! To register, talk to Pastor Rick.

BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY 4/6

Did you know that 82% of “new” church members began attending because they were invited by a friend? All the marketing and advertising in the world can not make up for a personal invitation. Start thinking now about who you will bring to worship on 4/6. There will be lunch afterward— a Taco Bar hosted by the Membership & Care Ministry Team. ***Bring a friend on April 6!***

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	3/30	Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	12:00 p.m.
Tue	4/1	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Wed	4/2	Taizé Service	5:30 p.m.
		Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Thu	4/3	LODO Ministry Team	5:30 p.m.
Fri	4/4	Eric Moeller Concert	7:00 p.m.
Sun	4/6	<i>Bring a Friend Sunday</i>	
		Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Taco Bar	12:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Sharon Elliott... on hospice
Cheryl Cobb... on hospice (Carole Barner's sister)
Cas Burlison...health issues (Mahree's cousin)
Mahree Skala... health issues
Lauren Helmreich... health issues

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our partnership friend
The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

Edie Diel, Lloyd Mickelson, Jim Elliott,
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

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***

Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

Ps. 68:4, 32; Ps. 105

Joachim Neander, 1680

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -
 2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -
 3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -
 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -
 rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from
 cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -
 mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - jice — or - gan and
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice — join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

Joachim Neander was a dedicated, caring pastor of the Reformed Church in Ditteldorf, 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.
 Erneuernten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665
 Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

16 From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way.

17 So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

18 All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation;

19 that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

20 So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

21 For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Luke 15:11-32

11 Then Jesus said, "There was a man who had two sons.

12 The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them.

13 A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living.

14 When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

15 So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs.

16 He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

17 But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired

hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!

18 I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you;

19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ’

20 So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him.

21 Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet.

23 And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate;

24 for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

25 “Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing.

26 He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.

27 He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’

28 Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him.

29 But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends.

30 But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’

31 Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.

32 But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

What Wondrous Love Is This

John 19:17; Rev. 5:13

19th century, United States; alt.
First published in Mercer's Cluster, 1836

1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul! O my soul! What
2 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing, to
3 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on, and

won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is
God and to the Lamb, I will sing; To God and to the
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on! And when from death I'm

this! that Christ should come in bliss to bear the heav-y cross for my
Lamb who is the great I Am, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
free, I'll sing and joy-ful be, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing

soul, for my soul, to bear the heav-y cross for my soul!
sing, I will sing; while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on!

This anonymous folk hymn, with its modal (dorian) tune, has appeared in many versions. William Walker, compiler of Southern Harmony, one of the most important nineteenth-century tune books in the United States, lived and died in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

Tune: WONDROUS LOVE 12.9.12.12.9.
(CHRISTOPHER)
Appendix to Wm. Walker's Southern Harmony, c. 1843
Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1993

O Jesus, I Have Promised

493

John E. Bode, 1868; alt.

Luke 9:57; John 14:1-4

1 O Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;
 2 O let me hear you speak - ing in ac - cents clear and still,
 3 O Je - sus, you have prom - ised to all who fol - low you

re - main for - ev - er near me, my Sav - ior and my Friend:
 a - bove the storms of pas - sion, the mur - murs of self - will!
 that where you are in glo - ry your ser - vant shall be, too;

I shall not fear life's strug - gles if you are by my side,
 O speak to re - as - sure me, to has - ten or con - trol!
 And, Je - sus, I have prom - ised to serve you to the end;

nor wan - der from the path - way if you will be my guide.
 O speak, and make me lis - ten, O guar - dian of my soul!
 O give me grace to fol - low my Sav - ior and my Friend!

John Ernest Bode wrote these words when his daughter and two sons were confirmed. Although the Oxford scholar and rector wrote books of hymns, this is the only one to achieve lasting fame.

Tune: ANGEL'S STORY 7.6.7.6.D.

A. H. Mann, 1883

Alternate tune: MUNICH