

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

January 11, 2026  
“Baptism of Jesus”



## **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.



## \*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God's names us and claims us as Their own. But even when we forget this blessed identity, 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      "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus;  
Look full in his wonderful face;  
And the things of Earth will grow strangely dim  
In the light of his glory and grace!*

## \*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

**And also with you!**

## Children's Time

Pastor Rick

"This Little Light of Mine"  
(Sung as children return to their seats)

*This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!  
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!  
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!  
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!*

## Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 42:1-9

Kennedy Lucas

*The prophet is writing in a time of despair for the nation of Israel, as they are just coming out of enslavement by the Babylonians. In this time of confusion, the prophet is encouraging them to embrace their identity as children of God and embrace their call to speak the truth to power, even when it is difficult to do so.*

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## Gospel Lesson

Matthew 3:1-17

Kennedy Lucas

*John the Baptizer appears in the wilderness, proclaiming a message of repentance and hope. He prepares the way for Jesus, then when Jesus appears, baptizes him, reflecting his identity of God's beloved, blessed child. Jesus embraces this proclaimed identity and begins his ministry at this point, glorifying God to the best of his ability.*

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## Anthem

"Come, Now, Spirit of God"

Celebration Singers

*Joseph M. Martin*

## The Sacrament of Baptism

*This is an open invitation for anyone who wishes to be baptized at this time. Remembering the Baptism of Christ, Pastor Rick will invite anyone who wishes to be baptized to come forward. If you would rather schedule a baptism at some point in the future, talk to Pastor Rick.*

Sermon

“Blessed Identity”

Pastor Rick

\*Hymn

“In Water We Grow”

(insert)

\*The Sacrament of Baptism (Remembering your baptism)

*Whether you have been baptized or not, you have been named and claimed by God. God blesses and redeems you just as you are.*

*Today, we celebrate the baptisms of everyone in the congregation: members and guests alike. Pastor Rick will be inviting everyone who wishes to come forward via the center aisle to recall being named and claimed by God and to remember their baptism.*

*Pastor Rick will give more instructions about how to proceed forward and participate in this ritual.*

*If you have not been baptized, you are welcome to participate, as well. Come forward and when you are told to “remember your baptism,” know that you are being reminded that God loves you and claims you, even if you have not participated in the Sacrament of Baptism.*

On this day when we remember Christ’s baptism, we also remember our baptisms and our commitments to follow Jesus. We recall God’s saving acts through water; from the waters of Creation to the waters of the Ark of Salvation to the waters of Jesus’ baptism, when God broke loose into the world. As we remember these actions, we claim and remember our own baptisms and our call to serve Jesus.

**We gather around this font of living water to celebrate God’s ever flowing, redeeming grace. We long to draw ever deeper from the well of God’s mercy. We celebrate the Spirit with us—refreshing us, renewing us, uniting us, affirming us. We celebrate God’s affirmation, “You are my beloved; with You I am well pleased.”**

*After everyone who wishes comes forward to participate, we will all rise and join together in our hymn, celebrating the ways God names us, claims us, and carries us through all the challenges of life.*

\*Meditation Hymn    “I Was There to Hear Your Burning Cry”    #351

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,” “Trespasses” 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.**

## 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](http://www.columbiaucc.com)*

\*Prayer of Dedication Kennedy Lucas

**God, You name us, claim us, and called us beloved. You bless us with abundance and challenge us to be servants of all. With that in mind, we offer our gifts that we may not only be blessed, but also be blessings in your world. Take these gifts and multiply them that they may be used in your service. 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!*

*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*

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

# Columbia United Church of Christ

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**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Fred Brandenburg

## TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Kennedy Lucas

Song Leader: Mike Pierson

Ushers: John & Brenda Muench

Greeters: Donna Marsh

Technology: Carissa Graves & John Graves

Council Stewards: Mary Lorber, Jerry Kiesling, Deborah Birkes



Online Giving

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Lydia Whitacre

Song Leader: Mike Pierson

Ushers: Llona Weiss & Keith Birkes

Greeters: Tricia Price & Norah Schultz

Technology: Adam Veteto & Josh Muench

Council Stewards: Christine Staelens & Deborah Birkes

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

**Moderator:** Jerry Kiesling [rollzierp50@gmail.com](mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com)

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**Pastor:** Rev. Rick Oberle [rick@columbiaucc.com](mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com)

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

### **TEAM EARTH LUNCH & LEARN - 1/11**

Stay for our Team Earth Lunch & Learn after worship today! Rev. Mike Williams will continue the study he began in November focusing on our scriptural mandate towards Creation Care, and we will have the latest Solar updates. For more info, talk to Mahree Skala or Rev. Mike Williams.

### **CHILI COOKOFF - 1/18**

Dust off your Chili pot and get ready to enter our annual Chili cookoff! There is a sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the gathering space for contestants, and we will be looking for judges! Everyone is invited to bring a dessert as well. Stay for chili next Sunday and find out who will win the Golden Ladle! For more information, talk to Doug Privitt or Brent Marcks.

### **COMO VALUES DIVERSITY - 1/28**

The annual COMO Values Diversity Banquet will be 1/28 at 7:00 a.m. This event celebrates the diversity of the Columbia Community and encouraging us to strive for even more diversity. As usual, CUCC will sponsor a table. This year, Pastor Rick has been nominated for one of their Annual Diversity Awareness Awards! We have ten tickets available- if you want to attend, please talk to Ashley Ramirez or Pastor Rick!

### **FASTNACHT - 2/17**

Fastnacht will be here before you know it! Our annual German meal will be February 17 this year, the day before Ash Wednesday. Traditionally, Christians “fast” during Lent, so this is the “feast before the fast.” Whether you are fasting for Lent or not, plan to be here to celebrate Fastnacht!

### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST - 2/28**

Mark your calendars for this annual breakfast to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity! If you would like tickets or are able to help, talk to Brent Marcks

### **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

|     |      |  |                |
|-----|------|--|----------------|
| Sun | 1/11 | Men's Fellowship                       | 7:30 a.m.      |
|     |      | Bible Study                            | 9:00 a.m.      |
|     |      | Fellowship                             | 10:00 a.m.     |
|     |      | Worship (in person and livestream)     | 10:30 a.m.     |
|     |      | Lunch & Learn                          | 12:00 p.m.     |
|     |      | Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team | 12:00 p.m.     |
| Tue | 1/13 | Quilters                               | 10:00 a.m.     |
|     |      | Staff Meeting                          | 10:00 a.m.     |
|     |      | Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team      | 6:30 p.m.      |
| Wed | 1/14 | Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers     | 6:00/7:00 p.m. |
|     |      | Confirmation Class                     | 7:15 p.m.      |
| Thu | 1/15 | Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team    | 5:30 p.m.      |
| Sun | 1/18 | Bible Study                            | 9:00 a.m.      |
|     |      | Fellowship                             | 10:00 a.m.     |
|     |      | Worship (in person and livestream)     | 10:30 a.m.     |
|     |      | Chili Cookoff                          | 12:00 p.m.     |

# **Columbia UCC Prayer List**

*Please keep in your prayers this week . . .*

Linda Evans... recovering from a fall

Cliff Beckman... recovering well at Columbia Post Acute

Phillip Neale's Niece... received her transplant

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our Partner in Education

Owen Ramsingh and family

Our Search for an organist/accompanist here at CUCC

*Health Issues:*

Harold Hackman, Barry Kirchhoff,

Julie Roper (Alexandra's Mother), Karleen Martindale (Kasper's Mother),

Mark & Connie Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link; Peri Ann Gulerson;

Jim Posz (Allen's Father), Claudia Hutcherson (Ron Tennill's Sister),

Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father), Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),

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

Marilyn Coronado & Beverly Wilcox (Corinne Remeika's friends)

*Challenges in Life:*

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Kieran Armstrong

*Living in Care Facilities:*

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Harold Hackman

*Living in Independent Living Facilities:*

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

*Serving us in the military:*

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

*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](mailto:melbamaes@gmail.com)*

*Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 [tsoncasie@aol.com](mailto:tsoncasie@aol.com)*

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## **Isaiah 42:1-9**

1 Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations.

2 He will not cry out or lift up his voice or make it heard in the street;

3 a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice.

4 He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth, and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

5 Thus says God, the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it:

6 I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness; I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations,

7 to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness.

8 I am the LORD; that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols.

9 See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

## Matthew 3:1-17

3 In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 2 “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”, 3 This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ”

4 Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey.

5 Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him,

6 and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?

8 Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance,

9 and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham.

10 Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

11 “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.

12 His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

13 Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

14 John would have prevented him, saying, “I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?”

15 But Jesus answered him, “Let it be so now, for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness.” Then he consented.

16 And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God’s Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him.

17 And a voice from the heavens said, “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.”

## 365 Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

Unison

1. Wash, O God, your sons and daugh- ters, new-born crea- tures of your  
 2. Ev - 'ry day we need your nur - ture; by your milk may we be  
 3. O how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - i - mag-ined, all your

womb. Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple, raised like  
 fed. Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of  
 ways! To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our

Christ from death and tomb. Weave them gar - ments bright and  
 bless - ing, liv - ing bread. God, re - new us; guide our  
 lives we wor - ship, praise! We your peo - ple stand be -

spark - ling; com - pass them with love and light. Fill, a -  
 foot - steps; free from sin and all its snares,  
 fore you, wa - ter-washed and Spir - it - born. one with  
 By your

noint them; send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.  
 Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.  
 grace, our lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

Unison

3

1. In wa - ter we grow, se - cure in the womb,  
 2. In wa - ter we wash: the dirt of each day,  
 3. In wa - ter we dive, and can - not draw breath,  
 4. In wa - ter we dwell, for by its deep flow

3

and speech-less - ly know love's safe - ty and room.  
 its trou - ble and rush are car - ried a - way.  
 then sur - face a - live, re - bound - ing from death.  
 through blood-stream and cell, we live, think, and grow.

3

Bap - tiz - ing and bless - ing, we pub - lish for good  
 In Christ re - cre - a - ted by love's cleans - ing art,  
 Our old self goes un - der, in Christ dead and drowned.  
 Praise God, love out - flow - ing, whose well of new birth

3

the free - ing, ca - ress - ing safe - keep - ing of God.  
 self - will and self - ha - tred dis - solve and de - part.  
 We rise, washed in won - der, by love clad and crowned.  
 bap - tiz - es our know - ing, and wa - ters the earth.

John Ylvisaker, 1985; alt

*Unison*

D7 G D G D G D

1 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be  
 2 When you found the won - der of the Word, I was  
 3 In the mid - dle a - ges of your life, not too  
 4 I was there to hear your born - ing cry, I'll be

G D G D7 G D

there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you  
 there to cheer you on; You were raised to praise the  
 old, no long - er young, I'll be there to guide you  
 there when you are old. I re - joiced the day you

G D G C D7 G

were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold.  
 liv - ing God, to whom you now be - long.  
 through the night, com - plete what I've be - gun.  
 were bap - tized, to see your life un - fold. *St. 4, end*

G/B C G

I was there when you were but a child, with a  
 Should you find some-one to share your time and you  
 When the eve - ning gent-ly clos - es in and you

John Ylvisaker is the composer of a number of collections of music in the "contemporary" or "folk" idiom, as well as soundtracks for various media productions. This is perhaps his best-known song.

Tune: BORNING CRY 9.7.9.6.D.  
 John Ylvisaker, 1985

Am D G G/B C

faith to suit you well;  
join your hearts as one,  
shut your wea - ry eyes,  
I'll be there in case you  
I'll be there to make your  
I'll be there as I have

G A7 D *to beginning*

wan - der off and find where de - mons dwell.  
vers - es rhyme from dusk till ris - ing sun.  
al - ways been with just one more sur - prise.