

Columbia United Church Of Christ

October 27, 2024

“Reformation Sunday”



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**



October 27, 2024

10:30 a.m.

"Clearer Vision"

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

*"... I will bless the LORD at all times;
God's praise will continually be in my mouth."
-Psalm 34:1*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"A Mighty Fortress"

Chapel Ringers
Anna Laura Page

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 34)

Lydia Whitacre

Praise God! Praise God at all times!

Let God's praise be continually in your mouth!

Our souls are devoted to God;

Let all God's children hear and rejoice!

Lift up God's name in God's Holy Place;

Let us praise God's name together!

We sought God's presence, and God answered;

God delivered us from challenge and brought us blessings!

Look to God and be glorified!

The Presence of God is with all who know God!

Listen to God's call!

See that God is good; and happy are those who praise God!

Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress is our God"

#439

*Opening Prayer

Lydia Whitacre

Creator God, we know that many times in human history we have prioritized doctrine and dogma over a clearer, purer essence of faith. We have tried to impose earthly standards on heavenly grace. Forgive us for these times of disparity, gracious and loving God. Remind us again that we cannot begin to imagine the expanse of Your generosity or the extent of Your love. Teach us to have a clearer vision, unclouded by human baggage; a truer vision of Your love for us. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

We are called to praise God at all times, through our words and our deeds and our expressions with one another. But even when we forget this basic call, 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

“Seek Ye First”

***Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God
And God's Righteousness!
And all these things will be added unto you
Al-le-lu, Alleluia!***

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

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

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

“Tell Me the Stories of Jesus”
(Sung as children return to their seats)
***Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear
Things I would ask him to tell me if he were here.
Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea,
Stories of Jesus, tell them to me!***

Faith Sharing Moments

“Festival of Sharing”

Pastor Rick

New Testament Lesson

James 5:13-20

Lydia Whitacre

The author of the book of James gives counsel on prayer and truth. He tells us that prayer leads to truth and health, as prayer is an expression of faith. James' letter is about practical applications of faith; and in this case, faith is realized through prayer.

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Gospel Lesson

Mark 10:46-52

Lydia Whitacre

Jesus encounters blind Bartimaeus and asks him what he would like Jesus to do for him. Bartimaeus says he would like to be able to see again. Jesus heals him, telling him that his faith is what has made him well.

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Anthem

“Forevermore”

Celebration Singers
Dan Forrest

Sermon

“Clearer Vision”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“We Worship You, God”

#26

*Affirmation of Faith (Doxological Apostles Creed)

**I believe in you, O God, Creator almighty,
Maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, Your only Son, our Lord,
Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
Born of the Virgin Mary, Suffered under Pontius Pilate
Was crucified, died, and was buried.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven.
He is seated at your right hand O God;
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in Your Holy Spirit,
The One Holy Universal Christian Church,
The communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
The resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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.

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life

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

"Pastoral Symphony"

Steve Jannetti
George Frederic Handel

*Prayer of Dedication

Lydia Whitacre

God of love, we hear of the Reformation figures who dedicated their very lives to You and are humbled by their devotion. Like those devoted servants, we also offer our lives to You. As we do, we give these gifts; blessings that are a portion of the blessings we already have received. Take them and use them to Your will; that all the world may be as blessed as we are. 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!**

*Postlude

“Postlude in E Minor”

Steve Jannetti
C. Kewitsch

MARTIN LUTHER AND THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Martin Luther, a German theologian and religious reformer, was the catalyst of the 16th-century Protestant Reformation. Through his words and actions, Luther brought into focus a movement that reformulated certain basic tenets of Christian belief and resulted in the division of Western Christendom between Roman Catholicism and the new Protestant traditions, mainly Lutheranism, Calvinism, the Anglican Communion, and the Anabaptists. He is one of the most influential figures in the history of Christianity.

In the fall of 1517 a demonstrative event quickly made Luther's name a household word in Germany. Irritated by Johann Tetzel, a Dominican friar who was reported to have preached to the faithful that the purchase of a letter of indulgence entailed the forgiveness of sins, Luther drafted a set of propositions for the purpose of conducting an academic debate on indulgences at the university in Wittenberg. He dispatched a copy of the *Ninety-five Theses* to Tetzel's superior, along with a request that he put a stop to Tetzel's extravagant preaching. He also sent copies to a number of friends. It began to be circulated in Germany, together with some explanatory publications by Luther.

Luther clearly intended the *Ninety-five Theses* to be subservient to the church and the Pope, and their overall tone is accordingly searching rather than doctrinaire. Nevertheless, there is a detectable undercurrent of “reforming” sentiment in the work—expressed in several theses beginning with the phrase “Christians are to be taught that...”—as well as some openly provocative statements.

By the end of 1518, Luther had reached a new understanding of salvation, or reconciliation with God. Over the centuries, the church had conceived the means of salvation in a variety of ways, but common to all of them was the idea that salvation is jointly effected by humans and by God—by humans through marshalling their will to do good works and thereby to please God and by God through God's offer of forgiving grace. Luther broke dramatically with this tradition by asserting that humans can contribute nothing to their salvation: salvation is, fully and completely, a work of divine grace.

Columbia United Church of Christ

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LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger

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Custodian: Caleb Berry

calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Lydia Whitacre

Ushers: Jim Loveless & Lloyd Viehland

Greeters: Mary Lorber

Technology: Josh Muench & Lorry Dreier

Hospitality: Kristin Veteto

Council Stewards: Kristin Veteto

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Pat Forward

Ushers: Mark & Jane Duncan

Greeters: Jolene Kirchhoff & Sue Ann Schaefer

Technology: Brent Marcks & John Graves

Hospitality: Lena Muench & Mark Duncan

Council Stewards: Lena Muench & Mark Duncan



Online giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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Vacant

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Pastor: Rev. Rick Oberle

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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!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEEDS YOUR HELP Sunday School needs some volunteers! They are looking for Sunday School Leaders and Greeters/Floaters. Everything is preplanned and explained prior to classes. Talk to Lena Muench to volunteer. Thank you for your help!

PIZZA AND A MOVIE 11/2

Gather at CUCC Saturday evening, 11/2 for pizza and a movie! The Movie is the critically acclaimed film “Origin” a biographical drama based on the book “Caste: the Origins of our Discontents” by Isabel Wilkerson. The author’s exploration takes her though through Germany, India and the US learning about various caste systems in each country’s history. Come at 5:00 p.m. for pizza and stay for a movie! This is hosted by the Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team.

VETERANS DAY BREAKFAST 11/10

Everyone is invited to come to the Veterans Day breakfast on November 10 at 9:00 a.m.! The Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team is coordinating a breakfast for everyone, with a guest speaker from the Veterans Administration Hospital. Come and eat and help honor our Veterans!

TAIZE PRAYER SERVICE RESUMES IN NOVEMBER

Steve Jannetti will be leading Taizé prayer services again leading up to the Advent Season, starting November 13. The service of prayer and meditation will begin at 5:30 each Wednesday evening, and conclude by 6:00. All are welcome to attend; November 13 & 20, December 4, 11, & 18 (no service 11/27).

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	10/27	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Budget/Vision Meeting	11:30 a.m.
		Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	12:00 p.m.
		Pastor Rick leads worship at Lenoir	6:00 p.m.
Mon	10/28	Scouting America	6:00 p.m.
Tue	10/29	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Wed	10/30	Alpha Hart Lewis Trunk or Treat	4:30 p.m.
		Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Sat	11/2	Pizza and a Movie- “Origin”	5:00 p.m.
Sun	11/3	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Nurture & Education Ministry Team	12:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Those recovering from flood and hurricane damages

Marion Moreau... recovering from surgery (Gary Moreau's wife)

Lauren Helmreich... health issues

Jim & Sharon Elliott... health issues

Steve Price... recovering from surgery

Julia Marsh... health issues (Donna Marsh's Daughter)

Jennifer... diagnosed with cancer (Edie Diel's niece)

Joanne Good... health issues (Sue Beckman's friend)

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

The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

John Adams, Cheryl Cobb, Barry Kirchhoff

Connie Hackman Fairley, Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Care Facilities:

Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Helen Graves

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 whals@centurytel.net

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***

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

439

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Ps. 46

Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
3 And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un - do us,
4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;



Our pres - ent help a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choos - ing.
We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid - ing.



For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er
You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus sets us free! With might - y power to
The powers of e - vil grim, we trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en -
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may



great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth with - out an e - qual.
save, vic - to - rious o'er the grave, Christ will pre - vail tri - um - phant.
dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
kill; God's truth shall tri - umph still; God's reign en - dures for - ev - er.



There is speculation that this psalm paraphrase was written in 1527 when Martin Luther's friend was burned at the stake, or in 1529, when Lutheran German princes protested the revocation of their liberties. It has been translated into more than fifty languages.

Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.
Martin Luther, c. 1529
Harm. The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930; alt.
For another version, see 440

We Worship You, God

Ps. 104:2-6, 10-13

Robert Grant, 1833; alt.

1 We wor - ship you, God; your power and your love
 2 We tell of your might, we sing of your grace,
 3 The earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Your boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

are bla - zoned a - broad, a - round, and a - bove:
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
 Al - might - y, your power has found - ed of old,
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;

Our Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 Your char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 Es - tab - lished it fast by a change-less de - cree,
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 Your mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 and broad is your path on the wings of the storm.
 and round it you cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

Born in Bengal, India, Robert Grant became a lawyer in England, a member of Parliament, and for the last four years of his life was governor of Bombay. This text was inspired by William Kethe's paraphrase of Psalm 104.

Tune: LYONS 10.10.11.11.
 Attrib. to J. Michael Haydn (1737-1806)
 Alternate tune: HANOVER

James 5:13-20

13 Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise.

14 Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them, anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord.

15 The prayer of faith will save the sick, and the Lord will raise them up; and anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven.

16 Therefore confess your sins to one another, and pray for one another, so that you may be healed. The prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective.

17 Elijah was a human being like us, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth.

18 Then he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain and the earth yielded its harvest.

19 My brothers and sisters, if anyone among you wanders from the truth and is brought back by another,

20 you should know that whoever brings back a sinner from wandering will save the sinner's soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.

Mark 10:46-52

46 They came to Jericho. As he and his disciples and a large crowd were leaving Jericho, Bartimaeus son of Timaeus, a blind beggar, was sitting by the roadside.

47 When he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to shout out and say, “Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!”

48 Many sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he cried out even more loudly, “Son of David, have mercy on me!”

49 Jesus stood still and said, “Call him here.” And they called the blind man, saying to him, “Take heart; get up, he is calling you.”

50 So throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus.

51 Then Jesus said to him, “What do you want me to do for you?” The blind man said to him, “My teacher, let me see again.”

52 Jesus said to him, “Go; your faith has made you well.” Immediately he regained his sight and followed him on the way.

IMPLEMENTATION...

Now what? Over the next few years, as we live into the **NEW CENTURY CUCC**, our church leadership will be charged with articulating implementation plans based on this Strategic Plan. Our goal is to have detailed implementation plans with measurable outcome and evaluations.

But the implementation of this Strategic Plan does not stop with church leadership; we also challenge you, the members of CUCC, to adopt this Strategic Plan as your own and develop your own personal goals based on these strategies.

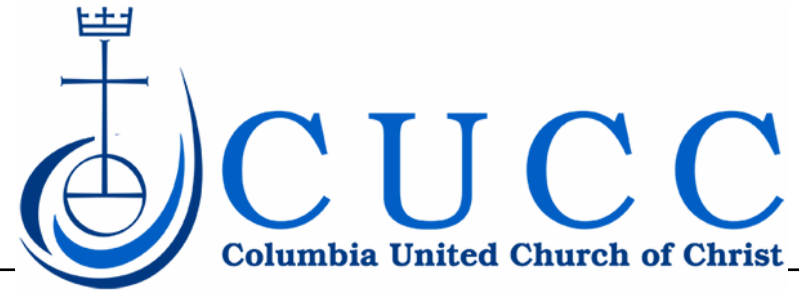
The preamble to the UCC Constitution affirms “*the responsibility of the Church in each generation to make this faith its own in reality of worship, in honesty of thought and expression, and in purity of heart before God.*” Our CUCC history is rich with stories of faithful expression, prophetic witness, and joyful fellowship. As we live into the **NEW CENTURY CUCC**, our expressions of faith will not be the same as they were in the previous century. It is up to us, as a congregation and as individuals to help this generation “make the faith its own” based on the foundations we have established. Please think about how you can help with the implementation of this Strategic Plan, as we live into new ways of expressing our faith in the **NEW CENTURY CUCC**!

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.



A NEW CENTURY CUCC Strategic Plan 2024 and beyond

The Strategic Plan detailed within these pages is the result of discernment by the 2023 Vision Team consisting of representatives from Ministry Teams, the Church Council, and Pastoral Leadership. Our discernment process focused on the question: “Where do you want to see CUCC in the next 5-10-100 years?” What will the **NEW CENTURY CUCC** look like?

To address this question, we looked at four key ministry foci: Caring for Each Other, Establishing our Identity, Developing/Maintaining our Facility, and Serving God’s World. Details of our dreaming resulted in the **New Century CUCC Strategic Plan**, outlined inside this pamphlet.

Realizing these foci all intersect, we charge our members and leadership to establish specific goals and timelines that strive to address the enclosed Strategic Plan.

CUCC Mission Statement:

CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:

- *Welcoming all God's People;*
- *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*

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