

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

April 28, 2024

"God's Party"



## 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 28, 2024

10:30 a.m.

"God's Party"

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

"... dominion belongs to God; God rules over all the nations..."  
-Psalm 22:28

Welcome and Greetings Shelly Adams

Prelude "Allegro in Bb Major" Steve Jannetti  
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship (*Based on Psalm 22*) Shelly Adams

We cry out to God in times of distress;  
We feel lost, alone, forsaken;

**But we know, even in times such as this,  
God is with us always.**

We offer prayers to God, but hear no answer;  
We wonder if God hears our cries for help.

**But we know God is Holy;  
Ever present in all times and places!**

Our ancestors cried out to God for justice and peace;  
God heard their prayers; and God hears us, too.

**All who know God, praise God's Holy Name!  
Those who seek God will know God;  
And our hearts will rejoice!  
Come, let us worship God!**

\*Gathering Hymn "In The Bulb There is a Flower" #433

\*Opening Prayer Shelly Adams

**God of comfort and assurance, challenge and call; we gather this morning as Your people, searching for connection and seeking to do Your will in the world. Forgive us for the times we fail to live into Your call. Remind us that You work for justice and righteousness in all things, and that Your vision for Shalom is paramount over the mandates of the world. Open our hearts and our minds this morning, that we may live fully into our identity as Your people. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing

Shelly Adams

Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd; and commanded us to feed his sheep. We strive to serve as Jesus would have us do. But even when we fall short, God forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved, and blessed. Praise be to God!

\*Prayer Response

"Halle-Halle-Hallelujah"

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

\*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Shelly Adams

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

Children's Time

"I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"

Shelly Adams

*(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.*

*The world behind me, the cross before me (3x)  
No turning back, no turning back.*

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 22:1-2,25-31

Shelly Adams

*The dynamic of this Psalm goes from crying out to God in distress to praising God for God's abundance. In between, the Psalmist testifies about God's glory and exemplifies his faith. The arc of this Psalm is illustrative to the arc of life for many of us.*

Page #434

Gospel Lesson

John 21:15-19

Shelly Adams

*The Gospel attributed to John wraps up with Jesus commanding Peter and the disciples to "feed my sheep." Three times he commands them, frustrating Peter. Jesus presses on, emphasizing the importance of this command; and he tells Peter and the others to "follow me"*

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Anthem

"The King of Love My Shepherd is "

Celebration Singers

Dan Forrest

Sermon

"When God Throws a Party"

Dr. Clint McCann

\*Hymn

"For the Beauty of the Earth"

#28

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

Shelly Adams

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

Shelly Adams

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)*

Offertory

"Andante "

Steve Jannetti  
*Alexander Reinagle*

\*Prayer of Dedication

Shelly Adams

**God, we give these gifts to You today, to do Your work here on Earth. Through these we pray that we may be Your hands and feet, working in the world, loving as You first loved us. Take these gifts, and use them to Your will. Amen.**

\*Benediction

Dr. Clint McCann

\*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

"Te Deum "

Steve Jannetti  
*Antoine Charpentier*

## PROFESSOR J. CLINTON MCCANN

J. Clinton McCann, Jr. (Clint) is the Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, MO. He is a graduate of Davidson College (A. B.), Union Presbyterian Seminary (D. Min., Th. M.), and Duke University (Ph. D.). He was chair of the Psalms Section of the Society of Biblical Literature from 1989 to 1998, and much of his research and writing has focused on the Book of Psalms. He is author of *A Theological Introduction to the Book of Psalms: The Psalms as Torah* (Abingdon, 1993); editor of and contributor to *The Shape and Shaping of the Psalter* (JSOT, 1993); author of the Psalms entries in *Texts for Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year C* (Westminster John Knox, 1994); author of “The Psalms: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections” in *The New Interpreter’s Bible* (Vol. 4, pp. 641-1280; Abingdon, 1996); as well as many other books and commentaries on Psalms, including over 40 essays for workingpreacher.org. Clint is also the author of *Judges*, a commentary in the Interpretation series (John Knox, 2002).

Clint has served frequently as a teacher of the Psalms and other biblical material at many noted academic forums. He has taught, preached, and led workshops for church and academic gatherings in twenty-seven states, including over one hundred congregations representing twelve denominations. Clint is a Teaching Elder (Ordained Minister) in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a member of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy. Before he began teaching at Eden, he was a pastor for ten years in North Carolina. He served for sixteen summers as the Resident Minister of the New Piasa Chautauqua near Elsah, IL; and he is an Associate Member of the Iona Community, which is based on the Isle of Iona, and Glasgow, Scotland, and which is committed to the pursuit of peace, justice, and the flourishing of creation.

Among Clint’s interests are the theological dimensions of popular music, and Latin American theology and biblical interpretation. Growing out of the former of these, he co-authored *Facing the Music: Faith and Meaning in Popular Songs* (Chalice, 1999). Growing out of the latter of these, he led groups of students on study/travel seminars to Guatemala and Costa Rica in 2001, 2003, and 2005; to Nicaragua and Costa Rica in 2008 and 2015; to El Salvador and Costa Rica in 2013 and 2019; to El Salvador in 2018 and 2024; and to Cuba in 2017. Clint is the Co-Chair of the International Board of IPM (International Partners in Mission), which has partners in Latin America and other parts of the world.

Clint’s wife, Sarah, is the pastor of Hope UCC in St. Louis, MO. He has three daughters – Jennifer, Sarah, and Annalise – and a son, Ian. Clint may be contacted at 314.395.5826 or 314.619.0599 or via email at cmccann@eden.edu.

Clint will be leading the Adult Bible Study Class on 4/21 and 4/28 and will be preaching on Psalm 22 in worship on 4/28. The focus of these discussions will be “Psalms for Justice-Seekers and Peacemakers.” Everyone is invited to attend the Adult Bible Study Class these two Sundays; and don’t miss worship next week– it is quite an honor to have Professor McCann with us!

# Columbia United Church of Christ

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**Custodian:** Caleb Berry

[calebprenticeberry@gmail.com](mailto:calebprenticeberry@gmail.com)

**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Fred Brandenburg

## **TODAY IN WORSHIP:**

Worship Leader: Shelly Adams

Ushers: Mark & Jane Duncan

Greeters: Susan Dunham

Technology: Josh Muench & Ted Dachroeden

Hospitality: Tricia Price & Kurt Heine

Council Stewards: Tricia Price & Kurt Heine

## **NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:**

Worship Leader: Audrey Lasley

Ushers: Pat Forward & Mary Lorber

Greeters: John & Brenda Muench

Technology: Lorry Dreier & Brent Marcks

Hospitality: Tricia Price & Mary Lorber

Council Stewards: Tricia Price & Mary Lorber



Online giving

## **COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Moderator:** Kurt Heine

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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!

**LUNCH & LEARN: COPING WITH LIFE CHANGES- TODAY**

Changes in life occur constantly. Come learn strategies to help you and your loved ones cope with change, embrace feelings, and grow toward acceptance. Corinne Remeika will lead us in activities to help move through this process. This session will include the phases of grief, the process of actively mourning loss, and resources available to help. Lunch will be served!

**TRIVIA NIGHT AT CUCC 5/11**

We had so much fun last year, we are going to do it again! TRIVIA NIGHT at CUCC will be May 11 starting at 6:30 p.m. (door open at 6:00). Cost is \$20/person or \$150/table of eight people. All funds raised will go to the CUCC BUILDING FUND to replace our aging HVAC units. There is a sign up sheet in the rear of the Sanctuary to reserve your spot, or email the church office.

**STOCK THE LOUNGE- TEACHER APPRECIATION WEEK**

The School year is drawing to a close- and we will be honoring the hard work of our Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary teachers during teacher appreciation week! Between now and next Sunday, please fill up the shopping cart in the Gathering Area with goodies for our teachers. They like coffees, teas, chocolate, cookies, popcorn, muffins, chips, nuts, soda, etc. Bring your goodies by next Sunday!

**AHL CARNIVAL 5/10**

The Alpha Hart Lewis School Carnival is May 10, and CUCC has volunteered to staff the booths so that parents and teachers can enjoy the carnival with their children. If you would like to help, contact Llona Weiss.

**ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AND POTLUCK**

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be Sunday, May 19 at noon. We will have a potluck meal right after worship, and begin the meeting right away once folks are served and seated. There will be special presentations from several of our Ministry Teams, as well as budget discussions. The congregation will be asked to approve a slate of candidates for Church Council and the creation of an Endowment Fund, which was proposed to the congregation on March 17. Bring a dish to share and join us after worship on May 19!

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

Sun	4/28	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Quorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Tue	4/30	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Wed	5/1	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6/7:00 p.m.
Sun	5/5	<b><i>Graduates Sunday</i></b>	
		Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time/Graduates Reception	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Nurture & Education	12:00 p.m.

# Columbia UCC Prayer List

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

The Family and Friends of Jean Strothmann... on our loss  
The Family and Friends of Shannon Ostermueller... on their loss  
(Pastor Rick's friend)

The Family and Friends of Adrienne Fairley... on their loss  
(Rev. Tim Fairley's mother)  
The family of Arthur Johnson... on their loss  
(Joe Remeika's brother-in-law)

Harry Beckett... recovering from back surgery  
Rev. Bryan Crousore... upcoming back surgery

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

*Health Issues:*

John Adams, Cheryl Cobb, John Graves, Barry Kirchhoff  
Connie Hackman Fairley, Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece)

*Challenges in Life:*

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Steve (Pastor Rick's Cousin)

*Living in Care Facilities:*

Bea Gordon, Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank,

*Living in Independent Living Facilities:*

Helen Graves, Don Privitt

*Serving us in the military:*

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden, Jeffrey Sanderson

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

## 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.

Tune: PROMISE 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Natalie Sleeth, 1985

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.

# There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

*Frederick William Faber, 1854; alt.*

1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;  
 2 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea-sures of our minds;

*Of Huguenot Protestant ancestry, Frederick William Faber was influenced by the Oxford Movement and eventually became a Catholic priest. He wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of psalms.*

Tune: IN BABILON 8.7.8.7.D.

Dutch melody

Arr. Julius Röntgen, 1906

Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA

## **Psalm 22: 1-2; 25-31**

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

2 O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.

25 From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

27 All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

28 For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

29 To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

30 Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

31 and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

## **John 21: 15-19**

**15** When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my lambs."

**16** A second time he said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Tend my sheep."

**17** He said to him the third time, "Simon son of John, do you love me?" Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" And he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep."

**18** Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go."

**19** (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, "Follow me."

April is Autism Awareness Month. Autism is formally known as “autism spectrum disorder” or ASD. Approximately one in 36 children are affected. Through years of research, researchers have gained the increased ability to recognize and diagnose the various characteristics of the condition. Individuals with autism tend to have difficulty with communication and social interactions in comparison to those who are neurotypical. They often have specific interests, and repetitive behaviors making school, work and other areas of life challenging.<sup>1</sup>

What causes autism is still under investigation. Possible factors are: older parents, certain genetic conditions, and low birth weight. Some studies show that the rate of autism is increasing. There are several hypotheses as to why, including: prenatal exposure to air pollution and/or certain pesticides; maternal obesity, diabetes, a compromised immune system; a difficult delivery causing oxygen deprivation to the baby.<sup>1</sup>

Some examples of symptoms of ASD are: delayed language and movement skills beginning in infancy; delayed cognitive or learning skills; hyperactive, impulsive, or inattentive behavior; anxiety, stress, or excessive worry, repetition of words or phrases (echolalia); repetitive body movements (stims); difficulty adapting to minor changes; obsessive interests; difficulty comprehending social and emotional cues.<sup>2</sup> These are some of the major symptoms that doctors and parents look out for in children especially.

A diagnosis is the result of examining symptoms to determine an illness or other issue. Diagnosing is the first step to open the doors to understanding what is going on and what to expect from it. In terms of autism, like many other mental and physical disorders, a diagnosis not only normalizes what's going on with those around us, but opens a dialogue and lets education flow. Like any disorder, autism can vary in intensity for each person living with it. One person may be labeled as what is called “low-functioning”, meaning they need more aid to function at a neurotypical persons level. Another person may be labeled as “high-functioning”, meaning they may only need help sometimes or on certain things or maybe not at all. While some may fall into the low or high functioning categories, some may be in the middle. It is known as an Autism Spectrum Disorder because each person is somewhere on a spectrum.

Part of awareness month is not just reading articles or donating money, but truly understanding all sides of the community. Some people with ASD strongly dislike the idea of a cure, because they are not broken or ill. Some people with ASD strongly want a cure to be found or created so they can live a “normal” life.<sup>3</sup> This is just one example of discussions going on in the community. There are also talks of what therapies and symptom controls are helpful versus harmful, such as Applied Behavior Analysis therapy. The best way to learn about ASD and what life is like for people who are diagnosed with it is to talk to them in person or read their books or articles - learn from the source.

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/conditions/autism>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/signs.html>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nbcnews.com/health/kids-health/cure-autism-not-so-fast-n1055921>

# TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday May 11, 2024 | Fellowship Hall  
Doors at 6 p.m. | Trivia at 6:30 p.m.

\$20 individually or \$150 for a full table of 8  
Use the QR code to sign up now and pay at the door.

## POP QUIZ!



1. Which of the following is true?
  - Downtown Appliance is providing the prizes
  - You can sign up solo or with a team
  - Teams are no more than 8 people
  - Drinks are available for purchase
  - Snacks are provided and you can bring your own
  - Proceeds go to the Building Fund
  - You should book your table now
  - ALL OF THE ABOVE



**RAISING  
GOOD  
HUMANS**

# **Have Kids? This is for YOU!**

**Join us for a casual, light-hearted,  
judgment-free zone to share  
and laugh about all things  
kid-related...or whatever else  
comes up! Drop your kiddos/youth  
off at Sunday School and join us!**

**Sunday, May 19: 9-10 a.m.**

**Upstairs in the room @ the end of the hall  
(we'll have it marked!)**

**Nursery care provided for  
littles ages 2 and under.**

**We'll take care of the doughnuts  
& coffee for the grownups.**



**Columbia United Church of Christ**

# **Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck Meal**

We will have a potluck meal right after worship, and begin the meeting once folks are served and seated. There will be special presentations from several of our Ministry Teams, as well as budget discussions. The congregation will be asked to approve a slate of candidates for Church Council and the creation of an Endowment Fund, which was previously proposed to the congregation.

**May 19. 2024**

**12:00 p.m.**

**Fellowship Hall**