

Columbia United Church Of Christ

August 24, 2025
“Witnessing”



C U C C

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**



August 24, 2025

9:30 a.m.

"Witnessing"

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

*"In You, O LORD, I take refuge;
Let me never be put to shame."
-Psalm 71:1*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Poco Allegretto"

Steve Jannetti
Cesar Franck

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 71)

Judi Privitt

In you, O God, we take refuge;
You deliver us and rescue us.

**God is our rock and refuge;
Our strong fortress of Salvation!**

You, O God are our hope;
You are our trust, from the time of our youth.

**We have leaned upon God since our birth;
Our praise is continually focused on God!**

God, do not be far from us;
God, make haste to rescue and deliver us.

**We will continue to have hope for God's presence and Salvation;
We will continue to praise God more and more every day!
Come, let us worship God together!**

*Hymn

"Praise to the Living God"

#8

*Opening Prayer

Judi Privitt

**God of joyful call; You put out Your hand and touch our lips,
putting Your words in our mouth. Your words are on our hearts;
help us to speak them with truth and with grace. Forgive us for
the times we let the concerns of the world overwhelm our call to
speak Your word. Forgive us for the times we let our own
insecurities quiet our mouths. Remind us that by our creation we
are called to be Your witnesses in all the earth; and inspire us to
speak Your truth boldly. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.**

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God chooses us to be Their vessel for peace, love, and justice in the world. But even when we forget this call to witness, 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 shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!***

***Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
Seek and you shall find,
Knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, 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.
Words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,
All in the love light of Jesus' face!***

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 1:4-10

Judi Privitt

The prophet Jeremiah relates God's Wisdom as it has been shared with him; that God has empowered him to speak of God's glory. Despite his youth, God has empowered him to be a mighty prophet. We tend to be self-deprecating when faced with God's Word, but the reality is we are all empowered to do so in one way or another.

Page #609

Gospel Lesson

Luke 13:10-17

Judi Privitt

As Jesus works to God's glory in the synagogue, the leader of the synagogue tries to put human constraints on his divine presence. The wisdom of this story helps us understand that God is bigger than the shackles we try to place on Them. God's call to prophecy exceeds our earthly constraints.

Page #848

Anthem

“Witness”

Celebration Singers
arr. Jack Halloran

Sermon

“Can I Get a Witness?”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“Here I Am, Lord”

(insert)

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

The LORD's Prayer

In an effort to encourage inclusion, we suggest using “Creator God” in our recitation of The Lord's Prayer. You are welcome to say “Our Father” or “Our Mother” 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.

*Hymn

“God, Speak to Me That I May Speak”

#531

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

“Elegy”

Steve Jannetti
Alex Goedicke

*Prayer of Dedication

Judi Privitt

Thank You, God, for all of the gifts You have given us and for calling us to be Your servant leaders in the world. Thank You for putting Your word on our lips, and calling us to witness. Take these gifts that we offer You today; may they be used to embrace Your children, to change Your world for the better and to witness to Your Kingdom of hope, peace and love. 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 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
Admin. Assistant: Alexandra Roper	office@columbiaucc.com
Moderator: Jerry Kiesling	rollzierp50@gmail.com
Music Coordinator: Mike Pierson	mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com
Organist/Accompanist: Steve Jannetti	steve.jannetti@yahoo.com
LODO Director: Sara Koenig	lodo.sara.koenig@gmail.com
Custodian: Caleb Berry	calebprenticeberry@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg	

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Judi Privitt
Ushers:	Jane Duncan & Mark Duncan
Greeters:	Mary Lorber
Technology:	Lorry Dreier & Doug Privitt
Council Stewards:	Judi Privitt & Kristin Veteto

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Pat Forward
Ushers:	Llona Weiss & Phillip Neale
Greeters:	
Technology:	Josh Muench & Brent Marcks
Council Stewards:	Mary Lorber



Online Giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling	rollzierp50@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	<i>Vacant</i>	
Secretary:	Alethea Tennill	atennill108@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Deborah Birkes	dlong@elon.edu.com
Recording Treasurer:	Christine Staelens	tigersfour@gmail.com
Building & Grounds:	Ted Dachroeden	gpadoc4gd@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Mary Lorber	eldercow@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship:	<i>Vacant</i>	
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Ashley Ramirez	ashknight0628@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:	Mahree Skala	skalamahree@yahoo.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!

NEW NAMETAGS

The Membership & Care and Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Teams have worked together this summer to roll out new nametags for the congregation! If you do not have a nametag, fill out a form by the wicker basket near the coatroom. We have many “new” folks in our community, so it is more important than ever to wear your nametag! Be sure to wear yours each Sunday!

FOOD BANK EVENING SHIFTS RETURN 8/26

Our next opportunity to serve at the Food Bank will be August 26 at 5:30 p.m.! We always have a hearty crew of workers to make the workload easier. We would love to have you join us! Talk to Mahree Skala to sign up.

LABOR DAY OPEN HOUSE AT THE OBERLE’S- 9/1

You are invited to a Labor Day open house on Monday, September 1, from 12:00-4:00 p.m. at Pastor Rick and Kim’s house! We will be grilling brats and chicken, and will have a few sides. Feel free to bring a side or sweet if you wish; but don’t feel obligated to do so. Your presence is welcome enough! We will have yard games along with our food. 3905 Snow Leopard Drive 65202

RALLY DAY WILL BE HERE SOON– 9/7

Mark your calendars– Rally Day will be September 7! We will kick off the new program year with Sunday School Classes, a return to our Academic Year Schedule (Sunday School/Bible Study at 9:00 a.m., Worship at 10:30 a.m.) communion, and a Fish Fry after church!

RELEASE STRESS WITH EFT TAPPING

Learn how to use EFT Tapping to manage stress, calm your mind, and feel more at ease! Join us on 9/18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a presentation on EFT Tapping, led by a local expert and practitioner of this technique

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	8/24	Bible Study	8:30 a.m.
		Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	9:30 a.m.
Mon	8/25	LODO Students Return	
		Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	8/26	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		Food Bank	5:30 p.m.
		Worship & Music Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Wed	8/27	Celebration Singers Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Thu	8/28	LODO Ministry Team Meeting	6:00 p.m.
Sun	8/31	Bible Study	8:30 a.m.
		Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	9:30 a.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

The Graves family... on their loss

The Moon family... on their loss

Jim Posz... health issues (Allen's father)

Dr. Ryan Link... health issues; prayers for him and his family

Cody Kile... recovery from accident

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

The people of Palestine, Israel, Iran, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

Tiffany Greene, Harold Hackman, Glenn Duermeyer, Lloyd Mickelson,

Marsha Posz, Barry Kirchhoff, Ruth (Edie's Cousin),

Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley, Rachel Demand,

Kristan Whelihan (Russell Eveler's teacher),

Fred & Ann Wilke (Alethea's parents)

Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's Niece), Jennifer (Edie Diel's Niece),

Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),

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

Linda Hancik and Beverly Wilcox (Corinne Remeika's friends),

Lortisha Powell (Dorothy Vetter's friend)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Kieran Piersee

Living in Care Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Harold Hackman,

Walter & Patty Schroeder

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, Cliff & Sue Beckman, Linda Evans

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 soncasie@aol.com

Jeremiah 1:4-10

4 Now the word of the LORD came to me saying,

5 “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.”

6 Then I said, “Ah, Lord GOD! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.”

7 But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, ‘I am only a boy,’ for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you.

8 Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the LORD.”

9 Then the LORD put out his hand and touched my mouth, and the LORD said to me, “Now I have put my words in your mouth.

10 See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.”

Luke 13:10-17

10 Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath.

11 And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight.

12 When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.”

13 When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

14 But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.”

15 But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water?

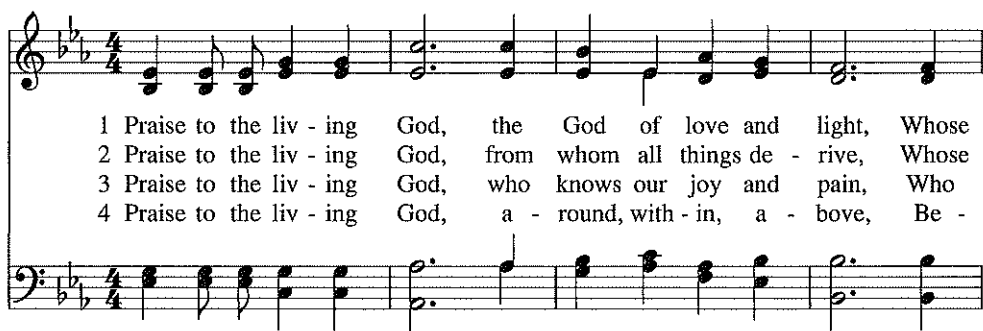
16 And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?”

17 When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

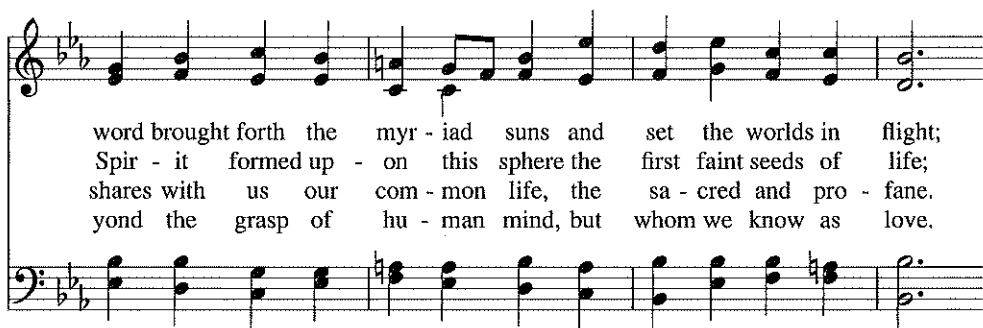
Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

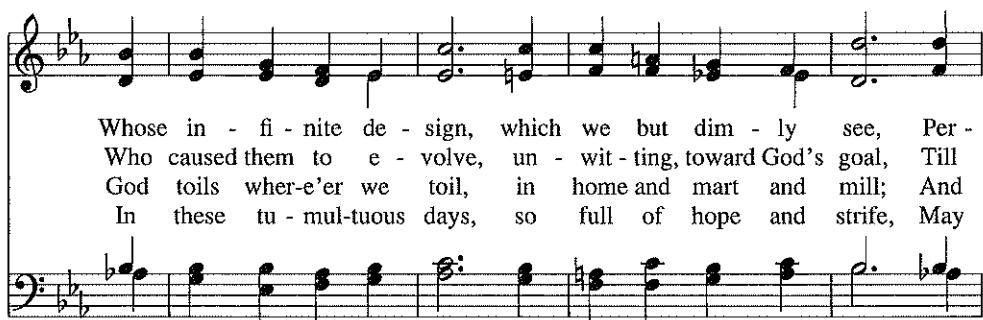
Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.



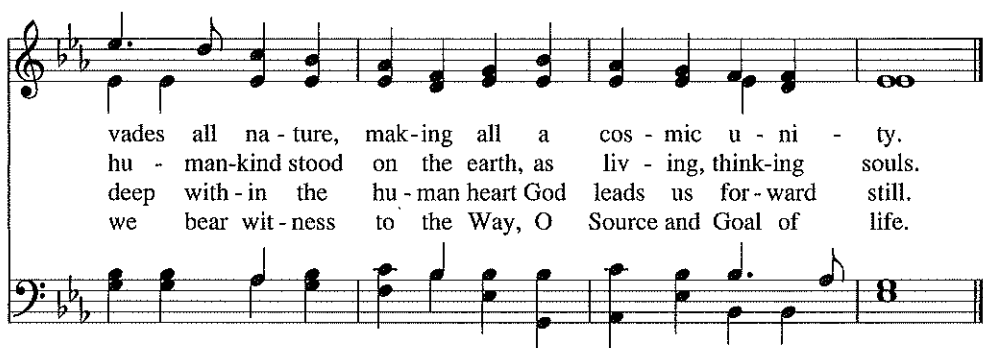
1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -



word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.



Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher - e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul - tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May



vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored *The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning*.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1868

*Unison*

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo-ple cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo-ple's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them, they turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
 I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
 I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Harmony

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the

night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

hold your peo-ple in my heart. heart.
 heart, in my heart.
 heart,in my heart.

God, Speak to Me, That I May Speak

Frances Ridley Havergal, 1872; alt.

1 God, speak to me, that I may speak in
 2 O lead me, God, that I may lead some
 3 O fill me with your full - ness, God, your
 4 O use me, God, use ev - en me just

liv - ing ech - oes of your tone; as you have sought, so
 wan - der - ers a - long life's way; O feed me so that
 ov - er - flow - ing love to know; In glow - ing word and
 as you will, and when, and where, un - til your bless - ed

let me seek your err - ing chil - dren lost and lone.
 I may feed your hun - gry ones with - out de - lay.
 kin - dling thought, your love to tell, your praise to show.
 face I see, your rest, your joy, your glo - ry share.

Daughter of the English hymnwriter William H. Havergal, Frances Ridley Havergal was a gifted poet and student of several languages, including Hebrew and Greek. She also composed several hymn tunes. Canonbury was adapted from one of Robert Schumann's piano pieces.

Tune: CANONBURY L.M.
Arr. from Robert Schumann, 1872

A MESSAGE FROM FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

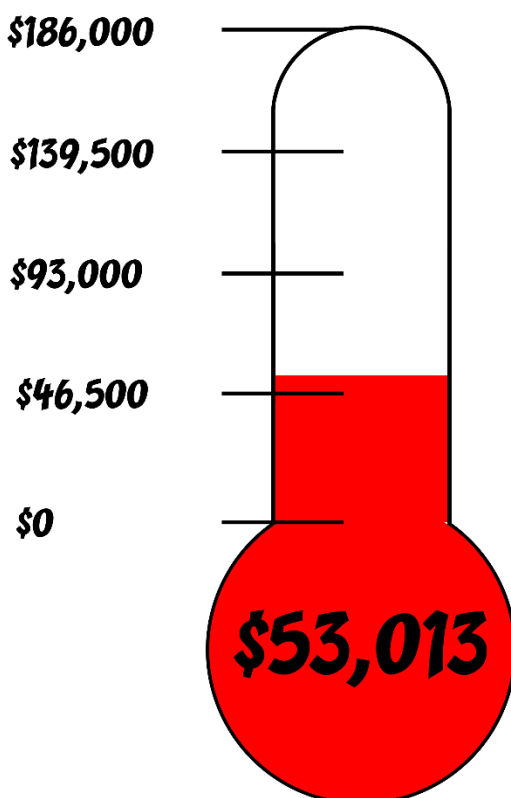
We have previously been members of a number of other churches and CUCC in our experience is the most effective church in fulfilling its Christian purposes that we have experienced. We are truly an open and affirming church which welcomes every person regardless of where they are in their human and spiritual journey!

CUCC has a beautiful sanctuary and facilities. We have a dedicated Minister and Staff. We have a dependable and faithful membership and friends. Our Ministry Teams are committed to the service of our church and our extended community. We exemplify Christian values and activities in all respects. We do all this with a very small budget which is used with very efficient love and concern for all we serve.

HOWEVER, WE HAVE A FINANCIAL EMERGENCY

Our Joyful Giving is seriously behind its necessary level to support all the things we do so efficiently and lovingly. At the end of July, we are \$77,049 behind our budgeted Joyful Giving and in order to meet our third quarter budget we must receive \$154,697 by the end of September.

The Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team is planning to do everything possible to communicate the importance and impact of your financial support. We know some of you are giving all you can. We also know many of us can help more. Many CUCC leaders have pledged to increase their Joyful Giving by 20%. If all of us who can make that pledge do so, our financial problems will be reduced to a manageable level. Deborah and I have made that pledge.



CUCC has always met every challenge we have faced. Together we can overcome this financial shortfall. Thank you for all you do with your Time, Talent, and Treasure!

-Keith Birkes

"Shine Bright" this Rally Day!

September 7, 2025

Join us as we return to weekly Faith Education for all ages!

9:00 – 10:00 a.m. – Faith Education

Adult Bible Study meets at the far end of the Education Wing.

Sunday School ages 3–5th grade meet in the Education Wing.

Sunday School grades 6–12 meet in the Youth Lounge.

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. – Fellowship Time

Mingle with others over coffee and snacks.

10:30 a.m. – Worship

Worship in the Sanctuary led by Pastor Rick. Nursery care is available for children aged Kingergarten and younger.

12:00 p.m. – Lunch and Games

Celebrate the end of summer and the start of our academic year with a fish fry meal prepared by Fellowship & Hospitality and yard games out on the hillside.