

Columbia United Church Of Christ

August 16, 2026
“Family Dynamics”



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 16, 2026

10:30 a.m.

"Dynamics"

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

*"Praise the LORD! Praise the name of the LORD!
Give praise, O servants of the LORD!"
-Psalm 135:1*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

Connie Loveless

Carrying in the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship**

(based on Psalm 135)

Pat Forward

Praise God! Praise God's name!

Give praise to God, O servants of the LORD!

Sing Praise to God, who has shaped all creation!

Sing Praise to God, in complete adoration!

You that stand in the house of the LORD;

You who take comfort in the courts of God's house,

Sing Praise to God, for the LORD is good;

Sing Praises to God, for God is most gracious!

We know that God's will is made manifest in the world;

God's pleasure is unrestrained, in heaven and on earth!

God's name endures forever!

Blessed be the LORD!

Come, let us worship God!

***Hymn**

"We Worship You, God"

#26

***Opening Prayer**

Pat Forward

God of grace; though the world tries to put barriers in place to keep us from You, our faith tells us that You are steadfast. Forgive our doubt in Your provision. Reassure us that Your presence is always with us, and Your salvation is true. Remind us that no matter what we go through in life, You are always there; no matter where we are on life's journey. Inspire us to keep You close, loving God; and give us the confidence to always express our relationship with You. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

The story of Joseph and God's presence in his struggles reminds us that God is always with us; even when we forget They are there. 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!***

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

"This Little Light of Mine"

#524

(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!***

Mission Moment

"MO Reading and Writing Kits"

Llona Weiss

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 45:1-11

Pat Forward

This is the end of the story of Joseph, Jacob's favorite son. After going through several hardships and being denied by his family, Joseph rises to fame in Egypt as advisor to the Pharaoh. His new position of authority allows him to bring salvation to his father, his family, and the entire Hebrew nation.

Page #37

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 15:21-28

Pat Forward

A Canaanite woman appeals to Jesus to heal her daughter. Jesus refuses, because she is not Jewish. Jesus uses an analogy to justify refusing her aid. She twists Jesus' analogy around, rationalizing receiving his aid. She apparently changes Jesus' mind, and he relents, healing her daughter instantly.

Page #797

Anthem

Connie Loveless and Jolene Hackman; piano duet

Sermon

"Vessels of Salvation"

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“O For A Thousand Tongues to Sing”

#42

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.

*Hymn

“Great is Your Faithfulness”

#423

Sharing our Announcements

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

Connie Loveless

*Prayer of Dedication

Pat Forward

Take these gifts, O God, and use them to bring peace and justice to Your world, that all Your children may be lifted up and affirmed, and nations wage war no more. Let Your reign of peace rule in Your cities, gracious God, and let these gifts help make that peaceful reign a reality. 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

Connie Loveless

CUCC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2026 (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

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Moderator: Jerry Kiesling	rollzierp50@gmail.com
Music Coordinator: Mike Pierson	mike.pierson.1969@gmail.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:	Pat Forward
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Llona Weiss & Mahree Skala
Greeters:	Deb Meers
Technology:	John Graves & Carissa Graves
Council Stewards:	Sue Ann Schaefer & Mahree Skala

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Ashley Ramirez
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Joe & Corinne Remeika
Greeters:	Jessica Lucas
Technology:	John Graves & Carissa Graves
Council Stewards:	Christine Staelens & Mary Lorber

Online Giving



COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling	rollzierp50@gmail.com
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Outreach & Advocacy:	Mahree Skala	skalamahree@yahoo.com
Worship & Music:	Kitty Rogers	kittyrogers3@gmail.com
Pastor:	Rev. Rick Oberle	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!

AHL SERVICE OPPORTUNITY - 8/17

We will be helping at an Ice Cream Social at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School (our Partner in Education) on 8/17 at 3:00 p.m. If you can come, we'd love to have you. For the scoop on this, talk to Pastor Rick.

CHURCH WORK DAY - 8/22

Our next all-church work day will be August 22 from 9:00 a.m.-noon! We will be cleaning all the windows in the educational wing. We will also be doing some landscaping and maybe even tree trimming. Questions? Ask Allen Posz.

RALLY DAY/SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF - 8/23

Mark your calendars! Sunday School starts 8/23 at 9:00 a.m.! We will have a bounce house, and a fellowship meal after worship. The meal is a fish fry/pot luck; the fish will be supplied, but bring side dishes.

YOUTH GATHERING - 8/23

CUCC Youth will be gathering at Pastor Rick's house on 8/23 for a pizza and games party from 4:00-7:00 p.m.! Youth in 6th-12th grades are welcome. Talk to Pastor Rick for more information!

YOUNG ADULT/COLEGE MINISTRY BEGINS - 8/30

A new CUCC Young Adult/College Ministry faith formation program will be starting up on 8/30! We will gather on that day for a backyard BBQ at Rev. Mike & Lilly Williams' house. For info, talk to or Rev. Mike Williams!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	8/16	Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		Healthy Relationships Workshop	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
Mon	8/17	Loaves & Fishes	4:30 p.m.
		Nurture & Education Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Tue	8/18	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Pause to Color	1:00 p.m.
		Alpha Hart Lewis Ice Cream Party	3:00 p.m.
		Team Earth	5:30 p.m.
		Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	8/19	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Confirmation Class	7:15 p.m.
Fri	8/21	LODO Open House	4:30 p.m.
Sat	8/22	Building & Grounds All-Church Workday	9:00 a.m.
Sun	8/23	<i>RALLY DAY!</i>	
		Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Fellowship Meal	12:00 p.m.
		Youth Group at Pastor Rick's house	4:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Alethea Tennill... recovering from broken leg

Fred Wilke... on hospice (Alethea's Father)

Rev. Carolyn Held.... Health issues (Edie's niece)

Joyce Andersen... health issues (Aimee Andersen's mother-in-law)

Kenny Holtgrewe... recovering well from surgery (Marsha Posz's Father)

Mary Jane Johnson... health issues (Joe Remeika's Sister)

Cassandra Gartner... health issues (Edie's friend)

The people of Colombia... recovering from disaster

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

All those whose lives are affected by state sanctioned terrorism including:

Owen Ramsingh and family,

The families of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, Lorenzo Salgado, Sebastian Guerrero,

Jack and Claudia (Pastor Rick's friends), and so many others

Our US Military... deployed in the Middle East

Health Issues:

Jeff Kies, Barry Kirchhoff, Glenn Duermeyer, Evie Marcks,

Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),

Kenny & Jane Holtgrewe (Marsha Posz's parents),

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

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

Living in Assisted Living Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Julie Roper. Dean & Jan Barry

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

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

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

Garrett Holtgrewe... (Marsh Posz's Nephew)

Pregnancies in our Church Family:

Kristin & Adam Veteto

*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

or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 tsoncasie@aol.com

Genesis 45:1-11

1 Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, “Send everyone away from me.” So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers.

2 And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it.

3 Joseph said to his brothers, “I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?” But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

4 Then Joseph said to his brothers, “Come closer to me.” And they came closer. He said, “I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt.

5 And now do not be distressed or angry with yourselves because you sold me here, for God sent me before you to preserve life.

6 For the famine has been in the land these two years, and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest.

7 God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth and to keep alive for you many survivors.

8 So it was not you who sent me here but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt.

9 Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, “Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me; do not delay.

10 You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children’s children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have.

11 I will provide for you there, since there are five more years of famine to come, so that you and your household and all that you have will not come to poverty.’

Matthew 15:21-28

21 Jesus left that place and went away to the district of Tyre and Sidon.

22 Just then a Canaanite woman from that region came out and started shouting, "Have mercy on me, Lord, Son of David; my daughter is tormented by a demon."

23 But he did not answer her at all. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she keeps shouting after us."

24 He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 But she came and knelt before him, saying, "Lord, help me."

26 He answered, "It is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs."

27 She said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their masters' table."

28 Then Jesus answered her, "Woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And her daughter was healed from that moment.

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

O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

42

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.

1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 Je-sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease
4 Glo-ry to God, and love and praise be ev-er, ev-er given

The glo-ries ev-er ech-o-ing the tri-umphs of God's grace!
To spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
Is mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
By all the saints in ev-ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas written by Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion. The present form of the hymn is one edited by John Wesley for The Wesleyan Hymn Book, 1780.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Adapt. in L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839
Alternate tune: RICHMOND

Great Is Your Faithfulness

Lam. 3:22-23

Thomas O. Chisholm, 1923; alt.

1 Great is your faith - ful - ness, O God, Cre - a - tor,*
 2 Sum - mer and win - ter, and spring - time and har - vest,
 3 Par - don for sin and a peace so en - dur - ing,

with you no shad - ow of turn - ing we see.
 sun, moon, and stars in their cours - es a - bove,
 your own dear pres - ence to cheer and to guide.

You do not change, your com - pas - sions they fail not;
 Join with all na - ture in man - i - fold wit - ness
 Strength for to - day and bright hope for to - mor - row,

all of your good - ness for - ev - er will be.
 to your great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
 bless - ings all mine with ten thou - sand be - side.

*originally "my Father"

This hymn was one of a number sent by poet Thomas O. Chisholm to composer William M. Runyan for musical settings. It became a favorite of Will Houghton, president of Moody Bible Institute, whose enthusiasm helped establish its popularity.

Tune: FAITHFULNESS 11.10.11.10. with refrain
 William M. Runyan, 1923

Refrain

Great is your faith-ful-ness! Great is your faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer - cies I see; All I have need - ed your

hand has pro - vid - ed, Great is your faith - ful-ness, God, un - to me!



Missouri Reading and Writing Pack

2,116 requested versus 1,299 shared in 2024

Estimated
Pack Value | **\$15**

Instructions: Place smaller items in the pencil holder and place in a 2-2.5 gallon zipper storage bag. Place completed packs in boxes labeled with **“Missouri Reading and Writing Pack”** and the quantity on the exterior.

- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ 6 new pencils with erasers | ☐ 1 zipper pencil holder |
| ☐ 1 box of 10 markers (only 10) | ☐ 4 folders with pockets |
| ☐ 1 pair of child-sized metal scissors | ☐ 1 large eraser |
| ☐ 1 box of 24 crayons (only 24) | ☐ 2 ink pens (medium point) |
| ☐ 1, 12-inch ruler | |
| ☐ 2, 70 or 80 page spiral or tape bound notebooks | |



Rally Day!



August 23

Kick-off the Sunday School
year with breakfast, a bounce
house, and bundles of fun!
A fish fry lunch and potluck
will be held after
worship service.



Columbia United Church of Christ
3201 I-70 Dr. NW., Columbia, MO 65202

SEPTEMBER

20

2026

**CROP
HUNGER
WALK**

**Collecting food can donations
September 6 - 20.**

Bring cans to church on Sundays to give to Church World Service's CROP Hunger Walk. Columbia's walk will be at Stephens Lake Park at Gordon Shelter. Registration opens at 1:00 p.m. and the welcome program begins at 1:30 p.m. After the walk, there will be snacks, activities, and celebration!

Sign up here to walk!



CWS

Church World Service



Now Enrolling!

New Hours for LODO Plus (2+)
7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Ages



Infants

Toddlers



Twos

Threes



Pre-K

Email

LODO.Sara.Koenig@gmail.com to
schedule your tour today!