

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

March 9, 2025

**“For the Beauty of the Earth”**



# 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**



**March 9, 2025**

**10:30 a.m.**

**“Abundance”**

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

*“... I say to the LORD, “You are my refuge, my stronghold!  
You are my God, the one I trust.”  
-Psalm 91:2*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

“Branle”

Steve Jannetti  
Stephen Kemp

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship

*(based on Psalm 91)*

Judi Privitt

You, who live under God’s Shelter,  
Cry out to God, “my refuge and my fortress;  
My God, in whom I trust!”

**God covers us with God’s wings.  
Under God’s wings we find refuge;  
Our shield and our strength!**

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
Or the pestilence that stalks in the darkness,  
Or the destruction that waits at noonday.

**We have made God our refuge and our dwelling place;  
We will fear no evil; for God will protect us.  
God will be with us in times of trouble.  
Come, let us worship God!**

\*Hymn

“For the Beauty of the Earth”

#28

\*Opening Prayer

Judi Privitt

**God of all creation; we know that we will never meet anyone whom You do not love. In this season of Lent, as we walk closer with You, we lament the labels and boundaries we place on one another with the purpose of distancing ourselves from each other. Remind us that You call us to be stewards of the beauty of all You created; the earth and all that is on it; from the green grace of nature to the face of our neighbor. Teach us to respect the beauty of the earth and the wonder of Your creation; that we may glorify You with our stewardship. In Jesus’ name we pray; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

The beauty of the earth and all that is on it is created by God and given to us to steward. But even when we forget this mandate, God loves us and forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace we are forgiven, beloved, and blessed. Praise be to God!

\*Prayer Response

“Jesus, Remember Me”

*Jesus, remember me,  
when you come into your Kingdom;  
Jesus, remember me,  
when you come into your Kingdom.*

\*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

**And also with you!**

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”  
(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!*

Stewardship Moment

“Team Earth”

Mahree Skala

Old Testament Lesson Deuteronomy 26:1-3,10-11

Judi Privitt

*This is a later retelling of the story of Moses and the Israelites receiving instructions from God about how to be in relationship with Them. In this section, God is reflecting on the abundance of the earth and instructing them in a liturgy reflecting on that abundance.*

Page # 158

Gospel Lesson

Luke 13:1-9

Judi Privitt

*Jesus comments on the political situation of the day and the division that exists between those in power and the oppressed. He emphasizes stewardship of all God created, from foreigners residing in the land to seemingly barren fig trees. These are example of abundance from bareness.*

Page #848

Anthem

“Behold the Lamb”

Celebration Singers

Lloyd Larson

Sermon

“First Fruits”

Pastor Rick

\*Hymn

“Take My Life, God Let it Be”

#448

## 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.**

\*Meditation Hymn "Take My Gifts" #562

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)*

Offertory "Elegy" Steve Jannetti  
*Alexander Gordicke*

\*Prayer of Dedication Judi Privitt

**God of extravagant welcome; with these gifts we counter the wisdom of the world that preaches scarcity, and make a bold proclamation for abundance. Take these gifts and let them be used to bring Your wisdom to all the world. Amen.**

\*Benediction Pastor Rick

\*Response: "God, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing"

***God, dismiss us with Your blessing;  
Fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
Let us each, Your love possessing,  
Triumph in redeeming grace.***

***O refresh us, O refresh us,  
Travelling through this wilderness.***

\*Postlude "Andante" Steve Jannetti  
*Anton Dvorak*

# **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

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**Website:** [www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)

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<b>Student Pastor:</b> Shelly Adams	<a href="mailto:shellyraeadams@gmail.com">shellyraeadams@gmail.com</a>
<b>Admin. Assistant:</b> Alexandra Roper	<a href="mailto:office@columbiaucc.com">office@columbiaucc.com</a>
<b>Moderator:</b> Kurt Heine	<a href="mailto:heinekurt@gmail.com">heinekurt@gmail.com</a>
<b>Music Coordinator:</b> Casey Wood	<a href="mailto:caseyseanwood@gmail.com">caseyseanwood@gmail.com</a>
<b>Organist/Accompanist:</b> Steve Jannetti	<a href="mailto:steve.jannetti@yahoo.com">steve.jannetti@yahoo.com</a>
<b>LODO Director:</b> Erika Maltsbarger	<a href="mailto:littleonesdayout@yahoo.com">littleonesdayout@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Custodian:</b> Caleb Berry	<a href="mailto:calebprenticeberry@gmail.com">calebprenticeberry@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pastor Emeritus:</b> Rev. Fred Brandenburg	

## TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Judi Privitt
Ushers:	Pat Forward & Charlie Marcks
Greeters:	
Technology:	Mike Pierson & Doug Privitt
Council Stewards:	Lena Muench & Kristin Veteto

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Tricia Soncasie
Ushers:	Llona Weiss & Mark Duncan
Greeters:	Anne Heine
Technology:	Josh Muench & Judi Privitt
Council Stewards:	Tricia Price & Mark Duncan



Online giving

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	Kurt Heine	<a href="mailto:heinekurt@gmail.com">heinekurt@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	Jerry Kiesling	<a href="mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com">rollzierp50@gmail.com</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Alethea Tennill	<a href="mailto:atennill108@gmail.com">atennill108@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Deborah Birkes	<a href="mailto:dlong@elonedu.com">dlong@elonedu.com</a>
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<b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality:</b>	Mary Lorber	<a href="mailto:eldercow@gmail.com">eldercow@gmail.com</a>
<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship:</b>	Shelly Adams	<a href="mailto:shellyraeadams@gmail.com">shellyraeadams@gmail.com</a>
<b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation:</b>	Tricia Price	<a href="mailto:tricialprice@gmail.com">tricialprice@gmail.com</a>
<b>Little One's Day Out:</b>	Kristin Veteto	<a href="mailto:kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com">kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership &amp; Care:</b>	Judi Privitt	<a href="mailto:judiprivitt811@gmail.com">judiprivitt811@gmail.com</a>
<b>Nurture &amp; Education:</b>	Lena Muench	<a href="mailto:cfg323@yahoo.com">cfg323@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy:</b>	Mark Duncan	<a href="mailto:markduncan2@mchsi.com">markduncan2@mchsi.com</a>
<b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>	Vacant	
<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Rick Oberle	<a href="mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com">rick@columbiaucc.com</a>

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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!

### **TAIZÉ WORSHIP RESUMES DURING LENT 3/12-4/16**

For the six Wednesdays of Lent, Steve Jannetti will be leading us in Taizé worship once more. Each Wednesday from March 12-April 16 we will gather at 5:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary for a half hour of meditation and reflection. All are invited to join us for these special Lenten services.

### **TEAM EARTH LUNCH & LEARN 3/16**

Stick around for lunch on March 16! Dr. Michael Chippendale will be our guest speaker, talking about our ecological footprint and ways to reduce our impact on the earth. His discussion is titled “Steps Toward a Sustainable Future.” Come join us on 3/16!

### **ERIC MOELLER IN CONCERT 4/4**

Eric Moeller, an up and coming “Springsteen-like” pastor/musician will be offering a FREE concert here at CUCC on Friday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m. His genre is Progressive Christian Rock, and his songs highlight the social justice challenges and imperatives that face our world today. All are invited!

### **BRING A FRIEND SUNDAY 4/6**

Did you know that 85% of “new” church members began attending because they were invited by a friend? All the marketing and advertising in the world can not make up for a personal invitation. Start thinking now about who you will bring to worship on 4/6. There will be lunch afterward– a Taco Bar hosted by the Membership & Care Ministry Team. Bring a friend on April 6!

### **THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR**

Sun	3/9	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.
Mon	3/10	Membership & Care Ministry Team	5:00 p.m.
		Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	3/11	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		Worship & Music Ministry Team	5:30 p.m.
		Troop 708 Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	3/12	Taizé Service	5:30 p.m.
		Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Thu	3/13	Women’s Fellowship	9:30 a.m.
Fri	3/14	Pastor Rick’s day off	
Sun	3/16	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Team Earth Lunch & Learn	12:00 p.m.

# Columbia UCC Prayer List

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

Sharon Elliott... on hospice

Cas Burluson...health issues (Mahree's cousin)

Mahree Skala... health issues, upcoming procedure

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

The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

## *Health Issues:*

Edie Diel, Lloyd Mickelson, Bryan Crousore, Jim Elliott, Cheryl Cobb,

Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley

Kristan Whelihan (Russell Eveler's teacher)

Ann Wilke (Alethea's mother)

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

Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter), Joanne Good (Sue Beckman's friend),

Marilyn Coronado (Corinne Remeika's friend)

## *Challenges in Life:*

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

## *Living in Care Facilities:*

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Helen Graves, Sharon Elliott

## *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](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***



## Deuteronomy 26:1-3, 10-11

1 When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it,

2 You shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

3 You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.”

10 So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.” You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God.

11 Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

## Luke 13:1-9

1 At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.

2 He asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”

3 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did.

4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem?”

5 No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.

7 So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’

8 He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it.

9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

## For the Beauty of the Earth

*St. 1-3, Foliott S. Pierpoint, 1864; alt.**St. 4, Miriam Therese Winter, 1993*

1 For the beau-ty of the earth, for the splen-dor of the skies,  
 2 For the won-der of each hour of the day and of the night,  
 3 For the joy of hu-man love, broth-er, sis-ter, par-ent, child,  
 4 For the good that love in-spires, for a world where none ex-clude,

For the love which from our birth o-ver and a-round us lies,  
 Hill and vale, and tree and flower, sun and moon, and stars of light,  
 Friends on earth, and friends a-bove, for all gen-tle thoughts and mild,  
 For a faith that nev-er tires, and for ev-ery heart re-newed,

*Refrain*

God of all, to you we raise this our hymn of grate-ful praise.

*Foliott S. Pierpoint, author of numerous hymns, penned these verses near his native city of Bath, England, on a late spring day when flowers were in full bloom and all the earth seemed to rejoice.*

*Tune: DIX 7.7.7.7. with refrain*

*Conrad Kocher, 1838*

*Adapt. William H. Monk, 1861*

# Take My Life, God, Let It Be

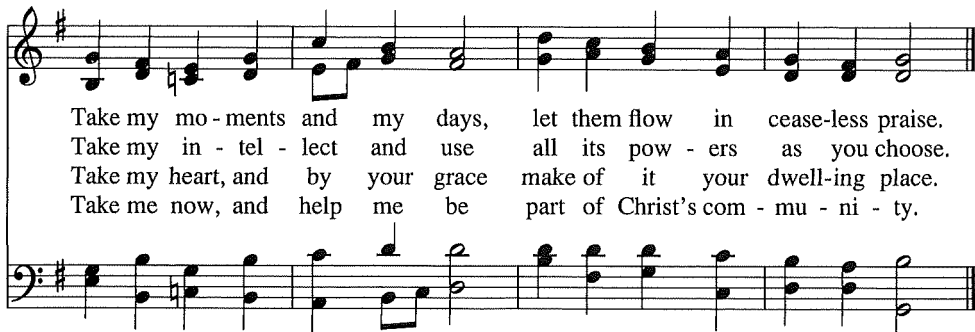
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Frances R. Havergal, 1874; alt.

Rom. 12:1



1 Take my life, God, let it be con - se - crat - ed faith - ful - ly.  
2 Take my spir - it, let it move at the im - pulse of your love.  
3 Take my will; your will be done! Make your will and mine be one.  
4 Take my love and help it grow; let my lov - ing ov - er - flow.



Take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease - less praise.  
Take my in - tel - lect and use all its pow - ers as you choose.  
Take my heart, and by your grace make of it your dwell - ing place.  
Take me now, and help me be part of Christ's com - mu - ni - ty.

Frances R. Havergal wrote her hymn following a visit to Areley House in Worcestershire, England. Among the ten persons at the house were "some unconverted . . . some converted but not rejoicing." Before she left, "everyone had got a blessing."

Tune: VIENNA 7.7.7.7.

Justin H. Knecht, 1797

Alternate tune: HENDON

## Take My Gifts

562

*Shirley Erena Murray, 1991*

1 Take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me,  
 2 Take the fruit that I have gath - ered from the tree your Spir-it sowed,  
 3 Take what-ev - er I can of - fer— gifts that I have yet to find,

gave me light and food and shel - ter, gave me life and set me free,  
 har - vest of your own com-pas - sion, juice that makes the wine of God,  
 skills that I am slow to sharp - en, tal - ents of the hand and mind,

now be - cause your love has touched me, I have love to give a - way,  
 spiced with hu - mor, laced with laugh - ter— fla - vor of the Je - sus life,  
 things made beau - ti - ful for oth - ers in the place where I must be:

now the bread of love is ris - ing, loaves of love to mul - ti - ply!  
 tang of risk and new ad - ven - ture, taste and zest be - yond be - lief.  
 take my gifts and let me love you, God who first of all loved me.

*Shirley Erena Murray recounted that Colin Gibson composed this tune for her stewardship text "almost instantaneously." Gibson has served as professor at the University of Otago, as well as organist and choir director in Dunedin, New Zealand.*

Tune: TALAVERA TERRACE 8.7.8.7.D.  
 Colin Gibson, 1991  
 Alternate tune: HOLY MANNA