

Columbia United Church Of Christ

August 17, 2025
"Salvation"



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 17, 2025

9:30 a.m.

"Salvation"

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

*"Restore us, O God; let your face shine,
that we may be saved!"*

-Psalm 80:19

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Polichinelle"

Cohen Nguyen
Karol Rathaus

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 80)

Ashley Ramirez

Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel;
Stir up Your might and come to save us!

**Restore us, O God;
Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!**

You brought a vine out of Egypt;
You drove out the nations and planted it.

**Turn again, O God of hosts; look and see Your people;
Have regard for this vine that Your hand planted.**

We will never turn back from You;
Give us life, and we will call upon Your name!

**Restore us, O God;
Let Your face shine, that we may be saved!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"We Gather Together"

#421

*Opening Prayer

Ashley Ramirez

God of salvation; we come to You this day asking You to save us. Save us from the sins that divide us and the self centered complaining that is part of our human condition. You empower us with hope, wisdom, and courage to follow Your way. Forgive us for the times we neglect to embrace the life that is new. Forgive us for the times we let our human condition interfere with Your divine call. Teach us to be Your loving people, saving others as You save us. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

God empowers us with the gift of hope; giving us the ability to come together in unity, embracing our diversity. But even when we forget this salvation, 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!***

Blessing the New School Year

*Everyone involved in Academic Instruction will be invited
to stand to receive a blessing on their involvement in the new school year.
Administrators, Faculty and Staff of all academic environments
will be asked to stand first, then the students.*

Exhortation; Blessings; Prayer; Sending Forth

Mission Moment

“Reading & Writing Kits”

Jessica Jenks

New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Ashley Ramirez

The unknown author of this letter talks about how the people of the Jewish tradition realized God's salvation in many ways, and how today that salvation is offered, in one way, through the Good News of Jesus Christ. As this letter was written to a Jewish audience, it reflects stories that are more Judeo-centric than the epistles written by Paul to the Greeks. Page #978

This is a difficult narration to hear from Jesus, but it emphasizes that the salvation Jesus offers is very different from the conflict-avoidance understanding of Jesus that is held by many. Jesus' salvation happens when we work for justice, not through acquiescence to oppression. Jesus' salvation often brings division.

Page #848

Anthem

“Inspirational Improvisation”

Harry Beckett

arr. by Harry Beckett

Sermon

“The Sins that Divide”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“Great is Your Faithfulness”

#423

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

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

#18

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

“Ava Maria”

Cohen Nguyen
Franz Schubert

*Prayer of Dedication

Ashley Ramirez

God of all Wisdom; You inspire us to put Your Wisdom ahead of the divisions of the world. We do this by offering our gifts; blessings from our bounty, shared with You and with all our neighbors. Take them and use them to share Your Wisdom with all the world. Amen.

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

“Rondo”

Steve Jannetti
James Hook

SCOUTING AMERICA AND CUCC

CUCC is the Charter Organization for four Scouting America units, over 150 children, youth, and adult volunteers. These units are:

- **Cub Scout Pack 5183** – The younger group of Scouts, with boys and girls from kindergarten age through 5th grade. They meet every other Monday.
- **Scouting America Troop 4475** – The girls troop. They are a very active troop of girls from 6th-12th grades. They meet every Monday.
- **Scouting America Troop 708** – The boys troop. They are from 6th-12th grades and are very active. They meet every Monday, too.
- **Venture Crew 5334** – This is a focused co-educational group of older youth, from High School through college age.

As the Charter Organization for these four units, they are a part of us and we are a part of them. “They are our scouts, and we are their church.” Working together, in covenant, we will share the joys of common life and enhance one another’s mission, all to the glory of God.

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*

Columbia United Church of Christ

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Custodian: Caleb Berry	calebprenticeberry@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg	

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Ashley Ramirez
Ushers:	Pat Forward & Christine Staelens
Greeters:	
Technology:	Josh Muench & Lorry Dreier
Council Stewards:	Lena Muench & Mahree Skala

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

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



Online Giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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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!

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!

SCOUTING AMERICA KICKOFF BBQ 8/18– YOU ARE INVITED!

Come join our Scouting America unites for a kickoff BBQ on August 18 at the CUCC Shelter House! We will begin gathering at 5:30 p.m. and eat at 6:00 p.m. This will be a great time to celebrate our Scouting relationship!

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! You do have to sign up ahead of time. To do so, talk to Mahree Skala or click on the link that was in the Friday email.

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 great fellowship event after church that day.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	8/17	Bible Study	8:30 a.m.
		Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	9:30 a.m.
Mon	8/18	Loaves & Fishes	4:30 p.m.
		Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team	7:00 p.m.
Tue	8/19	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		Pause to Color	1:00 p.m.
		Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	8/20	Celebration Singers Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Sun	8/24	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

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

Mark Wilson... hand injury

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

We Gather Together

Netherlands folk hymn, 16th century

Transl. Theodore Baker, 1894

Adapt. Lavon Bayler, 1992

1 We gath-er to-geth-er
to ask for God's bless-ing,
to live in com-mu-ni-ty,
seek-ing God's will.
We come now, as sis-ters
and broth-ers, con-fess-ing
the sins that di-vide
and the wrong in us still.

2 Be-side us, for-giv-ing,
en-a-bling, sus-tain-ing,
you call us, O Sav-ior,
to life that is new.
You draw us a-way
from self-cen-tered com-plain-ing.
You lead us and guide us
in ways that are true.

3 All praise to the Spir-it,
pro-vid-er, de-fend-er.
You of-fer us free-dom,
to fol-low or stray,
Em-pow-er-ing all by
the hope you en-gen-der.
Grant wis-dom and cour-age
to fol-low your way.

The original text of this hymn was one of thanksgiving for The Netherlands' independence from Spanish domination in the sixteenth century. It has been reinterpreted for contemporary congregations by United Church of Christ minister and writer Lavon Bayler.

Tune: KREMSER 12.11.12.11.
16th-century Dutch melody
Arr. Edward Kremser, 1877

Hebrews 11:29-12:2

29 By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned.

30 By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days.

31 By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

32 And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets,

33 who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions,

34 quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

35 Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection.

36 Others suffered mocking and flogging and even chains and imprisonment.

37 They were stoned to death; they were sawn in two; they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—

38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains and in caves and holes in the ground.

39 Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised,

40 since God had provided something better so that they would not, apart from us, be made perfect.

12 Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us,

2 looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 12:49-56

49 “I have come to cast fire upon the earth, and how I wish it were already ablaze!

50 I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what constraint I am under until it is completed!

51 Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division!

52 From now on five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three;

53 they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

54 He also said to the crowds, “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘It is going to rain,’ and so it happens.

55 And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, ‘There will be scorching heat,’ and it happens.

56 You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

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!

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

William Williams, 1745

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.

St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1907

Alternate setting: ZION