

Columbia United Church Of Christ

February 28, 2021
Black History Month



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.

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Of Christ



February 28, 2021

10:30 Worship

"Seminary Sunday"

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

"...my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

-Psalm 22:1

Gathering Music

Amy Crousore

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Deep River"

Amy Crousore
Spiritual

Carrying in the Light of Christ

Abby Dennis

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 22)

Connie Loveless

We cry out to God in this time of Lent;
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 all 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!

*Opening Hymn

"My Faith it is an Oaken Staff"

NCH #418

*Opening Prayer

Connie Loveless

God of Blessings; you name us and claim us and promise us your presence and provision. You enter into Covenant with us for our own benefit, and stick with us when we break that Covenant. Forgive us, Gracious God, for the sins of separation we commit; and lead us to forgive the sins of others. Teach us to have the faith of Abraham, the faith of Sarah, and the faith of the disciples we read about today; that we may reshape and recreate the world in your image. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing Pastor Rick
God's Covenant with Abraham was the start of a mighty nation; our ancestors in faith. Through the faith of our ancestors, our faith is strengthened and renewed. Through faith we know, God will always love us; God will always forgive us. We are forgiven! We are God's beloved! 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 Pastor Rick

Children's Time Pastor Rick

Response "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"
**I have decided to follow Jesus; (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.
The world behind me, the cross before me (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.**

Living our Mission **"Seminary Sunday"**
Rev. Mary Schaller Blaufuss

Anthem Lilly, Lisa & Pete Jaberg
"Psalm 139" *Pote*

Black History Moment **Stacy Abrams** *Jess Wolfe*

Old Testament Lesson Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 *Connie Loveless*
God establishes God's covenant with Abraham, promising Abraham that he would be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. Many would be in his lineage, even though he was 99 years old and childless. God renames him and his wife (Sarah), reflecting that covenant. (pg. 11)

Gospel Lesson Mark 2:1-12 *Connie Loveless*
Jesus, surrounded by people making demands of him, is confronted by a paralytic who is lowered through the roof by his friends. Seeing their faith, he heals the man, telling him his sins are forgiven. The scribes are astounded, criticizing Jesus because he is forgiving sins. What does it mean to forgive sins? Who can forgive sins? (pg. 813)

Hymn "We Have the Strength to Lift and Bear" *NCH #178*

Sermon: "Seminary and God's Covenant" Pastor Rick

Hymn: "Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way" *(insert)*

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

The LORD's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Prayer Response

"Grant Us Peace"

***Hear our Prayer, O Lord!
Hear our prayer, O Lord!
Hear our Prayer, O Lord!
And Grant us Thy Peace! A-men!***

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life

Pastor Rick

Presenting our Gifts

Lucy Smith

"Minuet"

JS Bach

*To give online text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041 and follow the prompts
You can also give online by visiting our website:
www.columbiaucc.com*

*Response

"For the Fruit of All Creation"

NCH #425

***For the Fruit of all Creation, thanks be to God.
For God's gifts to every nation, thanks be to God.
For the wonders that astound us,
for the truths that still confound us,
Most of all that love has found us, thanks be to God!***

*Prayer of Dedication

Connie Loveless

God of love; we give these gifts to you to advance Seminary education, to heal the sick, to work miracles in your world. Through these gifts, we are your servant leaders in the world; and for that opportunity, we give thanks. 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

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

Amy Crousore
Billingham

My Faith, It Is an Oaken Staff

Thomas T. Lynch, 1855; alt.

1 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, the trav - eler's well - loved aid;
 2 My guide is Je - sus Christ whose steps, when trav - el - ers have trod,
 3 My faith, it is an oak - en staff, O let me on it lean.

My faith, it is a song of trust, sus - tains me un - dis - mayed.
 Wheth - er be - neath was flint - y rock or yield - ing grass - y sod,
 My faith pro - vides the ground of hope, sup - ports a pur - pose keen.

I'll trav - el on and still be stirred by si - lent thought or so - cial
 They car - ried on, their joy un - spent; through pain and trial they on - ward
 Your Spir - it, God, up - on me send, that I may be what you in -

word; By all my per - ils un - de - terred, a pil - grim un - a - fraid.
 went, Un - stayed by plea - sure, still they bent their zeal - ous course to God.
 tend. With pa - tient cour - age, we'll con - tend as ra - diant saints se - rene.

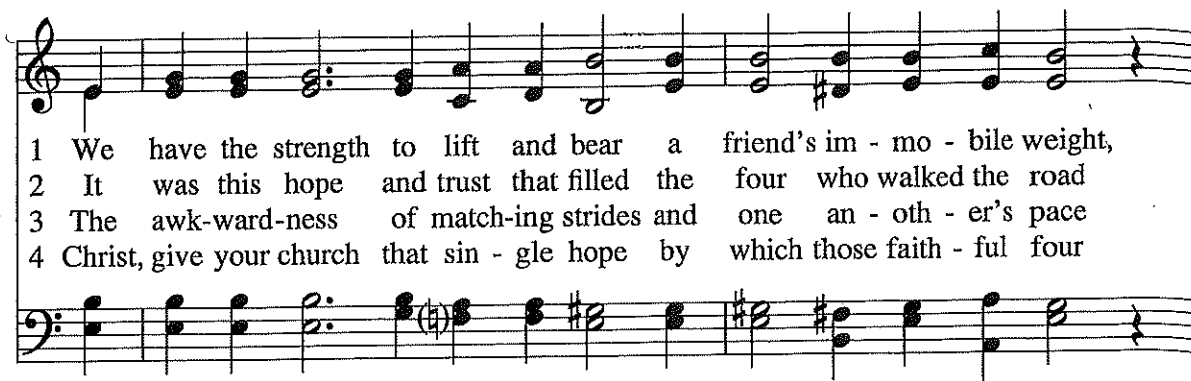
A gifted Congregational minister in London, Thomas Toke Lynch was the subject of controversy within the churches upon the publication of his hymn collection, The Rivulet, which received poor reviews. This hymn was labeled Lynch's "best" when it appeared in Congregational Praise (1951).

Tune: THE STAFF OF FAITH 8.6.8.6.8.8.6.
 Swiss folk melody
 Fellowship Hymn Book, 1910

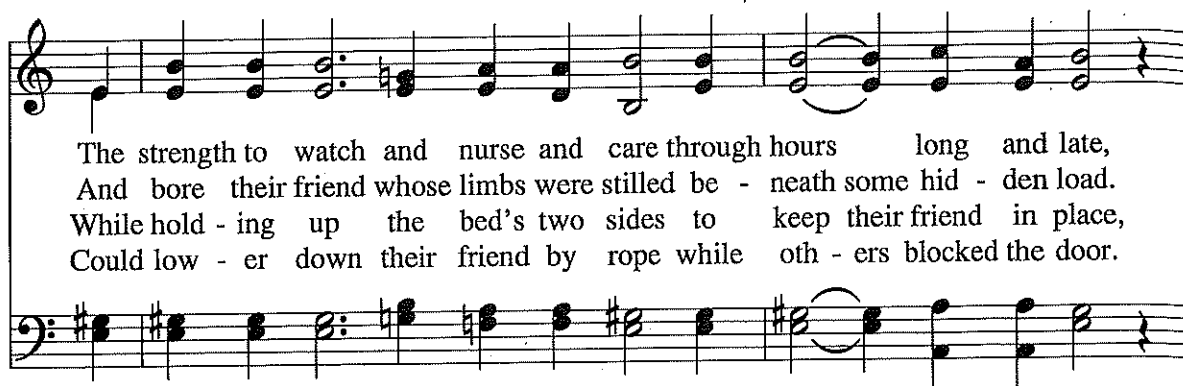
We Have the Strength to Lift and Bear

Mark 2:1-12

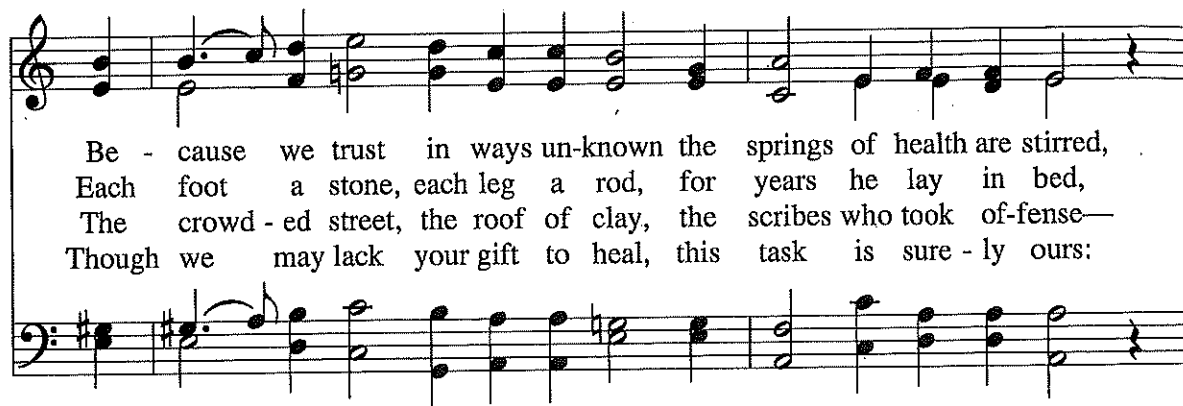
Thomas H. Troeger, 1985; rev. 1993



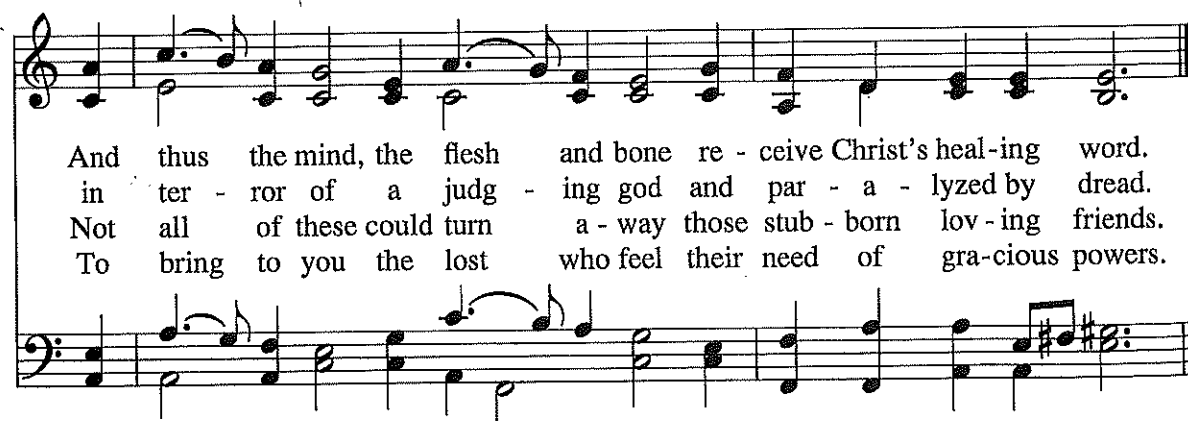
1 We have the strength to lift and bear a friend's im - mo - bile weight,
 2 It was this hope and trust that filled the four who walked the road
 3 The awk - ward - ness of match - ing strides and one an - oth - er's pace
 4 Christ, give your church that sin - gle hope by which those faith - ful four



The strength to watch and nurse and care through hours long and late,
 And bore their friend whose limbs were stilled be - neath some hid - den load.
 While hold - ing up the bed's two sides to keep their friend in place,
 Could low - er down their friend by rope while oth - ers blocked the door.



Be - cause we trust in ways un-known the springs of health are stirred,
 Each foot a stone, each leg a rod, for years he lay in bed,
 The crowd - ed street, the roof of clay, the scribes who took of-fense—
 Though we may lack your gift to heal, this task is sure - ly ours:

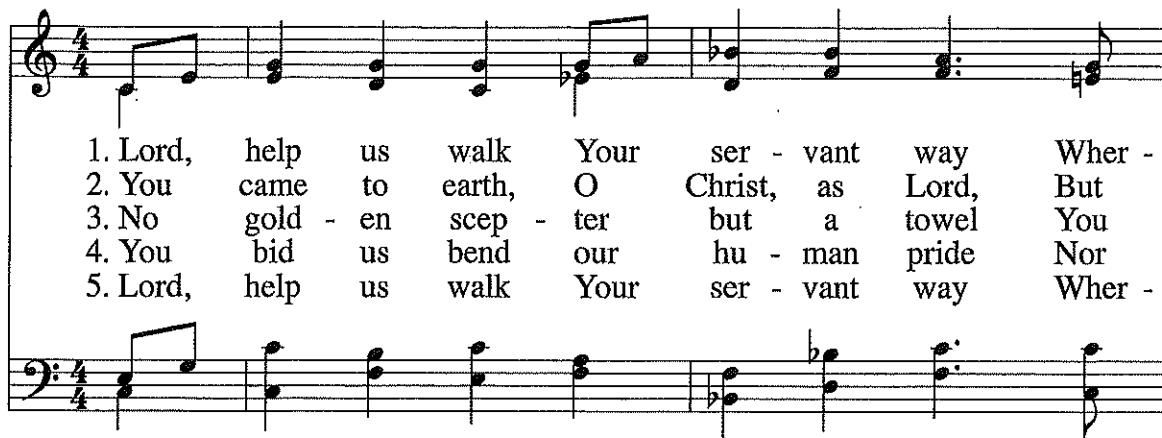


And thus the mind, the flesh and bone re - ceive Christ's heal - ing word.
 in ter - ror of a judg - ing god and par - a - lyzed by dread.
 Not all of these could turn a - way those stub - born lov - ing friends.
 To bring to you the lost who feel their need of gra - cious powers.


In writing this text based on the Mark narrative, Thomas H. Troeger recalled his own observations of various people, particularly nurses and spouses, who care for stroke victims.

Tune: TALLIS' THIRD TUNE C.M.D.
 Thomas Tallis, c. 1557

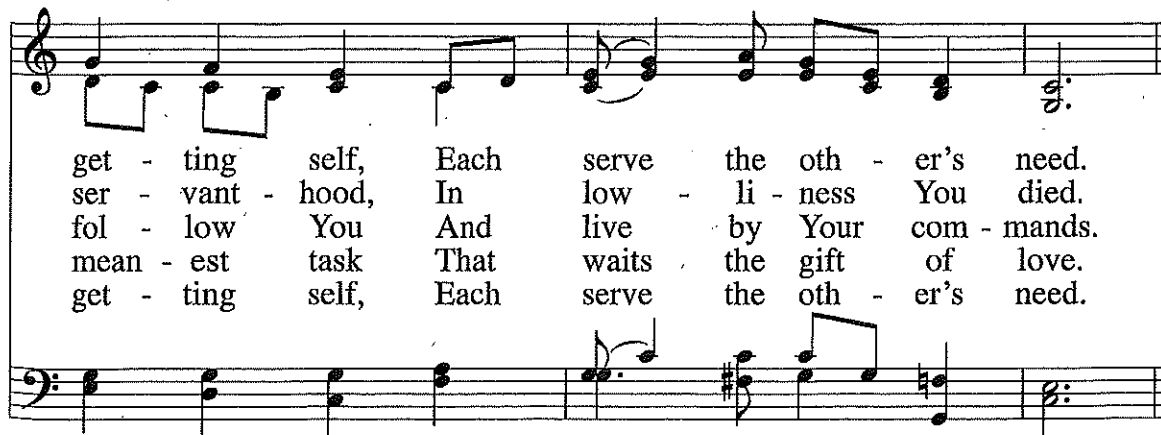
Lord, Help Us Walk Your Servant Way 39



1. Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -
 2. You came to earth, O Christ, as Lord, But
 3. No gold - en scep - ter but a towel You
 4. You bid us bend our hu - man pride Nor
 5. Lord, help us walk Your ser - vant way Wher -



ev - er love may lead And, bend - ing low, for -
 pow'r You laid a - side. You lived Your years in
 place with - in the hands Of those who seek to
 count our - selves a - bove The low - est place, the
 ev - er love may lead And bend - ing low, for -



get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.
 ser - vant - hood, In low - li - ness You died.
 fol - low You And live by Your com - mands.
 mean - est task That waits the gift of love.
 get - ting self, Each serve the oth - er's need.

PROFILES IN BLACK HISTORY– STACY ABRAMS

Stacey Abrams is a political leader, voting rights activist and *New York Times* bestselling author. After serving for eleven years in the Georgia House of Representatives, seven as Democratic Leader, in 2018, Abrams became the Democratic nominee for Governor of Georgia, winning at the time more votes than any other Democrat in the state's history. Abrams was the first black woman to become the gubernatorial nominee for a major party in the United States, and she was the first black woman and first Georgian to deliver a Response to the State of the Union. After witnessing the gross mismanagement of the 2018 election by the Secretary of State's office, Abrams launched *Fair Fight* to ensure every American has a voice in our election system through programs such as Fair Fight 2020, an initiative to fund and train voter protection teams in 20 battleground states. Over the course of her career, Abrams has founded multiple organizations devoted to voting rights, training and hiring young people of color, and tackling social issues at both the state and national levels. In 2019, she launched *Fair Count* to ensure accuracy in the 2020 Census and greater participation in civic engagement, and the *Southern Economic Advancement Project*, a public policy initiative to broaden economic power and build equity in the South.

Abrams is a lifetime member of the Council on Foreign Relations, where she serves on the Subcommittee on Diversity. As a Next Generation Fellow of the American Assembly on U.S. Global Policy and the Future of International Institutions, she also served as a discussion leader, editor, and essay contributor. She was also selected as a Salzburg Seminar Fellow on East Asian Studies, an American Marshall Memorial Fellow, an American Council of Young Political Leaders Fellow, a Council on Italy Fellow, a British-American Project Fellow and a U.S.-Russia Young Leaders Fellow. She traveled to and met with leaders in South Korea, Israel and Taiwan, and she worked closely with several members of the consular corps. Her international policy travel includes Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Israel, Italy, the Netherlands, South Korea, Switzerland, Taiwan and the United Kingdom. Abrams is a member of former Secretary of State John Kerry's World War Zero bipartisan coalition on climate change. She has been a featured speaker at the Aspen Ministers Forum, the Kerry Initiative-Yale Jackson Institute of Global Affairs, the National Security Action Forum and the Council on Foreign Relations, as well as a contributor to *Foreign Affairs Magazine*.

She is a recipient of the John F. Kennedy New Frontier Award and a current member of the Board of Directors for the Center for American Progress. Abrams has also written eight romantic suspense novels under the pen name Selena Montgomery, in addition to the *New York Times* best-selling *Lead from the Outside* and *Our Time is Now*.

Abrams received degrees from Spelman College, the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas and Yale Law School. Born in Madison, Wisconsin, she and her five siblings grew up in Gulfport, Mississippi and were raised in Georgia.

Columbia United Church of Christ

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LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger littleonesdayout@yahoo.com
Financial Secretary: Raj Tolani finance.cucc@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg
Organ Scholar: Lucy Smith

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Connie Loveless
Acolyte: Abby Dennis
Ushers: Brent Marcks
Greeters: Helen Schultz
Technology Booth: Mike Pierson/James Melton
Hospitality: Stefanie Zimny
Council Steward: Stefanie Zimny/Connie Loveless



NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Sue Ann Schaefer
Acolyte: Lil Smith
Ushers:
Greeters: Judi Privitt
Technology Booth: Mike Pierson
Hospitality: Melba Shaffer
Council Stewards: Sue Ann Schaefer

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY BREAKFAST ALTERNATIVE

Men's Fellowship is sponsoring a virtual fund raiser for Habitat for Humanity. Please make checks out to "Men's Fellowship" and bring it by or mail it to the Church Office; or you can give through Kindrid on the church website. *Today is the last day to give!* For more details, talk to Doug Privitt or Brent Marcks.

CUCC SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The CUCC Scholarship Fund is accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year. If you will be in college this fall, pick up an application in the church office. *All applications are due by April 1.*

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL WITH PASTOR RICK

Last week, Pastor Rick began a 6-week Sunday School Series on "Your Bible—The Study Begins." This introductory Bible course has much to offer everyone. We have had great crowds, and the class has been well received. Come join us Sunday mornings during Lent at 9:00 in the Sanctuary!

SUNDAY SCHOOL DURING LENT – FEBRUARY 21-MARCH 28, 2021

Preschool through High School Youth will celebrate each Sunday in Lent with a special Lent program organized and created by Lena Muench and Gina Pierson during the Sunday School hour, 9:00-10:00 a.m. Pre-registration for children and youth will be required in order to provide supervision and a safe, healthy environment. Click here to register: [Lenten Sunday School](#)

WEDNESDAY EVENING BOOK STUDY WITH PASTOR RICK

Last Wednesday, Pastor Rick began a 6-week book study on the book "The Last Week" by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crosson. This book studies in depth the last week of Jesus' life, and walks with him to the cross. Make this Lent meaningful by participating in this book study! Order your book today online, or pick up a copy in the church office.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	2/28	<i>SEMINARY SUNDAY– EDEN GUEST HERE</i> <u><i>Lenten Bible School Program</i></u> Worship (in person and livestream)	9:00am 10:30am
Mon	3/1	Staff Meeting Confirmation	10:15am 6:00pm
Tue	3/2	Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Team Nurture & Education Ministry Team	5:30pm 6:30pm
Wed	3/3	Book Study- "The Last Week"	6:30pm
Sat	3/6	<u><i>ONA Convocation online</i></u>	10:00am
Sun	3/7	<i>COMMUNION/AMISTAD SUNDAY</i> <u><i>Lenten Bible School Program</i></u> Worship (in person and livestream)	9:00am 10:30am

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week...

The family of Andy Giesert... on their loss (Jo Ellen Grace's brother)
The family of Riley Gregg... on their loss (Alisa Lau-Sieckmann's neighbor)
Jonathan Schultz... recovering from broken shoulder
Donna Wilmsmeyer... recovering at home from pneumonia
Lloyd Viehland... recovering at home from cardiac event and procedure
Edie Diehl... recovering well from knee surgery
Ardith Wilson... on hospice (Mark Wilson's mother)
Sharon Tiemann... on hospice (April Rothwieler's Aunt)
Nell Redhage... recovering from back surgery (Jo Ellen Grace's sister)
Amy Crousore... recovering from oral surgery, anticipating more
All who are suffering from COVID-19 virus and other viruses
All who are on the front lines, serving those with COVID-19

Sheila... challenges in life and faith
The Zimny, Lasley, Koerkenmeier, Malicoat,
Williams, Piersee & Marsh Families

Health Issues:

Deborah Heather (Edie Diehl's niece);
Finn Price (Tricia's nephew); Jason Wilhoit (Vena Long's friend);
Christine Mseke; Christie O'Very; Nathan Schnell;
Gary Johnson... recovering from non-Hodgkins lymphoma (Kelly Smith's father)
Dennis Froeschner... anticipating knee replacement surgery
Irene Hurst... living with cancer (Sue & Cliff Beckman's friend)

Living in Care Facilities:

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

Serving us in the military:

Alexander & Christopher Tennill, Jeffrey Sanderson
James Walker (Don Helmreich's nephew)
Thomas Zumalt (Shirley Lawler's grandson)
Tim Isom, Tyler Gibson (Oberles' friends);
Daisia Baker (Isaiah's cousin); Cole Long (Vena's grandson)

UCC/DOC Global Ministries Missionary of the Week:

Leda Zakarisan... serving in Lebanon

Pregnancies in our church family:

Ed Rollins & Jess Wolfe

2020 Confirmation Class (Confirmation on delay until...?):

Lilly Jaberg, Hazel Keithahn, Brandon Lavelly

2021 Confirmation Class:

Zabibu Kibaro, Kennedy Lucas, Addison Melton,
Abby Dennis, Brandon Schoeneberg, Sadie Tummons