

Columbia United Church Of Christ



February 25, 2024
"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.

*Columbia
United Church
Of Christ*



February 25, 2024

10:30 a.m.

"Leadership"

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

"...all who know God, sing praises!"

-Psalm 22:23

Welcome and Greetings

Shelly Adams

Prelude

"Song of the Shepherd Boy"

Steve Jannetti
Samuel Arnold

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(Based on Psalm 22)

Pat Forward

We cry out to God in the 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 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!

*Gathering Hymn

"Take Up Your Cross"

#204

*Opening Prayer

Pat Forward

God of love and blessing; we hear the call of Abram today and wonder at Your impact in his life. You blessed him and renamed him, recreating him to Your will. We know that you do the same with us, recreating us always to be more directed to your purposes in the world. Forgive us the times when we fail to accept Your intercession in our lives and cling to the things of this world that we feel give us comfort. We pray that we may always be brave enough to take up our crosses and follow You; to crucifixion and beyond. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

- *Assurance of Blessing Shelly Adams
 God’s covenant with Abram belongs to each one of us as well. Our inheritance is God’s eternal presence and gracious love. God loves us and forgives us, no matter the circumstances of our lives. 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 Shelly Adams
 May God’s Peace be with you!
And also with you!
- Children’s Time Shelly Adams
 Response: “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!
- Mission Moment “Seminary Sunday” Mary Schaller-Blaufuss
- Old Testament Lesson Genesis 17:1-7 Pat Forward
God appears to Abram in a vision and promises him that he will be the ancestor of a multitude. The Abrahamic Covenant results in the renaming of Abram into Abraham and a life’s purpose revealed.
Page #11
- Gospel Lesson Mark 8:31-38 Pat Forward
Jesus talks about the intentionality he has for his ministry, fully knowing that telling the truth to power is a dangerous prospect. He calls on his disciples to embody his prophetic principles, teaching them that integrity is more important than security.
Page #820
- Anthem “Poor Wayfaring Stranger” Celebration Singers
arr. Victor Johnson
- Sermon “Walking With Jesus” Shelly Adams

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.

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life

Shelly Adams

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

“This Is My Father's World”

Steve Jannetti
Sheppard/Keveren

*Prayer of Dedication

Pat Forward

God of Love; you transform us into disciples, serving you as we serve one another. We give these gifts today to serve your children and, in turn, you. Take them and use them that all may see the light of your love shining through us, and that we may be transformed into vessels of your grace. Amen.

*Benediction

Shelly Adams

*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

“Fairest Lord Jesus ”

Steve Jannetti
Phillip Keveren

CUCC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2024 (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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caseyseanwood@gmail.com

Organist/Accompanist: Steve Jannetti

steve.jannetti@yahoo.com

LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger

littleonesdayout@yahoo.com

Custodian: Caleb Berry

calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Pat Forward

Ushers: Mary Lorber & Mark Duncan

Greeters: Carol Duermeyer

Technology: Josh Muench

Hospitality: Mary Lorber

Council Stewards: Mary Lorber

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:

Ushers: Pat Forward

Greeters: Kristy Hayward

Technology: Lorry Dreier

Hospitality: Lorry Dreier & Tricia Price

Council Stewards: Lorry Dreier & Tricia Price



Online giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator: Kurt Heine

heinekurt@gmail.com

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Worship & Music: Mike Pierson

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Pastor: Rev. Rick Oberle

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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!

ROOM AT THE INN

Room at the Inn is open and looking for volunteers! If you would like to sign up, or for more information, talk to Shelly Adams. Thank you for volunteering!

FOOD BANK OPPORTUNITY TUESDAY

This Tuesday is our monthly shift at the Food Bank! If you can volunteer, talk to Mahree Skala or sign up using the link that was in the Friday email!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY MARCH 17

Wear the green for Stewardship Sunday! On March 17, we will have a special speaker from United Church Funds (our investment vehicle) to talk about the future of CUCC and our Stewardship options! We will have a pot luck meal after worship and hear about the three-legged stool of faithful stewardship. Bring a dish to share and stick around after worship!

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE 4/1 Scholarship applications for active members pursuing higher education are available in the church office for the 2024-2025 academic year. All applications are due by April 1.

DAYTIME BIBLE STUDY DURING LENT

Pastor Rick will be hosting a daytime Bible Study once a week during Lent! We will meet at 12:00, four Tuesdays in Lent– March 5, 12, 19 & 26. Bring your lunch and eat with us! We will be studying several women of the Bible, from both the Old and New Testaments.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	2/25	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		MBSR Class in Fellowship Hall	12:00 p.m.
		Quorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Tue	2/27	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Food Bank	5:30 p.m.
Wed	2/28	Bells/Choir Rehearsal	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Thu	2/29	Quorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Sun	3/3	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.

A SPECIAL WORD OF WELCOME...

To Rev. Dr. Mary Schaller Blaufuss, a good friend of Pastor Rick's and Shelly's. Dr. Blaufuss serves at Eden Seminary as Vice President for Advancement and Communication. She works with Eden alumni, fund-raising, communications church and organizational partnerships. Eden Seminary wants to thank Columbia UCC for your on-going support of theological education and invites you to consider new ways to get involved. www.eden.edu

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Connie Hackman Fairley . . . recovering from stroke

Ron Jenks . . . recovering from knee surgery

Barry Kirchhoff . . . health issues

Mike Rapp . . . recovering from surgery

Shelly Adams . . . recovering from knee surgery

Steve . . . challenges in life (Pastor Rick's Cousin)

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

The People of Israel/Palestine and Ukraine

Health Issues:

Cliff Beckman, John Adams, Cheryl Cobb

Neal Stumbo (Jean Strothmann's nephew)

Terry & Mike Freeman (friends of the Remeikas)

Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece)

Sheila . . . challenges in life and faith

The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Care Facilities:

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

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Helen Graves, Don Privitt, Jean Strothman

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden, Jeffrey Sanderson

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

Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 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

"Take Up Your Cross," the Savior Said

Mark 8:34

Charles W. Everest, 1883; alt.

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said, "if you would
 2 Take up your cross; let not its weight fill your weak
 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and let your
 4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ, nor think till

my dis - ci - ple be; Take up your cross with
 spir - it with a - larm; Christ's strength will bear your
 fool - ish pride be still; For Christ did not re -
 death to lay it down, For on - ly those who

will - ing heart and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 spir - it up and brace your heart, sup - port your arm.
 fuse to die up - on a cross on Cal - vary's hill.
 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

Charles Everest, after graduating from Trinity College, Hartford, was rector of a parish in Hamden, Connecticut, for thirty-one years. This sermon in verse is from his collection of hymns titled *Visions of Death and Other Poems*.

Tune: DEUS TUORUM MILITUM L.M.
 Grenoble Antiphoner, 1753

Lift Every Voice and Sing

James Weldon Johnson, 1921; alt.

1 Lift ev-ery voice and sing, till earth and heav - en ring, ring with the
 2 Ston-y the road we trod, bit-ter the chas-tening rod, felt in the
 3 God of our wea - ry years, God of our si - lent tears, God who has

har - mo - nies of lib - er - ty; Let our re - joic - ing
 days when hope un - born had died; Yet with a stead - y
 brought us thus far on the way; God, who by your

rise, high as the lis - tening skies, let it re - sound loud as the
 beat, have not our wea - ry feet, come to the place for which our
 might, led us in - to the light, keep us for - ev - er in the

roll - ing sea. Sing a song full of the
 peo - ple sighed? We have come o - ver a
 path, we pray. Lest our feet stray from the

Poet James Weldon Johnson was the first African-American to pass the bar examination in the state of Florida, and served as U.S. consul in Venezuela and Nicaragua. He collaborated with his composer brother, John Rosamond Johnson, to write Broadway operettas and edit song collections. John appeared in vaudeville, directed London musicals, and headed the Music

Tune: LIFT EVERY VOICE Irr.
J. Rosamond Johnson, 1921

faith that the harsh past has taught us, Sing a song full of the
 way that with tears has been wa - tered, We have come, tread - ing our
 plac - es, our God, where we met you, Lest our hearts, drunk with the

hope that the pres - ent has brought us; Fac - ing the
 path through the blood of the slaugh - tered, Out from the
 wine of the world, for - get you; Shad - owed be -

ris - ing sun of our new day be - gun, let us march
 gloom - y past, till now we stand at last where the white
 neath your hand, may we for - ev - er stand, true to our

on till vic - to - ry is won.
 gleam of our bright star is cast.
 God, true to our na - tive land.

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 17:1-7

1 When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless.

2 And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous.”

3 Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him,

4 “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

5 No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations.

6 I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you.

7 I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

Gospel Lesson

Mark 8:31-38

31 Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.

32 He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him.

33 But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

34 He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.

35 For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

36 For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life?

37 Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?

38 Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

BLACK HISTORY MONTH STORIES

Curated by Alisa Lau-Sieckman

Meet Kizzmekia Shanta Corbett. She is an American viral immunologist who is primarily responsible for the Moderna Covid Vaccine.

She was born and raised in North Carolina. Her fourth-grade teacher noted her outstanding talents later stating in part, “She dotted I’s and crossed her t’s. The best in my 30 years of teaching”.

Ms. Corbett knew in high school that she wanted to pursue science as a career. After graduating college, she worked at the National Institutes of Health as a biological sciences trainer. She received her Masters from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She went on for her doctorate by studying the role of human antibodies in dengue virus pathogenesis in Sri Lanka. (Dengue is a virus carried by mosquitoes. It infects 400 million people a year. 1 in 20 will develop symptoms that could lead to death.)

When Covid-19 emerged, Ms. Corbett realized that her prior research experience suggested that messenger RNA encoding protein could be used to excite the human immune response to produce protective antibodies against Covid-19. Her team partnered with Moderna to enter the required studies to get this vaccine approved by the FDA.

Ms. Corbett was profiled by Time’s magazine for her breakthrough and Dr. Fauci had this to say about her: “Kizzy is an African American scientist who is right at the forefront of the development of the vaccine. (She has) been central to the development of the Moderna mRNA vaccine and the Eli Lilly therapeutic monoclonal antibody that were first to enter clinical trials in the U.S.” He also said that, “her work will have a substantial impact on ending the worst respiratory-disease pandemic in more than 100 years.

As we all know, Covid has taken many twists and turns. We can be comforted that talented scientist like Kizzmekia Corbett are working tirelessly to develop innovative ways to fight this pandemic.