

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

June 14, 2026  
"ONA Sunday"



## **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**



June 14, 2026

10:30 a.m.

*“Restoring Joy”*

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

*“God loves righteousness and justice;  
The earth is full of steadfast love of God.”*

*-Psalm 33:5*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

“Sweet Hour of Prayer”

Jolene Hackman

*Arr. Joel Raney*

Carrying in the Light of Christ

Lighting the Flames of Love

Ashley Ramirez

\*Call to Worship

*(based on Psalm 33)*

Pat Forward

Praise God! Praise God at all times!

Let God’s praise be continually in your mouth!

**Our souls are devoted to God;**

**Let all God’s children hear and rejoice!**

Lift up God’s name in God’s Holy Place;

Let us praise God’s name together!

**We sought God’s presence, and God answered;**

**God delivered us from challenge and brought us blessings!**

**Come, let us worship God!**

\*Hymn

“A Hymn for Self Acceptance”

*(insert)*

\*Opening Prayer

*(written by Rev. Derek A. Terry)*

Pat Forward

**Holy and Liberating God, You gather us in all our colors, all our names, all our bodies, all our beauty. You gather the loud and the quiet, the certain and the questioning, the joyful and the grieving, the healed and the healing. You gather those who struggle, those who are trying, those still fighting. Root us beside living water. Root us in love that does not flinch. Root us in justice that does not back down. Root us in affirmation that refuses to whisper what should be shouted. Let this worship be sanctuary and spark. Let it be balm for the wounded and fire for the faithful. Let it remind us that we are Yours, and because we are Yours, we shall not be moved. We ask these prayers in Jesus’ name; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing (by Rev. Derek A. Terry)

Pastor Rick

Beloved, hear this good news: God does not abandon us. God does not leave us in the wilderness. God does not ask us to sacrifice our *beloved-ness* in order to be faithful. In Christ, the old powers do not get the final word. Fear does not get the final word. Exclusion does not get the final word. Bad theology that rejects does not get the final word. God's grace is still rising. God's Spirit is still making the church new. So stand tall, beloved. Breathe deep. You are forgiven. You are beloved. You are free. Thanks be to God.

\*Prayer Response

“Spirit of the Living God”

#283

*Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me;  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.  
Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me;  
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me!*

\*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

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!*

Affirmation Moment

Led by the Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 12:1-9

Pat Forward

*In the beginning... God called Abram. This story is the genesis of our faith. God promises new life to creation through the lineage of Abram (the Abrahamic Covenant), extending God's blessings to all of Abram's descendants, no matter who they would be or where they would be on life's journey.*

Page #8

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 9:9-13,18-26

Pat Forward

*Jesus boldly proclaims his inclusive love for all who have been rejected by society. In this short section, he boldly loves dozens of folks (tax collectors, dead daughters, women, and others who are rejected by others) who are labeled “unclean” by the oppressive majority. They are not only included, they are also affirmed by Jesus.*

Page #790

Anthem                            “Lean On Me/We Shall Overcome”  
  The Quorus and the Celebration Singers  
  *Arr. Mark Hayes*

Sermon                            “Restoring Joy”                            Pastor Rick

\*Hymn                            “All the Colors of the Rainbow”                            *(insert)*

Affirmation of Faith  
*(The CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant)*

**God of rainbow covenants and inclusive love, we gather here as Your church, committed to actively pursuing inclusion and affirmation in our interactions with everyone; but especially Your most vulnerable children, those who have been disenfranchised and dismissed by others.**

**Exemplifying Your love, we now gather at this time, reciting together the Open and Affirming/Inclusion covenant we, Your people, have adopted as our guide:**

**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.**

**God of love and grace, help us to keep this covenant close and fresh in our hearts, in our minds and in our interactions in Your world. This we pray in the name of the one who taught us to exemplify love, Your son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer



# 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>Moderator:</b> Jerry Kiesling	<a href="mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com">rollzierp50@gmail.com</a>
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<b>LODO Director:</b> Sara Koenig	<a href="mailto:lodo.sara.koenig@gmail.com">lodo.sara.koenig@gmail.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:	Pat Forward
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Phillip Neale & Llona Weiss
Greeters:	Sue Ann Schaefer
Technology:	Josh Muench & Adam Veteto
Council Stewards:	Ashley Ramirez & Mahree Skala

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Ashley Ramirez
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Christine Staelens & Audrey Lasley
Greeters:	Kitty Rogers
Technology:	Doug & Judi Privitt
Council Stewards:	Christine Staelens & Judi Privitt

Online Giving



## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	Jerry Kiesling	<a href="mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com">rollzierp50@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	Corinne Remeika	<a href="mailto:remeikas@tranquility.net">remeikas@tranquility.net</a>
<b>Secretary:</b>	Aimee Andersen	<a href="mailto:aca70re@gmail.com">aca70re@gmail.com</a>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Deborah Birkes	<a href="mailto:dlong@elon.edu.com">dlong@elon.edu.com</a>
<b>Recording Treasurer:</b>	Christine Staelens	<a href="mailto:tigersfour@gmail.com">tigersfour@gmail.com</a>
<b>Building &amp; Grounds:</b>	Allen Posz	<a href="mailto:aposz76@gmail.com">aposz76@gmail.com</a>
<b>Fellowship &amp; Hospitality:</b>	Mary Lorber	<a href="mailto:eldercow@gmail.com">eldercow@gmail.com</a>
<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship:</b>	Sue Ann Schaefer	<a href="mailto:ssas3307@aol.com">ssas3307@aol.com</a>
<b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation:</b>	Ashley Ramirez	<a href="mailto:ashknight0628@gmail.com">ashknight0628@gmail.com</a>
<b>Little One's Day Out:</b>	Darla Privitt	<a href="mailto:12darlap3@gmail.com">12darlap3@gmail.com</a>
<b>Membership &amp; Care:</b>	Judi Privitt	<a href="mailto:judprivitt811@gmail.com">judprivitt811@gmail.com</a>
<b>Nurture &amp; Education:</b>	Jessica Lucas	<a href="mailto:jlucas@cpsk12.org">jlucas@cpsk12.org</a>
<b>Outreach &amp; Advocacy:</b>	Mahree Skala	<a href="mailto:skalamahree@yahoo.com">skalamahree@yahoo.com</a>
<b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>	Kitty Rogers	<a href="mailto:kittyrogers3@gmail.com">kittyrogers3@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Rick Oberle	<a href="mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com">rick@columbiaucc.com</a>

**NURSERY CARE** is available for children in kindergarten and younger in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

### **JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION AT DOUGLASS PARK - 6/19**

June 19 is the anniversary of the end of the institution of legal enslavement; and every year that anniversary is commemorated at Douglass Park. This year, CUCC will have a booth! Come join us any time from 8:00a.m.-3:00 p.m. for the festivities. If you would like to help staff the booth, talk to Pastor Rick.

### **JUNETEENTH PARADE - 6/20**

The annual Juneteenth parade will be Saturday, June 20 at 10:00 a.m. on Broadway from Hitt Street to 4th. Come celebrate with your community!

### **THE BIBLE MEETS BROADWAY - 6/21**

On June 21, during the 9:00 a.m. hour, the Rev. Jackie Asher, a retired United Methodist pastor, will be offering a whimsical musical reflection on Biblical couples and how they relate to popular Broadway showtunes! This will be a fun trip down memory lane for anyone who likes showtunes. Check it out!

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 7/14 & 7/15**

Get ready to blast off! This year's Vacation Bible School will be out of this world. Save the date for Tuesday July 14 and Wednesday, July 15 for two days full of cosmic Christian fun. Registration information for helpers and attendees is in the Friday email, and on our website. Questions? Ask Lena Muench.

### **OPPORTUNITY CAMPUS OPEN HOUSE - 6/25**

The long-awaited Opportunity Campus will be fully open and functional this summer! The grand opening is June 25, and they will be hosting tours that day from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Come check out the new opportunities offered at this great new ministry presence!

### **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

Sun	6/14	<b><i>Open and Affirming Sunday</i></b>	
		Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		ONA Journey Presentation	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
Mon	6/15	Nurture & Education Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Tue	6/16	Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	6/17	Pastor Rick leads worship at The Bluffs	10:00 a.m.
Fri	6/19	Church office closed for Juneteenth Juneteenth celebration in Douglass Park	8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
Sat	6/20	Juneteenth Parade downtown	10:00 a.m.
Sun	6/21	<b><i>Juneteenth Sunday/Father's Day</i></b>	
		Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		Bible Meets Broadway	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.

***Flooring work will begin on the Fellowship Hall this week! The room will be sealed; no entry will be possible. All work will be completed by July 4.***

# Columbia UCC Prayer List

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

Kenny Holtgrewe... recovering from surgery (Marsha Posz's Father)  
Mary Jane Johnson... health issues (Joe Remeika' Sister)

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 family of Renee Good, The family of Alex Pretti,  
Jack and Claudia (Pastor Rick's friends), and so many others

Our US Military... deployed in the Middle East

## *Health Issues:*

Jeff Kies, Barry Kirchoff, Glenn Duermeyer, Evie Marcks,  
Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father), Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),  
Kenny & Jane Holtgrewe (Marsha Posz's parents),  
Karleen Martindale (Kasper's Mother),  
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, Kieran Armstrong, Jen Siebert

## *Living in Care Facilities:*

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Julie Roper

## *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:*

Chloe & Mark Eveler, Kristin & Adam Veteto

***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***

*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](mailto:melbamaes@gmail.com)  
or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 [tsoncasie@aol.com](mailto:tsoncasie@aol.com)*

## **Genesis 12:1-9**

12 Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you.

2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

4 So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

5 Abram took his wife Sarai and his brother’s son Lot and all the possessions that they had gathered and the persons whom they had acquired in Haran, and they set forth to go to the land of Canaan. When they had come to the land of Canaan,

6 Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land.

7 Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

8 From there he moved on to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east, and there he built an altar to the LORD and invoked the name of the LORD.

9 And Abram journeyed on by stages toward the Negeb.

## **Matthew 9:9-13,18-26**

9 As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, "Follow me." And he got up and followed him.

10 And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples.

11 When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, "Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?"

12 But when he heard this, he said, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick.

13 Go and learn what this means, 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners."

18 While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader came in and knelt before him, saying, "My daughter has just died, but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live."

19 And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples.

20 Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from a flow of blood for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak,

21 for she was saying to herself, "If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well."

22 Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, "Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well." And the woman was made well from that moment.

23 When Jesus came to the leader's house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion,

24 he said, "Go away, for the girl is not dead but sleeping." And they laughed at him.

25 But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up.

26 And the report of this spread through all of that district.

# A Hymn for Self-Acceptance

Wesley King

BEACH SPRING  
B.F. White, harm. Ronald A. Nelson

1. When you feel change might be hope - less, when you've giv - en up on God,  
2. Years and years, beg - ging for turn - ing in - to some - thing that you're not.  
3. You are worth more than you real - ize. You are won - der - ful - ly made

when you feel you're not worth sav - ing, that your be - ing - ness is flawed.  
The wrong prayer you have been pray - ing. You are not God's af - ter-thought.  
in the im - age of our Mo - ther, Fa - ther, Pa - rent, all the same.

When your prayers still seem un - an - swered, not a sound from the Di - vine,  
You are made as God in - tend - ed. You are per - fect - flaw-less too!  
Don't let doc - trines of our church - es use the Word to mis - con - stue,

may - be you have been mis - ta - ken. God is send - ing you a sign.  
May each one of you re - mem - ber, no - thing sev - ers God from you.  
for it's writ - ten in the scrip - tures, sure - ly God de - lights in you!

# All the Colors of the Rainbow

Carl P. Daw

ABBOT'S LEIGH  
Cyril V. Taylor

1. All the co - lours of the rain-bow live un - seen in dai - ly light,  
2. All the bo - dy's parts are wan-ted, nor can one de - spise the rest:  
3. Ev - ery lang - uage gains more mu - sic when the words for peace ap - pear:  
4. Teach us, God, our need of oth - ers; through them help us ful - ly live.

but their splen - dors find ex - pres-sion when re - leased to hu - man sight;  
head and hand must work to - get - ther, as must eye and ear and chest;  
Pax, Sa - laam, Ei - ri - ni, Hei - wa, Pa - ce, San - ti, Frie den, Mir.  
Wean us from our sel - fish hab - its; let us list - en, learn, for - give.


so the church re - veals most beau - ty where di - ver - si - ty is real:  
so the church needs all its mem - bers for a range of min - i - stries:  
Though our tongues make sounds that va - ry all be - speak a com - mon home:  
May we see your longed - for im - age in each hu - man heart and face,

breadth of race and class and gen - der, room for doubt and space to heal.  
var - ied gifts with one great mis - sion, "Do this for the least of these."  
long - ing for the end of con - flict and a new life in God's Sha - lom.  
and be - hold how those a - round us can be chan - nels of your grace.

# Sing a New World into Being

Mary Louise Bringle

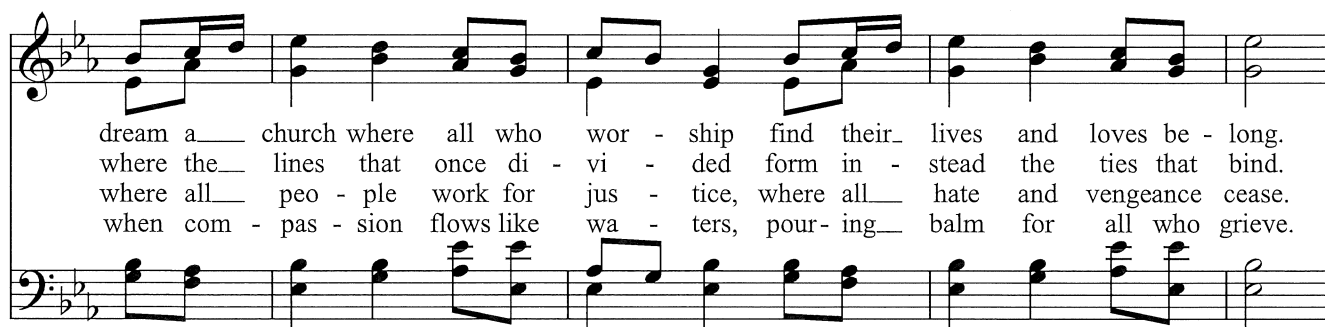
NETTLETON  
*Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second 1813*



1. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sound a bold and hope - ful theme.  
2. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where each gen - der class and race  
3. Sing a new world in - to be - ing where the home - less find a home.  
4. Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Join the an - cient proph - ets' cry



Find a tune for si - lent yearn - ings. Lend your voice and dare to dream:  
brings its rain - bow gifts and col - ors to God's lim - it - less em - brace;  
where no chil - dren ev - er hun - ger but are filled with God's sha - lom;  
for a time of health and plen - ty when all tears have been wiped dry;



dream a church where all who wor - ship find their lives and loves be - long.  
where the lines that once di - vi - ded form in - stead the ties that bind.  
where all peo - ple work for jus - tice, where all hate and vengeance cease.  
when com - pas - sion flows like wa - ters, pour - ing balm for all who grieve.



Sing a new world in - to be - ing. Sing as Christ in - spires your song!  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: risk trans - form - ing heart and mind!  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: raise the har - mo - nies of peace.  
Sing a new world in - to be - ing: live the prom - ise you be - lieve!

## “Is Pride a Sin?”

As we move into the month of June, you are going to be hearing a lot about Pride, especially from the Queer Community. Every year, as Pride Month rolls around, there are those who are confused by its existence; there are even those who equate Pride Month to the “sin” of pride that is mentioned Biblically.

Jesus talks against being prideful in Mark 7:22. The book of Proverbs speaks against being prideful many times, including 11:22, 16:5, and 16:18, the famous phrase, “pride goes before destruction, a haughty spirit before a fall.”

However, the pride that is talked about Biblically and the Pride that is referred to in the affirmation of oppressed communities are two very different understandings of the word.

When Biblical authors talk about pride, they are referring to the act of oppressing others for selfish desires, usually power. When these Biblical authors talk about pride, they are referring to oppressors and tyrants, people who are cruel to others, people who sow dissention and injustice, people who use power as a weapon. ***The Biblical understanding of pride refers to those who think of themselves as more powerful and important than even God.***

Pride Month is just the opposite. Pride Month is about restoration of dignity, building up community, recognizing the inherent self-worth in one another. Pride Month was born out of oppression, birthed by people who were oppressed by a system that embodied the Biblical version of pride. Pride Month is about giving back to the Queer community what has been stolen from them by cruel oppressors. Pride Month is about acknowledging the infinite diversity of God’s glorious Creation.

In the television show, “Joan of Arcadia,” Joan asks God about pride and humility. Encouraging her to live into her potential, God tells Joan to have pride in her work and have pride in who she is. She questions God saying, “but I thought pride was a sin?” God tells her that being proud of who you are and how you are created in God’s image is not a sin; pride is only sinful when it separates you from your true potential.

According to the theologian Paul Tillich, the definition of “sin” is “separation.” Anything that separates you from God, your community, or your true self is a sin. Pride Month is not about separation; it is about affirmation. Denying a person’s true identity, refusing to use a person’s chosen pronouns, diminishing someone’s personhood because of how God created them- those actions fit the definition of sin. Affirming the identity of a person who has been created Queer by God cannot, by definition, be sinful.

It is interesting to note that when Pride celebrations first began, in 1970, there was much discussion about calling this movement “Gay Power” instead of “Gay Pride.” But organizer L. Craig Schoonmaker insisted on “Pride” over “Power.” He said that “not everyone can have power; but everyone can have Pride.

Pride Month is about restoration of dignity, affirmation of identity, and building a safe community; not just for the Queer community, but for everyone. This month, I pray we may all embrace this opportunity to live together in harmony.

-by Pastor Rick