

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

April 26, 2026

“Fourth Sunday of Easter”



## **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**



**April 26, 2026**

**10:30 a.m.**

**"Baptism"**

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

*"God is my shepherd; I lack nothing  
-Psalm 23:1*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

Steve Jannetti  
Prichard / Lind

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship

*(based on Psalm 23)*

Llona Weiss

God, You are our Shepherd; we want for nothing.  
You bring us pastoral peace and comfort!

**God brings us blessings and Salvation,  
Restoring our souls!**

You lead us through the depths of despair;  
Through the darkest valleys of life.

**We do not fear misery or evil,  
For God is with us, guiding us and protecting us!**

You shower us with abundant blessings.  
Healing and restoring us, we are forever yours!

**God's Goodness and Mercy will pursue us always  
And we will endeavor to dwell in God's House forever!  
Come, let us worship God!**

\*Hymn

"Christ is Risen! Shout Hosanna!"

*(insert)*

\*Opening Prayer

Llona Weiss

**God of comfort and assurance, You are our shepherd and we are  
Your people. We gather this morning as Your people, searching  
for connection and seeking to follow Your guidance in the world.  
Forgive us for the times we fail to listen to Your call. Remind us  
that You work for justice and righteousness in all things, and that  
Your vision for Shalom is paramount over the mandates of the  
world. Open our hearts and our minds this morning, that we may  
live fully into our identity as Your people. In Jesus' name we  
pray; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

The promises of Jesus' Resurrection both comfort and challenge us on this continued Easter journey. God is our shepherd; God never leaves us alone. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

\*Prayer Response

"Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja"

***Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!***

***Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!***

***Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!***

***Halle-lu-ja! Halle-lu-ja!***

\*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

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 near:***

***Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea***

***Stories of Jesus, tell them to me!***

The Sacrament of Baptism

*Today we are celebrating the Baptism of Calvin William Walker,  
son of Garrett and Beth Walker*

Welcome and Proclamation

Questions for the Parents

\*Congregational Assent

Baptism & Blessing; Baptismal Prayer

Hymn: "Borning Cry"

#351

Mission Moment "Team Earth"

Llona Weiss

New Testament Lesson Acts 2:42-47

Llona Weiss

*After Peter gives his amazing sermon, three thousand people are baptized into the church. This story tells of them becoming the perfect model of church; celebrating joy and sharing in abundance. They exhibited heaven on earth, and to their number many more were added daily. Page #886*

Gospel Lesson

John 10:1-10

Llona Weiss

*Jesus uses the shepherd analogy to warn his friends about following others who preach a false gospel. The way that Jesus advocated is the way to God. Ironically, many twist this scripture to live it in ways that are antithetical to the wisdom Jesus expresses here.*  
Page #872

Anthem

“You Alone are God ”

Celebration Singers  
Mary McDonald

Sermon

“A Perfect Example”

Pastor Rick

\*Hymn

“My Shepherd is the Living God”

#247

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

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

“Air”

Steve Jannetti  
Bob Moore

\*Prayer of Dedication

Llona Weiss

**God of love, the gifts we give today are just one of the ways we show our discipleship; by giving back to You from our blessings. As we give, we pray that these gifts are used to serve Your children and to care for Your creation. May these gifts be blessings to glorify You, we pray. Amen.**

\*Benediction

Pastor Rick

*All music photocopied in the bulletin and reproduced on the video screen is done so using onelicense.net: License #A-727757*

\*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

“Hymns of Majesty”

Steve Jannetti  
Phillip Keveren

*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*

## **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.

# Columbia United Church of Christ

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**LODO Director:** Sara Koenig      lodo.sara.koenig@gmail.com  
**Custodian:** Caleb Berry      calebprenticeberry@gmail.com  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Fred Brandenburg

## TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:      Llona Weiss  
Song Leader:      Killian Boyd  
Ushers:      John & Brenda Muench  
Greeters:      Mary Lorber  
Technology:      Carissa Graves & John Graves  
Council Stewards:      Christine Staelens & Kristin Veteto

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:      Lena Muench  
Song Leader:      Katie Jones  
Ushers:      Mahree Skala & Jim Loveless  
Greeters:      Fred & Carolyn Malicoat  
Technology:      Brent Marcks & Lorry Dreier  
Council Stewards:      Jerry Kiesling & Mahree Skala



Online Giving

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

**Moderator:** Jerry Kiesling      rollzierp50@gmail.com  
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**Worship & Music:** Edie Diel      edie@thedandegroup.com  
**Pastor:** Rev. Rick Oberle      rick@columbiaucc.com

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

### **CHILDREN'S CHOIR**

Our elementary school age singers are scheduled to sing alongside adult choir members again on Mother's Day, 5/10. We'd love to have you join us! Questions? Ask Linda Neale or Connie Loveless.

### **EARTH DAY TODAY**

Come to Peace Park downtown (and surrounding streets) for our annual Earth Day fun fair, celebrating our commitment to Creation Care! See you downtown!

### **FOOD BANK FUN- 4/28**

Our next opportunity for fun at the Food Bank is this Tuesday, 4/28 at 5:30 p.m. If you would like to help, use the sign up link that was in the Friday email, or talk to Mahree Skala!

### **ALPHA HART LEWIS CARNIVAL - 5/8**

It is the end of the school year, and our Partner in Education, Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School, will be celebrating with a carnival on 5/8! They are looking for volunteers; if you can help talk to Llona Weiss!

### **TEAM EARTH LUNCH AND LEARN - 5/3**

Our next Team Earth Lunch and Learn will be 5/3, right after worship. Plan on sticking around to help begin crafting language for our Creation Justice Covenant as we take steps to becoming an Creation Justice Church!

### **ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING/POT LUCK - 5/17**

Save the date for our Annual Meeting! There will be a pot luck meal prior to the meeting, at noon. Plan to stick around and bring a dish!

### **SAVE THE DATE - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

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. More information will be available after Easter from our Nurture & Education Ministry Team.

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

Sun	4/26	Earth Day Bible Study/Sunday School Fellowship Worship (in person and livestream) Earth Day Booth @ Peace Park	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.
Mon	4/27	Scouts	7:00 p.m.
Tue	4/28	Staff Meeting Quilters Food Bank	10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 5:30 p.m.
Wed	4/29	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers Confirmation	6:00/7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.
Sun	5/3	Bible Study/Sunday School Fellowship Worship (in person and livestream) Team Earth Lunch & Learn	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

# Columbia UCC Prayer List

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

The family of Gene Detweiler... on their loss (Gail Marriott's Father)

Marna... health issues (Edie Diel's sister)

Joe Jannetti... on hospice (Steve's brother)

Mary Jane Johnson... health issues (Joe Remeika's sister)

Shirley Gallaher... recovering from hip replacement

Michael Butterworth... recovering from surgery

Christopher Tennill... on deployment in the Middle East

Jonathon Schultz... recovering from ankle surgery

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 Kirchhoff, Glenn Duermeyer, Evie Marcks, Dean Barry

Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father), Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),

Kenny & Jane Holtgrewe (Marsha Posz's parents),

Julie Roper (Alexandra's Mother), 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

## *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:*

Shelby Oberle & Ryan Furney; Chloe & Mark Eveler

*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)*

## **Acts 2:42-47**

42 They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

43 Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles.

44 All who believed were together and had all things in common;

45 they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need.

46 Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts,

47 praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

## **John 10:1-10**

1 "Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit.

2 The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep.

3 The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

4 When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice.

5 They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers."

6 Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

7 So again Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep.

8 All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them.

9 I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture.

10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

*Unison*

1. Christ is ris - en! Shout ho - san - na! Cel - e - brate this day of days.
2. Christ is ris - en! Raise your spir - its from the cav - erns of des - pair.
3. Christ is ris - en! Earth and heav - en nev - er - more shall be the same.



Christ is ris - en! Hush in won - der; all cre - a - tion is a - mazed.  
Walk with glad - ness in the morn - ing. See what love can do and dare.  
Break the bread of new cre - a - tion where the world is still in pain.



In the des - ert all - sur - round - ing, see, a spread - ing tree has grown.  
Drink the wine of res - ur - rec - tion, not a ser - vant, but a friend;  
Tell its grim, de - mon - ic cho - rus: "Christ is ris - en! Get you gone!"



Heal - ing leaves of grace a - bound - ing bring a taste of love un - known.  
Je - sus is our strong com - pan - ion. Joy and peace shall nev - er end.  
God the first and last is with us. Sing Ho - san - na ev - ery - one!



## My Shepherd Is the Living God

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27-30

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

C G C G7 C F G F C

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;  
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;  
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

Am G C F G Am G7 C G C

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.  
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.  
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

C F C Dm G C Am Dm Am FM7

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,  
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;  
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

Em C Am Dm Am Em C G7 C

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.  
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.  
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Isaac Watts, London's leading Congregational minister, wrote more than 600 hymns. His paraphrase of Psalm 23 has been altered here by combining a few phrases from Thomas Sternhold, a sixteenth-century English hymnwriter who also wrote metrical psalm texts.

Tune: CONSOLATION C.M.D.  
 Southern Harmony, 1835  
 Harm. Erik Routley, 1976  
 Alternate tune: CRIMOND (Each stanza above becomes two stanzas.)

## Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows

248

*Henry W. Baker, 1868; alt.**Ps. 23*

1 Such per - fect love my Shep - herd shows, whose  
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my  
 3 When vain and fool - ish oft I strayed, you,  
 4 I do not fear death's shad - owed vale when

good - ness fails me nev - er, Whose hand all things I  
 lov - ing Shep - herd leads me, And where the ver - dant  
 faith - ful Shep - herd, sought me, And on your shoul - der  
 you are here be - side me; Your rod and staff and

need be - stows and watch - es me for - ev - er.  
 pas - tures grow with food from heav - en feeds me.  
 gent - ly laid, then home re - joic - ing brought me.  
 strength pre - vail to com - fort and to guide me.

5 You spread a ta-ble in my sight,  
 your gifts of grace be-stow-ing;  
 And from your chal-ice I de-light  
 to taste your mer-cy flow-ing.

6 And so through all the length of days  
 your good-ness fails me nev-er;  
 Good Shep-herd, may I sing your praise  
 with-in your house for-ev-er.

*English clergyman Henry Baker greatly influenced hymnody in England and the United States through his leadership in preparing Hymns Ancient and Modern (1861). Baker's hymn is a recast of a George Herbert poem.*

Tune: DOMINUS REGIT ME 8.7.8.7.  
 John B. Dykes, 1868  
 Alternate tune: ST. COLUMBA