

Columbia United Church Of Christ

August 10, 2025
“Focusing on Faith”



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 10, 2025

9:30 a.m.

"Faith"

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

*"The mighty one, God, speaks and summons the earth
From the rising of the sun to its setting!" -Psalm 50:1*

Welcome and Greetings

Rev. Mike Williams

Prelude

"This Is My Father's World"

Steve Jannetti

Phillip Keveren

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 50)

Tricia Soncasie

The splendor of divine glory shines upon the earth,
Fire and wind alert the people to God's presence.

**Out of the wisdom of our traditions, God's glory shines forth;
God does not keep silent; Their presence is made known in us!**

God calls the faithful ones together,
All who have made covenant with God
through sacrifice and service.

The heavens declare God's righteousness!

All that moves on the earth belongs to God!

Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn

"Gather Us In"

(insert)

*Opening Prayer

Tricia Soncasie

Living God, we seek Your presence now. Our minds cannot understand You, yet our hearts cry out for a living relationship with You. Our eyes cannot see You, yet without You there would be nothing to see. Our faith cannot grasp You, yet we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who testify to Your goodness. In this time of worship, renew our vision of the eternal truths taught by Your son Jesus. Through the power of Your Holy Spirit, make us ready to live as the body of Christ. Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Rev. Mike Williams

As God's faithful people, we have been gathered into the Lord's presence. In this time of worship, God shines forth and declares the righteousness of Jesus. Through the faithfulness of Christ we have been made one with God and each other. Receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit and be at peace. Amen.

***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

Rev. Mike Williams

**“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!***

Mission Moment

“Reading & Writing Kits”

Tricia Soncasie

New Testament Lesson

Hebrews 11:1-3,8-16

Tricia Soncasie

The unknown author of this letter talks about the importance of faith. This was a letter written by an unknown Apostle to a Jewish audience, so it reflects stories that are more Judeo-centric than the letters from Paul. The author tells his audience that just as their ancestors had faith, they should also have faith in the midst of persecution.
Page #977

Gospel Lesson

Luke 12:32-40

Tricia Soncasie

Jesus tells a parable that seems unduly harsh; but it is really a celebration about faith. Those who are faithful are ready at all times to do God’s work in the world. Those who are not faithful are found wanting. Page #847

Anthem

“The Blessing”

**Marsha & Allen Posz
*Jobe, Carnes, Furtick, et al.***

Sermon

“Be Dressed for Action”

Rev. Mike Williams

***Hymn**

“We Live By Faith Not By Sight”

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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.

*Meditation Hymn "Breathe on Me, Breath of God" #292

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life Rev. Mike Williams

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 "Song Without Words" Steve Jannetti
Felix Mendelssohn

*Prayer of Dedication Tricia Soncasie

We thank you, God, for the renewing of our faith, the strengthening of our hope, and the rekindling of our love. Through the power of the living Christ, work in us and the gifts we offer at this moment so that we might walk faithfully with your church in the newness of life this day and throughout this entire week. Amen.

*Benediction Rev. Mike Williams

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 "Finale" Steve Jannetti
George Frédéric Handel

CUCC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2025 (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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Organist/Accompanist: Steve Jannetti	steve.jannetti@yahoo.com
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:	Tricia Soncasie
Ushers:	Keith Birkes & Jerry Kiesling
Greeters:	Mary Lorber
Technology:	Ted Dachroeden & Carissa Graves
Council Stewards:	Ted Dachroeden & Ashley Ramirez

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

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

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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 in the coatroom. We have many “new” folks in our community, so it is important to wear your nametag!

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!

READING AND WRITING KITS– DUE BACK BY 8/24

This year, CUCC’s “Festival of Sharing” focus will be on “Missouri Reading and Writing Packs.” Lists of needed items along with gallon size zipper storage bags, are available in the Gathering Area. Filled bags need to be returned by August 24. The supply list is in the bag.

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 would love to have you join us! To sign up, talk to Mahree Skala or click on the link that is 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 Dr. 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	8/10	Bible Study	8:30 a.m.
		Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	9:30 a.m.
Mon	8/11	LODO Staff Returns	
Tue	8/12	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Troop 708	6:30 p.m.
Sun	8/17	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

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Gather Us In

Unison D A C G Gm/B $\flat$ Dm

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, sha-dows of doubt are
 2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who
 3. Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the
 4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

C G D A C G

van-ish-ed a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,
 light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

Gm/B $\flat$ Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

A

C/G

D/F#

G

A

C/G



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in; our
 Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in— the
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pass-ion, give us to eat the
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



D/F#

G

A

D

A

C

G



spir-its in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low-ly;
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



Gm/Bb

Dm

C

Am7

D

C/D

Gm/D

D



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.



Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

- 1 Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.
2 Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval.
3 By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible.
- 8 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to set out for a place that he was to receive as an inheritance, and he set out, not knowing where he was going.
9 By faith he stayed for a time in the land he had been promised, as in a foreign land, living in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise.
10 For he looked forward to the city that has foundations, whose architect and builder is God.
11 By faith, with Sarah's involvement, he received power of procreation, even though he was too old, because he considered him faithful who had promised.
12 Therefore from one person, and this one as good as dead, descendants were born, "as many as the stars of heaven and as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore."
13 All of these died in faith without having received the promises, but from a distance they saw and greeted them. They confessed that they were strangers and foreigners on the earth,
14 for people who speak in this way make it clear that they are seeking a homeland.
15 If they had been thinking of the land that they had left behind, they would have had opportunity to return.
16 But as it is, they desire a better homeland, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; indeed, he has prepared a city for them.

Luke 12:32-40

32 “Do not be afraid, little flock, for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

33 Sell your possessions and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys.

34 For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. 35 “Be dressed for action and have your lamps lit;

36 be like those who are waiting for their master to return from the wedding banquet, so that they may open the door for him as soon as he comes and knocks.

37 Blessed are those slaves whom the master finds alert when he comes; truly I tell you, he will fasten his belt and have them sit down to eat, and he will come and serve them.

38 If he comes during the middle of the night or near dawn and finds them so, blessed are these slaves.

39 “But know this: if the owner of the house had known at what hour the thief was coming, he would not have let his house be broken into.

40 You also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

We Live by Faith and Not by Sight

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Henry Alford, 1844; alt.

John 20:24-29

Unison

1 We live by faith and not by sight;
 2 We may not touch Christ's hands and side,
 3 Help then, O Christ, our un - be - lief;
 4 That, when our life of faith is done,

no gra - cious words we hear From Christ who spoke as
 nor fol - low where Christ trod; But in con - fess - ing
 and may our faith a - bound To call on you when
 in realms of clear - er light We may be - hold you

none e'er spoke, who still we know is near.
 we re - joice: our Sav - ior and our God!
 you are near and seek where you are found:
 as you are, with full and end - less sight.

As dean of Canterbury, Henry Alford exemplified ecumenism by working closely with non-Anglican groups. He promoted New Testament scholarship with his famous commentary on the Greek New Testament, one of fifty books he published during his lifetime.

Tune: DUNLAP'S CREEK C.M.
 Samuel McFarland, c. 1816
 Harm. Richard Proulx, 1986

Breathe on Me, Breath of God

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Edwin Hatch, 1886; alt.

1 Breathe on me, Breath of God, fill me with life a - new
2 Breathe on me, Breath of God, un - til my heart is pure,
3 Breathe on me, Breath of God, stir in me one de - sire:
4 Breathe on me, Breath of God, so shall I nev - er die,

That I may love the way you love and do what you would do.
Un - til with you I will one will, to do and to en - dure.
That ev - ery earth - ly part of me may glow with ho - ly fire.
But live with you the per - fect life of your e - ter - ni - ty.

Between parish assignments in London, Edwin Hatch taught classics at Trinity College, Quebec, and lectured at Oxford. This hymn appeared in a leaflet, "Between Doubt and Prayer" (1878). Other hymns were published posthumously in Towards Fields of Light, London (1890).

Tune: TRENTHAM S.M.
Robert Jackson, 1894