

Columbia United Church Of Christ

October 19, 2025

“Children’s Sabbath Sunday”



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**



October 19, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Potential"

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

*"Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,
Because it is always with me."
-Psalm 119:98*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"My Heart, Ever Faithful"

J. S. Bach

Connie Loveless, piano; Linda Neale, flute

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 119)

Tricia Soncasie

God's word is a lamp to our feet;
God's word is a light to our path.

**We have sworn an oath to be God's servants;
We are confirmed to God's righteous ordinances.**

God's decrees are our heritage forever;
God's wisdom is the joy of our hearts.

**We live by God's law, and on it we meditate.
God is our hiding place and our shield.**

Though we are afflicted by many challenges, God is our guide.
We offer our praises to God!

**Uphold us, O God, that we may be safe.
Deal with us according to Your Steadfast Love.
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"Now, in the Days of Youth"

#350

*Opening Prayer

(from the Children's Defense Fund)

Tricia Soncasie

God of all and not just some, we confess that when some have too much and others too little, we have not proclaimed Your justice. When some have been surrounded by love and others excluded, we have not reached out with Your radical inclusion. When some have been set on easy paths forward and others left to stumble over obstacles, we have not cleared the way as Jesus admonished. When some are nurtured and others abandoned, we have not embraced them with Your love.

When some are encouraged and others disheartened, we have not spoken Your word of hope. Forgive us, we pray, for the ways we have not lived up to the scope of Your vision, the depth of Your love, the wideness of Your embrace.

God of all and not just some, help us to embody Your love and speak Your justice until every child may live into the fullness of the promise for which You created them. We pray these things in the name of Jesus, who came for all and not just some. Amen.

***Assurance of Blessing**

Pastor Rick

God challenges us to work in unity with one another across human-created barriers to God's glory. But even when we forget this call, God still loves us and forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

***Prayer Response**

"Weave"

***Weave, weave! Weave us together
Weave us together in unity and love
Weave, weave! Weave us together
Weave us together, together in love***

***Sharing God's Gift of Peace**

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***

Mission Moment

"Women's Health Kits"

Pastor Rick

Anthem

Arr. Joel Raney

"He's Got the Whole World with "This is My Father's World"
Celebration Singers and CUCC Children's Choir

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Tricia Soncasie

The prophet speaks of the future that is full of potential. Though Israel is in exile, enslaved in Babylon, all is not lost. The hope that God instills in each one of us is living in the children of Israel and they will build something new, completely unlike what their parents built, but faithful nevertheless.

Jesus tells a parable about a persistent widow who receives justice because of her persistence. The wisdom of this parable tells us that even those who are seemingly the most powerless have the potential for great power with persistent advocacy.

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Sermon:

“Potential and Persistence”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“Little Children, Welcome”

#323

*Litany for Children’s Sabbath Sunday

(by Marian Wright Edelman, in honor of Children’s Sabbath Sunday)

With all our heart and with all our mind, we offer our prayers to God.

For the body of Christ, realizing that every child is made in Your image; we pray that we welcome every child as You welcomed the children, and that we bring good news to the poor;

Bless us, Loving God, that we may be a blessing.

For our nation and our leaders, grant wisdom and courage to change what is unjust and recognize that until all the children are well, none of us are well, we offer our prayers to God.

Bless us, Loving God, that we may be a blessing.

In a world where children hunger, where they face bullets and bombs, where they know the exile of prison and refugee camp, help us protect and defend them, loving God.

Bless us, Loving God, that we may be a blessing.

On this Children’s Sabbath day, for our nation’s children in poverty, that we use all that we have and all that we are to nurture the next generation, we pray to the Lord.

Bless us, Loving God, that we may be a blessing.

For all children whose lives were cut short by poverty and injustice, we pray to the Lord.

Bless us, Loving God, that we may be a blessing.

God of all mercy, we confess that we have failed to live our lives as ones made in Your image. We have not loved each other as children in Christ, we have not welcomed all children and so welcomed You. We have left stumbling blocks in the way of too many children. Forgive us our sins and uphold us by Your Spirit, that we may do justice, love in kindness, and walk humbly with You. In Jesus’ name we pray; Amen.

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.

*Hymn "Touch the Earth Lightly" #569

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life 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*

Offertory "Jesus Loves Me" Gina Pierson
Arr. Martha Meier

*Prayer of Dedication Tricia Soncasie

God of glory, we give our gifts today to glorify Your name. As we do, we respond to Your call to humble service, serving others through our offerings. Take these gifts we offer today and multiply them. Use them to serve Your children in many ways; that all may be united in service and love. 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 "Go, My Children, With My Blessing" Gina Pierson
Julie Lind

Columbia United Church of Christ

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lodo.sara.koenig@gmail.com

Custodian: Caleb Berry

calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Tricia Soncasie

Song Leader: Killian Boyd

Ushers: Phillip Neale

Greeters: Jessica Lucas

Technology: Carissa Graves & John Graves

Council Stewards: Ted Dachroeden & Jerry Kiesling



Online Giving

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Lauren Lippincott

Song Leader: Mike Pierson

Ushers: Llona Weiss & Pat Forward

Greeters: Carol Duermeyer

Technology: Josh Muench & Lorry Dreier

Council Stewards: Lena Muench & Ashlee Ramirez

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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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

If you do not have a nametag, or if there are any changes needed on your nametag, fill out a form by the nametags in the coatroom. We have many “new” folks in our community, so it is important to wear your nametag!

LODO PUMPKIN DAY- 10/24

Our Little One’s Day Out preschool ministry will be celebrating fall with a Pumpkin Day party on 10/24 from 9:15 a.m. - noon! We are looking for volunteers to help staff the activities so the teachers are free to circulate with their students. Can you help? Email LODO Director Sara Koenig if you can!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING- 10/26

The Annual Congregational Budget Meeting will be 10/26 at the conclusion of worship. The Council will be presenting a proposed Budget, which will be distributed today, and asking for affirmation. Following the meeting, we will have a Halloween Pot Luck meal hosted by the Fellowship and Hospitality Ministry Team. Come to church in costume that Sunday for Halloween!

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	10/19	Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Fellowship Hall Reserved- Private Event	11:00 a.m.
Mon	10/20	Loaves & Fishes	4:30 p.m.
		Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	10/21	Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Pause to Color	1:00 p.m.
		Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	10/22	Good Dads Strong Schools @ AHL	7:00 a.m.
		PIE Certificate Presentation @ AHL	4:00 p.m.
		Chapel Ringers & Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Thu	10/23	Parents Support Group Gathering	6:00 p.m.
		Worship & Music Ministry Team Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Sat	10/25	Quilts of Valor Craft and Bake Sale	9:00 a.m.
		Down Syndrome Walk @ Stankowski Field	11:30 a.m.
Sun	10/26	Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Budget Meeting	11:30 a.m.
		Halloween Party & Potluck	12:00 p.m.
		Pastor Rick leads worship at Lenoir Woods	6:30 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Rev. Jim Elliott... health issues

Claudia Hutcherson... health issues (Ron Tennill's Sister)

Ronald Remika... health issues (Joe Remika's Brother)

Doug... health issues (Alexandra's neighbor)

Owen Ramsingh and family

The family and friends of Aiyanna Williams... on their loss

The family of Janeen Atwood... on their loss (Lena's friend)

Mike Gregory... health issues

Monique... recovering from accident (Elaine Trout's friend)

Jim Posz... health issues (Allen's Father)

Dr. Ryan Link... health issues; prayers for him and his family

Cody Kile... recovery from accident

Phillip Neale's Niece... awaiting liver transplant

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),

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@gmail.com

Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 tsoncasie@aol.com

Jeremiah 31:31-34

31 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

32 It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD.

33 But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Luke 18:1-8

1 Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart.

2 He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people.

3 In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my accuser.’

4 For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone,

5 yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.’ ”

6 And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says.

7 And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them?

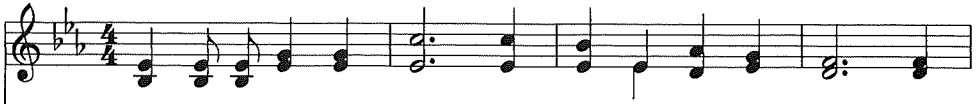
8 I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

Now in the Days of Youth

350

Walter J. Mathams, 1913; alt.
Adapt. Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1992

Eccles. 12:1; 1 Cor. 16:13; Deut. 30:19-20



1 Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice, when
2 Teach us to use our lives with pur - pose and with power for
3 Teach us to love in truth, to give and to re - ceive with
4 Teach-er, Cre - a - tor, God, en - fold us in your arms; be



hope and doubt touch ev - ery hour, when all thoughts find a voice,
vi - sions of a bet - ter world and for de - ci - sion's hour;
joy - ful and with o - pen hearts, with all that we be - lieve;
with us as we try our wings, and keep us safe from harm.



We turn, O God, to you for guid-ance and for grace. In
To choose the way of life, re - ject the way of death, un -
To seek an - oth - er's good, to hon - or what is right, to
All good and per - fect gifts come to us from your hand. O



all our days, in all our ways, help us to seek your face.
til the ra - dant force of God fills mind and strength and breath.
let our will and our de - sire be held in ho - ly light.
help us use them care - ful - ly and live by love's com - mand.

When the Rev. Walter J. Mathams of London wrote this hymn for use at Christian Endeavor and Sunday School conventions, he did not realize it would receive wide circulation. It was introduced in the United States in 1913 in Worship and Song.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
George J. Elvey, 1868

Little Children, Welcome

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*Fred Pratt Green, 1973**Unison*

*1 Lit - tle chil-dren, wel - come! Earth is yours to live in;
2 Lit - tle chil-dren, wel - come! Je - sus cares a - bout you;
3 Lit - tle chil-dren, wel - come! We, the church of Je - sus,
4 Lit - tle chil-dren, wel - come! God will make you hap - py,

arms of love pro - tect you, lit - tle chil-dren, wel - come!
Je - sus now en - folds you, lit - tle chil-dren, wel - come!
we will help your grow - ing, lit - tle chil-dren, wel - come!
Je - sus save and keep you, lit - tle chil-dren, wel - come!

**Other words may be substituted as appropriate; for example, "Sisters, brothers, welcome!" "Little sister, welcome!" or "Little brother, welcome!"*

Fred Pratt Green is a noted British hymnwriter who was awarded an honorary doctorate from Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia, where his papers will be held. The uncomplicated tune by contemporary composer Roy Hopp makes this an easy hymn for people of all ages.

Tune: SAIPAN 6.6.6.6.
Roy Hopp, 1988

Touch the Earth Lightly

Unison
Brightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 * 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

*The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Shirley Erena Murray's notes on this hymn state that the title line is borrowed from an Australian Aboriginal saying. The "clouds of disaster" mentioned in stanza 2 refer to nuclear testing by France, which New Zealand has protested at the United Nations many times.

Tune: TENDERNESS 5.5.10.D.
 Colin Gibson, 1992

LITTLE ONE'S DAY OUT PRESENTS

PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

OCTOBER 23RD
6:00PM-7:30PM

WITH ALLISON KEMBLE

EVENT DETAILS

Join licensed counselor, Allison Kemble, and other LODO families in talking about parenthood. This is a judgement free zone to talk about the good, the bad, and the ugly. You are NOT alone, and this group is here to help support you! Event is \$5 for participating adults. Please let us know if you need childcare!

REGISTER BY
OCTOBER 16TH



HALLOWEEN



Potluck



OCT 26 12:00 PM

Columbia United Church of Christ

Join us for a family friendly spooky potluck! Come to worship dressed up in your costume and stay after for bingo and food. Bring your favorite dishes to share with others and celebrate the late fall holiday.

