

Columbia United Church Of Christ

February 16, 2025

“Worthy, Accepted, Loved”



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 16, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Loved"

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

*"I give thanks to You with all my heart, O God;
I sing Your praise before all else!"
-Psalm 138:1*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"I Am the Vine"

Steve Jannetti

John Michael Talbot

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 146)

Conference Youth

Hallelujah! Praise the ageless one, O my soul!

**I will praise the ever-living God all my life;
I will sing praises to my God throughout my life.**

Put not your trust in the great, nor in any child of earth,
for there is no help in them.

When they breathe their last, they return to earth,
and in that day their thoughts perish.

Happy are these for whom the God of Rebekah's line is their help,
whose hope is in the Creator of all, their God.

**Maker of heavens and earth, the seas, and all that is in them;
keeping faith forever.**

Bringer of justice to the oppressed,

Bringer of bread to the hungry;

The Compassionate God sets the prisoners free.

The all-seeing God opens the eyes of the blind,

The just God lifts up those who are bowed down;

The righteous God loves the righteous.

The Mother of All cares for the stranger,
orphan, and widow she bears up,

but the way of the wicked she confounds.

**The Majestic One shall reign forever,
your God, O Zion, from generation to generation, Hallelujah!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

“You are Salt for the Earth, O People”

#181

*Opening Prayer

Conference Youth

God of love, You call us to love as You love us. You demonstrate the worthiness of all people by calling all to be messengers of this love regardless of their status among humans. You call the outcast, the vulnerable, and the overlooked to be your messengers. Remind us that You accept us and love us just as we are, even when we don't feel like we are accepted by others. Forgive us for the times when we fail to love others and accept them as they are. Strengthen us to stand up for our neighbors who are vulnerable and need to feel Your love through our actions. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God's Holy Spirit shows us the possibilities of what could be if we just trusted God. But even when are blind to this revelation, God 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

“This Little Light of Mine”

(Sung as children return to their seats)

***This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!***

Team Earth Moment

“Solar Power”

Shelly Adams

Old Testament Lesson

1 Kings 17:8-16

Conference Youth

This is the story of Elijah, who was a fugitive from the tyranny of King Ahab, taking refuge with a poor widow who was about to die. From scarcity, God grants abundance; and both Elijah, the widow, and her son are blessed by God's provision.

Page #282

Gospel Lesson

Luke 4:16-27

Conference Youth

Jesus shares the Good News in his hometown, where he is met with skepticism by those who knew him as a child. But he speaks to them about faith, and pointed out that in the stories of their traditions, skeptics rejected God's blessings while those with open hearts received them. His criticism was not met with great reception by those leaders.
Page #835

Anthem

“Deep River”

Katie Jones
Harry T. Burleigh

Sermon

“Worthy, Accepted, Loved”

Alysha Petry

*Hymn

“Blessed are the Poor in Spirit”

#180

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.

*Meditation Hymn

“Here I Am, LORD”

(insert)

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

“Romanze”

Steve Jannetti
Franz Joseph Haydn

*Prayer of Dedication

Conference Youth

God of light; through these gifts, we help Your Glory Shine. Take them and use them to transform Your world. We pray that we may always be bold enough to love, bold enough to serve, bold enough to give; all to Your glory. Amen.

*Benediction

Pastor Rick

*Response: “Jesus, the Light of the World” (*verse 3 only*) #160

*Christ, by highest heaven adored; Jesus, the Light of the World;
Christ, the everlasting Word, Jesus, the Light of the World.*

*We will follow the light, beautiful light,
Come where the dew drops of mercy are bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.*

*Postlude

“Postlude in Ab Major”

Steve Jannetti
Charles Rinck

CONFERENCE YOUTH AND CYE

The Missouri Mid-South Conference leadership hosts a Conference Youth Event (CYE) each President’s Day weekend centering around themes of faith, social justice, and relationship. This annual event is a bonding time as well as a faith building and educational time for youth and youth leaders all across Missouri, Arkansas, and Memphis, Tennessee. Each year they come together and usually that gathering is at Camp MoVal, our Conference Camp in Union, MO.

This year, MoVal will not be opening until May; so the Conference began searching for another venue. CUCC was happy to offer our space! So all weekend, we have hosted 50 youth and adult leaders from all across the Conference. They participated in mission work with our Columbia mission partners, faith building experiences here at CUCC, and other fun activities.

It is a great opportunity for us to share our resources for this Conference Youth Event, and welcome them to our facility and our worship this morning. Welcome to our Conference Youth and Youth Leaders!

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

3201 1-70 Drive NW; Columbia, MO 65202

Phone: 573-445-7931

Pastor's cell: 573.241.2027

Website: www.columbiaucc.com

Pastor: Rev. Richard Oberle	rick@columbiaucc.com
Student Pastor: Shelly Adams	shellyraeadams@gmail.com
Admin. Assistant: Alexandra Roper	office@columbiaucc.com
Moderator: Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Music Coordinator: Casey Wood	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:	Conference Youth
Ushers:	Llona Weiss & Phillip Neale
Greeters:	Susan Dunham
Technology:	Ted Dachroeden & John Graves
Council Stewards:	Tricia Price & Jerry Kiesling

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Jessica Lucas
Ushers:	Mark & Jane Duncan
Greeters:	Carol Duermeyer
Technology:	Doug Privitt & Judi Privitt
Council Stewards:	Kristin Veteto & Judi Privitt



Online giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Kurt Heine	heinekurt@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling	rollzierp50@gmail.com
Secretary:	Alethea Tennill	atennill108@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Deborah Birkes	dlong@elonedu.com
Recording Treasurer:	Christine Staelens	tigersfour@gmail.com
Building & Grounds:	Ted Dachroeden	gpadoc4gd@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Mary Lorber	eldercow@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship:	Shelly Adams	shellyraeadams@gmail.com
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Tricia Price	tricialprice@gmail.com
Little One's Day Out:	Kristin Veteto	kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com
Membership & Care:	Judi Privitt	judiprivitt811@gmail.com
Nurture & Education:	Lena Muench	cfg323@yahoo.com
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mark Duncan	markduncan2@mchsi.com
Worship & Music:	Jedd Schneider	elusive4thtenor@hotmail.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!

LUNCH & LEARN TODAY 2/16

Today is our Team Earth “Lunch & Learn” focusing on Solar Power! Stick around for lunch, and hear from Jay Hasheider about how solar power works and how solar power is making all our lives better. See Shelly Adams for more information. Come join us for food, fun and education!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST 2/22

The annual CUCC Habitat for Humanity Pancake Breakfast will be 2/22 in the Fellowship Hall. The Men’s Fellowship is coordinating this, but they could use your help serving– and eating! If you want to help, talk to Brent Marcks or Doug Privitt. They also have tickets available– bring a group! Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$4 for those ages 6-12, and free to those 5 and under. All profits are donated to Habitat for Humanity.

ALPHA HART LEWIS COLLECTION THRU 2/23

There is a shopping cart in the lobby for AHL for goodies to stock the teacher’s lounge ahead of conferences week. Bring your donations for AHL! Collection ends next Sunday. For more information, talk to Llona Weiss.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 3/2– POT LUCK MEAL!

Bring your favorite dish on March 2 for Stewardship Sunday! We will celebrate everyone’s talents by sharing a meal together. We also will have, as our special guest, professor Kristin Leslie from Eden Seminary, who will share the joy of church with us. Don’t miss celebrating with your church family on March 2!

FASTNACHT IS COMING UP FAST– 3/4

Fastnacht will be here before you know it! “The feast before the fast” will be on Tuesday, March 4; right before Ash Wednesday. German food, German music, and lots of fun! Don’t miss it! Talk to Mary Lorber for more details. Sign up using the link in the Friday Email or the poster on our Community Board.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	2/16	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Team Earth Lunch & Learn	12:00 p.m.
Tue	2/18	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		Church Council Executive Team	5:30 p.m.
		Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	2/19	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Thu	2/20	Women’s Fellowship	9:30 a.m.
Sat	2/22	Habitat for Humanity Pancake Breakfast	7:00 a.m.
Sun	2/23	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Sharon Elliott... on hospice
The Family of Howard Lavelly... on their loss (Gene's father)
Cas Bureson...health issues (Mahree's cousin)

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our partnership friend
The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

Edie Diel, Neal Sprick, Lloyd Mickelson, Bryan Crousore
Kristan Whelihan... health issues (Russell Eveler's teacher)
Ann Wilke... health issues (Alethea's mother)
Jim Elliott, Cheryl Cobb,
Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece), Jennifer (Edie Diel's niece),
Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),
Joanne Good (Sue Beckman's friend), Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley
Marilyn Coronado (Corinne Remeika's friend)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Care Facilities:

Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Helen Graves, Sharon Elliott

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, Alice Moon

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 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***

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Matt. 5:13-15

Unison

D (allow to ring off)

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

Share the fla- vor of life, O peo - ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho - ly and bright, O peo - ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer-cy and seeds of jus - tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the reign of mer-cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of jus - tice, bring forth the Cit - y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain
 Marty Haugen, 1986

1 Kings 17: 8-16

8 Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

9 “Go now to Zarephath, which belongs to Sidon, and live there; for I have commanded a widow there to feed you.”

10 So he set out and went to Zarephath. When he came to the gate of the town, a widow was there gathering sticks; he called to her and said, “Bring me a little water in a vessel, so that I may drink.”

11 As she was going to bring it, he called to her and said, “Bring me a morsel of bread in your hand.”

12 But she said, “As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.”

13 Elijah said to her, “Do not be afraid; go and do as you have said; but first make me a little cake of it and bring it to me, and afterwards make something for yourself and your son.

14 For thus says the LORD the God of Israel: The jar of meal will not be emptied and the jug of oil will not fail until the day that the LORD sends rain on the earth.”

15 She went and did as Elijah said, so that she as well as he and her household ate for many days.

16 The jar of meal was not emptied, neither did the jug of oil fail, according to the word of the LORD that he spoke by Elijah.

Luke 4: 16-27

16 When he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read,

17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.”

20 And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him.

21 Then he began to say to them, “Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

22 All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, “Is not this Joseph’s son?”

23 He said to them, “Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, ‘Doctor, cure yourself!’ And you will say, ‘Do here also in your hometown the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum.’ ”

24 And he said, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.

25 But the truth is, there were many widows in Israel in the time of Elijah, when the heaven was shut up three years and six months, and there was a severe famine over all the land;

26 yet Elijah was sent to none of them except to a widow at Zarephath in Sidon.

27 There were also many lepers in Israel in the time of the prophet Elisha, and none of them was cleansed except Naaman the Syrian.”

Blessed Are the Poor in Spirit

*Matt. 5:3–12; Luke 6:20–23; John 20:29; 2 Cor. 5:17–18**Rusty Edwards, 1993**Unison*

1 Blessed are the poor in spir - it: heav - en will some - day be theirs.
 2 Blessed all who thirst or hun - ger: righ - teous - ly they will be fed.
 3 Each seek - ing peace and jus - tice shall be known as God's own heir.

Blessed are the mourn - ing chil - dren: com - fort comes from One who cares.
 Those who re - spond with mer - cy will see mer - cy up a - head.
 Blessed, too, are those ill - treat - ed for what's good and right and fair.

Blessed the meek and pa - tient, hav - ing cour - age to hang on.
 Blessed the clean in spir - it— beau - ti - ful, the pure in heart;
 Blessed the New Cre - a - tion, joy be - yond what we con - ceive;

Soon all earth they will in - her - it; times of tri - als will be gone.
 One day they will see their Mak - er, nev - er - more to live a - part.
 Blessed all those who trust the prom - ise: with - out see - ing, they be - lieve!

Howard M. Edwards III, who writes as Rusty Edwards, is an ordained Lutheran pastor from Illinois. The tune for this new Beatitudes paraphrase was composed especially to be interpreted by liturgical dancer Annika Gustafson.

Tune: ANNIKA'S DANCE 7.7.7.6.7.8.7.
Jane Marshall, 1993

Here I Am, Lord

Unison

1. I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo- ple cry.
 2. I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo- ple's pain.
 3. I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.

All who dwell in deep - est sin my hand will save.
 I have wept for love of them, they turn a - way.
 I will set a feast for them, my hand will save.

I who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.
 I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.
 Fin-est bread I will pro- vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.

Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?

Harmony

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you call-ing in the

night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will

hold your peo-ple in my heart. heart.
heart, in my heart.

heart, in my heart.