

Columbia United Church Of Christ

October 18, 2026

“Children’s Sabbath 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



October 18, 2026

10:30 a.m.

"Children's Sabbath"

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

*"Extol the LORD our God, and worship at God's holy mountain;
For the LORD our God is holy."-Psalm 99:9*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Rigadoun" from Holberg Suite"

Tim Guillaume
Edvard Grieg

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 99)* Confirmation Students

God, Your Kingdom is established over all.

The earth rejoices in the vision of Your economy of justice!

**We remember the stories of our traditions;
Those who cried out to you, O God for justice.**

You answered them, O God, by establishing relationship.
They kept Your decrees and the statutes You gave them!

**We know that God is Still Speaking to us today;
Challenging us towards Justice, Righteousness and Shalom!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"Now, in the Days of Youth"

#350

*Prayer

(from the Children's Defense Fund)

Confirmation Students

God of all, we know that when some have too much and others too little, we have not proclaimed Your justice. 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. 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. 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; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God challenges us to proclaim justice, righteousness, and Shalom for all of Their children. But even when we forget this mandate, 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

Pastor Rick

**May God's Peace be with you!
And also with you!**

Children's Time

“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!***

Children's Anthem

“Jesus in the Morning”

Rainbow Bells

Mission Moment

“The Food Bank”

Mahree Skala

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 11:1-9

Confirmation Students

The Prophet is writing in a time of turmoil. The nation of Israel has been destroyed, and the people have been exiled to foreign lands. But in the midst of destitution, the prophet writes of hope. He envisions a peaceable kingdom that will exist one day, if only the people stayed true to God and God's provision.

Page #558

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 19:13-15

Confirmation Students

Children were being brought to Jesus, and the disciples tried to turn them away; but Jesus told them to let the little children come to him; for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to them. What did he mean by this?

Page #800

Anthem

“Arky, Arky”

Chapel Ringers
arr. Tammy Waldrop

Sermon

“Blessing the Children”

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 often failed to live our lives as ones made in Your image. 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 expansive language in our unison recitation of The Lord's Prayer. You are certainly welcome to use more traditional words 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 from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*Hymn "Touch the Earth Lightly" #569

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*

Offertory Tim Guillaume

*Prayer of Dedication Confirmation Students

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 Tim Guillaume

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:	Confirmation Students
Song Leader:	Killian Boyd
Ushers:	Christine Staelens & Fred Malicoat
Greeters:	Mary Lorber
Technology:	Josh Muench & Lorry Dreier
Council Stewards:	Judi Privitt, Jessica Lucas & Allen Posz

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Ashley Ramirez
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Mark & Jane Duncan
Greeters:	Carol Duermeyer
Technology:	Carissa Graves & John Graves
Council Stewards:	Ashley Ramirez & Jerry Kiesling

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling
Vice Moderator:	Corinne Remeika
Secretary:	Tricia Soncasie
Treasurer:	Aimee Andersen
Recording Treasurer:	Christine Staelens
Building & Grounds:	Allen Posz
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Mary Lorber
Finance & Stewardship:	Sue Ann Schaefer
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Ashley Ramirez
Little One's Day Out:	Darla Privitt
Membership & Care:	Judi Privitt
Nurture & Education:	Jessica Lucas
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mahree Skala
Worship & Music:	Kitty Rogers



Online Giving

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

YOUNG ADULT GATHERING - 10/18

Our Young Adult Fellowship Group has been forming over the past few weeks, and it is growing! Our next gathering will be next Sunday, 10/18 at Lauren and Jesse Lippincott's house. Talk to Lauren, Jesse, Pastor Rick or Ashley Ramirez for more details!

HALLOWEEN PARTY AND POTLUCK- 10/25

Our Halloween Party/Potluck will be after worship next Sunday- bring a dish! For questions, talk to Mary Lorber.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	10/18	Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Ballot Initiatives Forum	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Youth Group Service Day	12:00 p.m.
		Outreach & Advocacy Team Meeting	12:00 p.m.
		Young Adult Gathering at Lippincott's	5:00 p.m.
Mon	10/19	Loaves & Fishes	4:30 p.m.
		Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	10/20	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Pause to Color	1:00 p.m.
		Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	10/21	Good Dads at Alpha Hart Lewis	7:00 a.m.
		Pastor Rick leads worship at The Bluffs	10:00 a.m.
		Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Confirmation	7:15 p.m.
Fri	10/23	LODO Pumpkin Fun Day	9:15 a.m.
		Alpha Hart Lewis Trunk or Treat	5:00 p.m.
Sat	10/24	Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk	11:30 a.m.
Sun	10/25	<i>REFORMATION SUNDAY/HALLOWEEN</i>	
		Bible Study/	
		Sunday School Halloween Party	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Halloween Party & Pot Luck	12:00 p.m.

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Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

The family of Mark Fairley... on their loss
The family of Mike Freeman...on their loss (Corine Remeika's friend),
Don Privitt, Jan Barry ... recovering from health issues
The Veteto Family... welcoming baby boy Veteto!
The Posz family... celebrating the life of their friend, Jackson
The family of Otilia Montenegro... celebrating her life (Eloy's aunt)
Rev. Dale Parson... health issues
Jan Keithley... health issues (Donna Marsh's friend)
Fairview United Methodist Church... after several break-ins this week
Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary... our Partner in Education
All those whose lives are affected by state sanctioned terrorism...

Our US Military... deployed in the Middle East

In Hospice Care:

Joyce Andersen (Aimee's mother-in-law),
Julie Roper (Alexandra's mother), Fred Wilke (Alethea's father)

Health Issues:

Jeff Kies, Barry Kirchhoff, Glenn Duermeyer, Evie Marcks,
Julia Marsh, Becky Weston, Connie Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link,
Kenny & Jane Holtgrewe (Marsha Posz's parents),
Cassandra Gartner (Edie's friend), Rev. Carolyn Held (Edie's niece),
Martha (friend of the Veteto family), Ken (Adam Veteto's cousin),
Mary Jane Johnson (Joe Remeika's sister)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Assisted Living Facilities:

Dean & Jan Barry, Vernie Blank, Gary Ehrhardt

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Sue Beckman, Linda Evans, Don Privitt, Walter & Patty Schroeder

Serving us in the military:

Aaron Dachroeden, Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson,
Garrett Holtgrewe... (Marsha Posz's nephew)

*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*

Isaiah 11:1-9

1 A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

2 The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD.

3 His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear,

4 but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

5 Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

6 The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

7 The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

8 The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

9 They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.

Matthew 19:13-15

13 Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them,

14 but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

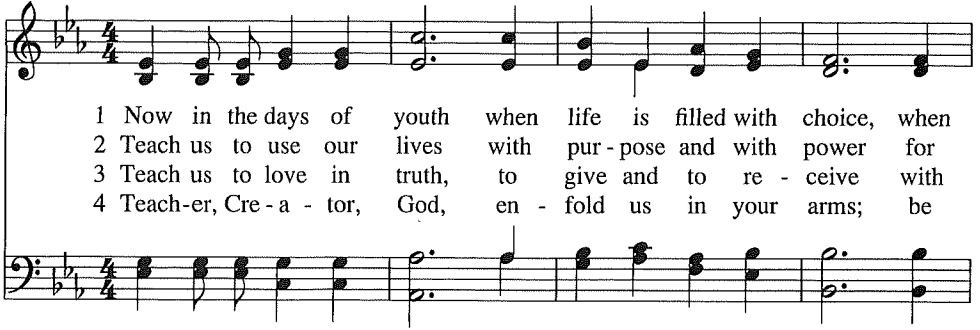
15 And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

Now in the Days of Youth

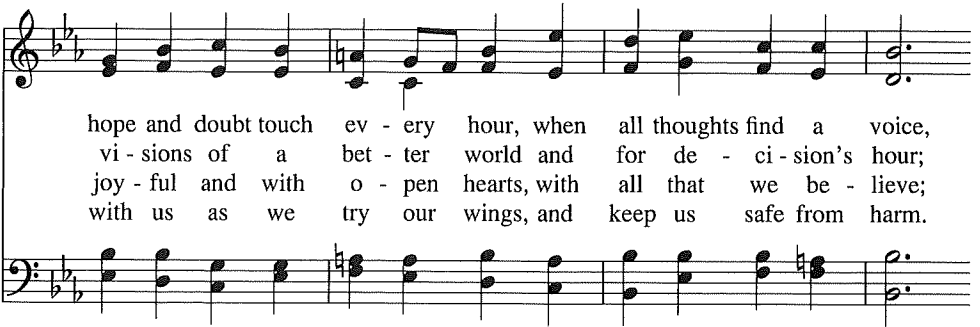
350

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

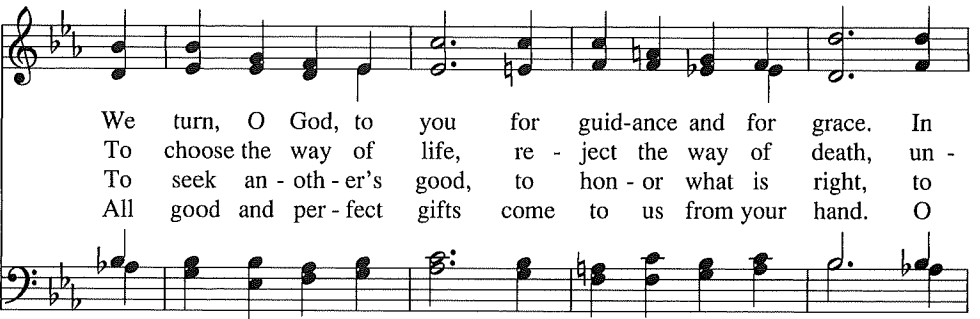
Eccles. 12:1; 1 Cor. 16:13; Deut. 30:19-20



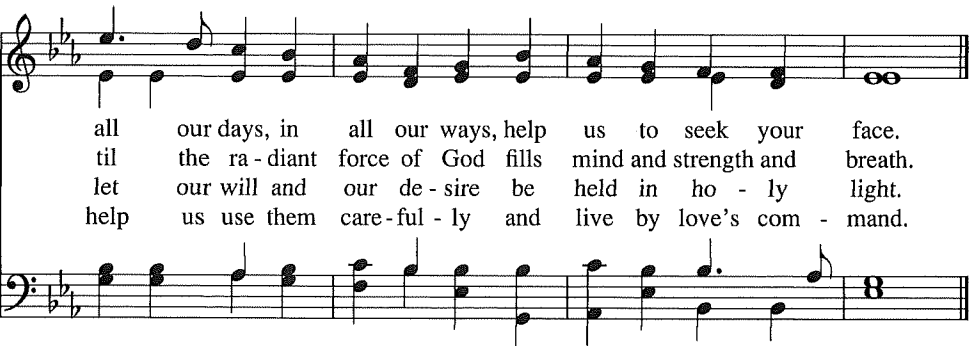
1 Now in the days of youth when life is filled with choice, when
2 Teach us to use our lives with pur - pose and with power for
3 Teach us to love in truth, to give and to re - ceive with
4 Teach-er, Cre - a - tor, God, en - fold us in your arms; be



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



Saturday, October 24, 2026
11:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
Ceremonial Walk at 12:00 p.m.
Stankowski Field Parking Lot
810 Tiger Ave
Columbia, MO 65201

**Will you be there to help
us cross the finish line?**

The Step Up for Down Syndrome Walk & Festival is a day of celebration, family fun and community. Guests of all ages will enjoy an array of entertainment and activities, ie; live music and dancing, bounce houses, games, face painting and so much more. Lunch, beverages and snacks will also be provided + the commemorative Step Up for Down Syndrome event t-shirt, to be worn the day of the event.

Join Norah's Team

1. Visit stepupcentralmo.org/join-team/ (QR Code)
2. Select Team "Norah the Explorer"
3. Fill out the rest of the orange form
4. Show up October 24 to Step Up for Down Syndrome



A decorative background featuring a string of orange jack-o'-lanterns at the top, a large orange banner with a black border in the center, and a purple-bordered orange box at the bottom. The background is a light beige with faint cloud patterns and numerous black bat silhouettes flying around.

Sunday School Halloween Party

***JOIN US FOR A
SPOOKY GOOD TIME!***

We'll have breakfast (donuts on a string), a Bible story, and games during the Sunday School hour. Children are invited to wear their costumes then stay for the Fellowship & Hospitality Halloween Party after worship.

***OCTOBER 25, 2026
9:00 A.M.***