

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

May 24, 2026  
"Memorial Day"



## **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**



**May 24, 2026**

**10:30 a.m.**

**"Ascension Day"**

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

*"Clap your hands all you people!  
Shout joyfully to God!"  
-Psalm 47:1*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Alleluia"

*W. A. Mozart*

Connie Loveless, piano; Linda Neale, flute

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship

*(based on Psalm 47)*

Tricia Soncasie

Clap your hands, all you people!  
Shout to God with loud songs of joy!

**God rules over all the earth.  
God's majesty is a blessing to our lives.**

Sing praises to God; sing praises!  
Sing praises to God's glorious name.

**Let us join together with all people to proclaim God's glory;  
Let us join together with all people to sing praises to God.  
Come, let us worship God!**

\*Hymn

"Sing Praise To God, Who Has Shaped"

#22

\*Opening Prayer

Tricia Soncasie

**God of joy; we hear the story of Jesus' Ascension into Heaven and wonder about the wisdom this brings us. We know that You give us new life and new opportunities to do Your work in the world. Forgive us for the times we are confused and overwhelmed by this challenge. Empower and inspire us to speak of Your will, and share Your joy with everyone we meet. We ask these prayers in Jesus' name; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Jesus challenges us to do his work in the world. But even when we fail to do so, God still loves and welcomes us, encourages and guides us. 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!***

New Testament Lesson

Acts 1:1-11

Tricia Soncasie

*This is the account of Jesus’ Ascension found in the book of Acts. Written by the same author as the Gospel we attribute to Luke it expands a bit on the story first mentioned in the Gospel. Here, the presence of angelic hosts spur them into action, setting the stage for the rest of the book. Page #884*

Gospel Lesson

Luke 24:44-53

Tricia Soncasie

*This is the account of Jesus’ Ascension found in the Gospel we attribute to Luke. Written by the same author as the book we call, “Acts,” here the author focuses on unity and joy, the seeds of Jesus’ ministry coming to fruition. Page #861*

Anthem

“Live in Praise of the Lord” Celebration Singers

*Michael Barrett*

Sermon

“Overwhelmed with Joy”

Pastor Rick

\*Hymn

“Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

#233

\*Memorial Day Prayer *(from UCC “Worship Ways”)*

**Gracious God; on this Memorial Day weekend, we remember and give thanks for those of every race, ethnicity, and gender identity who have given their lives in the service of our country. When the need was greatest, they stepped forward and embraced the role of servant leadership to defend the freedoms we enjoy, and to sacrifice for others.**



\*Prayer of Dedication

Tricia Soncasie

**God of glory, we give these gifts to glorify Your name. Through these gifts we continue Your work in the world; feeding the hungry and quenching the thirsty and being Your hands and feet here on Earth. Teach us to serve as You would have us do; honoring your children and feeding your sheep. 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

“O For a Thousand Tongues”

Connie Loveless  
*Melody Bober*

***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***

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

# Columbia United Church of Christ

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<b>Pastor Emeritus:</b> Rev. Fred Brandenburg	

## TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Tricia Soncasie
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Keith Birkes & Deborah Long Birkes
Greeters:	Jolene Kirchhoff
Technology:	Carissa Graves & John Graves
Council Stewards:	Alethea Tennill & Deborah Long Birkes

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Scouts
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Mark & Jane Duncan, Scouts
Greeters:	Susan Dunham
Technology:	Josh Muench & Ted Dachroeden
Council Stewards:	Ashley Ramirez & Edie Diel

Online Giving



## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	Jerry Kiesling	<a href="mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com">rollzierp50@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>	Edie Diel	<a href="mailto:edie@thedandegroup.com">edie@thedandegroup.com</a>
<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Rick Oberle	<a href="mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com">rick@columbiaucc.com</a>

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

### **FOOD BANK - 5/26**

It is food bank fun time again! It is always fun working together to support this great cause. Food insecurity is on the rise, and we can help. Contact Mahree Skala to sign up or check the Friday Email.

### **NF WALK FUNDRAISER - 5/30 AT STEPHENS LAKE PARK**

Come walk for a good cause! NF Midwest will host their annual NF Fundraiser walk at Stephens Lake Park on May 30 at 10:00 a.m. Check out the Friday email or this morning's bulletin insert to sign up or to donate to the cause!

### **SCOUTS SUNDAY/BBQ - 5/31**

Don't miss worship on 5/31! Our Scouts will be leading the service, giving us a recap of their year. After worship, we will share a BBQ lunch together, hosted by our Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team!

### **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL- TIME TO REGISTER!**

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. Registration information for helpers and attendees is in the Friday email, and on our website. Questions? Ask Lena Muench.

### **GUEST SUMMER MUSICIANS**

While the Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers take their summer break, we are looking for those who would love to share their talent and time with us. If you are interested but don't have a date or song in mind, reach out to Mike Pierson. Summer worship music opportunities start June 7 and end August 16. (*Reminder- worship time will remain at 10:30 a.m. this summer!*)

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

Sun	5/24	Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Qorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Mon	5/25	<b><i>Church office closed- Memorial Day</i></b>	
Tue	5/26	Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Food Bank	5:30 p.m.
Wed	5/27	Confirmation	10:30 a.m.
		Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Sat	5/30	NF Fundraiser at Stephens Lake Park	10:00 a.m.
Sun	5/31	<b><i>Pentecost/Scouts Sunday</i></b>	
		Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		BBQ Lunch	12:00 p.m.
		Qorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.

# Columbia UCC Prayer List

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

Edie, Aimee, and their family... on the death of Edie's Sister, Marna  
Kenny Holtgrewe... recovering from surgery (Marsha Posz's Father)  
Mary Jane Johnson... health issues (Joe Remeika's Sister)  
Shirley Gallaher... recovering from hip replacement

High School Graduates this weekend... Danielle, Trevor, Aidan, and Lawson  
Blessings to them as they take the next steps on their journeys!

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 families of Renee Good, 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 Kirchoff, Glenn Duermeyer, Evie Marcks,  
Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father), Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),  
Kenny & Jane Holtgrewe (Marsha Posz's parents),  
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, Julie Roper

## *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... (Marsha Posz's Nephew)

## *Pregnancies in our Church Family:*

Shelby Oberle & Ryan Furney; Chloe & Mark Eveler;  
Kristin & Adam Veteto

*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 [tsoucasie@aol.com](mailto:tsoucasie@aol.com)*

## **Acts 1:1-11**

1 In the first book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and teach

2 until the day when he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen.

3 After his suffering he presented himself alive to them by many convincing proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

4 While staying with them, he ordered them not to leave Jerusalem but to wait there for the promise of the Father. “This,” he said, “is what you have heard from me;

5 for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

6 So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, is this the time when you will restore the kingdom to Israel?”

7 He replied, “It is not for you to know the times or periods that the Father has set by his own authority.

8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

9 When he had said this, as they were watching, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.

10 While he was going and they were gazing up toward heaven, suddenly two men in white robes stood by them.

11 They said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking up toward heaven? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

## **Luke 24:44-53**

44 Then he said to them, “These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you—that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled.”

45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures,

46 and he said to them, “Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day

47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

49 And see, I am sending upon you what my Father promised, so stay here in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.”

50 Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and, lifting up his hands, he blessed them.

51 While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven.,

52 And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, 53 and they were continually in the temple blessing God.,

## Sing Praise to God, Who Has Shaped

Ps. 68:4, 32; Ps. 105

Joachim Neander, 1680

Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1993

1 Sing praise to God, who has shaped and sus - tains all cre -  
 2 Praise God, our guard - ian, who lov - ing - ly of - fers cor -  
 3 Sing praise to God, with sin - cere thanks for all your suc -  
 4 Sing praise, my soul, the great name of your high God com -

a - tion! Sing praise, my soul, in pro - found and com -  
 rec - tion, Who, as on ea - gle's wings, saves us from  
 cess - es. Mer - ci - ful God ev - er loves to en -  
 mend - ing. All that have life and breath join you, their

plete ad - o - ra - tion! Glad - some re - jice — or - gan and  
 sin - ful de - jec - tion. Have you ob - served, how we are  
 cour - age and bless us. On - ly con - ceive, what god - ly  
 notes sweet - ly blend - ing. God is your light! Soul, ev - er

trum - pet and voice — join - ing God's great con - gre - ga - tion.  
 al - ways pre - served by God's pa - ren - tal af - fec - tion?  
 strength can a - chieve: strength that would touch and car - ess us.  
 keep this in sight: a - men, a - men nev - er end - ing.

Joachim Neander was a dedicated, caring pastor of the Reformed Church in Dittseldorf, Germany. This was the most familiar of his fifty-six hymn texts, which were published along with many of his original tunes in 1680, the year of his death.

Tune: LOBE DEN HERREN 14.14.4.7.8.  
 Erneuernten Gesangbuch, Stralsund, 1665  
 Adapt. and harm. William S. Bennett, 1863

## Christ the Lord Is Risen Today

Matt. 28:5-8; 1 Cor. 15:20-22; 54-57

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Christ the Lord is risen to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Let the Vic - tor's peo - ple sing, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 Love's re - deem - ing work is done, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Soar we now where Christ has led, Al - le - lu - ia!

Mor - tal tongues and an - gels say: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where, O death, is now your sting? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fought the fight, the bat - tle won, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Fol - lowing our ex - alt - ed Head, Al - le - lu - ia!

Raise your joys and tri - umphs high, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Dy - ing once, Christ lives to save, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Death in vain for - bids Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Made like Christ, like Christ we rise, Al - le - lu - ia!

Sing, glad heavens, and earth re - ply: Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Where your vic - to - ry, O grave? Al - le - lu - ia!  
 God has o - pened par - a - dise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Ours the cross, the grave, the skies, Al - le - lu - ia!

*The unknown editor of Lyra Davidica wanted music with more movement and spirit than found in the grave, slow-paced psalm tunes, with one note to a syllable. Easter Hymn was among the first of a new popular style.*

Tune: EASTER HYMN 7.7.7.7. with alleluias  
 Arr. from Lyra Davidica, London, 1708

## Hail the Day That Sees Christ Rise

Acts 1:6-11; John 14:16

Charles Wesley, 1739; alt.

1 Hail the day that sees Christ rise, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 2 Christ, for you high tri - umph waits, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 3 See! The nail - marked hands a - bove; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 4 Christ for us still in - ter - cede, Al - le - lu - ia!

To a throne in par - a - dise; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Lift your heads, e - ter - nal gates! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Sing of God's re - deem - ing love; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 By your suf - fering for us plead; Al - le - lu - ia!

Christ, the Lamb for sin - ners given, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 You have con - quered death and sin; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Hark! Christ's words our hearts as - sure; Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Make us wor - thy of the place, Al - le - lu - ia!

En - ters now the high - est heaven. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 You, our Sov - ereign, en - ter in! Al - le - lu - ia!  
 "I will send a Com - fort - er!" Al - le - lu - ia!  
 Which you of - fer us by grace. Al - le - lu - ia!

5 Now, though part-ed from our sight,  
 Al-le-lu-ia!  
 In the depths of star-ry night,  
 Al-le-lu-ia!  
 May our souls with you a-rise,  
 Al-le-lu-ia!  
 Seek-ing whole-ness at your side.  
 Al-le-lu-ia!

6 There we will with you re-main,  
 Al-le-lu-ia!  
 Heirs in your e-ter-nal reign;  
 Al-le-lu-ia!  
 In the pres-ence of your face,  
 Al-le-lu-ia!  
 We will dwell in heav-en's grace.  
 Al-le-lu-ia!