

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

October 20, 2019  
Children's Sabbath



# 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



October 20, 2019

10:30 Worship

“Children”

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

*“...I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts...”  
-Jeremiah 31:33*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Welcome Song

Rainbow Bells

Carrying in the Light of Christ

Katelyn Odneal

\*Call to Worship *(from the Children’s Defense Fund)*

Ryan Schoeneberg

When the disciples tried to keep children from Jesus,

**Jesus said “Let the children come to me”**

When the disciples wanted to send hungry people away,  
saying there were too many to feed,

**Jesus said we can feed them**

When a parent whose child was in terrible  
trouble came to Jesus,

**Jesus said he would help**

When a woman in poverty gave what she could,

**Jesus honored her generosity**

We gather in the name of that Jesus  
who welcomed the children,  
fed hungry people,  
helped children in trouble,  
and recognized the gifts of those in poverty.

**On this Children’s Sabbath day,  
let us follow him in word and in deed.  
Come, let us worship God!**

\*Opening Hymn

“Gather Us In”

*(insert)*

\*Opening Prayer *(from the Children’s Defense Fund)*

Ember Piersee

**God of love and justice, we confess that too often our hearts are  
hardened to the struggles of others including children in poverty.  
Our hearts are narrowed in the circle of those we love, excluding  
children who are not “our own.” Our hearts are discouraged and  
too ready to give up on things that are hard; like ending poverty.**

**We confess that too often our voices are silent in the face of injustice. Forgive us, O God. Soften our hearts to love as you do. Broaden our embrace to include others and instill in us hope so that we do not lose heart. Stir us, we pray, to call out injustice. These things we pray in the name of Jesus, whose heart and voice revealed how you would have us live. Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing                    *(from the Children's Defense Fund)*                    Pastor Rick  
Hear the Good News! Jesus came so we would know that there is nothing that can make God stop loving us. Jesus tells us in his wisdom that we are already forgiven, through God's gracious love. Praise be to God, who loves us and blesses us!

\*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  
*At this time, you are invited to greet one another with a hug or a handshake and the words, "May God's Peace be with you!"*

Children's Time                    "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus"  
*(Sung as children return to their seats)*  
**I have decided to follow Jesus; (3x)**  
**No turning back, no turning back.**  
**The world behind me, the cross before me (3x)**  
**No turning back, no turning back.**

Anthem                    "Love Round"                    Youth Bells

Mission Moment                    "Festival of Sharing Quilt Auction"                    Kim Oberle

Inclusion Moment                    "Norah's Down Syndrome Walk"                    Pastor Rick

Old Testament Lesson:                    Jeremiah 31:31-34                    Ryan Schoeneberg  
*The prophet Jeremiah envisions a future where God's relationship with Israel is fully restored and implanted on their hearts. God continues to create Covenant with the nation of Israel even when their hearts are hardened against God.*  
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Gospel Lesson:                    Luke 18:1-8                    Ember Piersee  
*Jesus tells an odd parable about persistence in the face of injustice. Those who persist in fighting for justice will achieve justice.*  
*Page #853*

Sermon "The Defense of Children" Pastor Rick

\*Meditation Hymn "Like a Child" (insert)

*Ushers will collect prayer cards during the hymn*

*As this is Children's Sabbath Sunday, remembering the blessings children are in our midst, our children are invited to come forward during the hymn to receive a blessing from Pastor Rick, as we customarily do during communion. As they come forward, the congregation is invited to reflect on what blessings these children are, and how we can defend them against systemic injustices in our world.*

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

The LORD'S Prayer

**Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

Prayer Response "Grant Us Peace"

**Hear our Prayer, O Lord!**

**Hear our prayer, O Lord!**

**Hear our Prayer, O Lord!**

**And Grant us Thy Peace! A-men!**

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life Pastor Rick

Stewardship Moment "50 for 50" Christine Staelens

Presenting our Gifts Amy Crousore

"Theme and Variations" *WA Mozart*

*To give online text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041 and follow the prompts  
You can also give online by visiting our website: [www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)*

\*Response "We Praise You, O God" #420

**We Praise You, O God, our Redeemer, Creator;**

**In grateful devotion our tribute we bring!**

**We lay it before you, we kneel and adore you;**

**We praise your Holy Name, glad praises we sing!**

\*Prayer of Dedication Ember Piersee

**God, as we give these gifts we are also giving our hearts. As we hear the cry for justice for children in the world, we pray that these gifts may be used to enable that work. Take these offerings and use them to your will; 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                   “Grand Triumphal March”                   Amy Crousore

### OCTOBER IS DOWN SYNDROME AWARENESS MONTH

The CUCC Inclusion Team is focusing on Down Syndrome Awareness as their Inclusion focus for the month of October, in recognition of Down Syndrome Awareness Month. Last week, Tricia Price talked a bit about the experiences her family has had with Down Syndrome. Below is an excerpt from that testimony.

If Norah had been born a generation or two ago, doctors would have recommended that I put her in an institution rather than trying to raise her at home. Her life expectancy would have been about 25, so there would have been no point in preparing her to live and work independently. Today the prognosis for people born with Down syndrome has improved by leaps and bounds, thanks to a combination of medical advances, early intervention, and kids being raised at home instead of in institutions, and people with Down syndrome are living into their sixties and even seventies.

Down syndrome can come with risks for other health problems. Many kids with Down syndrome are born with heart defects, and some require surgery to correct that. Norah was lucky enough to have hers resolve on its own. Some of Norah’s friends with Down syndrome require hearing aids or feeding tubes, and some have trouble swallowing without getting liquid in their lungs, so they have to drink thickened liquids. Like Norah, many of the kids require glasses, tubes in their ears, and medicine to balance out their thyroids. As many of you know, Norah got a form of leukemia that is more common in kids with Down syndrome, but luckily the treatment is also very successful. People with Down syndrome are actually less likely than the general population to get other forms of cancer or heart disease, so there are some advantages!

Kids with Down syndrome can generally meet all the milestones typically developing kids hit, but they do it on their own timeline. Norah has had speech, occupational, and physical therapy since she was a baby, thanks to a great program called First Steps that provides early intervention services for kids with special needs. Some of you may remember the different braces and contraptions she’s worn over the years to help her learn to walk better--and as you may have noticed, she’s now running faster than I can keep up!

For years there has been an informal group of families with kids with Down syndrome that has met here in Columbia, and it’s been wonderful to have other parents to ask questions, compare notes, and commiserate. But we recently decided to become part of the Kansas City Down Syndrome Guild, and that group has brought an amazing amount of programming to mid-Missouri.

This church family has been amazing about including Norah in everything and supporting our family during our sometimes rocky road. We really appreciate all the love and support this church has shown Norah and our family over the last five years, and we look forward to all the great experiences Norah will have here as she grows up.

# Columbia United Church of Christ

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**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Fred Brandenburg

## TODAY IN WORSHIP:

**Greeters:** Bryan & Sharon Crousore  
**Ushers:** Melba Shaffer & Jan Barry  
**Sound Booth:** Phil Dennis  
**Worship Leader:** Ember Piersee & Ryan Schoeneberg  
**Hospitality:** Sue Ann Schaefer  
**Acolyte:** Katelin Odneal  
**Council Steward:** Pete Jaberg

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

**Greeters:** Stefanie Zimny  
**Ushers:** Brent Marcks & Charlie Marcks  
**Sound Booth:** Doug Privitt  
**Worship Leader:** Andie Rapp  
**Hospitality:** *HOSPITALITY HOST NEEDED*  
**Acolyte:** Abby Dennis  
**Council Steward:** Pete Jaberg



## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

**Moderator:** John Graves [john@downtownappliance.com](mailto:john@downtownappliance.com)  
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**Worship & Music:** Peter Jaberg [petejaberg@gmail.com](mailto:petejaberg@gmail.com)

**WELCOME GUESTS!** If you are a guest visiting with us this morning, please fill out a green card found in your chair pocket; and be sure to introduce yourself to Pastor Rick! We would love to get to know you better!

**NAMETAGS** We strive to be a friendly and welcoming church! Members and frequent guests, please wear your nametag each Sunday so we can greet each other most effectively and become an even friendlier church!

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

### **CONGREGATIONAL PLANNING AND ASSESSMENT MEETING**

Our Annual Congregational Planning and Assessment Meeting will be Sunday, October 27 immediately following worship. This is the "Vision Team" meeting that will discuss the direction our Ministry Teams will take in the coming year. Stick around and learn what new things CUCC will be doing in 2020!

### **TRUNK OR TREAT**

Next Sunday is our CUCC Trunk or treat from 4:00-7:00pm. Decorate your trunk, pick up some treats and costume up for the celebration! The Fellowship and Hospitality Team will be providing dinner and there will be plenty of games and activities. Everyone is encouraged to attend, even if you do not dress up!

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

Sun	10/20	<b><i>Estate Planning Workshop</i></b>	
		Fellowship Time	9:00am
		Sunday School	9:00am
		Worship	10:30am
		Estate Planning Workshop	11:30am
Mon	10/21	Pastor Rick leads worship at The Bluffs	10:00am
		Loaves and Fishes	4:30pm
Tue	10/22	Quilters	9:00am-2:00pm
		Staff Meeting	10:00am
		Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team Meeting	6:00pm
Wed	10/23	Chapel Ringers	6:30pm
		Celebration Singers	7:30pm
		<b><i>NO CONFIRMATION</i></b>	
Thu	10/24	Lunch Bunch featuring Rev. Jerry Jordan video	12:00pm
		Inclusion Team meeting	6:30pm
Sat	10/26	Fellowship Hall Reserved– Conference Council	9:00am-4:00pm
		Festival of Sharing Quilt Auction	12:30pm
		<i>(Viewing of Quilts 9:00-11:30; Lunch served 11:30-12:30)</i>	
		High School Youth to Corn Maze	5:00-9:00pm
Sun	10/27	<b><i>Congregational Planning &amp; Assessment Meeting</i></b>	
		Fellowship Time	9:00am
		Sunday School	9:00am
		Worship	10:30am
		Congregational Planning & Assessment Mtg.	11:30am
		Trunk or Treat/Halloween Party at Church	4:00-7:00pm

# **Columbia UCC Prayer List**

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

Ashley (Skala) & Stephen Scott... Baby born this week!

The family of Josh Friedrich... on their loss

Tracy Bach... recovering from leg fracture & sprained ankle

Catherine Jenks... on hospice (Ron Jenks' mother)

An aunt who had a bad fall and is in the hospital (10/6)

A friend's cancer that has returned (10/13)

Those suffering from physical, emotional & spiritual challenges (10/13)

Our church... as we live into our call as an ONA congregation

Dale Gregory; Christine Mseke, Bea Gordon;

Gary Ehrhardt; Lasley Family; Remeika/Johnson family

Amy Koerkenmeyer & the Malicoat Family;

## *Health Issues:*

Deborah Heather (Edie Diehl's niece); Kathy Kindrick; Christie O'Very;

Nathan Schnell (Isaiah's friend); Sharon Elliott, Rev. Jim Elliott,

Finn Price (Tricia's nephew); Harold Hackman; Sue Beckman;

Dennis Froeschner; John Bullerd's step sister

## *Serving us in the military:*

Alexander & Christopher Tennill, Jeffrey Sanderson

James Walker (Don Helmreich's nephew)

Tim Isom, Tyler Gibson (Oberles' friends); Daisia Baker (Isaiah's cousin);

Thomas Zumalt (Shirley Lawler's grandson)

## *UCC/DOC Global Ministries Missionary of the Week:*

Martha Mensendiek, serving in Japan

## *2019 Confirmation Class:*

Ember Piersee; Andie Rapp; Ryan Schoeneberg

## *2020 Confirmation Class:*

Lilly Jaberg, Hazel Keithahn, Brandon Lavelly