Columbia United Church Of Christ

December 7, 2025
"Advent II – Peace"



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



December 7, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Peace"

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

"I was glad when they said to me, Let us go to the house of the Lord!" -Psalm 122:1

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Ukrainian Bell Carol"

Connie Loveless Arr. Joseph Martin

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 122)

Audrey Lasley

Audrey: I was glad when they said to me,

Let us go to the house of the LORD!

Cherubim: We pray for Peace in God's house'

Seraphim: We pray for Peace in God's Creation.

Audrey: For the sake of my relatives and friends, I will say:

"PEACE be within you."

Cherubim: For the sake of the house of the LORD,

I will seek Peace.

Seraphim: God is our source of wholeness; our inspiration to strive for Peace.

All: Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn

"There's A Voice in the Wilderness Calling"

#120

*Opening Prayer

Audrey Lasley

Creator of peace; we come to You this day knowing that our world is far from peaceful. As we enter into this worship, we pray that peace may be realized at last in Your communities. Forgive us for the times we neglect to be Your agents of peace. We know that You call us, in all times, to work for peace; and that working for peace does not mean giving in to injustice. Peace means standing up for those who are oppressed, so that all may realize the peace you intend for Your creation. Empower us to be Your agents for peace. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

Pastor Rick

God sent God's son to share Wisdom with us, offering us Hope, Peace, Love and Joy. But even when we forget these gifts, 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

"Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

Turn your eyes upon Jesus; Look full in his wonderful face! And the things of earth will grow strangely dim In the light of his glory and grace!

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time & Lighting the Advent Candle

Pastor Rick

"Like A Child"

(Sung as children return to their seats)

Like a Child, love would send to reveal and to mend, Like a child and a friend, Jesus comes!

Like a child we may find claiming heart, soul, and mind, Like a child, strong and kind, Jesus comes!

New Testament Lesson

Romans 15:7-13

Audrey Lasley

In Paul's letter to the church in Rome, he tells his followers that God became one of us through Jesus Christ, so that we could become more united by serving one another. This, he tells us, is accomplished by welcoming each other in Christ's name.

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Gospel Lesson

John 1:19-28

Audrey Lasley

John the baptizer begins his ministry, preparing the way of the Lord. As he testifies to the light, he prepares his disciples to receive the Good News that Jesus will bring them.

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Homily:

"Envisioning Peace"

Pastor Rick

2025 Sunday School Christmas Program "A Super Christmas"

Starring your favorite superheroes as they seek to discover the true meaning of Christmas

Invitation to Communion

Pastoral Prayer & Silent Prayer; Invocation

Blessing the Children "When God is a Child"

(insert)

In the Sacrament of Communion, we most clearly see Jesus in our midst. Our desire to share this presence prompts us to celebrate with our children, granting them a special blessing. During the hymn, our children are invited to come forward via the center aisle and receive a blessing.

Fractioning & Sharing

In today's Sacrament of Communion, as we come forward, we will be sharing communion using cookies, to celebrate the goodness of the season and the blessing of children in our midst. As you come forward, the ushers will give you a cookie; you can take it back to your seat and wait for all to be served, and we will share cookie communion together. Gluten free cookies are available as well.

Communion Music "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" Gina Pierson Arr. Cindy Berry

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Rick

We thank you, Most Holy God, for communion at your table where we receive all Christ's gifts. As we gather, we anticipate Your birth in our midst once more. Help us to celebrate the blessings of this Advent Season, and the joy we realize here in this church. Teach us to be peace workers, embodying the blessings of this communion. And now we gather together as one church, singing the prayer you taught us:

The Lord's Prayer

(sung by the congregation)

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

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

"Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring"
"The First Noel"

Gina Pierson Arr. Cindy Berry

God, we give thanks for the prayer for peace that Christ brings. During this Advent Season we prepare our hearts to receive the gifts Jesus brings us. Now take these gifts we offer. May they be used to convey the hope that You offer to all the world. 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!

Special Congregational Meeting

The CUCC Council introduces a motion that the congregation of Columbia United Church of Christ enter into a contract with Dogwood Solar to purchase and install a solar power generating system at a net cost of \$100,533, and that the expense of this purchase be taken from the undesignated CUCC investment accounts with United Church Funds. We also direct that money received in federal direct pay IRS credits from this purchase (\$40,213) be reinvested into our United Church Funds accounts to replace the money used for the initial purchase. Furthermore, we direct that the Council enter into a loan agreement with the City of Columbia for up to \$30,000 at 3% interest for five years to offset the cost of this system, and that the money received from the city loan be reinvested into our United Church Funds accounts to replace the money used for the initial purchase.

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

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
Admin. Assistant: Alexandra Roper

Moderator: Jorgy Kingling rollziore 50@cmail.com

Moderator: Jerry Kiesling rollzierp50@gmail.com

Music Coordinator: Mike Pierson mike.pierson.1969@gmail.com

Organist/Accompanist:

LODO Director: Sara Koenig lodo.sara.koenig@gmail.com calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Audrey Lasley
Song Leader: Katie Jones

Ushers: Charlie Marcks & Phillip Neale

Greeters: Jolene Kirchhoff

Technology: Brent Marcks & Ted Dachroeden

Council Stewards: Mary Lorber & Edie Diel



Online Giving

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Sue Ann Schaefer

Song Leader: Sara Young

Ushers: Llona Weiss & Christine Staelens

Greeters: Jessica Lucas

Technology: Josh Muench & Lorry Dreier

Council Stewards: Christine Staelens & Ashley Ramirez

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Jerry Kiesling **Moderator:** rollzierp50@gmail.com Corinne Remeika remeikas@tranquility.net Vice Moderator: Secretary: Alethea Tennill atennill108@gmail.com Deborah Birkes Treasurer: dlong@elon.edu.com **Recording Treasurer:** Christine Staelens tigersfour@gmail.com **Building & Grounds:** Ted Dachroeden gpadoc4gd@gmail.com eldercow@gmail.com Fellowship & Hospitality: Mary Lorber

Finance & Stewardship: Vacant

Inclusion & Affirmation:Ashley Ramirezashknight0628@gmail.comLittle One's Day Out:Kristin Vetetokristinnoelveteto@gmail.comMembership & Care:Judi Privittjudiprivitt811@gmail.com

Nurture & Education:
Outreach & Advocacy:
Worship & Music:
Pastor:

Lena Muench cfg323@yahoo.com
Mahree Skala skalamahree@yahoo.com
edie@thedandegroup.com
Rev. Rick Oberle rick@columbiaucc.com

<u>NURSERY CARE</u> is available for children in kindergarten and younger in room #201 in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

ADVENT BANQUET - 12/14

This years Advent Cantata and Banquet will be on Sunday, 12/14! Come and hear our Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers share the sounds of the season as the offer a "sermon in song;" and then stay for a delicious catered Advent meal with your church family! We do need an accurate meal count for the caterer; RSVP in the rear of the Sanctuary or talk to Mary Lorber!

COOKIES BY THE POUND - 12/14

Be prepared to donate and purchase your homemade Christmas Cookies at our annual Cookies by the Pound fundraiser! Tables will be set up in the Gathering Space, and it is first come, first serve! All proceeds go to our Nurture & Education Designated Fund. Please have all cookie donations here by 9:00 a.m.

POINSETTIA ORDERS DUE 12/14

If you would like to designate a poinsettia in honor or memory of a loved one, you can do so thru next Sunday using the envelopes in the bulletin, or by emailing Alexandra in the church office. Please be sure to note whether it is in honor or memory of your loved one. Poinsettias are \$10 each.

OBERLE OPEN HOUSE - 12/20

Pastor Rick and Kim will have their annual Open House on Saturday, December 20 from 3:00-7:00 p.m.! Come and go as you wish, and share the spirit of the season! Our address is: 3905 Snow Leopard Drive 65202

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Advent Banquet

<u>1H12</u>	WEEK	S CALENDAK	
Sun	12/7	Children's Christmas Program/Cookie Common's Fellowship Breakfast Bible Study & Sunday School Fellowship Worship (in person and livestream) Congregational Meeting—Solar Proposal	7:30 a.m. 9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 11:45 a.m.
Mon	12/8	Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	12/9	Quilters Staff Meeting LODO Movie Night - "The Star"	10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m.
Wed	12/10	Good Dads/Strong Schools at Alpha Hart VAC Christmas Delivery Prayer Shawl Team Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers Confirmation Class	7:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 6:00 p.m. 6:00/7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.
Thu	12/11	Women's Fellowship	9:30 a.m.
Sat	12/13	Cantata Rehearsal	9:00 a.m.
Sun	12/14	Advent Cantata/Banquet Bible Study & Sunday School Fellowship Worship (in person and livestream)	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.

12:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Cliff Beckman... health issues, hospitalized, recovering well
Roger Meers... recovering from hip surgery
Karleen Martindale... health issues (Kasper's Mother)
Cindy Deegan's family... on the loss of her brother, Brian
Jeff Remelius and his family... on the loss of his father
Pam & Jim Kahler... health issues and challenges (Lyn Eggemeyer's friends)
Phillip Neale's Niece... awaiting liver transplant

Our Organist/pianist/accompanist search here at CUCC

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our Partner in Education Owen Ramsingh and family

Health Issues:

Rev. Jim Elliott, Harold Hackman, Barry Kirchhoff, Glenn Duermeyer, Julie Roper (Alexandra's Mother), Ronald Remika (Joe Remika's Brother), Mark & Connie Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link; Peri Ann Gulerson; Jim Posz (Allen's Father), Claudia Hutcherson (Ron Tennill's Sister), Fred & Ann Wilke (Alethea's Parents), 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 Armstrong

Living in Care Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Harold Hackman,

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

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

Serving us in the military:
Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

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 <u>melbamaes@gmail.com</u> Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 <u>tsoncasie@aol.com</u>

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Email: office@columbiaucc.com

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Romans 15:7-13

- 7 Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.
- 8 For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors
- 9 and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name";
- 10 and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people";
- 11 and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him";
- 12 and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles: in him the gentiles shall hope."
- 13 May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

John 1:19-28

- 19 This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?"
- 20 He confessed and did not deny it, but he confessed, "I am not the Messiah.",
- 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the prophet?" He answered, "No."
- 22 Then they said to him, "Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"
- 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' " as the prophet Isaiah said.
- 24 Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. 25 They asked him, "Why, then, are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?"
- 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know.
- 27 the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the strap of his sandal."
- 28 This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

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There's a Voice in the Wilderness



Before moving to Canada, J. Lewis Milligan was a successful British journalist and poet. This text was written in 1925 to celebrate the union of three churches into The United Church of Canada, a body he served as public relations director. Tune: ASCENSION Irr. H. Hugh Bancroft, 1938

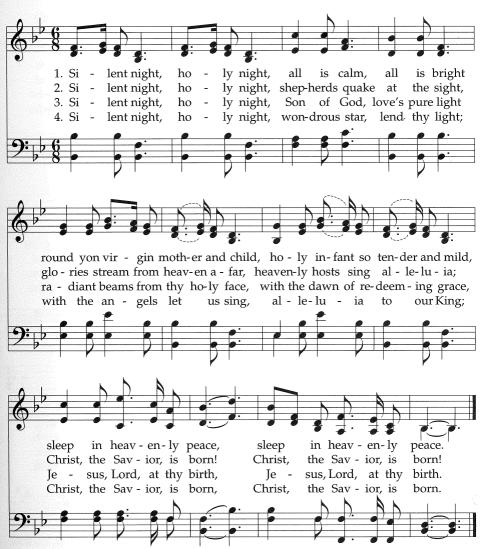


Hark! the Herald Angels Sing



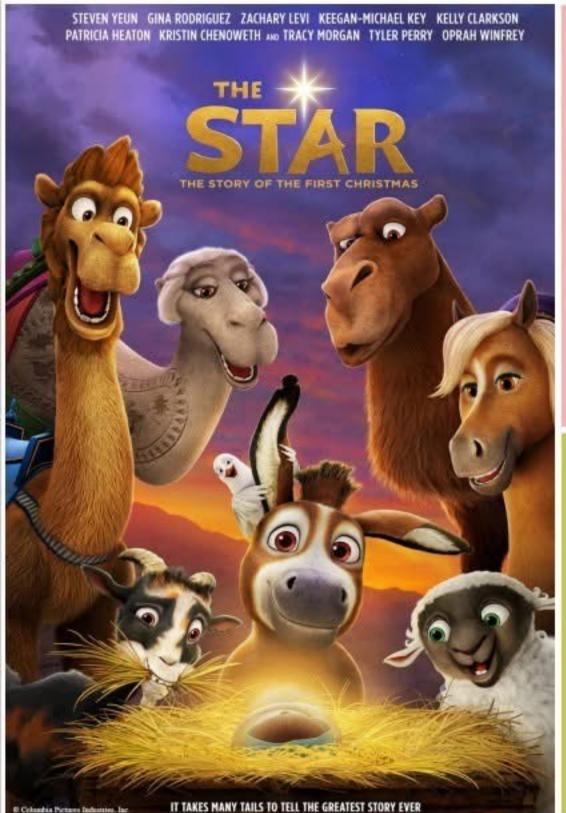


Silent Night, Holy Night











Little One's Day Out
Presents: The Star
Date: December 9th
Time: 6:00 PM
Entry Fee: \$5 per person
(limited to 50 people)

Snacks and drinks will be available for purchase. Bring your comfortable seating, blankets, and pillows for a cozy evening as we enjoy this family-friendly film together!

















BENEFITING THE NURTURE/ED MINISTRY TEAM





TREATS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE- \$10/POUND!

TO CHURCH BY 9:00 A.M.



CASH, CHECK, & ELECTRONIC PAYMENT OPTIONS

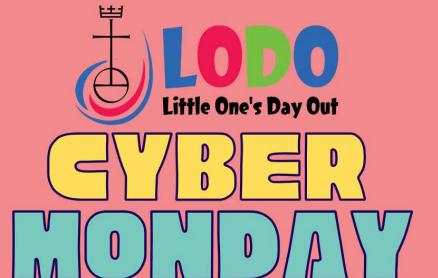












SALE AVAILABLE FROM

IST - 19TH DECEMBER

TOUR DECEMBER IST-19TH TO SECURE 50% OFF ENROLLMENT FEE!
EMAIL LODO.SARA.KOENIG@GMAIL.COM
TO SCHEDULE YOUR TOUR!

