

# Columbia United Church Of Christ



July 28, 2024

“Camp Firelight- VBS”



# 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*



July 28, 2024

9:30 a.m.

"VBS"

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

*"... God is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer;  
My rock, in whom I take refuge..."-Psalm 18:2*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Menuet in G Major "

Steve Jannetti  
*J. S. Bach*

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship

*(based on Psalm 18)*

Mahree Skala

The LORD is my rock, my fortress, my deliverer.  
The LORD is my God, in whom I take refuge.

**We will call upon God, who is worthy to be praised;  
We will embrace God's gift of Salvation!**

When I was in distress, I called upon the LORD;  
God heard my voice; my cry for justice.

**God is with us, our blessed rock;  
God shows us steadfast love forever!  
Come, let us worship God!**

\*Hymn

"God Reigns O'er All the Earth"

#21

\*Opening Prayer

Mahree Skala

**God of extravagance and abundance, we hear the wisdom of our traditions tell us about Your abundant provision. You nurture us with plenty and our cup overflows. Forgive us for the times we fail to trust in Your provision and allow fear to be our guide. Teach us to trust in You, that we may be as faithful as the children who seek You out. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God blesses us through the wisdom of our traditions and through the mouths and actions of children. But even when we fail to recognize this wisdom, God 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!*

Faith Sharing Moment

“Camp Firelight”

Lena Muench

*“Camp Firelight” is our Vacation Bible School theme this year; and through this camp setting and curriculum, our children will be developing their relationship with God in exciting new ways. Keep our children in your prayers this week as they explore all they ways God is still speaking to them!*

New Testament Lesson

Ephesians 3:14-21

Mahree Skala

*In this letter to the Christian Church in Ephesus, Paul implores them to continue searching for the wisdom of Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit, inspiring them in their midst. He prays that they continue their search until they find Christ dwelling in their hearts. He tells them that through faith, they are grounded in love.*  
Page #951

Gospel Lesson

John 6:1-13

Mahree Skala

*The author of the Gospel attributed to John tells his version of the multiplication of loaves and fishes, one of the few miracles stories found in all four Gospels. In this author’s account, it is a small boy who provides the elements for miraculous transformation.*  
Page # 867

Anthem

“You Alone ”

Lena Muench  
Hart / Liles

Sermon

“The Wisdom of Children”

Pastor Rick

\*Hymn

“The Church’s One Foundation”

#386

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer



## **The Christmas Fund**

The Christmas Fund is one of the four special annual offerings of the United Church of Christ. Through the Christmas Fund, the United Church of Christ has been caring for active and retired clergy and lay employees of the church for over 100 years by providing emergency grants, supplementation of small annuities and health premiums, and Christmas “Thank You” gift checks each December to lower-income retirees. CUCC traditionally celebrates **“Christmas in July/August”** to remember The Christmas Fund. We will be collecting for The Christmas Fund through August 4.

From the United Church of Christ Christmas Fund website: United Church of Christ congregations and members have blessed “the Christmas Fund” with their generosity for many years. This year, your care and compassion will be especially appreciated by those servants of the church who are facing a time of need. Thank you!

Grace is truly at the center of everything for us humans. Grace shapes our faith, our family, our friendships, and our identity. Grace is not just being given the benefit of the doubt, or God bestowing favor on the less than worthy. Grace is also the root of gratitude and thankfulness. It is at the heart of our thanksgiving/eucharistic meal. Our expressions of grace are a reminder of the great gifts of God to us, and our grateful response to that fullness.

Your gifts to the Christmas Fund allow the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance to provide grace, hope, and joy through financial relief to UCC pastors, lay church leaders, and their families. There will be envelopes in the bulletin on August 4 for The Christmas Fund, or you can also donate by giving online through our CUCC website or text the word “give” to 573.240.4041. Thank you for your gifts to The Christmas Fund!

### *The United Church of Christ:*

*“United in Christ’s Love, A Just World for All”*

**“World peace must develop from inner peace. Peace is not just mere absence of violence. Peace is, I think, the manifestation of human compassion.”**

**- Dalai Lama XIV**

**“Peace is not something you wish for, it is something you make, something you are, something you do and something you give away.”**

**- Robert Fulghum**

# Columbia United Church of Christ

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**Website:** [www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)

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<b>Student Pastor:</b> Shelly Adams	<a href="mailto:shellyraeadams@gmail.com">shellyraeadams@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Custodian:</b> Caleb Berry	<a href="mailto:calebprenticeberry@gmail.com">calebprenticeberry@gmail.com</a>
<b>Pastor Emeritus:</b> Rev. Fred Brandenburg	

## TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Mahree Skala
Ushers:	Mary Lorber & Tom Solt
Greeters:	Susan Dunham
Technology:	John Graves & Mike Pierson
Hospitality:	Kristin Veteto & Tricia Price
Council Stewards:	Kristin Veteto & Tricia Price

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Shelly Adams
Ushers:	Llona Weiss & Melba Shaffer
Greeters:	Jolene Kirchhoff
Technology:	John Graves & Carissa Graves
Hospitality:	Jerry Kiesling & Kristin Veteto
Council Stewards:	Jerry Kiesling & Kristin Veteto



Online giving

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

<b>Moderator:</b>	Kurt Heine	<a href="mailto:heinekurt@gmail.com">heinekurt@gmail.com</a>
<b>Vice Moderator:</b>	Jerry Kiesling	<a href="mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com">rollzierp50@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Finance &amp; Stewardship:</b>	Vacant	
<b>Inclusion &amp; Affirmation:</b>	Tricia Price	<a href="mailto:tricialprice@gmail.com">tricialprice@gmail.com</a>
<b>Little One's Day Out:</b>	Kristin Veteto	<a href="mailto:kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com">kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com</a>
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<b>Worship &amp; Music:</b>	Jedd Schneider	<a href="mailto:elusive4ttenor@hotmail.com">elusive4ttenor@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Rick Oberle	<a href="mailto:rick@columbiaucc.com">rick@columbiaucc.com</a>

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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!

### **START SAVING ERASERS**

Back to School sales are hitting the aisles at local retailers, and as you pass thru the aisles don't forget Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary! We are collecting pink erasers and pencil tip erasers for Alpha Hart thru next week. Pick yours up today to add to our collection! There is a collection basket in the gathering area. For more information, talk to Llona Weiss.

### **SUMMER BOOK STUDY CONTINUES TODAY**

Shelly Adams is leading a summer book study after worship for four Sundays, continuing today. The book is, "Green Faith: Mobilizing God's People to Save the Earth" by Fletcher Harper. Even if you have not read the book, stick around; the conversation will be rewarding. *If you would like a book, let Shelly know!*

### **YOU CAN HELP PUBLICIZE CUCC!**

Give us a 5-star review on Google! A five star review will help direct others to our church, and will cause our church to "pop up" more prominently on searches. Get the word out – share the Good News! Don't let CUCC remain the best kept secret in town! Check out the Friday email for links to create your review.

### **SCOUTING AMERICA AND CUCC**

Everyone at CUCC is invited to kick off our partnership with Scouting America with a festive BBQ! The Scouts have invited us to join them on August 19 for their kickoff of the year. The Fall BBQ Kickoff will be held at the CUCC Shelter House on August 19 at 6:00 p.m. Watch for more information!

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH PARENTS GATHERING**

Families of kiddos and youth from age 3-12th grade, stick around after worship on August 25 for a Lunch and Learn detailing new and exciting programs happening this fall at CUCC! LUNCH WILL BE SERVED– CATERED FROM DICKIES BBQ! We have a lot of great things up our sleeve for this coming year – we promise it will be fun! Please RSVP to Alexandra in the church office by August 15. Other questions? Talk to Lena Muench! Nursery will be provided!

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

Sun	7/28	Bible Study	8:30 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	9:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	9:30 a.m.
		Stay and Learn– Book Study with Shelly	11:00 a.m.
Mon-Wed		Vacation Bible School	5:15-8:15 p.m.
Tue	7/30	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Sun	8/4	Bible Study	8:30 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	9:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	9:30 a.m.
		Stay and Learn– Book Study with Shelly	11:00 a.m.

# Columbia UCC Prayer List

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

The Family of Michael Elliott... on their loss

The Family of Jeff Koepke... on their loss

Pat Schroeder... health issues

Sharon Elliott... health issues

Lena's Friend... recovering from surgery

Steve Price... recovering from surgery

Jennifer... diagnosed with cancer (Edie Diel's niece)

Joanne Good... health issues (Sue Beckman's friend)

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our partnership friend

The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

## *Health Issues:*

John Adams, Cheryl Cobb, John Graves, Barry Kirchoff

Connie Hackman Fairley, Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece)

## *Challenges in Life:*

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Steve (Pastor Rick's Cousin)

## *Living in Care Facilities:*

Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank,

## *Living in Independent Living Facilities:*

Helen Graves, Don Privitt, Alice Moon

## *Serving us in the military:*

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden, Jeffrey Sanderson

*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](mailto:whals@centurytel.net)*

*Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 [tsoncasie@aol.com](mailto: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***



## God Reigns o'er All the Earth

21

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

Isa. 52:7-10

1 God reigns o'er all the earth! Green hills and val-leys low, the  
 2 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Through youth and ag-ing years, in  
 3 God reigns o'er time and space! In his - tory's by-gone days, Christ's  
 4 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! God with us ev-ery day, in

farms and towns in golds and browns God's grace and beau - ty show.  
 death, in birth, in grief, in mirth, in all our hopes and fears.  
 faith - ful folk in rev-erence spoke to bring God earn - est praise.  
 all our past and to the last, our com - fort and our stay.

God reigns o'er all the earth! Stone banks and spread-ing plains, in  
 God reigns o'er hu-man life! Our in - spi - ra - tion still. Through  
 God reigns o'er time and space! O'er gal - ax - y and sun, through  
 God reigns! Em-man - u - el! Let praise to Christ be sung! God's

rain-bow hues— reds, yel-lows, blues— of streams and coun-try lanes.  
 all our schemes, in all our dreams, we see God's reign-ing will.  
 time-less years the cos-mos hears the heaven - ly mu - sic run.  
 pres-ence here makes all things dear. Let joy - ful bells be rung!

*The author's notes on this text describe it as a progression of awareness of God's reign among us—in physical surroundings, in the various stages of life, in time and space, and supremely in Christ, God with us.*

Tune: TERRA BEATA S.M.D.  
 Traditional English melody  
 Adapt. Franklin L. Sheppard, 1915

## The Church's One Foundation

Eph. 2:13-22; 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 3:11

Samuel J. Stone, 1866; alt.

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ our Lord;  
 2 E - lect from ev - ery na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
 3 'Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion, and tu - mult of our war,  
 4 Yet we on earth have un - ion with God, the Three - in - One,

we are Christ's new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word;  
 one char - ter of sal - va - tion, one God, one faith, one birth,  
 we wait the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
 and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heaven Christ came and sought us in love to set us free;  
 One name to - geth - er bless - ing, one ho - ly food we share,  
 Till with the vi - sion glo - rious, our long - ing eyes are blessed,  
 O hap - py ones and ho - ly! God, give us grace that we,

with pre - cious blood Christ bought us for all e - ter - ni - ty.  
 to one hope we are press - ing, at one in work and prayer.  
 and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
 like them, the meek and low - ly, may live e - ter - nal - ly.

*Like the writings of Ambrose many centuries earlier, this hymn was born out of a doctrinal dispute. The young priest Samuel J. Stone composed twelve hymns on the articles of the Apostles' Creed in support of those reacting against nontraditional views of biblical scholarship. This hymn is based on article nine, "the holy Catholic Church."*

Tune: AURELIA 7.6.7.6.D.  
 Samuel S. Wesley, 1864

## **Ephesians 3:14-21**

14 For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, 15 from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.

16 I pray that, according to the riches of his glory, he may grant that you may be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit,

17 and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.

18 I pray that you may have the power to comprehend, with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth,

19 and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

20 Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine,

21 to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

## **John 6:1-13**

1 After this Jesus went to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, also called the Sea of Tiberias.

2 A large crowd kept following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing for the sick.

3 Jesus went up the mountain and sat down there with his disciples. 4 Now the Passover, the festival of the Jews, was near.

5 When he looked up and saw a large crowd coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, “Where are we to buy bread for these people to eat?”

6 He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he was going to do.

7 Philip answered him, “Six months’ wages would not buy enough bread for each of them to get a little.”

8 One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, said to him,

9 “There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what are they among so many people?”

10 Jesus said, “Make the people sit down.” Now there was a great deal of grass in the place; so they sat down, about five thousand in all.

11 Then Jesus took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated; so also the fish, as much as they wanted.

12 When they were satisfied, he told his disciples, “Gather up the fragments left over, so that nothing may be lost.”

13 So they gathered them up, and from the fragments of the five barley loaves, left by those who had eaten, they filled twelve baskets.