

Columbia United Church Of Christ



April 21, 2024

“Bring a Friend Sunday”



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*



April 21, 2024

10:30 a.m.

"Comfort and Care"

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

"...surely Goodness and Mercy shall pursue me..."

-Psalm 23:6

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Every Time I Feel the Spirit"

Chapel Ringers

arr. Patricia Sanders

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(Based on Psalm 23)

Mahree Skala

God, You are our Shepherd; we want for nothing.
You bring us pastoral peace and comfort!

**God brings us blessings and Salvation,
Restoring our souls!**

You lead us through the depths of despair;
Through the darkest valleys of life.

**We do not fear misery or evil;
For God is with us, guiding us and protecting us!**

You shower us with abundant blessings;
Healing and restoring us, we are forever Yours!

**God's Goodness and Mercy will pursue us always;
And we will endeavor to dwell in God's House forever!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Gathering Hymn

"My Shepherd is the Living God"

#247

*Opening Prayer

Mahree Skala

Loving God, our shepherd and guide, we come to You this day seeking Your comfort and assurance, Your guidance in our lives. We hear the shepherd analogy in the wisdom of the Psalms and the Gospels and, through this wisdom, we learn more about You and Your role in our lives. Forgive us for the times we fail to see the wisdom in these narratives or misinterpret it to diminish others. Lift up our souls, and teach us to rejoice; that we may always fully claim our identity as sheep of Your flock. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Jesus called himself the Good Shepherd; and continued that analogy throughout his ministry. Guiding us, leading us, loving us, he called us to not just follow him but follow his example. But even when we fall short, God forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved, and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response "Halle-Halle-Hallelujah"

***Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!
Hallelujah! 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 "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.***

***The world behind me, the cross before me (3x)
No turning back, no turning back.***

Faith Sharing Moment

Greetings from Eden Seminary

Dr. Clint McCann, Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation

Old Testament Lesson

Psalm 23

Mahree Skala

This Psalm of comfort to the afflicted has a unique place in our society as a cultural icon; but what was its original intent? Each phrase of the Psalm evokes singular imagery that would be meaningful to the people of ancient Israel; but the whole of the Psalm is even more challenging.

Page #435

Gospel Lesson

John 10:11-18

Mahree Skala

Jesus offers a metaphor of a shepherd caring for their sheep. Jesus presents himself as the shepherd, and God's children as the sheep with whom he is charged to shepherd. To continue the analogy, as Jesus has charged the Apostles (and us) with carrying on his ministry, does this make us shepherds, too? How can we be Good Shepherds?

Page # 872

Anthem

"Jesus is Risen"

Celebration Singers

Joseph R. Martin

Sermon "Pursuing Justice and Mercy" Pastor Rick
*Hymn "Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows" #248
(Verses 1-4 only)

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer

The LORD'S Prayer

In an effort to encourage inclusion, we suggest using the address "Creator God" in our unison recitation of The Lord's Prayer. You are certainly welcome to say "Our Father" instead of "Creator," "Trespases" instead of "debts," or "Thy" instead of "Your" 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 us from evil. For Yours 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 "Melody" Steve Jannetti
Modest Moussorgsky

*Prayer of Dedication Mahree Skala

Loving God, our Good Shepherd, when You challenge us to work for justice and righteousness as sheep of Your flock, we are eager to listen, follow, and lead. Take these gifts and use them to further Your work in the world; that we may live into our call as sheep of Your flock. 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 "Brandenburg Concerto" Steve Jannetti
Johan Sebastian Bach

PROFESSOR J. CLINTON MCCANN

J. Clinton McCann, Jr. (Clint) is the Evangelical Professor of Biblical Interpretation at Eden Theological Seminary in Webster Groves, MO. He is a graduate of Davidson College (A. B.), Union Presbyterian Seminary (D. Min., Th. M.), and Duke University (Ph. D.). He was chair of the Psalms Section of the Society of Biblical Literature from 1989 to 1998, and much of his research and writing has focused on the Book of Psalms. He is author of *A Theological Introduction to the Book of Psalms: The Psalms as Torah* (Abingdon, 1993); editor of and contributor to *The Shape and Shaping of the Psalter* (JSOT, 1993); author of the Psalms entries in *Texts for Preaching: A Lectionary Commentary Based on the NRSV – Year C* (Westminster John Knox, 1994); author of “The Psalms: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections” in *The New Interpreter’s Bible* (Vol. 4, pp. 641-1280; Abingdon, 1996); as well as many other books and commentaries on Psalms, including over 40 essays for workingpreacher.org. Clint is also the author of *Judges*, a commentary in the Interpretation series (John Knox, 2002).

Clint has served frequently as a teacher of the Psalms and other biblical material at many noted academic forums. He has taught, preached, and led workshops for church and academic gatherings in twenty-seven states, including over one hundred congregations representing twelve denominations. Clint is a Teaching Elder (Ordained Minister) in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and a member of the Presbytery of Giddings-Lovejoy. Before he began teaching at Eden, he was a pastor for ten years in North Carolina. He served for sixteen summers as the Resident Minister of the New Piasa Chautauqua near Elsah, IL; and he is an Associate Member of the Iona Community, which is based on the Isle of Iona, and Glasgow, Scotland, and which is committed to the pursuit of peace, justice, and the flourishing of creation.

Among Clint’s interests are the theological dimensions of popular music, and Latin American theology and biblical interpretation. Growing out of the former of these, he co-authored *Facing the Music: Faith and Meaning in Popular Songs* (Chalice, 1999). Growing out of the latter of these, he led groups of students on study/travel seminars to Guatemala and Costa Rica in 2001, 2003, and 2005; to Nicaragua and Costa Rica in 2008 and 2015; to El Salvador and Costa Rica in 2013 and 2019; to El Salvador in 2018 and 2024; and to Cuba in 2017. Clint is the Co-Chair of the International Board of IPM (International Partners in Mission), which has partners in Latin America and other parts of the world.

Clint’s wife, Sarah, is the pastor of Hope UCC in St. Louis, MO. He has three daughters – Jennifer, Sarah, and Annalise – and a son, Ian. Clint may be contacted at 314.395.5826 or 314.619.0599 or via email at cmccann@eden.edu.

Clint will be leading the Adult Bible Study Class on 4/21 and 4/28 and will be preaching on Psalm 22 in worship on 4/28. The focus of these discussions will be “Psalms for Justice-Seekers and Peacemakers.” Everyone is invited to attend the Adult Bible Study Class these two Sundays; and don’t miss worship next week– it is quite an honor to have Professor McCann with us!

Columbia United Church of Christ

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steve.jannetti@yahoo.com

LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger

littleonesdayout@yahoo.com

Custodian: Caleb Berry

calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Mahree Skala

Ushers: John & Brenda Muench

Greeters: Carol Duermeyer

Technology: Lorry Dreier & Doug Privitt

Hospitality: Lorry Dreier & Kurt Heine

Council Stewards: Lorry Dreier & Kurt Heine

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Shelly Adams

Ushers: Mark & Jane Duncan

Greeters: Susan Dunham

Technology: Josh Muench & Ted Dachroeden

Hospitality: Tricia Price & Kurt Heine

Council Stewards: Tricia Price & Kurt Heine



Online giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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Pastor: Rev. Rick Oberle

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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!

SPECIAL GUEST BIBLICAL SCHOLAR AT CUCC APRIL 21 & 28

On April 21 & 28, we will have as our guest Rev. Dr. Clint McCann, Eden Seminary Professor of Old Testament Studies! An authority on the Old Testament, he will be leading a special expanded Adult Class. He is the author of several Books on the Psalms. Plan to be here at 9:00 a.m. those Sundays!

FOOD BANK THIS WEEK 4/23

This week is our next opportunity for fun and service at the Food Bank! Come and help with the tasks at hand to serve those in need all across Mid-Missouri. To sign up, talk to Mahree Skala or follow the link that was in the Friday email.

LUNCH & LEARN: COPING WITH LIFE CHANGES 4/28

Changes in life occur constantly. Come learn strategies to help you and your loved ones cope with change, embrace feelings, and grow toward acceptance. Corinne Remeika will lead us in activities to help move through this process. This session will include the phases of grief, the process of actively mourning loss, and resources available to help. Lunch will be served. Please RSVP to Anne Heine for a meal count or sign up on the sheet in the rear of the Sanctuary.

TRIVIA NIGHT AT CUCC 5/11

We had so much fun last year, we are going to do it again! TRIVIA NIGHT at CUCC will be May 11 starting at 6:30 p.m. (door open at 6:00). Cost is \$20/person or \$150/table of eight people. All funds raised will go to the CUCC BUILDING FUND to replace our aging HVAC units. There is a sign up sheet in the rear of the Sanctuary to reserve your spot, or email the church office.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	4/21	<i>Earth Day/Bring a Friend Sunday</i>	
		Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Taco Bar	11:30 a.m.
		Earth Day at Peace Park	11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m.
		Qorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Mon	4/22	Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Tue	4/23	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		Food Bank	5:30 p.m.
		Clergy Personnel Committee Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	4/24	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6/7:00 p.m.
Sun	4/28	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Qorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

The Family and Friends of Shannon Ostermueller... on their loss
(Pastor Rick's friend)

Adrienne Fairley... on hospice (Rev. Tim Fairley's mother)

The family of Arthur Johnson... on their loss (Joe Remeika's brother-in-law)

Harry Beckett... recovering from back surgery

Rev. Bryan Crousore... upcoming back surgery

Connie Hackman Fairley . . . recovering from stroke

Barry Kirchoff . . . health issues, recovering well

Steve . . . challenges in life (Pastor Rick's Cousin)

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

The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

John Adams, Cheryl Cobb

Neal Stumbo (Jean Strothmann's nephew)

Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece)

Sheila . . . challenges in life and faith

The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Care Facilities:

Bea Gordon, Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank,

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Helen Graves, Don Privitt, Jean Strothman

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

Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 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***

My Shepherd Is the Living God

Ps. 23; John 10:11, 27-30

Composite from Thomas Sternhold, 1549, and Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

C G C G7 C F G F C

1 My shep-herd is the liv - ing God, I there-fore noth-ing need;
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;
 3 The sure pro - vi - sions of my God at - tend me all my days;

Am G C F G Am G7 C G C

In pas - tures fair, near pleas - ant streams you set - tle me to feed.
 A word of your sup - port - ing breath drives all my fears a - way.
 O may your house be my a - bode, and all my work be praise.

C F C Dm G C Am Dm Am FM7

You bring my wan-dering spir - it back when I for-sake your ways,
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta - ble spread;
 There would I find a set - tled rest, while oth - ers come and go—

Em C Am Dm Am Em C G7 C

And lead me for your mer - cy's sake in paths of truth and grace.
 My cup with bless-ings o - ver-flows, your oil a - noints my head.
 No more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Isaac Watts, London's leading Congregational minister, wrote more than 600 hymns. His paraphrase of Psalm 23 has been altered here by combining a few phrases from Thomas Sternhold, a sixteenth-century English hymnwriter who also wrote metrical psalm texts.

Tune: CONSOLATION C.M.D.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Harm. Erik Routley, 1976

Alternate tune: CRIMOND (Each stanza above becomes two stanzas.)

Such Perfect Love My Shepherd Shows

248

*Henry W. Baker, 1868; alt.**Ps. 23*

1 Such per - fect love my Shep - herd shows, whose
 2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my
 3 When vain and fool - ish oft I strayed, you,
 4 I do not fear death's shad - owed vale when

good - ness fails me nev - er, Whose hand all things I
 lov - ing Shep-herd leads me, And where the ver - dant
 faith - ful Shep-herd, sought me, And on your shoul - der
 you are here be - side me; Your rod and staff and

need be - stows and watch - es me for - ev - er.
 pas - tures grow with food from heav - en feeds me.
 gent - ly laid, then home re - joic - ing brought me.
 strength pre - vail to com - fort and to guide me.

5 You spread a ta-ble in my sight,
 your gifts of grace be-stow-ing;
 And from your chal-ice I de-light
 to taste your mer-cy flow-ing.

6 And so through all the length of days
 your good-ness fails me nev-er;
 Good Shep-herd, may I sing your praise
 with-in your house for-ev-er.

English clergyman Henry Baker greatly influenced hymnody in England and the United States through his leadership in preparing Hymns Ancient and Modern (1861). Baker's hymn is a recast of a George Herbert poem.

Tune: DOMINUS REGIT ME 8.7.8.7.
 John B. Dykes, 1868
 Alternate tune: ST. COLUMBA

Psalm 23

1 The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.

2 He makes me lie down in green pastures; he leads me beside still waters;

3 he restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.

4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff—they comfort me

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.

John 10:11-18

11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.

12 The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them.

13 The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep.

14 I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me,

15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep.

16 I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.

18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it up again. I have received this command from my Father."

“Climate change is in everybody’s backyard.”

Robert Redford

The following is part of a discussion that Robert Redford made to the United Nations News Centre in 2015. Mr. Redford has been a climate activist for decades. The entire discourse can be found at un.org/youthenvoy/2015.

UN News Centre: One of the General Assembly speakers was a teenage activist who later said that adults are having a party with the environment and the next generation are stuck with cleaning it up. What would you say to that?

Robert Redford: I would start with an apology. I’m very encouraged by this new generation. They’re better informed, they’re more knowledgeable, and the more knowledgeable they are, the more they get concerned, because it’s going to be their future. Our time is kind of done. We should apologize for what’s being left for them to work with – I’m just sorry we didn’t leave them much.

UN News Centre: The Pope recently spoke out about the dangers of climate change. Yet there are those who say the Pope is not an expert on science... your thoughts?

Robert Redford: Please, that’s insulting. The fact is what he’s saying is so much in need – I salute him, on many fronts, particularly that one because he’s placing it where it belongs, as a moral issue, and therefore there’s a spiritual component to that. And thank God that he’s placing it that way.

It’s not about politics. The moral issue of climate change should transcend politics. If it’s reduced to politics, we’re going to have the same old yin-yang, the same old problems, the same old fighting, the same old narrow-minded bickering between ideologies. It’s going to be a mess. Let’s get above it and take advantage of change and make it positive.



RAISING

GOOD

HUMANS

**Have Kids?
This is for
YOU!**

**Join us for a casual, light-hearted,
judgment-free zone to share
and laugh about all things
kid-related...or whatever else
comes up! Drop your kiddos/youth
off at Sunday School and join us!**

Sunday, May 19: 9-10 a.m.

**Upstairs in the room @ the end of the hall
(we'll have it marked!)**

**Nursery care provided for
littles ages 2 and under.**

**We'll take care of the doughnuts
& coffee for the grownups.**



TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday May 11, 2024 | Fellowship Hall
Doors at 6 p.m. | Trivia at 6:30 p.m.

\$20 individually or \$150 for a full table of 8

Use the QR code to sign up now and pay at the door.

POP QUIZ!



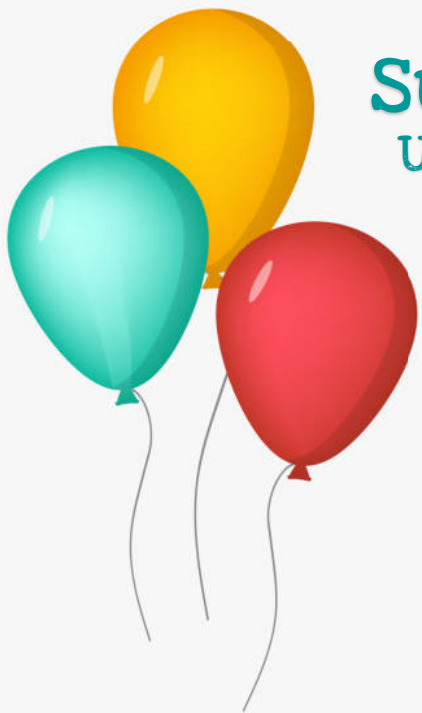
1. Which of the following is true?

- Downtown Appliance is providing the prizes
- You can sign up solo or with a team
- Teams are no more than 8 people
- Drinks are available for purchase
- Snacks are provided and you can bring your own
- Proceeds go to the Building Fund
- You should book your table now
- ALL OF THE ABOVE



**Calling all
Sunday School
Kiddos/Youth!**
(ages 3-12th grade)

**Join us for our
PENTECOST
PARTY**



Sunday, May 19 @ 9:00
Upstairs in Sunday School rooms

**A fun-filled time with
crafts, games, and snacks!**

**Bring a Friend
(or a few!)**

