

Columbia United Church Of Christ

October 26, 2025
"Reformation Sunday"



C U C C

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 26, 2025

10:30 a.m.

“Reformation”

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

*“In righteousness you answer us, by your awesome deeds,
God of our Salvation!”
-Psalm 65:5*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

“Here I Am to Worship”

Gina Pierson

Arr. Carol Tornquist

Carrying in the Light of Christ

***Call to Worship** (based on Psalm 65) Rev. Lauren Lippincott

Praise is due to You, O God;
You, who answers our prayers!

**By awesome deeds and Gracious Love, God answers us;
God of our Salvation!**

O God, by Your strength You established the mountains;
You silence the roaring of the seas and the tumult of Your people.

**We will be satisfied by the goodness of God’s House;
Happy are those who choose to be near God.**

God, You crown the year with Your bounty;
Your wagon tracks overflow with richness.

**The bounty of the earth is immeasurable;
God is awesome in deeds among mortals!
Come, let us worship God!**

***Hymn**

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

#439

***Opening Prayer**

Rev. Lauren Lippincott

God of new life and restoration; we come to You often feeling like dry bones, void of life and love. Our hopes are dashed, our fears are magnified, and our life seems bleak. But You restore our joy. You lift up our souls, restoring and bringing joy back into our lives. Forgive us for the times we stray far from You. Remind us that you are always present in our lives, offering restoration and hope. Teach us to proclaim your glory to all; so that all may come to know Your joy. In Jesus name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God offers us new life, restoration and joy! But even when we forget the blessings God offers us, 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

“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

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

“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*

Mission Moment

“Women's Health Kits”

Pastor Rick

Old Testament Lesson

Ezekiel 37:1-10

Rev. Lauren Lippincott

God is speaking to the prophet Ezekiel, and tells him to prophesy to a valley of dry bones. He does so and the bones are knit with new muscles and tendons and come to life at God's command. God does this as a symbol of restoration, symbolically showing Ezekiel and the people of Israel that they will be restored.

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Anthem

“Dry Bones”

Celebration Singers

Mark Hayes

Gospel Lesson

Mark 5:1-20

Rev. Lauren Lippincott

In this great Halloween story, Jesus comes to a place of tombs and finds a man possessed by a legion of demons howling and hiding among the tombs. Jesus exorcises the demons from the man, sending them into a herd of swine, which then run off a cliff to their death. The man is restored, then goes about proclaiming God's glory as seen in Jesus.

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Sermon:

“Dry Bones”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“We Worship You, God”
(Verses 1,2,5)

#26

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer;

The LORD’s Prayer

In an effort to encourage inclusion, we suggest using “Creator God” in our recitation of The Lord’s Prayer. You are welcome to say “Our Father” or “Our Mother” 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.

*Hymn

“O God, Our Help in Ages Past”
(verses 1-4)

#25

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

“Praise Him! Praise Him!”

Gina Pierson
Arr. Carol Tornquist

*Prayer of Dedication

Rev. Lauren Lippincott

God of love, we hear of the Reformation figures who dedicated their very lives to You and are humbled by their devotion. Like those devoted servants, we also offer our lives to You. As we do, we give these gifts; blessings that are a portion of the blessings we already have received. Take them and use them to Your will; that all the world may be as blessed as we are. Amen.

Worshipful Work

Blessing God’s world through our financial endeavors
(The 2026 Budget meeting of Columbia United Church of Christ)

*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

“Go, My Children, With My Blessing” Gina Pierson
Arr. Julie Lind

MARTIN LUTHER AND THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

Martin Luther, a German theologian and religious reformer, was the catalyst of the 16th-century Protestant Reformation. Through his words and actions, Luther brought into focus a movement that reformulated certain basic tenets of Christian belief and resulted in the division of Western Christendom between Roman Catholicism and the new Protestant traditions, mainly Lutheranism, Calvinism, the Anglican Communion, and the Anabaptists. He is one of the most influential figures in the history of Christianity.

In the fall of 1517 a demonstrative event quickly made Luther's name a household word in Germany. Irritated by Johann Tetzel, a Dominican friar who was reported to have preached to the faithful that the purchase of a letter of indulgence entailed the forgiveness of sins, Luther drafted a set of propositions for the purpose of conducting an academic debate on indulgences at the university in Wittenberg. He dispatched a copy of the *Ninety-five Theses* to Tetzel's superior, along with a request that he put a stop to Tetzel's extravagant preaching. He also sent copies to a number of friends. It began to be circulated in Germany, together with some explanatory publications by Luther.

Luther clearly intended the *Ninety-five Theses* to be subservient to the church and the Pope, and their overall tone is accordingly searching rather than doctrinaire. Nevertheless, there is a detectable undercurrent of “reforming” sentiment in the work—expressed in several theses beginning with the phrase “Christians are to be taught that...”—as well as some openly provocative statements.

By the end of 1518, Luther had reached a new understanding of salvation, or reconciliation with God. Over the centuries, the church had conceived the means of salvation in a variety of ways, but common to all of them was the idea that salvation is jointly effected by humans and by God—by humans through marshalling their will to do good works and thereby to please God and by God through God's offer of forgiving grace. Luther broke dramatically with this tradition by asserting that humans can contribute nothing to their salvation: salvation is, fully and completely, a work of divine grace.

Columbia United Church of Christ

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Custodian: Caleb Berry	calebprenticeberry@gmail.com
Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg	

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Lauren Lippincott
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Llona Weiss & Pat Forward
Greeters:	Carol Duermeyer
Technology:	Josh Muench & Lorry Dreier
Council Stewards:	Lena Muench & Ashley Ramirez



Online Giving

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Pat Forward
Song Leader:	Katie Jones
Ushers:	Charlie Marcks & Phillip Neale
Greeters:	Sue Ann Schaefer
Technology:	Brent Marcks & Lorry Dreier
Council Stewards:	Mary Lorber & Kristin Veteto

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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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!

NEW NAMETAGS

If you do not have a nametag, or if there are any changes needed on your nametag, fill out a form by the nametags in the coatroom. We have many “new” folks in our community, so it is important to wear your nametag!

BLESSING BOXES

It's time to send Blessing Boxes to our Columbia UCC College and Technical School crew. Our Blessing Boxes are filled with snacks and goodies. Please submit the names of those who should receive a box to the office email to ensure they get their package.

VETERANS DAY BREAKFAST - 11/09

Fellowship and Hospitality is hosting their annual Veterans Day Breakfast at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday, 11/9. This is for everyone, not just Veterans. Come and support our Veterans; we will be honoring all who served. Make sure to arrive early for breakfast and to honor those who have served our country.

TEAM EARTH LUNCH AND LEARN: SOLAR - 11/16

Team Earth is having a Lunch and Learn on solar power on November 16. They will be looking at the scriptural basis for environmental stewardship and learn about the Solarize Columbia project. Columbia UCC has an opportunity to install solar panels at a deeply discounted rate through this city-sponsored program. Come learn more details and enjoy a delicious lunch.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	10/26	Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Budget Meeting	11:30 a.m.
		Halloween Party & Potluck	12:00 p.m.
		Pastor Rick leads worship at Lenoir Woods	6:30 p.m.
Mon	10/27	Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	10/28	Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Food Bank	5:30 p.m.
Wed	10/29	Chapel Ringers & Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Thu	10/30	Site Visit with Dogwood Solar	4:30 p.m.
Sat	11/1	Sanctuary in use - private event	12:30 p.m.
Sun	11/2	<i>Daylight Savings Time Ends/All Saints Day</i>	
		Men's Fellowship Breakfast	7:30 a.m.
		Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Rev. Jim Elliott... health issues

Lloyd Mickelson... health issues

Claudia Hutcherson... health issues (Ron Tennill's Sister)

Ronald Remika... health issues (Joe Remika's Brother)

Doug... health issues (Alexandra's neighbor)

Owen Ramsingh and family

The family and friends of Aiyanna Williams... on their loss

The family of Janeen Atwood... on their loss (Lena's friend)

Mike Gregory... health issues

Monique... recovering from accident (Elaine Trout's friend)

Jim Posz... health issues (Allen's Father)

Dr. Ryan Link... health issues; prayers for him and his family

Cody Kile... recovery from accident

Phillip Neale's Niece... awaiting liver transplant

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

The people of Palestine, Israel, Iran, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

Tiffany Greene, Harold Hackman, Glenn Duermeyer,

Marsha Posz, Barry Kirchhoff, Ruth (Edie's Cousin),

Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley, Rachel Demand,

Kristan Whelihan (Russell Eveler's teacher),

Fred & Ann Wilke (Alethea's Parents)

Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's Niece), Jennifer (Edie Diel's Niece),

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 Piersee

Living in Care Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Harold Hackman,

Walter & Patty Schroeder

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, Cliff & Sue Beckman, Linda Evans

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

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 melbamaes@gmail.com

Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 tsoncasie@aol.com

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

439

Martin Luther, c. 1529

Ps. 46

Transl. Frederick H. Hedge, 1853; adapt. Ruth Duck, 1981



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a bul - wark nev - er fail - ing,
2 Did we in our own strength con - fide, our striv - ing would be los - ing,
3 And though this world with dev - ils filled should threat - en to un - do us,
4 That word be - yond all earth - ly powers for - ev - er is a - bid - ing;



Our pres - ent help a - mid the flood of mor - tal ills pre - vail - ing.
But there is one who takes our side, the One of God's own choos - ing.
We will not fear for God has willed the truth to tri - umph through us.
The Spir - it and the gifts are ours, for Christ is with us sid - ing.



For still our an - cient foe does seek to work us woe with craft and pow - er
You ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus sets us free! With might - y power to
The powers of e - vil grim, we trem - ble not for them; their rage we can en -
Let goods and kin - dred go, this mor - tal life al - so; the bod - y they may



great, and armed with cru - el hate, on earth with - out an e - qual.
save, vic - to - rious o'er the grave, Christ will pre - vail tri - um - phant.
dure, for lo, their doom is sure: one lit - tle word shall fell them.
kill; God's truth shall tri - umph still; God's reign en - dures for - ev - er.



There is speculation that this psalm paraphrase was written in 1527 when Martin Luther's friend was burned at the stake, or in 1529, when Lutheran German princes protested the revocation of their liberties. It has been translated into more than fifty languages.

Tune: EIN' FESTE BURG (isometric) 8.7.8.7.6.6.6.6.7.
Martin Luther, c. 1529
Harm. The New Hymnal for American Youth, 1930; alt.
For another version, see 440

We Worship You, God

Ps. 104:2-6, 10-13

Robert Grant, 1833; alt.

1 We wor - ship you, God; your power and your love
 2 We tell of your might, we sing of your grace,
 3 The earth, with its store of won - ders un - told,
 4 Your boun - ti - ful care, what tongue can re - cite?
 5 Frail chil - dren of dust, and fee - ble as frail,

are bla - zoned a - broad, a - round, and a - bove:
 whose robe is the light, whose can - o - py space;
 Al - might - y, your power has found - ed of old,
 It breathes in the air, it shines in the light;
 in you do we trust, nor find you to fail;

Our Shield and De - fend - er, the An - cient of Days,
 Your char - iots of wrath the deep thun - der - clouds form,
 Es - tab - lished it fast by a change-less de - cree,
 It streams from the hills, it de - scends to the plain,
 Your mer - cies how ten - der, how firm to the end,

pa - vil - ioned in splen - dor, and gird - ed with praise.
 and broad is your path on the wings of the storm.
 and round it you cast, like a man - tle, the sea.
 and sweet - ly dis - tills in the dew and the rain.
 our Mak - er, De - fend - er, Re - deem - er, and Friend!

Born in Bengal, India, Robert Grant became a lawyer in England, a member of Parliament, and for the last four years of his life was governor of Bombay. This text was inspired by William Kethe's paraphrase of Psalm 104.

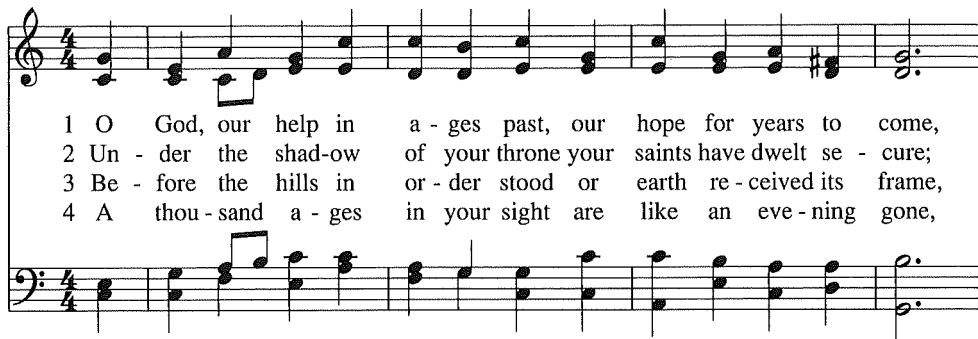
Tune: LYONS 10.10.11.11.
 Attrib. to J. Michael Haydn (1737-1806)
 Alternate tune: HANOVER

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

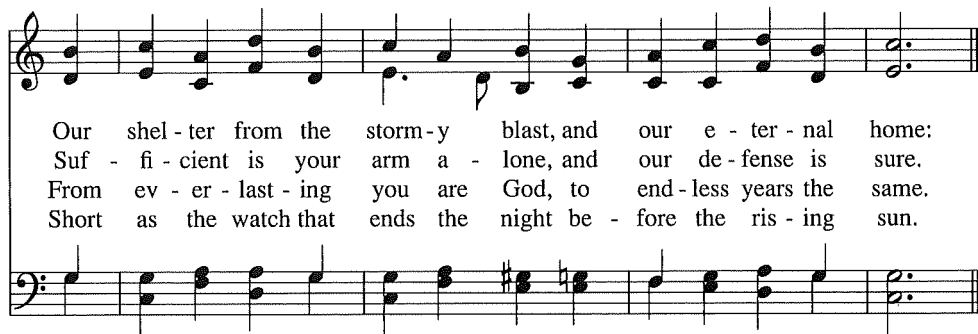
25

Isaac Watts, 1719; alt.

Ps. 90:1-2, 4-5



1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,
2 Un - der the shad-ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,



Our shel - ter from the storm-y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:
Suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.
From ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.
Short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

5 Time, like an ev-er-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
We fly for-got-ten, as a dream
fades at the o-pening day.

6 O God, our help in a-ges past,
our hope for years to come,
Still be our God while trou-bles last,
and our e-ter-nal home!

Watts, minister of a Congregational church in London, wrote theological and philosophical works and hundreds of "hymns of human composure" (everyday language). He augmented the congregational singing of psalms with a new style of hymnody.

Tune: ST. ANNE C.M.
William Croft, 1708

Ezekiel 37:1-10

- 1 The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones.
- 2 He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry.
- 3 He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.”
- 4 Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.
- 5 Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live.
- 6 I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”
- 7 So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.
- 8 I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them.
- 9 Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.”
- 10 I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Mark 5:1-20

- 1 They came to the other side of the sea, to the region of the Gerasenes.
- 2 And when he had stepped out of the boat, immediately a man from the tombs with an unclean spirit met him.
- 3 He lived among the tombs, and no one could restrain him any more, even with a chain,

4 for he had often been restrained with shackles and chains, but the chains he wrenched apart, and the shackles he broke in pieces, and no one had the strength to subdue him.

5 Night and day among the tombs and on the mountains he was always howling and bruising himself with stones.

6 When he saw Jesus from a distance, he ran and bowed down before him, 7 and he shouted at the top of his voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I adjure you by God, do not torment me."

8 For he had said to him, "Come out of the man, you unclean spirit!"

9 Then Jesus asked him, "What is your name?" He replied, "My name is Legion, for we are many."

10 He begged him earnestly not to send them out of the region. 11 Now there on the hillside a great herd of swine was feeding,

12 and the unclean spirits begged him, "Send us into the swine; let us enter them."

13 So he gave them permission. And the unclean spirits came out and entered the swine, and the herd, numbering about two thousand, stampeded down the steep bank into the sea and were drowned in the sea.

14 The swineherds ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came to see what it was that had happened.

15 They came to Jesus and saw the man possessed by demons sitting there, clothed and in his right mind, the very man who had had the legion, and they became frightened.

16 Those who had seen what had happened to the man possessed by demons and to the swine reported it.

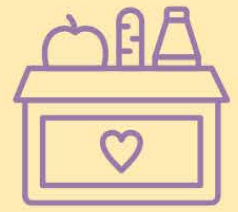
17 Then they began to beg Jesus to leave their neighborhood.

18 As he was getting into the boat, the man who had been possessed by demons begged him that he might be with him.

19 But Jesus refused and said to him, "Go home to your own people, and tell them how much the Lord has done for you and what mercy he has shown you."

20 And he went away and began to proclaim in the Decapolis how much Jesus had done for him, and everyone was amazed.

HELP US FEED LOCAL FAMILIES



TOGETHER, WE CAN PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

- Drop off non-perishable food items in the box at sign-in kiosk
- Donate a monetary contribution by placing money in an envelope and writing LODO Food Drive (all money will go to a local food pantry)



WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT

Every day, families in our community go to bed hungry. Your donation helps us provide fresh meals and groceries to those who need it most.

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS:

- Canned vegetables, beans & soup
- Rice, pasta & cereal
- Shelf-stable milk & baby formula
- Peanut butter & canned protein
- Cooking oil & spices



HUNGER AFFECTS 1 IN 7 PEOPLE

DROP OFF LOCATION:

Little One's Day Out
From 11/1- 11/25