

Columbia United Church Of Christ

May 17, 2026

“Annual Congregational Gathering”



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**



May 17, 2026

10:30 a.m.

“TAMBO”

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

*“Come and hear, all you who know God,
and I will tell you what God has done for me.”*

-Psalm 66:16

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

“Evening Prayer”

E. Humperdinck

Connie Loveless, Piano & Linda Neale, Flute

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 66)

Mahree Skala

O God, how awesome are Your deeds.

O God, how glorious is Your Name!

Make a joyful noise to God, people of faith!

Sing the glory of God’s Holy Name!

Your deeds are awesome, Your grace overflowing!

All the earth sings praises to Your Holy Name!

Come and see what God has done!

God is awesome in deeds among mortals!

You transformed the sea into dry land,

That we may pass through to Salvation.

You lead us through fire and water

And bring us out to a spacious place.

Let all the people shout blessings to God!

Let God’s praises be heard!

Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn

“Crown Him with Many Crowns”

(insert)

*Opening Prayer

Mahree Skala

God of unity; we hear the prayer of Jesus, that all may be one. We see our hopes and dreams reflected in this prayer, as well as our fears and challenges. Forgive us for the times we embrace fear instead of hope and reject this prayer of Jesus. Teach us to speak of unity, not division; and lead us to a greater understanding of how we can be miracle workers in Your world, if we just work

together. We ask these prayers in Jesus' name; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Jesus prays for unity, that all may be one; yet often, based in fear, we reject this idea. But even when we do, God still loves and welcomes us, encourages and guides us. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response

“Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja”

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!

Halle, Halle, Halle-lu-ja!

Halle-lu-ja! 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

Pastor Rick

“Tell me the Stories of Jesus”

(Sung as children return to their seats)

Tell me the stories of Jesus I love to hear;

Things I would ask him to tell me, if he were near:

Scenes by the wayside, tales of the sea

Stories of Jesus, tell them to me!

New Testament Lesson

Acts 18:5-11

Mahree Skala

The Apostle Paul continues his travels, sharing the Good News. He travels to Corinth, testifying that Jesus is the long awaited Messiah. He receives heated opposition. His mission was to bring unity; but division was often the result.

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Gospel Lesson

John 17:1-11

Mahree Skala

Jesus is praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, facing betrayal, denial, trial and crucifixion. As he prepares himself to be taken away, his most fervent prayer is heard here; that through the wisdom he has shared with his friends, they might find unity. This prayer for unity has become the motto of the United Church of Christ: “That All May Be One.”

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Anthem

“We are One, Lord”

Celebration Singers

Stan Pethel

Sermon

“That All May Be One”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“Woman Weeping in the Garden”

(insert)

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.

*Hymn "God Loved the World" #208

Sharing our Announcements 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 Gina Pierson

*Prayer of Dedication Mahree Skala

Take these gifts, O God, and use them to bring peace and justice to Your world; that all Your children may be lifted up and affirmed, and nations wage war no more. Let Your reign of peace rule in Your cities, gracious God; and let these gifts help make that peaceful reign a reality. 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 Gina Pierson

Nominating Committee Report 2026

This year's CUCC Nominating Committee consisted of Kurt Heine, Keith Birkes, Lloyd Viehland, Lauren Lippincott, Kristy Hayward, Corinne Remeika, and Pastor Rick.

Of the seven open Council positions, two Council Members were at their term limits, there was one vacancy, and three members chose not to run again. Deborah Long-Birkes chose to run for another two-year term. The team met three times to fill the six open positions. After due diligence, they arrived at the following slate for your consideration:

Positions	Nominee
Secretary	Aimee Andersen
Treasurer	Deborah Long Birkes*
Building & Grounds	Allen Posz
Finance & Stewardship	Sue Ann Schaefer
Little One's Day Out	Darla Privitt
Worship & Music	Kitty Rogers
Nurture & Education	Jessica Lucas

**Second term*

This nominations slate will be presented to the congregation for consideration under "new business" at this year's Annual Meeting on May 17. Thank you to our Nominating Committee for all your hard work!

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

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Mahree Skala
Song Leader: Mike Pierson
Ushers: Llona Weiss & Pat Forward
Greeters: Deb & Roger Meers
Technology: Doug & Judi Privitt
Council Stewards: Christine Staelens & Judi Privitt



Online Giving

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Tricia Soncasie
Song Leader: Mike Pierson
Ushers: Keith Birkes & Deborah Long Birkes
Greeters: Jolene Kirchhoff
Technology: Carissa Graves & John Graves
Council Stewards: Alethea Tennill & Deborah Long Birkes

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator: Jerry Kiesling rollzierp50@gmail.com
Vice Moderator: Corinne Remeika remeikas@tranquility.net
Secretary: Alethea Tennill atennill108@gmail.com
Treasurer: Deborah Birkes dlong@elon.edu.com
Recording Treasurer: Christine Staelens tigersfour@gmail.com
Building & Grounds: Ted Dachroeden gpadoc4gd@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality: Mary Lorber eldercow@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship: *Vacant*
Inclusion & Affirmation: Ashley Ramirez ashknight0628@gmail.com
Little One's Day Out: Kristin Veteto kristinnoelveteto@gmail.com
Membership & Care: Judi Privitt judiprivitt811@gmail.com
Nurture & Education: Lena Muench cfg323@yahoo.com
Outreach & Advocacy: Mahree Skala skalamahree@yahoo.com
Worship & Music: Edie Diel edie@thedandegroup.com
Pastor: Rev. Rick Oberle rick@columbiaucc.com

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NURSERY CARE is available for children in kindergarten and younger in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING/POT LUCK - TODAY

Today is our Annual Congregational Meeting! The Church Council has a great agenda planned to share the joy of church with you! Stick around!

FOOD BANK - 5/26

It is food bank fun time again! It is always fun working together to support this great cause. Food insecurity is on the rise, and we can help. Contact Mahree Skala to sign up or check the Friday Email.

SCOUTS SUNDAY/BBQ - 5/31

Don't miss worship on 5/31! Our Scouts will be leading the service, giving us a recap of their year. After worship, we will share a BBQ lunch together, hosted by our Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team!

SAVE THE DATE - VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Get ready to blast off! This year's Vacation Bible School will be out of this world. Save the date for Tuesday July 14 and Wednesday, July 15 for two days full of cosmic Christian fun. Registration information for helpers and attendees is in the Friday email, and on our website. Questions? Ask Lena Muench.

GUEST SUMMER MUSICIANS

While the Celebration Singers and Chapel Ringers take their summer break, we are looking for those who would love to share their talent and time with us. If you are interested but don't have a date or song in mind, reach out to Mike Pierson. Summer worship music opportunities start June 7 and end August 16. *(Reminder– worship time will remain at 10:30 a.m. this summer!)*

NF MIDWEST FUNDRAISER– TODAY

NF Midwest is hosting a Shakespeare's fundraiser today! Bring the insert flyer to any Shakespeare's and NF will receive 15% of your order!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	5/17	Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Annual Congregational Meeting/Pot Luck	12:00 p.m.
		Quorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Mon	5/18	Loaves & Fishes	4:30 p.m.
		Scouts	7:00 p.m.
Tue	5/19	Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Pause to Color	1:00 p.m.
		Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	5/20	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Confirmation	7:15 p.m.
Sun	5/24	Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Quorus Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

The family of Gene Detweiler... on their loss (Gail Marriott's Father)

Marna... health issues (Edie Diel's Sister)

Mary Jane Johnson... health issues (Joe Remeika' Sister)

Shirley Gallaher... recovering from hip replacement

Michael Butterworth... recovering from surgery

Christopher Tennill... on deployment in the Middle East

Jonathon Schultz... recovering from ankle surgery

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

All those whose lives are affected by state sanctioned terrorism including:

Owen Ramsingh and family,

The family of Renee Good, The family of Alex Pretti,

Jack and Claudia (Pastor Rick's friends), and so many others

Our US Military... deployed in the Middle East

Health Issues:

Jeff Kies, Barry Kirchhoff, Glenn Duermeyer, Evie Marcks, Dean Barry

Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father), Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter),

Kenny & Jane Holtgrewe (Marsha Posz's parents),

Karleen Martindale (Kasper's Mother),

Mark & Connie Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link;

Martha (friend of the Veteto family), Ken (Adam Veteto's Cousin);

Marilyn Coronado & Beverly Wilcox (Corinne Remeika's friends)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Kieran Armstrong, Jen Siebert

Living in Care Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Julie Roper

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

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

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

Garrett Holtgrewe... (Marsh Posz's Nephew)

Pregnancies in our Church Family:

Shelby Oberle & Ryan Furney; Chloe & Mark Eveler;

Kristin & Adam Veteto

*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

1. Crown him with man - y crowns, the Lamb up - on his throne.
 2. Crown him the Lord of life, who tri-umphed o'er the grave,
 3. Crown him the Lord of peace, whose power a scep - ter sways
 4. Crown him the Lord of love; be - hold his hands and side,

Hark! how the heav-en-ly an-them drowns all mu-sic but its own.
 and rose vic - to - rious in the strife for those he came to save;
 from pole to pole, that wars may cease, and all be prayer and praise.
 those wounds, yet vis - i - ble a - bove, in beau-ty glo - ri - fied.

A - wake, my soul, and sing of him who died for thee,
 his glo - ries now we sing who died, and rose on high,
 His reign shall know no end, and round his pier - ed feet
 All hail, Re - deem - er, hail! For thou hast died for me;

and hail him as thy match-less King through all e - ter - ni - ty.
 who died, e - ter - nal life to bring, and lives that death may die.
 fair flowers of par - a - dise ex - tend their fra-grance ev - er sweet.
 thy praise and glo - ry shall not fail through-out e - ter - ni - ty.

D
A
G
A
D

1. Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den,
 2. Wom - an, wait - ing in the gar - den,
 3. Wom - an, walk - ing in the gar - den,
 4. Wom - an, weep - ing in the gar - den,
 5. Wom - an, danc - ing from the gar - den,

G
D/F#
Em
D
A
Bm
A
D

1. who has pushed the stone a - side? Who has tak - en
 2. af - ter men have come and gone; af - ter an - gels
 3. Je - sus takes you by sur - prise; when the gar - dener
 4. weep for joy, for you have seen Je - sus, the Mes -
 5. find the oth - ers and pro - claim Christ is ris - en

G
A
D
G
A
Bm7
Em7
A7
D

1. Je - sus' bod - y; Je - sus Christ, the cru - ci - fied?
 2. give their wit - ness, si - lent - ly you watch the dawn.
 3. calls you, "Ma - ry!" faith and joy meet in your eyes.
 4. si - ah, ris - en; Christ, of whom the proph - ets dream.
 5. as he prom - ised; tell the world he knew your name!

God Loved the World

John 3:16-17

Heiliges Lippen und Herzens Opfer, Stettin, 1778
Transl. August Crull, 1845; alt.

1 God loved the world, and lov - ing gave
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith,
3 If you are sick, if death is near,
4 Be of good cheer, for God in Christ

a won - drous gift, the lost to save,
who was made flesh and suf - fered death;
this truth your trou - bled heart can cheer;
for - gives the flock, by sin en - ticed,

That all who would in Christ be - lieve
All who con - fide in Christ a - lone
Christ Je - sus saves us all from death;
And jus - ti - fied by Je - sus' blood,

should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
that is the firm - est ground of faith.
your bap - tism grants the high - est good.

Edward Miller, a skilled flutist in G. F. Handel's orchestra,
adapted Rockingham from the tune Tunbridge. Miller named it
for the Marquis of Rockingham, a patron and friend, and prime
minister of Great Britain.

Tune: ROCKINGHAM L.M.
Anon.

Adapt. Edward Miller, 1790

Acts 18:5-11

5 When Silas and Timothy arrived from Macedonia, Paul was occupied with proclaiming the word, testifying to the Jews that the Messiah was Jesus.

6 When they opposed and reviled him, in protest he shook the dust from his clothes and said to them, “Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent. From now on I will go to the gentiles.”

7 Then he left the synagogue and went to the house of a man named Titius Justus, a worshiper of God; his house was next door to the synagogue.

8 Crispus, the official of the synagogue, became a believer in the Lord, together with all his household, and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul became believers and were baptized.

9 One night the Lord said to Paul in a vision, “Do not be afraid, but speak and do not be silent,

10 for I am with you, and no one will lay a hand on you to harm you, for there are many in this city who are my people.”

11 He stayed there a year and six months, teaching the word of God among them.

John 17:1-11

1 After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you,

2 since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him.

3 And this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom you have sent.

4 I glorified you on earth by finishing the work that you gave me to do.

5 So now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had in your presence before the world existed.

6 “I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word.

7 Now they know that everything you have given me is from you,

8 for the words that you gave to me I have given to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you, and they have believed that you sent me.

9 I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours.

10 All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I have been glorified in them.

11 And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one.

WALK4NF

Walk for Neurofibromatosis

STROLL, CELEBRATE, CONNECT!

Honor loved ones, celebrate progress, unite for a cause.



OVER 4 MILLION PEOPLE HAVE
NEUROFIBROMATOSIS!

WALK4NF
Saturday

May 30, 2026 at
Stephens Lake Park - Gordon Shelter
Columbia, MO

9:00 AM START
10:00 AM WALK

Food! Music! Raffle! Dancing! And a Little Walk!

Register at WALK4NF.ORG

