

Columbia United Church Of Christ

July 20, 2025

“Worry and What Matters Most”



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**



July 20, 2025

9:30 a.m.

"Distractions"

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

"I trust in the Steadfast Love of God forever and ever!"

Psalms 52:8

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Andantino"

Steve Jannetti

Aram Khachaturian

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 52)

Mahree Skala

Like green olive trees in God's Holy Temple,
We thrive in the house of God forever.

**We will strive to seek refuge in God!
God's provision is with us always!**

We will trust in the Steadfast Love of God forever and ever.
In the presence of the faithful, we will proclaim God's glory.

**We will strive to seek refuge in God!
God's provision is with us always!**

Those who take refuge in worldly things fall away;
But God's provision lasts forever.

**We will proclaim God's Holy Name, for it is good.
God's provision is with us always!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"Called as Partners in Christ's Service"

#495

*Opening Prayer

Mahree Skala

God of eternal presence; we know that You are always with us in all things. No matter what we go through in life You are there, giving us hope. Forgive us for the times we let the details of the world distract us from Your promises. Focus our minds on Your wisdom and glory; and teach us to be Kingdom workers. Help us put aside the details that seek to destroy us and help us focus on matters that build up Your community and Your people. Show us how to glorify You, and empower us to do so every day. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God tells us to put aside the distractions of life and focus on Their eternal presence. Yet even when we forget this lesson, 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

“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

Melt me, mold me, fill me, use me!

Spirit of the Living God, fall afresh on me!

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

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 here.

Words full of kindness, deeds full of grace,

All in the love light of Jesus' face!

Reception of New Members

Invitation & Questions to New Members

Pastor Rick

Welcoming Our Newest Members

Jerry Kiesling

We welcome you with joy into the common life of this church. We give thanks to every church that has been your home on your spiritual journey and for the formation they have given you. We promise you our friendship and prayers as we share the hopes and labors of the church of Jesus Christ. By the power of the Holy Spirit, may we all continue to grow together in God's knowledge and love.

Mission Moment

“The Christmas Fund”

Mahree Skala

New Testament Lesson

Colossians 1:15-23

Mahree Skala

The Apostle Paul continues his testimony about the Good News of Jesus Christ to the church in Colossae. He talks of Jesus' ministry and life, and the sacrifice Christ made for the sake of those who follow the Gospel. He concluded with a statement of dedication concerning his life and actions. He is committed to Christ's gospel.

Page #956

The story of Mary and Martha and their behavior when Jesus visits. Mary sat at Jesus' feet while Martha continues hospitality preparations. Martha complains, but Jesus compliments Mary on her devotion. Neither woman is wrong in their chosen behavior; but Jesus emphasizes their right to choose how to react to his presence.

Page #845

Anthem

"Standing in the Need of Prayer"

Mike & Gina Pierson

Arr. Robert Vandall

Sermon

"What Matters Most"

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

"Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls"

#383

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.

*Meditation Hymn "Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant"

#539

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

"Romanze"

Steve Jannetti
Franz J. Haydn

*Prayer of Dedication

Mahree Skala

God, we know that by giving to others we build a closer relationship with You. Take these gifts and use them to serve, that we might be reconciled more fully with one another and with You; and that Your Kingdom may be realized more fully here on earth. 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

“Rondo”

Steve Jannetti
James Hook

THE CHRISTMAS FUND UCC NATIONAL MISSION OFFERING

To be collected next Sunday (7/27) or before

A Tribute to the work of The Christmas Fund by Rev. Cathy Barker

“My father, a UCC minister, died of cancer at age 54, just after Thanksgiving. I was fourteen; my brother and sister were grown and had to go back to their homes. Mom and I were lonely, confused about the future, and our financial picture was very shaky. Further, we faced a bleak Christmas . . . we didn’t even want to think about that.”

“Then came a check from the Christmas Fund. We were both deeply touched that our National Church somehow knew that we were in need and gave us this gift. It didn’t solve all our troubles, but it made it possible for us to have Christmas. We felt the love behind the gift, and that was transformative.”

“Throughout my mother’s long life, she gave faithfully and gratefully to the Christmas Fund, and I have done the same through the churches I have served as pastor. I’ve often told our story, because I want people to know how important it is to reach out in this way.”
-Rev. Cathy Barker

Last Fiscal Year (2023), gifts to The Christmas Fund enabled:

- Monthly pension supplementation for 210 retired clergy and lay employees (\$1,007,289)
- Health premium supplementation for 82 retired clergy and lay employees (\$173,745)
- Emergency grants for 67 individuals and families (\$155,992)
- Christmas “Thank You” gift checks to 511 retired clergy and lay employees (\$255,500)

We will be collecting our Christmas Fund offering next Sunday, July 27; but you can contribute any time between now and then by clicking the donation tab on our CUCC Website and selecting “The Christmas Fund” from the dropdown menu; by texting the word “GIVE” to 573.240.4041 and following the prompts, by dropping a check in the offering plate, or by mailing a check to the church office.

Columbia United Church of Christ

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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Mahree Skala

Ushers: Brenda Muench & John Muench

Greeters: Anne Heine

Technology: Adam Veteto & Lorry Dreier

Council Stewards: Christine Staelens & Kristin Veteto

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Lydia Whitacre

Ushers: Pat Forward & Mark Duncan

Greeters: Sue Ann Schaefer

Technology: Doug & Judi Privitt

Council Stewards: Lena Muench & Judi Privitt



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!

ICE CREAM SOCIAL– TODAY

Come to Hulen Lake Shelter this afternoon for our ice cream social! The Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team will be coordinating a fun afternoon/evening of ice cream and fellowship. Mary Lorber will be making homemade honey ice cream! You are encouraged to bring your favorite ice cream as well. The fun starts at 4:00 p.m. Feel free to swim, fish, or play yard games. Bring a lawn/camp chair; seating is limited. See Mary Lorber for more information.

VBS– JULY 28-30

We are looking to borrow some items to decorate our space! If you would like to donate suitcases, backpacks, coolers, “cozy coupe” cars, license plates, tires, street signs, or other “car/trip” items, please bring them to the coat room today! Please label all items and they will be returned. If you would like to help with VBS, talk to Lena or Gina!

NEW NAMETAGS

The Membership & Care and Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Teams have worked together this summer to roll out new nametags for the congregation! If you do not have a nametag, fill out a form by the wicker basket near the coatroom. We have many “new” folks in our community, so it is more important than ever to wear your nametag! Be sure to wear yours each Sunday!

MUSICAL TALENTS OPPORTUNITY

Share your talents this summer! Our Music Coordinator, Mike Pierson, is looking for folks to offer anthems this summer. Quartets, trios, duets, solos, whatever– we need you! To sign up, talk to Mike Pierson. (If you would like Steve Jannetti to accompany you, talk with him well in advance!)

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	7/20	NEW MEMBERS SUNDAY	
		Bible Study	8:30 a.m.
		Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	9:30 a.m.
		Ice Cream Social at Hulen Lake Shelter	4:00 p.m.
Thu	7/24	Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	6:00 p.m.
Sun	7/27	Bible Study	8:30 a.m.
		Fellowship	9:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	9:30 a.m.
		Pastor Rick leads worship at Lenoir	6:00 p.m.

***Summer Time Change:
Worship starts at 9:30 a.m. thru August 31***

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Dr. Ryan Link... health issues; prayers for him and his family
Tiffany Greene... health issues
Harold Hackman... health issues
Ruth... health issues (Edie's Cousin)
Fred Wilke... health issues (Alethea's Father)
Julie Barry... health issues (Jan & Dean's Daughter)
Mark Wilson... hand injury
Cody Kile... recovery from accident
The family of Mark Hooibrink... on their loss
The family of Dylan Bracken... on their loss (James Melton's Brother-in-law)
Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our Partner in Education
The people of Palestine, Israel, Iran, and Ukraine
Flood victims in Texas... on their loss

Health Issues:

Glenn Duermeyer, Lloyd Mickelson, Marsha Posz, Barry Kirchhoff
Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley, Rachel Demand,
Kristan Whelihan (Russell Eveler's teacher), Ann Wilke (Alethea's Mother)
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 (friends of Corinne Remeika),
Lortisha Powell (Dorothy Vetter's friend)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Kieran Piersee

Living in Care Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Helen Graves, Harold Hackman,
Walter & Patty Schroeder

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, Alice Moon, 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@google.com
Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 tsoncasi@aol.com*

Called as Partners in Christ's Service

495

Jane Parker Huber, 1981

John 15:12-17; Gal. 6:2; Eph. 2:14-22



1 Called as part-ners in Christ's ser-vice, called to min-is-tries of grace,
 2 Christ's ex-am-ple, Christ's in-spir-ing, Christ's clear call to work and worth,
 3 Thus new pat-terns for Christ's mis-sion, in a small or glob-al sense,
 4 So God grant us for to-mor-row ways to or-der hu-man life



We re-pond with deep com-mit-ment fresh new lines of faith to trace.
 Let us fol-low, nev-er fal-tering, rec-on-cil-ing folk on earth.
 Help us bear each oth-er's bur-dens, break-ing down each wall or fence.
 That sur-round each per-son's sor-row with a calm that con-quers strife.



May we learn the art of shar-ing, side by side and friend with friend,
 Men and wom-en, rich-er, poor-er, all God's peo-ple, young and old,
 Words of com-fort, words of vi-sion, words of chal-lenge, said with care,
 Make us part-ners in our liv-ing, our com-pas-sion to in-crease,



E-equal part-ners in our car-ing to ful-fill God's cho-sen end.
 Blend-ing hu-man skills to-geth-er gra-cious gifts from God un-fold.
 Bring new power and strength for ac-tion, make us col-leagues, free and fair.
 Mes-sen-gers of faith, thus giv-ing hope and con-fi-dence and peace.



One of Jane Parker Huber's most widely sung texts, this hymn was originally written for a women's breakfast at the 1981 Presbyterian General Assembly meeting to celebrate the partnership of women and men in service of the church.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

For another key, see 43, 368

Colossians 1:15-23

15 He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation,
16 for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him.
17 He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together.
18 He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything.
19 For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
20 and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.
21 And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds,
22 he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him,
23 provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.

Luke 10:38-42

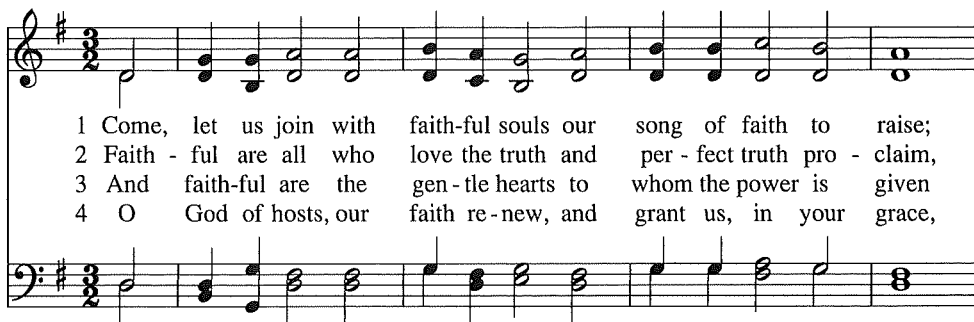
38 Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him.,
39 She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying.
40 But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me."
41 But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things,
42 but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Come, Let Us Join with Faithful Souls

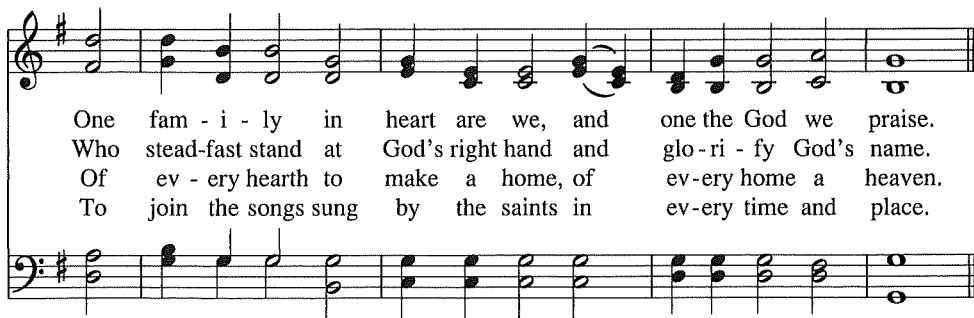
383

William G. Tarrant, 1892; alt.

Rev. 5:11-14



1 Come, let us join with faith-ful souls our song of faith to raise;
2 Faith - ful are all who love the truth and per - fect truth pro - claim,
3 And faith-ful are the gen - tle hearts to whom the power is given
4 O God of hosts, our faith re - new, and grant us, in your grace,



One fam - i - ly in heart are we, and one the God we praise.
Who stead-fast stand at God's right hand and glo - ri - fy God's name.
Of ev - ery hearth to make a home, of ev - ery home a heaven.
To join the songs sung by the saints in ev - ery time and place.

A leader of the Unitarian Church in England, William Tarrant edited a Unitarian weekly and for thirty-seven years ministered to the Unitarian Christian Church in London. This hymn was one of many he wrote for use by that congregation.

Tune: AZMON C.M.

Carl G. Gläser, 1828

Arr. Lowell Mason, in Modern Psalmody, 1839

Won't You Let Me Be Your Servant?

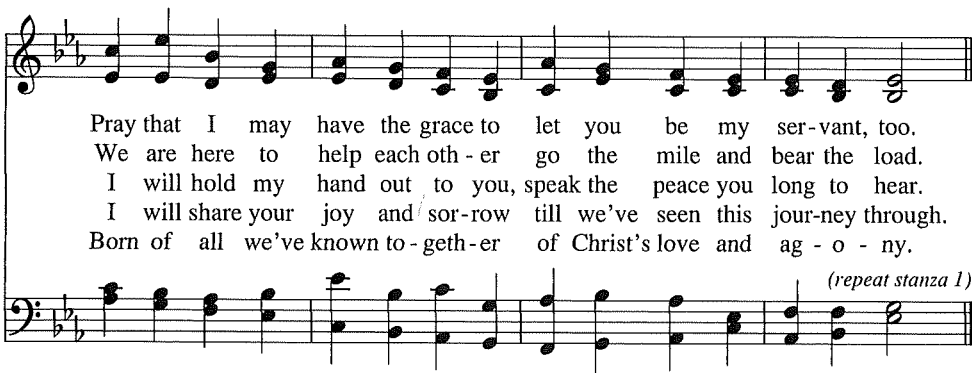
539

Richard Gillard, 1977; alt.

Rom. 12:9–18; Col. 1:24–29



1 & 6 Won't you let me be your ser - vant, let me be as Christ to you?
2 We are pil - grims on a jour - ney, we are trav - elers on the road;
3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the shad - ow of your fear;
4 I will weep when you are weep - ing; when you laugh, I'll laugh with you.
5 When we sing to God in heav - en we shall find such har - mo - ny,



Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my ser - vant, too.
We are here to help each oth - er go the mile and bear the load.
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.
I will share your joy and sor - row till we've seen this jour - ney through.
Born of all we've known to - geth - er of Christ's love and ag - o - ny.

(repeat stanza 1)

Richard Gillard was born in England and later made his home in New Zealand. Largely self-taught, Gillard has described his musical style as "folk." This is the best known of his many songs in the United States.

Tune: SERVANT SONG 8.7.8.7.
Richard Gillard, 1977
Arr. Betty Carr Pulkingham, 1977; adapt.