

Columbia United Church Of Christ

July 19, 2026
“Questions of Faith”



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 19, 2026

10:30 a.m.

"Questions"

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

*"any church that tells you they have all the answers
is a church to run away from, and quickly."*

-Pastor Rick

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Amazing Grace"

Jolene Hackman
Arr. Kathy Smith

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 139)

Sue Ann Schaefer

God searches us and knows us;

God knows us when we sit down and rise up.

God knows our thoughts even from far away.

God searches out our path and shows us the way.

God is acquainted with all our ways.

Even before a word is on our tongue, God knows us completely.

God created each one of us,

Knitting us together in our mother's womb.

Praise God with all your heart!

We are wonderfully made, created to know God.

Search us, O God and know us;

Lead us in the ways of everlasting life!

Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn

"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"

#1

*Opening Prayer

Sue Ann Schaefer

God of love, You encourage us to ask questions of our faith because asking questions is the road to true faith development. We know that easy answers and rote recitation are not true avenues for faith development. Forgive us for the times we try to take the easy route instead of truly developing our faith. Open our minds to faith expansion, rather than contraction. Allow us to grow ever closer to You by asking probing questions; and let our faith develop as we do. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Jesus challenges us to question our faith. But even when we forget this mandate, 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

"Seek Ye First"

***Seek ye first the kingdom of God
and God's righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, alleluia!***

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

Pastor Rick

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

"This Little Light of Mine"

#524

(Sung as children return to their seats)

***This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
This little light of mine; I'm gonna let it shine!
Let it shine, let it shine, let it shine!***

Mission Moment

"The Christmas Fund"

Mahree Skala

New Testament Lesson

Romans 8:14-17

Sue Ann Schaefer

The Apostle Paul, writing to the church in Rome, calls upon his followers to embrace their spiritual selves and put aside the fears of the world. He reminds them of their heritage as Children of God; and calls upon them to embrace that heritage in their actions. Page #919

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 13:24-30

Sue Ann Schaefer

Jesus speaks again in parable. Why does he do this? What questions do his parables generate in the minds of his audiences? Why does he not answer them? Would he really explain them later, or leave folks questioning? Why did Jesus answer questions with more questions? Page #795

Anthem

Linda Neale

Sermon

"Questions of Faith"

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

"Holy Spirit, Truth Divine"

#63

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 "Come Now, Almighty God" #275

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 "O Stor Gud" Jolene Hackman
Arr. Jerry Ray

*Prayer of Dedication Sue Ann Schaefer

Creator God, we give these gifts today as symbols of our mutual ministry here in this place. As our gifts entwine with each other we ask Your blessings on them, that they may multiply and be used to glorify You by serving Your world. 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 "Go With God" Jolene Hackman
Arr. Isaiah Jones Jr.

CUCC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2026 (and beyond)

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

- Advocate for policies that provide support for others
- Incorporate everyone's talents into the work and life of the church
- Formulate support & education classes for parents and children
- Improve staff training and professional development
- Ensure that our staff are paid just wages
- Discern and address the needs of our older members
- Strive to meet the needs of our members where they are

ESTABLISHING OUR IDENTITY

- Increase public awareness of our mission and location
- Increase our advertising/marketing efforts
- Consistently canvass the neighborhood north of the church
- Attract more members, focusing on youth and diversity
- Strive for intentionality incorporating youth and young adults into the life of the church
- Strive for intentionality incorporating a diverse community into the life of the church

DEVELOPING OUR FACILITY

- Continue to modernize and maintain our building and grounds
- Develop a comprehensive maintenance manual with records, goals and strategies for modernization and maintenance
- Seek out new ways to utilize our building to enhance our ministry and generate income
- Establish financial security for our ongoing ministry programs
- Establish our facility as a host site for music groups, choirs, concerts, lecturer series, and other public events

SERVING GOD'S WORLD

- Partner with other agencies that share our goals & interests
- Create a fulfilling, engaging, inclusive Sunday morning experience
- Develop partnerships with others to share our facility
- Strive for intentionality in connecting children, youth and adults to outreach and service opportunities
- Look for ways to reach out to other UCC congregations and work together for justice
- Strive to identify ways that we can be socially responsible and educated in areas of ecological justice, international mission, and other justice issues at home and abroad

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
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:	Sue Ann Schaefer
Song Leader:	Shelby Oberle
Ushers:	Jerry Kiesling & Jessica Lucas
Greeters:	Pat Forward
Technology:	Josh Muench & Lorry Dreier
Council Stewards:	Christine Staelens & Ashley Ramirez

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Jessica Lucas
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Mahree Skala & Phillip Neale
Greeters:	Mary Lorber
Technology:	Carissa Graves & John Graves
Council Stewards:	Aimee Andersen

Online Giving



COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling	rollzierp50@gmail.com
Vice Moderator:	Corinne Remeika	remeikas@tranquility.net
Secretary:	Aimee Andersen	aca70re@gmail.com
Treasurer:	Deborah Birkes	dlong@elon.edu.com
Recording Treasurer:	Christine Staelens	tigersfour@gmail.com
Building & Grounds:	Allen Posz	aposz76@gmail.com
Fellowship & Hospitality:	Mary Lorber	eldercow@gmail.com
Finance & Stewardship:	Sue Ann Schaefer	ssas3307@aol.com
Inclusion & Affirmation:	Ashley Ramirez	ashknight0628@gmail.com
Little One's Day Out:	Darla Privitt	12darlap3@gmail.com
Membership & Care:	Judi Privitt	judiprivitt811@gmail.com
Nurture & Education:	Jessica Lucas	jlucas@cpsk12.org
Outreach & Advocacy:	Mahree Skala	skalamahree@yahoo.com
Worship & Music:	Kitty Rogers	kittyrogers3@gmail.com
Pastor:	Rev. Rick Oberle	rick@columbiaucc.com

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

RAINBOW BELLS - 7/19, 7/26

If your child is aged 3 years to 3rd grade and would like to try ringing some bells, here's their opportunity! Rainbow Bells will be playing during the worship service on 7/26. We will practice 7/19 and 7/26 at 9:45 a.m. in the Sanctuary. Then we will play during worship 7/26. No prior experience necessary. Just come and have fun! Contact Linda Neale if you have questions.

CHRISTMAS IN JULY - 7/26

We will be observing "Christmas in July" on July 26 as our mission focus is on one of our four special UCC offerings, The Christmas Fund. This collection supports efforts of the denomination to support church pastors and employees going through difficult circumstances. Edie Diel will have a special story for us that day about her experiences as a child with The Christmas Fund.

FAITH ON FILM DOCUMENTARY - 8/2

Filmmaker Richard Schwedtmann has a film in the works on the historic Black churches in Boone County. It is a beautiful look at the history and faith of traditional Black congregations. We will host a screening in the Fellowship Hall on 8/2 at 9:00 a.m. Please join us! Questions? Ask Barry Kirchhoff.

HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS TRAINING - 8/16

Linda Neale and Pastor Rick will be leading a discussion on Healthy Relationships during the 9:00 a.m. Sunday School hour on 8/16. This session will contain information about working in healthy ways with children and youth in our church setting. Attendance at this session is a requirement for everyone who will be working with children and youth this program year, but it is good information for everyone. Come join us! Questions? Ask Linda Neale.

RALLY DAY/SUNDAY SCHOOL KICKOFF - 8/23

Mark your calendars! Sunday School starts 8/23 at 9:00 a.m.! We will have a bounce house, and a fellowship meal after worship. More details to come!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	7/19	<i>QUESTIONS OF FAITH SUNDAY</i>	
		Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		Ballot Initiatives Discussion	9:00 a.m.
		Rainbow Bells Rehearsal	9:45 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
Mon	7/20	Loaves & Fishes	4:30 p.m.
Tue	7/21	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Pause to Color	1:00 p.m.
		Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Sat	7/26	Quilts of Valor Award Ceremony	12:30 p.m.
Sun	7/26	Bible Study	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 . . .

Alethea Tennill... recovering from broken leg

The Rev. Josh Privitt... congratulations on his new call to Maryland!

The Eveler Family... on the birth of baby Linus!

Kenny Holtgrewe... recovering well from surgery (Marsha Posz's Father)

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

Cassandra Gartner... health issues (Edie's friend)

The people of Venezuela... recovering from disaster

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 families of Renee Good, Alex Pretti, Lorenzo Salgado, Sebastian Guerrero,
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,

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

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

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, Jen Siebert

Living in Assisted Living Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Julie Roper. Dean & Jan Barry

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:

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*

Romans 8:14-17

14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God.

15 For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, “Abba! Father!”

16 it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God,

17 and if children, then heirs: heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if we in fact suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

Matthew 13:24-30

24 He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven may be compared to someone who sowed good seed in his field,

25 but while everybody was asleep an enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and then went away.

26 So when the plants came up and bore grain, then the weeds appeared as well.

27 And the slaves of the householder came and said to him, ‘Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where, then, did these weeds come from?’

28 He answered, ‘An enemy has done this.’ The slaves said to him, ‘Then do you want us to go and gather them?’

29 But he replied, ‘No, for in gathering the weeds you would uproot the wheat along with them.

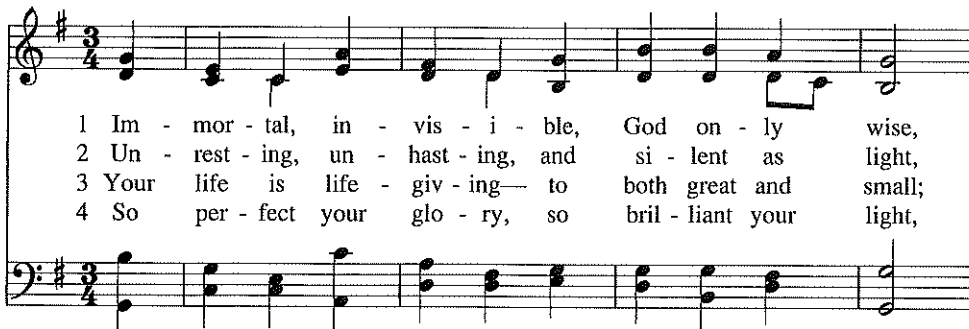
30 Let both of them grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, Collect the weeds first and bind them in bundles to be burned, but gather the wheat into my barn.’ ”

Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise

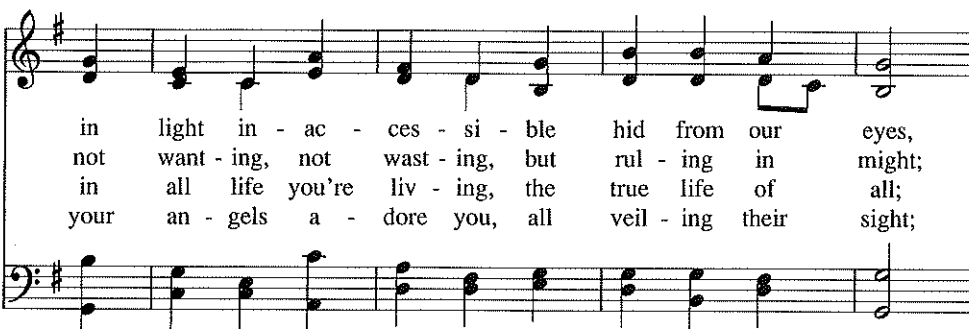
1

Walter C. Smith, 1867; alt.

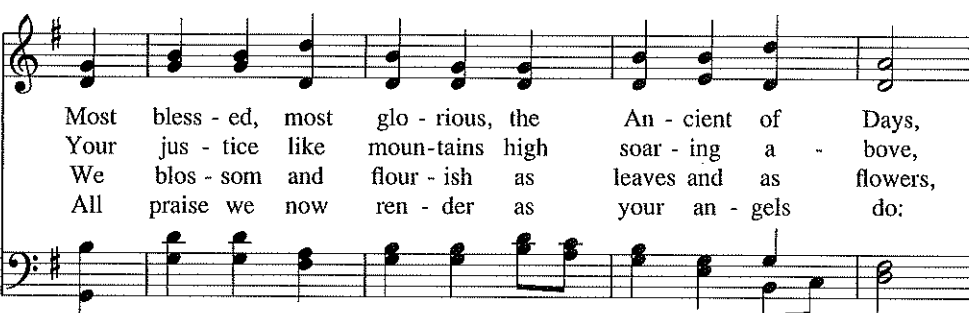
1 Tim. 1:17; Ps. 36:6



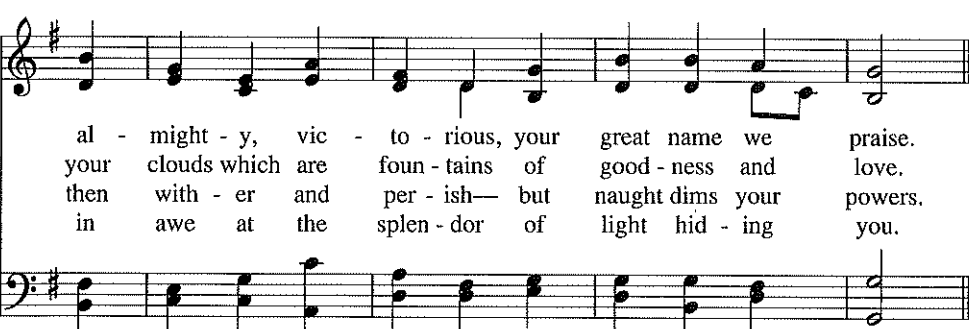
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 Your life is life - giv - ing— to both great and small;
 4 So per - fect your glo - ry, so bril - liant your light,



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 not want - ing, not wast - ing, but rul - ing in might;
 in all life you're liv - ing, the true life of all;
 your an - gels a - dore you, all veil - ing their sight;



Most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 Your jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove,
 We blos - som and flour - ish as leaves and as flowers,
 All praise we now ren - der as your an - gels do;



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, your great name we praise.
 your clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 then with - er and per - ish— but naught dims your powers.
 in awe at the splen - dor of light hid - ing you.

Walter C. Smith, minister of the Free Church of Scotland and later moderator of the Assembly, wrote poetry as a retreat from work and to say what could not be fully expressed in the pulpit.

Tune: ST. DENIO 11.11.11.11.
 Adapt. from a Welsh ballad in John Roberts' Caniadaeth y Cysegr, 1839

Holy Spirit, Truth Divine

63

Samuel Longfellow, 1864; alt.

1 Ho - ly Spir - it, truth di - vine, dawn up - on this soul of mine.
2 Ho - ly Spir - it, love di - vine, glow with - in this heart of mine.
3 Ho - ly Spir - it, power di - vine, fill and nerve this will of mine.
4 Ho - ly Spir - it, law di - vine, reign with - in this soul of mine.

Voice of God and in - ward light, wake my spir - it from its night.
Kin - dle ev - ery high de - sire, pu - ri - fy me with your fire.
Bold - ly may I al - ways live, brave - ly serve, and glad - ly give.
Be my law, and I shall be firm - ly bound, for - ev - er free.

The musical score is written for a four-part vocal choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It is in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with the piano accompaniment providing harmonic support. The lyrics are arranged in four lines, each corresponding to a different voice part.

Louis Moreau Gottschalk was the first American musician to be acclaimed at home and abroad as a virtuoso pianist and gifted composer, often incorporating folk and popular tunes into his own concert music. Mercy was arranged from his piano composition, "The Last Hope."

Tune: MERCY 7.7.7.7.
*Louis Moreau Gottschalk, 1867
Arr. Edwin Parker, 1888*

Come Now, Almighty God

Anon., English, c. 1757; alt.

1 Come now, Al - might - y God, help us your
 2 Come now, In - car - nate Word, by heaven and
 3 Come, Ho - ly Com - fort - er, your sa - cred
 4 To you, great One in Three, e - ter - nal

name to laud; our songs we raise:
 earth a - dored; our prayer at - tend:
 wit - ness bear in this glad hour.
 prais - es be for ev - er - more.

Rul - er all glo - ri - ous, o'er all vic - to - ri - ous,
 Come, and your peo - ple bless, and give your word suc - cess;
 Your grace to us im - part, now rule in ev - ery heart,
 Your sov - ereign maj - es - ty may we in glo - ry see,

come and reign o - ver us, An - cient of Days!
 grant us your ho - li - ness, Sav - ior and Friend!
 nev - er from us de - part, Spir - it of power!
 and to e - ter - ni - ty love and a - dore.

This anonymous English hymn to the Trinity was first published in George Whitefield's Collection, 1757. This tune was composed especially for this text by Giardini, who was a brilliant violinist.

Tune: ITALIAN HYMN 6.6.4.6.6.6.4.
Felice de Giardini, 1769