

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

March 8, 2026  
"Scouts Sunday"



## **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*



*March 8, 2026*

*10:30 a.m.*

*“Scouting America”*

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

*“As a deer longs for flowing streams,  
So my soul longs for You, O God.”  
-Psalm 42:1*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

Steve Jannetti  
*Jeanne Cotter*

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship

*(based on Psalm 42)*

Scouts

As deer long for flowing streams,  
Our souls long for a deeper connection with God.

**Our souls thirst for God;  
We seek God’s presence in our lives.**

We realize that our busy lives often distract us from God.  
Our spirits are disquieted, our hopes are misplaced.

**But we remember joining the congregation praising God;  
The joys we felt as we lifted our voices in praise.**

We ask God, “Why have you forgotten us”  
When in truth God is always there; we have turned away.

**Our hope is in God; we praise God’s Holy name!  
We retreat, turning away from the distractions of the world.  
Come, let us worship God!**

\*Hymn

“Gather Us In”

*(insert)*

\*Opening Prayer

Scouts

**God of living water; as deer long for flowing streams, our souls  
thirst for Your presence. We often wander around spiritually  
thirsty, forgetting about the living water You offer. We question  
Your presence, and forget about Your provision. Forgive us our  
sins of doubt and forgetfulness. Remind us of the new life You  
offer, and inspire us to quench our thirst in Your eternal love. Fill  
our hearts with joy, that we may share Your Good News with all  
who would hear. In Jesus’ name we pray; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

As we walk this Lenten path, we draw ever closer to God. Through discipline and service, we see God's presence; offering us forgiveness, grace, and new life. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

\*Prayer Response

“Jesus, Remember Me”

*Jesus, remember me,  
When you come into your Kingdom;  
Jesus, remember me,  
When you come into your Kingdom!*

\*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

“One Great Hour of Sharing”

Keith Birkes

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 17:1-7

Scouts

*God gives water to the Israelites wandering in the wilderness, in spite of their quarrelling and testing God. They questioned if God was among them or not, but even in the midst of their questioning God did not abandon them.*

*Page #56*

Gospel Lesson

John 4:1-15,27-30,39-42

Scouts

*Jesus encounters a Samaritan woman drawing water from a well at noon. He talks with her and tells her that he is the living water that she has been seeking for some time. She is astonished that he knows everything about her. She is transformed, and begins sharing the Good News with the rest of her community; and these Samaritans embrace Jesus.*

*Page #864*

Anthem

“We Have Come This Far in Faith” Celebration Singers  
*Joseph M. Martin*

Sermon

“Forty Days”

Pastor Rick

\*Hymn

“Fill My Cup, Lord”

*(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.**

\*Meditation Hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" #489  
*(verses 1-4 only)*

Sharing our Announcements Pastor Rick

Stewardship Moment "Small Gifts Mean a Lot" Deborah Birkes

Invitation to the Offering Pastor Rick

*To give online text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041  
You can also give online by visiting our website:  
[www.columbiaucc.com](http://www.columbiaucc.com)*

Offertory "I Need Thee in Every Hour" Steve Jannetti  
*Lowry/Keveren*

\*Prayer of Dedication Scouts

**God of love and grace, You have blessed us with abundance and today, we return a portion of that abundance to You. Take these gifts and multiply them, using them to share Your blessings with all of Creation. We give these out of love and service to You. 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 "Rock of Ages" Steve Jannetti  
*Hastings/Keveren*

## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING

One Great Hour of Sharing (OGHS) is a special mission offering of the United Church of Christ that supports partners worldwide with ministries that fund Health, Education, Agricultural development, Energy relief, Refugee ministries, and both international and domestic Disaster response. One Great Hour of Sharing is CUCC's love offering to the world and it supports disaster, refugee, and development ministries.

Recently, Global Ministries missionary Elena Huegel was our guest, leading worship at CUCC as well as an education time during the Sunday School hour. In her presentation, she talked about the vital ministry of presence she is able to provide, on our behalf, with the people of San Cristobal de las Casas. Her ministry is made possible entirely from contributions to One Great Hour of Sharing. As we give, we support her and many Global Ministries missionaries around the world.

The special offering date this year will be March 15. This special offering is one of many special offerings that are overseen by our Outreach and Advocacy Ministry Team. Please consider donating to this worldwide offering of love which is sponsored and supported by CUCC.

**One Great  
HOUR  
OF SHARING**

## SCOUTING AMERICA AND CUCC

CUCC is the Charter Organization for four Scouting America units, over 150 children, youth, and adult volunteers. These units are:

- **Cub Scout Pack 5183** – The younger group of Scouts, with boys and girls from kindergarten age through 5th grade. They meet every other Monday.
- **Scouting America Troop 4475** – The girls troop. They are a very active troop of girls from 6th-12th grades. They meet every Monday.
- **Scouting America Troop 708** – The boys troop. They are from 6th-12th grades and are very active. They meet every Monday, too.
- **Venture Crew 5334** – This is a focused co-educational group of older youth, from High School through college age.

As the Charter Organization for these four units, they are a part of us and we are a part of them. "They are our scouts, and we are their church." Working together, in covenant, we will share the joys of common life and enhance one another's mission, all to the glory of God.

# Columbia United Church of Christ

3201 1-70 Drive NW; Columbia, MO 65202

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**Custodian:** Caleb Berry      [calebprenticeberry@gmail.com](mailto:calebprenticeberry@gmail.com)  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Fred Brandenburg

## TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:      Scouts  
Song Leader:      Killian Boyd  
Ushers:      Pat Forward & Deborah Long Birkes  
Greeters:      Donna Marsh  
Technology:      Doug Privitt & Ted Dachroeden  
Council Stewards:      Lena Muench & Jerry Kiesling



Online Giving

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:      Lena Muench  
Song Leader:      Sarah Young  
Ushers:      Phillip Neale & Christine Staelens  
Greeters:      Sue Ann Schaefer  
Technology:      Josh Muench & Judi Privitt  
Council Stewards:      Lena Muench & Mary Lorber

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

**Moderator:**      Jerry Kiesling      [rollzierp50@gmail.com](mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com)  
**Vice Moderator:**      Corinne Remeika      [remeikas@tranquility.net](mailto:remeikas@tranquility.net)  
**Secretary:**      Alethea Tennill      [atennill108@gmail.com](mailto:atennill108@gmail.com)  
**Treasurer:**      Deborah Birkes      [dlong@elon.edu.com](mailto:dlong@elon.edu.com)  
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**Pastor:**      Rev. Rick Oberle      [rick@columbiaucc.com](mailto: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!

**TEAM EARTH LUNCH AND LEARN– TODAY!**

Plan to stay after worship for lunch and learning today, as Rev. Mike Williams continues to lead us on our exploration of Creation Care as we deepen our understanding of Biblical roots for Creation Care and generate ideas.

**STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY– 3/15**

We will continue our annual Stewardship Drive the next few weeks, culminating in our annual Stewardship Dinner on 3/15. Rev. Damien Lake, our Associate Conference Minister, will be our guest speaker that day. Plan now to attend! The dinner will be a potluck, celebrating the idea of Stewardship.

**AED TRAINING– 3/22**

You may know that we have an AED here at CUCC; but do you know how to operate it? The more who know the better– it could save a life! Stick around after worship on 3/22 to learn the basics about CPR, AED machines, and other life saving techniques.

**CUCC SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE– 4/1**

CUCC Scholarship applications for the 2026-2027 school year are due 4/1. Applications are available in the church office. Talk to Pastor Rick, Lena Muench, or Corinne Remika to receive one.

**THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

Sun	3/8	Men's Fellowship	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.
		Team Earth Lunch & Learn	12:00 p.m.
Mon	3/9	Membership & Care Ministry Team Meeting	5:00 p.m.
		Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	3/10	Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Outreach & Advocacy Ministry Meeting	6:00 p.m.
		Girl Scout Service Unit Meeting	6:00 p.m.
		Troop 708 Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	3/11	Good Dads Strong Schools @ AHL	7:00 a.m.
		Prayer Shawl Group	6:00 p.m.
		Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Confirmation Class	7:15 p.m.
Thu	3/12	Women's Fellowship	9:30 a.m.
		Book Study- "Meet Me Where I Am"	6:30 p.m.
Fri	3/13	AHL Partners in Education Breakfast	7:15 a.m.
Sun	3/15	Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Stewardship Lunch	12:00 p.m.

# Columbia UCC Prayer List

*Please keep in your prayers this week . . .*

Theresa Westgate... hospitalized this week (Tracie Huffman's Grandmother)

Michael Butterworth... recovering from surgery

Christopher Tennill... on deployment in Middle East

Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father) more health issues

Evie Marcks... health issues

Jonathon Schultz... recovering from ankle surgery

Steve Price... recovering from infection and pneumonia

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 Kirchoff,

Julie Roper (Alexandra's Mother), Karleen Martindale (Kasper's Mother),

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

Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter), Jon & Kelly Lund (Edie's friends)

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

## *Living in Care Facilities:*

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank

## *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

## *Pregnancies in our Church Family:*

Shelby Oberle & Ryan Furney; Chloe & Mark Eveler

*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](mailto:melbamaes@gmail.com)*

*Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 [tsoncasie@aol.com](mailto:tsoncasie@aol.com)*

## **Exodus 17:1-7**

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink.

2 The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?"

3 But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?"

4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me."

5 The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go.

6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel.

7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

## **John 4:1-15, 27-30, 39-42**

1 Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John"

2 (although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized), 3 he left Judea and started back to Galilee. 4 But he had to go through Samaria.

5 So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.

6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the

well. It was about noon.

7 A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” 8 (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

9 The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.),

10 Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”

11 The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?”

12 Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”

13 Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, 14 but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”

15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

27 Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”

28 Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,

29 “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” 30 They left the city and were on their way to him.

39 Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”

40 So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. 41 And many more believed because of his word.

42 They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

## Gather Us In

*Unison* D A C G Gm/B $\flat$  Dm

1. Here in this place, the new light is stream-ing, sha-dows of doubt are  
 2. We are the young—our lives are a mys-tery; we are the old, who  
 3. Here we re-ceive new life in the wa-ters; here we re-ceive the  
 4. Not just in build-ings, small and con-fin-ing, not in some heav-en,

C G D A C G

van-ish-ed a-way. See in this space our fears and our dream-ings,  
 yearn for your face. We have been sung through-out all of his-tory,  
 bread of new birth; here you shall call your sons and your daugh-ters,  
 light years a-way, here in this place the new light is shin-ing;

Gm/B $\flat$  Dm C Am7 D

brought here to you in the light of this day.  
 called to be light to the whole hu-man race.  
 call us a-new to be salt for the earth.  
 now is God pres-ent, and now is the day.

A C/G D/F# G A C/G



Gath-er us in, the lost and for-sak-en; gath-er us in; our  
 Gath-er us in— the rich and the haugh-ty; gath-er us in— the  
 Give us to drink the wine of com-pass-ion, give us to eat the  
 Gath-er us in and hold us for-ev-er; gath-er us in and



D/F# G A D A C G



spir-its in-flame. Call to us now, and we shall a-wak-en;  
 proud and the strong; give us a heart so meek and so low-ly;  
 bread that is you; nour-ish us well, and teach us to fash-ion  
 make us your own; gath-er us in, all peo-ples to-geth-er,



Gm/Bb Dm C Am7 D C/D Gm/D D



we shall a-rise at the sound of our name.  
 give us the cour-age to en-ter the song.  
 lives that are ho-ly and hearts that are true.  
 fire of love in our flesh and our bone.





1. Like the wom-an at the well I was seek - ing for things that  
 2. There are mil-lions in this world who are crav - ing the plea - sure  
 3. So, my friend, if all the things this world gave you leave hun - gers



could not sat - is - fy; and then I heard my Sav - ior speak - ing: "Draw  
 earth - ly things af - ford; but none can match the won - drous trea - sure  
 that won't pass a - way, my bless - ed Lord will come and save you,



from my well that nev - er shall run dry."  
 that I find in Je - sus Christ my Lord. Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it  
 if you kneel to him and hum - bly pray:



up, Lord! Come and quench this thirst - ing of my soul; Bread of Heav - en,



feed me 'til I want no more—fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole!

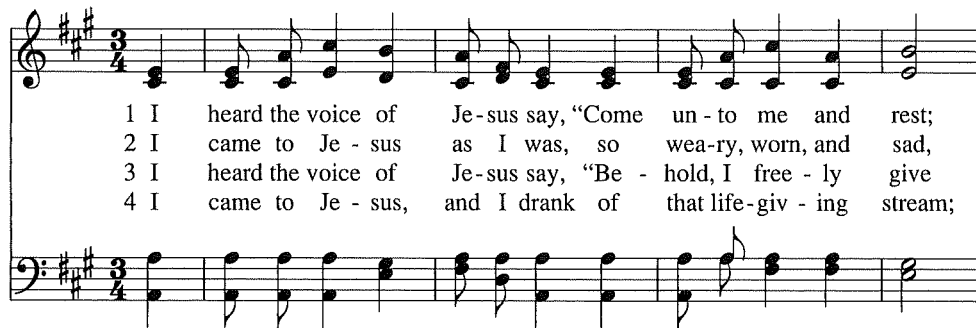


# I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

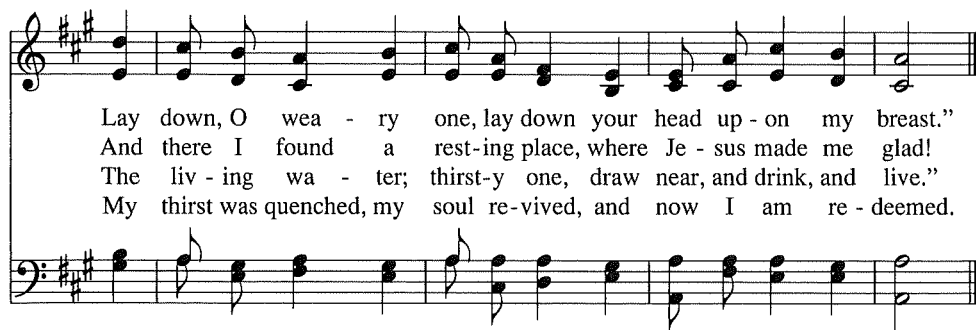
489

Horatius Bonar, 1846; alt.

Matt. 11:28-30; John 4:7-15; 8:12



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad,  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
4 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;



Lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
And there I found a rest - ing place, where Je - sus made me glad!  
The liv - ing wa - ter; thirst - y one, draw near, and drink, and live."  
My thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I am re - deemed.

5 I heard the voice of Je - sus say,  
"I am this lost world's Light,  
Look un - to me; your morn shall rise,  
and all your day be bright."

6 I looked to Je - sus, and I found  
my guid - ing Star, my Sun;  
And in that light of life I'll go  
till trav - eling days are done.

*Horatius Bonar was one of the founders of the Free Church of Scotland. A man of wide scholarship and great devotion to his ministry, he wrote nearly one book a year, as well as some 600 hymns.*

Tune: EVAN C.M.  
William H. Havergal, 1847  
Arr. Lowell Mason, 1850  
Alternate tune: KINGSFOLD  
(Pair stanzas 1-2, 3-4, 5-6)

# CUCC Annual Stewardship Campaign- 2026

## Sharing God's Joy, Spreading God's Love!

What comes to mind when you hear the word, "Stewardship?" Most likely, "money." But faithful Christian Stewardship has less to do with our wallets, and more to do with our hearts. Faithful Christian Stewardship is how we serve God with our Time and our Talents, as well as our Treasure.

*Faithful Christian Stewardship is about Sharing God's Joy  
and Spreading God's Love!*

We will be celebrating the ways we share God's joy and spread God's love on Sundays in March as we participate in our Annual CUCC Stewardship Campaign!

**March 1-** *"The Gift of Consistency."*

We will distribute Faith Promise Cards and talk about our blessings, and how we can use them to serve Jesus

**March 8-** *"Little Gifts Mean a Lot."*

We will distribute time and talent sheets, and talk about how the many little things we do every day serve Jesus

**March 15-** *"Sharing the Joy, Spreading the Love."*

We will collect our Faith Promise Cards and our Time and Talent Sheets and consecrate them to the service of Jesus Christ in the world.

We will celebrate our Stewardship Campaign with a Pot-Luck Meal after worship on March 15. Bring a dish and stick around for food, fun and fellowship!

*Pot-Luck Meals are perfect examples of Faithful Christian Stewardship. Everyone brings a little gift (dish) contributing to the whole; and all are fed!*

Our Guest Speaker in worship and at our Pot-Luck Meal on March 15 will be Rev. Damien Lake, our Missouri Mid-South Conference Associate Conference Minister. He will be sharing God's Joy with us as we explore faithful Christian Stewardship together. Come join us on March 15 for fun, fellowship, and food!



# Book Study

Columbia UCC, 3201 I-70 Dr. NW, Columbia, MO 65202, 5734457931

Thursdays in March at 6:30 p.m.

The book “Meet Me Where I Am” talks about understanding Alzheimer’s Disease, preparing for the journey with your loved one, minimizing losses and maximizing successes, providing therapeutic environments, and managing the difficult symptoms that accompany this progression.

We will be journeying together through this book Thursdays in March (March 5, 12, & 19) at 6:30 p.m. in The Fellowship Hall here at Columbia UCC. All in the community are welcome to take this walk together.

Copies of the book are available in the church office. If you have any questions, contact us at [office@columbiaucc.com](mailto:office@columbiaucc.com).

