

Columbia United Church Of Christ

January 25, 2026
“ONA Covenant Anniversary”



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



January 25, 2026

10:30 a.m.

“Covenant”

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

*“God is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
God is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?”*
-Psalm 27:1

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

“Your Great Name”

Gina Pierson

Arr. Carol Tornquist

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship (*based on Psalm 27*) Judi Privitt

God is our light; God is our Salvation.

God is the Stronghold of our lives; our refuge and strength.

With God as our light and Salvation, Whom shall we fear?

**With God as our refuge and strength,
Of whom should we be afraid?**

We gather to seek God's goodness and grace;
That we may envelop ourselves with God's presence;
That we may hear God graciously answering us
When we cry out to God in desperation.

**We will sing and make melodies to God
With strong and courageous hearts.
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

“You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore”

#173

*Opening Prayer

Judi Privitt

God of challenge; as we hear the stories of Jesus calling his disciples, we realize that often You call us to put aside our fishnets and follow You. You call us to turn away from the hectic frenzy of our every day lives and focus on what really matters in life. You challenge us to put aside the darkness of the world and embrace the light that is Your wisdom. Forgive us for the times we neglect to follow the light. Remind us that You offer us pure joy; and inspire us to embrace that joy in all that we do, as we serve You. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

The people who have lived in the darkness have seen a great light; whose who have lived in a land of deep darkness, on them a light has shined. God challenges us to embrace the light; but even when we neglect to do so, God blesses and loves us, forgiving us always. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus;
Look full in his wonderful face;
And the things of Earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace!*

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Rick

"This Little Light of Mine"

(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

"CHHSM Ministries"

Judi Privitt

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 9:2-4

Judi Privitt

The prophet is writing in a time of national turmoil; and yet, he does not speak despairingly, he speaks of hope. He reminds them of the time God brought them into the Promised Land and offered them Salvation. God did not forget them at that time, and God will not forget them in this or any other time.

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Gospel Lesson

Matthew 4:1-12-23

Judi Privitt

After the arrest of John the Baptizer, Jesus calls Simon and Andrew to follow him, telling them that from now on they will fish for people. They immediately followed him. He also calls James and John, who were mending nets with their father. They immediately leave their father behind and follow him.

Page #785

Anthem

"The People Who Walk in Darkness" Celebration Singers
Pepper Choplin

Sermon

"Following Jesus"

Pastor Rick

*Affirmation of Faith (*CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant*)

God of rainbow covenants and inclusive love, we gather here as your church, committed to actively pursuing inclusion and affirmation in our interactions with everyone; but especially your most vulnerable children, those who have been disenfranchised and dismissed by others.

Exemplifying your love, we now gather at this time, reciting together the Open and Affirming/Inclusion covenant we, your people, have adopted as our guide:

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;
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No matter your social, economic, educational, legal, or life circumstances;
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God of love and grace, help us to keep this covenant close and fresh in our hearts, in our minds, and in our interactions in your world. This we pray in the name of the one who taught us to exemplify love, your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

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,” “Trespasses” 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.

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life

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

“Lord, I Need You”

Gina Pierson

Arr. Carol Tornquist

*Prayer of Dedication

Judi Privitt

God of Inclusion, we give these gifts today praying that they may be used to share Your extravagant love with all of Creation. Take them and use them to bring affirmation to all of God's children, just as You created them. We have been blessed; we pray that these gifts may be used to bless others, too. 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;

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:

each moment and live each moment in peace etc

there be Peace on Earth; and let it begin with me!

“God Be with You Till We Meet Again” Gina Piers

Arr. Carol

THE OPEN AND AFFIRMING COALITION

The Open and Affirming Coalition of the United Church of Christ has been working since 1974 to share God's love with all of God's children, especially those in the Queer community who have been marginalized by oppressive policies and attitudes. This organization provides resources and encouragement to churches going through the Open and Affirming process, as well as ONA churches who are striving to live into their covenant. There are currently 1900 Open and Affirming churches in the United Church of Christ.

The Open and Affirming Coalition does not receive direct support from OCWM, or other special offerings of the United Church of Christ, nor does it receive direct support from our National Setting. Coalition funding comes from events, endowments, and direct donor support. Today is our ONA anniversary; and to reflect that appreciation, we will be taking up a collection today for this agency. If you wish, you can give using the envelopes in the bulletin, or donate online.

Columbia United Church of Christ

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rollzierp50@gmail.com

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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: Judi Privitt

Song Leader: Killian Boyd

Ushers: Pat Forward & Deborah Long Birkes

Greeters: Judi Privitt & Mary Lorber

Technology: Doug Privitt & Lorry Dreier

Council Stewards: Judi Privitt & Ashley Ramirez



Online Giving

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Tricia Soncasie

Song Leader: Katie Jones

Ushers: Mary Lorber & Audrey Lasley

Greeters: Carol Duermeyer

Technology: Brent Marcks & Ted Dachroeden

Council Stewards:

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator: Jerry Kiesling rollzierp50@gmail.com

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Outreach & Advocacy: Mahree Skala skalamahree@yahoo.com

Worship & Music: Edie Diel edie@thedandegroup.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!

COMO VALUES DIVERSITY - 1/28

The annual COMO Values Diversity Banquet will be 1/28 at 7:00 a.m. This event celebrates the diversity of the Columbia Community and encouraging us to strive for even more diversity. As usual, CUCC will sponsor a table. We have fifteen tickets available- if you want to attend, please talk to Ashley Ramirez or Pastor Rick!

LODO MATH & SCIENCE NIGHT - 2/2

LODO Math and Science night is coming up and they could use some volunteers to assist the teachers in these fun activities! If you would like to help, sign up in the lobby or talk to Sara Koenig!

SOUPERBOWL OF CARING - 2/8

From now through February 8 (Superbowl Sunday), the Nurture & Education Ministry Team will be collecting soup for the Souperbowl of Caring! Bring your Soup in and put it on the shelf in the lobby. All soup collected will be shared with our mission partners here in Columbia. Financial donations are appreciated, too; all financial donations will go to benefit Loaves and Fishes.

FASTNACHT - 2/17

Fastnacht will be here before you know it! Our annual German meal will be February 17 this year, the day before Ash Wednesday. Sign up sheets are in the coat room. Questions? As Mary Lorber.

OPPORTUNITIES AT ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY

Alpha Hart Lewis could use our help packing their Buddy Packs (take home food for kids for the weekend) on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to around 12 p.m. CUCC has volunteer opportunities through the end of the school year for this great, hands-on project. If you can spare a Thursday, talk to Llona Weiss.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	1/25	<i>Inclusion Covenant Seven-Year Anniversary Sunday</i>	
		Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Nurture & Education Ministry Team	12:00 p.m.
Mon	1/26	Membership & Care Ministry Team	5:00 p.m.
		LODO Ministry Team	6:00 p.m.
		Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	1/27	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:00 a.m.
		Food Bank	5:30 p.m.
Wed	1/28	COMO Values Diversity Breakfast	7:00 a.m.
		Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Sun	2/1	Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	12:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

The family of Jim Posz... on their loss (Allen's Father)

The family of Alicia Nevarez... on their loss (Eloy's Sister)

Brandon Brown... on the loss of his mother

Edie Diel... health issues

Linda Evans... recovering from a fall

Cliff Beckman... hospitalized this week

Jeff Kies... health issues

Phillip Neale's Niece... received her transplant

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

Our Search for an organist/accompanist here at CUCC

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

Owen Ramsingh and family, The family of Renee Good

Health Issues:

Harold Hackman, Barry Kirchhoff, Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father),

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),

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, Harold Hackman

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

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

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

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*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

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Email: office@columbiaucc.com

Isaiah 9:2-4

2 The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined.
3 You have multiplied exultation; you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder.
4 For the yoke of their burden and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Matthew 4:12-23

12 Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee.
13 He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the sea, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali,
14 so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:
15 “Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali, on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the gentiles—
16 the people who sat in darkness have seen a great light, and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death light has dawned.”
17 From that time Jesus began to proclaim, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.”
18 As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea—for they were fishers.
19 And he said to them, “Follow me, and I will make you fishers of people.” 20 Immediately they left their nets and followed him.
21 As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them.
22 Immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.
23 Jesus went throughout all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

Tú has venido a la orilla
(You Have Come down to the Lakeshore)

Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11

Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979; alt.
Transl. Madeleine Forell Marshall, 1989; alt.

1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus-
2 Tú sa - bes bien lo que ten - go: en mi
1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing
2 You know full well my pos - ses - sions. Nei - ther

ca - do ni a sa - bios, ni a ri - cos, tan só - lo
bar - ca no hay o - ro nies - pa - das; tan só - lo
nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, But on - ly
tre a - sure nor weap-ons for con - quest, Just these my

quie - res que yo te si - ga. Je -
re - des y mi tra - ba - jo.
ask - ing for me to fol - low. O
fish - nets and will for work - ing.

sús, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos;
Je - sus, you have looked in - to my eyes;

One of the most popular hymns to emerge from the 1970s revival of religious songs in Spain, this text has been translated into nearly eighty languages. The Spanish composer-author was a parish priest known for his work among youth.

Tune: PESCADOR DE HOMBRES
8.10.10. with refrain
Cesáreo Gabaraín, 1979
Harm. Skinner Chávez-Melo, 1987

A7

son - ri - en - do, has di - cho mi nom - bre;
kind - ly smil - ing, you've called out my name.

en la a - re - na he de-ja - do mi bar - ca;
On the sand I have a-ban-doned my small boat;

jun - to a ti bus-ca - ré o - tro mar.
now with you I will seek oth - er seas.

3. Tú ne-ce-si-tas mis ma-nos,
mi can-san-cio que a o-tros des-can-se,
a-mor que quie-ra se-guir a-man-do.
Estríbilo

4. Tú, Pes-ca-dor de o-tros ma-res,
an-sia e-ter-na de al-mas que es-pe-ran.
A-mi-go bue-no, que a-sí me lla-mas.
Estríbilo

3. You need my hands, my ex-haus-tion,
work-ing love for the rest of the
wea-ry—
A love that's will-ing to go on lov-ing.
Refrain

4. You who have fished oth-er wa-ters;
you, the long-ing of souls that are
yearn-ing;
As lov-ing Friend, you have come
to call me.
Refrain

You Walk along Our Shoreline

504

Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1984; alt.

Mark 1:16-20; John 17:20-26

1 You walk a - long our shore - line where land meets un - known sea.
 2 You call us, Christ, to gath - er the peo-ple of the earth.
 3 We cast our net, O Je - sus; we seek your prom - ised reign;

We hear your voice of pow - er, "Now come and fol - low me. And
 We can - not fish for on - ly those lives we think have worth. We
 We work for love and jus - tice; we learn to hope through pain. You

if you still will fol - low through storm and wave and shoal,
 spread your net of gos - pel a - cross the wa - ter's face,
 call on us to gath - er God's daugh - ters and God's sons,

Then I will make you fish - ers, but of the hu - man soul."
 Our boat a com - mon shel - ter for all found by your grace.
 To let your judg - ment heal us so that all may be one.

Hymnwriter Sylvia Dunstan credited an article by Michael Steinhauser in the March 1984 issue of Practice of Ministry in Canada entitled "Fishing: A Metaphor for Ministry" as the inspiration for her text. Dunstan was an ordained minister of the United Church of Canada.

Tune: SALLEY GARDENS 7.6.7.6.D.
 Traditional Irish melody
 Harm. The New Century Hymnal, 1994

Jesus Calls Us, o'er the Tumult

172

Cecil F. Alexander, 1852; alt.

Matt. 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; John 21:15



1 Je-sus calls us, o'er the tu - mult of our life's wild, rest-less sea;
2 As of old, Saint An-drew heard it by the Gal - i - le - an lake,
3 Je-sus calls us from the wor-ship of the trea - sures we a - dore,
4 In our joys and in our sor-rows, days of toil and hours of ease,
5 Je-sus calls us! By your mer-cies, Sav-ior, may we hear your call,



Day by day that voice still calls us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, fol - low me."
Turned from home and toil and kin-dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
From each i - dol that would keep us, say - ing, "Chris-tian, love me more."
Je - sus calls, in cares and plea-sures, "Chris-tian, love me more than these."
Give our hearts to your o - be-dience, serve and love you best of all.



Cecil Alexander, who in Ireland wrote sacred verse to teach children the meaning of the catechism and liturgy, designated this poem for St. Andrew's Day. Many years later Galilee was composed for this text by an English organist, William Jude.

Tune: GALILEE 8.7.8.7.

William H. Jude, 1887

Alternate setting: ST. ANDREW