

Columbia United Church Of Christ

September 7, 2025
“A New Beginning”



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



September 7, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"New Beginnings"

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

*"There isn't a word on my tongue, LORD,
that you don't already know completely."*

-Psalm 139:4

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Prayer"

Steve Jannetti

Carl Maria von Weber

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 139)

Llona Weiss

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

"Gather Us In"

(insert)

*Opening Prayer

Llona Weiss

God of passionate mandate; we know that the cost of discipleship is steep, but the benefits far outweigh the cost. As Your disciples, we dedicate our lives to following Your way and Your word. Forgive us for the times we let the worries of the world distract us. You are the potter and we are the clay; shape and mold us in Your image; that we may become even more faithful disciples and glorify You in all that we say and all that we do. Help us to make today a new beginning in service to You. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God chooses us to be Their vessel for peace, love, and justice in the world. But even when we forget this call, 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

“Weave”

*Weave, weave! Weave us together
Weave us together in unity and love
Weave, weave! Weave us together
Weave us together, together in love*

*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

“CROP Walk”

Llona Weiss

Old Testament Lesson

Jeremiah 18:1-11

Llona Weiss

The prophet Jeremiah uses a metaphor of a potter working at their wheel, dashing clay as it disappoints him and reforming vessels to his will. He compares this to God who, disappointed at the evil of the ruling class, has metaphorically dashed the nation of Israel against Their potter's wheel.

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Gospel Lesson

Luke 14:25-33

Llona Weiss

Jesus gives a speech that, in our context, is very difficult to hear. Is he calling us to hate? Doesn't this go against his mandate to love? When we dig into it, however, we see the outrageous hyperbole he is constructing here. This makes it easier to understand. He is using exaggeration to make a point.

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Anthem

“A Childlike Faith”

Celebration Singers
Susan Naylor Callaway

Sermon

“The Cost of Discipleship”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“This is a Day of New Beginnings”
(verses 1-4 only)

#417

Invitation to Communion

As we gather around this table, God's love is gloriously revealed to us. We remember the Wisdom of Christ's ministry that is represented by the bread and the promise of Eternal Living that is represented by the cup. As God's children, let us gather together for this meal.

Communion Prayer, Pastoral Prayer, & Silent Prayer;

Invocation

Blessing the Children	“I Come With Joy” <i>(Verses 1-4 only)</i>	#349
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In the Sacrament of Communion, we most clearly see Jesus in our midst. Our desire to share this presence prompts us to celebrate with our children, granting them a special blessing. During the hymn, our children are invited to come forward via the center aisle and receive a blessing.

Institution; Fraction; Distribution

Communion Music	“Hungry”	Steve Jannetti <i>Kathryn Scott</i>
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*Prayer of Thanksgiving Pastor Rick

We thank You, God, for inviting us to this table where we have known the presence of Christ and have received all Christ's gifts. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and let us show forth Your praise in our lives. Now we gather, singing the prayer that You taught us;

*The LORD's Prayer *(sung by the congregation, led by Mike Pierson)*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life Pastor Rick

Moment of Recognition

Today we say farewell to Steve Jannetti, who has been our Organist/ Accompanist for almost two years. Our hearts are with him as he moves on to other endeavors, glorifying God in all that he does. Blessings to Steve!

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

“Sicilienne”

Steve Jannetti
Daniel G. Turk

*Prayer of Dedication

Llona Weiss

God of Grace; You call us into Your church to embrace Your Wisdom, then You send us out to do Your work in the world. Take our hearts and our minds and let them be focused on Your mission. Take also the gifts we offer today. Let them be used to further Your mission of justice and provide voice for those who are seeking an alternative to the ways of the world. May these gifts help provide restoration and wholeness to Your Creation. 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

“Love Divine”

Steve Jannetti
John Zundel

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

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Organist/Accompanist: Steve Jannetti	steve.jannetti@yahoo.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:	Llona Weiss
Ushers:	Charlie Marcks & Christine Staelens
Greeters:	Pat Forward
Technology:	Doug Privitt & John Graves
Council Stewards:	Lena Muench & Mary Lorber

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Lena Muench
Ushers:	Llona Weiss & Mary Lorber
Greeters:	John & Brenda Muench
Technology:	Brent Marcks & Ted Dachroeden
Council Stewards:	Lena Muench & Judi Privitt



Online Giving

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator:	Jerry Kiesling	rollzierp50@gmail.com
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Inclusion & Affirmation:	Ashley Ramirez	ashknight0628@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

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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!

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, or if there are any changes needed on your nametag, fill out a form by the nametags in the coatroom. We have many “new” folks in our community, so it is more important than ever to wear your nametag!

PRAYER SHAWL GROUP– 9/10

The Prayer Shawl Team will be meeting again this Wednesday to knit prayer shawls for homebound members, and those going thru difficult times. All are welcome to join us 9/10 at 6:00 p.m.

PAUSE TO COLOR– 9/16

Come join us for a few hours of meditative fun! We will be coloring in the gathering area for a few hours starting at 1:00 p.m. on 9/16. Bring your own coloring supplies, or just bring yourself– we have supplies to share!

RELEASE STRESS WITH EFT TAPPING– 9/18

Learn how to use EFT Tapping to manage stress, calm your mind, and feel more at ease! Join us on 9/18 at 6:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall for a presentation on EFT Tapping, led by a local expert and practitioner of this technique.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	9/7	Bible Study & Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Fish Fry/Pot Luck Meal	12:00 p.m.
Mon	9/8	Membership & Care Ministry Team	5:00 p.m.
		Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
		Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	9/9	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		LODO Picnic	5:30 p.m.
		Troop 708 Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Wed	9/10	Heritage Team	12:00 p.m.
		Prayer Shawl Team	6:00 p.m.
		Celebration Singers Rehearsal	7:00 p.m.
Thu	9/11	Women’s Fellowship	9:30 a.m.
Sun	9/14	<i>Ministry Teams Fair</i>	
		Bible Study & Sunday School	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 . . .

Jim Posz... health issues (Allen's father)

Dr. Ryan Link... health issues; prayers for him and his family

Cody Kile... recovery from accident

Phillip Neale's Niece... awaiting liver transplant

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

The people of Palestine, Israel, Iran, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

Tiffany Greene, Harold Hackman, Glenn Duermeyer, Lloyd Mickelson,

Marsha Posz, Barry Kirchhoff, Ruth (Edie's Cousin),

Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley, Rachel Demand,

Kristan Whelihan (Russell Eveler's teacher),

Fred & Ann Wilke (Alethea's parents)

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 (Corinne Remeika's friends),

Lortisha Powell (Dorothy Vetter's friend)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families, Kieran Piersee

Living in Care Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Harold Hackman,

Walter & Patty Schroeder

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, 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 tsoncasie@aol.com

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

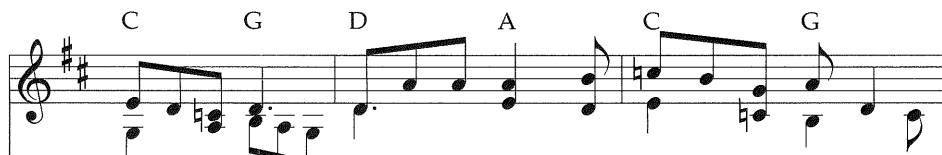
through service and outreach

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Gather Us In



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,



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;



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.



Jeremiah 18:1-11

1 The word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

2 “Come, go down to the potter’s house, and there I will let you hear my words.”

3 So I went down to the potter’s house, and there he was working at his wheel.

4 The vessel he was making of clay was spoiled in the potter’s hand, and he reworked it into another vessel, as seemed good to him.

5 Then the word of the LORD came to me:

6 Can I not do with you, O house of Israel, just as this potter has done? says the LORD. Just like the clay in the potter’s hand, so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.

7 At one moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it,

8 but if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will change my mind about the disaster that I intended to bring on it.

9 And at another moment I may declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it,

10 but if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will change my mind about the good that I had intended to do to it.

11 Now, therefore, say to the people of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem: Thus says the LORD: Look, I am a potter shaping evil against you and devising a plan against you. Turn now, all of you, from your evil way, and amend your ways and your doings.

Luke 14:25-33

25 Now large crowds were traveling with him, and he turned and said to them,

26 “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple.

27 Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple.

28 For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it?

29 Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him,

30 saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’

31 Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand?

32 If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace.

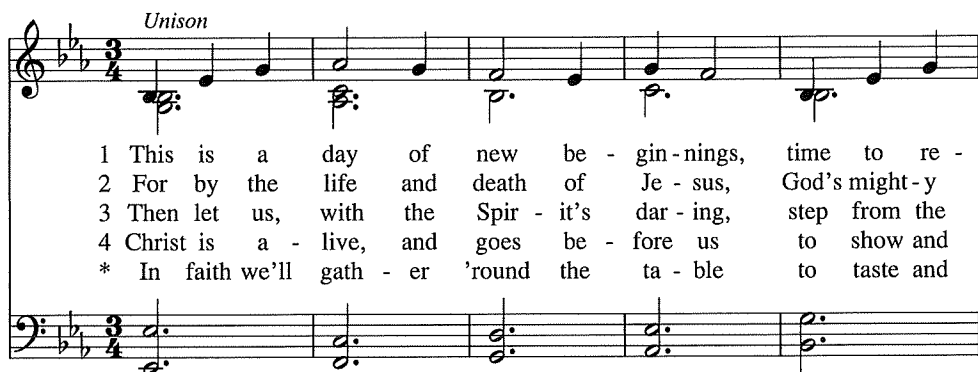
33 So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.

This Is a Day of New Beginnings

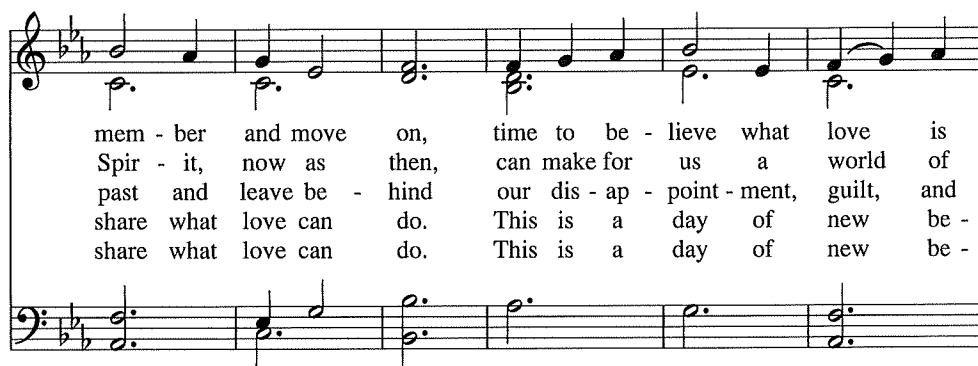
2 Cor. 5:16-17

Brian Wren, 1978; rev. 1983

Unison



1 This is a day of new be - gin - nings, time to re -
 2 For by the life and death of Je - sus, God's might - y
 3 Then let us, with the Spir - it's dar - ing, step from the
 4 Christ is a - live, and goes be - fore us to show and
 * In faith we'll gath - er 'round the ta - ble to taste and



mem - ber and move on, time to be - lieve what love is
 Spir - it, now as then, can make for us a world of
 past and leave be - hind our dis - ap - point - ment, guilt, and
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -
 share what love can do. This is a day of new be -



bring - ing, lay - ing to rest the pain that's gone.
 dif - ference, as faith and hope are born a - gain.
 griev - ing, seek - ing new paths, and sure to find.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.
 gin - nings— our God is mak - ing all things new.

*Alternate fourth stanza for Holy Communion

Brian Wren wrote this hymn in 1978 for a New Year's Day service in Oxford, England. The music is by the editor of two hymnals of the United Methodist Church and was composed for the original Wren text.

Tune: BEGINNINGS 9.8.9.8.
 Carlton R. Young, 1987

I Come with Joy

Brian Wren, 1968; rev. 1982, 1994

Unison

1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and
 2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are
 3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion
 4 And thus we meet, and bet - ter know the Pres - ence, ev - er
 5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound, in friend - ship we will

free, The life of Je - sus to re - call, in
 fed, The new com - mu - ni - ty of love in
 ends. The love that made us, makes us one, and
 near, And join our hearts and sing with joy that
 stay, And go with joy to love the world and

love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.
 Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.
 strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.
 Christ is ris - en here, that Christ is ris - en here.
 live the way we pray, and live the way we pray.

One of Brian Wren's most widely published texts, this hymn was originally written to "sum up a series of sermons on the meaning of communion. It tries to use simple words to suggest important theological themes."

Tune: DOVE OF PEACE 8.6.8.6.6.
 Southern Harmony, 1835
 Arr. Austin Lovelace, 1977

A MESSAGE FROM FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

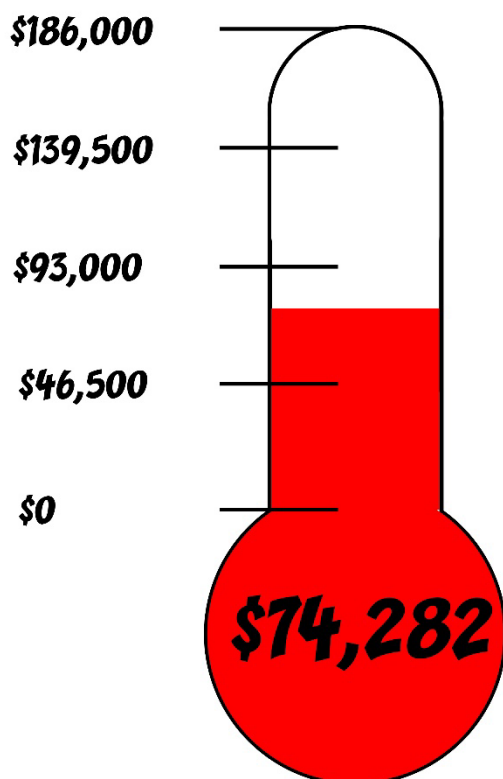
We have previously been members of a number of other churches and CUCC in our experience is the most effective church in fulfilling its Christian purposes that we have experienced. We are truly an open and affirming church which welcomes every person regardless of where they are in their human and spiritual journey!

CUCC has a beautiful sanctuary and facilities. We have a dedicated Minister and Staff. We have a dependable and faithful membership and friends. Our Ministry Teams are committed to the service of our church and our extended community. We exemplify Christian values and activities in all respects. We do all this with a very small budget which is used with very efficient love and concern for all we serve.

HOWEVER, WE HAVE A FINANCIAL EMERGENCY

Our Joyful Giving is seriously behind its necessary level to support all the things we do so efficiently and lovingly. At the end of July, we are \$77,049 behind our budgeted Joyful Giving and in order to meet our third quarter budget we must receive \$154,697 by the end of September.

The Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team is planning to do everything possible to communicate the importance and impact of your financial support. We know some of you are giving all you can. We also know many of us can help more. Many CUCC leaders have pledged to increase their Joyful Giving by 20%. If all of us who can make that pledge do so, our financial problems will be reduced to a manageable level. Deborah and I have made that pledge.



CUCC has always met every challenge we have faced. Together we can overcome this financial shortfall. Thank you for all you do with your Time, Talent, and Treasure!

-Keith Birkes

P A R E N T E D U C A T I O N

Conscious Discipline

**BEGINNING FRAME WORK
TO UNDERSTANDING
CONSCIOUS DISCIPLE**

HOSTED BY SARA

**PRE-REGISTER BY SEPT 15TH
\$5 PER PARTICIPANT TO
LODO.Sara.Koenig@gmail.com**



**6:00PM-
7:30PM**

SEPT. 25TH | CHILD CARE PROVIDED