

Columbia United Church Of Christ

August 2, 2026
"Ekklesia"



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**



August 2, 2026

10:30 a.m.

"Potential"

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

"I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God.

Incline Your ear to me; hear my words."

-Psalm 17:6

Welcome and Greetings

Rev. Michelle Scott Huffman

Prelude

"On Eagles Wings"

Jolene Hackman

Arr. John Carter

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 17)

Llona Weiss

Hear our cries, O LORD; attend to our pleas.

Give ear to our prayers; incline Your ear to our petitions.

From God, comes vindication and justice;

From God comes all good things, blessings in our lives.

We come to You, O God, purged of wickedness.

Examine us, O God, and see that our hearts are pure.

We have avoided the ways of the violent.

Our lips utter no evil words, only praise.

We call upon You, O God, and await your answer.

Incline your ear, and hear our words.

God's Steadfast Love overflows in our lives;

God will Guide us under the shadow of God's wings!

Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn

"Praise to the Living God"

#8

*Opening Prayer

Llona Weiss

God of abundance; You are with us in all times, guiding our choices and priorities. You supply us with abundance, more than we can ask or imagine. Even in our struggles, You are with us. Forgive us for the times we neglect to realize Your provision in our lives. Teach us to be open to Your guidance, that we may always be comforted in Your care. Remind us to be stewards of Your world, caring for others the way You first cared for us. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Michelle

Jesus speaks of the Kingdom of Heaven as being present here and now. But even when we forget that we are Kingdom workers, 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 Michelle

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Pastor Michelle

“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

“Ekklesia”

Pastor Michelle

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 32:22-31

Llona Weiss

After being in exile for a generation, Jacob returns to his family. Before he can, however, he has to struggle with his faith, his doubts, his fears, and his own inner demons. He struggles all night, emerging fully able to embrace his potential.

Page #26

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 14:13-21

Llona Weiss

Jesus is trying to get some personal time away; but crowds follow him. When a large crowd assembles, he soon realizes nobody made preparations for food. Upon Jesus' instruction, taking five loaves of bread and two fish, the disciples fed the multitudes.

Page #796

Anthem

“Come, Sing to the Lord” Karl & Mahree Skala

Arr. Thornhill

Sermon

“Blessed, Broken, and Enough”

Pastor Michelle

*Hymn

“Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer”

#18

Invitation to Communion

Jesus reached across human borders, seeing in everyone a common heritage as a child of God. Jesus' inclusive love welcomed all. In like manner, all are welcome to partake in communion today, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.

Communion Prayer

Invocation

Blessing the Children

“I Come With Joy”

#349

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 special blessing from Pastor Michelle.

Institution; Fraction; Distribution

Please come forward via the center aisle to receive and share communion, remembering the ministry of Jesus Christ and the blessings he brings us. The center ring of cups contain grape juice, and the vessels on the paten contain gluten free bread.

Communion Music

“Come, Share the Lord”

Jolene Hackman
Arr. John Carter

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Michelle

God of new life; having shared this meal, we are renewed. With this meal, we embrace new ways of living that are more reflective of Your wisdom, and more emblematic of Your love. We pray that this meal may fire us up and inspire us to be Your agents for new ways of living in our world. We pray that this meal may eliminate our confusion with worldly ways and inspire us to give authentic witness to Your glory. And now we gather, Living God, as one family, singing the prayer that You taught us:

The LORD's Prayer

(sung by the congregation)

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

Llona Weiss

Invitation to the Offering

Pastor Michelle

*To give online text "GIVE" to 573.240.4041
You can also give online by visiting our website:
www.columbiaucc.com*

Offertory

"Holy, Holy, Holy"

Jolene Hackman

Arr. Jerry Ray

*Prayer of Dedication

Llona Weiss

O Holy One, with gratefulness, we offer and dedicate these gifts for the continuation of our work in Christ's Name. Bless them and multiply them, that we may be reflective of Your grace in the world. Through these gifts, we glorify You. Amen.

*Benediction

Pastor Michelle

*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

"Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" Jolene Hackman

Arr. John Carter

Today we welcome the Rev. Dr. Michelle Scott Huffman, who is leading us in worship while Pastor Rick is on vacation. Michelle is the director of Ekklesia, the shared campus ministry of five denominations in Springfield, MO. Ekklesia serves students on the campus of Missouri State University and Drury University and is supported by the United Church of Christ. Let us give a special word of welcome to Pastor Michelle today!

***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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Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg	

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Llona Weiss
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Pat Forward & Audrey Lasley
Greeters:	Jolene Kirchhoff
Technology:	Brent Marcks
Council Stewards:	Mary Lorber

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader:	Kennedy Lucas
Song Leader:	Mike Pierson
Ushers:	Phillip Neale
Greeters:	Donna Marsh
Technology:	Ted Dachroeden
Council Stewards:	Sue Ann Schaefer & Ashley Ramirez

Online Giving



COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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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!

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.

AHL SERVICE OPPORTUNITY - 8/17

As our Partner in Education teachers at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary School come back to school, we have an opportunity to serve them— ice cream! We will be helping at an Ice Cream Social at AHL on 8/17 at 3:00 p.m. If you can come, we'd love to have you. For the scoop on this, talk to Pastor Rick.

CHURCH WORK DAY - 8/22

Our next all-church work day will be August 22 from 9:00 a.m.-noon! We will be cleaning all the windows in the educational wing, and other glass areas as we can. We will also be doing some landscaping and maybe even tree trimming. We need you! Questions? Ask Allen Posz.

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!

YOUTH GATHERING - 8/23

CUCC Youth will be gathering at Pastor Rick's house on 8/23 for a pizza and games party from 4:00-7:00 p.m.! Youth in 6th-12th grades are welcome; talk to Pastor Rick for more information!

YOUNG ADULT/COLEGE MINISTRY BEGINS - 8/30

A new CUCC Young Adult/College Ministry faith formation program will be starting up on 8/30! We will gather on that day for a backyard BBQ at Rev. Mike & Lilly Williams' house. All young adults/college students are welcome; spread the word! For more information, talk to Ashley or Kasper Ramirez, Rev. Lauren or Jesse Lippincott, or Rev. Mike or Lilly Santoro-Williams!

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	8/2	Faith on Film Documentary	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
Tue	8/4	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Sun	8/9	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 . . .

Rev. Carolyn Held... health issues (Edie's Niece)

Mike Freeman... on hospice (Corinne's friend)

The Worsham and Bonebreak Families... challenges in life

Alethea Tennill... recovering from broken leg

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

Genesis 32:22-31

22 The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok.

23 He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. 24 Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.

25 When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him.

26 Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me."

27 So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob."

28 Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed."

29 Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him.

30 So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved."

31 The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Matthew 14:13-21

13 Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat to a deserted place by himself. But when the crowds heard it, they followed him on foot from the towns. 14 When he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them and cured their sick.

15 When it was evening, the disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now late; send the crowds away so that they may go into the villages and buy food for themselves."

16 Jesus said to them, "They need not go away; you give them something to eat."

17 They replied, "We have nothing here but five loaves and two fish."

18 And he said, "Bring them here to me."

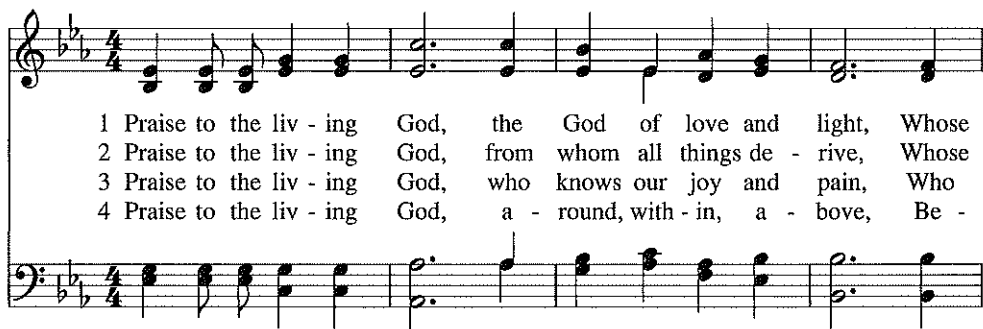
19 Then he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples, and the disciples gave them to the crowds.

20 And all ate and were filled, and they took up what was left over of the broken pieces, twelve baskets full. 21 And those who ate were about five thousand men, besides women and children.

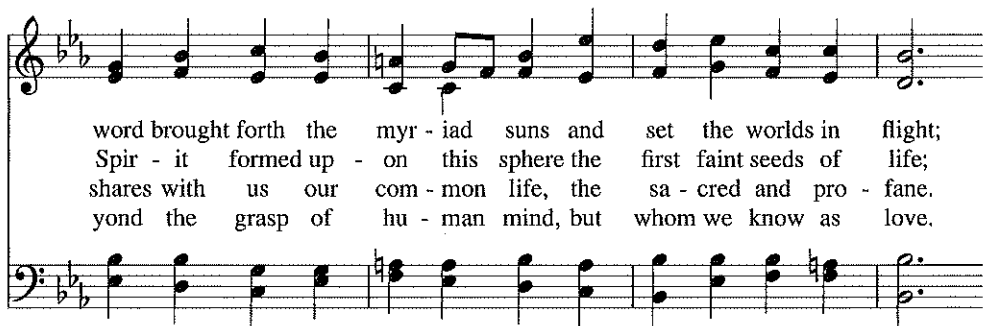
Praise to the Living God

Ps. 84:1-2

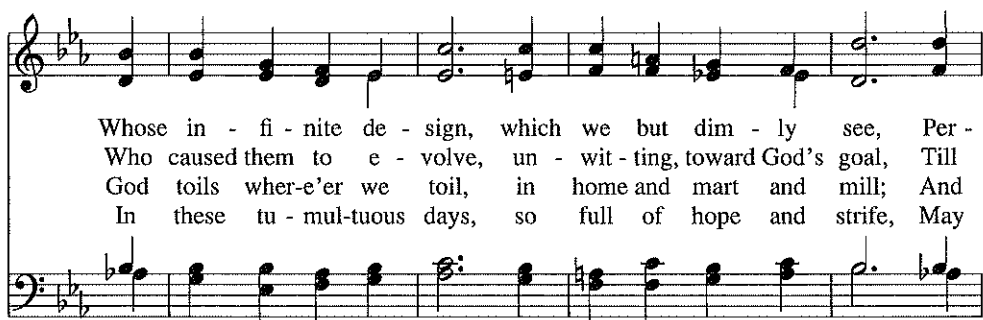
Curtis Beach, 1966; alt.



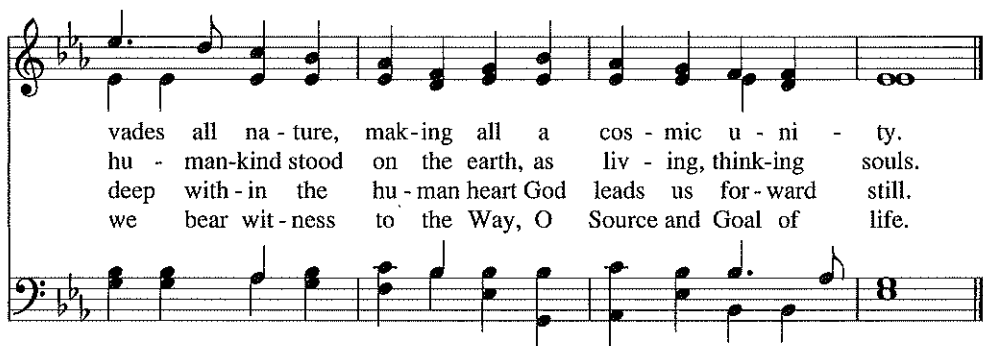
1 Praise to the liv - ing God, the God of love and light, Whose
 2 Praise to the liv - ing God, from whom all things de - rive, Whose
 3 Praise to the liv - ing God, who knows our joy and pain, Who
 4 Praise to the liv - ing God, a - round, with - in, a - bove, Be -



word brought forth the myr - iad suns and set the worlds in flight;
 Spir - it formed up - on this sphere the first faint seeds of life;
 shares with us our com - mon life, the sa - cred and pro - fane.
 yond the grasp of hu - man mind, but whom we know as love.



Whose in - fi - nite de - sign, which we but dim - ly see, Per -
 Who caused them to e - volve, un - wit - ting, toward God's goal, Till
 God toils wher - e'er we toil, in home and mart and mill; And
 In these tu - mul - tuous days, so full of hope and strife, May



vades all na - ture, mak - ing all a cos - mic u - ni - ty.
 hu - man-kind stood on the earth, as liv - ing, think - ing souls.
 deep with - in the hu - man heart God leads us for - ward still.
 we bear wit - ness to the Way, O Source and Goal of life.

Curtis Beach, born into a family of several generations of ministers, was educated at Harvard University, the Boston University School of Theology, and the University of Southern California. A minister in the United Church of Christ, Beach authored *The Gospel of Mark: Its Making and Meaning*.

Tune: DIADEMATA S.M.D.
 George J. Elvey, 1868

Guide Me, O My Great Redeemer

Exod. 13:21; 16:4; 17:6; Ps. 105:39-44; Rev. 22:1-2

William Williams, 1745

St. 1, transl. Peter Williams, 1771; alt.

St. 2-3, transl. William Williams, 1772; alt.

1 Guide me, O my great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain, where the heal - ing
 3 When I reach the Riv - er Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land; I am weak, but you are might - y;
 wa - ters flow. Let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar
 fears sub - side. Death of death, and hell's de - struc - tion,

hold me with your power - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 lead me all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - erer, strong de - liv - erer,
 land me safe on heav - en's side. Songs of prais - es, songs of prais - es

feed me till I want no more, feed me till I want no more.
 ev - er be my strength and shield, ev - er be my strength and shield.
 I will ev - er sing to you, I will ev - er sing to you.

John Hughes, a railroad official by trade, composed this tune for the 1907 anniversary of Capel Rhondda, Pontypridd, Wales. Cwm Rhondda refers to the "low valley" area surrounding the urban district of Rhondda in southern Wales.

Tune: CWM RHONDDA 8.7.8.7.8.7.7.

John Hughes, 1907

Alternate setting: ZION

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