

**The
Newsletter**

Columbia

February 2026

March 2026

United Methodist Church

Our Mission

“To reveal the light of Jesus Christ in Columbia and around the world.”

Enter into the Season of Lent:

Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

7:00 pm



Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026 at 10:30 am

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP AND EVENTS:

Good Friday Tenebrae Service

Friday, April 3, 2026, at 7:00 pm

EASTER RESURRECTION SERVICES: SUNDAY, April 5, 2026

Sunrise Service at 7:00 am in the Church Pavilion (weather permitting)

Potluck brunch to follow in Fellowship Hall

Easter Service at 10:30 am in the Sanctuary

All are welcome. Join us.



Forging forward in mission – Pastor Jennifer's corner



It may not seem like it at the time of receiving this newsletter, but winter will soon begin to loosen its grip and the days will slowly grow longer. It is in these transitioning times that we enter one of the most meaningful seasons of the Christian year. February and March invite us into Lent, a holy time of reflection and hope as we journey with Jesus toward the cross and the empty tomb.

While we have only recently concluded our celebration of the birth of Jesus, an early Lenten season draws us into the stories that will lead up to His crucifixion and resurrection. Lent begins on February 18th with Ash Wednesday. On this day we remember both our human frailty and God's deep mercy as we hear the words, "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," alongside the promise of forgiveness and new life. Lent is not meant to weigh us down, but to clear space in our hearts so we can better receive God's grace. We will observe Ash Wednesday at 7pm with a service of worship and imposition of ashes.

As we move through Lent, we prepare ourselves for the events at the heart of our faith. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday as we journey with Jesus on His triumphal entry to Jerusalem, continues through the grief of Maundy Thursday, invites us to sit at the foot of the cross on Good Friday, waits with us in the uncertainty and anticipation of Holy Saturday, and concludes with the joy of Easter Sunday.

We at Columbia UMC will take that journey through a regular 10:30 service on Palm Sunday, March 29th, a service of communion on Good Friday, April 3rd, at 7pm, an Easter Sunrise service on April 5th in the pavilion at 7am followed by a potluck breakfast, and our regular service at 10:30am that day. I highly encourage you to attend on Good Friday, as it is the "missing link" between the triumph of Palm Sunday and the joy of Easter. It is important to explore the story that happens between the two. In order to make it easier to attend on Good Friday, we are offering to coordinate rides for people that evening. More information will follow about this.

Lent is traditionally a season for practicing Spiritual Disciplines. These are simple, faithful habits that help us grow closer to God. We will be taking a moment during each Lenten Sunday service to explore a spiritual discipline practice. These practices are not about perfection or earning God's love. They are about making room for God to work in us. Even small, consistent habits can open our hearts in powerful ways.

As we walk this Lenten journey together, may we be honest about our struggles, gentle with ourselves and one another, and open to the transforming love of God. I look forward to worshiping, praying, and preparing for Easter with you.

****Spiritual Discipline moment – Spiritual Discipline Habit Tracker**

Consider using a spiritual disciplines tracker to guide you in new practices. There is a blank one in the newsletter, or feel free to create your own. You can add the spiritual disciplines that we will be exploring this Lenten season or you can use others that you prefer.**

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jennifer



The Worship Committee met on Sunday, January 11th, and addressed all worship needs up through Easter Sunday. In addition to regular Sunday services, the addition of an Ash Wednesday (Feb. 18) and Good Friday (April 3) evening services were discussed relative to the upcoming Lenten season. On Ash Wednesday at 7:00 pm, Pastor Jennifer will hold a quiet, solemn service with hymns, prayer, scripture, message, and imposition of ashes. Good Friday's service, also at 7:00 pm, will be a solemn observance commemorating Jesus Christ's crucifixion and will include Communion and stripping of the sanctuary paraments and other decorations ... symbolizing Christ's abandonment and humiliation. *

There will be an Easter (April 5) morning sunrise service at 7:00 am in the pavilion (weather permitting), followed by a pot-luck breakfast in the fellowship hall. Regular Easter Communion service is at 10:30 am. Palm branches will be available on Palm Sunday, March 29th, and flowers will decorate the sanctuary on Easter morning. ** Special Easter cards will be sent to our home-bound members.

Being fully aware that Christmas celebrates the birth of Christ and is the start of God's plan, as we enter into the Lenten season, we embrace Easter's culmination that makes the promise of Christmas meaningful and eternally effective.

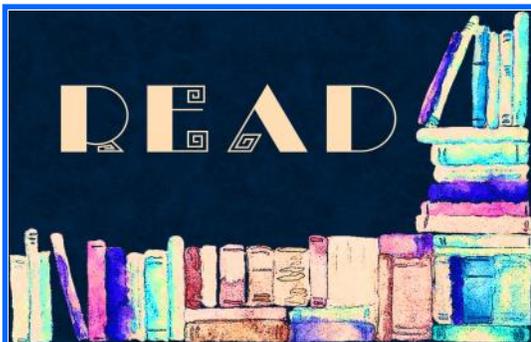
We continue to welcome volunteers to be Sunday morning greeters and liturgists. Please let Gayle Knopf know that you would enjoy being a greeter, or speak to Pastor Jennifer if you are willing to assist during any services as a liturgist. We thank you in advance!

*Special note: if transportation is needed to either of these evening services, please let worship committee chair Marcia Wonnacott [440-552-6274] or the church office [440-236-8822] know a couple days in advance as we have willing drivers to assist.

** Easter flower order forms will be available in the weeks to come.

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Wonnacott
Worship Com. Chair

Get Involved! Make New Friends! We have many opportunities available. Consider joining one of our many groups—book club, crafting for missions, Choir, United Women in Faith, bible studies, and church committees.



Join Our Book Club!

Do you like to read?

Do you like to talk about what you read?

Then join us for a Book Club called Novel Ideas. We will meet on the third Saturday of each month at 10 am. We will cover many genres and topics. **All are welcome!**

For more information, please contact Sara Thompson.



Crafting for Missions

First Saturday of each month at 10:00 am in Fellowship Hall

Crafting for missions is changing the dates of our meetings, instead of the 4th Saturday, we will meet on the 1st Saturday.

Our meeting Dates will be February 7, 2026 and March 7, 2026.

All are always welcome! See Barb Hitchcock with any questions.



Come and Make a Joyful Noise!

There is always an open invitation for interested persons to join the choir singing ranks. Almost all choir rehearsals are held Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. Main requirement: a love of singing for the Lord. :)



Your Faithful Support Matters: Thank you!

In addition to food donations, please consider these items that are always a great need at the Columbia Food Center:

- Laundry detergent & Dish liquid
- Canned fruit & Fruit jam (other than grape)
- Shampoo and Conditioner; Body Wash
- Toilet Paper & Paper Towels
- Deodorant (Men's and women's)

Volunteers are always welcome at the Center on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of the month between 9 and 11 am.



United
Women
in Faith

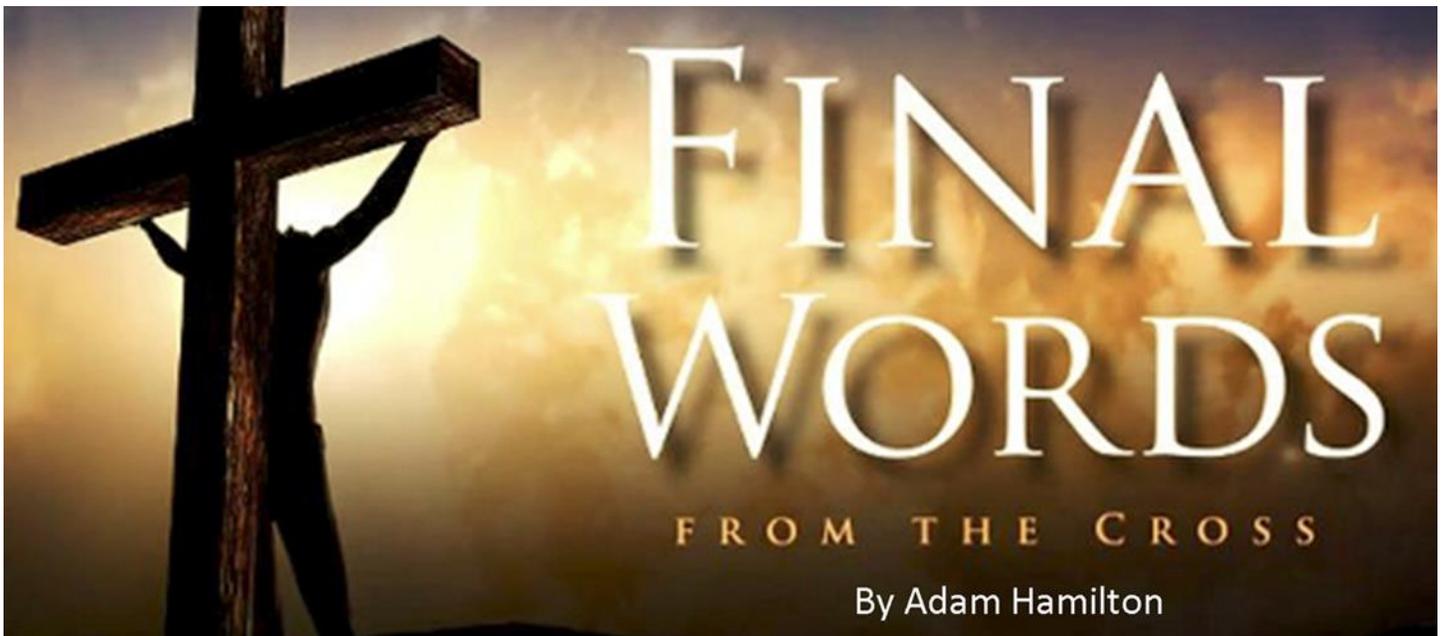
The Salvation Army in Elyria received lots of socks, gloves, hats and over 300 scarves. Thanks to our church family's donations!

Our next meeting will be February 4th at 10:00 am. Joyce Cook will present the program - "Connected in our Roots"

Psalms 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path"

As we map our way forward God, we ask you to light our path and accompany us as we make new roads together. Amen

March 4th regular meeting at 10:00 am. "Mapping our Meanders"



Pastor Jennifer will be leading the Lenten Study "Final Words from the Cross" by Adam Hamilton. She will be offering two times to participate based on interest. It is a six week study, with an optional seventh session, that will run after service on Sundays February 22, March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 and April 5, and at noon on Tuesdays February 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7. Please let Pastor Jennifer know as soon as you are able if you are interested. It is necessary to purchase a book for this series, which will be no more than \$15 (based on seller and condition of book). If you would like Jennifer to purchase a book for you, you can arrange with her to do so.



We Love to See You At Sunday School!

Help us kick off the start of the Sunday School year on Sunday, September 14. There will be food, games and a Bible lesson. All children Preschool through Grade 6 are welcome. Sunday School is held during the worship hour. Children gather in the sanctuary for the start of worship. They are dismissed to their classroom after the Offertory. Parents gather their children after the worship hour.



Monday Night Bible Study at 4:00 pm.

The Monday Night Bible Study group works their way through a book of the Bible, studying and discussing a section at a time. All are welcome! For more information, please see Bob Keane.



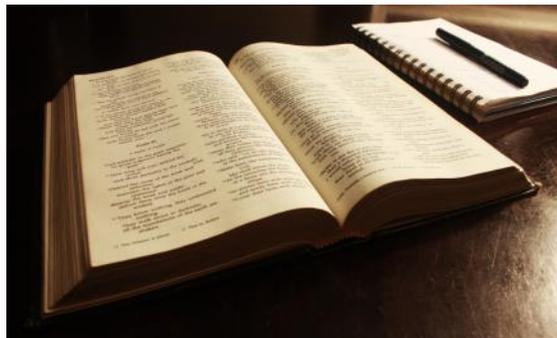
UPPER ROOM BIBLE STUDY

Thursday Mornings at 11 am

Join us for our weekly meeting in the Courtyard Room on Thursday mornings at 11 am for a weekly devotional lesson, discussion and fellowship. Group members take turns to lead the sessions, and you can jump in any time. .

All are welcome! All you need is your Bible

All are welcome. Join us.





COLUMBIA UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL UPDATE



Preschool classes continue with 24 actively engaged students.

Enrollment registration is open for 2026-27. Questions should be directed to Renee Huntington (440)387-6505.

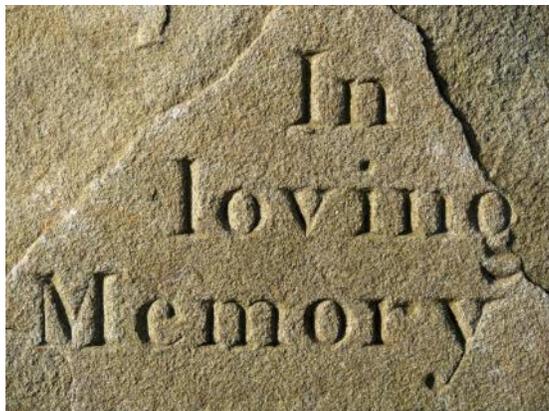
Website: www.ColumbiaPreschool.weebly.com
Email: preschoolcum@gmail.com Phone: (440) 387-6505

To our Church family:



We are very humbled by your expressions of love during our recent illnesses. Thank you for all the prayers, cards, meals and visits. You helped make that time more enjoyable. God Bless you all.

Walter and Lillie Merrill



It is with a heavy heart that we let you know, our former church secretary, Pat Balcziunas passed away on January 20, 2026. She had been a member of our church since 1988 and was church secretary for over 20 years. She was a faithful Christian and a good friend to many. A memorial service was held on January 24, 2026. God Bless you Pat!



All the men of the church are invited to join us on the first Sunday of each month at 8:30 am for breakfast and fellowship in Fellowship Hall.

**Join us on Sunday, February 1st & March 1st at 8:30 am.
See Bob Keane for more information.**

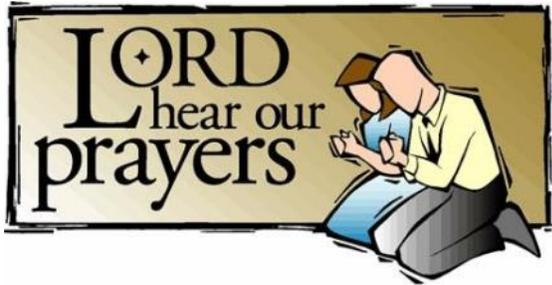
Be a Greeter or Coffee Hour Host!

Volunteer to be a part of this ministry of hospitality. Many hands make light work.

Sign up for either or both! Coffee Hour hosts may sign up on the bulletin board by the office; greeters should contact Gail Knopf.

For more information, please call the church office.





For Daily Prayer:

Glenna S., Gloria W., Mary B., Dee K., Charlie R., Chuck & Olga S., Jiffy M., Doug P., Brad, Allen, Layla Y., John W., Cindy H., Bob & Denise S., Karen B., Bill W., Jayne, Jason, Michela, Bill R., Hester B., Mary H., Connie W., Syrah E., Jessie G., David J., Dalton, Kim, Tim B., Dana, Ken R., Tom & Judy R., Cindy, Kristy, Amy, Ray L., Joanne C., Daniel D., Dave K., Jerry D. Jr., Wayne, Kristy, Tom F., Tom P., Joan S., Martin L., Nick L., Peggy W., Murphy Family, Barbara G., Ed R., Nitsa P., Bailey, Shelby, Linda M., Mary Lou T., Mickolick family, Levonn, Jaclyn, Michael S., Martin B., Lillie & Walt M., Balczunas family

Those in service to our country.

Those in nursing homes or assisted living.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers.

(If you know of someone who is hospitalized or in a care facility and would like support from our church community, Please notify the church office! Please let us know when prayers have been answered and names can be removed.)

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of **prayers** and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people.”

Ephesians 6:18

KEEP IN TOUCH!

Our Web Page: www.columbiaumc.org
Our Email: ColumbiaUMoffice@gmail.com
Our Phone Number: (440) 236-8822
Pastor Jennifer’s Email & Phone:
lady_mellott@yahoo.com / 440-236-4122

**If you have a change in your contact information, let us know.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

Birthdays & Anniversaries

February

2 Renee Hunting ton

12 Lance Darling-Mellott

19 Marilyn Zoller

25 Martin Lodge

28 Madelyn Berger

March

8 Barbara Hitchcock

10 Sara Thompson

12 Sandy Eichenberg

14 Mary Melynk

24 Gail Knopf

25 Bonnie Newling

27 Marcia Wonnacott

31 Cheryl Ives



Please remember our Red Envelope Ministry.

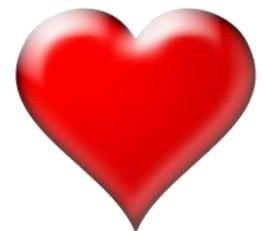
These gifts enable us to purchase gas/grocery cards to help those in need.

Red envelopes are located at the back of the sanctuary.



February 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Communion	2 Bible Study 4:00 pm	3 Trustees 7:00 pm	4 UWF 10:00 am	5 Upper Room 11:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	6	7 Crafting for Missions 10:00 am
8 Worship 10:30 am Bible Study after worship	9 Bible Study 4:00 pm	10	11	12 Upper Room 11:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	13	14 Happy Valentines Day!
15 Worship 10:30 am	16 Bible Study 4:00 pm	17 Admin. Council 7:00 pm	18 ASH WEDNESDAY Ash Wednesday Worship Service 7:00 pm	19 Upper Room 11:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	20	21 Book Club 10:00 am
22 Worship 10:30 am Lenten Bible Study after worship Columbia Homecom- ing Committee	23 Bible Study 4:00 pm	24 Lenten Bible Study noon	25	26 Upper Room 11:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	27	28



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:

Service of Worship: 10:30 a.m.

Holy Communion on the first Sunday of each month

*The United Methodist Church practices open communion:
all are welcome to partake of the sacrament.*

Sunday School for Preschool-6th grade during worship at 10:30 am

March 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Communion Lenten Bible Study after worship	2 Bible Study 4:00 pm	3 Lenten Bible Study noon Trustees 7:00 pm	4 UWF 10:00 am	5 Upper Room 11:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	6	7 Crafting for Missions 10:00 am
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22 Worship 10:30 am Lenten Bible Study after worship	23 Bible Study 4:00 pm	24 Lenten Bible Study noon	25	26 Upper Room 11:00 am Choir 7:30 pm	27	28
29 Palm Sunday Worship 10:30 am Lenten Bible Study after worship	30 Bible Study 4:00 pm	31 Lenten Bible Study noon				



Worship in person in the sanctuary or live via YouTube:
<https://www.youtube.com/@columbiaumc7888/streams>

Our Mission: *“To reveal the light of Christ in Columbia and around the World”*

And the Greatest of These is Love...

Love is *patient*, love is *kind*, it *isn't jealous*, it *doesn't brag*, it *isn't arrogant*, it *isn't rude*, it *doesn't seek its own advantage*, it *isn't irritable*, it *doesn't keep a record of complaints*, it *isn't happy with injustice*, but it *is happy with the truth*.

*Love puts up with all things,
trusts in all things,
hopes for all things,
endures all things.*

Love never fails.

~ 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Common English Bible ~



Dated Material

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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