

**The
Newsletter**

Columbia

**June 2026
July 2026**

United Methodist Church

Our Mission

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

**TIME TO GET
READY FOR**



Summer Outdoor Worship

5 pm on Saturday

July 18th & August 22nd

Join Us!

SUMMER OUTDOOR WORSHIP

Join us this summer for Saturday Outdoor Worship! Come as you are for this informal Saturday evening service in our pavilion. Bring a lawn chair, or sit under the shade of the pavilion at the picnic tables. Invite your neighbors and friends, all ages welcome.

Service starts at 5 pm:

Saturday, July 18

Saturday, August 22

Forging forward in mission – Pastor Jennifer's corner



As the warmth of summer begins to envelop us, I am reminded of the beauty and renewal that each season brings. Summer is a time of growth, rest and rejuvenation – a time to bask in the sun's glow and celebrate the abundant life that God has gifted us. During these sunlit months, I encourage you to find moments of rest and reflection. Whether you are traveling, enjoying time with family or friends, or simply savoring the longer days, let this season be one of spiritual renewal. Just as nature flourishes under the summer sun, so too can our faith blossom with intentional care and nourishment. Let us use this time to deepen our connection with God and each other. There are still many great opportunities to connect even as the schedule here at the church slows down. One special event continues to be our Game Nights on the fourth Friday of the month. Our June Game Night will be at the church as regularly scheduled, but the July one (on the 24th) will be a special edition outdoor game night at the parsonage, accompanied by a cookout. More information will be shared later, but mark your calendars now. Gatherings like these are designed not only to strengthen our faith, but also to build and enrich our community bonds. As you embark on your summer adventures, carry with you the light of Christ. Be a beacon of His love and grace to those around you. Remember, even in the busiest or quietest moments, God is with us, guiding and supporting us. May this summer be filled with joy, peace, and a renewed sense of purpose. I look forward to seeing how God will work in and through each of us in the coming months.

****Spiritual practice: Being in Nature**

In Mark Buchanan's book "God Walk: Moving at the Speed of Your Soul" he proposes that the discipline of walking was central to the way that Jesus interacted with his disciples. Even in the creation story God walked with Adam and Eve in the garden. He also suggests that God is a "three-mile-an-hour God," a God who loves to move slowly, is never in a hurry and enjoys the journey as much as the destination. Walking deepens the familiar and yet keeps revealing the new. He talks about several different ways in which walking benefits us – not just as exercise, but as friendship, healing, remembering, suffering and prayer. While Mark focuses on his imagery on the idea of physical walking, the concept can be expanded easily to find a way to be slow in nature, regardless of our mobility circumstances. Especially as we enter the warm months of summer, being in nature is a practice that is accessible in many ways to most people. Even if for a brief time, being present with God in a natural environment helps us slow down and connect to the creating force that God has bestowed upon the world through Himself. So consider going out for a slow journey around your neighborhood, or in another area of nature. Prepare yourself on your doorstep: take a deep breath in and out and set an intention to go with God. When you come home, reflect on what you experienced – what did you see, hear, feel, smell, etc. and how did you see God in those experiences?

Grace and peace,

Pastor Jennifer



The Worship Committee met on Sunday, May 3, following the morning worship service with eight members present. Sunday services through June 28th were overviewed with the following highlights:

May 10: Mother's Day with the "Wesley Boys" [aka Nate and Terry Byrne, Walter Merrill and Jim Wonnacott] providing special music, Tenting Toward the Highlands. We greatly appreciate their willingness to serenade us each year! Special pressed flower bookmarks were shared with all women, thanks to our church craft ladies!

May 24: Pentecost Sunday commemorating the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and followers of Jesus Christ in Jerusalem according to Acts 2:1-31. The liturgical color RED symbolizes the fiery zeal of the Holy Spirit and the "tongues of fire" that descended upon the Apostles. Pastor Jennifer hosted a coffee hour in celebration thereof.

June 7: A multi-celebratory Sunday with the Men's Breakfast, Communion, Graduate recognition, and special coffee hour. We will also take time to recognize choir director Frances Pawuk's contributions to our music program these past three years. She will be moving on to enter her teaching career as a music educator. We have been blessed with her dedication, time and talent.

June 21: Father's Day with all men receiving special gift made by our talented craft ladies.

June 28: John Wesley's birthday! [6/28/1703-3/2/1791]

We continue to celebrate all the members of our church family who give so much of their time to the overall significant elements of each Sunday service. We are blessed by Pastor Jennifer's meaningful messages; by greeters; by bulletin preparation; by banner designers; by liturgists; by ushers; by Communion prep hands; by musicians; by live streamers; by altar florists; indeed by any and all who so willingly donate, with wonderful spirit, precious energy to each and every service. Folks, we are hugely blessed. Praise the Lord!

Respectfully submitted,
Marcia Wonnacott
Worship chair

Pentecost Sunday

On May 24th our congregation celebrated Pentecost. Good food and fellowship were enjoyed by all.



Come and Make a Joyful Noise!

We are looking for all those with musical talents who would like to share them with our church. It can be instrumental or vocal; solo or a group. You can be added to any part of our worship time. If interested, please contact Pastor Jennifer.



Sunday School!

We are breaking for the summer, but we will start up again in the fall. Updates will be posted in future newsletters and on the church website and Facebook page. Enjoy the summer and see you in the fall.



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 has changed the dates of our meetings, instead of the 4th Saturday, we will meet on the 1st Saturday. Our meeting Dates will be **June 6, 2026, August 1, 2026. No meeting in July.** All are always welcome! See Barb Hitchcock with any questions.



United
Women
in Faith

Fellowship Outing - June 3rd at Clementine's in Olmsted Falls.

We will meet at the church at 11:00 am to car pool, or you can meet us there.

July and August– Saturday, July 18 - Kitchen Clean up 9 am to noon.

Read a Book

Keep in Touch

Get your vintage linens ready for our Craft Fair table in Oct.

Price Christmas items for the Craft Fair table.



Please join us at Columbia United Methodist Church Saturday, October 3rd

9:00 to 3:00

Free Admission

Vendor booths only \$20!

Call 901-240-5026 for information

Church members can have a booth (a booth includes an 8 foot table and 2 chairs) for \$10



COMMUNITY



GAME



Night

**FOURTH FRIDAY
OF THE MONTH
5-8 PM**

**COLUMBIA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
25453 Royalton Rd. Columbia Station**

ALL AGES WELCOME

**BOARD GAMES | CARD GAMES
BRING YOUR OWN | PLAY ONE OF OURS**

**7 WONDERS | CATAN | APPLES TO APPLES | YAHTZEE
LEFT-CENTER-RIGHT | JENGA AND MUCH MORE**

**FULL EVENT INFORMATION ON FACEBOOK
@COLUMBIAUNITEDMETHODISTCHURCH**



COLUMBIA UNITED METHODIST PRESCHOOL UPDATE



On May 22, 2026, eleven students graduated from the preschool and are heading on to kindergarten. We send our best wishes and blessings with them.
 In the fall Columbia United Methodist Preschool will begin its 60th year. We are pleased that our staff will remain the same with Mrs. Daley and Mrs. McClure returning for another year.
 Enrollment for 2026-27 is almost full. We have one opening in the 3-4- year-old class. Questions should be directed to the school phone (440)387-6505

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



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.



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.

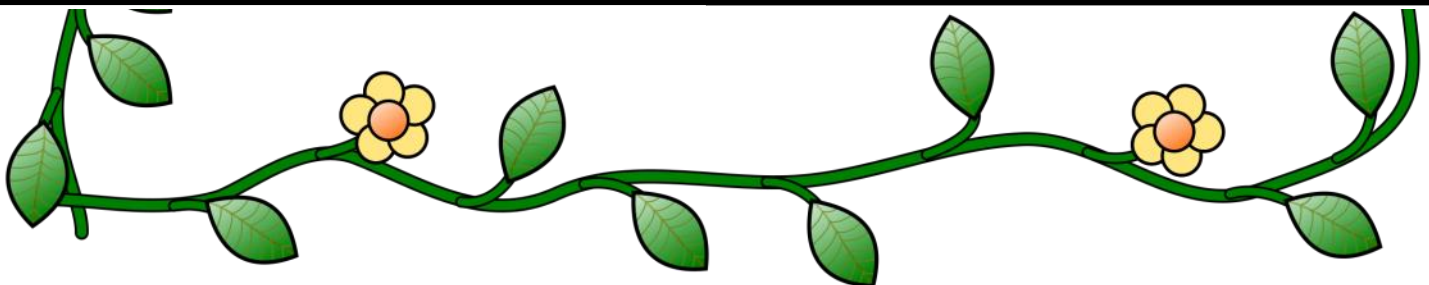
**Join us on June 7th.
 See Bob Keane for more information.**

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.



Unified Board – What is it and how is it different?

In our previous newsletter, there was information about the new leadership structure the church was exploring. Several questions have been asked about this structure and so this section is a place to answer the questions we have received so far.

- What is Administrative Council/Board?

According to the UMC Book of Discipline 2024 ¶ 252, the church council is responsible for planning and implementing a program of nurture, outreach, witness, and resources. It also manages the administration of the church's organizational and temporal life. The council is tasked with envisioning, planning, implementing, and annually evaluating the church's mission and ministry. In its role as the administrative agency of the charge conference, it ensures that all aspects of the church's work are aligned with its larger vision.

That is a very formal definition indeed, but it covers the many aspects the council is responsible for overseeing. Functionally, the council meets regularly (most often monthly) to evaluate finances, ministries, plans, events, and other elements of the church's operation. It is generally distinct from the other administrative committees of finance, trustees, staff parish relations (SPRC), and nominations.

- What is the makeup of our current Administrative Council?

Each church has some leeway in how to structure their administrative committees that may be different from the suggested format. For example, at this time, our council does include our finance committee, as it was voted on several years ago to help consolidate leadership. Therefore, the council includes members who represent the finance team, our treasurer and financial secretary, and additionally includes a representative from the Trustees, a representative from SPRC, our Lay Leader (and Annual Conference delegate), a representative from the UWF and four members at-large (meaning they are not on the committee because of a particular position they hold, but because they were elected specifically to serve on the board).

- How is Unified Board different?

As a reminder, this is the proposed change: The proposed structure is suggested to include 6 persons. Other positions such as the lay leader and treasurer would participate in meetings for administrative matters and full board meetings would include persons such as at-large members, the UWF president, the Annual Conference delegate, and other ministry area leaders, provided they were not already elected to one of the 6 positions. We are seeking to allow the leadership to rotate in classes every three years, with two people moving out of leadership each year (after serving three years), and another two moving in to serve three years.

Unified Board would bring all of the major administrative committees under one umbrella (excluding nominations, as it must remain its own entity). Instead of regular separate meetings of the individual committees, all elements of those committees would be discussed during a regular board meeting. Also, instead of having particular representatives from each committee attend the meeting, all of the six elected positions would represent those committees collectively.

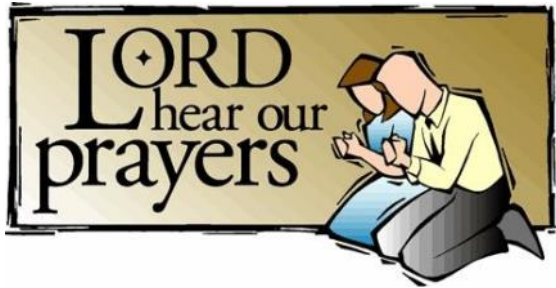
- What would be the benefits of this new structure?

The first main benefit would be the 3 year rotation of leadership. This would allow leaders to take breaks (an absolute necessity to avoid burnout) and new leaders to step in.

A second benefit is that no one person has to bear the responsibility of keeping track of one particular committee. Instead, the group collectively shares the knowledge and can divide all tasks more evenly.

The last major benefit is that this gives all leaders a greater picture of what the church is doing. It allows each leader to see how the individual elements of the church work together to move toward the mission of Christ.

If you have any more questions, or if you might feel called to this type of leadership, feel free to talk to Pastor Jennifer.



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, Hester B., Mary H., Connie W., Syrah E., Jessie G., David J., Dalton, Kim, Tim B., Dana, Ken 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, Ed R., Nitsa P., Bailey, Shelby, Linda M., Mary Lou T., Levonn, Jaclyn, Martin B., Lillie & Walt M., Karen K., Josh H., Pam A. **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

June

4 Cindy Gerbick

4Tim Gerbick

4 Joyce Jenkins

5 PastorJennifer Darliling-Mellott

17 Roger Boris

17 Lois Reisinger

17 David Thompson

18 John & Jean Bailey Anniversary

22 LaVerne Dangler

29 Warren Ives

July

3 Renee & Terry Huntington

Anniversary

21 Gloria Welling



**We love to celebrate with you! Let us know your birthday and/or anniversary so that we can celebrate you, too! Email Lois at the church office:
columbiaUMoffice@gmail.com**

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.



June 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Trustees Mtg. 7 pm	3 UWF Luncheon at Clementine's	4 Upper Room 11 am	5	6 Crafting for Missions 10 am
7 Men's Breakfast 8:30 am Worship 10:30 am Communion Graduate Recognition	8	9	10	11 Upper Room 11 am	12	13
14 Worship 10:30 am	15	16 Admin. Council 7 pm	17	18 Upper Room 11 am	19	20 Book Club 10 am
21 Worship 10:30 am	22	23	24	25 Upper Room 11 am	26 Game Night 5-8 pm	27
28 Worship 10:30 am	29	30				

Clergy Session & Annual Conference in Wooster

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 from September to May.

July 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1	2	3	4
5 Worship/ Communion 10:30 am	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 Worship 10:30 am	13	14	15	16	17	18 Kitchen Cleaning 9 am—noon Book Club 10 am Summer Outdoor Worship 5 pm
19 Worship 10:30 am	20	21 Admin. Council 7 pm	22	23	24 Game Night & Cookout 5-8 pm @ Parsonage	25
26 Worship 10:30 am	27	28	29	30	31	



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”***



Dated Material

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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