

**The
Newsletter**

Columbia

**August 2026
September 2026**

United Methodist Church

Our Mission

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

**Looking forward to events
starting back up!**

Upper Room Thursdays at 11 am.

Men's Breakfast Sunday,
September 6th at 8:30 am

Kitchen Cleaning Saturday,
August 22nd - 9 am till noon

United Women in Faith
Wednesday, Sept. 2nd -10 am

Sunday School September 13th

Monday Bible Study Sept. 14th

Book Club Third Saturday of each
month at 10 am.

Crafting for Missions First
Saturday of each month at 10 am.

Forging forward in mission – Pastor Jennifer's corner



Greetings beloved of God! While the dog days of summer are still upon us, we see the signs and signals of the start of the school year and, subsequently, the start of the fall season. I know many of us are not ready for the summer to be over but the back to school supply sections of the stores are not getting any less insistent. We find ourselves standing in between the pleasures of summer – vibrant sunsets, warm nights, lazy days – and the increased busyness of the fall season. As such, this is a perfect reminder to enjoy the days while we have them. In the midst of the crazy schedules we

call our lives, it is essential to carve out time for spiritual nourishment and reflection. We are provided, in these days, the perfect opportunity to deepen our connection with God and to seek the Lord's guidance in our lives. Whether it's through leisurely walks in nature, quiet moments of meditation, or attending worship services in the great outdoors, we can find solace and renewal in God's presence.

Speaking of worshipping in the great outdoors, our second Outdoor Worship Service will be held on Saturday, August 22 at 5pm. Mayhem Quartet will be bringing the message in music. Come join us and invite others for this special time.

Back to school season is a time filled with anticipation and growth. It is an opportunity for students, educators, and each and every one of us to embrace new beginnings and seek God's guidance in all our pursuits. To the students, we encourage you to approach this new school year with enthusiasm and dedication. Let your faith be a guiding force, enabling you to make a positive impact on those around you. To the educators, we extend our heartfelt gratitude for the tireless dedication and passion you bring to your vocation and calling. As you guide and inspire your students, may you find strength and wisdom in God's presence. Parents, guardians, and caretakers, you play a vital role in the educational journey of those you care for. Your love, encouragement, and involvement contribute significantly to their success. Pray for their growth, their friendships, and their overall well-being, knowing that God's love and protection accompany them each step of the way. As a faith community, let us come together in prayer for our students, educators, and families. Let us lift them up to the Lord, seeking blessings, wisdom and strength as they navigate the educational landscape. May this school year be filled with moments of joy, growth, and transformation for each and every member of our community.

****Spiritual Discipline moment –Gratitude Journal**

In the busyness of our lives, journaling helps us to remember. One important thing to remember is the power of gratitude. Take a moment each day to reflect on the blessings in life, no matter how small they may seem. Gratitude opens our hearts to God's abundant grace and helps us cultivate a spirit of commitment and joy. Start a Gratitude Journal, or similar, where you write down the things you are daily thanking God for. That way, you always have a physical reminder of that for which you are grateful. If you've never journaled before, start by recording one or two moments of gratitude per day, perhaps at the close of the day. Then try stopping to record those moments of gratitude throughout the day instead of waiting until later. Then, each week, increase the number of times you stop to write them down. On days where gratitude may seem to be a challenge, go back and read previous entries to give you strength and, perhaps, inspiration.

In Christ,

Pastor Jennifer



WORSHIP NOTES

As we continue our worship time through summer and entering fall, let us recognize and extend gratefulness to all the faithful members of our church family. To those who attend “in-person” each Sunday morning; to Ruthie for her dedication in providing special music at each service; to the liturgists for their leadership at the lectern; to Jim Wonnacott and Dave Thompson for keeping the live-stream program faithfully up and running; to Bob Keane and his usher team; to Gayle Knopf and her greeters; to Communion stewards; and to our Pastor Jennifer for always providing faith-filled ministry from the pulpit. Sunday morning worship provides a most important and crucial aspect of a church’s on-going life and ministry.

“It's community. It's worshiping with others, praying for others, hurting with others, serving others, being involved in the lives of others.” [Craig Groeschel]

“Spiritual Nourishment: It provides food for the soul and keeps your focus centered on God rather than worldly stress. Accountability: Being part of a local body helps you stay strong in your faith and resist temptation. {Billy Graham]

A musical point of interest is to inform our church family that we will not have a regular choir program as the liturgical year progresses. Special music is always greatly appreciated. As we continue to help manage worship services, your worship committee members welcome supportive input from all.

>>>As a slight deviation from normal worship info, the following is shared as a somewhat lighter exercise.<<<

Just for fun, can you find the 16 books of the Bible in this story?

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was certainly a lulu; kept people looking so hard for the facts. For some, it was a revelation, yet others were in a jam.

Especially since the names of the books were not even capitalized. The truth finally struck home to numbers of readers; to others it was a real job. We want this task to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help them. I will quickly admit, it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there are really sixteen names of books of the Bible found in the story. [Author Unknown]

Respectfully submitted,

Marcia Wonnacott

Worship Chair

All are welcome. Join us.

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



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!

Will resume on Sunday, September 13 at 10:30 am during the worship service. Join us for fun as we enjoy crafts, snacks and a Bible lesson.



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
Our meeting Dates will be **Aug 1, 2026, & Sept 5, 2026.**

Planning is underway for a Craft Fair table.

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



United
Women
in Faith

August 5 No meeting

August 22 Clean Kitchen from 9 am till noon
“Many hands make light work”

September 2 Regular meeting 10 am

Marcia Adamczk will be our program leader for
“Re-Orienting Ourselves”. Come join us and help
map our selves forward!



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



Columbia United Methodist Preschool will begin its 60th year this fall. The first day of school will be Wednesday, September 9, 2026. Our enrollment is full. We have 25 students. A parent meeting is scheduled for August 18, 2026.

The Board met on July 10, 2026 and voted to give the church a donation. Remember if you come to the church on Monday, Wednesday or Friday mornings, please use the main (west) entrance since the gates are closed when children are outside. We are using a car line for drop off and pick up again this year.

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.

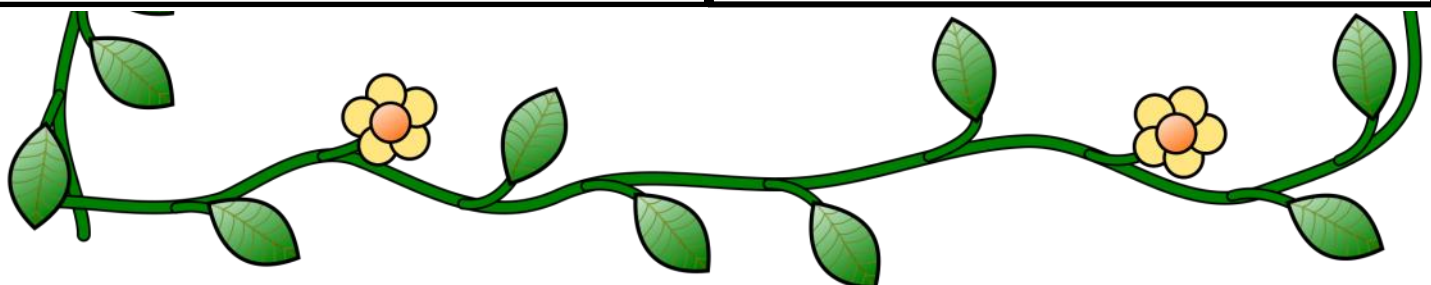
**Join us on Oct 4th.
See Bob Keane for more information.**

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.

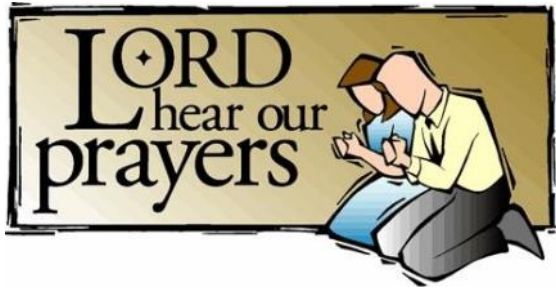
- What would be the benefits of this new structure?

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., 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., Keane family, Joyce C.

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

August

5 Marcia & Jim Wonnacott Annv.

10 Ruth Vallejo

12 Diane Forsemak & Jonathan Clemens Anniv.

13 Marcia Adamczyk

22 Brenda Butler

25 John Bailey

27 Diane Baughman

September

2 Tim & Cindy Gerbick Anniv.

5 Alan & Mary Melynck Anniv.

9 Diane Forsmark

16 Marcia & John Adamczyk Anniv.

13 Lynne Keane

20 Jackson Ives

21 Ann Painting

23 Judy Ives

28 Vickie Boris

14 Sandy Goodson



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.



August 2026

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

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.

September 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 Upper Room 11am	4	5 Crafting for Missions 10 am
6 Worship/Communion 10:30 am	7	8	9 First Day of Preschool	10 Upper Room 11am	11	12
13 Worship 10:30 am Sunday School Starts during worship	14 Bible Study 4 pm	15 Admin. Council 7 pm	16	17 Upper Room 11am	18	19 Book Club 10 am
20 Worship 10:30 am	21 Bible Study 4 pm	22	23	24 Upper Room 11am	25 Game Night 5-8 pm	26
27 Worship 10:30 am	28 Bible Study 4 pm	29	30			



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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