

Columbia United Church Of Christ

February 22, 2026
"Chiapas Mission"



CUCC

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**



February 22, 2026

10:30 a.m.

“Chiapas”

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

*“Be glad in the LORD and rejoice;
Shout for joy! -Psalm 32:11*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

“Just a Closer Walk”

Dennis Marienfeld, saxophone & Connie Loveless, piano

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 32)

Mahree Skala

When we keep silent, we waste away;
When we turn to You, O God, we are renewed!

**God welcomes us home with open arms.
Named and Claimed, we are God’s children always!**

Let all who are faithful offer prayer to You.
In times of distress, the waters will not collapse upon them.

**Your Salvation is within us, O God.
Your Saving Grace our Shield!**

Instruct us as we go, O God, as we travel this Lenten journey.
Your Steadfast Love holds us steady, always on course.

**Be Glad in the LORD and rejoice!
Shout for joy, God’s children everywhere!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

“De Colores”

#402

*Opening Prayer

Mahree Skala

God of many colors; we come into Your church expressing our faith and looking to You for strength. As we gather, we remember that Your children are also gathering in congregations of many expressions all around the world. Forgive us for the times we neglect to celebrate diversity as You have created us. Remind us to open our hearts to the greater community that is Your church, and celebrate Your glory in all its many colors. We join our hearts together around the world, across human-created barriers, to celebrate Your love. In Jesus’ name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

As we walk the Lenten path, we draw ever closer to God. Through discipline and service, we see God present. God is always there, loving us and forgiving us. Through our repentance and God's grace, we are forgiven, beloved and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response

“Jesus, Remember Me”

*Jesus, remember me,
When you come into your Kingdom;
Jesus, remember me,
When you come into your Kingdom!*

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Elena Huegel

“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

“Chiapas Mission”

Pastor Rick

Old Testament Lesson

Genesis 11:1-9

Mahree Skala

The parable of the Tower of Babel is about pride, prejudice, and presumption. God confounds the pride of the people by scattering them across the globe, encouraging diversity. The beauty of God's creation is seen in the diversity of humanity, not in homogeneity. God's people are called to celebrate diversity.
Page #8

Gospel Lesson

2 Corinthians 4:1-12

Mahree Skala

Paul writes this letter to the newly formed Christian Community in Corinth, expressing hope in the midst of persecution. He encourages them to be faithful in all things, reflecting on their spiritual nature contained in fragile, human vessels. Through faith in Jesus Christ, they can find hope, joy and resilience.
Page #939

Anthem

“Many Gifts, One Spirit”

Celebration Singers

Allen Pote

Sermon

“Treasures in Clay Doves and Jaguars”

Elena Huegel

*Hymn

“God of Change and Glory”

#177

Community Prayer & Silent Prayer;

The Lord's Prayer

In an effort to encourage inclusion, we suggest using the address "Creator God" in our unison recitation of The Lord's Prayer. You are certainly welcome to say "Our Father" instead of "Creator," "Trespases" instead of "debts," or "Thy" instead of "Your" if you prefer.

Creator God in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come, Your 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 Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

*Meditation Hymn "Touch the Earth Lightly" #569

Sharing our Announcements Pastor Rick

Invitation to the Offering Pastor Rick

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

Offertory "Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ" Chapel Ringers
Linstead/arr. Michael Helman

*Prayer of Dedication Mahree Skala
(adapted from UMC Discipleship resources/Hispanic-Latino heritage month)

God of hearts and minds, work and service, land and love, we come at this time to honor You with our gifts and blessings. All we have, LORD, we give to You. Accept these offerings. May we always remember the source from which they have come. 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 "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah" Gina Pierson
Arr. Carol Tornquist

CUCC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR 2026 (and beyond)

CARING FOR EACH OTHER

- Advocate for policies that provide support for others
- Incorporate everyone's talents into the work and life of the church
- Formulate support & education classes for parents and children
- Improve staff training and professional development
- Ensure that our staff are paid just wages
- Discern and address the needs of our older members
- Strive to meet the needs of our members where they are

ESTABLISHING OUR IDENTITY

- Increase public awareness of our mission and location
- Increase our advertising/marketing efforts
- Consistently canvass the neighborhood north of the church
- Attract more members, focusing on youth and diversity
- Strive for intentionality incorporating youth and young adults into the life of the church
- Strive for intentionality incorporating a diverse community into the life of the church

DEVELOPING OUR FACILITY

- Continue to modernize and maintain our building and grounds
- Develop a comprehensive maintenance manual with records, goals and strategies for modernization and maintenance
- Seek out new ways to utilize our building to enhance our ministry and generate income
- Establish financial security for our ongoing ministry programs
- Establish our facility as a host site for music groups, choirs, concerts, lecturer series, and other public events

SERVING GOD'S WORLD

- Partner with other agencies that share our goals & interests
- Create a fulfilling, engaging, inclusive Sunday morning experience
- Develop partnerships with others to share our facility
- Strive for intentionality in connecting children, youth and adults to outreach and service opportunities
- Look for ways to reach out to other UCC congregations and work together for justice
- Strive to identify ways that we can be socially responsible and educated in areas of ecological justice, international mission, and other justice issues at home and abroad

Columbia United Church of Christ

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Organist/Accompanist:
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: Mahree Skala
Song Leader: Mike Pierson
Ushers: Keith Birkes & Deborah Long Birkes
Greeters: Carol Duermeyer
Technology: Carissa Graves & John Graves
Council Stewards: Lena Muench & Jerry Kiesling



Online Giving

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Sue Ann Schaefer
Song Leader: Katie Jones
Ushers: Charlie Marcks & Llona Weiss
Greeters: Susan Dunham
Technology: Brent Marcks
Council Stewards: Mary Lorber

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

Moderator: Jerry Kiesling rollzierp50@gmail.com
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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!

FOOD BANK FUN– 2/24

It is food bank fun time again! If you can help out this Tuesday, talk to Mahree Skala; or, sign up using the link that was in the Friday email!

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST - 2/28

Our annual breakfast to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity is this Saturday! We will be serving from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. If you would like tickets or are able to help serve, talk to Brent Marcks or Doug Privitt.

OPEN AND AFFIRMING CONVOCATION- 3/7

The Annual Open and Affirming Convocation will be held at Parkway UCC in St. Louis on 3/7. This annual event is an opportunity for ONA church members to come together and share resources, opportunities, and stories about the ways God is Still Speaking in their midst. We will be taking the church bus. If you would like to come, talk to Ashley Ramirez or Pastor Rick!

TEAM EARTH LUNCH AND LEARN– 3/8

Rev. Mike Williams will lead the next installment in our investigation of our scriptural mandate towards Creation Care! Come join us for lunch, and stay for a very inspiring journey through scripture. Questions? Talk to Mahree Skala!

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY– 3/15

We will begin our annual Stewardship Drive next Sunday, culminating in our annual Stewardship Dinner on 3/15. Rev. Damien Lake, our Associate Conference Minister, will be our guest speaker that day. Plan now to attend! The dinner will be a potluck, celebrating the idea of Stewardship.

OPPORTUNITIES AT ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY

Alpha Hart Lewis could use our help packing their Buddy Packs on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to around 12 p.m. CUCC has volunteer opportunities through the end of the school year. If you can spare a Thursday, talk to Llona Weiss.

THIS WEEK’S CALENDAR

Sun	2/22	Sunday School/Chiapas discussion Fellowship Worship (in person and livestream)	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.
Mon	2/23	Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	5:30 p.m.
Tue	2/24	Staff Meeting Quilters Pause to Color Food Bank	10:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 1:00 p.m. 5:30 p.m.
Wed	2/25	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers Confirmation Class	6:00/7:00 p.m. 7:15 p.m.
Sat	2/28	Habitat for Humanity Breakfast	7:00 a.m.
Sun	3/1	Bible Study/Sunday School Fellowship Worship (in person and livestream) Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	9:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 12:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

The family of Troy Bentlage... on their loss

The family of Harold Hackman... on their loss

The family of Cliff Beckman... on their loss

Jonathon Schultz... recovering from ankle surgery

Steve Price... recovering from infection

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 family of Renee Good, The family of Alex Pretti, Jack and Claudia (Pastor Rick's friends), and so many others

Health Issues:

Jeff Kies, Barry Kirchhoff, Fred Wilke (Alethea's Father),

Julie Roper (Alexandra's Mother), Karleen Martindale (Kasper's Mother),

Mark & Connie Fairley, Cody Kile, Dr. Ryan Link; Peri Ann Gulerson;

Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter), Jon & Kelly Lund (Edie's friends)

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, Kieran Armstrong

Living in Care Facilities:

Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank

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

Pregnancies in our Church Family:

Shelby Oberle & Ryan Furney; Chloe & Mark Eveler

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

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

De colores

(Sing of Colors)

Mexican folk song

Transl. The New Century Hymnal, 1995

A A7 D

1 De co - lo - res, de co - lo - res se vis - ten los
 1 Sing of col - ors, sing of col - ors that o - ver the
 2 Sing, re - joic - ing! Ev - ery crea - ture that breathes raise a

Em

cam - pos en la pri - ma - ve - ra. De co -
 hills in pro - fu - sion are spring - ing; Sing of
 song to the God of cre - a - tion. Sing, re -

A7 A9 Em7 A7(#11) A7

lo - res, de co - lo - res son los pa - ja - ri - tos que vie - nen de a -
 col - ors of the birds that fly out - side my win - dow their can - ti - cles
 joic - ing! Sing to God who so ear - nest - ly cares, who has of - fered sal -

D D A7 D

fue - ra. De co - lo - res, de co -
 sing - ing; Sing of col - ors, in the
 va - tion. Sing the good news! Sing the

This Mexican folk song is known by many Mexican-American churchgoers, and has also been popular among the United Farm Workers.

Tune: DE COLORES
Mexican folk song
 Arr. Alfredo Morales, F.S.C.

God of Change and Glory

1 Cor. 12:4-27

Al Carmines, 1973

1 God of change and glo - ry, God of time and space,
 2 God of man - y col - ors, God of man - y signs,
 3 Fresh-ness of the morn - ing, new - ness of each night,

when we fear the fu - ture, give to us your grace.
 you have made us dif - ferent, bless - ing man - y kinds.
 you are still cre - at - ing end - less love and light.

In the midst of chang - ing ways give us still the grace to praise.
 As the old ways dis - ap - pear, let your love cast out our fear.
 This we see, as shad - ows part, man - y gifts from one great heart.

Refrain

Man - y gifts, one Spir - it, one love known in man - y ways.

Al Carmines, composer, playwright, performer, and teacher, has served as minister for two United Church of Christ congregations in New York City. This hymn, commissioned in 1973, was one of the first modern texts to claim diversity as a gift from God.

Tune: KATHERINE 6.5.6.5.7.7.
 Al Carmines, 1973

C F C F G

In our dif - fer - ence is bless-ing, from di - ver - si - ty we praise

C F G

one Giv-er, one Word, one Spir-it, one God known in man-y ways,

F C G7 C

hal-low-ing our days. For the Giv-er, for the gifts, praise, praise, praise!

Touch the Earth Lightly

Shirley Erena Murray, 1992

Unison
Brightly

1 Touch the earth light - ly, use the earth gent - ly,
 * 2 We who en - dan - ger, who cre - ate hun - ger,
 3 Let there be green - ing, birth from the burn - ing,
 4 God of all liv - ing, God of all lov - ing,

**The second verse only may be sung in A minor, omitting the sharps except where indicated in parentheses.*

nour-ish the life of the world in our care:
 a - gents of death for all crea - tures that live,
 wa - ter that bless - es, and air that is sweet,
 God of the seed - ling, the snow, and the sun,

Gift of great won - der, ours to sur - ren - der,
 We who would fos - ter clouds of dis - as - ter—
 Health in God's gar - den, hope in God's chil - dren,
 Teach us, de - flect us, Christ re - con - nect us,

trust for the chil - dren to - mor - row will bear.
 God of our plan - et, fore - stall and for - give!
 re - gen - er - a - tion that peace will com - plete.
 us - ing us gent - ly, and mak - ing us one.

Shirley Erena Murray's notes on this hymn state that the title line is borrowed from an Australian Aboriginal saying. The "clouds of disaster" mentioned in stanza 2 refer to nuclear testing by France, which New Zealand has protested at the United Nations many times.

Tune: TENDERNESS 5.5.10.D.
Colin Gibson, 1992

Genesis 11:1-9

1 Now the whole earth had one language and the same words.

2 And as they migrated from the east, they came upon a plain in the land of Shinar and settled there.

3 And they said to one another, "Come, let us make bricks and fire them thoroughly." And they had brick for stone and bitumen for mortar.

4 Then they said, "Come, let us build ourselves a city and a tower with its top in the heavens, and let us make a name for ourselves; otherwise we shall be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth."

5 The LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which mortals had built.

6 And the LORD said, "Look, they are one people, and they have all one language, and this is only the beginning of what they will do; nothing that they propose to do will now be impossible for them.

7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language there, so that they will not understand one another's speech."

8 So the LORD scattered them abroad from there over the face of all the earth, and they left off building the city.

9 Therefore it was called Babel, because there the LORD confused the language of all the earth, and from there the LORD scattered them abroad over the face of all the earth.

2 Corinthians 4:1–12

1 Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart.

2 We have renounced the shameful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

3 And even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing.

4 In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing clearly the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.

5 For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus's sake.

6 For it is the God who said, "Light will shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ.

7 But we have this treasure in clay jars, so that it may be made clear that this extraordinary power belongs to God and does not come from us.

8 We are afflicted in every way but not crushed, perplexed but not driven to despair, 9 persecuted but not forsaken, struck down but not destroyed,

10 always carrying around in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our bodies.

11 For we who are living are always being handed over to death for Jesus's sake, so that the life of Jesus may also be made visible in our mortal flesh.

12 So death is at work in us but life in you.

BLACK HISTORY IN THE US TIMELINE

(compiled from various sources by Alisa Lau-Sieckman)

- 1619** 20 Africans arrived in Jamestown aboard a Dutch ship. First Blacks forcibly/involuntarily brought to the British colonies
- 1641** Massachusetts first colony to legalize slavery by statute
- 1688** The Quakers of Germantown, PA, passed the first formal antislavery resolution
- 1777** Vermont was the first state to abolish slavery.
George Washington reversed previous policy and allowed the recruitment of blacks as soldiers. Some 5,000 would participate on the American side of the Revolution
- 1787** The Constitution of the United States allowed a male slave to count as 3/5ths of a man in determining representation in the House of Representatives
- 1808** The federal law prohibiting the importation of African slaves went into effect. It was largely circumvented
- 1839** The slaves carried on the Spanish ship, Amistad, took over the vessel and sailed to Long Island. They eventually won their freedom in a case taken to the Supreme Court
- 1846** Frederick Douglass launches his abolitionist newspaper
- 1849** Harriet Tubman escaped from slavery. She would return South at least 20 times, leading over 300 slaves to freedom
- 1857** The Dred Scott decision of the Supreme Court denied that blacks were citizens of the US and denied the power of Congress to restrict slavery in any federal territory
- 1861** The Confederacy is founded and Civil War begins. James Stone of Ohio enlisted to become the first black to fight for the Union during the Civil War.
- 1863** The Emancipation Proclamation freed all slaves.
- 1865** Civil War Ends and the 13th Amendment outlawing slavery was passed by Congress.
- 1866** Frederick Douglass appeals, with no success, to US President Andrew Johnson to grant equal voting rights to Black men
- 1868** The 14th Amendment was passed making Blacks US citizens
- 1870** 15th Amendment provided for anyone to vote regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude

- 1875** Congress passed a Civil Rights Bill which banned discrimination; The Supreme Court overturned the bill in 1883
- 1896** Supreme Court gave legal backing for segregation
- 1936** Jesse Owens won four gold medals at the Summer Olympics
- 1940** Benjamin Davis, Sr. became the first black general in the Army
- 1955** Rosa Parks refused to change seats in Montgomery bus.
- 1956** Autherine Lucy becomes the first Black student at the University of Alabama. She is suspended and expelled "for safety concerns" after protests by white students and community members
- 1957** Congress passed the Voting Rights Bill, the first major civil rights legislation in more than 75 years.
- 1957** "The Little Rock Nine" are integrated into the school system in Little Rock, Arkansas under the protection of the National Guard, and direct orders from President Eisenhower.
- 1963** March on Washington was the largest civil rights demonstration ever. Martin Luther King, Jr. delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech.
- 1965** Voting Rights Act passes making it easier for Southern blacks to register to vote
- 1968** The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated.
- 1969** Supreme Court ruled that racial segregation in schools had to end
- 1983** Guion Bluford Jr. first African American in space
- 2001** Colin Powell first African American U.S. Secretary of State
- 2008** Sen. Barack Obama becomes the first African American to be elected President

Habitat for Humanity

Pancake

Breakfast

Feb. 28, 2026

Join us for a breakfast
of pancakes and
sausage in the
Fellowship Hall from
7 a.m. to 11 a.m.
All proceeds go to
Show Me Central
Habitat for Humanity.

TICKETS:

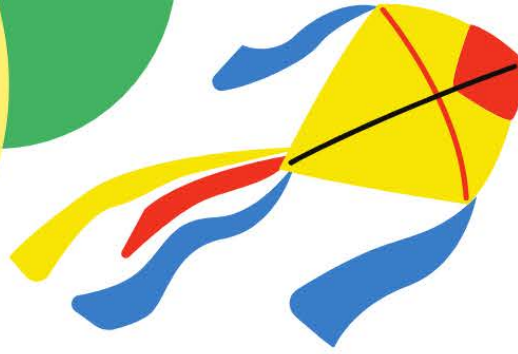
\$8 for adults

\$4 for 6-12

Free for 5 and under



**AGE 2-6
YEARS**



**REGISTRATION
\$425**

**REGISTER BY THE
END OF FEBRUARY
FOR \$25 OFF!**



LODO

Little One's Day Out

**DAY
CAMP**

9 AM - 1 PM

JUNE 2-18

**TUESDAYS,
WEDNESDAYS,
& THURSDAYS**

ACTIVITIES

**ARTS & CRAFTS,
THEOLOGY, MUSIC,
BUILDING
SOCIAL SKILLS**

