

Columbia United Church Of Christ

February 8, 2026
"Black History Month"



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 8, 2026

10:30 a.m.

"Love"

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

"Praise the LORD!

Those who honor the LORD shine in the dark for others who do right.

They are merciful, compassionate, and righteous."

-Psalm 112:1-4

Welcome and Greetings

Rev. Lauren Lippincott

Prelude

"Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen"

Connie Loveless; Arr. Mark Hayes

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 114)

Llona Weiss

God's children speak a different language;
A language of hope and grace, of love and mercy!

**We speak of God delivering us from oppression;
Of God creating Sanctuary for all God's children!**

We speak of how God's love can bring salvation to the world;
Of how God's grace forgives our sins of separation!

**All of Creation expresses God's powerful presence;
Who are we to try to bind God's love?**

We speak with our hearts open to new relationships!
Embracing the light of God, we embrace one another in love!

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow!
Come, let us worship God!**

*Hymn

"You are Salt for the Earth, O People"

#181

*Opening Prayer

Llona Weiss

God of love; You call us to season Your world with wisdom and joy, to preserve Your people with passion and justice. Forgive us for the times when we chose bland capitulation to the culture of the world instead of the salty path of Jesus. Remind us that we are the light of the world, but only when we are reflecting Your light. Open our hearts to the possibilities of Your kingdom promises shining in our lives, realized through our actions and our choices. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Rev. Lauren Lippincott

You are the salt of the Earth, you are the light of the world, you are a reflection of God's glory shining in this time and place. But even when we forget this identity, God is still 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 "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus"

***Turn your eyes upon Jesus;
Look full in his wonderful face;
And the things of Earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of his glory and grace!***

*Sharing God's Gift of Peace

May God's Peace be with you!

And also with you!

Children's Time

Rev. Lauren Lippincott

"This Little Light of Mine"

(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

"Team Earth"

Rev. Mike Williams

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 58:6-12

Llona Weiss

The prophet is writing in better days, as the people of Israel have been restored. Yet they are finding it difficult to navigate their new ways of living. In this passage, they are told to live lives reflecting God's light by working for justice in their community.

Page #601

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 5:13-20

Llona Weiss

Jesus continues his inaugural address, telling people they are the salt of the earth, the light of the world. He calls them to reflect the light of God that is the essence of their identity by working for justice.

Page #786

Anthem

"Lift Your Light"

Celebration Singers

Mary MacDonald

Sermon

Rev. Lauren Lippincott

*Hymn

"Hope of the World"

#46

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 "O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" #42

Sharing our Announcements Rev. Lauren Lippincott

Invitation to the Offering Rev. Lauren Lippincott

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

Offertory "I Surrender All" Gina Pierson
Arr. Carol Tornquist

*Prayer of Dedication Llona Weiss

God of Love; You bless us with abundance. With these gifts, we in turn bless Your world. Take these gifts and use them to share our plenty with those in need, to share Your Good News with parched souls who need nourishment and to water the world with Your goodness. We give these as an expression of our love. Amen.

*Benediction Rev. Lauren Lippincott

*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

BLACK HISTORY MONTH QUOTES

Curated by Alisa Lau-Sieckman

***“My humanity is bound up in yours,
for we can only be human together.”***

-Desmond Tutu, anti-apartheid activist, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize

***“Success is to be measured not so much
by the position that one has reached in life,
as by the obstacles which he has overcome while trying to succeed.”***

-Booker T. Washington, educator, author and the first Black American invited to the White House (by Theodore Roosevelt)

***“As an outsider myself, I always mixed myself with different groups.
I’ve never been afraid to go into different space
and relate to those people, because I don’t have a place where I belong
and that means, I belong everywhere.”***

-Trevor Noah, Television host, comedian and author

“Never be limited by other people’s limited imaginations.”

-Dr. Mae Jemison, American engineer, physician and former NASA astronaut; the first black woman to travel to space

***“In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings,
we pay ourselves the highest tribute.”***

*-Hon. Thurgood Marshall,
associate Justice of the Supreme Court 1967-1991*

***“History has shown us that courage can be contagious,
and hope can take on a life of its own.”***

-Michelle Obama, US Attorney and former first lady of the US

“Children learn more from what you are than what you teach.”

-WEB DuBois, co-founder of the NAACP in 1909

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**

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: Llona Weiss
Song Leader: Sarah Young
Ushers: Pat Forward & Phillip Neale
Greeters: Jessica Lucas
Technology: Lorry Dreier & Josh Muench
Council Stewards: Mary Lorber & Kristin Veteto



Online Giving

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Jessica Lucas
Song Leader: Killian Boyd
Ushers: Llona Weiss & Charlie Marcks
Greeters: Jolene Kirchhoff
Technology: Judi Privitt & Doug Privitt
Council Stewards: Christine Staelens & Mary Lorber

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!

TEAM EARTH LUNCH & LEARN - TODAY

Stay for our Team Earth Lunch & Learn today! Rev. Mike Williams will continue the study he began in November focusing on our scriptural mandate towards Creation Care, and we will have the latest Solar updates to discuss. For more information, talk to Mahree Skala or Rev. Mike Williams.

SOUPERBOWL OF CARING - TODAY

After worship today, CUCC Youth will be holding soup pots in the lobby, collecting your donations for Souperbowl Sunday. All financial donations will go to support Loaves and Fishes. You can also donate online.

FASTNACHT - 2/17

Fastnacht will be here before you know it! Our annual German meal will be February 17 this year, the day before Ash Wednesday. Sign up sheets are in the coat room. Questions? Ask Mary Lorber.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE - 2/18

Ash Wednesday worship will be Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m. We will celebrate communion and observe the traditional imposition of ashes, symbolizing the season of penance. As we do, we invite you to walk even more closely with Jesus to Jerusalem and the events of Holy Week. Lenten daily devotionals will be distributed on Ash Wednesday, for use during Lent.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY PANCAKE BREAKFAST - 2/28

Mark your calendars for this annual breakfast to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity! 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.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	2/8	Men's Fellowship	7:30 a.m.
		Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Team Earth Lunch & Learn	12:00 p.m.
Mon	2/9	Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	2/10	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Wed	2/11	Prayer Shawl Group	6:00 p.m.
		Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
		Confirmation Class	7:15 p.m.
Thu	2/12	Women's Fellowship	9:30 a.m.
		Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	5:30 p.m.
Sun	2/15	Bible Study/Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	12:00 p.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

The family of Harold Hackman... on their loss

The family of Cliff Beckman... on their loss

The family of Richard McQuilton... on their loss (Pastor Rick's Uncle)

The family of Jim Posz... on their loss (Allen's Father)

The family of Alicia Nevarez... on their loss (Eloy's Sister)

Brandon Brown... on the loss of his Mother

Jon & Kelly Lund... health issues (Edie's friends)

Jonathon Schultz... recovering from ankle surgery

Edie Diel... health issues

Linda Evans... recovering from a fall

Jeff Kies... health issues

Phillip Neale's Niece... received her transplant

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our Partner in Education

Our Search for an organist/accompanist here at CUCC

All those whose lives are affected by state sanctioned terrorism including.

Health Issues:

Harold Hackman, Barry Kirchoff, 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),
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, Harold Hackman

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

*All music photocopied in the bulletin and reproduced on the
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*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

You Are Salt for the Earth, O People

181

Paraphr. by Marty Haugen, 1986; alt.

Matt. 5:13-15

Unison

D (allow to ring off)

1 You are salt for the earth, O peo-ple: salt for the reign of God!
 2 You are a light on the hill, O peo-ple: light for the Cit-y of God!
 3 You are a seed of the Word, O peo-ple: bring forth the reign of God!
 4 We are a blessed and a pil-grim peo-ple: bound for the reign of God!

Share the fla- vor of life, O peo- ple: life in the Cit-y of God!
 Shine so ho- ly and bright, O peo- ple: shine for the Cit-y of God!
 Seeds of mer- cy and seeds of jus- tice, grow in the Cit-y of God!
 Love our jour-ney and love our home-land: love is the Cit-y of God!

Refrain

Bring forth the reign of mer- cy, bring forth the reign of peace;

Bring forth the reign of jus- tice, bring forth the Cit-y of God!

During a residency at Holden Village, a retreat center in the state of Washington, Marty Haugen wrote this hymn to be used as a "processing song" for outdoor worship. The lectionary readings focusing on Jesus' teaching about the "reign of God" provided the basis for the text.

Tune: BRING FORTH Irr. with refrain
 Marty Haugen, 1986

Hope of the World

Georgia Harkness, 1954; alt.

1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great com - pas - sion,
 2 Hope of the world, God's gift of our re - demp - tion,
 3 Hope of the world, who by the cross did save us
 4 Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death vic - to - rious,

speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict torn.
 bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life,
 from death and sad de - spair, from sin and guilt,
 who by this sign did con - quer grief and pain,

Save us your peo - ple from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
 Still let your Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
 We ren - der back the love your mer - cy gave us;
 We would be faith - ful to your gos - pel glo - rious;

from false pur - suits through which our lives are worn.
 to heal earth's wounds and end its bit - ter strife.
 take back our lives and use them as you will.
 our Sov - ereign who for - ev - er more shall reign!

Author of many books in her field and an internationally recognized teacher, Georgia Harkness was one of the leading women theologians of her generation. This text was written for the Second General Assembly of the World Council of Churches.

Tune: ANCIENT OF DAYS 11.10.11.10
 J. Albert Jeffrey, 1886

Adapt. The New Century Hymnal, 1992

God be the glo - ry for the things you have done.

§ *Refrain*

With your blood you have saved me; with your power you have raised me;

Second time, end

to God be the glo - ry for the things you have done.

Just let me live my life— let it be pleas-ing un-to you;

to Refrain §

And if I gain an - y praise, let it go to glo - ri - fy you.

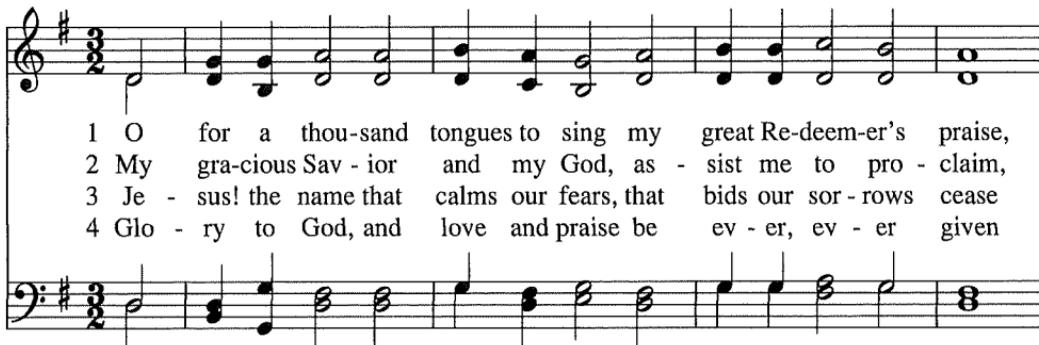
Andraé Crouch, the son of a bishop in the Church of God in Christ, belongs to the contemporary gospel era. Beginning in 1969 this new gospel music was made to "rock" with the help of electronic instrumentation.

Tune: MY TRIBUTE Irr. with refrain
Andraé Crouch, 1971

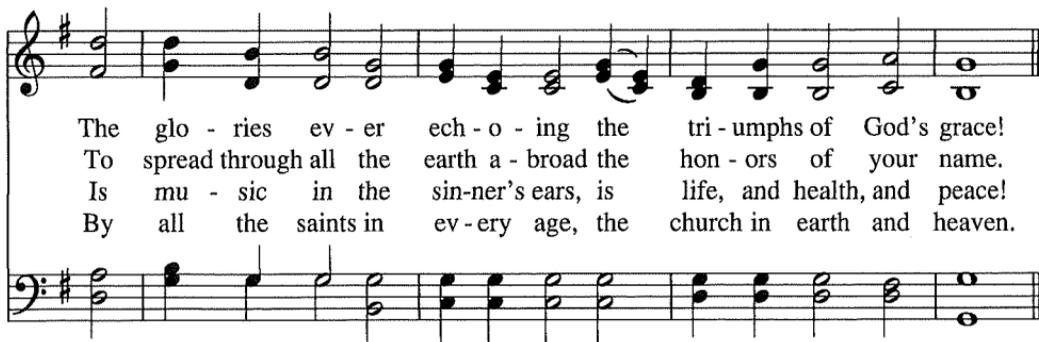
O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

42

Charles Wesley, 1740; alt.



1 O for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
2 My gra-cious Sav-ior and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
3 Je-sus! the name that calms our fears, that bids our sor-rows cease
4 Glo-ry to God, and love and praise be ev-er, ev-er given



The glo-ries ev-er ech-o-ing the tri-umphs of God's grace!
To spread through all the earth a-broad the hon-ors of your name.
Is mu-sic in the sin-ner's ears, is life, and health, and peace!
By all the saints in ev-ery age, the church in earth and heaven.

The hymn is a cento from a longer poem of eighteen stanzas written by Charles Wesley on the first anniversary of his conversion. The present form of the hymn is one edited by John Wesley for The Wesleyan Hymn Book, 1780.

Tune: AZMON C.M.
Carl G. Gläser, 1828
Adapt. in L. Mason's Modern Psalmody, 1839
Alternate tune: RICHMOND

Isaiah 58:6-12

6 Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke?

7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

8 Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the LORD shall be your rear guard.

9 Then you shall call, and the LORD will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am." If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

10 if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

11 The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

12 Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

Matthew 5:13-20

13 “You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

14 “You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid.

15 People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house.

16 In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

17 “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.

18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished.

19 Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY
FEBRUARY 9, 1960
THE BOMBING OF CARLOTTA WALLS' HOME

From the Equal Justice Initiative www.eji.org

In September 1957, Arkansas Governor Orval Faubus ordered the Arkansas National Guard to prevent the integration of Little Rock's Central High School by barring nine newly admitted black students from entering the school building. President Dwight Eisenhower federalized the National Guard, however and ordered troops to escort the black students safely into the school. That group of black students came to be known as the Little Rock Nine, and fourteen-year-old Carlotta Walls was the youngest among them.

Carlotta Walls later recalled that Central High's white students fell into three groups: those who tormented her and the other black students, those who sympathized with them, and those who silently ignored the way they were treated.

Young Carlotta Walls remained at Central throughout her high school years. On February 9, 1960, four weeks before graduation, a bomb exploded at her home. Walls, her mother, and her sister were at home but no one was injured. Police arrested and beat Carlotta Wall's father in unsuccessful efforts to coerce a confession. Police then arrested two young black men, Herbert Monts, a family friend, and Maceo Binns, Jr. Carlotta Walls never believed either man was responsible, but both were convicted and sentenced to five years in prison.

In 2010, Ms. Walls described the bombing and its aftermath as the worst part of the integration experience, and firmly asserted that "the segregationists were behind all of it—the bombing and the arrests."

*(photos left and right of Ms. Walls
in 1960 and 2010
from www.cnn.com)*



THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

FEBRUARY 12, 1901

Delayed Ratification of the 13th Amendment

From the Equal Justice Initiative www.eji.org

As the rest of the country acted to abolish slavery by ratifying the Thirteenth Amendment, states such as Delaware, Kentucky, and the Territory of Oklahoma refused. Delaware's General Assembly refused to ratify the Thirteenth Amendment, calling it an illegal extension of federal power over the state.

Delaware rejected several previous proposals to abolish slavery, including Lincoln's 1861 proposal to compensate Delaware's slaveholders using federal funds if they would free the black people they held in bondage. The Delaware legislature replied to Lincoln's proposal with a resolution stating that "when the people of Delaware desire to abolish slavery within her borders, they will do so in their own way."

Not only did the Delaware legislature reject initial ratification of the Thirteenth Amendment, but it also rejected the Fourteenth Amendment of 1868 and the Fifteenth Amendment of 1870, which extended civil rights and voting privileges, respectively, to black people, including the formerly enslaved. Finally, on February 12, 1901, Delaware ratified the Thirteenth Amendment abolishing slavery—more than thirty years after the rest of the nation.

TESTIMONY

My mom was born in 1923 on a farm in Garner, Iowa. My grandfather had a large farm and thus needed help. His farm hand was a Black gentleman.

The 1920's and 1930's were times of significant racial discrimination and rules of conduct, especially for Blacks.... but not on this farm. Grandpa's farm hand ate at the kitchen table with my grandfather every day for lunch. My mom had fond memories of playing with his children.

Fast forward to my mother at 18 years old and coming to Columbia, MO to attend Stephens college. At this time the school's elevators had attendants. The attendants were young Black women. My mother was reprimanded (knowing my mother, probably more than once) for speaking to these attendants. She was told that young white "ladies" did not make conversation with the attendants.

My mother never understood that sentiment. That was not how she was raised.

Thankfully, Columbia has become a more integrated and affirming community. There have been big improvements; there is still more to be done. Let's continue to work together to embrace our neighbors and rejoice in our diversities.

-Alisa Lau-Sieckman, CUCC Inclusion Team Chair

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



Fastnacht

Tuesday, February 17

5 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

Join us for a night of traditional German food, including brats, sauerkraut, potato salad, and fastnachts, live music, and dancing.

