

Columbia United Church Of Christ

February 1, 2026

“Love Sunday/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 1, 2026

10:30 a.m.

“Love”

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

“...protect me O God, for in you I take refuge”
-Psalm 16:1

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude “Poor, Wayfaring Stranger”
 Traditional Spiritual

Connie Loveless
Arr. Mark Hayes

Carrying in the Light of Christ

*Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 16)*

Tricia Soncasie

In days of trouble, we cry out to God:
Protect us, O God; in You we take refuge!

**We take refuge in God and God's presence;
All good blessings come to us from God!**

God gives us counsel and guidance;
God instructs us and keeps our hearts centered.

**We keep God's wisdom as our guide.
With God as our guide, we shall not be moved**

Our hearts are glad, our souls rejoice!
We are able to rest secure in God's presence.

**God's Wisdom is the path of life;
In God's presence there is fullness of joy!
Come, let us worship God!**

#43

*Opening Prayer

Tricia Soncasie

God of justice; in a world so often void of justice, our thoughts turn toward Your presence. We know that You call us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with You. At times, this call is confusing. The world's idea of justice stands in tension with Your understanding of justice. Forgive us for the times we turn justice into vengeance and act in ways that are less than humble. Bless us with Your wisdom, bless us with your thirst for righteousness, bless us with Your peacefulness and presence. Remind us that we are Yours. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

Rejoice and be glad; for no matter what happens in life, God is still with you, loving and blessing you. Even when we forget this promise, God is still there, loving 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

Pastor Rick

“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!*

ONA Covenant Seven-Year Anniversary

Tricia Soncasie

*Affirmation of Faith (*CUCC Open and Affirming/Inclusion Covenant*)

God of love, we gather here as your church, committed to actively pursuing inclusion and affirmation in our interactions with everyone; but especially your most vulnerable children, those who have been disenfranchised and dismissed by others.

Exemplifying your love, we now gather at this time, reciting together the Open and Affirming/Inclusion covenant we, your people, have adopted as our guide:

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.

God of love and grace, help us to keep this covenant close and fresh in our hearts, in our minds, and in our interactions in your world. This we pray in the name of the one who taught us to exemplify love, your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Old Testament Lesson

Micah 6:1-8

Tricia Soncasie

The prophet Micah reflects on God's call in his life; to do justice, love kindness, and humbly serve God. He reflects on the fact that God does not require flowery language or grand tributes, but simple service. Too often we make God more complicated than needed.

Page #757

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 5:1-12

Tricia Soncasie

In Jesus' inaugural address, he states the essence of his ministry very clearly and simply; blessed are those who simply live for God's glory. We don't need the extravagances of the world or loud, pompous proclamations to justify ourselves; we simply need to humbly serve God.

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Anthem

“The People Who Walk in Darkness”

Pepper Choplin

Katie Jones, Sarah Young, Killian Boyd, Adam Veteto

Sermon

“Simply Love”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“Blessed are the Poor in Spirit”

#180

Invitation to Communion

As Jesus roamed the Galilean countryside, he was not content to limit his welcome and message to his people. Jesus reached across human borders, seeing in everyone a common heritage as a child of God. Jesus welcomed all. In like manner, all are welcome to partake in communion today, no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey.

Communion Prayer

Invocation

Blessing the Children

“One Bread, One Body”

(insert)

Institution; Fraction; Distribution

Communion Music

“Grace Greater Than Our Sin”

Gina Pierson

Arr. Carol Tornquist

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Rick

God of love, we remember Your eternal promise to love Your people through all our journeys. We thank You for this meal You have prepared for us to remind us of Your wisdom and love. In this meal, we see You most clearly in our midst, celebrating the promises that were shared with the followers of Jesus so long ago, and with our ancestors throughout the ages. Unite us in this meal as we dedicate our lives to Your call. Inspire us to take Your wisdom into the world, shining your light for all to see. And now we gather, Creator God, as one family, singing the prayer that You taught us:

The LORD's Prayer *(sung by the congregation)*

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy 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 Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

Sharing our Announcements of Community Life

Pastor Rick

Invitation to the Offering

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

Offertory

"Lord, I Need You"

Gina Pierson

Arr. Carol Tornquist

*Prayer of Dedication

Pastor Rick

*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

Columbia United Church of Christ

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rollzierp50@gmail.com

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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: Tricia Soncasie

Song Leader: Katie Jones

Ushers: Mary Lorber & Audrey Lasley

Greeters: Carol Duermeyer

Technology: Brent Marcks & Ted Dachroeden

Council Stewards: Ted Dachroeden & Ashley Ramirez



Online Giving

NEXT SUNDAY 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

COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

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Worship & Music: Edie Diel edie@thedandegroup.com

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- 2/8

Stay for our Team Earth Lunch & Learn Next Sunday! 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 - 2/8

From now through February 8 (Superbowl Sunday), the Nurture & Education Ministry Team will be collecting soup for the Souperbowl of Caring! Bring your Soup in and put it on the shelf in the lobby. All soup collected will be shared with our mission partners here in Columbia. Financial donations are appreciated, too; all financial donations will go to benefit Loaves and Fishes.

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.

OPPORTUNITIES AT ALPHA HART LEWIS ELEMENTARY

Alpha Hart Lewis could use our help packing their Buddy Packs (take home food for kids for the weekend) on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to around 12 p.m. CUCC has volunteer opportunities through the end of the school year for this great, hands-on project. If you can spare a Thursday, talk to Llona Weiss.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	2/1	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.
Mon	2/2	LODO Math & Science Night	4:30 p.m.
		Scouting America	7:00 p.m.
Tue	2/3	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
Wed	2/4	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Sun	2/8	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.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

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

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:

Owen Ramsingh and family, the family of Renee Good, the family of Alex Pretti,
and so many more.

Health Issues:

Harold Hackman, 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),

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

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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*

Mal. 3:1; 2 Cor. 3:18; 5:17; Eph. 5:27

Charles Wesley, 1747; alt.



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heaven, on earth be found,
 2 Breathe, O breathe your lov-ing Spir-it in - to ev- ery trou-bled breast;
 3 Come, al-might - y to de - liv - er, let us all your life re - ceive;
 4 Fin - ish, then, your new cre - a - tion; pure and spot - less may we prove;



Fix in us a hum-ble dwell-ing, all your faith - ful mer - cies crown;
 Let us all in you in - her - it, let us find your prom-ised rest;
 Sud-den- ly re - turn, and ne - ver, ne - ver-more your tem - ples leave.
 Let us see your great sal - va - tion per-fect - ly re - stored in you;



Je - sus, you are all com - pas - sion; pure, un-bound - ed love im - part.
 Take a - way our love of sin - ning; Al - pha and O - me - ga be;
 You we would be al - ways bless-ing, love you as your an - gels love,
 Changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in heaven we take our place,



Vis - it us with your sal - va-tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 End of faith, as its be - gin-ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 Pray and praise for your un - fail-ing, wound-ed arms out-stretched a - bove.
 Crowned as saints, we ev - er shall be lost in won - der, love, and praise.



This hymn is said to have been suggested by a "Song of Venus" from Dryden's King Arthur. It is one of 6,500 written by Charles Wesley, the "sweet singer of Methodism," who was skilled at interweaving literary and scriptural images.

Tune: BEECHER 8.7.8.7.D.

John Zundel, 1855

Alternate tune: HYFRYDOL
For another harmonization, see 368, 495

Matt. 5:3-12; Luke 6:20-23; John 20:29; 2 Cor. 5:17-18

Rusty Edwards, 1993

Unison

1 Blessed are the poor in spir - it: heav-en will some-day be theirs.
 2 Blessed all who thirst or hun-ger: righ-teous-ly they will be fed.
 3 Each seek-ing peace and jus-tice shall be known as God's own heir.

Blessed are the mourn-ing chil - dren: com-fort comes from One who cares.
 Those who re-spond with mer - cy will see mer - cy up a - head.
 Blessed, too, are those ill - treat-ed for what's good and right and fair.

Blessed the meek and pa-tient, hav-ing cour-age to hang on.
 Blessed the clean in spir-it— beau-ti - ful, the pure in heart;
 Blessed the New Cre - a - tion, joy be-yond what we con-ceive;

Soon all earth they will in - her - it; times of tri - als will be gone.
 One day they will see their Mak - er, nev - er-more to live a - part.
 Blessed all those who trust the prom - ise: with-out see-ing, they be - lieve!

Howard M. Edwards III, who writes as Rusty Edwards, is an ordained Lutheran pastor from Illinois. The tune for this new Beatitudes paraphrase was composed especially to be interpreted by liturgical dancer Annika Gustafson.

Tune: ANNIKA'S DANCE 7.7.7.6.7.8.7.
 Jane Marshall, 1993

Refrain (Unison)

D7 G C G C G D Em B

One bread, one body, one Lord of all,

Em D G Em A7 D7

one cup of blessing which we bless. And

G C G C G D Em B

we, though many through-out the earth,

Em D G Em A7 D7 G C (G) (C) (C) Fine

we are one bod - y in this one Lord.

Em D Em D

8 8

1. Gen - tile or Jew,
2. Man - y the gifts,
3. Grain for the fields,

ser- vant or free,
man - y the works,
scat- tered and grown,

Em D Em D

Em F Am D7

wom - an or man,
one in the Lord no more.
gath - ered to one, for all.
all.

One

Em F Am D7

THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

FEBRUARY 2, 1866

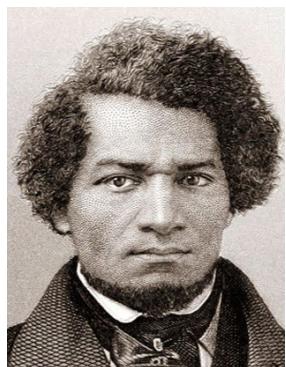
FREDERICK DOUGLASS APPEALS FOR VOTING RIGHTS

From the Equal Justice Initiative www.eji.org

Andrew Johnson became the seventeenth President of the United States on April 15, 1865, following Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Through a series of executive actions, Johnson mounted an immediate effort to restore Confederate loyalists to power in the Southern states. One of Johnson's first moves was to grant amnesty to thousands of former Confederate soldiers, reinstating their rights to vote and hold office.

Although Johnson had voiced moderate support for African American voting rights, none of his early decrees granted them. In fact, before white audiences and on public platforms, Johnson spouted views of white supremacy as president. In a letter to Missouri Governor Thomas Fletcher, Johnson described the United States as "a country for white men, and as long as I am president, it shall be a government for white men."

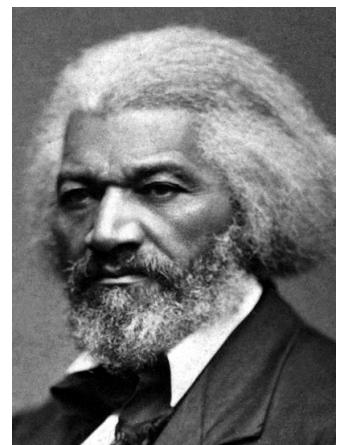
Republicans joined with African American leaders and fiercely fought President Johnson for key Reconstruction issues such as black voting rights, education for freedmen, and land allocation. Joined by his son and several other activists, Frederick Douglass met with President Johnson on February 2, 1866, to advocate for black voting rights. Johnson remained committed to ensuring white control of Southern governments and undermining efforts to secure African Americans' voting rights. By the tense meeting's end, Johnson had further damaged his standing with Northern states and with the Republican Party.



Four years later, Johnson and his supporters lost their fight when the 15th Amendment was ratified, prohibiting racial discrimination in voting rights.

photos left and right of Frederick Douglass in 1855 and 1872

from www.loa.org



THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

FEBRUARY 3, 1956

AUTHERINE LUCY AND THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

From the Equal Justice Initiative www.eji.org

In 1952, Autherine Lucy applied to the University of Alabama's graduate program in Library Sciences with the goal of becoming a librarian. After realizing that Ms. Lucy was African American, the university denied her enrollment, sparking a three-year legal battle. The battle appeared to end favorably for Ms. Lucy in 1955 when the United States Supreme Court ordered the University of Alabama to accept her, making her the university's first African American student. Unfortunately, Ms. Lucy's fight to desegregate the University of Alabama and obtain a graduate education was far from over.

On February 3, 1956, Ms. Lucy registered and attended her first classes at the university, passing burning crosses and crowds of hostile students on her way to and from class. On February 6, 1956, the environment around Ms. Lucy descended into a full-scale riot. Thousands of angry white students and community members gathered on campus and followed Ms. Lucy, hurling threats, racial slurs, eggs, and rocks at her as she passed between classes. The unrestrained mob eventually trapped Ms. Lucy in a dormitory until, hours later, she was rescued by police.

That evening, university officials suspended Ms. Lucy, citing safety concerns. Ms. Lucy's legal team challenged the suspension and initially accused the university of enabling the rioters in order to orchestrate Ms. Lucy's removal. Despite a court order to reinstate Ms. Lucy, university trustees voted to expel her for her accusations of conspiracy, ending Ms. Lucy's efforts to desegregate the university.

In 1988, the University of Alabama annulled her expulsion and admitted her as a graduate student. In May, 1992 Ms. Lucy earned a Master's Degree from the University; and in 2019, she was awarded an honorary doctorate.

(Photo: Autherine Lucy in 1956 from www.eji.org)

