

# Columbia United Church Of Christ

February 15, 2026  
"Transfiguration"



## **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 15, 2026**

**10:30 a.m.**

***“Transfigured”***

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

*“Praise the LORD, our God, and worship at God’s Holy Mountain  
For the LORD, our God, is Holy!”  
-Psalm 99:9*

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

“I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”

Connie Loveless  
*Arr. John Carter*

Carrying in the Light of Christ

\*Call to Worship

*(based on Psalm 99)*

Jessica Lucas

God, Your Kingdom is established over all.

The earth rejoices in the vision of Your economy of justice!

**God is exalted over all; we rejoice in God’s name!**

**Let all people praise God’s great and glorious name!**

Mighty God, lover of justice, You have established equity.

You have established justice and righteousness in Your people!

**We remember the stories of our traditions;**

**Those who cried out to you, O God for justice.**

You answered them, O God, by establishing relationship.

They kept Your decrees and the statutes You gave them.

**We know that God is Still Speaking to us today,**

**Challenging us towards Justice, Righteousness and Shalom!**

**Come, let us worship God!**

\*Hymn

“We Have Come at Christ’s Own Bidding”

#182

\*Opening Prayer

Jessica Lucas

**God of love; we have come at Christ’s own bidding to this holy place. We come with baggage and expectations, like Jesus’ disciples on the mountain that day. Forgive us these transgressions. Teach us to put the baggage of the world aside, that we may allow ourselves to be transformed into something shinier, something brighter, something more reflective of Your glory. Give us courage to walk the path with Jesus, as we embrace his wisdom and love. In Jesus’ name we pray; Amen.**

\*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

God's glory is shining through our actions; our very lives are reflections of Their grace. 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

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!*

Mission Moment

"Food Bank and Market"

Mahree Skala

Old Testament Lesson

Exodus 24:12-18

Jessica Lucas

*Moses climbs Mt. Sinai to commune with God; and as he does, his appearance changes. He is transfigured, shining, illuminated from within. This is God's glory shining through him.* Page #62

Gospel Lesson

Matthew 17:1-9

Jessica Lucas

*Jesus climbs Mt. Tabor to commune with God; and as he does, his appearance changes. He is transfigured, shining, illuminated from within. This is God's glory shining through him. From this moment, he is set on a path to Jerusalem and death.* Page #798

Anthem

"Jesus, On the Mountain Peak" Celebration Singers  
Michael Burkhardt

Sermon

"Law and Prophets"

Pastor Rick

\*Hymn

"Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain"  
*Verses 1-3 only*

#183

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 Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair" #184  
*Verses 1-4 only*

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](http://www.columbiaucc.com)*

Offertory "Fairest Lord Jesus" Gina Pierson  
*Arr. Carol Tornquist*

\*Prayer of Dedication Jessica Lucas

**God of miracles and transformation, forgive us when we miss Your blessings because our eyes are obscured. Teach us to understand that your Love is often worked through us, your people, your church. Take our offering today, and let it be used to transform your world. 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*

# 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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**Custodian:** Caleb Berry      [calebprenticeberry@gmail.com](mailto:calebprenticeberry@gmail.com)  
**Pastor Emeritus:** Rev. Fred Brandenburg

## TODAY 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



Online Giving

## NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Mahree Skala  
Song Leader: Mike Pierson  
Ushers: Keith Birkes & Deborah Long Birkes  
Greeters: Carol Duermeyer  
Technology:  
Council Stewards: Lena Muench & Jerry Kiesling

## COLUMBIA UCC CHURCH COUNCIL

**Moderator:** Jerry Kiesling      [rollzierp50@gmail.com](mailto:rollzierp50@gmail.com)  
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**Worship & Music:** Edie Diel      [edie@thedandegroup.com](mailto:edie@thedandegroup.com)  
**Pastor:** Rev. Rick Oberle      [rick@columbiaucc.com](mailto: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!

### **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.

### **MAYAN MINISTRIES/CHIAPAS SUNDAY NEXT WEEK - 2/22**

“Our” missionary to Chiapas, Elena Huegel, will be with us next Sunday helping lead worship. She will also be leading a forum at 9:00 in the Fellowship Hall to talk about the work she does in Chiapas on our behalf.

### **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 Llonna Weiss.

### **THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR**

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.
Mon	2/16	Loaves & Fishes	4:30 p.m.
		Music & Worship Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Tue	2/17	Quilters	10:00 a.m.
		Fastnacht	5:00 p.m.
Wed	2/18	Good Dads at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary	7:00 a.m.
		Pastor Rick leads worship at The Bluffs	10:00 a.m.
		Chapel Ringers	6:00 p.m.
		Confirmation Class	6:00 p.m.
		Ash Wednesday Worship	7:00 p.m.
Thu	2/19	Church Council Meeting	6:30 p.m.
Sun	2/22	<i>Mayan Ministries/Chiapas Sunday</i>	
		Sunday School/Chiapas discussion	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 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

Jonathon Schultz... recovering from ankle surgery

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

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

## *Health Issues:*

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

## *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 video screen is done so using onelicense.net: License #A-727757*

*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](mailto:melbamaes@gmail.com)*

*Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 [tsoncasie@aol.com](mailto:tsoncasie@aol.com)*

## Exodus 24:12-18

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 17:1-9**

1 Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves.

2 And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light.

3 Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him.

4 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

5 While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!"

6 When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. 7 But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

8 And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

9 As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

## We Have Come at Christ's Own Bidding

Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36

Carl P. Daw, Jr., 1988

1 We have come at Christ's own bid - ding to this high and  
 2 Light breaks through our clouds and shad - ows, splen - dor bathes the  
 3 Strength-ened by this glimpse of glo - ry, fear - ful lest our

ho - ly place, Where we wait with hope and long - ing for some  
 flesh-joined Word, Mo - ses and E - li - jah mar - vel as the  
 faith de - cline, We, like Pe - ter, find it tempt-ing to re -

to - ken of God's grace. Here we pray for new as -  
 heav - enly voice is heard. Eyes and hearts be - hold with  
 main and build a shrine. But true wor - ship gives us

sur - ance that our faith is not in vain, Search - ing  
 won - der how the Law and Proph - ets meet: Christ with  
 cour - age to pro - claim what we pro - fess, That our

like those first dis - ci - ples for a sign both clear and plain.  
 gar - ments drenched in bright - ness, stands trans - fig - ured and com - plete.  
 dai - ly lives may prove us peo - ple of the God we bless.

# Jesus, Take Us to the Mountain

183

*Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1991; alt.**Matt. 17:1-8; Mark 9:2-8; Luke 9:28-36;  
John 19:30; Matt. 27:50-54; Mark 15:37-39**Unison*

1 Je - sus, take us to the moun-tain, where, with Pe - ter, James, and John,  
2 What do you want us to see there, that your close com-pan - ions saw?  
3 What do you want us to hear there, that your dear dis - ci - ples heard?  
4 Take us to that oth - er moun-tain where we see you glo - ri - fied,  
5 We who have be - held your glo - ry, ris - en and as - cend - ed Christ,



We are daz-zled by your glo - ry, light as blind-ing as the sun.  
Your di - vin - i - ty re - vealed there fills us with the self - same awe.  
Once a - gain the voice from heav - en says of the In - car - nate Word:  
Where you shout-ed, "It is fin - ished!" where for all the world you died.  
Can - not help but tell the sto - ry, all that you have sac - ri - ficed;



There pre - pare us for the night by the vi - sion of that sight.  
Clothed in flesh like ours you go matched to meet our dead - liest foe.  
"Lis - ten, lis - ten, ev - ery-one, this is my be - lov - ed One!"  
Hear the stunned cen - tu - ri - on: "This was God's be - lov - ed One!"  
Say with Pe - ter, James, and John: "You are God's be - lov - ed One!"



*Both text and tune were commissioned by St. Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, Maryland, to commemorate its fiftieth anniversary. The hymnwriter, Jaroslav Vajda, tells of being "as much at a loss for words contemplating the glory of the transfigured Christ as were the disciples."*

Tune: SILVER SPRING 8.7.8.7.7.7.  
Carl F. Schalk, 1991  
Alternate tune: IRBY

## O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair

Luke 9:28-36; Matt. 17:1-5; Mark 9:2-7

Latin, "Sarum Breviary," 1495  
Transl. John Mason Neale, 1851; alt.

1 O won - drous sight, O vi - sion fair of glo - ry  
 2 From age to age the tale de - clare, how with the  
 3 The law and proph - ets there have place, two cho - sen  
 4 With shin - ing face and bright ar - ray, Christ deigns to  
 5 And faith - ful hearts are raised on high by this great

that the church shall share, Which Christ up - on the  
 three dis - ci - ples there, Where Mo - ses and E -  
 wit - ness - es of grace; The voice of God out  
 man - i - fest to - day What glo - ry shall be  
 vi - sion's mys - ter - y, For which in joy - ful

moun-tain shows, where bright - er than the sun, Christ glows!  
 li - jah meet, they with the Christ God's fu - ture greet.  
 from the cloud pro - claims the Hu - man One a - loud.  
 theirs be - yond, who live with - in God's lov - ing bond.  
 strains we raise the voice of prayer, the hymn of praise.

This tune was composed in honor of the defeat of France at Agincourt by England under Henry V. The words, "Deo gracias . . .," were added in honor of the English king's wish that the glory for the victory be given to God.

Tune: DEO GRACIAS L.M.  
 "The Agincourt Song," England, c. 1415  
 For other harmonizations, see 209, 259

## THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

FEBRUARY 16, 1847

### THE MISSOURI LEGISLATURE PROHIBITS BLACK EDUCATION

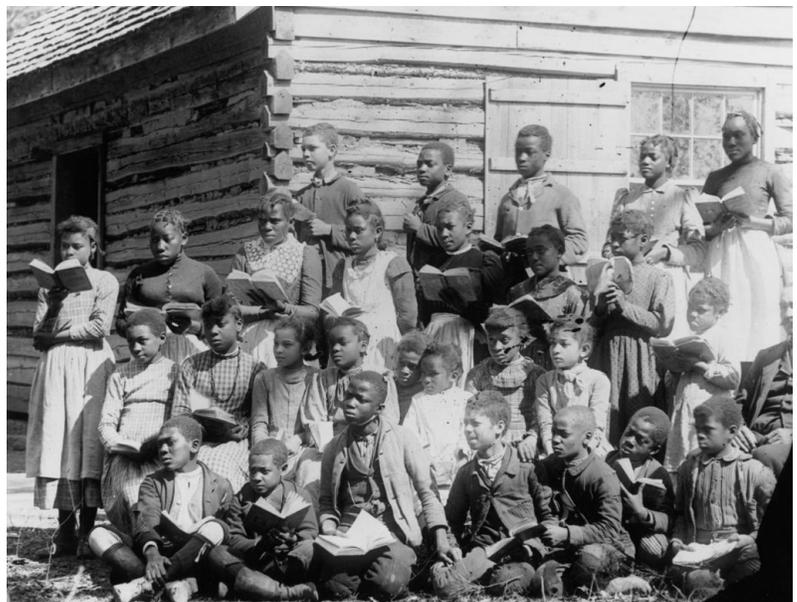
*From the Equal Justice Initiative [www.eji.org](http://www.eji.org)*

On February 16, 1847, the legislature of Missouri passed an act that prohibited “Negroes and mulattoes” from learning to read and write and assembling freely for worship services. The act also forbade the migration of free black people to the state. The penalty for anyone violating any of the law’s provisions was a fine not to exceed five thousand dollars, a jail term not to exceed six months, or a combination of fine and jail sentence.

The 1847 law supplemented a Missouri law passed in 1825 that imposed various restrictions on free black people. The 1825 law defined a black person as anyone having at least one black grandparent, and made a distinction between those considered full-blooded Negroes and mixed-blooded mulattoes. The 1825 law also prohibited free black people from keeping or carrying weapons without a special permit and settling in Missouri without a certificate of citizenship from Missouri or another state. Free black people who migrated to or through Missouri without citizenship documents faced arrest, a court order to leave the state within thirty days, and a punishment of ten lashes. Under the 1825 law, white ship captains and labor bosses were permitted to bring free black people into the state as workers, though for no longer than six months at a time.

In 1840, nearly 13 percent of Missouri’s population was composed of enslaved black people, while free black people made up less than one percent of the state’s residents. The 1847 law was enacted to place further limitations on the black population and maintain white supremacy.

*Photo from [www.mohistory.org](http://www.mohistory.org)*



## THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

FEBRUARY 17, 1847

### THE LYNCHING OF WILLIE EARLE

*From the Equal Justice Initiative [www.eji.org](http://www.eji.org)*

On February 17, 1947, Willie Earle, a twenty-four-year-old African American man, was being held in the Pickens County Jail in South Carolina, on charges of assaulting a white taxi cab driver. A mob of white men seized Mr. Earle from the jail, took him to a deserted country road near Greenville, brutally beat him with guns and knives, and then shot him to death.

When arrested, twenty-six of the thirty-one defendants gave full statements admitting participation in Mr. Earle's death. A trial commenced, and at its start, Judge J. Robert Martin warned that he would "not allow racial issues to be injected in this case." During the ten day trial, the defendants chewed gum and chuckled each time the victim was mentioned. The defense did not present any witnesses or evidence to rebut the confessions, and instead blamed "northern interference" for bringing the case to trial at all. At one point, the *defense* attorney likened Mr. Earle to a "mad dog" that deserved killing, and the mostly white spectators laughed in support.

Despite the undisputed confession, the all-white jury acquitted the defendants of all charges on May 21, 1947, and the judge ordered them released. Some Greenville leaders cited the trial as progress in Southern race relations: "This was the first time that South Carolina has brought mass murder charges against alleged lynchers. This jury acquitted them. If there should be another case, perhaps we may get a mistrial with a hung jury. Eventually, the south may return convictions."

In 1948, when Mr. Earle's mother attempted to collect under a state law ordering counties to pay two thousand dollars to the family of a lynching victim, her claim was denied on the grounds that, due to the acquittals, there was no proof her son had been lynched. In 2010, an historical marker was erected near the site of Willie Earle's murder.

*Photo: Willie Earle in 1955 from [www.eji.org](http://www.eji.org)*



# 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.**



*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

