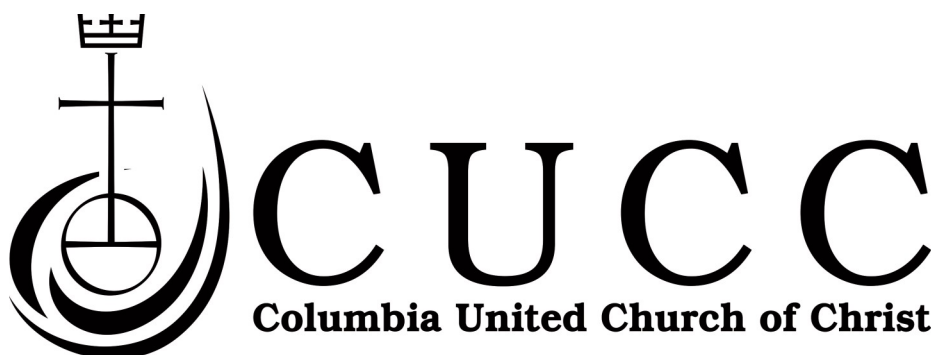


Columbia United Church Of Christ

January 5, 2025
"Epiphany"



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**



January 5, 2025

10:30 a.m.

"Epiphany"

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

"God, give your judgments to the king.

Give your righteousness to the king's son" -Psalm 72:7

Welcome and Greetings

Pastor Rick

Prelude

"Coventry Carol / The First Nowell"

Steve Jannetti

Mark Hayes

Carrying in the Light of Christ

Adoration of the Magi

Matthew 2:1-12

Jessica Lucas

Wise Magi from the east come to worship and praise the infant Jesus, lifting him up as the Messiah, in opposition to Herod. (pages# 783-784)

*Gathering Song

"We Three Kings"

(insert)

*The three solo verses will be sung by our processing Magi.
Congregation sings verses 1 & 5.*

*Call to Worship

(based on Psalm 72)

Jessica Lucas

Blessed be the LORD, who alone does wondrous things.

Blessed be God's glorious name forever.

**We pray for the blessings of God's provision to be shared with all;
For God's glory to be proclaimed to the whole earth.**

Grant us your wisdom, O God;

Bring righteousness to Your people and justice to the poor.

**Help us bring deliverance to those who are oppressed;
The poor, and those who have no helper.**

From oppression and violence, God redeems us;

God brings new life to all of God's precious children.

**In this Epiphany Season, we gather together, sharing the light
God's wisdom, shining in our lives.**

Come, let us worship God!

*Hymn

"As with Gladness Those of Old"

#159

*Opening Prayer

Jessica Lucas

God of Love, Your people have searched for You through the ages, looking for Your presence and promise in our lives. Wise Magi have sought You, forsaking the riches of the world and humbling themselves in Your presence. Teach us to do the same; to put Your will over the ways of the world and embrace Your Wisdom, Your Word. In Jesus' name we pray; Amen.

*Assurance of Blessing

Pastor Rick

The Magi saw the star, and knew God was guiding them to a new understanding of faith. We are called to have that same sort of vision. But even when we fail to see, God loves us and forgives us. Through our repentance and God's grace we are forgiven, beloved, and blessed. Praise be to God!

*Prayer Response

“Weave”

***Weave, Weave, Weave us together!
Weave us together in unity and love!
Weave, Weave, Weave us together!
Weave us together, together in love!***

*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!***

Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 60:1-6

Jessica Lucas

In the third book of Isaiah, we hear the prophet speaking of the hope that all nations will come to see God's glory and unite with one divine purpose. His prophecy is not about predicting the future, but about a dream for unity.

Page #602

Anthem

“Once in Royal David's City”

Steve Jannetti
Traditional Carol

Sermon

“A New Year”

Pastor Rick

*Hymn

“Brightest and Best”

(insert)

*Invitation to Communion

We will be celebrating altar communion this morning; and no matter who you are or where you are on life's journey, you are invited forward to celebrate this joyful meal.

Take generous portions of bread; there is plenty!

Matthew's Gospel tells us of the Magi who searched all over the Galilean countryside for Jesus and, upon finding him, bowed down and worshipped him. They were courageous enough to maintain their search; and they were faithful enough to recognize him when they found him. Like the Magi, we search for Jesus. Often, we find him in this memory meal; this sacrament of communion. As we gather around this table we are reminded of Jesus' incarnation in our hearts and in the world; and Jesus' command to love everyone extravagantly. As we gather, we express that extravagant welcome, inviting all to join us. All are invited, all are welcome, all are called. Come, join in the feast!

Pastoral Prayer; Silent Prayer

Invocation

Blessing the Children

“What Child is This”

#148

In the Sacrament of Communion, we most clearly see Jesus in our midst. Our desire to share this presence prompts us to celebrate with our children, granting them a special blessing. During the hymn, our children are invited to come forward via the center aisle and receive a special blessing from Pastor Rick.

Institution; Fraction; Distribution

Please come forward via the center aisle to receive and share communion, remembering the ministry of Jesus Christ and the blessings he brings us. The center ring of cups contain grape juice, and the vessels on the paten contain gluten free bread.

Communion Music

“O Taste and See”

Steve Jannetti
Marty Haugen

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Pastor Rick

We thank You, Most Holy God, for refreshment at Your table where, along with Your saints, we receive all Christ's gifts. Give us the grace to praise You with our lives, our words, our deeds. We give thanks for the vision of the Magi, searching diligently for You and recognizing You when they found You as an infant. And now, promising to continue the quest of the Magi and search for Jesus in our world every day, we gather together as one family of faith, singing the prayer You taught us:

The LORD's Prayer *(sung by the congregation, led by Adam Veteto)*

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

"Rise Up , Shepherds, an' Foller"

Steve Jannetti

Traditional Spiritual

*Prayer of Dedication

Jessica Lucas

With these gifts, dear God, accept the praise and thanksgiving of our hearts, which rejoice in Your goodness and love. Let our gifts point to Your presence in the world, and further Your dream for Your Creation through Jesus, Emmanuel, God-with-us.

*Benediction

Pastor Rick

*Response:

"Jesus, the Light of the World"

#160

***Hark, the Herald Angels Sing; Jesus, the Light of the World;
Glory to the Christ-child bring, Jesus, the Light of the World.***

***We will follow the light, beautiful light,
Come where the dew drops of mercy are bright,
Shine all around us by day and by night,
Jesus, the light of the world.***

*Postlude

"God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen"

Steve Jannetti

Mark Hayes

***The United Church of Christ:
"United in Christ's Love, A Just World for All"***

Columbia United Church of Christ

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Admin. Assistant: Alexandra Roper

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caseyseanwood@gmail.com

Organist/Accompanist: Steve Jannetti

steve.jannetti@yahoo.com

LODO Director: Erika Maltsbarger

littleonesdayout@yahoo.com

Custodian: Caleb Berry

calebprenticeberry@gmail.com

Pastor Emeritus: Rev. Fred Brandenburg

TODAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Jessica Lucas

Ushers: Charlie Marcks & Philip Neale

Greeters: Jolene Kirchhoff

Technology: Brent Marks & Josh Muench

Council Stewards: Lena Muench & Kurt Heine

NEXT SUNDAY IN WORSHIP:

Worship Leader: Pat Forward

Ushers: Keith & Deborah Long Birkes

Greeters:

Technology: Mike & Gina Pierson

Council Stewards: Kurt Heine



Online giving

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heinekurt@gmail.com

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Worship & Music: Jedd Schneider

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Pastor: Rev. Rick Oberle

rick@columbiaucc.com

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NURSERY CARE is available for children in kindergarten and younger in room #201 in the educational wing. If you need help finding it, ask an usher!

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION WITH PASTOR RICK 1/6, 13, 20, 27

Mondays in January, Pastor Rick will be hanging out at the Toasty Goat Coffee Company at 515 Scott Blvd. from 2:00-3:30 or so. Maybe the discussion will revolve around the previous Sunday's sermon, maybe current events, Bible questions, or things happening in the life of the church. Whatever you want to talk about, the Toasty Goat is the place!

SCOUTING AMERICA PANCAKE BREAKFAST 1/11/25

Our Scouting America unit will host a fund raising pancake breakfast here at CUCC in the Fellowship Hall on 1/11/25 from 7:00-10:00am! Come support "our Scouts" and have a great breakfast while you do so!

HOW TO FIGHT RACISM BOOK STUDY CONTINUES 1/12/25

"How to Fight Racism" by Jemar Tisby is a very relevant book for our current context, investigating the Biblical mandate for racial justice in a constructive way. We will continue this study at 9:00 a.m. three Sundays in January, beginning 1/12 and continuing 1/19 and 1/26. We will look at Part 2 of the book, focusing on "Relationships." Copies are available in the church office.

GET YOUR CHILI POTS READY- THE ANNUAL COOKOFF IS 1/19/25

Who will win the coveted "golden ladle?" It is up for grabs! Dust off your chili pot and get your recipe ready! The annual Chili cookoff, sponsored by the Men's Fellowship will be Sunday 1/19/25, right after worship. We will have our monthly Team Earth "Lunch and Learn" in conjunction with this event.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sun	1/5	<i>Epiphany</i>	
		Sunday School/Bible Study	9:00 a.m.
		Fellowship Time	10:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Inclusion & Affirmation Ministry Team	12:00 p.m.
Mon	1/6	Coffee & Conversation with Pastor Rick	2:00 p.m.
		Fellowship & Hospitality Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Tue	1/7	Staff Meeting	10:30 a.m.
		Finance & Stewardship Ministry Team	6:30 p.m.
Wed	1/8	Chapel Ringers/Celebration Singers	6:00/7:00 p.m.
Thu	1/9	Women's Fellowship	10:30 a.m.
		Troop 4475 Committee Meeting	6:30 p.m.
		Clergy Personnel Committee	6:30 p.m.
Sat	1/11	Scouts Pancake Breakfast	7:00-10:00 a.m.
Sun	1/12	Sunday School	9:00 a.m.
		Book Study with Pastor Rick	9:00 a.m.
		Worship (in person and livestream)	10:30 a.m.
		Nurture & Education Ministry Team	12:00 a.m.

Columbia UCC Prayer List

Please keep in your prayers this week . . .

Garrett and Beth Walker– Congratulations! Baby Calvin born 12/26!

Ann Wilke... health issues (Alethea's mother)

Sharon Elliott... on hospice

Vonda Martindale... health issues (Kasper Ramirez's grandmother)

Students and staff at Alpha Hart Lewis Elementary . . . our partnership friend

The people of Palestine, Israel, and Ukraine

Health Issues:

John Adams, Cheryl Cobb, Lauren Helmreich, Pat Schroeder

Stephanie Porter (Phillip Neale's niece), Jennifer (Edie Diel's niece),

Julia Marsh (Donna Marsh's Daughter), Jim Elliott,

Joanne Good (Sue Beckman's friend), Mark Fairley & Connie Hackman Fairley

Marilyn Coronado (Corinne Remeika's friend)

Challenges in Life:

Sheila, The Koerkenmeier & Malicoat Families

Living in Care Facilities:

Neal Sprick, Gary Ehrhardt, Vernie Blank, Helen Graves, Sharon Elliott

Living in Independent Living Facilities:

Don Privitt, Alice Moon

Serving us in the military:

Christopher Tennill, Dane Wilson, Aaron Dachroeden

Did you know we have a Prayer Team here at CUCC, lifting up the prayer concerns of our congregation? 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 whals@centurytel.net

Or Tricia Soncasie (314) 374-7477 tsoncasie@aol.com

CUCC celebrates God's boundless love by:

Welcoming all God's Children;

Nurturing Faith and Spiritual Growth;

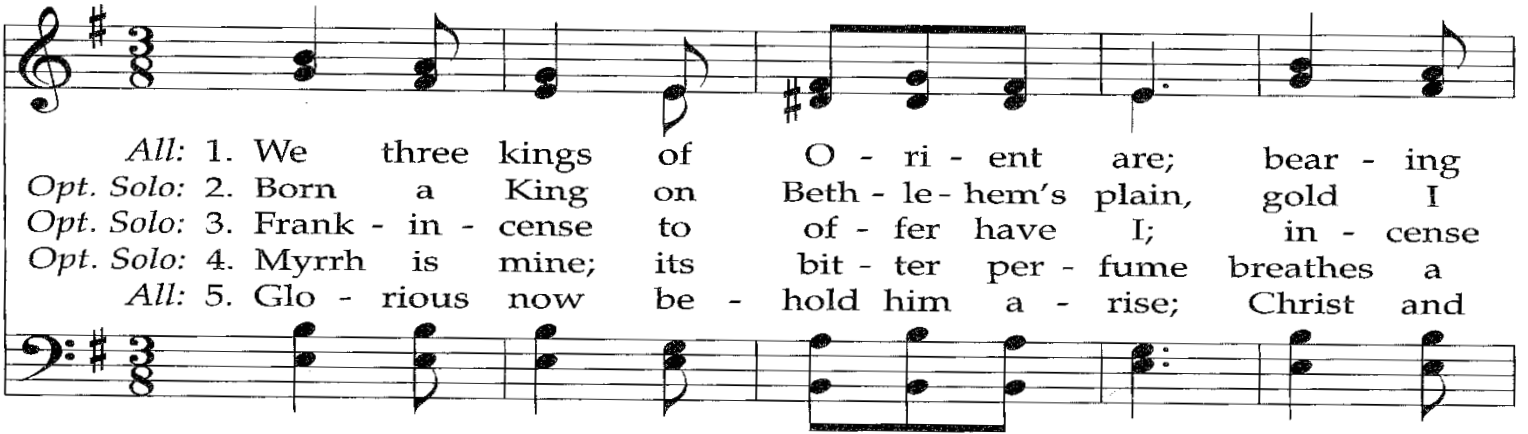
Challenging and inspiring everyone with vibrant worship;

Building a supportive church family;

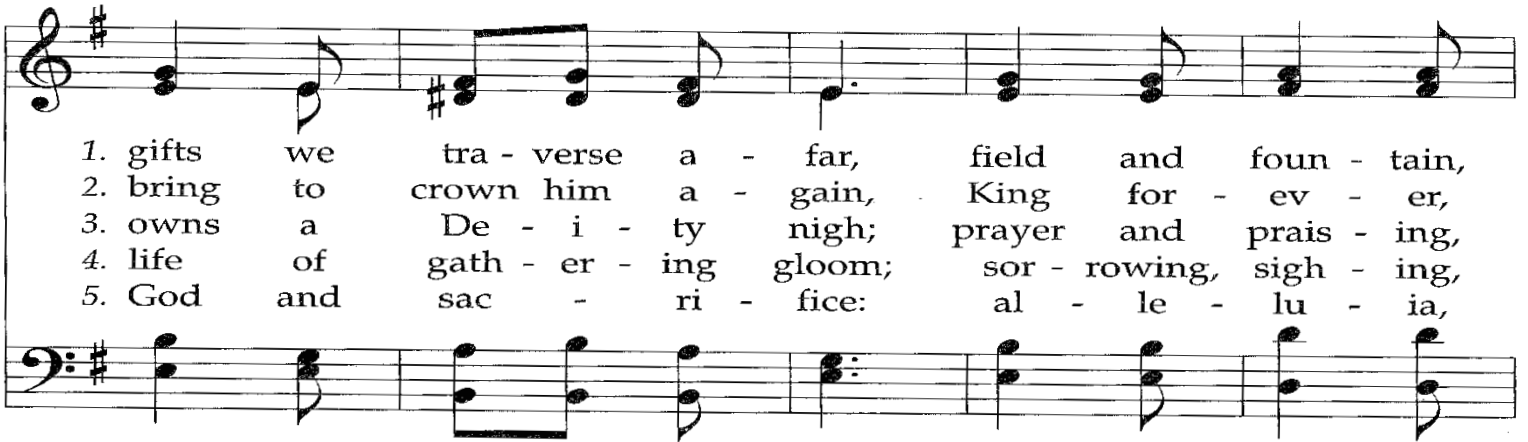
Transforming both the congregation and community

through service and outreach

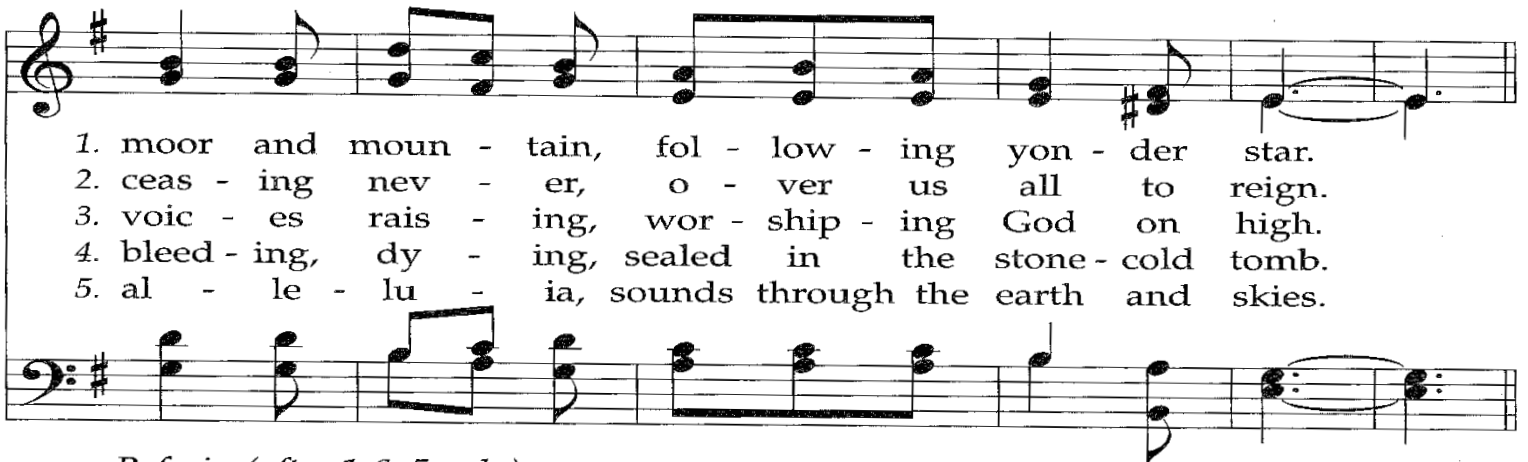
We Three Kings



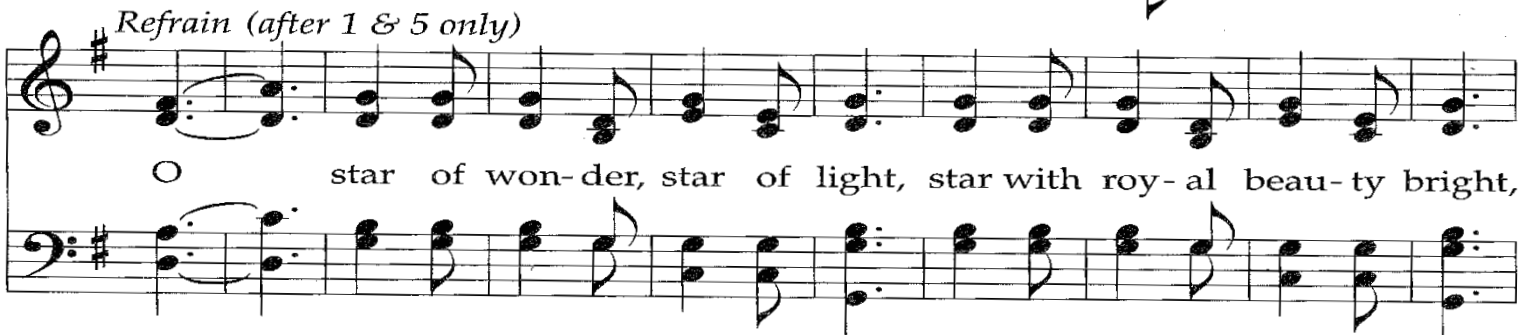
All: 1. We three kings of O - ri - ent are; bear - ing
Opt. Solo: 2. Born a King on Beth - le - hem's plain, gold I
Opt. Solo: 3. Frank - in - cense to of - fer have I; in - cense
Opt. Solo: 4. Myrrh is mine; its bit - ter per - fume breathes a
All: 5. Glo - rious now be - hold him a - rise; Christ and



1. gifts we tra - verse a - far, field and foun - tain,
 2. bring to crown him a - gain, King for - ev - er,
 3. owns a De - i - ty nigh; prayer and prais - ing,
 4. life of gath - er - ing gloom; sor - rowing, sigh - ing,
 5. God and sac - ri - fice: al - le - lu - ia,



1. moor and moun - tain, fol - low - ing yon - der star.
 2. ceas - ing nev - er, o - ver us all to reign.
 3. voic - es rais - ing, wor - ship - ing God on high.
 4. bleed - ing, dy - ing, sealed in the stone - cold tomb.
 5. al - le - lu - ia, sounds through the earth and skies.



Refrain (after 1 & 5 only)
 O star of won - der, star of light, star with roy - al beau - ty bright,



west - ward lead - ing, still pro - ceed - ing, guide us to thy per - fect light.

Brightest and Best

Unison Gm Bb Dm

1. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,
3. Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,

Cm Dm Gm

dawn on our path - way and lend us your aid.
vain - ly with gifts Je - sus' fa - vor se - cure.

Bb Dm

Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,
Rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion.

Cm Dm Gm

guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.
Dear - er to God are the gifts of the poor.

2. Shall we give Je - sus our cost - ly de - vo - tion,
 4. Bright - est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,

The first system of music consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a common time signature. It contains four measures of music. Above the staff, the chords Dm, F, and Gm are indicated. The lyrics are written below the staff, with the first line starting at the second measure. The bass staff also contains four measures of music, with the lyrics continuing below it.

fra - grance of E - dom, and of - f'rings di - vine,
 dawn on our path - way, and lend us your aid;

The second system of music consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a common time signature. It contains four measures of music. Above the staff, the chords C, Dm, Cm, and Dm are indicated. The lyrics are written below the staff, with the first line starting at the first measure. The bass staff also contains four measures of music, with the lyrics continuing below it.

gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,
 star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,

The third system of music consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a common time signature. It contains five measures of music. Above the staff, the chords Gm, Cm, Gm, Bb, and Dm are indicated. The lyrics are written below the staff, with the first line starting at the first measure. The bass staff also contains five measures of music, with the lyrics continuing below it.

myrrh from the for - est and gold from the mine?
 guide where our in - fant Re - deem - er is laid.

The fourth system of music consists of a treble and a bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a common time signature. It contains four measures of music. Above the staff, the chords Cm, Dm, and Gm are indicated. The lyrics are written below the staff, with the first line starting at the first measure. The bass staff also contains four measures of music, with the lyrics continuing below it.

Matthew 2: 1-12

2 In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem,

2 asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.”

3 When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him;

4 and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

6 ‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’ ”

7 Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared.

8 Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

9 When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was.

10 When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy.

11 On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Isaiah 60: 1-6

60 Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the LORD will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

6 A multitude of camels shall cover you, the young camels of Midian and Ephah; all those from Sheba shall come. They shall bring gold and frankincense, and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

SUPPORT SCOUTING AMERICA TROOP 4475

pancake

BREAKFAST

ADULTS

\$15

ALL YOU CAN EAT!

KIDS UNDER 10

\$5

Saturday
January 11
7am - 10am

Columbia United Church of Christ

3201 Interstate 70 Dr NW

Columbia MO



**Scouting
America**

BOOK STUDY!

with Pastor Rick

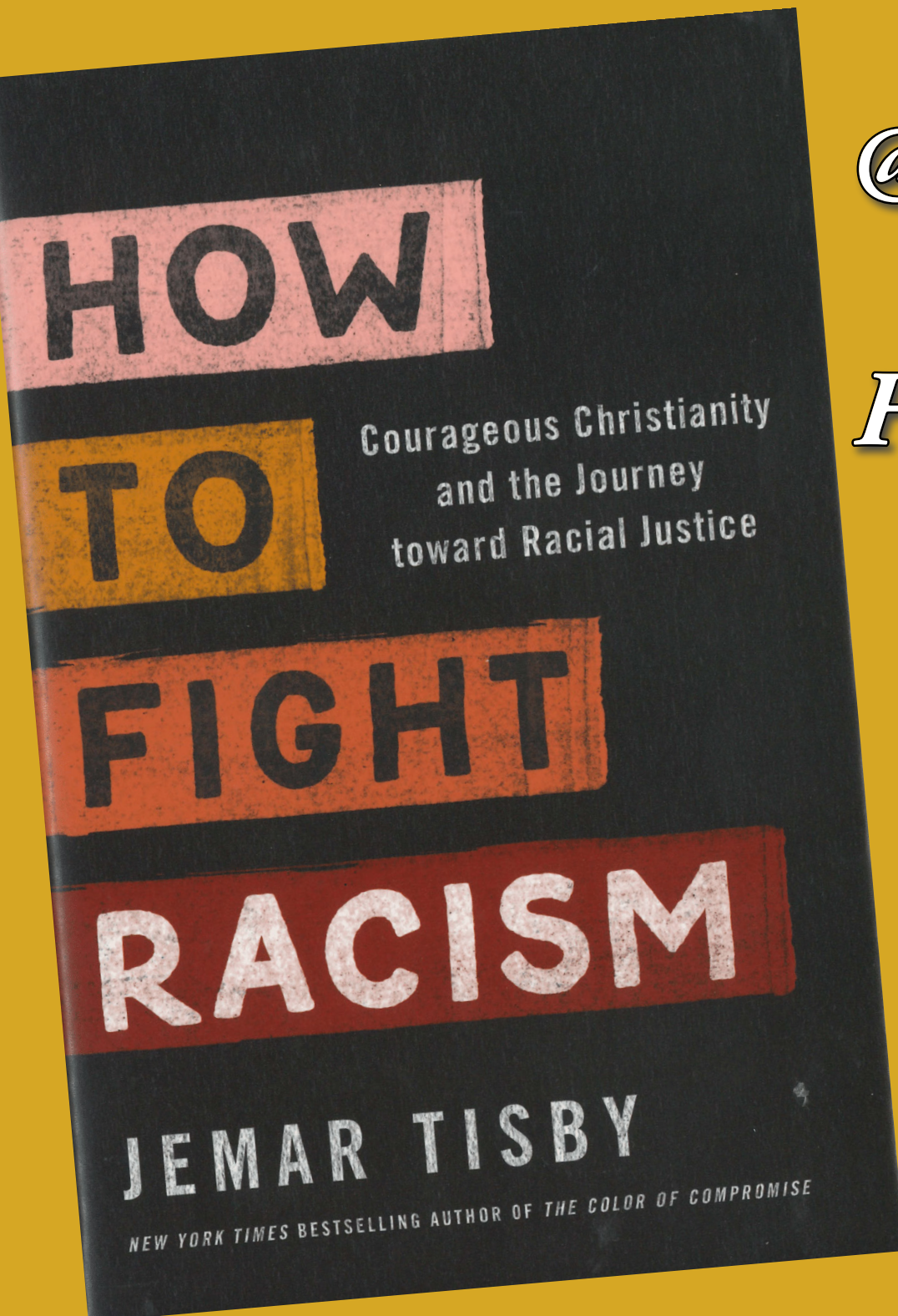
Sunday

@9:00a.m.

*in the
Fellowship
Hall*

*January 12,
19, and 26*

*Followed by
the final three
sessions in
April.*



*If you need a book, contact the office at
office@columbiaucc.com or at 573-445-7931*