



Newsletter February 2026

St Columba's Presbyterian Church Mutare

A Word From The Pastors

Dear friends,

As the year has started, as the pastors, we are discovering that many people are going through one type of suffering or another. What is supposed to be a “happy” new year is actually a “heavy” new year. It may be poor health, broken relations, financial hardships, emotional issues, social difficulties or legal trouble. I have an assurance for you - God is busy on your case like a lawyer or an advocate works on his client’s case.

Jesus said that God will give you an advocate who is the Holy Spirit – who works for free and doesn’t even need to be paid! “But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you.” (John 14:26). May you get your direction from the Holy Spirit this 2026 and you will experience freedom and joy in your life.

Calendar highlights

1 Feb	9 am	Communion Service - Handull of Rice
All Sundays	11 am	Shona Service
14 Feb	6 pm	Valentine's Dinner
18 - 19 Feb		Denominational Leaders visiting St Columba's Called to Care Program
20 - 21 Feb		Presbytery Council Meeting in Bulawayo



The lawyer knows the law more than the client. God knows the laws of life more than you and so you have to trust – trust and obey. The lawyer understands legal systems and hierarchies and therefore speaks on the client’s behalf. So let God the wise one make you wise and give you wise words, not fleshly words.

The lawyer is educated enough to do the research for the client’s case and come up with the best solutions. God is the all-knowing God who knows all the factors affecting you and so provides you with godly solutions, so wait upon the Lord.

The lawyer may take a long time to finish dealing with the case. God may take what seems to be a long time to deliver you from your hardship, but know that he will deliver you.

Above all, the lawyer seeks justice for you. God is the only one that can give you justice because He is a just God. God’s love and justice comes with peace of mind, “a peace that the world cannot give.” (John 14:27). God’s love and justice also comes with joy because you will understand that “the joy of the Lord is my strength.” (Nehemiah 8:10).

Pastors Paul and Lydia

Acknowledgements

Pastors Paul and Lydia Neshangwe,
Kuda Musanhu,
Sheona Mohamed,
Nick Mahlanza,
Jenny Paterson,
Iris Shiripinda,
Rob van Steensel,
Wietske Mushonga

all contributed to the production of this newsletter.



Young Adults Fellowship Update.

Our Young Adults Fellowship continues to be a vibrant and meaningful space for connection, learning, and growth. The group meets every Sunday after church from 11:00am, bringing together young adults to openly discuss real-life topics that affect their faith, identity, and daily living.

Earlier this year, the young adults held a powerful session focused on overcoming negative thoughts. The discussion centred on how self-doubt, negative self-talk, and discouraging words from others can shape how we see ourselves—and how, through faith, self-awareness, and support, we can choose not to let those voices define our lives. Many participants shared personal experiences, making the session both encouraging and deeply relatable.

The second meeting explored the topic of social media, where a lively debate was held on its positives and negatives. Young adults discussed how social media can be a tool for connection, learning, and ministry, while also honestly addressing challenges such as comparison, pressure, and distraction. The conversation encouraged responsible and mindful use of social media in a way that aligns with Christian values.

The Young Adults Fellowship remains a safe and welcoming environment where faith meets real life. All young adults are encouraged to attend, participate, and grow together each Sunday.





Meet Nicole Machigere



She is one of the two new youth leaders.

She was telling me that she wants every youth to be able to connect with one and other and have a healthy relationship with God. They are going to meet every other week starting February 14 at Church 12 o'clock.



Why do I do what I do as a believer?

Dear Family,

As we enter this New Year we should all be asking ourselves this one question that people often fail to answer at one go and here it is "Why do I do what I do as a believer?"

This question is very broad and answers may be different but we must have answers for "WHY". Why do we pray? Why do we read the word of God? Why do we worship? Why do we serve in church? Why do we do good things? Why, why, why?

Your "Why", should be aligned with God's will for you and should be aligned with His word. Your "Why" should bring Glory to God's name. Your "Why" should draw all those around you to Christ. Your "Why" should reverence God and not self. Often times believers walk around not knowing "their Why", they are just on cruise mode, doing what seems to be good. They come to church just because it's a good thing, they serve in church for people to notice them and know their name. They pray just to get a breakthrough and do not have a true and intimate relationship with God. They want to be known more than they know Christ Himself. They operate out of selfish ambition and selfish gain as believers without there even being a ray of light of Christ within them. Their "Why" in life does not motivate them to know Christ for who He really is.

So today what is your "Why". Your "Why" is so so important because it also reveals your heart attitude/heart posture towards God and His kingdom. So today take some time in prayer and reflect on "Why" you do the things you do as a believer? Do the things you do really glorify and edify Christ? What is Your "Why" in 2026? Let us stay in prayer rectifying our heart posture towards Christ, let us live in this year knowing "Why" we serve God.

Matthew 16:24 Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.



Sheona Mohamed

Christmas Experience for Kidz Church and their families



Lots of fun decorating cakes and making crafts together as families

Chiffon Vanilla Cake

10 eggs separated
2 and 1/2 cups flour
1 and 1/2 cups castor sugar
1 cup milk/water
1/2 cup oil
2 and 1/2 tablespoons cornflour
Three teaspoons baking powder
2 teaspoon vanilla essence

Grease and line 2x8inch tins on the bottom only

Separate eggs into two bowls one with eggwhites and the other one with egg yellow.

Add milk/water, 1 cup sugar, essence and oil to the egg yellow bowl and whisk until well blended.

Beat egg whites until frothy and gradually add half of the sugar.

Sift flour, cornflour and baking powder. Sift six times. Add to the egg yellow mixture and mix using one direction.

Fold in eggwhites and mix until well blended.

Bake for 45 minutes to 1 hour at 160 degrees



Recipe that the catering class of 'Called to Care' Ministry made this week



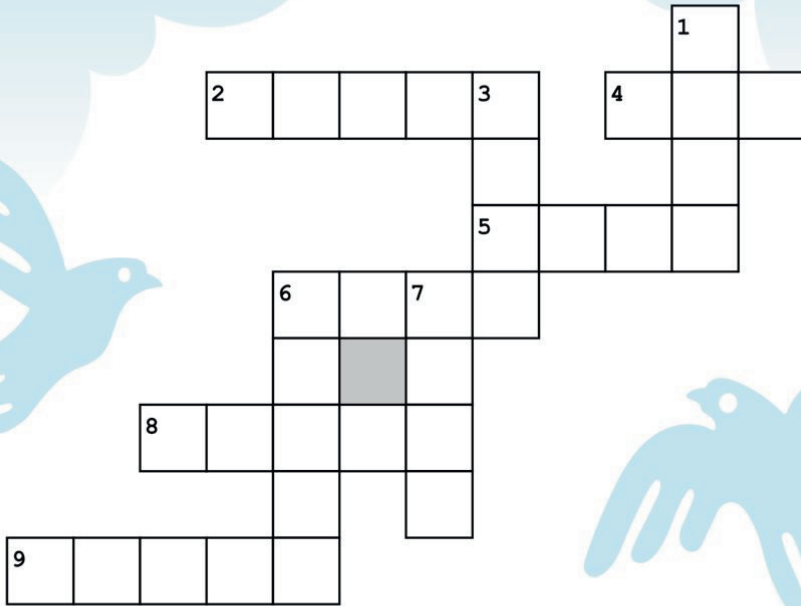
My name is Nick Mahlanza, I am fourteen years old. I go to this school called Kiddie Collage Senior School and am a Form One student at Kiddie Collage Senior School.

I have many friends and we do many subjects together with other Form One students. At our school we do four subjects per day and we learn from different subjects and teachers. My favourite subjects are Maths, English and Geography. My favourite teacher is Mr Caja who teaches us Maths, History and Science.

Kiddie Collage Senior School is well equipped we have a computer lab and a science lab, we also do French. We do both Zimsec and Cambridge Syllabi. Kiddie Collage Senior School started this year and we are the pioneers of the Senior School.



Prayer Crossword Puzzle



Across

2. – Believing in God even when we cannot see Him.
4. – Who we pray to.
5. – What God shows to everyone.
6. – Talking to God.
8. – God's free gift of kindness to us.
9. – The holy book that tells us about God.

Down

1. – What keeps us trusting in God's plan.
3. – A word that means pure and special for God.
6. – A calm and happy heart that comes from prayer.
7. – The word we say at the end of a prayer.





You are Invited to

A BANQUET OF LOVE

Cost \$15 per person / \$25 per Couple

Dress code: Royalty

SAT FEBRUARY 14 | 1800HRS

Come & enjoy a night never to forget, Red Carpet, Photo booth, Buffet dinner, exciting games for all, prizes galore, good music, and many more surprises.

Tickets available at Presby Office & the Beauty Salon

An event not to be missed
Last date to purchase tickets 8 February 2026.

Contact: Ann 0789358181

Contact: Norah 0782092335

*Venue: st Columba's Presbyterian
Church Hall (behind Pick n Pay)*





Power Strength™ classes

at St Columba's Presbyterian Church

Wednesday, 5.00pm - 6.00pm

**Co-Ed Class
Open to Men
and Women**

Discounted Fees

\$10 per month
or \$15 per month with the
option to attend classes at
other venues

Contact Lys: 0772 703 737



List of Ministeries

MINISTERS:

REVs PAUL AND LYDIA NESHANGWE

Email: paneshangwe@gmail.com, lydianeshangwe@yahoo.co.uk

Tel: 0717 654008, 0782 964362

CHURCH OFFICE:

Mon – Fri 8am – 12:30pm

Tel: 02020 60628, 0717 459312

Email: mupresby@gmail.com

SESSION CLERK:

MARIE SACCONI

CHURCH SECRETARY:

NORAH MACHIRI

CARETAKER:

GODFREY MAGODHLO

Tel: 0772844273

SERVICES:

Sunday: English Service 9 am, Shona Service 11 am

Communion Service and 'Handful of Rice' - 1st Sunday of the month

Kids Church - Sunday 9 am

BIBLE STUDIES:

Ladies Bible Study

Mon 10-11am, Jenny Paterson, Cntct Wietske Mushonga or Jenny

Homegroup men&women

Mon 5.30-6.30pm, Liffy Gorton, Contact Gavin&Sue Young

Bible Study

Tue 2-3pm, Liffy Gorton

Alpha Course

Tue 6pm, Simon & Katie Bowen

Homegroup

Wed 6.30pm, Mark and Jenny Paterson

Homegroup men&women

Wed 6-7pm, Albert Masvongo and Colin Brandt

Ladies Bible Study

Every 2nd Thu, 10-12am, Marie Sacconi

CHURCH MINISTRIES:

- **CALLED 2 CARE (Skills Training Outreach)** Every Wed and Thu cntct Rev Lydia
- **GILLs (Growing In Love Ladies)** Last Sat of the Month 9am cntct Jean Brandt
- **FELLOWSHIP OF WOMEN** Every 2nd Sun after Church cntct Esther Mususa
- **MEN'S MINISTRY** Every Sat, 7am - Colin Brandt
- **BOYS' & GIRLS' BRIGADES** Every Sat at the church, 2pm - Fiona Botes
- **YOUTH MINISTRY** Every other Sat, at the church, 12pm
- Leeroy Mashavave, Nicole Machigere
- **MUSIC MINISTRY** Every Fri 4.30pm cntct Josphat Mususa
- **YOUNG ADULTS** Every Sun 12 pm Kuda Musanu & Simba Mangore
- **DECO TEAM** Contact Hlupe Kandiero
- **WISMOWS** Once a month in various venues - Norah Machiri

CHURCH BANKING DETAILS: STANBIC BANK

RTGS 914 000 2833 696

FCA 914 000 4484 346

ZB BANK

RTGS 4532 104335 200

FCA 4532 104335 405

13



