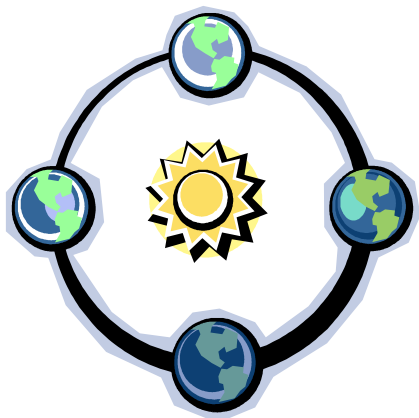
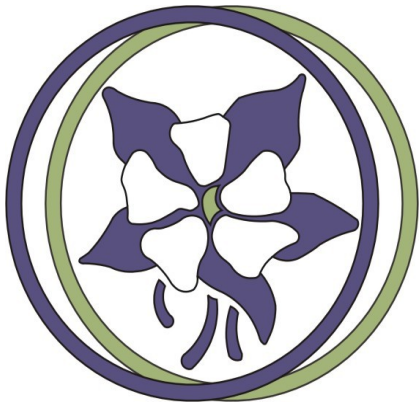


The Columbine Connection

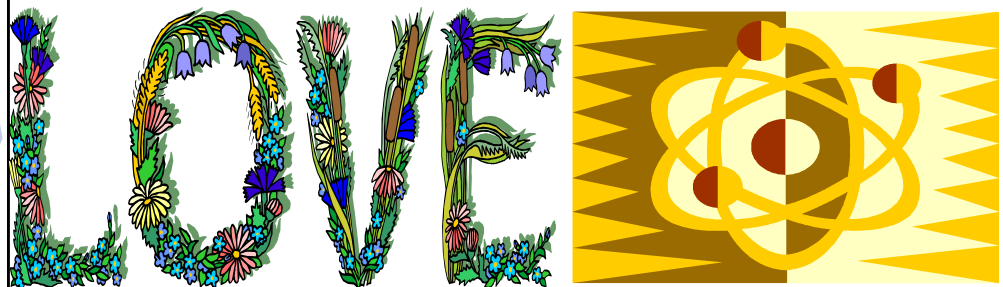
Sunday Programs



February 6 "Who Would Jesus Deport?" Reverend Dr. Miguel De La Torre
Dr. Miguel De La Torre is a Professor of Christian Ethics at Iliff School of Theology. His sermon will deal with an understanding of why immigrants come to this country and our responsibility to them.

February 13 "Storahtelling: Face to Face" Reverend Tracey Wilkinson
In this version of a traditional Jewish Torah Service we'll explore the story of Jacob wrestling with the angel, and we'll look at the meaning that this ancient story holds for us in 2011. Using an innovative fusion of scholarship, storytelling and performing arts, Storahtelling makes ancient stories accessible to new generations.

Reverend Tracey Wilkinson serves as Minister of Pastoral Care at Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden. Her ministry is focused on relationship and healing. Tracey is drawn to the power of sacred, archetypal stories. She is a member of a "Storahtelling", a Jewish company that blends Torah study with performing arts and ritual.



February 20 "Compassionate Communication" Reverend Dr. E. Johnson-Fay
Compassionate speech and deep listening are spiritual practices that enable us to live by the values we cherish and to treat ourselves and others with kindness and compassion. We live in a culture of violence so this is often like learning a new language. The Reverend Dr. Ellen Johnson-Fay is a Minister Emeritus of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church. She has taken several workshops in this area including an International Intensive Nonviolent Communication Training Program.

February 27 "Confessions of a Trinitarian Unitarian" Reverend Penny Rather
The Unitarian part of our religious heritage grew out of a 4th century Christian heresy surrounding the Trinity. Reverend Penny Rather, who recently discovered a heresy of her own, will offer "Confessions of a Trinitarian Unitarian." The Reverend Penny Rather is minister of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Laramie, Wyoming and an adjunct faculty member at Naropa University in Boulder.

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FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's February already, and the upcoming spring promises to be a busy one. On the near horizon, please mark your calendar and join us for the winter congregational meeting on February 13th. At that meeting we will look at our budget proposal for the next fiscal year, 2012, which starts July 1, 2011. We have a number of things to consider in our budget going forward, among them are: the cost of a full-time versus part-time interim minister; providing enough funding to make child care available for all committee-sponsored and church-wide events; and hiring a piano accompanist for non-choir Sunday services. That meeting and discussion will offer an important opportunity to participate in shaping the vision for our future, and will be a good foundation from which to launch our annual Stewardship Campaign later in the month.

At the winter congregational meeting we will also ratify our decision to seek an interim minister. The interim search process will officially begin when we file our application, which is due in April. Interim ministry is unlike settled ministry or consulting ministry. The interim we hire will be under a one-year contract (renewable for one additional year), during which time we will work on very specific goals and priorities that we have identified. Over the next few months we will have congregational conversations to talk about what we've learned the last few years and where we want to go next. Those conversations will help us formulate the goals and priorities that we want to work on with our interim minister. The more clear we are about those goals and priorities in our interim application, the easier it will be to find a good match, so I encourage you to take advantage of the conversation opportunities coming up.

On April 17th we will hold the Spring Congregational meeting to vote on a final budget for FY 2012. At that time we will have completed the Stewardship Campaign and will finalize our vision. This timing will allow us to know our budget constraints when making an offer to an interim, likely in early May.

One of our interim ministry priorities already identified is support and guidance as we prepare for a search for a called minister. That minister search process is quite lengthy, so it is likely to span two years of interim ministry from start to finish. In the meantime, we are enjoying a variety of preachers with different styles and interests. If you find that there are things you particularly enjoy or want to see in a settled minister, drop me a note, either in my church mailbox or via email. Once again, the more we know and are able to articulate about ourselves, the easier it will be to find the minister we're looking for.

As always, if you have a concern or question, please do not hesitate to contact me.

See you in church!

Amy

Amy Rowland, President of the Board of Trustees



Making a Difference

by *Frances Blizard*



The Holidays are over: The dust has settled in the Food Bank of Inter-Faith Community Services. It provided over 600 food baskets to struggling families at both Thanksgiving and Christmas. That is a lot of food! Right now, two of the items most needed are canned fruit, instant potatoes, and beans, canned or dry, but any non-perishable food will be welcomed. Just put it in the Community Basket in front, along with any warm clothing you do not need.

If you are new to the church and unfamiliar with Inter-Faith, here is some information about this non-profit foundation: it provides basic human services to low-income families in western Arapahoe County and the northern part of Douglas County. Inter-Faith is dedicated to providing services that bridge the gap between crisis and survival. A large part of their success in helping others comes from generous community support. Our church is proud of the great support we have consistently given to them, and delighted by the name they call us - "The Little Church That Could".

The next event we will ask you to support is "Ready Set School". It helps poor children return to school feeling good about themselves with a new outfit, all their school supplies, and a backpack. This way they can start school on the same level as their classmates, and that can make a difference in their whole school year.

Here is an exciting way you can support Inter-Faith and have loads of fun at the same time; coming up is their big fundraiser — Nibbles and Sips — a Wine Tasting gala that will raise money for Homeless and Hunger Prevention. It will be held at the Hyatt Regency DTC on Saturday, February 12, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. You'll be able to sample over 150 wines from around the world and also enjoy wonderful food from local restaurants. There will be a silent and a live auction, and a good time is guaranteed. Tickets are only \$50, which is not much to pay for a terrific night out. Give me a call at 303/795-8221.

Winter Congregation Meeting Official Notice

CUUC's Winter Congregational Meeting will be held on Sunday, February 13, 2011, starting at 12:15pm.

This is our annual meeting where the congregation considers a goal budget for Fiscal Year 2012. We will also ratify our decision to seek an Interim Minister. The agenda may also include other business. If you have business that you would like to come before the congregation, you are encouraged to contact board President, Amy Rowland, so that your concern can be presented and coordinated with the rest of the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. Lunch, child care, and birthday cake celebrating our 18th anniversary will be provided.

Musings

My dad taught me about baseball and bigotry; chivalry and chauvinism; love and hate; good and bad. When I was fifteen years old, he was bigger than life. One of the most difficult lessons I had to learn was that he was only human. Like everyone else, he has foibles and follies. Dad could be pleasant and pleasing when he wanted to be but he could also be loathsome and repugnant. It all depended on his mood and the situation you caught him in. Like everyone else I've ever met, he wasn't all good nor was he all bad. He was a human being.

For the first 15 years of my life, he was my hero. I wanted to be like Dad. We went to mass every Sunday. During the baseball season we spent 20 to 40 days in Yankee Stadium, right next to the Yankee bullpen. Christmas was always a big family celebration. He had a knack for numbers and so I wanted to develop that too. He was a gambler, bookmaker and reprobate and I wanted to be the same. Then he joined the Republican Party when I was twelve years old so I joined the Teenage Republicans. I was named after him and I wanted to be like him. I knew I could never live up to everything he was but that didn't mean I wasn't going to try my best.

One of the best lessons my dad ever taught me was during the summer when I was six years old – 1963. Dad would drop me off at the diner at 8:30 am. It was across the street from the Boys Club which opened at 9:00 am. I would have breakfast each weekday morning before spending the day at our local Boys Club playing with the other boys. Dad would give me four dollars every day and tell me to order whatever I wanted for breakfast. This was 1963, so breakfast was well under three dollars. He told me to keep the change so I had some money to spend at the Boys Club but that I had to take one of the dollars and be sure I give it to the waitress who brought me breakfast, telling her that the dollar was for her. I would give the dollar to her as I ordered so I wouldn't forget. I had no idea what or why I was giving her a dollar but it didn't matter. I did exactly as my dad told me; every weekday for almost two months. Looking back, I understand exactly why I became Marge's favorite customer that summer. My dad was teaching me to be generous, a lesson that has carried over to this day with wait staff.

Italians – my father and I are full blooded and first generation – especially from the New York area, believe that tipping is what you do all the time. You tip your waitress, bartender, and paper boy, anyone who delivers anything to your home, like milk and furniture, in addition to lots of other people. I've even seen Italians tip at funerals. You tip people because you want them to do things for you and you want them to be happy to do those things. While it was certainly generous, there is a big factor that is self serving. I've since learned that there are very few altruistic tippers in this world.

My father was very generous in his later years. He would write a check to St. Jude's Hospital every month for the treatment of kids with cancer. He would pick his charities then be very generous with them. If you were among his chosen charities, he lavished you. If not, he couldn't be bothered. His gifts to the people he loved were also lavish. To this day, my own children have never gotten less than four Christmas gifts from their father because I was taught that was what you did on Christmas. I don't know any better.

My father had a dark side too. I don't know that he ever murdered anyone but it would not surprise me if he did. When I was about five years old, he stood me on a dining room chair. He stood about five feet away and told me to jump, that he would catch me. I remember hesitating but he assured me he would catch me. Being the child I was, I could not resist, so I leapt to my demise. Essentially my father Charlie Browned me, letting me fall to the hardwood floor. I don't remember if I cried or not, but I did look up in disbelief. Immediately my father told me the lesson to be learned. He said, "Never trust anyone. Not even me."

That is not a lesson I would ever teach my son. I'm not sure all the ways it has affected my life, but I don't even want to think about it. I have come to the conclusion it was a terrible lesson; it does not need to be passed on; I'm trying to move on. What is really important is that my father loved me. Of that I am sure. He would have done almost anything for me. Dare I say, he would have given up his life for me which is the most any person can do for another. He had his own way of showing that he loved me and he had his own lessons he felt were important to impart on me. But that he loved me I do not doubt.

Each parent teaches their children what they believe is important. Each parent decides what those lessons are. My dad taught me to love baseball, my family and my friends. He taught me to hate government and to trust only myself. My dad loved me. I love my son as dearly as he loved me. Like every generation of Human Being who has ever lived on this beloved planet, I hope that I raise my children better than my dad raised me. That seems fair. (Continued on bottom of Page 5)

Women's Group Sets Meeting Schedule

Women's Group has permanently changed the start time of our meetings to 7:00pm. We will still meet twice per month, on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month. The Women's Group meets twice as often as many other groups in the church and tries to have twice as much fun at the meetings. All women are welcome and may come occasionally as attendance is not mandatory. We, the Women's Group, does encourage regular attendance at our gatherings to develop deeper friendships and authentic conversations.

Topics for February and March

February 1st : Ice-breakers

February 15th : Drumming

March 1st : Menopause

March 15th : What does Spirituality mean to you?

Did you know??

CUUC now has an electronic suggestion box!!

Please take a moment to email your comments to com@columbineuuchurch.org



The CUUC Committee on Ministry, comprised of Bob Pinkham, Karen Cody-Hopkins and Susan Stein, would like to hear from you. We want to know what is on your mind. Your comments will be held in strict confidence.

What's the Committee on Ministry (CoM)? As the CUUC Board defines the structure of the church, the CoM leads the church in reflection. Focusing simultaneously on the goodness of the congregation and what needs to be improved.

We want you to know that we welcome - we celebrate - your input. If you do not have access to a computer, you can use the suggestion box in the sanctuary or simply call us up. We will give your thoughts serious consideration. Please let us know what is on your mind.

Thank you for caring about CUUC.

(continued from Page 4)

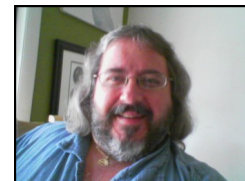
Dad is dying. For the last month, the doctors have said they don't know what's keeping him alive. He has three clogged arteries. He is not eating and is subsequently malnourished. He has internal bleeding. According to the doctors, he could never survive even a minor procedure. He is defying science and what we know of nature. That's my dad!

I try to talk to him as much as I can. When I am able to reach him, he forgets the conversation and repeats the questions he asks every couple of minutes. At this point, he doesn't even understand why he is in the hospital. The dad I grew up with, spent much of my adulthood with, spent holidays with and took me to ballgames, has passed away already. All that is left is the shell we call his body. I pray he is comfortable and not suffering. I love you dad. See you on the other side.

Peace & Love,

Carmen

Carmen J. Corica, Editor of The Columbine Connection



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CUUC Book Club Meets



The Book Club meets on February 23 at 7:30 pm in the church lounge to discuss *Outliers: The Story of Success* by Malcolm Gladwell. From the book jacket:

"The lives of Outliers--those people whose achievements fall outside normal experiences--follow a peculiar and unexpected logic, and in making this logic plain Gladwell presents fascinating and a provocative blueprint for making the most of human potential."

Reviewers appreciated the questions posed by *Outliers*, finding it important to determine how much individual potential is ignored by society. However, the lessons learned were considered anticlimactic and dispiriting. The writing style, deemed easy to understand, was criticized for oversimplifying complex sociological phenomena.

Members present will select a book for April. The Book Club meets the fourth Monday of each month. You are welcome whether or not you have read the book.

Immigration Documentary and Discussion

JustACT is sponsoring a community forum at 12:15pm on Sunday, February 6, 2011. Dr. Miguel De La Torre, Professor for Christian Ethics at Iliff School of Theology will be the speaker at our Sunday morning service, talking about immigration issues. The documentary "9500 Liberty" will be shown at our forum that afternoon.

"9500 Liberty" presents the story of Prince William County, Virginia, when in 2007 it passed a law requiring police officers to stop and question anyone they thought was "probably" undocumented. It reveals the startling vulnerability of a local government targeted by national anti-immigration networks using the internet to frighten and intimidate lawmakers and citizens. The discussion will be facilitated by Jennifer Piper, from Coloradans for Immigrant Rights, an advocacy organization working to educate and organize citizens in support of immigrant justice.

Please join us for this "not to be missed" event. Watch for flyers with more information, or you may contact Maureen Flanigan, at 303-972-9453, or buckner-flanigan@juno.com, if you have questions.

Singers Wanted!

- For the Columbine UU Church Choir.
- Expand your voice and heart.
- Refresh and Recharge with Song.
- Take part in Sunday services and musical events in the larger Denver community. Enjoy new musical experiences. For more info contact David Burrows at 303-455-2110 or email music@columbineuuchurch.org.



Grocery Scrip & Gift Cards!

- Every time you purchase scrip you are contributing to the financial health of the church. Scrip are redeemable at King Soopers, Starbuck, Barnes and Noble and many other merchants. If you buy \$50.00 per week in scrip, in 10 years you will have contributed \$1,300.00 to CUUC! And it did not cost you anything since you receive one dollars worth of merchandise for every dollar of scrip you buy. It is a great way to support CUUC!!!!

Compassionate Communication

Rev. Dr. Ellen Johnson-Fay and Barry Johnson-Fay will introduce the concept of Compassionate Communication in their sermon on **Sunday February 20, 2011**. After the service we will learn and practice a few techniques.

What would it be like if we could truly live as one family under one sky, where everyone's needs can be met, where we share life purposes, help and resources?

- We will learn processes to achieve heartfelt connection, even with those with whom we disagree.
- We will practice wholesome ways to address and resolve difficult issues.
- We will learn to listen deeply and respond from the heart so that we can meet everyone's needs.

Please mark your calendars for:

Sunday February 20, 2011 12:00 pm – 2:00 pm

Childcare will be provided. A light lunch will be served.

CUUC Committee on Ministry is sponsoring this workshop.

Sign up today at CUUC or contact Susan Stein 303-972-8544 or susanstein@msn.com.

The deadline for *The Columbine Connection* for the next 12 months is as follows:

March 16, April 13, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 14, October 19, November 16, December 14, January 18, February 15

These dates are the Wednesday prior to the second to last Sunday of the month. The *Connection* will be available for members and friends at the last Sunday Service of the month at CUUC. Then it will be mailed to the remainder of the subscribers. The deadline for the next twelve issues will be at midnight on the above dates. Be prepared to have all submissions to the *Connection* by 12:00AM (midnight) on the deadline date. If it is a problem meeting the deadline, please contact the editor to make arrangements for the submission. No guarantees, explicit or implied are made for any submission which become the property of *The Columbine Connection*.

News from the Leadership Search Committee

LSC is beginning the work of finding qualified candidates for our elected positions for the 2011/2012 church year. If you are interested in any of the positions below, please talk with one of the members of the LSC and we can give you more details.

- President
- Vice President
- Treasurer
- Trustee
- Leadership Search Committee member

Please note that because we will have an Interim Minister next year, per the UUA guidelines we will not have a Committee on Ministry. Thus we are not filling any slots for that Committee.

Your Leadership Search Committee,

Sue

Sue Zloth

Joan

Joan Bradt

Dory

Dory Pinkham

Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church Staff

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Julie Friend Highsmith cuuc@columbineuuchurch.org	Office Manager	303-972-1716

It is the editorial policy of this newsletter to print whatever is sent to us for inclusion, unless we think the item will be offensive or hurtful. It occurred to us that it would be interesting reading to hear how others came to call themselves Unitarian Universalists. This, then, is an invitation to share that part of your faith's journey with our readership. All other topic are open for submission also. Members of CUUC will be given preferential treatment where publishing is concerned. Thank you for



The Columbine Connection

This monthly newsletter of the Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church is for the benefit of its members and pledging friends. Visitors receive the newsletter for six months, after which time, if they have not made a pledge to the church, they may subscribe for \$12.00 a year by calling (303)972-1716. To contribute an article to the newsletter, send email to: newsletter@columbineuuchurch.org

Or call (303) 882-1896

Darrell Dodge Web Coordinator **Carmelo J. Corica** Editor

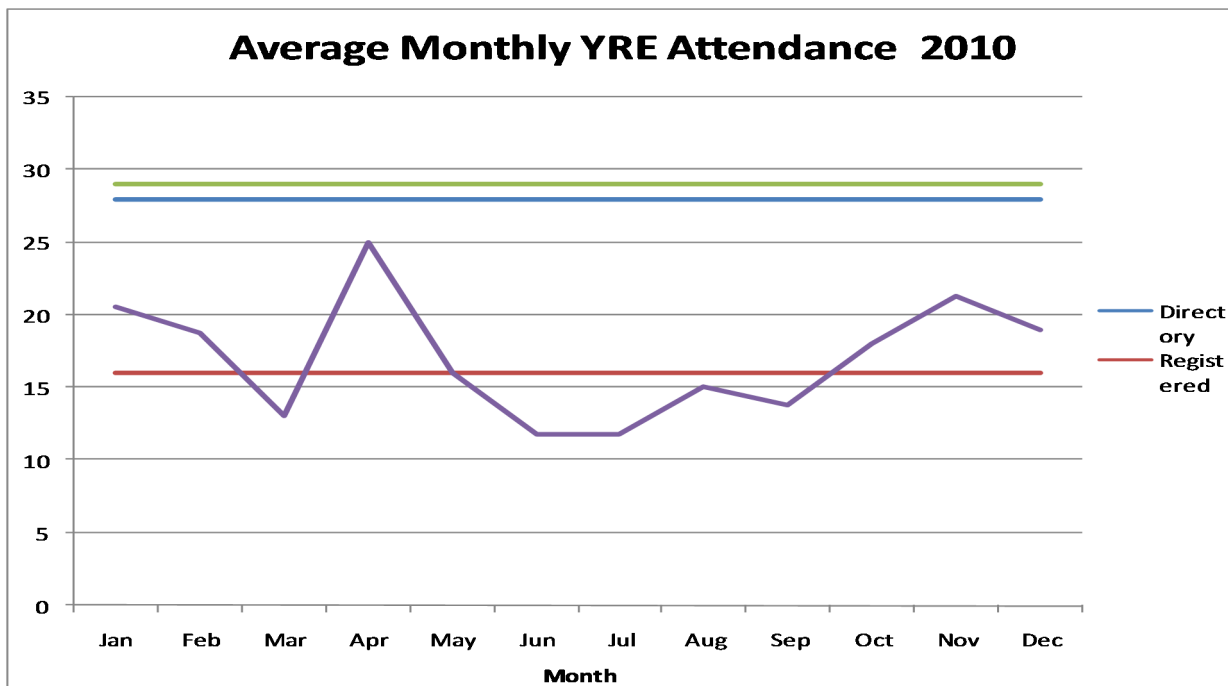
CUUC Website: [Http://www.columbineuuchurch.org](http://www.columbineuuchurch.org)

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Blue's Clues

CUUC's Religious Education Update

We have reached the half way point in the 2010-11 YRE program year and it is my pleasure to report on the activities of the Children and Youth Religious Education activities over the past months.



Average Sunday attendance is 14 children per week for the first half of 2010-11 program year. The YRE Program attendance for 2009-10 was 10 children during the same period.

In the first half of our Youth Religious Education the children, teachers and parents have been very busy with learning about and visits to local churches in our "Neighboring Faiths" studies. We have the Islamic Center, Friends Church (Quakers), and a Buddhist Temple visit scheduled for the balance of the year. The production of "**Spirit of the Christmas Tree**," on December 12th was a big success for the children and congregation alike. In our first multigenerational service of the fall the YRE the children passed out the "Guest at Your Table" donation boxes and the children finished off the year making and painting bowls for the auction at the 3rd annual Stone Soup Supper.

As for the older youth, the Coming of Age (CoA) youth and mentors had several outings that have helped create a strong bond among the group. In March we should see an increase in the activities of the CoA group. Six of the CoA youth are in the 7-8-9 grades and are meeting with Our Whole Lives (OWL) class on Sunday evenings for twenty eight lessons on sexuality and our faith. As a side bar the YRE Committee is also offering 4-5-6 OWL, for the first time, during eight Sundays over January, February, and March.

YRE Committee has approved our summer Sunday program that will help the children understand and participate in some Social Justice work. The "Chalice Day Camp" will be returning to Columbine UU Church in July so watch for Day Camp registration information in my March newsletter. The YRE Committee has also begun the budget work for next year and is looking at next year's curriculum.

In closing, I would like to invite everyone to the March 13th service where I will be directing a reader's theater for women's history month service. "Women Speak" is a short play that was commissioned, in 1976, by the National Women's History Project. The NWHP is a nonprofit educational organization who originated the celebration of National Women's History Month and has the mission to promote gender equity through public recognition of women's diverse lives and accomplishments. The service on March 13th promises to be entertaining and educational.

With Love and Respect,

Blue

Martin J. Blue-Norton, Director of Lifespan Religious Education for Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church

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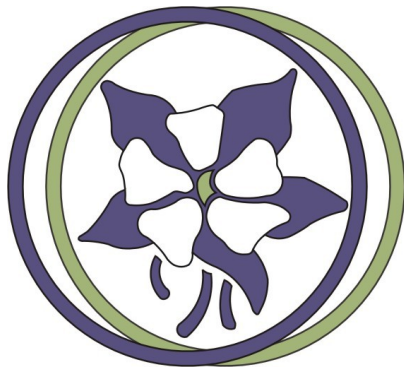


Sunday Morning Worship Begins at 10:30am
Coffee & Conversation Served After Service



www.columbineuuchurch.org

ALL ARE WELCOME!!



The Columbine Connection

**Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church
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