



# *The Columbine Connection* February 2012

Volume 19 Issue 8

## **Sunday Programs**

**Theme for the Month: Congregation Growing Up.** The Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church officially turns 19 this month, so our theme is growing up, which you surely are. In the middle of this month, we have a week and two Sundays devoted to same-gender relationships, which may not seem to be exactly "birthday" fare. But yes, as we grow up, we need to take well considered positions on important matters. We end the month with the beginning of your annual fund drive. "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth" is the principle associated with this month's theme.

### **February 5 "Fire of Commitment" Rev. Mary Wellemeyer**

In the middle of the Second World War, it became clear that very bad things were happening to Jews in Europe. A young Unitarian minister and his wife, Waitstill and Martha Sharp, answered an appeal from the Unitarian Service Committee to go to Prague and see how Unitarians could help. The rest is history. Special music by Fr. Ron Ivins.

### **Feb 12 "Faith in Politics" Kierstin Homblette, Ministerial intern**

As a new legislative session begins in Colorado, many polarized political debates will be revived— about immigration, civil unions, the economy, and other issues close to our hearts. In a political arena that often values sound-bites, party line votes, short range vision, and oppositional dialogue, how can we, as people of faith, engage with our lawmakers and create partnerships with our neighbors in ways that honor our most deeply held beliefs? Come worship with us, as we explore the holy at the core of the political. Special music by Deb Suzuki and Sue Fraley.

### **February 19 "Adam and Steve" Rev. Mary Wellemeyer**

Rev. Mary shares her reflections on Biblical references to same gender attraction. God may not have made Adam and Steve, but God surely did make David and Jonathan. There's more! We'll also take time today to celebrate the nineteenth anniversary of CUUC's charter from the Unitarian Universalist Association. The Choir will sing.

### **February 26 "Leaping Forward" Rev. Mary Wellemeyer**

This is a leap year, and it's totally appropriate to be "leaping forward" into the next phase of your history. Your sense of mission is calling your forward into a new time of commitment and adventure. Let's celebrate the journey! Special music by Rev. Mary and Kathy Derrick.

**Sunday Morning Worship Begins at 10:30 am**

Coffee & Conversation Served After Service

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

## **From the President**

Dear Friends,

This is what I've learned this year about having a full time minister:

There is a grace and an ease about a full time minister who does not need look at their time log to see if they're giving too much.

*Isn't it strange to ask a minister to hold themselves back?*

Our minister has the opportunity to spend time with us, to learn our patterns, to speak with us as individuals, to laugh with us over little things, and to share deeply the big things when they arise because our minister has had time to meet us.

*Do we not want our minister to know us?*

A minister who knows us can honor our needs, and discern how to meet these needs strongly and gently. And can teach us when to ask that our needs be met.

*How can real needs not be met in our church?*

Our professional staff is developing into a team nurtured by consistent leadership and support; creating with each other programs that bring out the best that we have within our spirits.

*Do we not come to this church to become more than we are?*

Congregants call the church and find that the minister is "in."

*How disheartening it is to wait until a minister is on duty when help is needed!*

Our leaders – volunteers every one of them – are encouraged in our common vision so each can share in building our church without being burned out.

*Martyrdom is not part of being UU.*

A full time minister is flexible: when the unexpected happens, a full time minister adjusts creatively rather than filling in the gaps.

*Ain't life full of surprises?*

A full time minister can hammer a message home as often as needed, with surprises and variety, as much as perhaps I don't like it, until perhaps I start listening.

*Isn't questioning personal assumptions part of our principles?*

Both of our most recent two ministers made conscious decisions on where to draw the lines between what they could do and could not do. One was ½ time and one was ¾ time. Each did his/her best. Both felt limited in the possibilities of their ministry.

*Do we want limited ministry at CUUC?*

CUUC has tasted full time ministry and, when you ask around as I have about the difference, people will tell you that this year of full time ministry has revealed our desire and understanding of how we want our church to be.

Now we know; may we make it so.

*Sarah Manning, President*

## **In the Interim**, reflections from your Interim Minister, Rev. Mary Wellemeyer

Well, here you are, nineteen years old! And planning to celebrate your twentieth by calling a new, full-time minister! This little congregation has become a young adult!

While in some ways, I find myself already looking toward next year, when the interim process ends and a new ministry begins, I'm also thrilled to be here with you, now, as you claim your young adulthood and move from being too small to do the things you want to being "big enough." I can feel you settling into a new stage. You have energy and excitement about what you are doing now and your plans reflect your sense of purpose.

Right now, you are looking toward the resources you will need to move into the 2012-2013 fiscal year with your purpose, your mission. So it's a time to be considering the financial resources you can contribute as individuals and families. It's also a good time to think of the personal gifts you have to offer for the coming season, gifts that can probably be given even before the fiscal year begins!

Your church needs contributions of time, talent and treasure from all its members, not just from a few. This is truly a do-it-yourself church! And the coming year is a challenge to stretch on all fronts. You came most of the way to providing full support for the salary of the minister this year. One challenge is to close that gap. Less obvious, perhaps, is the challenge presented by the search process to your leadership pool. Seven of you will be needed for a year and several months to find your new minister. That means seven others, at least, need to come forward to fill other leadership roles. Are you resting between roles? Time to consider how to end your sabbatical! Are you not quite sure you are ready to lead? This is the time to find the role you can fill. Ask around. Get your feet wet. It's not as hard as you think! Are you feeling a little stale in the role you have? This could be a time to make a change.

But most of all, this is the time to reflect on what your church means to you. This is a connection that can change your life, if you let it. Not only that, these are the people who will give you the support you need when things are falling apart, the people who will be there for you when you are making some big change in your life, and so much more. These are the people who will stand with you as you work for love and justice. But you know that. It's time to remember, and act accordingly.

Happy birthday, Columbine! May the returns of this day as years roll on find you happy and healthy, doing the work of transforming lives and transforming your community!

See you in church!  
Lots of love,  
*Mary*

### **How to get in touch with Mary:**

Phone: Mary can be reached at 720-785-0834

Email: [minister@columbineuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@columbineuuchurch.org)

Office: Monday mornings, 9 till noon; Wednesday afternoons, 4 to 6; or Thursday mornings, 9 till noon

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

We made a BIG difference to Inter-Faith Community Services this past holiday season. For Thanksgiving, donations of nearly \$700 enabled Inter-Faith to put turkeys into many of the food baskets being delivered to struggling families. At Christmas, individuals sponsored twenty-six (26!) families, with gifts for the children and food certificates for the homemaker. Without help from us those families might not have had any Christmas at all.



Some of you have asked why we give so much support to Inter-Faith when there are other organizations that do the same thing. Well, starting sixteen years ago we chose to help them with their worthwhile projects, and have simply continued doing that. The two women who are key leaders of Inter-Faith come here every year to bring us up to date on their progress, and the congregation hopes to sustain their support well into the future.

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It's cold outside, so if you have used clothing or blankets please bring them to the Community Basket. The same goes for food – we are always in need at the Food Bank.

*Frances  
Blizard, JustACT*

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## CUUC Book Club

The Book Club will meet February 22 to discuss *Eye Contact* by Cammie McGovern. Two children disappear into the woods behind Woodside Elementary School. One of them, is found alive, the sole witness to his playmate's murder, but he is autistic and can say nothing about what he saw. Only his mother, Cara, has the power to penetrate his silence.

The group will select a book to discuss in April.

The Book Club meets at 7:30 pm at the church on the fourth Wednesday of the month. You need not have read the book to participate and visitors are welcome.

*Wes Howe, Book Club*

## **Where's the minister?**

Rev. Mary will be in Mexico for an immersion Spanish language class from January 29 to February 4. She might also see some sights in Oaxaca while she is there. If there is a pastoral emergency, George Mandeville, Sarah Manning, and Julie Highsmith will know whom to call.

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## **THRIVE Screening**

Please join us on February 5 at 12:15 pm for a screening of the special movie THRIVE.

THRIVE is an unconventional documentary that lifts the veil on what's REALLY going on in our world by following the money upstream -- uncovering the global consolidation of power in nearly every aspect of our lives. Weaving together breakthroughs in science, consciousness and activism, THRIVE offers real solutions, empowering us with unprecedented and bold strategies for reclaiming our lives and our future.

INTERVIEWS in THRIVE: Duane Elgin, Nassim Hamein, Steven Greer, Jack Kasher, Daniel Sheehan, Adam Trombly, Brian O'Leary, Vandana Shiva, John Gatto, John Robbins, Deepak Chopra, David Icke, Catherine Austin Fitts, G. Edward Griffin, Bill Still, John Perkins, Paul Hawken, Aqeela Sherrills, Evon Peter, Angel Kyodo Williams, Elisabet Sahtouris, Amy Goodman, and Barbara Marx Hubbard *Eric Belsey*

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## **Winter Congregational Meeting Official Notice**

CUUC's Winter Congregational Meeting will be held on  
Sunday, February 12, 2012, starting at 12:15 pm.

This is our annual meeting where the congregation considers our vision budget for Fiscal Year 2012-13. We will also vote on proposed changes to our Bylaws. 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, Sarah Manning, so that your concern can be presented and coordinated with the rest of the meeting. All members are encouraged to attend. A light lunch will be provided. Please contact Julie in the church office if you will want childcare, 303 972-1716, so we know how many kids to expect.

## BorderLinks Trip

CUUC's JustACT Committee is organizing a field trip to Arizona to participate in an educational program with BorderLinks, a non-profit group located in Tucson. The program will be on Friday, April 27 and Saturday, April 28. Here's a link to BorderLinks' website <http://www.borderlinks.org/>.



We would like to have two or three artists/photographers participate who are willing to create some artwork from the trip. A few months after we get back, we will have a small art show/reception and share some stories from our experiences with the rest of the Congregation.

The cost for the 2 day program is \$260 and this includes lodging, meals and ground transportation. Participants will need to arrange for their own transportation to and from Tucson. Right now we have room for just a few more people! If you are interested, please contact Sue Fraley at [suefraley@q.com](mailto:suefraley@q.com) or 720-733-7935.



We will travel over the border into Mexico, so a passport is needed. We will explore issues of immigration and social justice in the borderlands.

The program may include a walk into the desert, a visit to the wall in Nogales, and meetings with various members of the local community and business people in the "maquiladora" sector of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

## **Greetings from the Transition Team**

Who is the Transition Team, you ask? We are a 6-member team consisting of Adam Dressel, Pauline Hopkins, Jamie Daniels, Sue Fazio, Dan Gaiser, and June McMillen. We are working with our interim minister, Mary Wellemeyer, to help our congregation prepare for a new full-time minister.

In early fall, the Transition Team helped Mary put together a Power Point presentation on Interim Ministry. This presentation gave the congregation an overview of the tasks Mary planned to guide us through over the next couple of years; it also provided an opportunity for members and friends to ask questions about the process. That workshop identified Mary's role and the five tasks that needed to be accomplished:

1. Claiming and honoring our congregation's past while acknowledging its griefs and conflicts;
2. Recognizing our congregation's unique identity and its strengths, needs, and challenges;
3. Understanding the appropriate leadership roles of minister(s), church staff, and lay leaders and navigating the shifts in leadership that may accompany times of transition;
4. Making appropriate use of District, UUA, and other outside resources; and
5. Renewing our vision, strengthening our stewardship, preparing for new growth and new professional leadership, and helping us to get ready to embrace the future with anticipation and zest.

The Transition Team has continued to help present a number of workshops to complete some of these tasks.

Item 1 above reminds us that "we don't know where we're going until we understand where we've been." So, in November we held a "History Workshop" in which members were grouped with others who joined the church at roughly the same time to explore their perceptions of events and activities that have affected the congregation. While challenges (and past conflicts) were acknowledged, there was a lot of laughter in the room as we swapped stories from the past and recognized a strong feeling of optimism regarding the future.

In December we held a "Gifts Workshop" in which members completed a short survey to help identify their own unique gifts to the church and then worked with other like-minded people to identify assets that this congregation has to offer. Wow! Do we have assets!

Our next workshop is Sunday, January 22, when we will take these assets and use them to identify some things we would like to accomplish in the future. This activity will help us gain some insight into where we might go in the future, and it will help the Ministerial Search Committee identify the kind of minister that might help us on our way.

So the first phase of our transition work is complete! Stay tuned as we move into the next leg of this exciting journey!

*June McMillen, Transition Team*

## 2012 Caucuses are near!

There are seven principles which Unitarian Universalist congregations affirm and promote. These can be found on the UUA website - <http://www.uua.org/beliefs/principles/>. Our fifth principle is:

The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

We encourage everyone to get involved in the democratic process, which starts in Colorado at the Caucuses. Colorado is one of 13 states that have Caucuses to begin the process of determining which candidates end up on the Primary ballots for each party. It is a highly grassroots process since it allows for a small group of neighbors to select someone from their neighborhood (or more accurately, precinct) to vote on their behalf at the relevant assemblies. These delegates are charged with learning about the candidates and then voting on who they would like to see on the Primary ballot.

During Presidential years, each precinct will also conduct a Presidential straw poll. This informal vote is non-binding and only serves as a general indicator as to which candidates have support among caucus goers as well as their elected delegations.

Party Platforms also have a very humble beginning at the neighborhood caucus. Attendees discuss and vote on resolutions which have a chance of becoming a part of the Party Platform. If you want to weigh in on the platform, it is essential you attend your caucus.

Important caucus dates are listed below by party. For more information about the precinct caucuses and locations, contact the political parties listed below.

### Party Caucus information and contacts

County	Democratic Party	Republican Party	American Constitution Party
Caucus Day (statewide)	March 6, 2012	February 7, 2012	March 6, 2012
Douglas	<a href="http://www.douglasdemocrats.org">www.douglasdemocrats.org</a>	<a href="http://www.dcgop.org">www.dcgop.org</a>	1-877-VOTE-ACP (868-3227) <a href="http://americanconstituionparty.com">americanconstituionparty.com</a>
Jefferson	<a href="http://www.jeffcodems.org/web/index.php">http://www.jeffcodems.org/web/index.php</a>	<a href="http://www.jeffcorepublicans.com/index.php/en">http://www.jeffcorepublicans.com/index.php/en</a>	1-877-VOTE-ACP (868-3227) <a href="http://americanconstituionparty.com">americanconstituionparty.com</a>
Arapahoe	<a href="http://www.arapahoedems.org">http://www.arapahoedems.org</a>	<a href="http://www.arapahoerepublicans.org">http://www.arapahoerepublicans.org</a>	1-877-VOTE-ACP (868-3227) <a href="http://americanconstituionparty.com">americanconstituionparty.com</a>
Denver	<a href="http://www.denverdems.org">http://www.denverdems.org</a>	<a href="http://www.denvergop.org">http://www.denvergop.org</a>	1-877-VOTE-ACP (868-3227) <a href="http://americanconstituionparty.com">americanconstituionparty.com</a>

For information on your registration status and more information on caucuses, please visit [www.govotecolorado.com](http://www.govotecolorado.com)

## **Columbine Tutoring Program Gives 145 Webster Student Dictionaries to Third Graders at Two Schools**

The Columbine Tutoring Program, sponsored by the Justice Action Team (“JustACT”), continued its annual tradition of giving each third grader at Ft. Logan Elementary and Dutch Creek Elementary schools his or her own Webster Student Dictionary. Just before the Thanksgiving break a number of the Tutors joined each of the school principals in the handing-out ceremonies, shaking the hand of each student receiving a dictionary.

For some of these students their dictionary may have been the first book they had owned.

The Tutoring Program purchased the dictionaries from The Dictionary Project, a nonprofit organization located in Charleston South Carolina. The focus of the Dictionary Project is on third grade students because third graders have attained strong enough reading skills to be able to read to learn new things, instead of just learning to read.

The cost of the dictionaries will be covered by our Tutors and the Columbine congregation as a whole, through our “Dollars for Dictionaries Drive”.

*Brian Pendleton, JustACT*

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## **CUUC is on Facebook**

Like us on Facebook- <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Columbine-Unitarian-Universalist-Church/230698863622620>

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## **Blue’s Clues**

No Blue’s Clues column this month, but please make sure to check out our website and Facebook page for more information about Religious Education at CUUC.

[http://www.columbineuuchurch.org/education\\_youth.html](http://www.columbineuuchurch.org/education_youth.html)

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Columbine-UU-Church-YRUU/275282999169285>

*Martin Blue-Norton, Director of Religious Education*

## **Officers**

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Rev. Mary Wellemeyer, Interim Minister      [minister@columbineuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@columbineuuchurch.org)  
Martin Blue-Norton, Director of Lifespan Religious Education      [dre@columbineuuchurch.org](mailto:dre@columbineuuchurch.org)  
Julie Friend Highsmith, Office Administrator      [cuuc@columbineuuchurch.org](mailto:cuuc@columbineuuchurch.org)

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Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church

6724 S. Webster Street

Littleton, CO 80128

303-972-1716

[www.columbineuuchurch.org](http://www.columbineuuchurch.org)

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