



The Columbine Connection January 2012

Volume 19 Issue 7

Sunday Programs

Theme for the Month: Identity

January 1 "Coffin and Cradle" Eric Belsey and Dory Pinkham

Eric will speak from his Buddhist background on the cycles of death and rebirth we see all around us. As part of a New Year's ritual and in order to bring deeper meaning to the New Year resolution practice please come with something that you would like to bury/release from 2011 and something you would like to bring to birth in the coming year. We will have both a "coffin" and a "cradle" in which to symbolically place your object or note. Welcome to 2012!

January 8 "Doorways" Rev. Mary Wellemeyer

What really can happen when you get serious about spiritual practice? It changes us in profound ways to pass through the doorways of the spirit, and it's worth it! We'll explore the opportunities for opening those doors. Today we'll gather up Guest at Your Table boxes as part of the service.

January 15 "Soul Force" Rev. Mary Wellemeyer

The way of nonviolence is powerful and not passive. It requires the use of soul force, an invisible power that groups of people can develop as they resist oppression. Gandhi and King knew its strength – it's time we considered relearning the ways of peaceful resistance. The Choir will sing.

January 22 "Who Are We?" Rev. Mary Wellemeyer

This is a day to explore the character of this congregation as distinct from the individuals who make it up. The Columbine congregation has strengths and stories that are all its own, making it a unique and important part of the fabric of Unitarian Universalism. Let's explore this wild claim together!

January 29 "The Blessings of Impermanence" Rev. Dr. Ellen Johnson-Fay, Minister Emerita, All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church

Rev Johnson-Fay looks forward to being with CUUC as we begin the process of seeking our next settled minister. Her intention is to be a resource and to enable CUUC to embark on this journey with a sense of confidence and hopeful anticipation, and to know that this is an opportunity to continue growing as a community of peace, compassion, and strength.

Sunday Morning Worship Begins at 10:30 am
Coffee & Conversation Served After Service
ALL ARE WELCOME!!

From the President

Dear Friends,

Do you remember the movie Babe? The movie about the pig whose faith in the inherent goodness of everyone brings small miracles to the farm. The movie where every animal's quirks are transformed into talents. The movie where the farmer sings to the pig "If I had words to make a day for you, I'd sing you a morning golden and true." The tune is one of those anthems that just bubbles around in my brain. I keep meaning to write down the words or track down the original because I'm sure whoever created it wanted to shout their celebration of life.

We're not a farm in a movie, we're a church. But like that farm we depend upon each other for nurturance of our spirits. In the movie, the farm had all the elements it needed to hum along for years and had an understanding of "how things are," as the chorus of mice points out. But when Babe, the pig, arrives at the farm, Babe's totally different understanding of "how things are" becomes the spark that upends things, and the farmer and the dogs and the sheep and the duck start interacting differently so at the end the farm is a familiar but very different community. But along the way it is not clear that Babe's different world view will ever be accepted, or that Babe will not become dinner.

It's disconcerting to think of Babe, the pig, as a minister, isn't it? But that's what he does: support the duck who in his soul is a rooster, love the dogs, fight off the wolves, get the sheep to trust, work with the farmer, open gates, expose truths, shock those who expect life to be as it always has been, bring joy and be a partner.

If I had words to make a church for you, I'd sing you a morning golden and true - filled with Ministry, Faith, Goodness, Small Miracles, Quirks, Transformation, Talents, Gifts, Song, Celebration, Life, and Love.

Happy New Year!

Sarah Manning, President

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

Welcome to 2012! This promises to be a busy year at Columbine UU Church, full of conversations about all aspects of congregational life and all aspects of leadership as you plunge into the process of searching for a new minister. By this time next year, the “public” part of the search will be over, and your Ministerial Search Committee will be actually considering ministers who might come.

Right now, though, people in the congregation need to be considering the possibility of being on the Ministerial Search Committee. It is an important, exciting, spiritually deepening, and very rewarding task that takes a lot of your energy and time and asks a lot of your significant other. If you apply, it's important you know that this will be the focus of your church time commitment for the coming year. Whatever you are leading now, someone else will have to do that.

Who should apply? The committee needs to have representation of different kinds of people from the congregation, although everyone needs to be able to take a “big picture” view of the congregation's needs. Of course, people with leadership experience are encouraged – you might already think this might be a good fit. But there are others: You may not even think of yourself as a leader, but if you are younger or older than the average, a different race or ethnicity or religious background than the average, or have a different family situation than the average, this could be right for you. Can you clear away the clutter of your life to do this? This is a very worthwhile opportunity.

The theme of this month is “Identity,” as we work together to firm up your sense of who you are as a congregation. It's also about personal identity. The first services of the year focus on your personal life. Then we move on to the intersection of the personal with the community in the third week, with the congregation the focus of the last two weeks of the month.

The question of the month is, “What is your special gift to the world?” And I'd love to have you share your answer. Please send me email at minister@columbineuuchurch.org or call me, 720-785-0834, or drop me a physical note.

As January arrives, I'm sensing an auspicious beginning to an important year. Best wishes for the New Year!

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

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

IT WAS EXCITING! Maybe not as exciting as the last three minutes of the fourth quarter in a Broncos game, but exciting for all of us at CUUC. Inter-Faith Community Services has a yearly holiday program which asks people to sponsor a needy family by buying two gifts for each child and grocery certificates for the homemaker. In other words, putting Christmas into the homes of people who otherwise would have none.

How many families did we sponsor?
TWENTY-SIX! Yes, twenty-six families were able to have a real Christmas, all because of you. A few years ago Inter-Faith called us "The Little Church That Could". We could then, we can now, and we're just going to keep on chugging!



There is still a cold winter ahead of us, so if you have warm clothing and blankets that are not being used please bring them to the Community Basket. And, as always, food of all kinds is needed.

May the joy of Christmas follow us into the coming year. *Frances Blizard, JustACT*

CUUC Book Club

The Book Club will meet Wednesday, January 25 at 7:30 pm in the church lounge to discuss Empire Falls by Richard Russo. The novel centers on a small New England, once-booming town that is deteriorating. Seen through the eyes of Miles Roby, manager of the Empire Grill, local family problems mirror the town's condition. As the town's prospects dwindle, the story visits the past to explain Roby's history as well as those around him and the town itself. A subplot involves a school shooting by an orphaned high school student who was bullied by other students.

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

Wes Howe, Book Club

Attention Musicians!

CUUC needs you! Music is so important to Sunday morning worship services, and we rely largely on volunteers to make it all happen. If you sing or play an instrument and would like to share your gifts with the Congregation, we can use your help! There are two ways you can participate:

Choir: The CUUC choir is VIBRANT under the direction of our new choir director, Matt, and accompanied by our new pianist, Ron. We are thrilled to have both of these talented and accomplished musicians. But you – YOU don't have to be some kind of fantastic singer, or great at reading music...just be able to match a pitch when you hear it (just ask a choir member if you are not sure what that means or whether you can do it). You should also be able to count to 4 (sometimes 6, in extreme situations) and try to be open to learning new things and stretching yourself. We rehearse every Thursday evening from 7:30 to 9:00 in the Sanctuary. If you think you may be interested, or even if you are not sure but want to check it out, just show up at a rehearsal on a Thursday and give it a try – we are a nice bunch and would love to have you. If you'd like more information, you can email Matt Frisk (eighthnotetriplet@gmail.com) or talk to Sue Fraley (720-733-7935) or any other choir member after a service. Being in the choir is a very rewarding experience – it goes way beyond just making music on Sunday morning!

Service Musicians: We also call on a variety of musicians who play 2 or 3 pieces during the service on the Sundays when the choir is not singing. We try to fit the music to the service topic, and have enjoyed a wide variety of musical styles and instruments. We will continue to enjoy our jazz trumpet, our every-type-of-music harmonica, and our Native American flute, among the more traditional offerings, but we realize there may be more people out there who are willing to share their music, and we would like to invite anyone who is so inclined to let the Worship Committee know about you. You can contact Sue Fraley at suefraley@q.com or at the phone number above.

Women's Group Potluck and Planning

The Women's Group is having a potluck planning party on January, 3rd at 6:30 pm. All women are invited and encouraged to participate even if you typically do not attend meetings. We will celebrate the past year's growth and highlights, and decide the

format, activities, topics, and retreat for the coming year. The conversations and ideas have started flowing already. It will be fun and exciting evening! Hope to see everyone. Happy Winter!

Sue Fazio, Women's Group

BorderLinks Trip

CUUC's JustAct Committee is organizing a field trip to Arizona next April (2012) to participate in an educational program with BorderLinks, a non-profit group located in Tucson.

The program will be 2 days and will include travel 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, meetings with various members of the local community, and with business people in the "maquiladora" sector of Nogales, Sonora, Mexico.

We would like to have two or three artist/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. The dates in April will be determined once we get an idea of who can come. If you are interested, please contact Sue Fraley at suefraley@q.com or 720-733-7935.



Columbine Harvest Festival: Auction and Dinner a Success!

Auction Raises over \$3000 for Watch-Care Academy

The results from our November 12th Harvest Festival have been tallied, and a check has been written to Watch-Care Academy, our charitable recipient for this year. Watch-Care Academy is a small non-profit, K – 8 school in Northeast Denver, mostly serving African American students who have had difficulties learning in a public school environment. Our Justice Action Team and Auction Planning Committee are pleased to announce that the proceeds being paid to Watch-Care Academy amount to \$3,193.84!!!! Thanks to all those who contributed, bid, and volunteered to make our 2011 Columbine Harvest Festival a success!

Blue's Clues

Happy New Year! I hope everyone has a prosperous and healthy 2012! We have a very active and event filled January ahead of us. If you are a family with a 6th, 7th, or 8th grader mark your calendar for the MDD - PeaceCon2012. This Con is January 27th - 28th from 7 pm on Friday to 7pm on Saturday. The Con will be hosted by Jefferson Unitarian Church but is a collaborative event by several Front Range Unitarian Universalist Churches. Our youth will explore ways to create peace within them and thereby in the world around us. They will have lots of music, play games, get active, and even learn some worshipful chill skills. This will be a middle school event not to miss for 2012!

The Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU) has taken off. With its new YRUU Advisors, Suzanne Fey-Gaiser, Bryce Hunt, and Tara Nelson we can look forward to hearing from them throughout this New Year. The current YRUU schedule was set so the youth will meet on the first and third Sundays of the month at Columbine during the regular Sunday service. The curriculum for these meetings was selected from the UUA's Tapestry of Faith curriculum and is titled "Sharing the Journey: a Small Group Ministry with Youth" by Jessica York and Helen Zidowecki. Many of UU congregations have embraced the use of small group ministry or covenant groups with youth. Small group ministry can be a way to help individuals build relationships, experience a greater sense of belonging, and feel supported in their spiritual journey in this congregation. The YRE Committee and Youth Advisors hope this will be a new beginning for the youth and a way to engage them in Unitarian Universalism.

The children's Religious Education class will continue on January 8th with classes for Preschool through seventh grade. The following Tapestry of Faith curriculum description and grade levels were selected for our 2011/2012 YRE program year.

Wonderful Welcome is for the pre-K through 2nd graders. In this program, children identify intangible gifts central to Unitarian Universalism such as friendship, hospitality and fairness, and share these gifts with others.

Love Connects Us, for the 3rd through 5th grades, celebrates important ways Unitarian Universalists live our faith in covenanted community.

Amazing Grace: Exploring Right and Wrong, for our 6th and 7th grades, intends to help sixth and seventh graders understand right and wrong and act on their new understanding.

Have a GREAT New Year! Blue

Martin Blue-Norton, Director of Religious Education

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The Columbine Connection is published monthly by the Board of Trustees of Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church for the benefit of its members and friends. To receive an emailed copy, please contact cuuc@columbineuuchurch.org. Articles adhering to CUUC's Communication Policy may be submitted to newsletter@columbineuuchurch.org. The Communication Policy is available at www.columbineuuchurch.org. Deadlines for submissions for upcoming issues are midnight January 18, February 15, March 21, April 18, May 16 and June 20. The board holds final authority to approve all submissions and all submissions become the property of Columbine UU Church.



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