



## **Sunday Programs**

### **November 6 "A Church Grows in Columbine" Rev. Mary Wellemeyer with the Dressel family and David Manning**

In the words of the hymn, "Where do we come from, What are we, Where are we going?... Mystery, mystery, life is a riddle and a mystery." To begin to unravel the mystery, the Dressel family will recount the energy and effort that went into moving from "the Bunker" to this building and David Manning will recall the time of the long-range plan. And don't miss the session after church, where everyone will get to participate. The choir will sing.

### **November 13 "More Love Somewhere" Rev. Mary Wellemeyer**

If we keep on putting love first, pretty soon, there's a lot of it all around. There will be a very special celebration this morning as the Coming of Age class crosses the bridge and joins Young Religious Unitarian Universalists. Since we are just starting a YRUU program, youth from other congregations will join in the ceremony.

### **November 20 "We Give Thanks" Rev. Mary Wellemeyer and Martin Blue-Norton**

This Sunday before Thanksgiving we pause in gratitude for our many blessings. This is also the day for Guest at Your Table boxes to be distributed, and rumor has it that the young people have a special presentation. The choir will sing.

### **November 27 "Dayenu" Lynn Hopkins, ministerial intern at First Unitarian Society in Denver**

Dayenu is a Hebrew word expressing gratitude, and something much deeper. It translates as "it would have sufficed for us," and is probably familiar if you have participated in a Seder celebration at Passover. Just saying the word with intention can be a profoundly meaningful religious practice, evoking gratitude that can be the spiritual force that heals our past wounds and resentments, binds us to our highest aspirations, and fuels our courage for the days ahead. All that, in one little word? I think so.

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

Coffee & Conversation Served After Service

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

## **From the President**

Dear Friends,

A visitor walked in to our church last summer and gave us an amazing gift – an opportunity to create deliberate safeguards which both honor individual needs and protect our congregation. Our visitor has not returned to us, but I am very grateful for the process her circumstances encouraged us to engage.

Safety is a complex idea in our faith and we look to provide it in many ways. The safety of our kids and youth underlies both procedures and curriculum in our RE program. Our facilities and membership folks over the last year have taken many steps to enhance our safety; mostly these have been quiet, subtle, physical or procedural changes that few of us would notice. I know there will be more, and perhaps more obvious, changes to come.

But the opportunity our visitor presented to us goes to the heart of being a UU. How do we welcome someone with a difficult background when that very background could be threatening to others in our congregation? How do we reach a balance between our respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person, and our mission to provide a spiritual home where we can follow our own spiritual paths together, while ensuring that no one will be emotionally bullied or physically or sexually abused? Is it appropriate sometimes to restrict someone's participation in our congregation?

The gift our visitor gave us is the opportunity to put in place a framework and resources for responding to a potential crisis before we are faced with one. We all recognize that better and kinder decisions are made when we've had a chance to think things through and in a crisis there frequently isn't that time. So last August the board convened a task force to discover resources available to us for assessing and responding to behavioral risks. The task force will present their recommendations to the board later this month. The goal is to add to our "toolbox" specific procedures which future leaders may draw upon in tough situations and to add to our collective wisdom about how to proceed as a caring UU community even under stress. These tools will be shared with you as they are ready. A new policy on serving alcohol at church functions is the first such tool; it has been sent to leaders of all groups and committees.

We come to our church in joy and in pain. We come to explore and to heal. We come to confess and to forgive. We come wanting to be our whole selves and we need a community where our whole selves are welcome even when there are aspects of our lives which cause harm. Whatever the outcomes of the task force's work, our larger work of creating our welcoming, loving, learning, nurturing church is an ongoing, enriching journey which we all participate in.

Thank you for your gifts

*Sarah Manning, President*

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

This month's theme is "Gratitude." Christianity and Islam teach gratitude as a foundational value, with the emphasis on being grateful for God's work in the world. Those of us who are nontheistic have to do a bit of translation, but even if we are grateful for what nature provides or the goodness of other humans, it's still an excellent practice, in keeping with our Six Sources. The Buddhists teach acceptance, a close cousin of gratitude. May we accept things as they are, and love life as it is.

There are, of course, some things for which we ought not to be grateful. There are spiritual benefits to getting through hard situations, true, but the industrial accident, the cancer, the spouse walking out the door, the thing itself may not be cause for gratitude. My own personal beliefs do not allow me to say to myself "this is part of God's plan," when a young child dies or a car full of teenagers has a terrible car crash. Still, I wholeheartedly endorse the practice of allowing the emotions to be what they are! But finding ways to work through them, that's an important skill. Again, the Buddhists suggest sitting quietly with what's troubling you, allowing the breath to flow through whatever it is, until a state of equanimity returns. Our own great spiritual ancestor, Henry David Thoreau, used walking as a pathway to acceptance and gratitude.

Gratitude for the perfectly astounding sunrise, for the magnificently mysterious stars, for a delicious bowl of soup, for the smile of a close friend, for all the many different gifts we receive each day, that, to me, is an important spiritual practice, regardless of where we think those gifts come from. Notice, and be grateful, that's my goal. And acceptance of things as they are, even when they are no good at all, that's important too.

Please do consider sending in an answer to this month's question: "For what are you grateful in your life right now?" My reflection on your answers to September's question is posted on the minister's page at the church website, [www.columbineuuchurch.org](http://www.columbineuuchurch.org). As always, please write to me [minister@columbineuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@columbineuuchurch.org), or call, 303-972-1716 (it's fine to leave a voicemail) or leave me a physical note.

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**

### **WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR THANKSGIVING?**

There's no end to the many different ways of observing the holiday, and most of them will involve doing something you enjoy, whether it be dinner with family and friends or surfing in Hawaii.

Unfortunately not everybody is lucky enough to have something to look forward to. Not everybody can afford to prepare a festive meal and share it with friends. Poverty is in every aspect of their lives and it never lets up.

Inter-Faith Community Services -- to the rescue! This year they will be distributing about 700 food baskets to the struggling families that count on their support; that figure includes about 100 homebound elderly people. That's a lot of food, and that's where you come in.



To make sure that every basket contains a good variety of food, Inter-Faith needs to buy many items that have not been contributed, and they do need financial help from all of us. Please help. Write a check to IFCS and mark it "Turkey Bucks."

Your turkey will be juicier, the waves perfect, and big family dinners will be the best ever.

The December Connection will describe the many different ways you can put Christmas in a family's home, so please stay tuned. Also, it is cold, and warm clothes and blankets are always in demand. The Community Basket awaits.

*Frances Blizard, JustACT*

## **CUUC Tutoring Program Flourishing at Two Schools**

The CUUC Tutoring Program, supported by the Justice Action Team (JustACT) at CUUC is well underway at Ft. Logan Elementary School in Sheridan and at Dutch Creek Elementary School in Littleton. We have seven Tutors volunteering in each school, helping teachers in the classrooms teach reading, writing, and arithmetic. One of our Tutors, an artist, is working with the art teacher. Tutors volunteer to work one day a week for a minimum of two hours. Many of them do significantly more.

The Tutoring Program, with the financial support of the CUUC congregation, is again purchasing Webster's Dictionaries for Students from the non-profit organization, The Dictionary Project. The dictionaries will be given to each third grader in both schools we support, because in third grade students move from learning to read to reading to learn.

*Brian Pendleton, JustACT*

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### **History Day**

More fun than you think: History day is going to be worth it! Do plan to come to church on November 6 and plan to stay for the special congregational gathering afterward. There will be lunch, and then a chance for sharing what you know about this congregation's past. Not just sticky notes, but real sharing, and then a time for your group to tell their story to everyone else. This will be the foundation for "our story" to be shared more formally later. Don't miss it!

### **CUUC Book Club**

The Book Club will meet November 30 to discuss "Solar" by Ian McEwan, a satire by one of the world's best living writers about a jaded Nobel-winning physicist whose dysfunctional personal life and a cynical ambition see him pursuing a solar-energy based solution for climate change.

From several books to be suggested by a member, those present will select a book to discuss at the January meeting. The Book Club normally meets the fourth Thursday but due to Thanksgiving the November meeting is the FIFTH Thursday of the month. There will be no December meeting. The club meets at 7:30 PM and you need not have read the book to be discussed and visitors are welcome.

*Wes Howe, Book Club*

## **Columbine's Harvest Festival: Dinner and Auction**

Our Auction will be Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup>. The first \$5000 of the proceeds will benefit Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church. The remaining proceeds will be split between Columbine and Watch Care Academy. This alternative school serves K through 8 grade students in Northeast Denver.



### **Schedule for the evening:**

5:30: Doors open, Welcome

5:30 – 7:00: Silent Auction

6:00 – 7:00: Buffet Dinner

7:00 – 9:00ish: Dessert and Program

### **Dinner costs:**

Adults \$10

Children (3-12 years old) - \$5

Children 2 and under are free

Soft drinks are included

Beer and Wine will be sold for \$2

### **Childcare will be provided**

To ensure adequate food and childcare, please sign up at the church or call the church office at 303-972-1716

Donations are being accepted until Monday, November 7th. Forms for donation are at the church or contact a member of the Auction Planning Committee: Bee Adams, Kathy Derrick, George Eger, Pauline Hopkins, Judy Kary, John Kary, Loraine Kreznar, Francha Menhard, Martin Blue-Norton, Brian Pendleton, Mary Reeves, and Susan Stein.

## Membership News

### Pathways to Membership

This class is for people who are thinking about becoming members, as well as visitors who want to learn more about Unitarian Universalism history and our church operations. It's also a great class for those who may want/need a refresher course. We'll explore your spiritual roots and current thoughts with the rest of the class. For those who decide to become members, this class is the first requirement. We will talk about pledging and how you would like to volunteer your time. Becoming a member at the end of this class is optional.

Our next Pathways to Membership class will be held this Saturday, Dec. 10 from 9:00 am - 1:00 pm. It includes a great lunch and child care. This class has been created to help those potentially interested in becoming Members of CUUC.

To sign up, please look for the Sign Up sheet on the back ledge of the sanctuary or call Suzanne at 303-978-9585. Suzanne is happy to speak with you if you have questions. The next class offered in February 2012 and May 2012.

### New Members – Please join us in giving our new members a warm CUUC welcome!

**Jennifer Simon Ward** is a full-time mother to 2-year-old Gabe and a part-time market research analyst. She lives with her husband Rich. In the last 10 years, she has lived in Washington, DC, Namibia, France, Switzerland, Spain, Bulgaria, England, Scotland, Castle Rock, and Centennial. She is more than ready to stay put for a while.



**Bryce Hunt** - I like being outside hiking or snowboarding or working on some landscaping. I like learning and reading and keeping up with latest news around the world. I like fixing things, designing things, and building things with my hands and with my mind. I participate in a couple book clubs, I snowboard down moguls sometimes, like to hike a peak or mountain if I get the urge; cheer for the Nebraska Cornhuskers because I'm from there and I cannot let it go. Am now one of the high school youth advisors here at CUUC.



## **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, 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 at [eighthnotetriplet@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:suefraley@q.com) or at the phone number above.



## **Wine Country Excursions – from our sister congregation in Napa, CA**

This is the sixth year that our little UU Fellowship in Napa, CA has depended upon the kindness of strangers to move closer to our goal of moving from rented space to a home of our own. We are doing this by conducting "Wine Country Excursions," inviting UUs from across the nation to stay in our homes and tour the Napa Valley, tasting wines, enjoying beautiful scenery, art and history. The proceeds from this enterprise go to the building fund.

Any questions, please contact Tom Wilson at [2wilsons1dog@comcast.net](mailto:2wilsons1dog@comcast.net).

## **Blue's Clues**

The Summer YRE program was very successful this year. For the third summer in a row the CUUC Congregation stepped up to the plate and filled all of the thirteen teaching Sundays so that the regular teachers could take the time to rest and rejuvenate themselves during the summer. The theme for this past summer was "Social Justice" and our average summer Sunday attendance was ten children.

At the end of July, 2011 we offered "Chalice Camp II," a CUUC day camp for kindergarten through sixth grade children; it also had a "Social Justice" theme. Our activities included two trips to the Dutch Creek pool and a cycling trip on the trail along Dutch Creek. Attendance for this summer day camp was eleven children. As was our hope, the camp was a self-funded activity and managed to be around \$10 over on the budget. Overall, the day camp was successful enough to hold it again next year.

In late August the call for teachers went out to the CUUC Congregation with a great response. From five teachers in 2010/11 program year to twelve teachers for the 2011/12 program year, this has been a true blessing. We not only had the five teachers return from last year, we got seven new and former teachers come forward. Each class has at least three teachers! This year we are using the UUA's "Tapestry of Faith" program, which is online, and allows every teacher to access the whole curriculum at any time. This is empowering to each team to plan and pace their lessons to meet the needs of the children of CUUC, not to mention helping us to be a green congregation.

Something that fills me with a great deal of pride in CUUC is the five members who have stepped forward to breathe life in to the dormant YRUU programmer. This team of Advisors attended the MDD training, on October 7th in Colorado Springs, for new YRUU Advisors. Of the nineteen adults at the training five of them were from CUUC. I am looking forward to working closely with this team, in the future, to help the youth of CUUC navigate their high school years with Unitarian Universalist values. There are six youth in the YRUU program.

A final reminder, for a fourth year the YRE Committee is offering the UUSC "Guest at Your Table" in our congregation. By participation we are helping nurture a spirit of gratitude and justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. Helping us foster an understanding and awareness of UUSC's human-rights work.

"Guest at Your Table" is an annual tradition in which CUUC members take home a box featuring people that UUSC has worked with recently. These people are your 'guests', and you and your family are asked to share your blessings with them over the holiday. As is our practice we begin the "Guest at Your Table" celebration on the **Sunday before Thanksgiving, November 20, 2011.**

*Martin J Blue-Norton, Director of Religious Education*

## **Officers**

Sarah Manning, President  
Maureen Flanigan, Vice President/Secretary  
Loraine Kreznar, Treasurer

## **Trustees**

Mardi Stone  
Thom Hayes  
Tara Nelson

## **Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church Staff**

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)