



## **Sunday Programs**

### **October 2 Association Sunday “Ministry”**

#### **Rev. Mary Wellemeyer and the CUUC Board of Trustees**

Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church is part of a larger movement, with congregations around the world, though mostly in the United States. This is our annual celebration of that relationship, this year focused on developing effective ministry in the 21st century.

### **October 9 “A Different Conquistador” Rev. Mary Wellemeyer**

This Columbus Day weekend we celebrate the journey of a different conquistador, Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca, who lived for eight years with the indigenous people of what is now Texas and Mexico and came to appreciate their culture. The experience changed his mind about the people he met, but he could not change the mind of his king.

### **October 16 "The Seven Principles of Jazz" Lost Soul**

“Jazz is a music of healing and love. Playing jazz means learning to respect individuality. Jazz is earth music.” The sentiments of these words and others spoken by Wynton Marsalis, renowned contemporary trumpeter and jazz historian, bear a striking similarity to the UU principles. The jazz combo, Lost Soul, will illustrate the parallels in this classic service that they have performed in Front Range UU churches numerous times over the last decade. Put on your toe-tappin’ shoes and join us for a rousing, but spiritual, time.

### **October 23 All Heretics Day “Remembering Servetus” Rev. Mary Wellemeyer**

Our Unitarian martyr, Michael Servetus, was born in 1511, so this would be a year for special remembrance, his 500th birthday. One of our lonely scholar-heroes, he stood by his conviction that Christ was not the same as God even as the Inquisition condemned him and inspired a movement toward religious liberty.

### **October 30 “Dia de los Muertos” Rev. Mary Wellemeyer and Dory Pinkham**

The ancient tradition of Mexico returns and captures our imagination for the annual Day of the Dead observance at CUUC. Día de los Muertos mixes celebration and mourning: affirming life and giving us a chance to share our grief. We will once again be decorating the altar to honor and celebrate the lives of those we want to remember. Please do bring photos and other memorabilia of your departed loved ones for the altar, as we share our memories of those who have gone before us.

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

Coffee & Conversation Served After Service

**ALL ARE WELCOME!!**

## **From the President**

Dear Friends,

When a minister is new to a congregation, the District Executive of the Mountain Desert District, Nancy Bowen holds a “start-up” meeting. It is a conversation among leadership and minister on the congregation’s learnings and experiences from its prior ministers, and reflections on its strengths and accomplishment. The purpose is to build a healthy and productive partnership between lay leadership and the new minister.

We had our start-up a few weeks ago and what emerged is that Columbine is a viable, caring congregation that can and has acted boldly in following our mission. And, we are understandably not totally sure what this interim ministry will be like.

One approach is to look at this interim period with Mary as an experiment in doing church. We have this chance to explore new ways of doing worship, or being together, or how we may organize our church. The goal is not to do things differently, but to give us experiences that can refresh our eyes and give us additional perspectives or insights about what is important to us.

So let us suspend judgment on results for a while, let us live with newness for a while. Let us relish in this as a time where all things are possible. Let us be gentle with ourselves in this newness. Let us be transparent and let us converse in safety and honesty and trust. We will learn whatever it is that we are going to learn in the context of what we already know and what serves us well. Our congregation will emerge a fresh and vibrant church self-aware and open in our faith and a source of strength in our community.

Let us begin in joy,

*Sarah Manning, President*



## **Do you know about the Board of Trustees?**

The **Board of Trustees** meets on the 2nd Thursday of every month from 6:30 to 8:30pm in the community room and members are welcome to attend. Please contact a member of the Executive Committee (Sarah Manning, Maureen Flanigan or Loraine Kreznar) if you have something you want to bring up about church life.

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

There's a chill in the air. I'm thinking about flannel sheets, though I'm not quite there yet. Sometime this month, I'll take my skis to be tuned, even as I doubt I'll use them till December. I'm sure you have tasks that signal the coming of fall. But it's also important to notice that there is at this season a task that is not what we usually call a task, for October is a month of remembering. The days are shorter. The wheel turns. Memories rise to the surface.

Our theme for the month is "We Remember." In terms of our six sources, remembering is especially associated with the Jewish spirit, though it is important in other traditions as well. In Earth-based spirituality, October is the month when the veil between the worlds is said to be thin, when the spirits of ancestors can be reached directly to seek their wisdom. Religious congregations are communities of memory and hope, weaving wisdom of the past with the experience of now into ways to move forward to a better future. So may it be for us.

My question for the month is, "What do you cherish about the religion of your growing-up years?" 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. I want to know!

Starting October 2, there will be a significant change in your order of Sunday worship. We'll alternate saying your traditional "Affirmation" with saying the Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church Covenant, one on one Sunday, the other the next. Both these documents represent your covenant with one another about how you will walk together as a religious community, though expressed in different ways. The one is your adaptation of an historical covenant used widely by Universalists in the early twentieth century, so it represents our deep roots as well as their evolution into the present. The other embodies the reflections and conversations of this very community in very recent time.

Please do notice that neither the Affirmation nor the Covenant is a statement of belief. There is no requirement that you "believe in" anything in order to walk with this congregation. But there are guidelines for behavior and attitudes in these statements, words we do well to heed as we undertake the challenging and rewarding task of being on our individual spiritual journeys together. 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

This church has always made a difference by helping others, especially during the holidays. One way we have done is by supporting the programs of Inter-Faith Community Services for the past 16 years.

Thanksgiving is a time to be with family and friends and to share the joys and sorrows of the past year. We share our blessings, and then enjoy a lovely dinner and probably a football game. But in the midst of savoring our good fortunes, do we give thought to the millions of people who don't have much to be thankful for – the homeless, the hungry, the ill – all victims of poverty in its many faces.

A large food basket will warm the hearts of those who receive one. This year Inter-Faith will be distributing 800 of them to struggling families and seniors. 800! We can help with this fine effort by donating "Turkey Bucks" checks which will be spent to buy the food needed so that every basket can have its full amount. For many years we were called "The Stuffing Church", one year collecting 350 boxes of stuffing. Why don't we do that again this year, cresting pyramids of boxes of stuffing, and see if we can reach 700?

Taking part in Turkey Bucks is guaranteed to put a warm glow in your heart and make that turkey taste even better.

On to Christmas, a holiday which started with a baby born in a manger and has turned into a bloated commercial extravaganza. "Share the Christmas spirit" we hear, knowing it means spend, spend, whether we can afford it or not.

Inter-Faith gives us a way out of all this madness. To celebrate the joy of Christmas they ask that people put Christmas into the homes of families that would otherwise have none.

We can do this by sponsoring a family, buying two gifts for each child and grocery certificates for the homemaker. Large families cost more than smaller ones, and people often band together and choose a family size. Just imagine a young child waking up on Christmas morning and finding out that there was no gift, Santa had never come.

Friends, that is a preview of the holiday season, CUUC style. Most of you will have limits on what you can spend, so please plan ahead and do what you can. And may the true spirit of the holidays be yours.

*Frances Blizzard, JustACT*

## **Justice Action Team (JustACT) and CUUC Volunteers Support Project Angel Heart**

Project Angel Heart is a local charity that CUUC has supported for a number of years. The Project provides nutritious meals weekly to a large number of clients dealing with chronic, acute and terminal illnesses.

Here is what one of our volunteers says about supporting Project Angel Heart:

“Every Saturday at 12.30 p.m. volunteer drivers from CUUC arrive at the Gables Church on Wadsworth Blvd. to pick up the meals for the clients on our delivery route. There are usually about 6 drivers there every week, and we quickly unload all the bags from the van and sort them into the correct routes. Each driver loads up the bags, collects a map and address information and then sets off to deliver the meals. It usually takes between 2 and 3 hours depending on the number of clients on his or her route.

Clients cover every age and circumstance. I have delivered to trailer parks, tiny studio apartments and large homes with expansive views of the foothills. All these people have at least one thing in common – a need for nutritious meals. There are 7 active drivers at CUUC and several of them take their children to help deliver. I like the fact that we are directly impacting people in our local community and we have a well-defined task that has a beginning, middle and an end.”

JustACT is looking for more volunteer drivers for Project Angel Heart. *Brian Pendleton, JustACT*

---

## **Spiritual and Affinity Groups**

Do you know about all of the fun and interesting things we have going on? Check out one of the below groups:

**Choir** – Every Thursday, 7:30 to 9 pm in the Sanctuary

**Meditation** – Every Wednesday at 5:25-6 pm in the Lounge

**Book Club** – 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday at 7:30 pm in the Lounge

**Men’s Group** – 1st and 3rd Thursdays, 7-9 pm in the Community Room

**Women’s Circle** – 1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 7-8:45 pm in the Community Room

## Travels in Transylvania

In my summer travels, I was very fortunate to be able to spend three days in Kovend, Transylvania (Romania). The Unitarian Church of Kovend is the sister church of First Universalist Church, which is how I managed to make this connection.



*Unitarian Church of Kovend*

The minister, Szekely Miklos and his wife Ilona were wonderful hosts, and I stayed with them for three days. Ilona makes the best stuffed cabbage I've ever eaten! I attended their church service on the first Sunday in August, which is when they celebrate and honor their sister church relationship. Miklos seated me in a place of honor, and during the service, he switched from Hungarian to English, and told me about Hungarian Unitarian beliefs. I wish I could have recorded what he said, because it was one of the most beautiful descriptions of love and our connectedness to others and our earth that I have ever heard. Amy Rowland told me that on that same day, First Universalist was also celebrating their sister church relationship with the Unitarian Church of Kovend. Coincidence that I was there then? Who knows!! But I sure think our spirits crossed over those thousands of miles to connect us to each other!

Another interesting "coincidence" while I was there. I have a friend, Enika, whose father was a Unitarian minister in Transylvania. He died many years ago, and now Miklos' nephew is the minister at the same church where Enika's father served. I met him while I was there and Miklos met Enika when she visited last year! I had my picture taken with the statue of Enika's father outside that beautiful little village church. So interesting - the world seems to grow smaller every year!



How blessed I was to have time in Transylvania!

*Kathy Derrick, CUUC Member*

## **CUUC Book Club**

The Book Club will meet October 26 to discuss "Little Bee" by Chris Cleave. Here's an excerpt from a New York Times book review: The drowning of innocence and the anarchic consequences of the global reach are hardly confined to [the] Nigeria of yesteryear or to the colonial underbelly of Britain's "civilizing" mission. The story of globalization is a centuries-old account of historical interconnections shaped by exploitation, despair and, at times, moral conscience and optimism. Chris Cleave, a columnist for The Guardian, has written an immensely readable and moving second novel.

Members present at the meeting will select a book to discuss at the November meeting. The Book Club meets at 7:30 pm at the church on the fourth Wednesday of the month except for holiday adjustments. Due to Thanksgiving, the November meeting will be on the fifth Wednesday, November 30. You need not have read the book to participate and visitors are welcome.

*Wes Howe, Book Club*

## **UU Bible Class**

UU Bible Class is at 6:00 pm on Sunday evenings from Oct 2 through Nov 20. For more information, go to [http://columbineuuchurch.org/education\\_adult.html](http://columbineuuchurch.org/education_adult.html).

Please sign up by Sept 23, if you want us to order a book for you or arrange child care. Dropins are welcome, but please let Rev. Mary know in advance. Great ammunition to use in conversations with those folks at work and soccer who spout off about what the bible says!



## **CUUC Annual Auction**

Our Auction will be November 12th. We need your help!!

- *Get donations from businesses.*
- *Donate items, parties, activities.*
- *And remember to mark your calendars.*

This auction is our annual fundraiser. We need you. For more information contact any member of the Auction Planning Committee: Bee Adams, Pauline Hopkins, Judy Kary, John Kary, Kathy Derrick, Loraine Kreznar, George Eger, Brian Pendleton, Francha Menhard, Martin Blue Norton or Susan Stein.

*Susan Stein, Auction Coordinator*

## **Blue's Clues**

Fall has arrived! The colors are bursting all around us. The gardens have been harvested and canned or stored for the winter ahead. It also ushers in my favorite holiday, Halloween, the start of the holiday season. Halloween has become a holiday for all ages and is quickly spreading across the globe. This holiday also allows me to participate in an event that is close to my heart - Trick or Treat for UNICEF.

“For more than 60 years, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has served as the Original Kids Helping Kids campaign. In 1950’s, children across America were inspired to collect coins for UNICEF to aid children abroad enduring the after-effects of World War II. It was not just a charity effort—it was a call to end the needless suffering of their more vulnerable peers around the globe. Since then, for generations of Americans, Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF has been a powerful way to make a difference in the lives of the world’s children.”

Because UNICEF addresses the rights and welfare of children, which emphasize the first and second UU Principles (the inherent worth and dignity of every person and justice, equity and compassion in human relations) this event will give our children a chance to help other children who don’t have access to the resources and opportunities that we do.

Today, this mission of helping children around the globe and especially now in Somalia, is as urgent as ever. So I invite all of the children, youth, and the young at heart to don a costume and join me on a walk of the Columbine neighborhood on Saturday, October 29. We will meet at the church at 10:00 am then walk the CUUC neighborhood for one hour, returning for refreshment. Hope you can join us. *Martin J Blue-Norton, Director of Religious Education*

---

## **Curious about CUUC Committees**

Do you know about all of CUUC’s committees? Curious as to how you can help out? You are welcome to attend a meeting and find out! Here’s the scoop:

**Facilities** – contact John Kary

**Finance** – 3rd Wednesday of the month, 7-9 pm in the Community Room

**JustACT** (Justice Action Coordinating Team) – 1st Wednesday of the month, 6-7:30 pm in the Lounge

**Membership** – 4th Sunday of the month, 12:15-1:45 pm in the Community Room

**Welcoming Congregation** – 2nd Sunday of the month, 12:15-1:15 pm in the Community Room

**Worship** – contact Dory Pinkham

**Youth Religious Education** – 3rd Wednesday of the month, 6 pm - contact Martin Blue-Norton

## **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.

## **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)

---

**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](mailto:cuuc@columbineuuchurch.org). Articles adhering to CUUC's Communication Policy may be submitted to [newsletter@columbineuuchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@columbineuuchurch.org). The Communication Policy is available at [www.columbineuuchurch.org](http://www.columbineuuchurch.org). Deadlines for submissions for upcoming issues are midnight on October 19, November 16, and December 14. The board holds final authority to approve all submissions and all submissions become the property of Columbine UU Church.



Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church  
6724 S. Webster Street  
Littleton, CO 80128  
303-972-1716  
[www.columbineuuchurch.org](http://www.columbineuuchurch.org)