



## Sunday Programs

### **September 4 “We Are Family!”**

**Martin Blue-Norton**

Celebrating all families and affirming those relationships is an important Unitarian Universalist first principle. We will use the 2010 Census, to explore family diversity and the different ways to define a family. The PEW Center conducted a survey on how our family units are changing across America and this will help us probe what we as Unitarian Universalists can do to advance full social and legal equality on behalf of the approximately one million lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender families raising two million children.

### **September 11 “Gathering the Waters”**

**Rev. Mary Wellemeyer**

The annual intergenerational water ceremony is a high point of the season of returning from summer travels or staycations, making the transition back to the regular routine of work and school. Please do bring that little container of water you brought from wherever! Or, if you forgot to collect it, remember that all water is connected, and that your tap (or the one at church) can supply water that can stand in for water from somewhere else.

### **September 18 “Welcome Home!”**

**Rev. Mary Wellemeyer**

This day we mark our new beginnings with recognition of teachers for the Religious Education program and a ceremonial welcome of our interim minister, the Rev. Mary Wellemeyer. Today's service will begin with a procession from outside the building, so come prepared for something a little different!

### **September 25 “Bullying”**

**Welcoming Congregation Committee**

Young GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender) people and others who may be “different” are at increased risk for bullying, teasing, harassment, physical assault, and suicide-related behaviors. The Welcoming Congregation Committee will provide insight into how this shows up in our community, the impacts, and what we can do to help in our community. Everyone is invited to stay after the service for a special Forum: a short film (38 Min.) “Bullying” will be shown and discussion will follow.

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

Coffee & Conversation Served After Service

ALL ARE WELCOME!!

## **From the President**

Dear Friends and Members,

As do many UU churches, CUUC follows a time honored tradition of the church year going from September through June – even though our fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. So September is the month we begin again, welcoming adults and kids back from summer activities, welcoming our choir and religious education teachers, welcoming us all to our religious home where we can follow our own spiritual paths together. May we find renewal and transformation for ourselves and for the larger community by seeking to live lives of integrity, service, and love; for this is our mission.

It is wonderful to have Rev. Mary with us as we start this church year. While Mary has been easing her way into our congregational life and meeting many of us after services and in meetings, we will formally welcome Rev. Mary as our Interim Minister on September 18th. After worship on the 18th you are invited to share a lunch and join in a special congregational gathering which will give you a preview of our two years of interim ministry and will answer so many of your questions about our upcoming process of selecting our next, called, minister. Please reserve Sunday, September 18 for this important ceremony and gathering.

I'd like to specially welcome Matt Frisk, our Choir Director. He served as Acting Choir Director last winter, and this summer he became the unanimous choice of the Search Committee for this ongoing position. Please also welcome Ron Ivins as our choir accompanist this year; he is familiar to us through the preludes and offering music he's played during services. The choir is thrilled and we all look forward to the music they, together with Matt and Ron, will create. MJ Erickson-Eger will be missed however! She does not want a fuss about her resignation as accompanist, but she is taking her music in a new direction and wants to focus her time and energy there. I hope we will have opportunities to hear her in the future.

Being part of our religious community, and honoring the teachings of our faith, gives us opportunities for spiritual growth that are not available to us in any other realm of life. As we explore how we can hold each other in love and as we work for a world reflective of our values, you will find here support and fertile ground for your gifts of time, treasure, and talent. Welcome, again, to Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church.

*Sarah Manning, President*

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

Summer's End finds this congregation facing an array of changes. It is natural to be looking to the past and turning over every stone. Maybe it is someone's fault that things are so different now than they were last year. Whose? Why can't things just go on as they had been? If you found out why, maybe you could put them back... Let me encourage you to turn your thoughts from these paths. Things are the way they are, and in this season of changes, it is time to move forward. Not time to forget about the past, but time to put the past to good use in building your new future. There will be many opportunities for conversation, and I hope all of you will join in.

**Theme of the Month: Spirit of Community.** The worship committee told me you were accustomed to having a certain UU-related theme each month, so I have identified themes for each month. In September, it's Spirit of Community, based on Principle #3, "Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations." (I'm afraid the rest of them are based on our six Sources, which may be somewhat less familiar).

I also had the idea that I could ask you a question each month, in hopes that you would answer, and I could get to know you better, maybe with permission use the answers in sermons and other parts of my work. So my question for you this month is this:

**How do you get through big changes in your life?**

(I have a special, large-size Raggedy Ann doll that helps a lot...)

Write to me: [minister@columbineuuchurch.org](mailto:minister@columbineuuchurch.org). Or, put words on paper and mail them or drop them off at church.

**You are invited to find out more about the interim time after church on September 18.** We'll review the five tasks for the congregation, which oddly enough do not include searching for a new minister, and we'll go over the outline of the search process. The search has a schedule of its own, which involves getting congregational input at the beginning, and then goes dark when they start considering individuals for your ministry. At the very end, the congregation gets involved again. We'll get a general idea of the outline of both "channels" of work.

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

Over the Top!!! It was our best year ever for the support you gave to Ready, Set, School.

Fourteen children will be returning to school in fine shape and ready to have a good year, all thanks to you (see photo). Many people who thought it was a great program but didn't want to do any shopping contributed money -- \$850!

All wonderful, but not surprising -- you do this every year.

In all the excitement about the children it's important to remember the needs that are present twelve months a year. The economy has so far not improved and things are tighter for families that are at the bottom of the salary scale. It is important that you continue bringing food and good used clothing to our community baskets.

Inter-Faith is the lifeline for many people who count on it to help them survive, and I am proud of the continuing support that CUUC gives to this great organization.



## CUUC Tutors Going into Action at Two Schools

In its 8th year, the CUUC Tutoring program, supported by the CUUC Justice Action Coordinating Team (JustACT), continues to grow in number and effectiveness. Sixteen volunteer Tutors, along with several more volunteer substitutes, will be swinging into action in the latter part of August at Ft. Logan Intermediate School and Dutch Creek Elementary School.

Tutors will support teachers in the classrooms for at least two hours each week, helping with reading and writing skill development, arithmetic, and other projects desired by the teachers.

The Tutoring program does not require that volunteers have a teaching background, and the majority of our Tutors do not. Additional volunteers are welcome in the Tutoring Program.

Here are some thoughts from one of our volunteers:

“I am one of the tutors in the CUUC Tutoring Program, working with the students at Dutch Creek Elementary School. This past school year I worked primarily with one teacher and her 4th grade students, tutoring a group of 3 – 8 students once a week. The students were a delight to work with and were enthusiastic about their reading. In the process of tutoring them I learned about the migratory paths of birds, the Southwest Indians and even a bit about dinosaurs. In addition to the reading, I was able to help with computer projects and several reports, including a persuasive letter to the President of the United States to convince him that turkeys should be saved and not eaten on Thanksgiving Day. The children were always excited about seeing me arrive, waving and smiling the moment they saw me each week. I can't think of a better way to volunteer my time than working with the children that will be in our future world.”

*Brian Pendleton, JustACT*

## **An Evening with Rev. Mark Kiyimba**

We are all invited to share in An Evening with Rev. Mark Kiyimba at First Universalist on Friday, September 2nd from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. The evening will feature conversation and refreshments, a presentation by Rev. Kiyimba, and opportunities for discussion.

Testimony from Rev. Jeannie Shero: "Uganda's struggle for LGBTQ equality is close to my heart. As many of you know, my brother is a 13-year Christian missionary in Uganda, representing a conservative denomination that is openly anti-gay. I met Rev. Kiyimba at General Assembly and had the opportunity to visit with him about the issues and struggles in Uganda. He is thoughtful, caring, and funny. This evening will be well worth your time. Again, please consider attending this event in support of Ugandans, Unitarian Universalists in Uganda, and Rev. Kiyimba."

Testimony from Rev. Mary: "I have known Rev. Mark off and on for about six years, through the International Council of Unitarians and Universalists (ICUU) and General Assembly. He is a dedicated spiritual leader who has truly caught the spirit of Unitarian Universalism and translated it for his country. Doing that led him directly into danger, since his church has openly advocated full equal rights for LGBT people there. He is an engaging speaker with a compelling story."

If you want to car pool, please contact either Bob Moser or Rev. Mary.

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## **CUUC Book Club**

The Book Club will meet September 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss "Olive Kitteridge" by Elizabeth Strout. This collection of short stories published in 2008 consists of thirteen connected stories about a woman and her immediate family and friends in the coastal town of Crosby, Maine. The book is also known as "On the Coast of Maine" and won a Pulitzer Prize for fiction. At times stern, at other times patient, at times perceptive, at other times in sad denial, Olive Kitteridge, a retired schoolteacher, deplors the changes in her little town of Crosby, Maine, and in the world at large, but she doesn't always recognize the changes in those around her.

The group will select a book to discuss in November.

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*

## **CUUC Annual Auction**

Our annual auction is Saturday November 12<sup>th</sup>. Save the Date! Overheard at last year's auction:

"I haven't had this much fun in years!"  
"I love supporting CUUC through my auction purchases!"  
"Did you see that necklace in the Silent Auction room? OMG, you need to check it out!"  
"Oy vey, I spent too much money. But CUUC is worth it!"

*Susan Stein, Auction Coordinator*

## **Forum on Bullying**

The Welcoming Congregation Committee will present a forum on bullying and its effect on young people at 12:15 pm on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. We will present a short film, followed by discussion. Snacks and childcare will be provided. Please join us!

*Bob Moser, Welcoming Congregation*

## **Official Notice of Special Congregational Meeting**

Sunday, September 18, 2011 at 12:15pm

A Special Congregational Meeting will be held on September 18 for the express purpose of electing a member to the Leadership Search Committee (LSC). Joan Bradt and Sue Dressel are the current members of the LSC; the third member, Hilary Hansel, has moved to Texas causing a vacancy. The bylaws state that whenever there is a vacancy in the LSC, "that vacancy shall be filled within 60 days by election at a regular Congregational Meeting or a Special Congregational Meeting called for that purpose." This election will be the only business conducted at that meeting and the congregational gathering will follow immediately after the election.

The LSC's main function is to solicit and submit a slate of eligible candidates for election to the Board of Trustees, to the Committee on Ministry, and to the LSC. The LSC also "shall seek out and encourage Members and Friends of the Congregation to serve on the various standing committees that perform actions necessary for the normal functioning and operation of the church." (A standing committee is one whose members are not elected by the congregation; such as Worship, RE, Membership, JustACT, etc.) The vacant position on the LSC is for two years until June 30, 2013. The LSC performs much of its work in two to four months each year and is less busy during the rest of the year. If you are interested in serving on the LSC, please speak with Joan or Sue as soon as possible.

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### **CUUC Sponsors Amy Rowland**

Our past president, Amy Rowland is well into her training to become a UU minister. She is in her third year at Iliff School of Theology and is currently interning at First Universalist Church of Denver. One of the steps in becoming a UU minister is for a candidate to enter into a formal relationship with a congregation called a sponsorship. Amy, because CUUC is her home congregation, has asked that we sponsor her candidacy. As Amy put it, "the members of Columbine are most familiar with who I am, my commitment to Unitarian Universalism, and my suitability for ministry. For these reasons, along with my affection and gratitude to this congregation for the role it has played in my ministerial formation to this point, I am requesting that Columbine sponsor my continued pursuit of ministerial fellowship."

CUUC has not sponsored a ministerial candidate before, so the congregation at our Congregational Meeting last May created the process for us to do so: "recogniz(ing) the value of sponsoring ministerial candidates and so authorizes the board in conjunction with the minister to approve sponsorship of qualified candidates for ministry." The board enthusiastically voted to sponsor Amy on August 17.

Sponsorship can take many forms – in our case we'll stay in touch with Amy and she'll keep us informed of her progress. So, while we might see her infrequently, Amy will remain part of our community and she will carry our good will with her as she continues on her path to ministry.

*Sarah Manning, President*

## **Blue's Clues**

Welcome back! I hope you had a good time during your many travels this summer. I also hope you took some time to gather water samples during your wonderings. I am looking forward to our Water Ceremony Service on Sunday September 11 where we begin our church year with a special service of Ingathering, which will include the Unitarian Universalist tradition of the Water Ceremony. During the service each person brings their water forward and pours it into a large glass bowl, which represents our church community.

The 2011/2012 YRE program year begins on Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup> with a dedication ceremony for our teachers after which the children will be sung to class. There is still time if you have interest in helping us teach the children this year; please call me or email me at [columbinedlre@gmail.com](mailto:columbinedlre@gmail.com) and we will work with your schedule. Our lessons this year come from the UUA's Tapestry of Faith Program and will help the children see Social Justice through a Unitarian Universalist lens.

The Tapestry of Faith is a new series of programs and resources for all ages that nurture Unitarian Universalist identity, spiritual growth, a transforming faith, and vital communities of justice and love. The following is the curriculum description and grade levels we have selected for our 2011/2012 YRE program year.

Wonderful Welcome, for our pre-K through 2nd Graders, was written by Aisha Hauser and Susan Lawrence. 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, was written by Michelle Richards and Rev. Lynn Ungar and celebrates important ways Unitarian Universalists live our faith in covenanted community. Moved by love and gathered in spirit, we embrace our responsibility toward one another and the world at large. We encourage one another's search for truth and meaning. We strive to be active in peace-making and other efforts to improve our world.

Amazing Grace: Exploring Right and Wrong, for our 6th and 7th Grades, was written by Richard Kimball and intends to help sixth and seventh graders understand right and wrong and act on their new understanding. Its purpose is to equip them for moving safely and productively through the middle- and high school years, when they will be continually tugged toward both ends of the ethics continuum. Through their involvement in Amazing Grace, youth will come to recognize and depend on their Unitarian Universalist identity and resources as essential to their movement toward understanding, independence, and fulfillment of personal promise.

On a final note, I have set my office hours for this year. I will be at CUUC on Thursdays from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm and by appointment any other day of the week. Feel free to drop in and say 'Howdy!'

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

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## **Columbine Unitarian Universalist Church Staff**

Rev. Mary Wellemeyer, 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 Manager      [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)