Community UCC
2650 Table Mesa Drive
Boulder CO 80305
303-499-9119
www.cuccboulder.org

Worship and Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Pete Terpenning, Minister
An Open and Affirming Congregation

JUNE 2006

The ECHO

CHURCH GARAGE SALE AUGUST 12, 2006:

Another chance to simplify your lives! Start collecting those things you need to get rid of....clean out the basement and garage and bring the "stuff" to our church garage sale. We will be setting up all day on Friday, August 11th, but if you need to drop things off sooner that week, we can store things for a short period. For questions, contact our fearless leader, Kris Zbranek!

Early Garage Sale items are available from Pete and Laura Terpenning: a large home entertainment center, light colored wood (light oak or popular) and a Queen Anne style Lazy Boy Chair. Call Pete or Laura at home, 303-554-9331. Proceeds go to the garage sale!

SUMMER POTLUCKS:

We will continue the tradition of Sunday Potlucks on the first Sunday of the month through the summer and beyond! On June 4th, the day we honor our children and youth and celebrate Pentecost, there will be a potluck after church with the focus on youth. In July, the potluck will be on July 2 and then on August 6th.

We are also planning a summer Barbeque on August 12th. This is the Saturday of the Garage Sale, and we thought it would be fun to have a cook out with yard games to feed our loyal garage sale workers. It is a good exuse for a party!

CONGRATULATIONS HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES!:

A number of our youth are finishing High School this year and they will be honored at our worship service on June 4th!
They are Paul Eppinger (Nederland), Jennifer Martin (Fairview), Gillian Warren (New Vista), Julia Uhr (New Vista) and Reid Eakins (Centaurus).

ICE CREAM SOCIAL:

Mark your calendars for a traditional, old fashioned Ice Cream Social on September 17th, Sunday evening at around 5:30. There will be homemade Ice Cream being made, a traditional Cake Walk and other deserts!

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING JUNE 11TH:

The date has been set for the Semi-Annual Meeting. Traditionally this meeting has been held in June. The last few years we have met on the Fourth Sunday, but we are moving it up for two reasons. Primarily, we are interested in getting the best attendance possible at this meeting and as the summer moves on this gets harder and harder. Quorums for congregational meetings are now 48 people.

Second, we wanted it to be on a date when the youth could attend, and on the fourth Sunday of June this year, seven of our senior high youth will be attending the Western Regional Youth Event.

At the Semi Annual Meeting, Commissions present reports on how the year is going, there will be a budget report on the year thus far, and any special actions that need to be reviewed.

Pete's Letter

Consensus Decision Making

In the 16th and 17th Centuries, Separatists were rebelling within the Church of England as part of the Protestant Reformation. Unlike the Puritans, who hoped to "Purify" the Church of England, the Separatists saw no hope of this and wanted to separate and start over. Prominent among the Separatists were groups that came to be name Congregationalists like the Pilgrims who left and came to America, and the Society of Friends, known as Quakers, and Baptists like Roger Williams who went on to form the American Baptist Church. Both groups believed in making decisions in a democratic way, voting on things such as leadership and the ownership and building of churches. The Congregationalist as they came to form in New England followed the Democratic system that we still use in our churches today, voting at Annual Meetings, electing Ministers, deciding on budgets and other decisions about the life of the community. Most historians agree that the Democratic practices of the New England Congregationalist (and later the Unitarians who split off) was instrumental in helping form the Democratic vision of the United States of America.

The Quakers, however, and some of the Separatists believed that the Democratic method seeking a majority was not enough. They felt that decisions should be by "consensus". That means that you gather the community and seek full agreement from everyone in that community before you take an action. Buying a piece of land, for example, would not be done until everyone agreed. Most Quaker Meetings still function by Consensus. Consensus is a lengthy and ponderous way to conduct business, but it works. Consensus takes longer, but in the end it leads to group solidarity and, many believe, better decisions! Like a jury, a consensus of a group must be reached or not action taken.

At our Special Congregational Meeting last week, we met to discuss the issue of the purchase and placement of Solar Panels for our church. In some ways, this meeting was a classic experience of consensus finding. We didn't start out that way, and our polity (church government method) does not require that we reach a consensus, we seek only a majority. However, by the end, we did reach a consensus, with all agreeing to one course of action, and spontaneous applause broke out. There was an extremely positive feeling in the group that we had hashed through the difficult issues, raised the points of contention, heard emotional pleas for one action or another, endured the tension and stress of disagreement, but finally worked our way around to a decision we could all live with. We didn't start out to get consensus, but there was enormous relief and power in the fact that we eventually did. Such a process can be painful, and relies on the courage of individuals to speak their minds and raise the conflictual points of view, but in the end, it can result in the best decision being reached.

I rejoiced at the end of the meeting, not only for a positive action, but for the fact that I am part of a church and a denomination that has clung tenaciously to the democratic method and still makes it's decisions in this way. It is not efficient. It is not always very comfortable and can at times be downright conflictual (as they say, there's not fight like a church fight), but it works and empowers each person, members with votes, and even non-members who have voice but no vote. As pastor, I sit down like everyone else and have one vote. I love that. I loved the meeting. It reminded me why I joined the United Church of Christ in the first place!

The meeting came to a consensus to go ahead with the plan presented by the Earth Action Team to purchase solar photovoltaic panels, gave the Council the strongest possible directive to get the panels placed on the hill behind the church, but decided if that becomes impossible, to empower the Council to go ahead and place the panels in the front yard, and design the panel configuration to be as attractive as possible.

The democratic method is messy, lengthy, painful at times and difficult. Reaching consensus is even harder, more messy and more painful. But in both methods, it is worth it. The unity and wholeness it brings to a community then spreads to all aspects of the congregation and is a witness to the larger community.

Pete

ECHO DEADLINE:

The deadline for the July 2006 edition of the CUCC newsletter, *The Echo*, is Sunday, June 25, 2006 Please get articles to Susan Carter Ruskell (NEW OFFICIAL EMAIL ADDRESS: newsletter@cuccboulder.org) no later than 3 p.m. that day. Early submissions are appreciated. PLEASE NOTE: This is the last newsletter until late August!!! Get those summer dates in!!!!!

DO YOU HAVE A COUPLE OF HOURS ONCE A MONTH?:

The CUCC office is looking for a few people who would be willing to take on the task of folding, placing mailing labels and sorting the Echo each month. It would take about 2 hours for 2 or 3 people on the first Thursday or Friday of each month,. Linda or Sue would give you a training session. The job is not difficult. Please call the office if you are interested. Thanks.

BULLETIN INFORMATION:

Please get bulletin announcements to Sue Hagadorn and/or Linda Krumpeck. E-mail is preferred: office@cuccboulder.org or call the church office (please have announcements written out before calling) 303-499-9119.

COMMUNITY UCC:

Minister: Rev. Pete Terpenning
Administrative Assistants: Sue Hagedorn & Linda Krumpeck
C.E. Coordinator: Karen Sterner-Howe
Moderator: Frank Ciskovsky
Narrator: Vicki Tonski
Scribe: Jayson Webb
Treasurer: Carl Love & Kathy Rudge
Financial Secretary: John & Vicky Graham

WESTERN REGIONAL YOUTH EVENT:

As one of the first activities of our newly formed Youth Ministry Team (steering committee for the Youth Group), we decided to send some youth delegates to the Western Regional (9 state) Youth Event that is being held in Colorado Spirngs this year. Seven of our youth are attending this June 22-25 along with Pete Terpenning as Chaperone. Pete is presenting one of the workshops at the event on Eco-Justice).

Traveling to the WRYE will be Shannon Leftwich, Betsy Keith, Sami Levy, Alena Heath, Rose Keith, Becca Terpenning and Julia Hansford.

THANK YOU!:

June 4th, 2006 is the last day of work for two members of our staff: Karen Sterner Howe and Lynda Freund.

Karen is resigning as our Christian Education Director and Lynda has finished her year as a Student Intern from Illif! We will honoring both these hardworking women at the worship service on May 28th! (June 4th just seemed like too busy a day since it is the Sunday School Honors Day).

Karen is leaving for personal reasons and holds no ill will toward our church, in fact, she will not be changing her membership and is looking forward to getting to attend Church services again (instead of working in the Sunday School). We have been very lucky to have Karen and will miss her. The CE Commission is beginning the process of finding her replacement!

Lynda has been an important addition to our staff this year: teaching and leading Confirmation, helping found the Caring Ministry Program, Preaching, Visiting, working with the Youth Ministry Team, meeting with Pete weekly and generally working very hard for the church, along with holding down her job as a nurse with Hospice and attending Iliff School of Theology.

LIVING THE QUESTIONS: .

Last Fall a group of us studied Scripture and Christian History using an excellent series called "Living the Questions". This 12 week course features videos interviewing such scholars as Marcus Borg, John Cobb, Tex Sample and Bishop Spong. It was such a worthwhile series that I have decided to present it again this coming Fall! We will start in September and study it for 12 weeks again. There will also be some other adult education options this fall, as well if you have already studied Living the Questions, though you would naturally be welcome to repeat it if you like!

I haven't set the day for it yet, and I would like to hear from you if you are interested in taking the class, so I could set a time that was best for the most number of people. But tentatively I would think it would be offered on Tuesday evenings for 12 weeks finishing around Thanksgiving.

I particularly recommend this series for folks who are new to the United Church of Christ or our church, or who want an introductory class. (This is sort of a Progressive Christianity 101 class)

WOMEN'S GROUP:

Hello to all the Women of the CUCC and Happy Summer!!!! If you are finding your busy schedules relaxing up a little bit during the summer, please put it on your calendar to come check out the Women's Group. We meet the first and third Wednesday's of every month always at the church and always from 7-9pm. Our summer schedule is shaping up to include:

Tues, June 6th – Extra Field Trip to the Boulder Book Store to check out our celebrity, Elizabeth Wrenn as she unveils her new book.

Wed, June 7th – Potluck Dinner with meditation led by Marilyn Zimmerman

Wed, June 21st – Solstice Celebration led by Lisa Radelet

Wed, July 5th – Potluck Dinner with chanting led by Karen Kent-Pyle

Wed, July 19th – Hike up at NCAR for a night time group hug!!

Wed, Aug 2nd – Potluck Dinner with meditation led by ??

Wed, Aug 16th - "Harvesting our Summer Fruits" led by Karen Kent-Pyle

CARING MINISTRIES

We have begun a prayer ministry for members and friends of CUCC. Presently, there are seven prayer partners on the prayer ministry team. Prayer requests are confidential and are prayed for actively and intentionally every day. If you have a prayer request, please fill out a blue request card (found at the back of the church sanctuary) and give it to Pete or Anne Carson, prayer ministry coordinator. Give the name of the person being prayed for, what the situation is and what is asked for in prayer (strength, wisdom, peace, etc.) You may also phone CUCC and leave a message for Pete or call Anne at 303-449-7330.

If you wish to become a prayer partner, please contact Anne. She will send you information and a contract to return, verifying your commitment to active, intentional daily prayers and confidentiality for each prayer request.

UNITED CHURCH NEWS:

Every two months the United Church of Christ, national church, publishes a newspaper. It has news and events from around the UCC and the nation and is a good way to stay informed and feel connected to the United Church of Christ. Each issue also includes a Rocky Mountain Conference local insert with news and articles from our region. The last issue of the UCC News featured an article by Cathy Russell (of our church) about the Evolution Sunday that was celebrated at our church and around the nation.

We have an opportunity right now to have each member and friend of our congregation receive a free subscription to the UCC News! Therefore, we are sending in our mailing list so that each of you can receive this newspaper. If for some reason you would rather not receive the paper, either now or later, all you have to do is call the church office and we can cancel your subscription! I hope you enjoy receiving this paper!

June/July 2006

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thur*	*Fri*	*Sat*
4 **Last day of Sunday School** 10 a.m. worship **Potluck after church**	**5**	**6** **Elizabeth Wrenn's book unveiling at Boulder Book-store**	**7** **Women's Group 7-9 pm**	**8**	**9**	**10**
11 10 a.m. worship **Semi-annual meeting after worship**	**12**	**13**	**14**	**15** 6:30-8:30 p.m. Caring Ministry Meeting	**16**	**17**
18 **Happy Father's Day** 10 a.m. worship	**19**	**20**	**21** **Women's Group 7-9 pm**	**22** **Community Table** **3:30-5:30 pm**	**23**	**24**
				Western Regional Youth Event June 22-25		
25 **Echo Deadline** 10 a.m. worship	**26**	**27**	**28**	**29**	**30**	**July 1**
2 10 a.m. worship **Potluck after church**	**3**	**4**	**5** **Women's Group 7-9 pm**	**6**	**7**	**8**
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