Community UCC
2650 Table Mesa Drive
Boulder CO 80305
303-499-9119
http://bcn.boulder.co.us/community/religious/cucc

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

MARCH 2004

The ECHO

UMHE WORKTRIP 2004

UMHE (United Ministries in Higher Education) is pleased to announce that they are going to Minneapolis in May for their 2004 worktrip!

We will be working with the Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches through their Urban Immersion Service Retreat Program helping various organizations with such tasks as food and clothing distribution, shelter maintenance, youth programs, and much more! We are all very excited for this opportunity to challenge ourselves and help another community. In order to do so, we need your help!

We are holding a fundraising dinner for the worktrip on **SATURDAY APRIL 3rd** at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church from **7:00-9:00PM**. Come join us for fine French cuisine prepared by one of the highest-rated chefs in the Chicago area, Nico Derni! Singing entertainment by our talented students will also be provided, along with a slide show of our previous worktrips. And, to top it all off, we are holding a raffle to win a trip to France to spend a week in a condo in Cannes! You don't want to miss it!

Attention to all youth groups and families! We are also selling tickets to Elitch's Spring Spin season opening on **Sunday April 18th from 12pm-6pm.** Tickets are $18 each, a great deal for a day at Elitch's, and $5 from each ticket sale goes to help the worktrip!

For more information or to purchase tickets, please email Carrie at cahrens@umhe.org or call 303-443-3960, or visit our website at umhe.org. You can also send your donation to the worktrip to 1041 Grandview Avenue Boulder, CO 80302. Thank you so much for your support; we can't do it without you!

LOOK FOR US AT COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST ON SUNDAY MARCH 14TH TO PURCHASE TICKETS AND TO FIND OUT MORE!!

THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the congregational annual meeting in January. And an especially big thank you to all who accepted the challenge of serving as an officer, council representative, and/or on a commission. Our congregation could not accomplish anything without the assistance of many members and friends.

CUCC WEBSITE:

If you have not had a chance to do so, please take a moment to check out our newly redesigned website. Cathy Russell has recently taken over the job of webmaster and has put in some time updating it. Many thanks to Cathy and to Tim Brown, the previous webmaster (who got the site started for us).
http://bcn.boulder.co.us/community/religious/cucc

Pete's Letter: Transform Ourselves! The Realm of God is at Hand!

Lent is upon us once more and I find myself wondering how to observe it this year. I think the reality is that for many Christians Lent has become somewhat irrelevant for those who don't follow the old traditions of fasting and penance.

What should we do with Lent?

I understand that originally it was a time of preparation for people who were to be baptized on Easter. They fasted and prayed for the forty days prior to Easter just as Jesus fasted for forty days in the wilderness. The Lenten season equals forty days if you exclude Sundays. I guess they could rest from fasting on the Sabbath. From this tradition came the custom of fasting on Fridays and giving up something for Lent. Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday, also known as Marti Gras, was the day when people ate up all the meat and fat they had so it wouldn't go bad during the fast of Lent. Still today, many Christians abstain from meat on Fridays during Lent, attend church daily and give up some specific luxury, such as coffee, chocolate or alcohol.

I know of other people who "add on" things for Lent. Instead of the negative denial of pleasures, they add on positive disciplines such as exercise, prayer, church attendance, meditation, study, etc... I like this better, for I do think some kind of spiritual observance is helpful during Lent, and it is better to keep it positive.

John the Baptist and later, Jesus, came out of the wilderness preaching, "Repent, the realm of God is at hand". This word "repent" has been misused over the years. To often it is understood to mean, "feel guilty", "give up the thing you like to do and all your sinful actions", or "be sorry for you wrongdoing" - and "watch out for God is coming to judge you." Actually, the word repent in Greek is metanoia. This word doesn't mean "feel guilty". It means something closer to transform. The English word that comes from this Greek root is metamorphosis: the process by which a caterpillar becomes a butterfly, or a tadpole becomes a frog. I heard from Rabbi Deborah Bronstein that the Hebrew word from which the Greek and English words were translated, also means transformation. So what we are to do during Lent is not feel guilty and feel sorry for our wrongdoing and give things up. Rather, we are to work on transforming ourselves into people who are living more like Jesus called us to live. We are called to work our spiritual change; transformation.

"Transform ourselves, the Realm of God is a hand!" This is certainly more positive, but by no means any easier. If anything, it is harder than just feeling guilty and asking forgiveness for our wrongs. This implies positive, aggressive action to do something about our lives of faith; positive action to get more involved in justice action; positive action to serve the poor; positive action to be mindful each day and moment about the presence of God.

All this leads me back to my own struggle with how I will observe Lent. It sure sounds easier to just give up Chai Tea at the coffee house. That might be useful if the discipline leads me to remember a deeper spiritual truth, such as watching for the presence of God in people around me. But lest this sound too daunting and we give up on transformation completely we need to remember who is doing the transforming. When a tadpole makes its change it has very little to do with it. And though we must make the choice to seek transformation of our lives, it is not all up to us. We must practice the discipline, we open the book of meditations each day, we seek to serve others, we drive to Community Food Share to volunteer, but God meets us halfway. We can trust God to be working in our lives as we are working, co-creating the transformation.

So take heart, if we make a few small steps toward spiritual discipline this Lent we can trust that God will ultimately complete our transformation.

~Pete

ECHO INFORMATION:

The deadline for the **April 2004** Echo is Sunday, **March 21, 2004**. Please email articles to Susan Carter Ruskell no later than 3 p.m. that day.

GROCERY COUPONS:

If you have not purchased these coupons in the past, please consider doing so. You pay face value for the coupon (or gift card) and the church gets 2.5% of that face value for our budget. See Carl Love to purchase coupons for most of your favorite area grocery stores, including Safeway, King Soopers, Vitamin Cottage & Wild Oats!

BULLETIN INFORMATION:

Please get bulletin announcements to Tom and Karen Sterner/Howe by **5 p.m. on Wednesdays**. E-mail is preferred (karen5757@earthlink.net) or call (please have announcements written out before calling) 720-890-7217.

COPIES:

If you make copies for the Church at Kinkos, please note on the form what the order is for (bulletin, memorial service, etc.). This will make it much easier for our treasurer to charge the copies against the correct part of the

COMMUNITY UCC:

Minister: Rev. Pete Terpenning
C.E. Coordinator: Karen Sterner-Howe
Moderator: Sue Levy
Narrator: Cathy Russell
Scribe: Eric Hansford (until June)
Treasurer: Kathy Rudge
Financial Secretary: Kamilla Macar
Nominations: Vicky Graham

SPIRITUAL LIFE AND FELLOWSHIP:

GETTING TO KNOW EACH OTHER GATHERINGS
Between March 7 and March 14 you are invited to attend one of the gatherings held in a member's home. Some will be on Sundays and some will be during the week, and we hope there will be a time that is JUST RIGHT for you! The host/hostess provides the home and everyone brings a dish of food to share. This is a great Community UCC tradition, and one of the ways we get to know each other better and support one another. New members and new attendees are especially invited. If you have NOT been contacted, and would like to attend one of the gatherings, please call Linda Krumpeck at 303-665-8728.

JUBILATE SINGERS CONCERT:

The Jubilate Sacred Singers [who sang at Community UCC for worship on the 1st of February] are presenting their spring concert on **Friday, March 12, 7:30 pm**, at First Baptist Church, 1237 Pine in Boulder. The group sings a cappella sacred classical & contemporary music as well as spirituals. For this concert, David Harris & Chris Latta will conduct. It's an exciting concert and it's FREE!!

For more info, contact member, Marilyn Zimmerman, 303-494-4810 or the Jubilate! website: www.jubilatesacredsingers.org

HAPPY BIRTHDAY POTLUCK:

February, 29th (Leap Day) is an all church potluck to help Eileen Moore celebrate her birthday. All are welcome to stay after church, whether you bring a dish to pass or not! Plan to stay for lunch!

COUNCIL RETREAT:

Remember! Council Members! There will be a Council retreat at Sue Levy's home on Saturday, March 6th from 9-12 am!

CUCC CHOIR SPRING, 2004

February 22 Choir rehearsal 11:30 am
February 29 Choir rehearsal 11:30 am
March 07 Choir rehearsal 11:30 am
March 14 I Will Rejoice - Telemann 9:15 am Choir rehearsal 11:30 am
March 21 The Earth is Full of the Knowledge of God – Peter 9:15 am Choir rehearsal 11:30 am
March 28 He Prays Alone – Arr. Liebergen 9:15 am Choir rehearsal 11:30 am Gethsemane – Catherwood (Duet)
April 04 Now Sing We All Hosanna! – Besig 9:15 am Palm Sunday
April 11 Be Joyful Together – Bach 9:15 am Easter

For more information, please contact choir director, Kamilla Macar at 303-444-8710

CARING MINISTRY – Sandy MacKay

Dr. Fred Craddock, a beloved teacher and gifted preacher, has often told a heart-tugging story about a man he met in a restaurant down South. When the man heard that Dr. Craddock was a minister, the fellow began telling the minister about his unfortunate childhood.

The man had been an illegitimate child who had felt shunned by his peers and looked down upon by many people in the small town where he lived. He was a rejected and lonely boy.

One day, he heard of a new minister in town and he decided to go to the church where the man would be preaching. As he listened, he was captivated by what he heard. The preacher's sermon was so moving that the boy sat in contemplation for a little while, even after the benediction.

When he started to leave, his shyness compelled him to attempt by-passing the preacher without shaking hands. But suddenly, as he came near to the tall man, he felt a strong hand on his shoulder. Compelled to look up, he saw the preacher's smiling face. Then he heard the pastor say, "What's your name, boy? Whose son are you?"

Before the lad could answer, the pastor continued, "I know who you are. I know who your family is. There is a distinct family resemblance. Why you're the son of God!"

Then the loving preacher put his long arm about the boy, pointed him to the door and said affirmatively, "Now, go claim your inheritance!"

When the man finished telling the story, he said to Dr. Craddock, "You know, mister, those words changed my life." Then he got up and left.

Dr. Craddock was so fascinated by the experience, he asked the waitress who the man was. She answered, "That was Ben Hooper, two-term governor of Tennessee."

Who can measure the power of a few well-chosen words spoken in love

—The Goalpost – used with permission

MEN'S GROUP REPORT:

We have a new organizing plan for the men's group! Pete heard about this idea at a clergy meeting he attended. We will divide the men into teams of 3 or 4 men, and meet go out to work for members of the church who need help maintaining their house, or whatever.... The plan is that we will meet (all the teams) for breakfast on Saturday once a month at 7:00 am. Then the teams divide up and go to homes of single moms in the church or senior citizens who need some help around their houses. We have three recipients already lined up and more if we get more men. The teams will do whatever the person needs done, once a month 9-am, for as many months as they need help. This will build community and friendship among the men, and provide much needed help to individuals. The teams will change the oil on the car, paint a room, fix a closet door, repair the kitchen cupboards.... whatever is needed! Our first meeting will be the first **Saturday in April (April 3).** We will meet for breakfast at the Egg and I in Basemar shopping center at **7 am**, get our assignments from Russ McCachran who will be in touch with those needing work, and then spread out to work until noon. For info call Pete.

NEW MEMBER EXPLORATION:

We have had a successful class with Prospective new members and they, along with some joining by transfer, will be joining the church in March. New Members are: Kathy Leftwich, moved here from Virginia last year with her husband, Dan and three children, Shannon, Sean and Dillon. Rob Peters, long time resident of Boulder, but only recently becoming part of our community at church. Linda Krumpeck, who, after marrying our organist, Richard, has become very active in Community UCC and is already serving on the Spiritual Life Commission. Lisa Barnes, another long time Boulder resident who is transferring her membership over from First Congregational (she has a husband Mike and daughter, Lindsay), and Jamie Paul, transferring her membership from her UCC church in Arizona, Jamie is a graduate student at Regis University and has just accepted the position as our new Youth Leader

PASSOVER ALREADY? Didn't we do that last year?

Yes we did, and more and more people all over the world are starting to realize how important the Passover is to our understanding much of what Jesus was saying and doing throughout his life. Understanding the Old Testament gives new meaning and substance to a lot of the modern-day church rituals we tend to lose faith in because they don't make much sense. If you like to follow the Church blindly, don't bother, but if you want to have reason for your beliefs and like to ask questions about your faith, then Passover is for you! All ages of families, food, wine, & celebration.

Look in the bulletin for the specific date: Maybe Tueday or Wednesday in the first full week of April (week before Easter). Call Uriah Bueller for details and to sign up. $5 per person, supper side dish, and a pillow. 303-546-0294 u.bueller@comcast.net

CONFIRMATION CLASS LED BY PETE:.

The end of the three year Confirmation process of our church, led by Uriah Bueller, is a class led in the Spring by Pete Terpenning (in addition to the regular classes and activities with Uriah). This class will be on Sunday mornings at 8:30 and there are 8 young people attending (all of whom happen to be in 9th grade). Those who choose will be confirmed at the end of the Spring in June.

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT:

The YMT (Youth Ministry Team) has met twice and interviewed and chosen a new Youth Leader. Jamie Paul, a graduate student in Non-Profit Management at Regis University will be starting her work this week. The YMT is made up of three youth reps (Eric Hansford, Jennifer Martin and Samantha Levy) and three adult reps (Shane Brown, Susan Cramer and Kristin Putnam) and staff reps (Pete Terpenning and Karen Sterner-Howe). The YMT will oversee the work of the Youth Director and the activities of the senior high Youth Group (we don't have a better name yet). The first meeting will be on "Leap Day" , **Sunday, February 29th** at Pete and Laura Terpenning's house at 6:30- 8:30 pm. All Senior High Youth invited! The plan is to meet for regular meetings in members' homes twice a month, do a service project once a month and a social outing once a month. Come Sunday and meet Jamie!

LENTEN PROGRAM—THURSDAY NIGHT DISCUSSION:

This year we are going to try something different! Instead of the Tuesday night book study we are going to have a Thursday night gathering and discussion at church. The subject will be a video series from Marcus Borg (author of the Jesus You Never Knew and other books) on the Death and Resurrection of Jesus. Each week during Lent, on **Thursdays, we will meet at 7:00 pm,** watch one 20 minute installment of Borg's series and then see where discussion leads us. There will be light refreshment of some kind and we will end by 9:00. This series comes highly recommended from First Congregational, UCC, Boulder who used it last Lent! "The death and resurrection of Jesus, Good Friday and Easter are central to Christian history. But how do we understand them in the the 21st century? Morcus Borg, a much read historian of Jesus and Christian origins, in this series, shares his understanding of the death and resurrection of Jesus and their meaning to the early church in this faith-stretching series." If there is interest, Pete could offer this same video and discussion during the day on Thursdays - see Pete if interested!

OUTREACH NEWS AND OPPORTUNITIES:

What's up with Outreach?
Items were boxed and taken to the post office for the Siberian Coat Project. Unfortunately, the items needed to be repackaged due to size restrictions.

Cindy Firnhaber spoke during the February mission moment about an organization that places African children orphaned from AIDS with American Families. If you would like more information about the program, Pete has a video-tape for viewing.

The February letter writing campaign was a thank you to Rep. Alice Madden and Rep. Tom Plant regarding their support of gay/lesbian second parent adoptions and civil unions. Look for our action letters, generally presented mid-month. The March letter will address the potential renewal of the Patriot Act.

Outreach has been discussing potential fund-raising ideas. So far, suggestions have included a musical concert and a wine tasting party, to benefit a local non-profit organization (yet to be determined.) Contact a member of the Outreach committee, or join us at a monthly meeting with suggestions.

Lizka Randell is our representative on the United Ministries of Higher Education board. On February 15, student representatives from UMHE visited CUCC and sold tickets to their fundraiser dinner, scheduled for April. Proceeds support their work trip to Minneapolis in May. See the related article elsewhere in the newsletter or talk to Lizka Randall if you missed the opportunity to get tickets for the gourmet dinner, or contact the campus minister, Tamara Boynton at tamara@umhe.org Visit their website, www.umhe.org to see what the students are up to! CUCC is a covenanting church with UMHE.

CUCC has been asked to cosponsor a family from Somalia through the Ecumenical Refugee Service. We would be working jointly with 1st Plymouth Church in Denver. Our support would consist of providing necessities such as clothing, canned food, and furniture. 1st Plymouth has a town home available in which the family will be living. Additional details will follow as we are in dialog with a representative from ERS.

Scott Rudge is planning Habitat for Humanity work days for April and September this year. Information on the projects will follow in future Echo articles.

COMMUNITY FOOD SHARE: Our church has been asked to provide a crew to help sort food for CFS's Spring Food Drive. We need your help on **Friday, April 9, from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm**. Individuals, youth, and families are encouraged to participate. Children must be at least 10 years old to work in the warehouse. Families with younger children should call for other volunteer opportunities. Please call or email Jessie Inglefield (303-651-2609, jfingle@peakpeak.com) for more information or to place your name on the list.
FOOD DRIVE GREETERS: Community Food Share needs individuals or families to be greeters at the entrances of grocery stores in Longmont, Lafayette, Louisville, Lyons, Niwot, or Gunbarrel to hand out flyers and encourage donations of food during the upcoming food drive. Greeters are needed any time from **Wednesday, April 7 through Monday, April 19.** When greeters are present, people donate 3 to 4 times more food, making for a successful food drive! If interested, call Sue Erickson at CFS: 303-652-3663 for more information.

ECO-JUSTICE ACTION GROUP:

The Eco-Justice Action Group is in the process of organizing and setting priorities. John Putnam has agreed to head up the new CUCC group with Bob Castellino as a back-up. After two meetings in February, the Eco-Justice Action Group has decided to focus on three areas - personal life choices impacting the ecosystem, a church project such as a community garden and composting, and ways to alert interested persons regarding policy decisions being made regarding ecological issues. In addition, the group will be sponsoring a 6 session series about Eco-Justice and our faith and **Earth Sunday, April 25th**. All are welcome to join as we seek to make more intentional our commitment to God's good creation.

March 2004

Sun	*Mon*	*Tue*	*Wed*	*Thur*	*Fri*	*Sat*
potluck **29** 8:30 meditation Confirmation Class 10 a.m. worship Choir rehearsal 11:30 a.m. **6:30-8:30 Youth Group meeting**	**Mar. 1**	**2**	**3**	**4** Coordinating Council 7 p.m **7-9 pm Lenten Discussion Group**	**5**	**6** **9-12a.m. Council Retreat**
Communion **7** 8:30 meditation Confirmation Class **9 a.m. outreach** 10 a.m. worship Choir rehearsal 11:30 a.m.	**8**	**9**	**10**	**11** 7-9 pm Lenten Discussion Group	**12** 7:30 p.m. Jubilatee Singers Spring Concert	**13**
UMHE tickets **14** 8:30 meditation Confirmation Class 10 am worship Choir rehearsal 9:15 & 11:30 a.m	**15**	**16**	**17**	**18** SLF mtg **7-9 pm Lenten Discussion Group**	**19**	**20**
Echo Deadline **21** 8:30 meditation Confirmation Class 10 a.m. worship Choir rehearsal 9:15 am & 11 am	**22**	**23**	**24**	**25** Community Table 4:30-6:30 7-9 pm Lenten Discussion Group	**26**	**27**
28 8:30 meditation Confirmation Class 10 a.m. worship Choir rehearsal 9:15 am & 11 am	**29**	**30**	**31**	**April 1** 7-9 pm Lenten Discussion Group	**2**	**3** **7-noon Men's group work parties** UMHE worktrip fundrasing dinner 7-9 p.m.
Palm Sunday 4 8:30 meditation Confirmation Class **9 a.m. outreach** 10 a.m. worship Communion Choir rehearsal 9:15 am	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8** Coordinating Council 7 p.m **7-9 pm Lenten Discussion Group**	**9** **6-8:30 sorting at Community Food Share**	**10**