



The Echo



The Lectionary

December-January 2009

December 6, 2009 [Purple or Blue]
 Second Sunday of Advent (Year C)
 Malachi 3:1-4
 Luke 1:68-79
 Philippians 1:3-11
 Luke 3:1-6

December 13, 2009 [Purple]
 Third Sunday of Advent (Year C)
 Zephaniah 3:14-20
 Isaiah 12:2-6
 Philippians 4:4-7
 Luke 3:7-18

December 20, 2009 [Purple]
 Fourth Sunday of Advent (Year C)
 Micah 5:2-5a
 Luke 1:46b-55
 Hebrews 10:5-10
 Luke 1:39-45

December 24, 2009 (White or Gold)
 Christmas Eve (A, B, and C)
 Isaiah 9:2-7
 Psalm 96
 Titus 2:11-14
 Luke 2:1-20

December 25, 2009 [White or Gold]
 Christmas Day (A, B, and C)
 Isaiah 52:7-10
 Psalm 98
 Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12)
 John 1:1-14

December 27, 2009 [White or Gold]
 First Sunday After Christmas Day (Year C)
 1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26
 Psalm 148
 Colossians 3:12-17
 Luke 2:41-52

Christmas Eve Services

- 4:00pm** Child-oriented service with a participatory pageant for all ages with a Candlelight service.
- 7:00pm** Traditional Christmas Service of Readings of the Christmas Story and Music with Candlelight service.
- 11:00pm** Quiet, meditative service with Candlelight and Communion.

Women's Group

Women's Group on December 2 will be led by Laura Terpenning. After our usual potluck meal at 6:30, we will watch the movie, "Pray the Devil Back to Hell," a moving story of the power of women and what women can do when they work together. This documentary tells the story of the thousands of Liberian women, both Christian and Muslim, who helped end the bloody civil war in 2003 that killed over 200,000 people. Through nonviolent protests, these brave women forced a resolution in the peace talks, and their efforts led to the election of Africa's first female head of state, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf.

Hanging of the Greens

On Saturday, Dec. 5th from 9am-12pm we will be decorating the church for Christmas. We try to make this fun by bringing (pot-luck) donuts and cookies, making coffee and perhaps singing some carols. The decorations need to be brought down from the attic and hung/set up in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall. All ages welcome.

The purpose of Community UCC is to be a means through which its membership may serve one another, the community, the nation, and the world, following the example of Jesus Christ's ministry. In pursuit of this purpose, the faith community, with its minister, will:

CUCC Covenant

- Assist each person with his/her spiritual journey, while valuing diversity and encouraging individuality;
- Nurture each person's understanding of the Christian heritage and of present-day Christian living;
- Offer opportunities for reconciliation and healing between separated individuals, groups and nations;
- Work actively to alleviate suffering and promote social justice; and
- In the manner of a family, love and support individuals in their daily lives

The covenant taken by members of Community UCC is "We, in fellowship with Community United Church of Christ, covenant with God and with one another to work and worship together in the name of Jesus Christ."

COMMUNITY UCC

Sol-Stice, When the Sun Stands Still Dec. 21, 2009

Pastor:
Rev. Pete Terpenning
pastor@cuccboulder.org

Pastoral Associate for
Spiritual Life: Jean
Scott
Christian Education
Director:
Karen Kent-Pyle
ce@cuccboulder.org

Administrative
Assistant:
Pahtyana Moore
office@cuccboulder.org

Choir Director:
Kamilla Macar

Pianist: Kathy Rinehart

Newsletter Editors:
Susan Carter Ruskell
Erika Noll Webb
newsletter@cuccboulder.org

The Coordinating Council
The Coordinating Council
meets on the second

Thursday of each month
from 6:30-9 pm. These are
open meetings and everyone
is welcome to attend.

Moderator:
Vicki Tonski

Narrator:
Pat Gilbert

Scribe:
David Levy

Treasurer:
Carl Love and Kamilla Macar

Financial Secretary:
Beth Cole, Matt Fischer asst

Nominations:
Gwen Goodwin

Spiritual Life
Commission:
Beth Willman

Property Commission:
Bob Castellino

Outreach Commission:
Kathy Leftwich

Christian Education
Commission:
Vickiy Graham

Webmaster:
Cathy Russell

Representatives to the Metro
Denver Association and
Rocky Mountain
Conference: Julie Kies &
Frank Ciskovsky

GET YOUR ECHO ONLINE AT
www.cuccboulder.org

Pete's Letter



We are entering again the dark months of the year. Colorado is blessed with light, and these shorter days are less oppressive here than they were for me when I lived in the Mid-West. But virtually all cultures in history have been aware of the shortening days leading up to the Winter Solstice, when the sun literally “stands still” and length of the day does not change and then begins to get longer again. It was a fearful time, I suppose for early humans, and there are many festivals and religious ceremonies that developed to mark this dark time. The people of the far north, the Native American tribes and peoples of northern Europe are perhaps the most affected by the long nights. Many songs, traditions and holidays dominate their lives until the sun finally returns. Further north many people experience whole months of complete darkness. Saturnalia was the Roman holiday marking the solstice; “the Birthday of the Unconquered Sun”. The early Christian church chose this holiday and this time of year to mark the time when “the light of the world”, Jesus came into the

world. At New Grange, 5,000 years ago, in Ireland, a circular mound was built that has a hole in the roof that admits a shaft of sunlight at dawn on the winter solstice. In Iran, they celebrate Yalda, keeping vigil through the night. It was observed on the ancient Orkney Islands, in Zimbabwe and the Ancient Pueblos of Chaco Canyon kept track of the solstice. In China it was Dong Zhi, the beginning of the winter festival. The Persians celebrated the birth of the sun God, Mithras, on Dec. 25th. Denali is the Hindu festival of light this time of year. It is an amazingly universal holiday.

The Celts, ancient Britons, my ancestors, observed the holiday of Samhain (Pronounced souen). This harvest celebration began around when we celebrate Halloween, and was observed as a time of growing darkness and chaos leading up to the winter solstice. One can only imagine the effect upon these ancient, northern people as the days grew shorter and they wondered if the sun would ever come back, bringing life and growth. They believed it was a time of chaos when the dead walked among them. So they had bonfires and feasting. The origin of the

“Yule Log” is undoubtedly related to the fires. In some places on the solstice all the fires would be extinguished and then symbolically re-lit by the Druid or village leader. Runners would carry the fire to villages to light the bonfires and households would re-light their hearth fires from the blaze. This is interesting in light of the passing of candle light we share on Christmas Eve. It was a time of holding each other close and waiting for the darkness to pass.

It is no accident that we still draw together during this dark time of year. At Thanksgiving we gather as families and friends and eat rich food to prepare for the long dark and cold to come. At Christmas the Christian church chose to celebrate the birth of Jesus and the coming of the light, and we gather again, light candles, pray and read the stories of Jesus, visit family and friends, take time off and, of course, eat and feast. Some people have a hard time with the dark, and get depressed. In the darker parts of the world (in Britain this time of year the sun goes down at 3 or 4 pm depending upon how far north you are), people get SAD, Seasonal Affective Disorder, when they actually need more light to keep out of

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Christian Education

The 2009 Christmas Pageant

The 2009 Christmas Pageant scheduled for Sunday, December 13th, during the service. This year's play combines the Nativity Story with a classic tale, "The Littlest Angel." Here is an excerpt from the script...

"Baby Jesus, I am trying to be the best angel I can be – but it is difficult when you can't get your wings on straight and your voice is less than melodic, but then I was asked to bring to you a gift. I tried to write a prayer. I tried to come up with a song. But I couldn't do either. Then I came up with something better. My gift is in this small, wooden box and it represents the many wonders and miracles of God's creation on earth."

All children and youth are encouraged to get involved and all adults are invited to come on Sunday, December 13th to find out just what The Littlest Angel brings the Baby Jesus in that small wooden box. Rehearsals are scheduled during Sunday School on December 6th and a dress rehearsal on Saturday, December 12th at a time still to be determined. Please let Karen know right away if your child or youth wants to be involved.

Thank You!

Thanks to all the adults who participated in our Pumpkin Buddy Program this year. It was a HUGE success for all involved and many of our special friendships between our children and one of our caring adults were created. We encourage you to keep up the relationship you created through smiles and conversations at coffee hour. Thanks to Julie Mowat for all her efforts at making it run so smoothly.

Thank you to the following individuals for teaching Grades Pre-School through 5th this fall session. Paul & Vicki Dial, Lu Walters, Gwen Goodwin, Renee Stewart, Beth Willman, and Cathy Hazouri. And a continuing thank you to Beth Cole and Erika Webb for leading our Pre-Confirmation class. They have had a successful start to the year. A few highlights include a visit from Beth Cole's

niece, Emily France when exploring the Wiccan tradition, a visit to the Hindu Temple in Littleton, and a two CU Religious Studies Students who spoke on Islam. And finally also to Jim Gilbert, Lisa Radelet and Barbara Willis for leading our Confirmation youth with the new curriculum, Way to Live; Christian Practices for Teens.

Sunday School Holiday Schedule

12/6 - Play Rehearsal for all children and youth. (Those who are not in the play, can join in with Jennifer Brown singing the hymns for the pageant.

12/13 – Christmas Pageant during the service. After the performance, cookies and juice will be served while the adults finish the regular service.

12/20 – All Ages

12/27 – All Ages

1/03 – All Ages

1/10 – Regular Sunday School Classes for Pre-School through 5th Grade

1/17 – Pre-Confirmation and Confirmation Class reconvenes

Teachers Needed!

The Second Teaching Session is 10 weeks long and begins on January

10th going through March 14th. We will begin with the Baptism of Jesus and focus on his role as a teacher, healer, miracle worker, and revolutionary. Teachers (2 per class level, with only 1 teacher per week) will be needed to staff the following classes: Pre-School, Lower Elementary, and Upper Elementary. Please check your calendars and call Karen to VOLUNTEER TODAY!!!

Caring Ministry: A Rising Star

Let me tell you a story; a story about a rising star in the East. Not the star we hear stories of at this time of year, but a different one—or maybe not.

In October, I was on a bike tour with 12 other people. I was listening to B.J., from Pittsburgh, who was telling me of her earlier bike tour in May. She, her daughter and a friend, biked 300 miles across the Negev desert of Israel as part of a group raising funds for an environmental school in Israel—the Arava (a 'ra va) Institute for Environmental Studies (AIES).

Here is where the star comes in: The student body is made up of

Jordanians, Palestinians, Israelis, and students from around the world. While attending AIES and studying common environmental problems, they also build networks and develop understanding among themselves through study groups organized to learn about each other's religions, culture and history. One student was quoted "It is the only place in the world where we can see Israeli students and Palestinian students hugging each other."

AIES is the regional center for environmental leadership and co-operation between peoples. One of its goals is peace and sustainable development on a

regional and global scale. Another is preparing future Arab and Jewish leaders to cooperatively solve environmental challenges common to all, by finding solutions through studying soil erosion, drip irrigation, solar energy harnessing, desalinization, desert architecture and dry land biotechnology.

If you would like to learn more about this "star" named Arava, go to www.friendsofarava.org and google: Israel school environmental and dbl. Click Israel produces 'ambassadors'

Anne Carson
For Caring Ministry

Christmas Revels Announcement



The
Christmas
Revels in
Celebration
of the

Winter Solstice, Celtic Roads.

Our goal for the Christmas Revels is to build community through music, dance, and drama. Each year Revels chooses a different time period and culture, and creates a full 2 hour celebration with a loosely knit story telling about the tradition we have chosen. It's perfect for the whole family, with audience participation, a cast of 60, and a very lively production! This year they are performing 4 shows in the Boulder Theater; Sunday December 13th at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm, and Saturday December 19th

at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

The Christmas Revels; Celtic Roads takes place in approximately 1750 and travels through the music, dance, and drama of Ireland, Scotland, Wales, and Breton.

They have the top young Colorado Irish step dancers from the McTaggart Irish Dancers, a lovely large Scottish country dance called the Weaving Lilt, Morris sword dancers from English traditions, and a charming Welsh couples' dance celebrating young love in the springtime.

They also have some amazing spoken pieces; the charming Welsh tale of the Mari Lwyd: the Old Grey Mare, a mysterious Scottish Selkie Story, about the seals who turn into beautiful women near the Isle of Skye, and

even a traditional Irish Strawboys' Mummers play with a rousing sword fight between Sir Patrick and a Wild Worm, followed by an appearance by Father Christmas.

Three featured performers are all local stars; and included our own **Cole Kiersey!** Each of these artists have performed yearly in the Christmas Revels, and are tremendously popular with local audiences.

All performances will be at the Boulder Theater, and with the popularity of the Celtic arts we recommend that families get their tickets early. The box office can be reached by calling 303-786-7030, or on line at www.BoulderTheater.com. For other questions write Director Karen Romeo at info@rockymountainrevels.org.

Spiritual Life & Fellowship

Fall Fundraising Event

A HUGE Thank you to Michael Chase and everyone who helped make "A Toast to the World Community" a very enjoyable event. The competition for Pete's Sermon was so fierce that he finally agreed to do TWO sermons. Stay tuned for more info on those!

Inspiring New CUCC Website

Everyone is invited to help evaluate our current website and provide ideas for creating an inspiring and easy to maintain new site. We are redesigning our website to promote greater dialog between members, to be timelier and to be easier to maintain. Pat Gilbert has volunteered to coordinate the evaluation and development efforts. Cathy Russell has volunteered to do the design and coding. If you would like to help, or if you have ideas for the website, please contact Pat Gilbert at 303-494-8967 or patriciaawgilbert@gmail.com.

Choir Season

The Choir Season is on! The Choir will be singing (and practicing) the following days and times. There's still time to join! Just a few short years ago our choir was small—now it's 30 + people strong!

NOV 29	A Prayer for Advent Williams/Nolan 9:15 am	Rehearsal 11:30 am
DEC 6	O Magnum Mysterium Corelli/Delanoy 9:15 am	Rehearsal 11:30 am
DEC 13	Tell the Good News Clatterbuck 9:15 am	Rehearsal 11:30 am
DEC 20	Treasures and Gifts Van 9:30 am	
DEC 24	Silent is the Night Althouse 7:00pm	

Community Table

CUCC serves a meal to the homeless on the **4th Thursday of each month** through Community Table, from **4:00-6:00 pm**. Meals are held at First Christian Church on 28th & Colorado. No experience necessary, just a willingness to serve! If you can help, please contact Lisa Radelet at 303-938-1860 or lisa_radelet@hotmail.com. **NOTE: WE WILL NOT BE SERVING IN DECEMBER because one generous family has taken on December 24th as a part of their Christmas celebration. But please make plans to assist in 2010!**

Christian Education, continued

<u>NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE</u>	The safety of our children and youth is of the utmost importance. We all need to remember that the children in our community are <u>ALL OF OUR RESPONSIBILITY</u> . We have a "Village Approach" here at CUCC so if you see a child running or acting out, it is ok to ask them, respectfully of course, to stop. And if you see a child doing a good deed or helping another, please let them know that as well. Thanks!
11/1	34
11/8	15
11/15	40
11/22	21

Outreach

Habitat for Humanity

Our next Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build Days are **December 12 and March 19th**, and help give a family the best gift you can give— a home! We will be working with members of the St. Mary Magdalene Episcopal Church, the newest apostle on the Northfield Village unit we are sponsoring. There is room for 7 or 8 volunteers on this build. Lunch is provided by another of the apostle congregations. If you are willing to commit to the full day on Saturday, December 12, sign up at the Flatirons Habitat for Humanity website, flatironshabitat.org. Volunteers must be at least 16 years old. The unit sponsored by this project is expected to be complete by June, and a celebration/work day with all of the sponsoring congregations is in the planning stages. Contact Jackie ("J") Stockton A.S.A.P. at jstockton@live.com or 720-883-3535 to sign up!

World AIDS Day Concert

BCAP's World AIDS Day Concert with the Denver Gay Men's Chorus will be December 1st at 6:30pm at the First United Methodist Church in downtown Boulder. The address is 1421 Spruce Street and tickets will be \$25.00. Tickets are available by phone order only at 303.444.6121.

Alternative Gift Market

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Alternative Gift Market (despite the weather). And a big thank you, once again, to Laura Terpenning for organizing and executing! Rumor has it that we raised about \$3,800 and that a few items still left may be available the first Sunday in December.

Property Commission

Library Dedication & Christmas Tea: You are invited to a Library Blessing & Dedication/Christmas tea after the 10:00am service on December 6th. In my eyes, the library already has a sacred feel to it and defines the Fellowship Hall. Join us for this special event. On that day, book donations or cash will be accepted to build our library collection. To fit with the mission of our church, we are accepting materials (books or media, adult & children's) in the following subject areas: Biblical Sources and Commentaries, Theological Works, Works about Other Religions, Social Justice Issues, Appropriate Fictional Works, Personal Relationships. Tea & Crumpets, plus a special Christmas reading will top off the day. Hope to see you there! ~ Sue Hagedorn, The Library Committee (TLC)

Solstice Thoughts

*Now is the darkest and longest
night of the year.
Now is the time of rest and
restoration.
Now is the time to praise the
darkness.*

*On Earth and
Within our bodies and
In our lifecycles.
In balance with the light
There is daily night
And it is blessing and right.*

*Now is the darkest and longest
night of the year.
Now is the time of rest and
restoration.
Now is the time to praise the
darkness.*

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
29 8:30 Taize 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 11:30 Choir Rehearsal	30	Dec 1 6:30 pm World AIDS Day Concert	2 Women's Group 6:30 Potluck 7:30 program	3	4	5
6 8:30 Taize 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship Library Dedication/ Tea 11:30 Choir Rehearsal	7	8	9	10 6:30-9pm Coordinating Council	11	12 Habitat Build Day
13 8:30 Taize 9:15 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship & pageant 11:30 Choir Rehearsal	14 7pm Book Study	15	16 Women's Group 6:30 Potluck 7:30 program	17	18	19
20 8:30 Taize 9:30 Choir Rehearsal 10:00 Worship 11:30 Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Services 4pm 7pm 11pm	25 Merry Christmas!!	26
27 8:30 Taize 10:00 Worship	28	29	30	31	Jan. 1	2
3 8:30 Taize 10:00 Worship	4	5	6 Women's Group 6:30 Potluck 7:30 program	7	8	9
10 8:30 Taize 10:00 Worship	11	12	13	14 6:30-9pm Coordinating Council	15	16
17 8:30 Taize 10:00 Worship	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 8:30 Taize 10:00 Worship	25	26	27	28 Community Table	29	30
31 8:30 Taize 10:00 Worship	1 FEB	2	3 Women's Group 6:30 Potluck 7:30 program	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 6:30-9pm Coordinating Council	12	13

Community United Church of
Christ

2650 Table Mesa Dr.
Boulder CO 80305

Phone: 303.449.9119
Web: www.cuccboulder.org

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



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depression. This can be a hard time, so do not apologize for the need to be good to yourself this time of year. Plan parties and gatherings of friends and family, it's important. In the Narnia stories, in the Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe, C.S. Lewis imagines a horrible season in which it is, "always winter and never Christmas". What could be worse?

There is something universal going on with the winter solstice. As Isaiah writes, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light". Darkness is defeated, light returns. God comes back and is victorious over evil. There is something going on with the human race that religious and non-religious people alike can relate to. Something special happens to people this time of year. We

become a little nicer to each other, perhaps. It is like a celebration of the good in people, the good (or the God) in us, the divine spark that is in each person, the wonder of creation itself. In our darkest hour, God intervenes and the light returns.

Advent Prayer of Lament

*Ever present God, we come to you in this Advent Season,
As ambiguity and pain grow around us and within.
As the days become shorter and nights longer,
darkness wraps itself around our hearts.*

*In this season of our longest night, we offer you the pain of our hearts
and the pain of our world.*

The world is at war, and suffering is too deep for words.

*God, we come to you as persons who have been hurt and abused -
whose trust has been violated.*

*We come to you as strangers and sojourners -
the excluded and marginalized -
those struggling to find voice.*

*We come as those who struggle with grief and loss, sadness and distress,
confusion and loss of direction.*

We walk in darkness.

The deadline for the next edition of The Echo is Thursday, January 21, 2010. Please get articles to newsletter@cuccboulder.org no later than 9 a.m. that day. Early submissions are appreciated, late submissions make our lives more complicated – please simplify and remember the deadline!