Pete's Letter

Day of the Dead

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CROP Hunger Walk 2009

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SUSTAINING SPIRIT EXPANDING ROOTS
COMMUNITY UCC
2650 Table Mesa Drive, Boulder, Co 80305
303-499-9119

The ECHO

Community United Church of Christ

November 2009

LECTIONARY

November 1, 2009
[White or Red]
All Saints Sunday
H Isaiah 25:6-9
P Psalm 24
E Revelation 21:1-6a
G John 11:32-44

November 8, 2009
[Green]
Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost
H Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17
P Psalm 127 or Psalm 42
E Hebrews 9:24-28
G Mark 12:38-44

November 15, 2009
[Green]
Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
H 1 Samuel 1:4-20; 1 Samuel 2:1-10
P Psalm 113
E Hebrews 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25
G Mark 13:1-8

November 22, 2009
[White or Gold]
Christ the King/Reign of Christ
H 2 Samuel 23:1-7
P Psalm 132:1-12
E Revelation 1:4b-8
G John 18:33-37

November 29, 2009
[Purple or Blue]
First Sunday of Advent (Year C)
H Jeremiah 33:14-16
P Psalm 25:1-10
E 1 Thessalonians 3:9-13
G Luke 21:25-36

Fall Fundraising Event

"A Toast for the World Community": A fund raising event for CUCC is scheduled for **Friday, November 13th, 2009 from 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM**. This will be a wine tasting served with appetizers and live music. The event will also have a silent and live auction. The committee is still seeking volunteers to help with certain portions of the event. Please contact Michael Chase at chaserrun1@msn.com.

Alternative Gift Market

Plan to get your holiday gift shopping done early and come to the Alternative Gift Market on Sunday **November 15th**, immediately after church. This is a great way to honor loved ones and colleagues with gifts that give back. We will have handmade items from SERRV and Beads for Life, food items from Women's Bean Project and UCC Coffee Project. For those who don't need stuff, you can honor them with the gift of an animal to Heifer Project. If you have any questions or comments, contact Laura Terpenning (lbterpenningmd@comcast.net).

Community Food Share

The 25th Annual "Let's BAG Hunger" Food Drive is Sun., Nov. 15 through Wed., Nov. 25, 2009. **2 volunteers, greeting for 2 hours, can bring in enough food to feed a family of 4 for 2 weeks** Greet in groups of 1-3. A GREAT opportunity for families! They need greeters every evening of the drive and especially during the days of Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd. They also need volunteers to help collect the donations and to sort. Please-contact Sue Ericson at Community Food Share: (303) 652-3663 ext. 202 or cell: (303) 591-0516 to sign up or Erika Webb if you'd like to start a group!

Our Community UCC Convenant

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:

- *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."

H = HEBREW BIBLE **P = PSALM** **E = EPISTLE** **G = GOSPEL**

COMMUNITY UCC

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:
VickiyGraham

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

The Day of the Dead – (Dia de los Muertos)

Next week, at the request of the Al Ramirez and family (he bought a sermon subject from me at the Silent Auction last year) we will be observing the Day of the Dead at CUCC. I will be preaching on it, and the Ramirez family will be bringing various decorations and foods to help us understand and celebrate the holiday. The Day of the Dead (as I am learning), is celebrated at the time of our Halloween and All Saints day, Oct. 31-Nov.2. It is celebrated in Mexico, some other parts of Central America and by Mexican immigrants around the world. Whereas our Halloween has distant roots in Samhain, the Celtic day of the dead when they believed the vale that separates the living from the dead becomes very thin and is mostly about children gathering candy door to door; the Dia de los Muertos is observed by adults almost more than children and reflects a very different and ancient view of death. The practice of welcoming the dead on these days in the fall predates the western, Catholic culture of the European colonists and reflects much older, Aztec and other Native American beliefs 3,000 years old, that death is part of life. Death for them and many Mexicans and others today is just one phase in the infinite cycle of life. It is actually reflects a deep faith in the afterlife. Today's beliefs reflect a blending of ancient, pre-Christian and Catholic beliefs that the dead do not die, but go to heaven, hell, or for some, the ancient belief in the realm of Mictlan.

Each year at harvest time, (moved from August to November by the Catholic missionaries to coincide with All Saint's Day – Nov. 1st) the dead return to earth to visit their descendents and enjoy some of the pleasures of life again. Therefore, for thousands of years, the living have prepared for their visit by preparing the favorite foods of their ancestors, placing "Ofrenda" or offerings on home altars and in cemeteries for the dead to enjoy. Offerings of candles to guide their way, food, special bread (pan de Muertos – bread of the dead), sugar skull candles (to represent the sweetness of life) and salt (life's bitterness), water, soft drinks and alcohol, cigarettes, special incense (copal), candied pumpkin, seasonal fruits and vegetables as well as new clothes for the dead and anything the family thinks the dead would enjoy from music to art are placed on and around the altars for the dead when they come. The dead enjoy the aroma and taste of the food, the shell of which is preserved to be eaten later by the descendents as a blessing. The dead are not seen to be dangerous, but are actually protectors to the living. The dead can protect you or make things difficult for you depending on how you treat them, and some people have claimed dire results for ignoring the visit of the dead.

In practice the Day of the Dead revolves around putting together family altars, sometimes with pictures of the deceased, cleaning up and decorating cemetery plots, family picnics by some in the cemetery and the sharing of traditional foods, sugar skulls and Pan de Muertos. Marigolds, the flowers of this holiday will be everywhere in some Mexican towns – and sometimes it is the most rural towns that still hold the old traditions most carefully. Some line the streets to the cemeteries with marigolds to guide the smallest (children who died) to the town. All in all, it represents a different view of death from the Europeans who conquered this continent. It is captured well by Mexican poet, Octavia Paz:

"The word death, is not pronounced in New York, in Paris, in London, because it burns the lips. The Mexican, in contrast, is familiar with death, jokes about it, caresses it, sleeps with it, celebrates it, it is one of his favorite toys and his most steadfast love."

In Faith,

Pete

Christian Education News

Gratitude. Thankfulness. Gratefulness.
Although these words mean so much, they typically get lost in a society such as ours that that has to have this today and something else tomorrow. Our children and youth fall right into the trap. They have no problem letting us know what they don't have and what they think they need - TODAY! As adults we have much wisdom when it comes to this issue. How many times have we purchased something that we just had to have, but then either never used or used once or twice only to find out it didn't provide us with the enjoyment we had anticipated? Or we bought something we thought would make our lives so much easier, but it ended up in the garbage while we went back to the good ole way we used to do it. Many experiences, many lessons learned, and it is up to all of us to share this wisdom with our children.

And in so many situations, it is all in how we look at it. That old coat may now have a stain on the sleeve, but we were wearing it when we met our new best friend. It seems horrible to have to share a bedroom with a sibling, but it gives us the opportunity to create a real loving relationship that will last forever. Even daily chores can provide us with opportunity to be grateful. Sweeping the floors, one can appreciate all the love and energy our favorite pet provides our family. Folding the laundry gives us an opportunity to think about each person in our family and what they mean to our lives. It is difficult sometimes for us adults to remember these connections, and almost impossible for our children to. So it is up to us to look deeper to find the diamond in the rough, and then to point them out to those younger than us.
Now is the time! As children's author, J. Davidson says, "Thanksgiving provides us with a chance to challenge that line of thinking - to help children appreciate what they have rather than mourn what they are missing". So as we go into this season of Thanksgiving, may we all choose to concentrate more on what we have, instead of what we don't have. May we appreciate all around us simply for what is. May we find that diamond in the rough and tell everyone about it.

Many blessings for a warm, wonderful Season of Gratitude & Thanks!

Karen

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

This year's pageant is an adapted version of the story, "The Littlest Angel" by Charles Tazewell. It will incorporate the story of Jesus' birth with the classic story of a child who dreams that he is an angel who has been asked to bring a gift to the Baby Jesus. And of course our favorite Christmas hymns will be weaved through the production. The performance will be on Sunday, **December 13th** during the service. Parents will be receiving a letter soon with all the practice/performance details.

CHILDREN'S SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP

Thanks to everyone who helped to make our afternoon with Leanne Hadley such a great success. Over 15 people enjoyed the wonderful soups and breads provided by members of the CE Commission which was followed by a fascinating discussion about the history of the Christian experience as seen from a child's perspective. Please let Karen or Vicky know if you have any ideas or thoughts for future presentations/speakers.

PUMPKIN BUDDY UPDATE

The Pumpkin Buddy program is well underway and based on what is

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2009-10 CLASS CONFIGURATIONS

PRE-SCHOOL THROUGH 5TH GRADE The exciting stories and timeless messages of the Old Testament have filled the month of October with many wonderful learning opportunities. Through games, activities, and crafts, we have explored the stories of Creation, Noah, and Moses. We will be ending this first teaching session on November 8th with the stories of Delilah and Daniel.

PRE-CONFIRMATION
We began with an exploration of the history of religion concentrating on the Ancient Paths and invited Beth Cole's niece in to explore the Wiccan Tradition. We are now in the middle of learning about the Hindu Faith and will make a visit to the Hindu Temple in Littleton on Sunday morning November1st.

CONFIRMATION
Using the new curriculum, Way to Live; Christian Practices for Teens

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BULLETIN

Announcements for bulletins and weekly emails should be sent to office@cuccboulder.org. The deadline for the bulletin is 8 a.m. on Wednesday. The deadline for the beginning of the week e-mail announcements is 9 am on Monday. The deadline for the weekend e-mail announcements is 9 am on Friday. *Early submissions are very much appreciated.*

NEWSLETTER

NEW EARLIER DEADLINE: The deadline for the next edition of The Echo is **Thursday, November 19, 2009.** Please get articles to newsletter@cuccboulder 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! **NOTE: this will be for a combined December 2009/ January 2010 newsletter, so please remember to include important dates etc. through early February to help our members and friends plan!**

From the Moderator

Our "Come As You Are" Church and the Interior Journey

I LOVE the messages that came from the Fellowship Circle potluck. Over and over again, people wrote that they felt love, acceptance, care, concern, grace and community at CUCC.
This was and has remained the single most valuable gift that our church gives to me week after week – a place where I can just show up and know I am loved. This is truly a reflection of my faith – just show up and know I am loved by God. I have often called CUCC "the come as you are church."
In a sermon earlier this month, Pete talked about the "interior journey" as the one that goes on once we dive in and are under the water. Sometimes voluntarily and sometimes pulled in by an undertow of unforeseen circumstances – loss, politics, betrayal, death, sickness, – I have found myself on the interior journey. It occurs to me that the safety of our church, the "come as you are church," has made that journey all the more possible and fulfilling. I thank all of you, and I thank God. The Holy Spirit is so very strong at CUCC. I pray that you will find a similar space to dive in.

In Christ,
Vicki Tonski

Caring Ministry

In October, the Caring Ministry group with several helpers from our congregation prepared and mailed boxes of treats to our college and university freshmen and sophomores far and near. The "care packages" project began in October, 2005, so this was our 5th mailing. The students often send happy and grateful comments back.

Each box is filled with various homemade cookies and brownies, plus other, mostly healthy, treats such as nuts, dried fruits and popcorn. We also make sure to include a copy of the latest ECHO and a personal note, all wrapped with love. The boxes arrive about the time academic life is becoming more serious with midterm exams are looming, so some "tasty cheer" from the home church is always welcome.

On **November 15th**, the CUCC congregation will commission the second group of Caring Ministers, as lay ministers who volunteer to serve as support to members and friends during time of need and celebration. Further Caring Ministry information will be available the Sunday, Nov. 15th, inside the service bulletin.

"Don't let yesterday use up too much of today" -- a Cherokee saying

Inspiring the 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 patriciawgilbert@gmail.com.

Spiritual Life and Fellowship

How can we include the kids?

Thanks to Marian Grant who came up with the great idea of having the children and youth offer service items at this year's Annual Auction. Although it is an "Adult Only Event", we can still include the children by putting out their bid sheets with a picture of them on top. Parents will be receiving a letter soon with all the details, but in the mean time here are some ideas for kids to think about giving: babysitting, folding laundry; washing cars or windows, playing cards or a game with an elder. Make sure you check out the "Kids Service Table" at the auction scheduled for Friday evening, November 13th.

CHOIR SEASON!

Please put these dates on your calendar. The first rehearsal is NOVEMBER 1, 2009 at 11:30 a.m. in the Sanctuary and the season will proceed normally from there. Kamilla has an exciting upcoming season planned. So far there are two new members in the alto section. Anyone know any basses and tenors to corral? If you have questions or are interested in participating, please talk to Kamilla Macar.

NOV 1	Rehearsal 11:30 am
NOV 8	Rehearsal 11:30 am
NOV 15	Rehearsal 11:30 am
NOV 22	**What is that Light?** *York/Schwoebel* 9:15 am Rehearsal 11:30 am
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

Women's Group

CUCC's Women's Group meets the first Wednesday of each month (at the church unless otherwise noted). Potluck meals begin at 6:30 followed by a program at 7:30. For our **November 4** meeting, Harriott Quin will share "Voices from the Edge and the Heart" poems and writings written during pivotal times in her life. Harriott says: "To feel passionately to observe critically and to seek truth constantly during times of personal and societal upheaval led me out of necessity to capture in word pictures something of the essence of those events. Unpolished unrefined but honest these "poems" are shared with the hope that the Voices from the Edge and the Heart can be honored. As to pointing to others how this can happen, I can only share that it was imperative for me as a God seeker that I find the means, both in words and visuals, to make sense of all that was churning inside my mind and emotions during those moments."

SANCTUARY BIBLES

Did you know there are NRSV Bibles available for services in the back of the santuary? They are on the bookshelves to the north of the doors as you enter.

ADDITIONAL CHRISTIAN ED

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happening on Sunday mornings, it appears that the children and adults are having a very good time. Thanks to all the adults who are participating; you are making such a difference in our children's lives. The luncheon is scheduled for November 8th after service. We are asking participating adults and children to pack bag lunches for themselves on that day and the CE Commission will provide drinks and dessert. We will play a "find your buddy" game and then share lunch and a "get to know you" activity. If you have any questions please call Julie Mowat at 303-664-1041 or jjbbmow@msn.com

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. HOWEVER, since Thanksgiving is the 4th Sunday of November, we won't be serving this month! Please plan on coming next month!

UCC COFFEE PROJECT (And Tea!)

Attention Tea Lovers: You may know we have been offering Organic, Fair Trade Coffee at Fellowship Hour as part of the UCC Coffee Project. We now have lots of Fair Trade Teas as well including loose leaf Darjeeling, Ceylon, and pyramid bags of Irish Breakfast and Rooibos. All are sold at cost simply to support this social justice cause. You may be surprised at how reasonable Fair Trade can be! Sunday.

Outreach

CROP Hunger Walk THANK YOU!!

Thank you very much to our walkers, generous church family, friends, and supporters who helped us raise funds to relieve hunger during this 24th year of the Boulder County CROP Walk! 22 CUCC Walkers walked the loop from Westview Presbyterian Church in Longmont on a warm October Sunday. As of Oct. 18th, the day of the walk, we have collected $3,432 in donations surpassing our goal of raising $3,000! Stay tuned for the final total in next month's Echo. This is the most we have raised in our years of Walking. Signing up online as a team definitely helped. Congratulations team!! Our team of CUCC Walkers:
Beth and Raymond Cole, Leslie Hartten, Kate Hartten, Pete and Laura Terpenning with Dalton and Colton Baldwin, Joe Runyan (with donation raiser Kayrene Pearson), Barbara and Fred Willis, Julie Kies, Erika and Amelia Webb, Karen Hatami, Julie Leonard, Sarah Myers and Scott and Alexander Semple, Tim Hansford, David Heath & Janet Hoaglund and Mei.
Susan Carter Ruskell and Erika Webb published Crop Walk articles in the Echo. A Big thanks to everyone for your contribution to this year's Boulder CROP Walk!
Walkers---Please send all funds coming in after the Walk to
Burton Lee
4801 Riverbend Road, Suite 200
Boulder, CO 80301
Please attach a note so he knows that you are with Community UCC and the funds can be included in our total. If you find a CROP WALK envelope with or **without** a donation, please return it to Janet Hoaglund or mail it to Burton Lee.

When you hear the next depressing hunger statistic, know that you have directly touched the lives of others in need! Thank you so much.
Janet Hoaglund, CUCC CROP Walk Recruiter (720-227-5267)

Holidays are approaching, and the Outreach Commission will once again coordinate the sponsorship of gifts for several persons with limited resources. But first, we need a volunteer to coordinate the annual Family-to-Family Program. This is a rewarding opportunity and takes just a few Sundays. The county provides us with the names and needs of the number of people we want to help (last year, we chose two families and two individuals); we ask CUCC people to each shop for a specific need, wrap the gift and bring it to church on the specified Sunday. The coordinator would then be responsible for delivering the wrapped gifts to the county's Social Services office. If you are willing to help out in this way, please contact Kathy Leftwich at kalefty@yahoo.com or 720-304-6818.

Our next Habitat for Humanity Apostles Build Day is **December 12**. 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

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
Nov 1 8:30 Taize **10:00 Worship** 11:30 Choir Rehearsal	**2** **7pm Book Study**	**3**	**4** **Women's Group 6:30** **Potluck 7:30 program**	**5**	**6**	**7**
8 8:30 Taize **10:00 Worship** 11:30 Choir Rehearsal **Pumpkin Buddy Lunch**	**9** **7pm Book Study**	**10**	**11**	**12** **6:30-9pm Coordinating Council**	**13** **7-9pm A Toast to the World Community CUCC fundraiser event**	**14**
15 8:30 Taize **10:00 Worship - Commission Caring Ministers** 11:30 Choir Rehearsal **Alternative Gift Market after service**	**16** **7pm Book Study**	**17**	**18**	**19** **9 am Newsletter Deadline**	**20**	**21**
22 8:30 Taize **9:15 Choir Rehearsal** 10:00 Worship **11:30 Choir Rehearsal**	**23**	**24**	**25**	**26** **Happy Thanksgiving** ***No Community Table***	**27**	**28**
29 8:30 Taize **9:15 Choir Rehearsal** 10:00 Worship **11:30 Choir Rehearsal**	**30**	**Dec 1**	**2** **Women's Group 6:30** **Potluck 7:30 program**	**3**	**4**	**5**
6 8:30 Taize **9:15 Choir Rehearsal** 10:00 Worship **11:30 Choir Rehearsal**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10** **6:30-9pm Coordinating Council**	**11**	**12** **Habitat Build Day**

COMMUNITY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

2650 Table Mesa Dr.
Boulder CO 80305

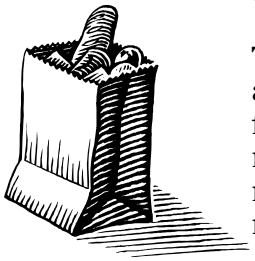
Worship and Sunday School 10:00 a.m.
Rev. Pete Terpenning, Minister
An Open and Affirming Congregation
A Peace with Justice Congregation

Phone: 303.449.9119
Web: www.cuccboulder.org

November 2009

Grocery Coupons

Grocery Coupon Sales raise a significant amount of money to add to our budget. Now is the time to really watch for the grocery sales table—it's quick and easy to buy them and the congregation gets a 5% return from the grocery stores who participate. Please please please remember to stop at the Grocery Coupons table every Sunday to replenish your cupboards and our bank accounts at the same time! Grocery script costs you only the face value, but we get a 5% return for every purchase you make.



Property Commission

Thank you to everyone who has made the new library project possible. Work is expected to be completed soon. See Bob Castellino with any questions

(Continued from page 3)

this group has explored a new, more meaningful way to look at their everyday lives, at the music they love and at the food they eat.

Thanks to Laura Terpenning for including the children and youth in this year's Alternative Gift Market. Look for them on Sunday, November 15th as they work the room selling fair trade items of beads, chocolates and more that will make great gifts for your favorite family members this holiday season.

OCTOBER ATTENDANCE

10-4	27
10-11	16
10-18	21
10-25	25

BOOK STUDY CONTINUES

The Evolution of God: We are continuing our Science and Spirituality book study and discussion group with a new book by Robert Wright. It meets **Monday evenings at 7:00PM** through Nov. 16th, at Pete's house, 365 Manhattan Drive. Copies of the book will be available at the Boulder Book Store.