

March 2019  
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This issue has 4 pages.

## Perspectives on Easter

As March becomes April we find ourselves celebrating Easter, a holiday recognized by Christians as the high point of the church year and as our faith's paradigmatic occurrence of renewed life. As a pastor it is my duty and privilege to try to interpret the meaning of this unique observance. And, regarding the meaning of Easter, there seem to be lots of interpretations. Some of them are a bit light-hearted.

- There is the Sartorial Interpretation, which looks at Easter as a chance to buy a new dress or put cute clothes on the kids. The "Easter Parade" means strutting your stuff.
- There is the Easter Bunny Viewpoint. This makes the holiday an occasion intended mostly for children, replete with lots of colored eggs and candy. I have nothing against this interpretation so long as it is not regarded as an exhaustive definition, and so long as the candy is dark chocolate and not milk chocolate.
- In the Collegiate Interpretation, Easter is considered a herald of Spring Break. Daytona Beach, here we come. Or maybe one more trip to A Basin before the snow melts.
- The Annual Trek to Church Event sees Easter as the proper time to revisit a place you haven't attended in a year or so. The Semi-Annual Trek version includes Christmas, also. That's okay. We're glad to see people whenever they can get here.
- There is the Supernatural Miracle Rationale, which views the Resurrection as proof that ordinary human beings—though only a select few—will soon join Jesus up in the clouds. There's that bumper sticker, "When the Rapture comes, this car will be unmanned." (They never say, "unwomaned." We should protest.) But even better is the one that says, "When the Rapture comes, can I have your car?"

There are other interpretations that we would want to take more seriously. The best of them proclaim that **life is a gift**, that **God has made life so that it revives and renews itself**, and that **this is something to celebrate**. By this we don't mean simply the resuscitation of a corpse. We're talking about the restoration of our spirits, about the presence of hope even when things haven't gone as we had planned. As I look back over my life I now recognize many seasons in which I was on a downward path, only to be restored by that Grace to which we are all such great debtors.

Our whole congregation manifests this Grace. There is positive energy. People enjoy one another. We comfort one another in sorrow and laugh together the rest of the time. Life is experienced as a gift. There is hope for our future. We feel thankful to God.

Happy Easter.

Pastor David  
*revised from the Mouse, April 2002.*

## March offerings and attendance

3/03/2019	32	\$ 2465.00
3/10/2019	54	\$ 4211.00
3/17/2019	51	\$ 2717.00
3/24/2019	40	\$ 1867.50
3/31/2019	38	\$ 1746.50

Total \$ 13,007.00                      Average Attendance: 43

**The church needs about \$10,000 a month to cover expenses.**

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Zadie Nachtweih	3-Apr
Nancy Lawrence	4-Apr
Maylea Williams	6-Apr
Becky Anderson	7-Apr
Tyce Brozovich	7-Apr
Zoe Brozovich	7-Apr
Mark Anderson	8-Apr
Bob Sherry	9-Apr
Dan Williams	10-Apr
Jim Thomson	10-Apr
Mary Correll	13-Apr
Melodie Myhre	14-Apr
Rosanna Rains	15-Apr
Nancy Conner	19-Apr
Tom and Erika Kenney	25-Apr
Donilyn Thomson	30-Apr
Kendall Johnson	30-Apr

## WRCC UCC April Calendar

- April 6: Yoga with Melinda at 8:30 a.m.
- April 7: Communion Sunday
- April 12: Last day to bring Hope House Easter basket items.
- April 11–12: Interfaith Green Building Conference
- April 13: Deacons and Trustees meet. Yoga with Melinda at 8:00 a.m.

## HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

- April 14 – **PALM SUNDAY!** Children will march with palm branches at the start of the worship service. Hosanna! David will be preaching. We will also have guest harpist Barbara Lepke-Simms. In addition to accompanying our choir Barb will be offering some preliminary music to set the tone as we enter Holy Week. She will begin at 9:50 a.m. on Palm Sunday. This would be a great opportunity to come early, take a seat in the Sanctuary, and enjoy the special music. Our kids will be assembling the Hope House Easter baskets during Sunday School.
- April 18 – **MAUNDY THURSDAY.** We will hold our annual Maundy Thursday Stew and Communion. This features a common meal of stew followed by the Lord's Supper. You are invited to bring stew ingredients (potatoes, carrots, onions, meat, etc.) to the Fellowship Hall by 10:00 a.m. on the 18<sup>th</sup> or you may bring food earlier and leave it in the refrigerator or freezer. The Communion service is somewhat somber as we remember Christ's suffering.
- April 19 – **GOOD FRIDAY.** Our Sanctuary will be open from noon until 3:00 p.m. for prayer and meditation. (See Matthew 27:45)
- April 21 – **EASTER SUNDAY!** We will have a drop-in brunch from 9:00 to 9:50 a.m. in the Boulevard room and an Easter egg hunt for the kids after the worship service.
- April 27 – Women's Homelessness Initiative at 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue UCC, at 4:00 p.m.
- April 28 – **EARTH DAY SUNDAY!**





Marilyn Olson and Joanne Dyer are working on cute table decorations. Deb Johnson also helped.



Are you excited for Easter? We're getting ready!

Don't forget to order your Easter flowers! Forms are available at the church. We need your order by April 14.



Coming to our sanctuary soon!



## **We have a new procedure for the King Soopers rewards program**

To Use the King Soopers or City Market Community Rewards Program: Encourage your participants to visit the appropriate link below. For King Soopers Stores, go to <http://www.kingsoopers.com>

Once logged into their King Soopers or City Market account you can search for Wheat Ridge Congregation United Church of Christ either by name or SY198 and then click Enroll. New users will need to create an account which requires some basic information, a valid email address, and a King Soopers rewards card.

- Customers must have a registered King Soopers or City Market rewards card account to link to your organization.
- If you do not yet have a King Soopers rewards card they are available at the customer service desk at any King Soopers.

REMEMBER, purchases will not count for your organization until after your participants register their rewards card. Participants must swipe their registered King Soopers or City Market rewards card or use the phone number that is related to their registered King Soopers or City Market rewards card when shopping for each purchase to count.

# MOUSE MORSELS

**Happy April!** Are you as ready for spring as we are? It sure is a relief to have some sunny, warm days and see the emergence of little leaves! We have news to report about many people traveling! [Melinda Townsend](#) and [Susan Herbért](#) just returned from a wonderful European cruise with stops in places such as Amsterdam and Antwerp. [The Brozovich family](#) spent their spring break visiting Mesa Verde and Four Corners, hiking in the Saguaros, and then went to Tucson to watch their nephew/cousin Braden play in a baseball tournament. How neat! [Fred Rollenhagen](#) is taking a cruise in the Bahamas with some good friends! Speaking of good friends, [Karen Parkinson](#) visited [Krista Williams](#) in Ft. Worth, Texas. They enjoyed the Water Gardens and saw a longhorn cattle drive right in downtown Ft. Worth! (You know how those Texans are.) Krista is really enjoying living in Texas! We haven't seen [Beverly Fox](#) lately because she is on a three-week walking tour with her daughter in Sri Lanka! Wow! **Thank you . . .** to [Deb and Kendall Johnson](#) for the new palm trees in the sanctuary. They look great! We are also excited to report that the "Preach the Gospel" banner has been re-created. It looks amazing and we hope to have it up for Palm Sunday. Thank you also to [Antares Jeffares-Whitehead](#), who offered an excellent presentation on Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder after our worship service. This was a part of a high school graduation project. **Congratulations to . . .** [Sarah Parkinson](#). She has a new job with Home Depot and she loves it! Yay, Sarah! We also want to say hooray to [Maylea Williams](#). She has been accepted in the Denver School of the Arts. She is really happy about this. Jenna Williams is also happy because she has been accepted into an teacher residency program. We are tickled pink to announce that [Cathy Conner and Troy Smith](#) are expecting their first baby. We also celebrate [Christine Bland](#), who received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the organization ALLY. The Ally Awards honor the commitment of allies who have been a voice for LGBTQ community. **Prayers . . .** We are sad to report that [Charlotte Rubenking's](#) sister Janet has died. Please keep Charlotte and her family in your prayers. Prayers are also need for [Carol and Norm Meswarb](#). Although Carol has been released from the rehab facility her recovery has been very difficult and she is discouraged. Carol and Norm are having to make some difficult decisions. Please pray for [Spencer Rains](#). He has had a significant mental health decline and has been admitted to Denver Health Medical Center. We pray that he can get the treatment he needs. Sincere condolences to [Horace Kerr](#), whose mother, Viola Kerr Uhrig, has died. Services will be held at our church on April 7 in the afternoon. Our church received a sweet Thank You note from [Judy Scarborough](#), who lives in Atlanta and received one of our prayer shawls after having been in a car wreck.

*Please let us know of any news you have for us.* See you soon!



The Church Mouse is published monthly by the Wheat Ridge Congregational Church, United Church of Christ. The deadline for copy is the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Articles may be handwritten or typed, but we prefer plain text sent via email to [wheatridgeucc@gmail.com](mailto:wheatridgeucc@gmail.com). Articles must indicate the name of the writer and/or sender. Unsigned articles are written by the editor. The church website is: [www.wheatridgeucc.org](http://www.wheatridgeucc.org). News and photos for the website should be sent to the same email address listed above. Sunday worship is at 10:00 a.m. Office hours are 8:30 to 1:00pm daily. Monday is the minister's day off. The pastor may be reached at 303-238-6271 (office), 303-246- 0589 (Claudia's cell), or [wheatridgeucc@gmail.com](mailto:wheatridgeucc@gmail.com).