



LOUISVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

# The Grapevine

April 2010

*“For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son he loves, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.”*

- Colossians 1:13-14

The Youth Group will meet at 1 pm on Saturday, April 3 to put candy in Easter eggs. Then, they will hide them on Sunday morning, between the 8:00 and 10:30 services.

- Two Opportunities For Worship Every Sunday**
- 8:00 a.m. Casual Worship Service
  - 9:15 a.m. Adult Sunday School
  - 9:15 a.m. Children’s Sunday School (1 hr)
  - 10:30 a.m. Worship service w/ short Sunday school
  - Holy Communion 1st Sunday of each month

**What Is This Easter “Joy” All About?**

The joy we feel at Easter-time is like no other joy. It is a different and more solemn emotion than we experience at Christmas-time. In our special Holy Week services we used the word “joy”, praying that we might “with joy” meditate upon the events of Christ’s passion and resurrection. The word “joy” takes on further meanings of deep satisfaction assurance, hope, and expectation. It is our response not so much to an historical event but to a present experience. It springs from a deep conviction that there need be no fear, doubt, discouragement, and hopelessness any longer. Those of us who are followers of Christ are assured that even death is no barrier to the ever-presence of God and the sustaining power of God’s love. As the result of the “Easter Event” we can face tomorrow, indeed all of our tomorrows, unafraid.

There are many today who forecast nothing but bleakness in the days ahead. Our newspapers, television news programs, radio talk show personalities, and magazines beat us down with blood-curdling detail about events that are taking place daily with reports of financial and political corruption (in our largest and most trusted institutions), terrorist attacks, immorality such as pornography, drug abuse, incidents of child molestation (even in the church), natural catastrophes (earthquakes, floods, fires, etc.), internet crimes (such as identity theft), widespread diseases like A.I.D.S. and malaria, mass starvation, widespread unemployment due to the global recession, etc. Decisions are being made by forces over which we seem to have no control, committing us to some major foreign and economic policies (most recently the expanded war in Afghanistan and the new Health Care Legislation that both confuse and frighten us). These issues are highly complex and few of us “regular citizens” understand either their immediate or long term implications. It seems that whenever we turn on the radio or television we learn about some form of social upheaval going on overseas and in our own country.

The great tragedy is that it is our young people, who in times past have dreamed great dreams and who focused their thoughts and imaginations on exciting visions of a new day, who are feeling discouraged and depressed about their future. I am concerned about the rising suicide rate among our college students around the country and wonder what is causing this to occur. I am sorry to see that many of our youth and young adults adopt a philosophy of despair and gloom and doom. The ancient Epicureans also saw no brighter “tomorrow” but at least said, “Eat, drink and be merry.” But back then there were no terrorist bombings; no predictions of chemical and germ warfare, genocide, worldwide pollution of the atmosphere and oceans, worldwide famine or over-population.

When we, as Christians, proclaim the power of the resurrection this Easter, we are addressing the present situation, and we must speak with a conviction that is real and unswerving.

We see in Christ’s conquering of death the firm fact that spiritual foundations are the very essence of life. Those of us who have faced the loss of everything we have loved, everything for which we have lived, and everything that has given meaning to our lives also know how powerful this foundation can be. We know that God can see us through, that vision can be cleared, that clouds can be removed, that strength can be restored, and that we can look to the future with confidence.

During Holy Week we read, “Almighty God, whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first suffered pain, and did not enter into glory before he was crucified. O God, whose blessed Son our Savior, gave his back to be whipped by the smiters and did not hide his face from shame.” These traditional Holy Week passages face squarely the harshness of reality. They don’t attempt to camouflage the universal pain and suffering that has been experienced by humanity throughout history. They don’t talk about springtime, lilies, bunnies, decorated eggs, and butterfly wings. The joy of Easter does not come easily or without cost. (Continued on page 2)

Spiritual power must be won; it is never aimlessly bestowed upon us. It is not that we welcome evil as a good thing and undergo suffering as a grim necessity. Jesus said, "It is necessary, that offenses will come." (They will inevitably come to all of us.) He faced this fact of life, but he accepted it courageously and creatively and, as one Christian theologian once said, "He twisted a crown of thorns into a crown of glory." This is the power of the resurrection, not to seek suffering but to bear it, to heal it, and to be stronger because of it. It is the story of Father Damien discovering that he had at last contracted leprosy and was at one with his lepers in the leper colony he came to serve so faithfully. It is the story of Martin Luther King, the night before his murder joyfully declaring to the people in Memphis that he had arrived at the mountaintop.

God does not call us to merely face the future with grim determination and a stiff upper lip. To paraphrase a Holy Week liturgy, "We take joyfully the sufferings of the present time in full assurance of the glory that can be revealed in our lives now as well as in the hereafter."

And so we proclaim the message to all: "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed!" This is the Christian proclamation to a world grown corrupt, divided, fearful and despairing. No one is more aware of the world's pain that a true follower of Christ, for our eyes are always focused on the cross upon which our Savior died. But no one is more aware than a follower of Christ that there is healing and strength for those who love, for the tomb is empty, death is conquered and humanity has been set free. The power of the resurrection enables us to say with the apostle Paul: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice! And the peace of God which passes all understanding will keep our hearts and our minds in Christ Jesus." My best wishes to all of you for a Joyous Springtime and Eastertide!

*Pastor Bob*

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## Palm Sunday 2010



# Church Food Mission

Thanks to everyone who helped with the March delivery. We successfully packed and delivered 235 boxes of food. A special thank you to Boy Scout Troop 278 led by Mark Spangler and to Girl Scout Troop 2204 from Louisville. You are amazing! You worked so hard and you are truly appreciated.

We often have a shortage of delivery people and this time was no exception. One of our faithful delivered three routes and a couple delivered two. We try not to let this happen. The routes are organized so that most of the routes take approximately two hours to deliver so we aren't taking too much of your day and maps are provided for each route to help with addresses.

We can be very proud of the food program our church has chosen as it's mission. To be able to help those in need in our own community is very satisfying. Our next delivery is June 12 so please give some thought to helping us by delivering a route. If you have any questions, please talk to either Sandy Gormley, Nancy Holloway or Claire Van Meter.

There are three items that we seem to be short of each quarter and have trouble picking up at the warehouse. If, when you're shopping you see cereal, peanut butter or dessert (cake or cookie mix, etc.) please remember us. Thanks.

Claire Van Meter

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## Relay For Life 2010



It's time to sign up for our Relay for Life team, online at [east-boulderrelay.com](http://east-boulderrelay.com) - August 6-7. Join our team with a \$10 registration. We have a FUNDRAISING CHALLENGE - if our team can raise \$1000 by the night of Relay, Andrew Spangler (with parents' permission) will let our team dye his hair purple (the color of survivors) during the event.

If you are a cancer survivor or a caregiver, you can register online for the survivor celebration. There is no registration fee for survivors. At the Relay on August 6, there is a Survivor Reception, with dinner for you and a caregiver, gifts, and a celebration of another birthday during the opening ceremonies. Any questions, please see Courtney or Janeen Hill.

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Louisville United Methodist Church  
741 Jefferson Avenue  
Louisville, Colorado 80027  
(303) 666-8812



Rev. Dr. Robert Toll  
[rjtoll47@aol.com](mailto:rjtoll47@aol.com)

Web site: [www.louisvilleumc.org](http://www.louisvilleumc.org)

WANT TO GET A HEAD START? The newsletter deadline for the next issue is April 25. Please email any articles, pictures, or suggestions, to our editor:

**[courtney\\_peverley@hotmail.com](mailto:courtney_peverley@hotmail.com)**  
Send mailing address changes to:  
**[sheilaspangler@earthlink.net](mailto:sheilaspangler@earthlink.net)**

# Education Corner

HAPPY EASTER! CHRIST IS RISEN! REJOICE! HALLELUJAH! Jesus is Alive and will always be with us! That is the message of Easter, and the beginning of a story about how the words and example of Jesus spread throughout the Mediterranean and eventually around the world.

During April (first part of Eastertide), the children will learn what happened after Jesus was resurrected from the tomb. We'll follow along with Him in the garden as he asks Mary, "Whom are you looking for?" and as he blesses Thomas and his disciples, saying "Peace be with you". During breakfast on the beach, Jesus singles out Simon Peter and gives him 3 chances at an important mission, instructing him to "Feed my sheep". After that, according to Matthew 28:16-20, Jesus appears to his disciples once more in Galilee, at the top of a mountain, and tells them to "go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

What a wonderful promise! We'll keep learning about Jesus's parables of the Kingdom of God right through the rest of Eastertide, the 50 days leading up to Pentecost in May. That's the day we celebrate as the birthday of the Christian church. Join with us on our journey of faith! Sunday School rooms 9:20 to 10:25 each Sunday morning.

Love,  
Your Sunday School teachers Shelli, Nicole, Mike, Larry and Ann



Thank you to those who donated plastic eggs and candies for the Children's Easter Egg Hunt. You are appreciated!



## VBS 2010

Families! Save the Dates!

Baobab Blast Vacation Bible School is coming! June 21-25, 2010 from 8:45 until noon each day.

Be ready to celebrate Community with us! Details and registration forms will be in the next newsletter and are available from Ann, Shelli or Nicole. Can you help out?

What is a Baobab, you may ask?

Baobab is a gigantic tree found in Africa that creates its own ecosystem. A baobab tree's hollowed-out trunk, leaves, foliage, nectar, fruit, and bark provide basic life needs for many different creatures. For two months out of the year, when the rain falls and the grasses are green in the African Savannah, the baobab tree produces leaves and flowers. The enormous tree can grow to 98 feet tall and 36 feet wide. The Baobab tree has flowers that bloom at night. The flowers are large and white and only bloom for one day!

Baobab trees are one of the world's oldest life forms. The baobab tree serves as a meeting place for many people to gather, discuss, and share stories. At Baobab Blast, the baobab tree is the central figure—the hub of activity, energy, and life. The baobab tree supports and invites community. In fact, the baobab tree is a symbol of community.

Join us! Call Ann for information at 303.664.4786.

# Jefferson Street Preschool Update

Summer is fast approaching and our summer camp schedule has come together. We will be offering 6 different camps of 2 - week duration throughout the summer. The camps kick-off on June 7 with "Birds, Bugs & Gardens" where the kids will not only go exploring for birds & bugs but will learn their importance in nature and in the garden they will be planting.

The second camp will be about Lego creations & construction. We just happen to have a parent that works for Lego and he will be invaluable for this camp. Week 3 brings "Weather, Science & Goody Goodness" where we hope to have a local TV weather forecaster as a guest to help the kids learn about how the weather happens. We will also have a special guest at our 4<sup>th</sup> camp where the kids will learn about "Animals: Homes & Habitats" from a Boulder County Parks and Recreation staff member. We will be making a big splash at our "Oceans and Space" camp. We are trying to recruit some friends that helped put the Denver aquarium together to help create a space that actually looks like the ocean with all the fun sea creatures in it. We will end the summer with a camp "All About Me" that will help teach the kids about their own bodies and how they work. We are talking to area health care workers to help out with this fun session. We believe that our camps offer a fun and educational opportunity that most preschool summer camps do not. We are very excited about the summer program but we need some help making it all work. Do you know anyone with skills, talent or interest in any of our summer camp themes? If so please let us know or contact them and have them contact us. This is a big undertaking and we will need lots of help to pull it all off.

The preschool would like to also thank all of those that have been monitoring the playground after church on Sunday. It is so nice to come in and find a clean playground. It is very much appreciated.

On behalf of the preschool committee and staff, we want to thank you all for all the support you have given us this first year. We hope you will continue to keep the preschool in your prayers as we go into the summer months and our second year.

If you have questions or would like more information regarding the preschool, please call one of the committee members- Nancy Holloway, Sheila Newton, Claire VanMeter or Sandy Gormley.

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## **THE UNENDING RESURRECTION**

Christ is every always and forever rising again. Day by day we try to bury him under the debris of history, or embalm him in definitions, creeds, doctrines and dogmas, or hide him within the walls of churches and institutions, or smother him under a load of the cares, riches and pleasures of life, or stab him to death with the daggers of our sins. But always he rises, phoenixlike, from the ashes of the fires of selfishness and carelessness in which we allow his power over our lives to be destroyed. Again and again he is lifted up out of the common things of life, a vindication of his life and a triumph over the powers that crucified him, and all are drawn to him as irresistibly as the earth is held in its orbit around the sun. The empty tomb opens before the world, telling us it is God who still has the last word, not ourselves; that on Easter Day life looks forward, onward, upward and God-ward. - *Essay written by Elmer S. Freeman*

## **EASTER MORNING**

This is the beauty of our Easter morning:  
In him humanity may now arise  
Out of the grave of self, all baseness  
scorning;  
The holy radiance of his glorious eyes  
Illumines everywhere uplifted faces,  
Touches the earthly with a heavenly glow,  
And in that blessed light all human graces  
Into Divine Beatitudes must grow.

- *Poem by Lucy Larcom*

# Youth News



The \$400 that the Youth Group raised at the Chili Cookoff was sent to a team of United Methodist Volunteers in Mission (UMVIM) who will be going to Haiti in April. They will report back to our church letting us know where the money was used.

On March 7, the Youth Group had fun with "Cheesy Pizza, Cheesy Movie" Fellowship Night, featuring the classic "Robot Monster". The film was so bad it had a man in a gorilla suit wearing a diving helmet as the bad guy, random lizard battles, dinosaurs for no reason, and not much of a plot. Thanks again to Mark Spangler for the technical support and for making enough popcorn! Thanks also to the parents who helped clean up all the popcorn that somehow missed.

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## Upcoming Youth Events

**The youth group will meet at 1 p.m. on SATURDAY April 3 to put goodies in Easter eggs for the little ones.**

**The group will be leading both church services on April 11, the Sunday after Easter.**

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## It's a Bird! It's a Plane! It's a Robot?

Two of our youth competed in the FIRSTRobotics competition in Denver March 25-27, and in a strange turn of events, their teams wound up competing against each other in the finals. Jennifer Anderson's team, The Black Knights, took first place in the competition, with Grant Hill's team, Brute Force, taking second. The competition puts three teams in an "alliance" against another "alliance", with three robots on the field for each team. Jennifer will be going with her team to the National Championship in April. We are so proud of these youth!

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Interested in joining or helping out with the Louisville United Methodist Church Youth Group? Contact Janeen Hill for more information. Already a part of the Youth Group, bring a friend to our next event (stuffing Easter eggs on Saturday, April 3).

# Haiti – Operation Resurrection

An update was received from Skip Strickland about Haitian relief from the Rocky Mountain Conference and UMCOR. Remember you can find continual updates both on the RMCUMC.org web site and on the UMCOR.org web site.

*As I write this, Jim Gulley, is in Haiti helping UMCOR with relief planning. You can trust we will have first hand updates about what is taking place on the ground. Church members in the Rocky Mountain Conference are well on their way to donating over \$350,000.00 for Haiti relief. Thousands of health kits have been assembled and shipped to the UMCOR west depot. The outpouring is amazing.*

*This weekend I was in South Fork, CO, in a snow storm, speaking to folks about starting a New Church there. On my way home I picked up 72 health kits from the Monte Vista UMC. The neat part of the Monte Vista Health Kit story is that some of the materials for these health kits were collected and donated by a local 3rd grade elementary class. They heard about the project through their teacher who is a church member and wanted to help. This is an example of "Rethink church," where walls are broken down and church folks and people in the community work together for a common good. This is just one story among many that I have received, where church and community groups respond together to meet a great need. Keep sending in your stories and we will try to collect and report them on the conference web site, RMCUMC.org.*

*Below is the official news feed from the denomination UMCOR web site that I wanted to pass on to you for your information.*

*Thank you for all your good work.*

*Skip Strickland*

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## *Twinkies and Root Beer*

A little boy wanted to meet God. He knew it was a long trip to where God lived, so he packed his suitcase with Twinkies and a six-pack of Root Beer and he started his journey. When he had gone about three blocks, he met an elderly man. The man was sitting in the park just feeding some pigeons. The boy sat down next to him and opened his suitcase. He was about to take a drink from his root beer when he noticed that the man looked hungry, so he offered him a Twinkie. The man gratefully accepted it and smiled at boy. His smile was so pleasant that the boy wanted to see it again, so he offered him a root beer. Again, the man smiled at him. The boy was delighted! They sat there all afternoon eating and smiling, but they never said a word. As it grew dark, the boy realized how tired he was and he got up to leave, but before he had gone more than a few steps, he turned around, ran back to the man, and gave him a hug. The man gave him his biggest smile ever.

When the boy opened the door to his own house a short time later, his mother was surprised by the look of joy on his face. She asked him, "What did you do today that made you so happy? He replied, "I had lunch with God." But before his mother could respond, he added, "You know what? God's got the most beautiful smile I've ever seen!"

Meanwhile, the elderly man, also radiant with joy, returned to his home. His son was stunned by the look of peace on his face and he asked, "Dad, what did you do today that made you so happy?" He replied, "I ate Twinkies in the park with God." However, before his son responded, he added, " You know, he's much younger than I expected."

Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. People come into our lives

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