



Advent Credo

It is not true that creation and the human family are doomed to destruction and loss—

This is true: For God so loved the world that God gave his only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life;

It is not true that we must accept inhumanity and discrimination, hunger and poverty, death and destruction—

This is true: I have come that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

It is not true that violence and hatred should have the last word, and that war and destruction rule forever—

This is true: Unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder, his name shall be called wonderful councilor, mighty God, the Everlasting, the Prince of peace.

It is not true that we are simply victims of the powers of evil who seek to rule the world—

This is true: To me is given authority in heaven and on earth, and lo I am with you, always even until the end of the world.

It is not true that we have to wait for those who are specially gifted, who are the prophets of the Church before we can be peacemakers—

This is true: I will pour out my spirit on all flesh, and your sons and daughters shall prophesy, your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams.

It is not true that our hopes for liberation of humankind, of justice, of human dignity of peace are not meant for this earth and for this history—

This is true: The hour comes, and it is now, that the true worshipers shall worship God in spirit and in truth.

So let us enter Advent in hope, even hope against hope. Let us see visions of love and peace and justice. Let us affirm with humility, with joy, with faith, with courage: Jesus Christ—the light of the world.

From Walking on Thorns, by Allan Boesak, Eerdmans, 2004.

December and Advent Calendar and Activities



- ❖ The **mitten/hat tree** has been set up and we are collecting hats and mitten to be donated to a charity benefiting residents of Wheat Ridge.
- ❖ The **Toy Drive** for the Jeffco Action Center Holiday Gift Shop begins. Drop off new toys in the toy box in the entryway through Sunday, December 8.
- ❖ Donate to **staff Christmas bonuses**.

Sunday, December 1 - First Sunday in Advent. The Wheat Ridge Ringers handbell choir will be playing “O Holy Night” and “Carol of the Bells.” Following the service, we will share a potluck lunch of soups and bread, followed by the ‘Hanging of the Greens’ as we decorate our sanctuary. Children will paint windows downstairs. Donate to staff Christmas bonuses. Donate hats and mittens to the mitten tree.

Sunday, December 8 – On the Second Sunday in Advent we will share **Christmas Communion** during the service. This is the *LAST DAY* to **donate toys and/or food** for the holiday collection for Jeffco Action Center.

Saturday, December 14 – Deacons and Trustees meet.



Sunday, December 15 – On the Third Sunday in Advent our Choir will sing the Christmas cantata, “The Glory of Christmas” by Lloyd Larson. **This is the LAST DAY** to donate to staff Christmas bonuses - please submit your bonus donations by this date, so our treasurer will have them ready by Christmas!

Sunday, December 22 – On the Fourth Sunday in Advent our children's choir, the Songbeams will perform for us during our worship service, and the children will perform their Christmas program. Special music will also include a flute ensemble. **LAST DAY** to donate hats and mittens.

Tuesday, December 24 – On Christmas Eve we will have our evening Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 7:00 p.m. A mixed quartet and handbell ensemble will provide music.

Wednesday, December 25 - Merry Christmas !

Saturday, December 28 - Join us for our final opportunity of the year, to set up cots and drop off holiday gifts for the homeless women served by the **Women's Homelessness Initiative**, at the Sixth Avenue UCC Church, 3250 E. 6th Ave., Denver 80206. This is a wonderful opportunity to send out 2018 with an act of compassion.



Words and Pet Peeves

by David Conner



Do you have any pet peeves? I certainly do. Some of my pet peeves have to do with words—words that are chronically misused, or overused so much that they become conspicuously tiresome. Here are a few examples.

- *Icon*, and *iconic*. These terms derive from the Greek word *ikon*, referring to those flat, gold-tinted portraits of saints that have adorned Greek Orthodox churches for centuries. (Google the word *iconoclast*.) With the invention of personal computers, the definition of “icon” was expanded to include the small symbols on a point-and-click screen. Lately, though, the use of “icon” and “iconic” has inexplicably mushroomed so that we hear these words almost constantly. “Iconic” can mean picturesque (“an iconic western town”), famous (“an iconic movie star”), easily recognizable (“the iconic shape of the Washington Monument”), or a typical example (“an iconic artist carrying a palette, easel, and brush”). None of these meanings bears any resemblance to a Greek icon. But *iconic* has “gone viral.”
- *Gone viral*. This certainly ranks near the top of the current cliché list. It designates any news item or video that has achieved sudden notoriety. But *real* viruses cause illness. Go figure.
- *Corridor*. For centuries this meant simply a hallway. A few decades ago a clever writer coined the phrase “urban corridor” to refer to the wide belt of metropolitan areas stretching from Washington, DC, to Boston. Unfortunately nowadays this nice metaphor has been stretched to refer to almost anything on the map that is longer than it is wide. On Denver TV stations *corridor* is used repetitiously by weather folks to identify any interstate highway—e.g., “the I-25 corridor.” In Colorado, interstate highways actually exist mostly as isolated strips of concrete stretching through open countryside. They are *not* corridors. Even north of Denver, the so-called “urban corridor” (from Longmont north to Fort Collins) is actually located on U.S. Hwy. 287, not on I-25. Besides, these highways have no direct bearing on the weather.
- *High Country*. This is another cliché used by weather people. I have lived in Colorado for almost 50 years and observed that most of us refer simply to “the mountains.”
- *Rang out*. While we’re on the subject of TV news programs we might wonder how much longer we’ll have to hear reporters say that “shots rang out.” My guess is that this odd figure of speech was first used in a cheap detective novel back in the 1940s. After all these years, the phrase just refuses to go away. In reality, of course, gun shots sound like firecrackers, not bells.
- *Closure*. This word originally pertained to the deliberate termination of an activity or event, such as the act of adjournment ending a meeting. More recently, especially because of the number of tragedies that are reported in the news, “closure” is applied to any event that may seem to bring relief to persons in circumstances of trauma or grief. If the body of a missing person is found or a judge sentences a murderer to a severe punishment, we are told that this “brings closure” to the survivors. I appreciate the point being made, but “closure” is not the right word. The victims of such tragedies never completely “get over it.” They can adapt and go on with their lives, but their loss or trauma almost never feels fully “closed.”
- “*I could care less*.” Years ago in *Gone with the Wind*, Rhett Butler told Scarlet O’Hara, “Frankly, my dear, I don’t give a damn.” Possibly inspired by that line, the phrase “I couldn’t care less” entered into common parlance. Then, several decades ago, somebody got confused and said, instead, “*I could care less*,” and this revision strangely replaced the original. Just a few days ago I heard someone say, “*I could care less*.” Persons who say this really mean, “*I couldn’t care less*.” If you *could* care less, that implies that you *do* care at least a little. The intended meaning is that, like Rhett Butler, you really don’t care at all, even a little.
- *Pet peeves*. “Pet peeve” is *such* a tiresome cliché! I wish somebody would invent a new way of referring to all those annoying things that we do so enjoy complaining about! ☺

WRCC UCC October and November offerings and attendance

10/06/19	\$2138.82	36
10/13/19	\$1852.00	41
10/20/19	\$2176.50	45
10/27/19	\$ 875.00	43

Oct Total \$7,041.00

11/03/19	\$2614.47	43
11/10/19	\$4307.55	37
11/17/19	\$1420.00	49
11/24/19	\$1029.00	49

Nov Total \$ 9,371.02

It takes about \$10,000 per month to operate our church.

“Being deeply loved by someone gives you strength, while loving someone deeply gives you courage.” -- Lao Tzu



Lucy Meyer	4-Nov	Birthday
Georgia Meyer	4-Nov	Birthday
Brandi Rail	8-Nov	Birthday
Tim Dyer	8-Nov	Birthday
Rusty Borneman	17-Nov	Birthday
Kathie Curtis	19-Nov	Birthday
Karen Parkinson	20-Nov	Birthday
Claudia Schmitt	22-Nov	Birthday
Quintry Jeffares-Whitehead	26-Nov	Birthday
Shea Kluender	1-Dec	Birthday
Bob and Gabrielle Sherry	3-Dec	Anniversary
Cynthia Parkinson	7-Dec	Birthday
Norma Daly	7-Dec	Birthday
Jennifer Brozovich	8-Dec	Birthday
Aubrey Cain	15-Dec	Birthday
Becky Williams	15-Dec	Birthday
Isabella Anderson	24-Dec	Birthday
Charlotte Rubenking	29-Dec	Birthday



Per Capita Dues Are Payable Now
We are now collecting per capita dues. They are **\$13.50 per member**. If you can't remember whether or not you have paid, please check with Karen Parkinson, Financial Secretary.

“People may forget what you said, but they'll never forget how you made them feel.”

Photo Gallery



The choir all decked out in costume



Little
Red
Riding
Hood
and
Harry
Potter



From L to R: Conner, PJ, Zoe, Tyce,
Isabella



Harry Potter 2



A young
Luke
Skywalker
perhaps?



Conner catching
a donut!

Dani and her super
cool costume. She is
wearing a tattoo
shirt.

MOUSE MORSELS



Hello everyone, We hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. We are thankful for all of you! **THANK YOU** to **Gabrielle Sherry** for creating a beautiful Thanksgiving altar for Thanksgiving Sunday. Thank you also to all our committee members, officers, Committee heads, and church members who have done so much for our church. We had our annual meeting are you truly are a Wonderful faithful community! We are now looking forward to our beautiful Advent season. Our sanctuary always looks so festive. We have some wonderful Advent services planned and we hope to see you in church. In case you hadn't heard, **Melinda Townsend** and **Susan Hébert** were married on November 2. Your pastors were honored to officiate. It was truly a beautiful occasion. **Wanda Bonner** has been doing some enjoyable traveling. She traveled to Washington D.C. to see the Lincoln Memorial. She also enjoyed seeing Lincoln's summer "White House," Mt. Vernon, and the Pentagon memorial. She said it was all very moving. She was only home for 4 days and then went on a bus tour of the Oregon Coast, visiting such places as the Redwoods and Sea Lion Caves. How cool. **Beverly Fox** is spending Thanksgiving in Costa Rica with her children and grandchildren. How special! **Chuck Parson** gave a lecture at the Kirkland Museum. If you have never been to the Kirkland, it is an excellent museum in downtown Denver. Chuck has some of his artwork in the museum. Please continue to keep **Fauve Johnson** in your prayers. Fauve had emergency surgery in Pretoria South Africa. There were complications during the surgery and she will need another surgery in a few months. Please keep the **Meswarb/Carlberg** family in your prayers. We had a beautiful memorial celebration for **Carol Meswarb** and she will be greatly missed. Carol founded and directed the handbell choir at Wheat Ridge UCC, and served as the church organist. Please keep **Pam Cokins** in your prayers. She is receiving radiation treatment 5 times a week for 6 weeks. Thank you to **Charlotte Rubenking** who created a schedule and recruited friends to get Pam to her treatments. What special friends! **Keith Daly** also continues in hospice care. We offer prayers for the entire **Daly family**. Constance Wise took another trip back to Kansas City, to help her sister after surgery. What a great sister! Constance is back home but has been under the weather. We hope you feel better soon. May the hope, peace, joy, and love of the Christ child be with you!

Merry Christmas everyone!



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. 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. 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.