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This issue has 6 pages.

**In John 14 Jesus tells his disciples,
“If you love me, you will keep my
commandments.”**



The word “commandments” here isn't legalistic. It doesn't refer to a difficult code of burdensome laws. John's Gospel doesn't even focus on the commandments of the law as the other Gospels do; John's theme is love, and to obey is to love. Maybe it would help to include the word “so”: “I have loved you, **so** you must love one another.” This is an unselfish love that binds us together in community just as it binds us in relationship to him. Jesus tells us this is the path to true joy, the kind of joy we can abide in.

An other-centered, belonging-to-something-greater-than-yourself love was crucial to the struggling little community that John was addressing. The Christian community several decades after the Resurrection of Christ was facing all sorts of persecution because of their faith. They might have been tempted to turn inward, loving God (of course) and one another, and concentrating on their own survival.

Instead, Jesus lays on them a different ethic, one that will transform the world rather than judge the world or run away from it. In a sense, this love is “tough.” The “love ethic” is not one of quietism but one of justice and action that knit humanity back together in love. Instead of thinking about who gets pruned away (judged and rejected), we're called to let God, through us, knit humanity back together in love.

Jesus' commandment to love provides a clear, comprehensive framework for forming values in every age and every situation, no matter how different our cultures, our technologies, our sophistication. We might ask ourselves about every decision and choice and plan and vision: Is this rooted in love? Does this bear fruit for the kingdom of God? That's the true test.

Love, of course, doesn't mean the romantic, mushy feeling that may fuel our popular music, our films, and all too often, our personal behavior. Being other-centered rather than self-centered, even to the point of giving up our lives (whether suddenly or over a lifetime) fulfills the law of Christ. Purity codes, legalisms, and self-righteous insistence all fall away.

How well we know the challenge of being other-centered! In our culture, characterized by mobility, career pressures, distractions, and overloaded calendars, it's difficult to make room even for friendship. We don't stay long enough to get to know one another, let alone to care about one another. And yet this Gospel keeps talking about staying, about abiding, about making our home in God, in the Body of Christ.

Love is not an easy-going, benign feeling. Love involves hard thought, self-discipline, and a consistent sensitivity to the situations and needs of other people. Above all, it involves an awareness of the presence of the Spirit of Christ in our lives. It involves a commitment to following that Spirit—everyday, with God's help.

— adapted from an article by the Rev. Kathryn Matthews

Lent and Easter Photo Gallery



The choir beautifully performed the "Sanctus" on Palm Sunday. We had guest harpist Barb Lepke-Sims and Tracy Futch on flute.



Good Friday offered a space for reflection.



Amanda Earle offered a wonderful children's lesson for Easter.



Christian Ed sponsored and the congregation supplied 20 Easter baskets for teenage moms.



Terri Applebach and Joanne Dyer

Quintry, Claudia, and Sarah



Tom, Erika, Claire, and Grant Kenney



Shea Kluender and Dave Nachtweih's 3 daughters enjoy their Easter baskets

Everyone enjoyed a delicious Easter brunch.



MOUSE MORSELS

Happy May! We hope you are enjoying the **May** flowers and blossoming trees!

People in our church are always going somewhere. **Deb and Kendall Johnson** traveled to Kansas for a wedding reception for their niece. **Shirleen and Bernie Joha** traveled to Grand Junction on business and then went on to Moab, Utah, to see Rachel. Speaking of **Rachel**, she is becoming quite the mountain climber. **The Anderson family** is travelling to Ogallala, Nebraska, for the Mothers' Day weekend. **Terri and Ron Applebach** are heading out to California on May 13. They will be enjoying Disneyland, Universal Studios, and other California amusements. **Claudia and David** will be heading to Grand Junction in June for the Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Meeting and Celebration. **Congratulations to . . . Antares Jeffares-Whitehead**, who will be graduating from Jeffco Open School on May 23. Kudos also go out to **Amanda Earle**. **Amanda** delivered an important talk at the Colorado Culture of Data Conference on May 3. Her presentation was entitled "Partners in Prevention: Considerations for Collaborative Behavioral & Public Health Programs." Amanda discussed cultural and demographic data and the successes and challenges associated with the grant they received that allowed the organization to provide free counseling to anyone with barriers to accessing mental health and substance use services. Wow! Please note that **Amanda has moved**. Her new address is **271 N. Grant St., Apt. 203, Denver, 80203**. We also celebrate with **Claire Kenney**, who recently performed in her school's production of *Les Misérables*. We hear that it was a stunning and professional production. **Grant Kenney** will be performing in "Dirk Smirk, Secret Agent" this weekend. How fun! **Thank you. . . to Antares Jeffares-Whitehead**, who utilized her community service hours in service to our church! She cleaned up various parts of our interior and exterior just in time for Easter. We thank **Shirleen Joha** for facilitating the final steps in getting our new shades ordered and installed. We think they are great! We have received word that our electronic sign should be ready for installation within two weeks. Thanks again to **Rod and Joanne Gustafson** for funding this project. Yay! We also have new hearing assistance devices in the church Sanctuary. Those who are using them say that they work wonderfully. Please don't be shy about asking to use them about the headphones. **Prayers . . . Please keep Vic and Renate Westfall** in your prayers. Vic's Parkinson's Disease is worsening in ways that require a higher level of care than Renate can manage.

Please let us know of any news you have for us.

We hope to see you soon!



Rachel Joha rappelling down a rock face in Utah. And think, only a few months ago she had a kidney replaced!

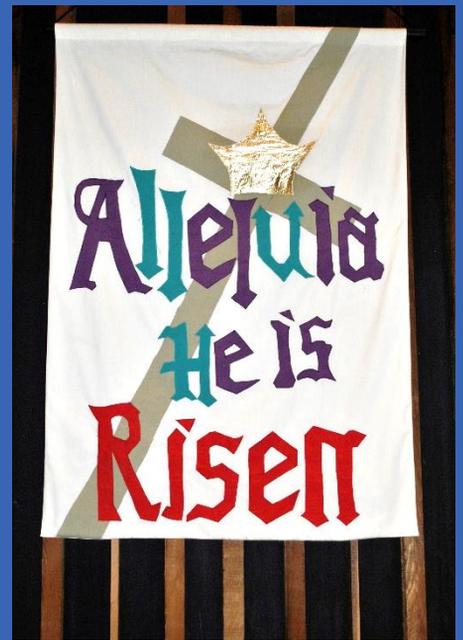
Antares helped us get our building and grounds in shape for Easter. Thank you!



More photos!



Hunting for Easter eggs



Brunch was a big hit!



Constance Wise and Sue Schaffer enjoy a visit while Terri A., Joanne D., Pam C., Deb J., & Marilyn O. share a story in the background



Pam Cokins, Constance Wise, Lucy Meyer, Marilyn Olson, and Karen Burron relax in the Library area.



Barb Nash, David Conner, and Linda Warren share fun and fellowship

Quotes and Quips about Music

"All music is folk music. I ain't never heard a horse sing a song."— Louis Armstrong

"All the good music has already been written by people with wigs and stuff." — Frank Zappa

"To achieve great things, two things are needed: a plan and not quite enough time."—Leonard Bernstein

"I don't know anything about music. In my line you don't have to."—Elvis Presley

"I've been imitated so well I've heard people copy my mistakes."—Jimi Hendrix

"After I saw Jimi [Hendrix] play, I just went home and wondered what the hell I was going to do with my life."—guitarist Jeff Beck

"Money doesn't talk, it swears."—Bob Dylan, *Music at Night and Other Essays*

"Competitions are for horses, not artists."—Bela Bartok

"I'd rather be a musician than a rock star."— George Harrison

"It's easy to play any musical instrument: all you have to do is touch the right key at the right time and the instrument will play itself."— Johann Sebastian Bach

"I never had much interest in the piano until I realized that every time I played, a girl would appear on the piano bench to my left and another to my right."—Duke Ellington

"Let me be clear about this: I don't have a drug problem. I have a police problem."—Keith Richards, guitarist in the Rolling Stones

"I can't understand why people are frightened of new ideas. I'm frightened of the old ones."—composer John Cage

"When I was a little boy, I told my dad, 'When I grow up, I want to be a musician.' My dad said, 'You can't do both, Son'."— Chet Atkins

"If you're listening to a rock star to get your information on who to vote for, you're a bigger moron than they are."— Alice Cooper

"To listen is an effort, and just to hear is of no merit. A duck hears also."—Igor Stravinsky

"In order to compose, all you need to do is remember a tune that nobody else has thought of."—Robert Schumann

"If I'd known I had to play this song the rest of my life, I probably woulda wrote something else...."—Joe Walsh, about "Rocky Mountain Way"

"Too many pieces of music finish too long after the end."— Igor Stravinsky

"Talking about music is like dancing about architecture."— anonymous

— quotes forwarded by Mike Nicovich



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