#### **Colorado Family Church: December and January Local Highlights**

Michael and Adonia Hentrich February 19, 2025



Apologies for the late local highlights email. This issue will cover both December and January events, including the Christmas Party, Teen Winter Workshop,

Operation Cookie Box, and much more. We hope you enjoy it.

## **Christmas Party**



This year's Christmas Party was a lot of fun as always. Santa made a big showing and the children all got a gift and photo opportunity. Thank you Jim Chimes for being our Santa every year. Kendra performed some live Christmas music for us

on her violin. The baking contest was very competitive as always, and everyone of course enjoyed sampling everything. Lastly, we had a bunch of Christmas crafts set up at various tables for the children and families to enjoy. Thank you to everyone that volunteered to make our Christmas party of memorable and meaningful experience.

#### **Teen Winter Workshop**



Our amazing youth ministry team and YAMI hosted a winter workshop for our teens at the end of December. They spent the weekend together bonding, hearing testimonies, lectures, sports, eating delicious food, singing together and much more. Thank you so much to the youth ministry team for taking such good care of our youth. Some of our youth also attended Camp True North in Washington State. Tap or click on the photo to see more pictures.

#### **Operation Cookie Box**



Our 9-12 youth ministry team hosted Operation Cookie Box. The intention was to create an opportunity for the 9-12 year olds to do something creative and make cookies for the elders in our community as an expression of gratitude for all they do for us. It was also a bonding opportunity with some spontaneous arm wrestling. Tap or click on the photo to see more pictures.

# Visit from Rev. & Mrs. Luke Higuchi



We had a very nice visit from our Kodan USA leader Rev. Luke Higuchi and his wife. They had many meetings, with some our young leadership, with YAMI, with guests, and more. They could share some of their life of faith experiences and also overcoming hardships in their marriage and Rev. Higuchi's experience as a former Broadway dancer and YouTuber.

## **Epic Rise Up Workshop in Las Vegas**



Hundred of new members from around the country gathered together at the International Peace Education Center in Las Vegas to perform for and greet True Mother. We had five members of our community attend, and they had a wonderful experience. The young man pictured here is Tomwe, Hiroko Ngalame's guest. He shared his experience at Sunday service a couple week's later. Tap or click on the photo to see more pictures.

## **Ongoing Interfaith Work in Grand Junction**



#### Christmas Interreligious Sharing program 2024

Last night our Interreligious Sharing group celebrated Jesus by each reading one of his quotes from the New Testament, choosing a quote that moved us and helped us grow spiritually.

WFWP/UPF: "Love Your Enemy" - Matthew 5: 43-48.

"These words represent the pinnacle of Jesus' teaching. .. This is God's strategy of love." -Rev. Sun Myung Moon

Christian Science: "If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." Jesus answered, "I did tell you, but you do not believe me. ... I and the Father are one." John 10:22-30

"Christ is the divine manifestation of God which comes to the flesh to destroy disease and death. Christ is Jesus' divine nature."

- Mary Baker Eddy

Bah'ai. "We believe in the oneness of Jesus and all the manifestations of God."

WFWP/UPF: "The Kingdom of God is Within You" Luke 17:20-21

"...Therefore, I come to the conclusion that God dwells in the innermost depth of your conscience....Wherever God is, there is the kingdom of heaven." - Rev. Sun Myung Moon

Bah'ai: Mark: 12:28-31 "The most important one, answered Jesus, "is...Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength. The second is this: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no greater commandment than these."

1 Corinthians:13:4 "Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self- seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices but with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres...."

Then we each, one by one, lit our candles and offered a prayer for peace.

We brought our Christmas gathering to a reluctant close by singing "Silent Night." We all felt peaceful and bright.

- Antonio and Gale



<u>January WFWP Interreligious Sharing program 2025</u>

January 30th's WFWP Interreligious Sharing program's topic was "WHO IS JESUS? WHY DID HE COME?"

United Methodist: Jesus was born of the Immaculate Conception. He is God in human form. He came as the Savior to this world and He came to teach us how to love.

Jesus Christ of the Latter- day Saints: Jesus is the first- born of God in the spirit and the flesh. Jesus taught us how to forgive. He suffered greatly on the cross and yet could forgive. We need to repent and change and become like our Savior.

Christian Science: Jesus is the divine manifestation of God. In His teaching and healing, He showed us who we are. His character is the manifestation of God. He showed us pure love. Healing was a big part of Jesus' mission.

Bah'ai: Jesus is the divine manifestation of God. The spirit of God dwells in Him. He showed love, mercy, gentleness. He brought personal salvation. The Bahais believe each central figure of each age is entrusted to bring a particular revelation. Jesus taught us to "love thy neighbor." Leviticus 19:18.

WFWP: We were the last to share. Unfortunately, at that time, our computer became unstable and we were unable to to speak. It may have been a blessing though because there was a lot of content shared by the other faith leaders and people were losing their concentration to listen. We will be the first to impart in February when everyone is fresh.

- Antonio and Gale

### Mid-Year Sunday School Graduation





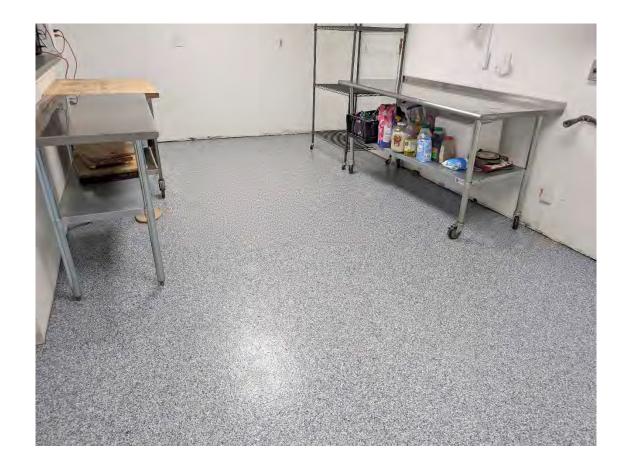
We had a Sunday School Graduation recognition for our students who are moving up to their next class. We hope all the children are enjoying their new classes and teachers.

## **Ongoing Renovations & Improvements**

These past 2 months, David Mahardy has continued work on the basement parsonage bathroom, as well as coordinating the kitchen floor replacement. This was a big project because everything had to be removed from the kitchen and then returned, plus a lot of dust cleaning afterwards. A big thank you to everyone that helped with that, including YAMI, Dr. Hentrich, Christine, Sergii, and Alexander. It looks great! Dr. Hentrich is continuing his work to paint the church building. It's coming along great! He's now working on the courtyard area.









Through the Sunday services this month, we had messages on a variety of subjects that we hope were meaningful and inspirational. If you missed any of them, you can find them all on our <u>Facebook page</u> and <u>YouTube channel</u>.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Give back













