

Colorado Family Church: April Local Highlights

Michael and Adonia Hentrich
May 15, 2024



Please enjoy below some of these local updates from our community this April. We had a lot going on, such as our Holy Day celebration, youth service, Ukrainian event, and Blue Dragon pilgrimage. Next month we look forward to sharing about the new solar panels, date night, spring refresh, more progress on our exterior renovation, and more!

Holy Days Celebration



We had a great weekend of our annual Holy Day celebration on April 27–28. Saturday, we had our pledge service and offering table. Despite the rain and snow, we had a good attendance. Pastor Adonia gave a great message on the significance of these days, and we could all enjoy a delicious breakfast and homemade Ukrainian cake made by Vira. Thank you to all the volunteers that always work so hard to make these happen for us.

Sunday was the next part of the celebration. We had the yute game, Divine Principle and Bible Jeopardy, testimonies, art contest, and a nice Korean dinner to finish it all off. Thank you to everyone that helped run everything. So many things have to come together for these to run smoothly, from the food, to the activities, to the prizes, and much more. Thank you to all the parents and grandparents for staying and being a part of it. Here are some [photos](#) from the various activities. Enjoy!

Two Years of Bravery, Resilience, and Solidarity



It's been two years since the invasion of Ukraine by Russia, and a number of our Ukrainian members put together this program on the history of church activities in Ukraine, True Parents' visits, personal testimonies, musical offerings, and sharing on the effect that the war has had on the country and families there. It was both heart-breaking and uplifting at the same time. Thank you to everyone that came and supported.



Youth Service



On April 21, we had our first youth service in quite a few years, and our youth really put in an amazing effort to create a quality experience for all of us. It was definitely an inspiration!

Jonathan emceed the service, while many of the youth worked together to share a

skit on repentance. Maya gave the message on the same topic. Please take a look at the recording if you missed it and here are some [photos](#) to enjoy!



Blue Dragon Pilgrimage Photos & Testimony



Last month, we sponsored four members from our community to attend the Blue Dragon Pilgrimage in Korea: Anisa Tanaka, Aliza Heppell, Yoshi Watanabe, and Yoshiko Tanaka. We know that they had many ups and downs, and they had to deal with sickness, jetlag, and long prayer vigils. Still, they came back with inspiring testimonies of their experiences, and we are grateful that they could be a part of this experience. [Here are some more photos.](#)

Besides the short testimonies that were shared at Sunday Service, Anisa wrote up her full reflection of the experience. [You can read that here.](#)

Ongoing Interfaith Activities in Grand Junction



On April 25th, we had our monthly Interreligious Sharing Series program via zoom. The topic was, "How and Why did Mankind Separate from God?" The religious leaders and representatives were from The United Methodist Church, the Bah' ai faith, Christian Science Church, The Latter-day Saints, and WFWP/UPF. A portion of all of our perspectives on the topic:

Christian Science: It is a false assumption that we are separated from God. It's impossible!

Latter-Day Saints: We are all children of God. We pre-existed in the spirit world before we were given a physical body. The earthly life gives people a chance to live and spiritually grow and to become more like God. An unclean person cannot live in front of God. Satan led a group of spirits in the spirit world to not come to earth and take on a physical body. These spirits have not grown and are therefore separated from God.

First United Methodist Church: God was in heaven and Satan did not want God to be the ruler of this world. Lucifer tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God in the Garden of Eden. God did not want evil, but He gave mankind free will to make our own decisions. Jesus the Savior was sent to reconnect all of us back to God. "No one comes to the Father except through me..." John 14:6.

Baha'i: Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden and that is why the Manifestations of God had to come to the earth, to bring everlasting life to humanity: Abraham, Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Jesus Christ, Mohammad and Baha'ull'ah. They are the Trees of Life. Adam signifies the heavenly spirit of God. Eve His human soul. The tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil signifies the human world. The serpent is the attachment of the soul and spirit to the human world.

WFWP/UPF: The Fall of Man as told in Genesis is full of symbols, yet portrays an actual incident of our first human ancestors. The death that resulted from the Fall was a spiritual death. Adam and Eve had a premature sexual relationship before they had matured their characters centered on goodness. God gave them the commandment in Gen. 3:16 to prevent them from doing this while they were in the growing period, wanting Adam and Eve to preserve their purity. They were tempted by the serpent who symbolized Lucifer, who then became Satan. The Fall of Man is a great tragedy that never should have occurred. Mankind was meant to fulfill the 3 Great Blessings; a Savior was not supposed to have been needed as mankind should not have separated from God.

All the participants listened closely to each other's presentations. Our perspective gave them all a new point of view to consider. Yet, we are all grateful for Jesus. We all agreed spiritual growth and overcoming sin takes a lot of constant effort.

-Antonio and Gale Alves

Continued Renovations and Improvements

The crazy windstorm this month accelerated some of the projects that we had been putting off due to the amount of damage it caused to some of our awnings and fences.

In addition, David Mahardy has been hard at work renovating the church kitchen. Despite some plumbing setbacks, work is progressing really well and we are grateful to his dedication to this project.

Also, we have been making great progress on our exterior renovation work and implementing the improvements made possible by the Nonprofit Security Grant. The main entrance awning has been removed in preparation for the stonework and stucco. The old chain-link fence along the parking lot has been removed and replaced/extended with a nice new black metal fence. In addition, we have new cameras and a new access entry system and alarm system for all entryways of the church.

Next month, we look forward to showcasing the new stone accents and solar panels!







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 [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#). For quick reference, this month's recordings are below.

[Finding Joy in Relationships by Peggy Yujiri](#)

[Youth Service: Repentance by Maya Kuramoto](#)

[The Role & Value of Our Elders](#)

[Happy Heavenly Parents' Day](#)

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

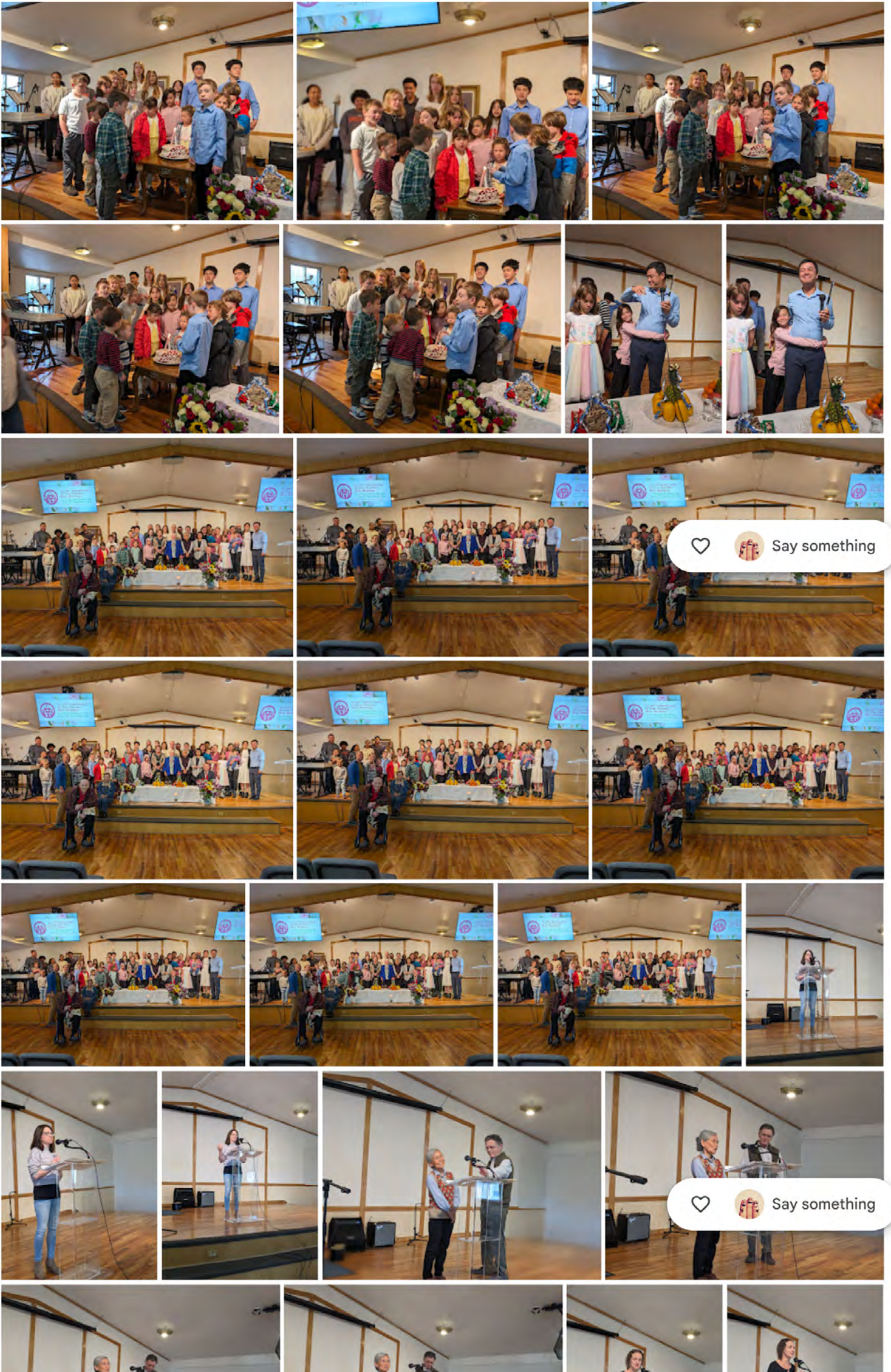
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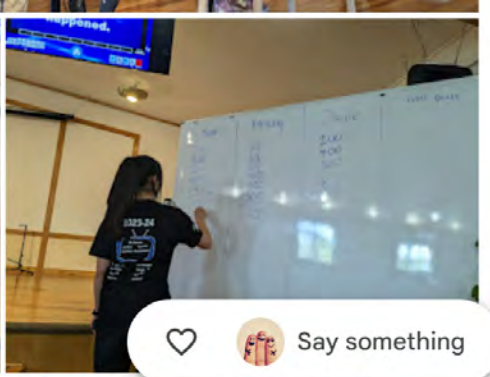
Colorado Family Church





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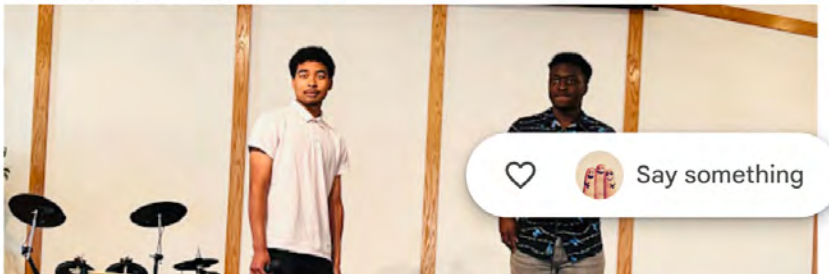




Say something



Say something



Say something

