

***Congregational
United Church of Christ***

Sunday Schedule

9:00am Adult Education

10:00am Worship Service

& Children's Church

11:00am Coffee Hour

217 Crossman Ave.; PO Box 610

Buena Vista, CO 81211

Office: 719-395-2544

Fax Number: 719-395-3789

Email: office.bvcucc@gmail.com

Website: www.bvcucc.org

Like us on Facebook! Look for Congregational UCC Buena Vista

No matter who you are, no matter where you are
in life's journey, you are welcome here at the
Congregational United Church of Christ in
Buena Vista.



Congregational United Church of Christ
217 Crossman Ave.
P.O. Box 610
Buena Vista, CO 81211
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



News and Views
Congregational United Church of Christ
December, 2018

MODERATOR'S MOMENT



“LOVE IS STILL THE WAY”

“God’s Messengers”

“In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people; to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” Luke 2: 8-11

How will we prepare ourselves to embrace the mystery of Christmas this year? Will our hearts be opened to the voices of angels, to humble people leading us to find God’s chosen one, Jesus? Will the traditions of gift giving, cooking family favorite foods, singing carols and decorating with pine, bells and red bows bring us a feeling of hope and joy this year?

Listening to God’s messengers both from the past and the present can give us hope! The angels are the first to “bring the good news of great joy” that Jesus has been born in the town of Bethlehem: Jesus then, shows us the way through his life and ministry, “to love God, others, our neighbors and ourselves: the devoted followers of Christ, both men and women bring the radical good news of the resurrection of Jesus and many turn to follow “The Way.” The Apostle Paul takes the good news further and plants churches across the Roman Empire, creating a network of believers, who send support in the gift of funds back to the home congregation in Jerusalem. The church spreads throughout the known world and saints, martyrs, monks and ordinary people become the messengers telling the story again and again of the extraordinary love of God.

We as a church community are an important link in the continued telling of the story of God’s love for the world. We are the messengers in this time and in this place! In our efforts in the coming year we will be seeking to make a difference by asking many questions and experimenting with new ways to reach out and help others and include them in our fellowship.

My deep gratitude to all who have worked, prayed and given to the witness of our Congregation in this community during this year. You have been faithful messengers!

Hold those you love close during the precious family moments that you have this Christmas and tell them that they are loved.

May God’s Peace and Love surround you and yours.
Marjorie Erickson, Moderator



‘Twas THE BEGINNING OF ADVENT....

'Twas the beginning of Advent and all through the Church
Our hope was all dying — we'd given up on the search.
It wasn't so much that Christ wasn't invited,
But after 2,000 plus years we were no longer excited.

Oh, we knew what was coming — no doubt about that.
And that was the trouble — it was all "old hat."
November brought the first of an unending series of pains
With carefully orchestrated advertising campaigns.

There were gadgets and dolls and all sorts of toys.
Enough to seduce even the most devout girls and boys.
Unfortunately, it seemed, no one was completely exempt
From this seasonal virus that did all of us tempt.

The priests and prophets and certainly the kings
Were all so consumed with the desire for "things!"
It was rare, if at all, that you'd hear of the reason
For the origin of this whole holy-day season.

A baby, it seems, once had been born
In the mid-east somewhere on that first holy-day morn.
But what does that mean for folks like us,
Who've lost ourselves in the hoopla and fuss?

Can we re-learn the art of wondering and waiting,
Of hoping and praying, and anticipating?
Can we let go of all the things and the stuff?
Can we open our hands and our hearts long enough?

Can we open our eyes and open our ears?
Can we find him again after all of these years?
Will this year be different from all the rest?
Will we be able to offer him all of our best?

So many questions, unanswered thus far,
As wisemen seeking the home of the star.
Where do we begin—how do we start
To make for the child a place in our heart?

Perhaps we begin by letting go
Of our limits on hope, and of the stuff that we know.
Let go of the shopping, of the chaos and fuss,
Let go of the searching, let Christmas find us.

We open our hearts, our hands and our eyes,
To see the king coming in our own neighbors' cries.
We look without seeking what we think we've earned,
But rather we're looking for relationships spurned.

With him he brings wholeness and newness of life
For brother and sister, for husband and wife.
The Christ-child comes not by our skill,
But rather he comes by his own Father's will.

We can't make him come with parties and bright trees,
But only by getting down on our knees.
He'll come if we wait amidst our affliction,
Coming in spite of, not by our restriction.

His coming will happen-- of this there's no doubt.
The question is whether we'll be in or out.
"Behold, I stand at the door and knock."
Do you have the courage to peer through the lock?

A basket on your porch, a child in your reach.
A baby to love, to feed and to teach.
He'll grow in wisdom as God's only Son.
How far will we follow this radical one?

He'll lead us to challenge the way that things are.
He'll lead us to follow a single bright star.
But that will come later if we're still around.
The question for now: Is the child to be found?

Can we block out commercials, the hype and the malls?
Can we find solitude in our holy halls?
Can we keep alert, keep hope, stay awake?
Can we receive the child for ours and God's sake?

From on high with the caroling host as he sees us,
He yearns to read on our lips the prayer: Come Lord Jesus!
As Advent begins all these questions make plea.
The only true answer: We will see, we will see.
(J. Todd Jenkins)

Blessings, Rebecca



Board of Trustees Report

The Trustees met 11/1 for the primary purpose of preliminary budget discussions.

Items of discussion were:

- ~Discussion of what should be addressed now by current Board and what will fall to the new Finance Team. Decided to proceed with planning for 2019 and let new team do longer term planning.
- ~Trustees will be preparing a balanced budget again this year per last year’s direction. For this to truly work, the income, pledges, gifts need to come up.
- ~Discussion of personnel and possibilities for bonuses, raises, benefits, etc. How does any of this affect the budget?
- ~Lesley and Cindy will be plugging numbers into the budget for routine expenses.

Trustees will be having their regular meeting on 11/29 and will plan to finish the proposed budget at that time and address the full agenda at that time.

Respectfully submitted,
Ron Hassell, Chair

Pastoral Relations Committee

In BV CUCC by-laws, Article XV, are the guidelines for forming a Pastoral Relations Committee (PRC).

1. Pastoral Relations Committee shall consist of no more than five members, recommended by the Pastor and approved by Council.
2. For the first six months after a new Pastor assumes duties, the Pastoral Relations Committee shall be comprised of members from the Search Committee chosen by the Pastor.
3. After six months, a new Committee shall be appointed following the procedures in Section 1 above.

We have not had a PRC at CUCC since the Search Committee and Congregation called Pastor Rebecca. The time has come to create such a body, and this was requested by the Pastor and the Moderator. At the July, 2018, Council meeting, discussion was held and it was moved to establish such a committee. The Council asked the Pastor and Moderator to recommend names to the Council, as per Section 1 above. Rebecca and Marge Erickson worked together to seek and speak with persons who might be willing to serve.

At the September, 2018 Council meeting:
“Rebecca reported that a committee was being formed, composed of Helen Duncan (Chair), Judy Hassell, Bob Frykholm, and Mark Wolters. Council approved the appointment of the named committee members to the Committee. No term of office was specified.”

It will be a small group as recommended by the denomination and other churches and our Bylaws. Membership in the PRC may be rotated annually among those who are willing and able to serve. No set terms are set forth in the Bylaws. In some faith communities other boards or teams carry this function; many churches do establish a PRC.

The UCC has published several pamphlets to aid its churches. We are relying on these publications and our own sense of what will lead us all at CUCC to improve our ministry. Here is a quote from such a publication:
“*The pastoral relations committee supports and maintains an open relationship between the ordained minister and members of the congregation. It helps the pastor and members of the church share ideas, hopes, dreams and interpretations of mission. It gives a framework for dealing with conflict creatively.*”

Here at CUCC the PRC will meet quarterly and when a specific need arises. Some of our goals for 2019:

- ** clarifying the pastor’s position description and mutual expectations
- **supporting the pastor’s ministry at CUCC, in the community and denomination
- ** working for improved communication between the pastor and the congregation
- ** participating in an annual evaluation of the pastor and an evaluation of the church’s ministry
- ** listening to individuals and groups regarding the relationship between the pastor and the congregation
- ** acting within an atmosphere of confidentiality

Our hope as a new committee is that we can learn together, listen together and hope together for a healthy, blessed future together.

Helen Duncan, Chair
Bob Frykholm, Judy Hassell, Mark Wolters



Part of our church family who would enjoy Prayers, Cards, or perhaps a Visit

Diane Bails (720) 505-6540
21833 Saddlebrook Court, Parker, CO 80138

Nan Bohe (719) 207-4850
Columbine Manor
530 W. 16th Street, Salida, CO 81201

Jean Brody (303) 720-9595
Sterling House #505
8271 South Continental Divide Road
Littleton, CO 80127

Lindsey Fagerberg
6380 NE Cherry Dr., Apt. 515
Hillsboro, OR 97124

Bonnie Guenther (719) 395-2261
PO Box 12
318 Pinon Street, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Lew Lowe (719) 490-8288
925 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, Apt. 326
Willow Street, PA 17584

Albert & Phyllis McCall (719) 966-9552 -A
(719) 659-9597-P
7950 W. Byers Ave. #102, Lakewood, CO 80226

Millie & Tom Meardon (719) 221-2067 -M
531 McAfee Avenue, Las Animas, CO 81054

Gail Moffat (719) 221-1131
922 W. Main Street, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Charlotte Smith 303-684-5681
129 Windwalker, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Sarah Struthers (719) 395-6888
17100 CR 363, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Gerry and Jean Venard (719) 966-9524
3377 Mill Vista Road, Unit #3205
Highlands Ranch, CO 80129

Wilma and Angie Williams (719) 395-2702
PO Box 1808
208 S. Colorado
Buena Vista, CO 81211



CUCC Special Dates

BIRTHDAYS

December 1—Teresa Roorda
December 2—Doyle Nyberg
December 7—Jean Brody
December 7—Corey Tucker
December 8—Sherri Blake
December 10—Christopher Colvin
December 12—Daniel Daugherty
December 12—Dennis Daugherty
December 15—Bob H. Smith
December 21—Norm Holloway
December 24—Jean Buster
December 25—Noel Ekin
December 26—Betty Gwynn
December 28—Verona Taggart
December 29—Marge Erickson
December 30—Paula Dylan
December 30—Mary Ann Hoyt

ANNIVERSARIES

December 10—Carl & Liz Hansen
December 19—Bob & Glynnette
December 20—Les & Mary Messamer
December 21—Frank & Linda Carpenter
December 31—Elvin & Pat Benton



Don't see your special day listed?
Please contact the office at 395-2544
or office.bvcucc@gmail.com.

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Nan Bohe—Healing
Marcy Adams—Healing
Linda Baldwin—Healing
Kim Hughes (Doyle Nyberg's cousin)—Healing
Jordan Conradson—Healing
Terri Holloway McNorton—Healing
Randy Wagner—Healing
Codi Miller—Healing
Maryanne Wells (Janet Jones' sister-in-law)—Healing
Krissa Ferguson (Jean & Steve Ferguson's daughter-in-law)—Healing
Mark Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's nephew)—Healing
Gary Bragg (Ruth Amster's nephew)—Healing
Ruth Lambert—Healing
Linda Swanson—Healing
Ali Lufkin—Healing
Ed Simons (Rebecca K. Poos' brother-in-law)—Healing
The Family of Pam Hanson (Roberta Merrill's daughter)—Comfort
The Family of Kat Fleming's mother (friend of Becky Mahon)—Comfort
Betsy Neas—Healing
Dan McCall—Healing
The Family of John Lay—Comfort
The Family of Mildred Rasmussen (Rebecca Kemper Poos' mother)—Comfort

PURPOSE AND IDENTITY STATEMENT

WE, THE CONGREGATIONAL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST OF BUENA VISTA, COMMIT OURSELVES TO:

BEING GOD'S PEOPLE BY:

- Loving and serving God
- Living lives of integrity
- Living with thanksgiving and gratitude
- Supporting one another through loving words and actions
- Using God's written and living Word to guide our lives
- Proclaiming the Good News of Christ
- Promoting the unity of Christ's church
- Celebrating our life together

GROWING SPIRITUALLY BY:

- Committing ourselves to life-long learning
- Deepening our relationship with God through prayer, worship and study of scripture and other sources
- Opening ourselves to teachings and insights from many sources
- Cherishing and teaching our church community's children and youth
- Strengthening family relationships
- Openly discussing important issues
- Honoring tradition while embracing new ideas

REACHING OUT BY:

- Being generous with our talents, time and financial resources to make a difference in our community and the world
- Providing support in difficult times by extending ourselves to those in need
- Involving people of all ages in mission work
- Modeling respect and care for all God's creation
- Working for justice, healing and wholeness of life

WELCOMING AND ACCEPTING BY:

- Committing ourselves to be a church for all people
- Integrating people of all ages into active congregational participation
- Respecting and accepting diversity
- Striving to overcome our prejudices
- Loving and practicing kindness toward all
- Laughing together and enjoying one another



SYMNK

As we enter Advent, I wanted to share stories about the season. Next time you admire the greens which fill the sanctuary, you won't have to wonder how we got them. In the mid-90's, Steve and Cindy Helm donated them, working with Beth Nicks, the owner of the flower shop. Beth was the granddaughter of Floy Klugh, a long-time active CUCC member. The three of them had to make the greens fit the space and created the special look that we so appreciate.

- Chrismons— They were first made by Frances Kipps Spencer in 1957 at the Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia. She also thought of the word Chrismon, which is a combination of Christ and monogram. The idea quickly spread to other churches. It is traditional that Christian groups make their own Chrismons with their favorite symbols. Chrismons are traditionally colored white and gold. White is the liturgical color for Christmas and symbolizes purity; gold symbolizes His majesty.
- Chrismons were first made and used at CUCC in December 1975. They were made of white Styrofoam. Shapes were cut with anything that worked, including an electric knife. Pearls, gold mesh, sequins, and beads were used for decoration. After the season, women met to repair them, as they were quite fragile. In the 90's, they were remade of white plastic canvas and white yarn, making them more durable. Take a moment and get a close-up look.
- ~Janet Steiner



view from the Mountain

“Gift Giving”

I have a life-long friendship with a Native American man who is famously known as “Coyote.” He is a man like no other I have ever known. He is internationally known for his work in wildlife research, particularly with wild wolves. He changed my life. After meeting him, I stopped teaching to go back to Washington University to study animal behavior, and in that process Coyote became my friend and mentor.

One day he suggested that I and a few others in the field accompany him back to his reservation to meet his people and, in particular, his mother. We went by car from Missouri to northern California high in the mountains.

His mother was old, weathered, lined deeply, was oh-so-wise. Not wise about movies, plays, or high finance, but about life things. She knew about people—loving people, caring for their elderly, always fighting for the rights of her people.

I was shocked with how little she possessed. Her home was a rundown trailer. She slept on a mattress on the floor and cooked on a wood stove that also served as her source of heat. Her clothing was not fashionable or new, but it kept her warm and dry, as she would tell you. I felt blessed to follow her around the reservation.

For a week I was her shadow. I slept next to her in a sleeping bag on the floor. I helped her tend a vegetable garden out of which she ate. Also, I went with her as she checked on other friends who lived on the reservation. It never ceased to amaze me how someone with so little could reach out and help others with even less.

When the day came for us to leave, I felt sad and I told her so. She smiled her toothless smile and took my hand. “Come with me,” she said softly. Hand in hand we walked a well-worn path into deep woods. It wasn’t long before she dropped my hand and stopped.

With no small talk, she dropped to her knees and with bare hands she began to dig into the earth. She let out a sigh and, out of the hole she had dug, she lifted out a very old paperback book. She blew on it and scraped off all the dirt and then, holding it with both hands, she held it out for me to take. “We bury the things precious to us to keep them safe,” she said. I saw that the book said, “Commodity Cook Book,” and below that, “Penny Power Recipes.” I had absolutely no clue what she was giving me, but I did know one thing. I distinctly knew I had just been graced with something quite dear to my new friend. She stooped to cover the empty hole and together, without words, we walked back to her trailer. Once there, we sat as she told me about what she had given me.

Apparently, for many years, the US Government gave the basic food groups to Native Americans and with that the “Commodity Cookbook.” As she talked, I thumbed through the old book. It seemed to me it was written for children or at least the uneducated, and it offended me. But she quickly explained how thankful she felt to have them as she raised and fed her family and lonely friends. Then she said she no longer cooked big meals for anyone and that’s when she buried the book. Then she continued, “For years this was my prized possession and now I give it to you.”

I just sat there holding this precious gift and looked at her beautiful face and pulled her close and thanked her for showing me what a real gift should be. As we left, I held it tightly knowing its value to her and for the still bigger gift—for spending time with a truly great human being.

You know, in the recalling of this memory, it makes me realize something important. It really doesn’t matter what we give someone. Of course, we buy toys for children and those toys don’t have to mean anything to us. The key is to wrap each gift in love. My Native American friend wanted me to know what I meant to her, so she gave it thought and she knew her gift to me lay beneath the earth under a tree. To me, the walk, hand in hand, and the digging with her bare hands were part of the gift and I’ll never forget it.

To my readers over the last twenty-eight years I wish nothing but good health and joy for the coming year.

The view from the mountain is wondrous.

Jean Brody



Southeastern Association (SEA) Annual Fall Gathering

October 21, 2018

First Congregational UCC, Colorado Springs

Report by Ron and Linda Rak, Church Delegates

Member Churches: Christ Congregational, Pueblo; First Congregational, Pueblo; Community Congregational Church, Manitou Springs; Creede Community Church UCC; New Jerusalem; Church in the Wildwood, Green Mountain Falls; Vista Grande Community Church; UCC Parker Hilltop; Broadmoor Community Church; First Congregational, Colorado Springs; Black Forest Community Church; Buena Vista Congregational UCC

The main event of the meeting involved round-robin discussions between the member church delegates talking about ongoing UCC Three Great Loves programs in their respective churches. For example, we talked about our new Community Garden and the Equal Exchange Coffee Program as being “Love of Neighbor” and “Love of Creation.” Others offered examples of “Love of Children,” such as a summer children’s campout including Buddhist and Jewish children; involving children more in the worship service, including the sermon!; and placing the children’s service in an enclosed area adjacent to the sanctuary so they can see and hear what is going on. For “Love of Neighbor,” one church sponsors a community dinner/food pantry three Tuesdays a month; another conducts regular neighborhood watch/street BBQ’s; and yet another provides a Thrift Store once a month. Some of the “Love of Creation” programs shared were recycling improvements for the church and the community, programmable thermostats, weatherproofing/winterizing, LED lighting, and window replacements. Adding interesting guidance to the discussions were the questions: 1.What have you done? 2. What have you released to the stars? 3. What are you currently dreaming? The tricky one was number 2, which we interpreted as meaning: What did you give up on or discard?

The SEA has started a new Facebook page, which will of course allow interactive discussions of programs, celebrations, ordinations, events, SEA happenings, etc.

Other Events:

In mid-October there was a combined SEA, RMC, and UCC national workshop given by Rev. Dr. Velda Love, Minister of Racial Justice. This was an introduction and invitation to the new Sacred Conversation to End Racism curriculum offered by National. There were over 40 folks from all over the RMC participating that provided an amazing, challenging, and humbling experience for all.

Installation of Rev. Marta Fioriti, November 11, 2018, Black Forest UCC, 3:00pm.

SEA “Active Shooter” workshop, January 12, 2019, Vista Grande UCC, 11:00am–1:00pm (this is an attempt to tackle some of the difficult issues that come up in our time with care and support of one another).

Congregations Alive 4, February 7-9, 2019, First Plymouth, Englewood.

RMC Annual Celebration, June 6-8, 2019, Grand Junction. The keynote Speaker will be John Dominic Crossan.

UCC General Synod, June 21-25, 2019, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Next SEA Annual Meeting is October 19, 2019.

SEA Business Meeting. A quick review of some events and the usual committee reports: Included were acknowledgments of 2018 installations (Sarah Linn – Creede UCC, and Heather Haginduff – FCUCC); ordination anniversaries (many!); church anniversaries (UCC Parker Hilltop 2013 – 5 years, and First Congregational Pueblo 1878 – 140 years!); review of the Congregations Alive program; a refresher on the UCC Endowment Program and the benefit of endowments for church functioning; committee reports; 2019 budget review; nominations and election of new officers for 2019.

We’re hoping that detailed minutes of this SEA meeting will be available for reading and reviewing soon! Interestingly, from the 2017 meeting minutes, we noticed that six of the SEA churches are ONA (Open and Affirming) Association churches, but BVCUCC was not listed as an ONA church in 2017. I thought we were ONA?

Is anyone interested in seeing Dom Crossan speak in Grand Junction next June? Talk to Linda or Ron Rak!

Reaching the Pastor

If I'm not at the church, I might be out visiting, at a meeting or writing a sermon.

Leave a message at the office at 719-395-2544, call my cell at 719-252-6890, or email me at revbecca@icloud.com.

Feel free to set up an appointment by phone or email.



PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

**WE ARE FAMILY & WATCH OUT
FOR EACH OTHER.**

If you or someone you know from CUCC has been missing, been ill, or just not around, please let Pastor Rebecca know. Also, let them know we miss them and are concerned about how they're doing.

If you're going to be away traveling, please let us know as well!

Did You Know?

Copies of Sunday messages can be found in the file box outside the office door. They're also on the church website at www.bvcucc.org under the Home tab. A link to the latest message is included in the weekly email blast.

Messages are also available in large print before the service—ask a greeter.

Did you also know?

that CUCC has an
All-Church email blast each week?

Be sure you're on the list! Call Nancy at 395-2544 or email to office.bvcucc@gmail.com.

AFFAIRS IN ORDER?

Don't forget your church!

CUCC has a form for "Memorial Instructions." This is a helpful tool for you, your family, and your pastor to know your wishes for your memorial service and memorials. See Pastor Rebecca or the office for a form, email for a copy to office.bvcucc@gmail.com, or pick one up in the kiosk at church.

LET'S BE GREEN!!!

Please recycle everything possible at CUCC. We have bins in the office and Fellowship Hall to make it easy.

Please do not put cardboard boxes in the dumpster. Flatten and put next to the recycle bin in the FH or give to Pastor Rebecca.



December	Scriptures
Sunday, December 2	— Luke 21:25-36
Sunday, December 9	— Luke 3:1-6
Sunday, December 16	— Luke 3:7-18
Sunday, December 23	— Luke 1:39-55
Monday, December 24	— Luke 2:1-20



Backpack Program

Food items always in demand:

- *Shelf-stable milk (Horizon milk in cartons on shelf at Walmart, white or chocolate)
- *Fruit cups (individual)
- *Chef Boyardee, pasta, etc.
- *Pudding Cups
- *Granola or Cereal Bars

As always, cash donations are appreciated, too!

CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



Celebration Calendar

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 28 28 PRE-HANGING OF THE GREENS AND LIGHT SUPPER 4:00PM	FRIDAY NOVEMBER 30 30 COLLEGIATE PEAKS CHORALE WINTER CONCERT 7:00PM-9:00PM MT. HEIGHTS BAPTIST CHURCH CR 317, BUENA VISTA	SUNDAY DECEMBER 2 2 HANGING OF THE GREENS DURING WORSHIP 10:00AM
SUNDAY DECEMBER 2 2 COLLEGIATE PEAKS CHORALE WINTER CONCERT 3:00PM-5:00PM FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH 7 PONCHA BLVD., SALIDA	SUNDAY DECEMBER 9 9 HEIFER INTERNATIONAL "ADVENT TWO" COMMUNION WORSHIP 10:00AM LIVING HEIFER MARKET AND FUND-RAISING LUNCHEON 11:00AM-1:00PM	SUNDAY DECEMBER 16 16 INTERGENERATIONAL ALL-CHURCH CHRISTMAS PROGRAM 10:00AM
SUNDAY DECEMBER 16 16 CHRISTMAS CAROLING 4:00PM-6:00PM	FRIDAY DECEMBER 21 21 CHRISTMAS PRAYER VIGIL 12:00PM-12:00AM noon-midnight	MONDAY DECEMBER 24 24 CANDLELIGHT/COMMUNION CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE 7:00PM

Hi Rebecca,

Thank you SO MUCH for the fantastic birthday card you sent to Rog. He received 77 in total and he enjoyed them all SO MUCH — you have no idea what they have meant to him.

Fortunately a nearby neighbor of ours was married this past Saturday on Roger's birthday. Another couple in our neighborhood also attended the wedding and Holly Householder graciously took several photos of Rog and me right after the wedding ceremony. So the photo below was actually taken of the birthday boy on his birthday!!!! So far, he's holding his own. Because of some physical limitations, he doesn't like being 80, but he sure enjoys all the attention, warm wishes and fond memories you have sent his way. Thanks for helping to make his day so special.

Lots of LOVE,
Debby



Diaconate Notes

The review of the church roll has been completed and will now be forwarded to the Church Council.

There will be an opportunity to purchase poinsettias in honor or in memory of individuals. Please see the church worship bulletins for the order form or contact Elizabeth Shelby for details.

Upcoming events and activities for December 2018 include the following:

December 02, 2018—Hanging of the Greens part 2, an intergenerational worship activity during the church worship service. The fellowship hall Christmas tree will be decorated during fellowship hour.

December 09, 2018—Communion Sunday during the worship service.

December 12, 2018—Diaconate meeting; 4:00 p.m.

December 16, 2018—Intergenerational Christmas program during the worship service.

December 16, 2018—Christmas Caroling [Intergenerational activity]- 4 p.m.-6 p.m.

December 21, 2018—Christmas Prayer Vigil in the sanctuary, Noon-Midnight.

December 24, 2018—Christmas Eve Candlelight Service with table communion; 7:00 p.m.



God bless. ~Doyle Nyberg, Diaconate Chair



Christmas Prayer Vigil

You are invited to participate in the annual Christmas Prayer Vigil beginning on Friday, December 21, 2018: beginning at Noon and concluding at Midnight.

Take time out of the hustle and bustle of it all to re-center and refocus on the true meaning of the season.

Please sign up for your hour on the sign-up sheet in the narthex.



The Noteables & You've Got Male Stars On Snow

Directed by: Linda Taylor

Featuring:

Oso Blanco - Drums & Percussion
Quartet - Naked Voices

Friday, December 7, 7:30 PM

Clearview Community Church, Buena Vista

Saturday, December 8, 7:30 PM

Grace Church, 1320 D Street, Salida

Sunday, December 9, 3:00 PM

SteamPlant Event Center, Salida

Suggested Donation:
\$10.00

Information: 539-2428
salidasings.org

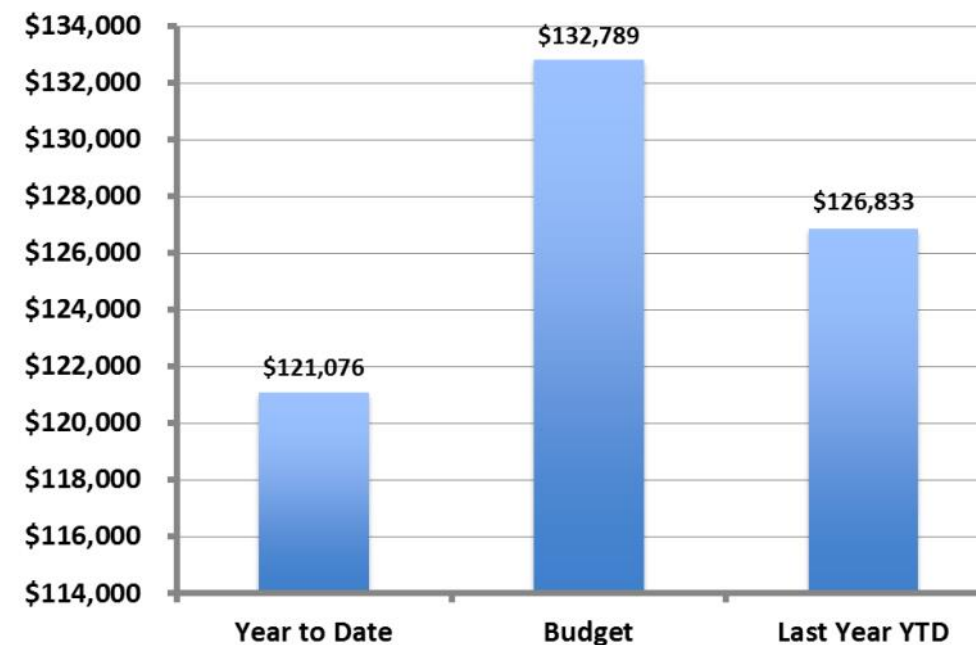
Kudos Kolumn

MANY THANKS TO ALL WHO SERVED TO MAKE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON SO SPECIAL. MAY YOU RECEIVE BLESSINGS SNOWED DOWN UPON YOU DURING THIS FESTIVE AND HOLY CHRISTMAS SEASON!

Janet says **THANK YOU** to all who helped with the Bazaar!



General Contributions through October, 2018



Mission and Ministry News—December greetings from the M&M Team!

M&M would like all members and friends to participate in three special projects for December:






*** Please sign the Christmas cards for Angelo Abellana, our child we sponsor through Global Ministries. Check for the special cards after services in the fellowship hall.

*** Living Gift Market/Heifer International. Please join us for this fundraiser on December 9, 11:30am. There will be a special catered lunch, games, and music—for all ages! (See the colorful announcement elsewhere in this newsletter.) This is your chance to purchase livestock, trees, or bees to help families lift themselves out of poverty. CUCC has a long history of successful giving through Heifer International.

*** The Christmas Fund UCC Special Collection. This fund is used to care for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the UCC who may be suffering from financial difficulties.

Respectfully submitted, Helen Duncan

December 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		AE=Adult Education Room CH=Choir Room D=Drama Room FH= Fellowship Hall K=Kitchen PO=Pastor's Office RR=Rainbow Room S=Sanctuary #7=Room 7				1 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7 9:30am-1pm PEO -K, FH
2 9am Adult Education-AE 10am Worship, Hanging of the Greens & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	3 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	4 8:30am TOPS-CH 9:30am-10:45am Strong People-AE 4:30pm-6pm M&M-AE 6:30pm-8pm Scouts -FH 6:30pm AI-Anon-#7 7pm TELLS	5 12pm AA-AE 5-6pm Nominating Committee-AE 6pm Choir/MSG -CH 7pm OA-#7	6 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 9:30am-10:45am Str. People-#7 10am-12pm Journey Group-RR 7pm AA-#7	7 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -#7	8 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7
9 9am Adult Education-AE 10am "Advent Two" Communion Worship & Children's Church 11am Living Heifer Market/ Fund-Raiser	10 8am-1pm Monarch Quilters-FH 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	11 8:30am TOPS-CH 6pm-7:30pm Webelos-FH, D 6:30pm-8pm Scouts -FH 6:30pm AI-Anon-#7 7pm TELLS	12 9-9:30am Celtic Prayer Circle-RR 12pm AA-AE 4pm Diaconate -#7 6pm Choir-CH 7pm OA-#7	13 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 1pm-3pm WMS -AE 4pm CE-PO 7-8:30pm Trustees-#7 7pm AA-AE	14 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -#7 7:30pm-9:30pm Community Dance-FH	15 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7 9:45am AI-Anon Bus. Mtg.-#7 7-9pm Next Step Dance-FH
16 9am Adult Education-AE 10am Inter- generational All-Church Christmas Program 4pm Christmas Caroling	17 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	18 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am TOPS-CH 4pm Stewardship -PO 6-8pm Scouts Court of Honor & Potluck-S, K, FH 6:30pm AI-Anon-#7 7pm TELLS	19 12pm AA-AE 6pm Choir-CH 7pm Council-AE 7pm OA-#7	20 10am-12pm Rainbow Place -RR 7pm AA-AE	21 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -#7 12pm-12am Christmas Prayer Vigil-S	22 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7
23 9am Adult Education-AE 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	24 CHRISTMAS EVE 7pm Candlelight/ Communion Christmas Eve Service	25 CHRISTMAS OFFICE CLOSED 	26 12pm AA-AE 7pm OA-#7	27 7pm AA-AE	28	29 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7
30 9am Adult Education-AE 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE 					

CE News for December

November has flown by, much like the blowing leaves and snow. As we begin the Advent Season, we all hope for time to contemplate God's gifts and a more peaceful world. Consider attending the "Journey Study" led by Molly Stuart on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month at 10:00am and the Celtic Prayer Group led by Marge Erickson on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month at 9:00am.

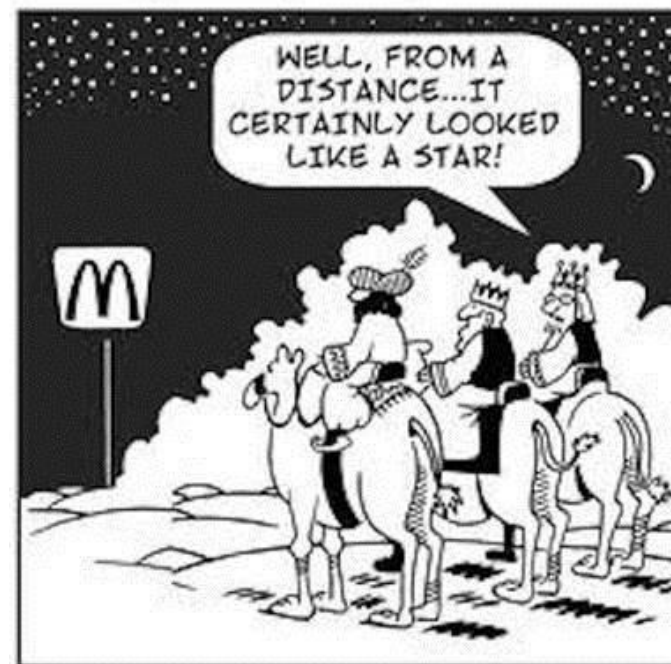


Be sure to be in attendance for worship on December 2. We will be decorating the sanctuary together and deepening our knowledge of this Christmas tradition.

Then on Sunday, December 16, we will enjoy intergenerational worship with a program centered around the 200th anniversary of the Christmas carol "Silent Night." *Please let Laurie, Judy, or Janet know what you would like to share. Also, as part of this program, everyone is requested to bring a non-perishable food item into the sanctuary with them.*

The CE Board wishes everyone a blessed and joyous Advent Season!

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Stevens, Chair



Thank you so much in helping gather coats for the many in Buena Vista in need. With winter coming on, it is such a blessing to our clients.

How blessed we are by your generosity and we give thanks for your taking part in this ministry.

God bless you,
~Connie Robb, Arkansas Valley Christian Mission

THE CHRISTMAS FUND

for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund

In 2017, gifts to the Christmas Fund enabled:

- Small pension supplementation for 424 retired clergy, lay employees, and surviving spouses/partners, totaling \$1,513,602
- Health benefits supplementation for 210 retired clergy, lay employees, and surviving spouses/partners, totaling \$492,863
- Emergency grants for 384 servants of the church, totaling \$136,012
- Christmas "Thank You" gift checks to 477 retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses/partners, totaling \$228,300.

This special offering will be collected throughout December.

Join the Prayer Team and make a difference right from your own home!

Please surround in love, light and your continual prayers:

- ◆ Persons and families on the Joys and Concerns list—healing and comfort
- ◆ CUCC stretching and connecting in new, life-giving and inspiring avenues in the coming year
- ◆ Leaders of staff, teams, classes and committees, as they serve faithfully
- ◆ Music and Worship—growth in participation and experiencing God in our midst and feeding our souls together
- ◆ Welcoming efforts—grounds, programs, outreach to make CUCC accessible for all, spiritually, emotionally and physically





CUCC Council Minutes

As Council did not meet in November, there are no minutes to share.

Dear Congregational Church,
Thank you so much for your recent gift and continued support. Without you we could not fulfill our mission to provide decent, affordable housing to deserving families in Chaffee County. We, and those we serve, sincerely appreciate your generosity.

Sincerely,
Chaffee County Habitat For Humanity Board and Staff
Jill Smola, Executive Director

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO AMAZING THINGS TO HELP END HUNGER AND POVERTY



Event: CUCC Living Gift Market/Heifer International
Date: Sunday, December 9
Place: CUCC Fellowship Hall
Time: after worship in lieu of coffee hour, 11:00am-1:00pm
Fellowship Luncheon Provided (not a potluck)
Featuring a video presentation and fun games!

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.
—Luke 6:38

888.5.HUNGER (888.548.6437) • HEIFER INTERNATIONAL • www.heifer.org/faith

Announcing the ANNUAL MEETING!

**The Annual Meeting will be
Sunday, January 27, right after the worship service.**

Submission deadline for annual reports is Wednesday, January 2. The completed Annual Report will be available in the sanctuary by Sunday, January 13.

LIVING GIFT MARKET

Choose a meaningful gift to give a loved one, and help children and families around the world achieve self-reliance.



Goat

A goat is one tough animal. Goats can survive in almost any climate, due in part to their open-minded approach to eating: almost anything goes. Legend has it that a goat herder in Ethiopia discovered coffee after noticing his goats' high-energy frolicking after eating berries from certain plants.

GOAT: \$120; SHARE: \$10



Honey Bees

The practice of collecting honey dates back to the Stone Age. Archaeologists have found pots of honey in ancient Egyptian tombs and were startled to find the honey unspoiled and perfectly preserved, proving honey's indefinite shelf life.

BEES: \$30



Llama

Few animals can thrive in the harsh conditions of the Andean highlands, but llamas and their alpaca cousins are uniquely suited to the task. Their dense, soft wool keeps them warm, and they like to eat scrub vegetation that other grazers wouldn't touch.

LLAMA: \$150; SHARE: \$20



Tree Seedlings

Trees are some of the largest and oldest organisms in existence. The tallest tree, a redwood that has been named Hyperion, is 379-feet tall. The oldest tree, a bristlecone pine called Methuselah, is nearly 5,000-years-old.

TREES: \$60; SHARE: \$10



Fish

What do you think fish have in common with trees? You can count their age by the number of growth rings they have on their scales. The act of farming fish and other aquatic creatures is known as aquaculture.

FISH FINGERLINGS: \$300; SHARE: \$30



Water Buffalo

Water buffalo are sturdy draft animals that help farmers plow fields and carry heavy loads to market. Unlike mechanical tractors, they don't need fuel to run or mechanics to fix broken parts.

WATER BUFFALO: \$250; SHARE: \$25



Cow

Sure, cows are big animals, but they're giants in other ways, too. They are key animals in the history of farming, and the first animals that we gave were three cows named Faith, Hope and Charity.

HEIFER: \$500; SHARE: \$50

Rabbit

Often appearing in folklore as a solitary trickster, rabbits actually live in groups. They make their homes in underground holes called burrows, and the group of burrows that forms a rabbit community is called a warren.

RABBITS: \$60; SHARE: \$10



Chicks and Ducks

Chicks and ducks boost family income and nutrition, providing a steady supply of protein-rich eggs and meat.

CHICKS: \$20; DUCKS: \$20



Pig

Pigs are useful for more than just making bacon. Because of their foraging abilities and excellent sense of smell, they are used to find truffles in many European countries. Sometimes their bristly hair is used to make brushes.

PIG: \$120; SHARE: \$10



Sheep

Pastoralism has been fundamental to many civilizations, due in part to the flock behavior of sheep. Their tendency to follow and congregate closely with other members of the herd make keeping large groups together in unfenced pastures possible.

SHEEP: \$120; SHARE: \$10



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