

***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
May, 2019

MODERATOR'S MOMENT

"LOVE IS THE ONLY WAY"

Encounter With Jesus

*O God, whose Son declared himself to be the resurrection
and the life, give me now a sense of the presence of the
One who is alive forever more, I pray. Amen.*

Powerful images of "PRAYER" linger in my mind and heart from the season of Lent which has now burst forth into the season of new life and new hope. The birthing of Creation is all around us; do you behold the transformation? The time of waiting is over, a time of growth and new beginnings is ahead.

Images of prayer I will remember:

*From the Scripture: Mark 14:32-42—Jesus praying in a place which was called Gethsemane. "And going a little farther, Jesus fell to the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. And he said, "Abba, Father, all things are possible for you, remove this cup from me; yet not what I will, but what is your will. It is enough, the hour has come."

* From the foot of the Cross: John 19:25-27—Those who were praying at the foot of the Cross were Mary the Mother of Jesus, her sister Mary, Mary Magdalene and John the Beloved disciple. They faithfully remained with Jesus to his last breath.

*From the Sanctuary of our Church on Good Friday: Our own congregation gathered around the barren Cross to pray and acknowledge the pain, the loss, the coming darkness, leading to the prayer vigil that followed until 12 midnight.

*From the closing verses of the Gospel of Mark: Mark 16:1-7—Women praying and talking as they walked to the tomb to anoint Jesus's body, only to find a young man dressed in a white robe who spoke to them, "Do not be amazed; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He is risen, he is not here; see the place where they laid him. But go and tell his disciples and especially Peter that he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him, as he told you."

We are the modern day disciples that this good news has been shared with and has meaning for. Jane Vennard, spiritual director and faculty member at Illiff School of Theology in Denver, describes her "Theology of Prayer" in this way:

"God calls us into relationship. God is love. God is as close to us as an Abba. These are assumptions and attitudes about God that help us pray. When we hold these assumptions and attitudes, we are willing to respond to God in prayer because we trust God and believe we are loved unconditionally. We know that growing closer and closer to God through prayer leads us to become more loving toward ourselves and our sisters and brothers. We welcome the intimacy with God to which we are called."

From: *Intercessory Prayer: Praying for Friends and Enemies*

Let it be so!

Rev. Marjorie Erickson, Moderator



PASTOR’S ARTICLE, May, 2019

“Jesus sets the bigger table. We don’t have to reinvent Church or create a new system or launch a new denomination. We don’t need a ministry strategy or a building campaign or some magic words. We simply follow him to the table of our own hospitality. We pull that sucker open, drop in a couple extra slabs of wood, and start adding chairs. This is how we become a family. This is how we find our place and set one for others.”
(John Pavlovitz, *A Bigger Table*)

In anticipation of Pastor John Pavlovitz coming to speak in Buena Vista, our TELLS group (Tuesday Evening Ladies Literary Society) is reading and discussing his book: *“A Bigger Table—Building Messy, Authentic, and Hopeful Spiritual Community.”* We have been having wonderful, stretching conversations about our lives, our faith, and the circles we have lived within through the various stages of our journey. We are excited to meet the author on May 16, and continue to explore how we can continue to draw the circle wider and build a bigger table in our church family and wider community.

I hope you will join us on Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 at the Ivy Ballroom and explore with John in Chaffee County how we belong to one another and can create community in difficult times. I share here a piece he wrote last week as the world grieved the loss of history and heritage at Notre Dame. ~ Blessings, Rebecca

NOTRE DAME REMINDS US THAT WE BELONG TO ONE ANOTHER

April 15, 2019. (Used with permission from my friend Joh. See www.johnpavlovitz.com)

The world is rightly grieving the destruction at Notre Dame right now because it reminds us of a truth we so easily forget: we belong to one another.

Watching the flames swallowing up such a universally beloved testament to the staggering creativity that humanity is capable of, we recognize how tethered to each other we are, how fragile and fleeting everything here is—and how starved for beauty we all are these days.

Our collective breath is taken in such moments because that breath is our commonality showing itself—and we should pay attention to it.

Art at its best will always reveal the bedrock truths of who we are, which is why a tragedy like this isn’t merely a French loss (as profound as that may be) it is a loss for the planet. In a time when we are conditioned by our leaders and our news to be violently tribal, the fires toppling Paris’ iconic spire burn away the many and common trivial territorial impulses—and we are left with just our naked, unadorned oneness.

We are left with the reality that we are all in this together, despite the story some might tell. In truth, there is no “caring for our own” to ever be done here—because we all are a singular interdependent community, that is strengthened or weakened by everything we endure and cause others to endure in both obviously important and in seemingly insignificant ways.

The sadness of this day is not bound by borders, the sense of attrition not limited to a single language, our reverence for the consumed beauty not contained by geography.

We all see the destruction and we all feel it.

It isn’t just wood and glass and concrete giving way today, it is a sustained wound to our shared humanity—one we would do well to remember.

There is nothing we do or create or feel or breathe individually or collectively, that doesn’t touch the rest of us. The best of our faith traditions, the greatest of our Constitutions, the most profound expressions of our creativity, and our most noble personal convictions tell us that we are inextricably bound together.

Today we grieve for the people of France who live in the literal shadow of Notre Dame—and we grieve too for every artist who has ever marveled at its intricacies, every visitor who’s ever stood beneath its dome and stared up in wonder, every admirer who could only view it from the distance of books and movies.

We all belong to one another.

The more we remember that, the more beauty we will make together in this place. And the world needs beauty now more than ever.

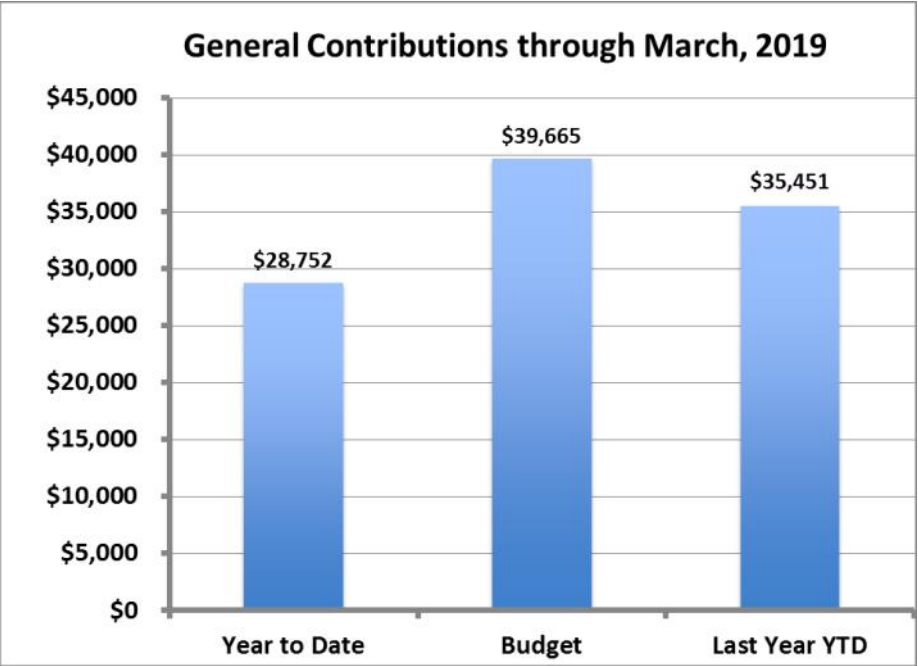
~ John Pavlovitz



FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

- CUCC is in the process of switching waste companies from Waste Management to Chaffee County Waste, which will not only cut monthly expenses, but will be cheaper if we need to call for an extra pick up.
- The renovations to the women's bathrooms are complete.
- The front men's restroom is now a unisex restroom, with a sign to be put up shortly.
- The right sink in the kitchen was replaced due to constant leaking. A new fixture was purchased and new plumbing installed, so we should be good for some time.
- Composting is being looked into as an added benefit to the church and community.
- The table spacing in the fellowship hall is being standardized and marked, making it easy to get the tables put back into their correct placement.
- A box of user manuals has been sorted through and cleaned out. Some of the manuals went back over 15 years.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Wolters, Vice Chair



EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION

CUCC’s Easter celebration, including the Flowering of the Cross and Easter Egg Hunt, were enjoyed by young and old (and not-so-old) alike.



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

Elvin Frantz 719-395-6982
30535 CR 371, Buena Vista
c/o Kathy Garrett
PO Box 1106, Buena Vista, CO 81211-1106

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

Lew Lowe (717) 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 719-395-2939
129 Windwalker, Buena Vista, CO 81211

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

Gerry and Jean Venard (720) 489-4830
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

May 2—Bart Cain
May 5—Pat Benton
May 6—Ron Erickson
May 9—Kaylyn Pomfret
May 13—Diane Bails
May 19—Molly Stuart
May 20—Alicia Allinger
May 21—Gloria Close
May 21—Phyllis McCall
May 23—Bob Stevens
May 24—Adele Jackson
May 26—Donna Maloney
May 27—Glen Wilder
May 28—Tammy White
May 29—Marcia Holub
May 30—Jennah Jones

ANNIVERSARIES

May 2—Al & Phyl McCall
May 23—Ron & Judy Hassell



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

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Nan Bohe—Healing
Marcy Adams—Healing
Jordan Conradson—Healing
Maryanne Wells (Janet Jones' sister-in-law)—Healing
Krissa Ferguson (Jean & Steve Ferguson' daughter-in-law)—Healing
Mark Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's nephew)—Healing
Gary Bragg (Ruth Amster's nephew)—Healing
Ali Lufkin—Healing
Molly Stuart—Healing
Nicole Dorfmeister—Healing
Elvin Frantz—Healing
Laurie Riggs—Healing
Gail Moffat—Healing
Pam Hughes—Healing
Jeannie Kemper (Rocky Kemper's sister-in-law)—Healing
Matt & Judy Alvarez-Rysavy & unborn child (friend of Karen Funston)—Healing
Zachary Bayhan (Donna Maloney's nephew)—Strength
Diana Lynn Hilt (Lucille Habeck's daughter)—Healing
Bill Waldorf—Healing
Codi Miller—Healing
Vivian York—Healing

SAILING INTO SABBATICAL CUCC, May, 2019

People all around the community are getting wind of our “Sabbatical Journey.” They’re asking me, “Where will you go on your Sabbatical?” I chuckle a little and try to formulate an answer. It’s a journey of the soul – not so much geographical, though there are some travels and exploration abroad planned! I share with you here a picture painted in the grant proposal, so you can understand our collective journey this sabbatical year.

What will make my heart sing?

What makes my heart sing? Singing! Creation! Learning! Music! Exploring nature, ideas, theology, and new ways of understanding human experience and our connection with the Divine. All this renews, centers and fills my spirit. Continual learning, renewal and recharge is what I seek to live out my ministry and life call to love God and neighbor and also myself.

The theme for the sabbatical is “Natural World as Word” from a particular theme of Celtic Christianity referred to as “Two Books.” John Scotus Eriugena (9th c) expressed it: *God speaks to us through two books: the 'little book' of Scripture and the 'big book' of creation.*” My desire for sabbatical is to further explore Celtic Christianity, already begun at CUCC, with a specific focus on this “Two Books” stream, which also has parallels in Native American spirituality. This will encompass study of nature, music, ancient stories, sites and experiences.

I want to learn and share with my congregation how ancient peoples of many cultures experienced the Holy in nature, hand-in-hand with sacred stories and scriptures. I long to take my love for the natural world, its beauty and its creatures to a new level of understanding of God as “the One in whom we live and move and have our being. (Acts 17:28)

Travel to ancient holy sites and “thin places” both in Celtic lands and the United State will be included, along with study and learning closer to home. I experience *holy fascination* when looking at the world through the eyes of ancient peoples—what they saw, heard, beheld with awe, wondered and feared. I want to understand how they “knew God was in this place.”

A Time for Renewal and Rejuvenation for All

The experience of the Holy in nature planted a seed early on that led me to a deep faith and call to ministry. God was powerfully present on a hiking trail, in the beauty of a sunset, in the sand as it met the frothy ocean water, and in my own soul’s delight when I glimpsed wildlife or played with my numerous pets. This sense of the Divine in all life walked alongside my active and joyful participation in church community. Youth and family retreats at the beach, summer camps in the mountains, exploring the beauty of creation on foot and horseback, and through music and community have been formative in my life and vocation. I long to reconnect with that first love and sense of call, as I embark on the next chapter of my ministry and life.

I have recently come to more fully understand a deep and essential connection in my being with creation and being outdoors. It’s where my soul is most at home, where my spirit finds nourishment, and where I most fully experience God’s presence. Discovering this aspect of Celtic Christianity—the core connection between the Divine in the Word and the Natural world as complementary and not somehow in conflict, has been life-giving for me, and a “coming home to myself and my faith” in exciting ways!

I know in the depths of my being that others have known this connection for eons, and I want to know more, experience the depths, and learn of others’ encounters with the Holy through the ages. I seek to renew my covenant with myself, the congregation, and with God through exploring these depths and nourishing my soul in nature and “the music of the spheres.”

...And to my listening ears, All nature sings, and round me rings, the music of the spheres

I am continually involved in countless endeavors and taking on new tasks and responsibilities. I seek to bring creativity to all I do: preaching, pastoral care, worship, music. I find I need to “unclutter” and thoroughly “run away and play” in order to recharge, stay fresh and keep my creative leadership vital and inspired. My spouse Clarke, my best friend and life partner, joins on this journey, as we explore Celtic and Native Spirituality together, reading books and articles and going on adventures.

My son, Rocky, has been away at school, and I long for time with him, traveling and exploring creation. The Family Reunion in Missoula, Montana, will connect us with roots and relatives, as the uncles are the tying piece to the father/grandfather who is gone from our sight.

The purpose of the sabbatical will be to explore, to learn, to reflect in every way imaginable how God is revealed in the natural world in unending song and life-giving ways. As I find rest, renewal and inspiration from my own experiences of the Holy in the natural world, as well as those of ancient peoples near and far, I will be able to share what I’ve learned and experienced in worship, education, exploration, and life together with our congregation, now and for years to come. We will then put that love into action as we consider together how we engage more fully with Creation and care for our natural world out of love and finding God there.

Blessings, Rebecca



view from the Mountain

“WONDER”



The utter wonder of a new born baby, tiny, having to be C-section, out a month early, arriving before his little lungs knew how to function and still not out of the woods—that was only one frightening event in our family one week not long ago.

Alongside of this was the mother who was fighting for her life and the dad who was literally running back and forth from his wife’s hospital room to his precious new son in intensive care. Everybody in the family except myself rushed to the hospital to do whatever possible to keep everyone calm and supported and all I could do was sit by the phone and wait and pray. The very idea that either the mother or the baby might not make it seemed incomprehensible to me. I tried to write, but my tears kept on plopping on the inked words and smearing the page.

Now, most females bear babies. It is painful, traumatic, beautiful, and life changing. But all the trauma fades and is substituted with the kind of love and complete devotion you never felt before.

But that Tuesday, something went terribly wrong for this young couple. I’m writing this three days later. Neither of them were quite safe yet, and I am, as always now, sitting in my recliner and thinking. I went to my forever place of peace early on. Now I believe that things will be filled with courage and love. I see that no matter whatever else happens, this wee little guy has opened his eyes and looked squarely at his daddy. This is his first gift of joy.

It looks like the worst is over. One day next week the three will hopefully go home, him on his oxygen machine making it possible for his lungs to function, and for her lots of family help. All the frightful days have settled into a very thankful life ahead. As I sit here a big smile spreads over my heart. When I closed my eyes, all of a sudden one of my funny memories crept into my head. It, too, is about the miracle of birth, only this time—well let me share this true story about having a baby.

Way back when I lived in Kentucky and my daughter Phoebe lived in Colorado, she would call me every day on her cell phone as she drove to work. Usually we talked about girl stuff. But one day last week the call got more interesting.

As we talked, I kept hearing this sort of mewing, sniffing sound. Her answer when I asked what the noise was, was, “Oh it’s Missy in labor so I’m taking her to my office.” Missy was their female pug dog and Missy will need help to break the fetal sack. Amazed, I asked Phoebe what she would do if Missy started delivering babies right in the car? She calmly assured me she would simply pull over and deliver them.

“Oh, Mom, it looks like here we go!” Apparently little Missy all of a sudden plopped to her side and started pushing out a little pug puppy. Then I heard Phoebe say, “Oh, Missy, girl!”

The totally frazzled little Missy started turning in tight circles inside the big carrier sitting on the SUV passenger seat. Then I hear her snort and pant and breathe hard. I even heard Missy screech to Phoebe, “For crying out loud, pull over, pull over now!”

I heard the SUV pull to a stop while all the while Phoebe was purring a reassurance to poor little Missy. It was during that time that we were disconnected. My imagination took over. There we were no longer connected, but I could see all kinds of things happening on that back Colorado morning road.

It was ten pm before I heard again. This story she told me made me laugh so hard. Apparently, when she pulled over, Missy got so frazzled she jumped right out over the top of the carrier and started racing around the SUV with Phoebe in hot pursuit. In fact, that poor dog got so beside herself that she completely forgot about birthing and she sucked that pug baby right back in.

When they got to her office, she took Missy and all the birth stuff inside. How, I don’t know, but while keeping a watchful eye, she continued to see her clients for six hours. Then back up the mountain to her home, unloaded Missy and all the birthing stuff and both Phoebe and Missy fell into a much needed sleep.

An hour later, Phoebe’s daughter Kelsey came to her mother’s room to announce that Missy had a baby. They went to the dog nursery and delivered three more tiny beige babies. They removed the sack, cleaned the babies, and helped poor tired but proud Missy be a momma. End of story.

It fascinates me life goes on. Dogs and cats have litters, mares have foals, humans have infant babies in fact, and every species keeps the circle going. Life winds down the very same way and new life completes it unbroken.

You know, in some way this reminds me of the ocean and how the tide comes in and goes out regardless of whatever else is going on in one’s life. It’s a wondrous process, one that gives me a sense of peace that all really is well.

The view from the mountain is wondrous.

~ Jean Brody (Pastor Rebecca’s dear mother-in-law)

News from the Women’s Missionary Society

WMS ordered two new oven racks to supplement the two that came with the oven. We are pleased that they arrived in time for the All-Church meeting on March 31.

We discussed creating a Candy, Cookies and Cakes Cookbook, compiling recipes from our Candy and Bake Sale. Further research as to cost and minimum orders, etc., will be done. It would be fitting, if we do proceed, to have the cookbooks ready for the 140th Anniversary of the Church.

All church and local women are welcome to join us at our monthly meetings on the fourth Thursday of the month and listen to our guest speakers.

Merilee Daugherty, President

Women’s Missionary Society Thursday, May 23, 1:00pm

Program
Solar Farm Progress

All women are welcome!

Dear Rebecca and Congregation,

Last week’s Lenten Service was so beautiful, and very meaningful! Those amazing photos, along with Teresa’s beautiful music, was a blessing.

The soup & bread meal was so good & greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Sherry Thomas, Grace Church

THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH!
THE MUSIC WAS WONDERFUL!



Thank you, Janet Steiner and the Chancel Choir, for the beautiful and inspiring music during this past season of worship music!

Your contributions are beyond compare!



INTRODUCING MALLORY EVERHART

Greetings from Colorado Springs! My name is Mallory Everhart and I am blessed to be your interim sabbatical minister beginning in June. You’ve welcomed me into your community a handful of times over the last few years and I am looking forward to the memories we’ll make and adventures we’ll share while we spend the summer together. Between now and then, I will be finishing up my Masters of Divinity at Iliff School of Theology with a special focus on Pastoral Care, especially grief and loss, as well as my parish ministry internship at Vista Grande Community Church. When not in school or in the parish, I serve as a social worker/chaplain duo at a retirement community here in the Springs and enjoy walks with my husband and dogs and quiet reading accompanied by my cat.

In anticipation of our time together, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at mallorypeverhart@gmail.com. It will be wonderful to be with you!



May 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>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</div>		<div>Happy Mother's Day</div>	<div>1 12pm AA-AE</div>	<div>2 9am-2pm Kairos -K, FH 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 9:30-10:45am Strong People -AE 5:30-6:30pm Narcan Training -AE 7pm AA-AE</div>	<div>3 5:30-7am Kairos-K, FH 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE 9:30-11:30 Fiber Guild-FH</div>	<div>4 5:30-7am Kairos -K, FH 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7</div>
<div>5 5:30-7am Kairos -K, FH 9am Adult Education-AE 10am Communion Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour 11:30am-1:30pm Faith Education Team-#7 11:30am-1:30pm Outreach Team -AE</div>	<div>6 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE</div>	<div>7 8:30am TOPS-CH 11:30am-1pm Republican Women -FH,K 6-7:30pm Webelos -D, FH 6:30-8pm Scouts -FH 6:30pm AI-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS</div>	<div>8 9-9:30am Celtic Prayer Circle-RR 12pm AA-AE 7pm OA-#7</div>	<div>9 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 6-8pm Facilities Team-#7 6:30-8pm Finance Team-7pm AA-AE</div>	<div>10 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE 7:30-9:30pm Community Dance -FH</div>	<div>11 9am-12pm All-Church Clean-up w/Light Lunch 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7</div>
<div>12 MOTHER'S DAY 9am Adult Education-AE 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour</div>	<div>13 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE</div>	<div>14 8:30am TOPS-CH 2-4pm Stew/Vis Team-PO 6:30-8pm Scouts -FH 6:30pm AI-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS</div>	<div>15 12pm AA-AE 5:30-7pm Choir Potluck-FH 7-8pm Council -AE 7pm OA-#7</div>	<div>16 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 11am 3rd Thursday Meet & Eat</div>	<div>17 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE</div>	<div>18 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7 9:45am AI-Anon Bus. Mtg.-#7 10am AA Bus. Mtg.-AE</div>
<div>19 9am Adult Education-AE 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Choir & Birthday Celebrations</div>	<div>20 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE</div>	<div>21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am TOPS-CH 6-7:30pm Webelos -D, FH 6:30-8pm Scouts -FH 6:30pm AI-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS</div>	<div>22 9-9:30am Celtic Prayer Circle-RR 12pm AA-AE 7pm OA-#7</div>	<div>23 1-3pm WMS-AE</div>	<div>24 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE</div>	<div>25 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7</div>
<div>26 9am Adult Education-AE 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour</div>	<div>27 MEMORIAL DAY 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE</div>	<div>28 8:30am TOPS-CH 6:30-8pm Scouts -FH 6:30pm AI-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS</div>	<div>29 12pm AA-AE 7pm OA-#7</div>	<div>30 7pm AA-AE</div>	<div>31 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE</div>	

Outreach/Community & World Team News
May greetings!

The Team sends a very large Thank You! to all those who contributed to the success of the Lenten services, Lenten soup suppers, and the Easter SonRise breakfast.

And in lieu of a report, they send the following from Rev. John Dorhauer, General Minister and President, UCC:

“To All My Friends and Family in the United Church of Christ,
Greetings to you all in this Lenten season. May the love of Christ build within you a resilience and hope sufficient to meet the challenges of our day.

I write to thank you for your support for this year’s One Great Hour of Sharing Special Mission Offering. Through this Offering, the United Church of Christ engages in sustainable development, refugee, and disaster ministries within the United States and around the world.

As many of you know, in times of disaster, those funds help the United Church of Christ stay active in assuring that recovery systems are strong. We are flexible and fill gaps in service in order to accompany the vulnerable people. We enable our church and individuals to practice preparedness, and to sustain long term recovery strategies long after the news cycle on the disaster end.

In recent days, we have witnessed excessive damage from typhoons in southern Africa and massive flooding across the Midwest. Mission partners in Zimbabwe and Mozambique were affected by these disasters, as were many of our church communities across the Midwest. In addition to your ongoing financial support for One Great Hour of Sharing, I call for prayers for our partners in southern Africa and our church families across the Midwest. They are all uplifted by your contributions and your prayers.

I give God thanks for the outpouring of generosity. As we approach the season of Easter, a season in which the rising of Christ instills within us all the hope of redemption and new life, I find myself filled with gratitude for the ways in which your gifts sustain our ministry. Through your contributions and prayers, we are helping to restore hope through building and rebuilding communities of resilience. Thank you all, and may the spirit of the living God and the risen Christ abide with you through the living of your Days.

Humbly yours is Christ, The Rev. Dr. John C. Dorhauer

Kudos

Kudos Kolumn

Rhonda Funston—ordering eco-friendly cups for Coffee Hour!

Paul Dorfmeister—cleaning gutters and staining deck/fence at the parsonage!

Barb Groy & Delmar Smith—getting the old toilets to their forever home!

Reaching the Pastor

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

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

Worship Team Notes

The Worship Team had much to do during the Easter season. From lily purchases to unearthing the cross for the Flowering of the Cross, offering support for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, signing up for the Easter Prayer Vigil, and culminating with SonRise and Easter Sunday celebrations, it was a busy and reflective time of the liturgical year.

We’re hoping that everyone enjoyed the first of our Social Sunday Birthday celebrations in March. Please let us know your thoughts and suggestions moving forward. We appreciate any and all feedback.

We are also preparing to support Mallory Everhart, Rev. Rebecca’s sabbatical relief, as she joins us this summer to lead worship and become a member of the CUCC family.

Respectfully submitted, Ruthanne Schoeffield, Secretary

CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS



FREE LECTURE

16 MAY
7:00 P.M.

CULTIVATING HOPE & CREATING COMMUNITY:

A Compassionate Guide for Difficult Days

JOHN PAVLOVITZ



"Cultivating Hope and Creating Community"

A Compassionate Guide for Difficult Days—with John Pavlovitz

Thursday, May 16, 7:00pm, Ivy Ballroom at the Surf Hotel

In days when so much need is at our doorsteps and on our news feeds, how do we attend to it all without becoming overwhelmed and consumed by it? How can we cultivate hope when it's hard to come by? John Pavlovitz, author of "A Bigger Table: Building Messy, Authentic and Hopeful Spiritual Community" and "Hope and Other Superpowers: A Life-Affirming, Love-Defending, Butt-Kicking, World-Saving Manifesto," leads a time of authentic conversation on how to be safely burdened with the pain of this world and what to do when you have exhausted your resource.



TELLS

Tuesday Evening Ladies

Literary Society

Tuesdays, 7:00pm, at various members' homes

All women are invited!

We read and discuss books, share life, joys, and concerns, and enjoy snacks!

In May we're finishing "A Bigger Table" by John Pavlovitz and going to meet him when he speaks in BV on May 16th as part of the Collegiate Peaks Forum Series! (see above)



The Noteables & You've Got Male Embrace the Unknown

Directed by: Linda Taylor

Featuring:
Oso Blanco, Drums
Brenda Covert, Flute



Friday, May 3, 7:30 PM

Clearview Community Church, Buena Vista

Saturday, May 4, 7:30 PM

First Presbyterian Church, Salida

Suggested Donation: \$10

Information: 339-2428

www.salidainings.org

Sunday, May 5, 3:00 PM

SteamPlant Event Center, Salida

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



LET'S BE GREEN!!!

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



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!

BE IN THE KNOW!

- ♦ Copies of Sunday messages can be found in the file box outside the pastor's office door.
- ♦ Sunday messages are also posted on the church website at www.bvcucc.org/home/Sunday-messages.
- ♦ Sunday bulletins are available in large print before the service—ask a greeter.
- ♦ To receive the CUCC weekly email blast, contact the office at 719-395-2544 or email to office.bvcucc@gmail.com.
- ♦ Nancy is in the front office T, W, F from 9-2, but feel free to leave a message at any time.

Contact Nancy in the office to get on the birthday/anniversary list. Please include the year of said birthday/anniversary.

Sunday Morning Adult Education

9:00am, AE room

During the four Sundays of May, the AE class will be using the Weekly Lectionary for the month of May put out by Vanderbilt University. Each week there will be an assignment that goes along with Pastor Rebecca's Sunday sermons.

Note: The Adult Education class will take a break for the summer (June, July, August), but will resume in mid-September.

ALL-CHURCH CLEAN-UP DAY w/Light Lunch

Saturday, May 11, 9:00am-12:00pm

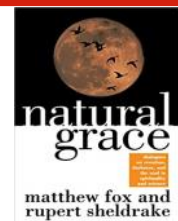


Get in the spirit of Spring Cleaning and help keep CUCC spick and span! Whistling while you work is encouraged (or at least allowed). The fellowship is welcome, the work satisfying, the lunch delicious, and the result priceless. And no, we won't be cleaning windows this time, as we're on the way to getting new ones! :)

SAVE THE DATE!

CUCC Retreat & Sunday Worship
November 8-10, 2019, CUCC

Rev. Brad Berglund will lead a CUCC Retreat & Sunday Worship to explore deepening Celtic creation spirituality in congregational life through education, worship, music, and outreach.



MONDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

Mondays at 8:00am
Grace Church Annex

Men of CUCC are invited to join men of Grace Church for this class. They are currently studying "Natural Grace" by Michael Fox and Rupert Sheldrake. Fox represents the theological tenet of Original Blessing and Sheldrake is a biologist. They discuss science and religion, each from his own background.

The sessions last from one to 1 1/2 hours and are open to men of CUCC and the community.

All Men are invited to learn, discuss, and grow!

SIGN LANGUAGE HELP NEEDED

Ark Valley Helping Hands has a new member that would love to have a friendly visitor once a week. She is deaf and signs. Do you or anyone you know have some background with sign language? The member's daughter is willing to teach some basic signs.

Thank you for considering!
Sara Ward, 719-530-1198
AVHH



CUCC Finance and Budget Team

April News

As the Finance Team did not meet in April, there is no news to share.



Are you looking for an opportunity to give back to the community and make a difference? Perhaps volunteering at the BV Visitor Center is just the thing for you!

The BV Visitor Center is looking for enthusiastic and passionate volunteers who love sharing with others why they love Buena Vista so much. The work is fun, flexible, and in an exciting environment, so why not give it a try?

Please contact Landon James by calling 804-363-4843 or emailing to welcome@buenavistacolorado.org.

Dear Friends,

Check [included] here to bless you & all you have meant. Still having bazaar this fall? Working on dishcloths for it now. Hope all is well there.

God Bless all of you...once again hoping this will be the year to come to Buénie again.

Blessings, Sharron & John Blanchett

P.S. I read newsletters cover to cover & say prayers for everyone.

BUENA VISTA WOMEN'S CONNECTION

Tuesday, May 21

11:30am

**Casa del Rio Clubhouse
Luncheon**

Program: Sally Stencil "Her Story"

Music: Wayne Lee on trumpet

**Special Feature: Margery Dorfmeister
"Poetry Reading"**

\$10; RSVP to Vicki Melton at
719-395-8638 or
bvcwomensc@gmail.com



Pastor's Week At a Glance:

Sunday — Church Family Day

Monday — Sabbath & Singing

Tuesday — Office(s) Hours, Meetings, Appointments, Worship & Education Prep, TELLS

Wednesday — Writing Morning; Office Work, Visiting, Meetings, Choir

Thursday — Inreach & Outreach Day

Friday — Catch-All & Catch-Up Day

Saturday — Final Prep for Sunday & Family Day

The Faith Education Team

*Develop a passion for learning.
If you do, you never cease to grow.
Anthony J. D'Angelo*



Faith Education for Everyone

Surprise, surprise! What is in that plastic Easter egg? Once again the Faith Education Team created an exciting Easter Egg Hunt for our special children. Thanks to Alice Wolters for gathering the "stuffings" and the Faith Education Team for helping put everything together and "tooling around" the church property to hide all the eggs.

WANT TO HELP? We Want You!

Late spring and summer is always a busy time for education events and fun. It allows us to play more, raise money, work together in creative endeavors, and celebrate both children and adults. If you want to join in these activities, here's how you can help:

- ___ Make pies
- ___ Serve pie at the 4th of July booth
- ___ Serve on the Planning Team for Family Camp
- ___ Teach Children's Church
- ___ Financially support a possible mission trip to NC
- ___ Go on possible Mission Trip to NC

The Faith Education Team has affirmed our support of a possible mission trip if Mark & Alice Wolters are able to gather some youth and adults to travel to North Carolina in late May to assist in repairing hurricane-damaged houses so their owners can move back home. If any adults are interested, please talk with Mark.

Volunteers from the Faith Education Team are meeting for the first time to plan another version of Family Camp. **The planning committee is open to anyone interested in helping.** Our first meeting is Friday, May 3 at 3:00 pm at The View (Best Western Motel). Please come and join us for this first brainstorming session. We have chosen the week of July 8-12 for the event, probably 2 or 3 evenings near the end of that week.

The Faith Education Team is already anticipating a busy JULY. In order to carry out our July events, we know we'll need your help. We've reserved a booth for Art in the Park for our annual pie sale. We've always had wonderful response to your delicious pies and are hoping you'll be willing to bake again. There is always a need for servers to work in the booth on the 4th of July. If you are in town that day and are willing to lend a hand, please let Arlene Waldorf know.

Arlene Waldorf, Chair

The Midland Hikers' Art Show, held in CUCC's Fellowship Hall in April, was enjoyed by many. More pictures can be found on CUCC's website under News and Events: <http://bvcucc.org/news-and-events>.



CUCC Council Minutes, April 17, 2019

Present: Margie and Ron Erickson, Kay Allinger, Rebecca Kemper Poos, Ann Condra, Helen Duncan, Merilee Daugherty, Janet Steiner, Billie Branch, Cindy Helm, Barb Groy, Rhonda Funston, Kathy Roman.
Prior to the start of the meeting, Jim Amster educated us on the use of the AED in the sanctuary.
Moderator Marge Erickson called the meeting to order at 7:55pm, with the opening prayer from Ron Erickson from a book about the Island of Light.

General Business and Reports

Minutes from the March 20 Council meeting were reviewed with the following corrections:
Under Finance and Budget Team it was reported that bills are paid EVERY WEEK and that PAYROLL is processed twice a month.
Under Treasurer’s Report it should read “although it is not unusual for General Contributions to be under budget this time of year, it is a concern that they are under budget by a total of \$6,130.00 for the first two months.” Helen/Ann moved to accept the revised minutes; motion passed.
Clerk’s Report: Clerk Ron Rak was unable to attend.
Treasurer’s Report: As of March 31, 2019, the balance in the checking account was \$3,822.39. At the end of March we transferred \$6,500.00 from the savings account to pay end of month bills and payrolls. Without the transfer, we would have ended with a negative balance of \$2,677.61. The balance in the Savings and CD accounts is \$126,954.56, of which \$117,649.56 are Restricted funds. This leaves us with \$9,305.00 in general funds from which we can transfer to pay bills and supplement the checking account. The Trustees Contingency fund has a balance of \$41,544.84. By May 6 we need to decide whether to renew or cash in all or part of the 1-year CD of \$46,000. Cindy expressed concern about our shortfall to date.
Moderator’s Report: Marge reported that the Congregational Gathering on March 31 had a great turn-out and table conversations. At that meeting, Janet Steiner kicked off the Church Family Windows Project. There was interest in inclusive policy discussions and direction on how to invite people to church. The next Gathering will be June 30, 2019. At our fall gathering we will hear from Rev. Erin Gilmore, Associate Conference Minister, on membership trends. Marge will lead us in a Celtic Worship Service April 28. Spring clean-up was discussed and we selected Saturday, May 11 from 9-noon, with a light lunch at 11:30am. Linda and Ron Rak, along with Rebecca, will be our Conference attendees.

Pastor’s Report: Rebecca talked about stories we tell about ourselves and that we probably are not seeing the whole picture. We have 60 people that consistently participate in Sunday services, Teams, Fellowship time, volunteering, etc. The church hosts art shows, St. Patrick’s Day concerts, and many community groups.
Summer wedding request: In 2016 Council approved a Code of Ethics in Relation to its Pastor which, in part, states ”We will not invite other pastors to provide pastoral services within this church or to members of the church without our pastor’s consent and/or participation.” There has been a request from someone outside our congregation who would like a June wedding in the sanctuary with an outside pastor. After much discussion, it was decided that this type of use will be dealt with on a case-by-case basis and someone from both Facilities and Worship will meet with a family representative.

Continuing Business

Window Replacement Project: Janet has been announcing the project at Sunday services. After initial excitement, interest has waned. By the end of April we hope to have sufficient pledges to do seven windows in the sanctuary and three in the office. Letters have been sent to members who moved or are descendants of members who passed.
Community Composting Site: Site choice is behind the garage shed. We would construct the enclosure and be reimbursed by Chaffee Green/GARNA. Pick-up would be once a week, so there will be no odor, and the enclosure will keep animals out. CUCC could put church kitchen waste in for free.

New Business

Mission Trip to North Carolina: This falls under the Faith Education Team. Cameron Wolters has been recruiting high school and college students to go May 28 - June 4, along with any interested adults, to help rebuild after the last hurricane. Lodging, food, and tools provided. Outreach and Faith Education Teams will provide financial aid for the youth.
Coverage for Financial Secretary, Kay, in June: Ann Condra will help on June 9, Rhonda on June 16 and 23. They will help count and deposit monies.

Team Reports and Updates

Faith Education: Billie reported the Easter Egg Hunt will be held right after the Easter breakfast. They will host the 4th of July Pie Sale to raise money for the NC mission trip. This year’s Family Camp will be during the week of July 8-12, probably at the end of the week. There are no youth attending La Foret Camp this summer.
Worship: Barb said all seems to be in place for Holy Week services. The lilies were ordered and congregants were asked to bring flowers to place in our mesh cross on Easter. April birthdays will be celebrated on Social Sunday, April 28. May 19’s Social Sunday will celebrate choir’s conclusion for the summer and May birthdays.
Outreach: Helen praised Ron Rak for his management of the coffee/cocoa sales. When there is sufficient money, a case of coffee will be donated to the Holy Joe project. Ken Rehborn was also praised for his hard work on the Backpack program. Due to difficult family dynamics, we have not heard from Angelo for over a year. Jean Buster continues to write him and we receive regular reports from the Philippines. There was a thank you to all the soup makers for the Lenten Suppers. Everything is ready for the Easter morning breakfast.
Stewardship/Visioning: Ann stated they spent their meeting working on by-laws, as this is a brand new Team. They established three points in their mission and are open to suggestions and will continue to amend as necessary. They also want to follow-up with visitors to encourage them to continue worshipping with us.
Finance and Budget: See report given by Cindy as part of the Treasurer’s Report.
Facilities: Rhonda reported trash service has changed from Waste Management to Chaffee County Waste and includes recycling.

The upgrades to the women’s bathroom are completed and the restroom just outside of Rebecca’s office will be a unisex bathroom. A small mark will be placed on the Fellowship Hall registers to designate where the tables should be placed. Consideration was given to the installation of a camera and doorbell outside the entrance to the Narthex to better safeguard Rebecca and Nancy. Costs are being researched. Rhonda is going through the manuals, instruction books, and warranties for equipment owned by the church and establishing a useful filing system for those items that are still pertinent.

Affiliated Organizations and Committees

Women’s Missionary Society: Merilee reported that WMS will supply the fruit salad for the Easter breakfast. The Salad Luncheon is 11:30am Thursday, April 25 with Janet Steiner providing the program. They are investigating creating a desserts cookbook for the 140th church anniversary.
Sabbatical Planning: Rebecca handed out copies of “Sabbatical Ministry Coverage Agreement Between CUCC and Mallory Everhart,” who will fill in while Rebecca is on sabbatical. Mallory will attend our service on May 5 and meet with church leaders. Margie thanked Kathy Roman for attending meetings in April while she was gone.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

A review of upcoming events on the church calendar was noted on the Meeting Agenda.

Prayer Concerns/Adjournment

Those mentioned were Barb Groy, Mallory Everhart, Codi Miller, Angie Williams, Becky and VirJeanne.

Rebecca closed the meeting with prayer and we adjourned at 9:32pm.
Next meeting is scheduled for May 15 at 7:00pm.
Prepared by Merilee Daugherty



CHURCH FAMILY WINDOWS update

The project has been launched! Generous church families have given us a nice start and we are very grateful.

Note that it will 4-5 weeks for the order to be filled, so if you are wanting to sponsor a window but will not be submitting payment right away, please go ahead and let us know of your commitment. This way we can order the windows when we know we have enough commitments. An e-mail can be sent to Janet Steiner at siblingkindex11@hotmail.com or a message left at the church at 719-395-2544.

Plaques honoring individuals, couples, or families are being offered for any window sponsorship. This is not only a memorial, but all members of our church family—past and present—may be honored.

A payment sheet was included in the April newsletter. It included the dates, etc. If further info is needed, please ask. The price for a full window is \$1,600 and half \$800.

Thank you!
Pastor Rebecca, Ron Hassell, Mark Wolters, and Janet Steiner



STEWARDSHIP/VISIONING TEAM NEWS

The principle objective of this newly designated Team is development of the Statement of Responsibilities to the be included in the church bylaws. The following is our first draft:

- The Stewardship/Visioning Team shall
1. Be responsible for educating the congregation in ways they can support our church.
 - a. Operational support giving
 - b. Designated giving
 - c. Endowments
 - d. Volunteer mission opportunities
 2. Develop ideas to assist the Church in moving forward in its vision and purpose.
 3. Work to increase and strengthen participation and engagement in the life of our church family.

We will use this as a starting place and amend it as necessary as we continue through the year. Any suggestions you have would be appreciated. Contact Judy Hassell, Bowie Duncan, Bob Stocker, Bill Waldorf, or Ann Condra with your ideas.

We are also discussing possible activities/projects/ programs that would promote support of CUCC, individuals, and entities. These will be revisited regularly to prioritize and develop specific efforts to fulfill our objectives.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Condra, Chair