

***Congregational
United Church of Christ***

Sunday Schedule

9:00am Conversations that Matter Discussion Group

10:00am Worship Service

& Children's Church

11:00am Coffee Hour

217 Crossman Ave.; Mailing: 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
January, 2020



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

"LOVE IS THE ONLY WAY"

CHOOSE LIFE

*"Love God, your God. Walk in his ways.
Keep his commandments so that you will live, really live, live exuberantly, blessed by God.
I call heaven and earth to witness to you today,
that I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse.
So "Choose Life."*

Deuteronomy 30:16b, 19

When adversity comes, "Choose Life." Jesus did, even though he had to give himself totally by dying on a cross. His life ultimately broke the power of Herod the King, who sought to kill him at his birth, and of the Roman Empire, turning the world upside down with his message of compassion and love.

As a church family we will affect the future life of this church by how we treat one another. It is not easy to forgive another person, to choose to live together, searching for harmony when we have differing opinions and views and feel unheard. Trusting one another to hear the hurt we are feeling when we feel like our own needs are not being met is an important first step.

In my own life, over and over again, I have had to "let go and let God." I've had to release and let go in order to be open to the change that I needed to face and take hold of. I've had to rest in the arms of God's care. Some people have called this holy resilience, the rhythm of releasing and taking hold. They may have had to abandon long cherished dreams, set aside life patterns that are harmful, or even had to jettison habits and practices that once worked well for them, but no longer do. They may have even had to leave a beloved place.

One of the most helpful books that many of us have read and shared in small group conversations lately is one entitled *The Book of Joy - Lasting Happiness in a Changing World*. Two world leaders have created this wonderful book: His Holiness the Dalai Lama and Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Their conversations in the book were guided by facilitator Douglas Abrams. I would like you to consider the suffering of the Dalai Lama when he had to flee his beloved country of Tibet in 1959 and become a refugee in the mountains of Northern India, where he has lived all these years in exile.

Consider these words by Bishop Tutu to the Dalai Lama: "I'm really very humbled listening to His Holiness because of the fact of his serenity, and his calm and joyfulness in spite of the adversity or you might say 'because of the adversity' that has evolved for him. It has increased my admiration for him. It almost seems perverse, but one wants to say "thank goodness for the Chinese invasion of Tibet, because I don't think that we would have had this friendship, that he would have gotten a Nobel Peace Prize or that he would have become a global spiritual leader."

Embracing change, like God sending a new message of reconciliation and love through the birth of baby Jesus was a bold new message that relationships matter! God reaching out to touch the hand of all human beings bringing hope and joy. God sets before us life and death; therefore, "Choose Life!"

May God's peace and joy abide with you always in the coming New Year!

~Marge Erickson, Moderator



PASTOR'S ARTICLE, January, 2020

¹² Therefore, as God's beloved community, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. ¹³ Bear with each other and forgive one another if any of you has a grievance against someone. Forgive as the Lord forgave you.

¹⁴ And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. (Col 3)

I have a dream. It's a good time for that. January—when we launch with hope into a New Year and remember Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous sermon calling us *all* to dream with hope and imagination. I have a dream of a Beloved Community relating, serving, and loving together, with the scripture above as our guide. My dream is of a place and space where people can bring their authentic selves, be fully real and wholly loved—by God and one another. A place where Mr. Roger's rule of kindness and simple mantra "I like you *just the way you are*" meets Jesus' command to "Love the Lord Your God, neighbor and self—heart, mind and soul!"

To that dream I bring you, as your Pastor, my authentic self—foibles and shortcomings and all. Full transparency: I am emotional, sensitive, and a big-picture, slightly crazy, creative, visionary leader with healthy boundaries. I bring my deep love and commitment, integrity, honesty, and profound passion for creating loving and authentic community as followers of Christ. I bring my vision for leading a church to be all it can be—a truly Beloved Community connecting in life-giving ministries with its wider community.

Everything You Wanted to Know about Your Pastor But Were Afraid to Ask

In order to live into our dreams and vision together in this new year, it's a good time to look at the covenantal relationship between a Congregation and its Pastor and renew our covenant to one another. When a church calls a pastor, a Covenant Agreement is created together, using guidelines from the United Church of Christ, the congregation's Bylaws, scripture, and prayer. Ordained ministers and congregations also commit to Ethical Codes in covenant.

As your pastor, I seek to uphold all aspects of our covenantal relationship and agreements. I look to the "Spiritual Welfare of the church" as the overarching goal of all ministry, as we serve and love God, one another, and ourselves. I understand that the needs and vision of a congregation change over time and commit to exploring those changing needs in healthy dialogue. I ask your grace and understanding when expectations far exceed the hours in a week or possibilities for presence in many places at once are not possible. I offer grace and understanding of heart in return, as we strive forward in mutual ministry.

Some "highlights" of these guidelines for understanding our shared ministry:

From the **CUCC Bylaws**—The Pastor's Job Description:

The Pastor shall:

1. Have charge over the spiritual welfare of the church with the assistance of the Diaconate.
2. Seek to enlist persons as followers of Christ.
3. Preach the gospel.
4. Administer the sacraments.
5. Have under his/her care all services of public worship.
6. Be an ex-officio member of the Council and all the Boards and Committees except as otherwise provided.

From the **Ordained Minister's Ethical Code**—I COVENANT WITH MY MINISTRY SETTING TO:

- Preach and teach the gospel without fear or favor, regarding all persons with equal respect and concern, and undertaking to minister impartially.
- Honor all confidences shared with me, telling only those who need to know, what they need to know, when they need to know it.
- Steward church funds and property faithfully, while overseeing the administrative tasks of ministry with integrity.
- Speak the truth, not using my position, power, or authority to exploit any person nor using my position for unwarranted personal financial gain.

Pastor Rebecca would love to connect with you!



Make an appointment or request a visit to assure her undivided attention.

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

PASTOR CHATS

Tuesdays from 3:00pm-5:00pm, Pastor Rebecca will hold "Drop-In Hours" at the Office.

Feel free to drop by to chat, with the understanding that someone might be there ahead of you.

Please knock on the door to let Pastor Rebecca know you're waiting.

For a quality, fully-focused, confidential conversation, please make an appointment.

Pastor Rebecca will gladly meet with you during the week (and after Coffee Hour on Sundays) at the office, or over coffee (or lunch or wine!), or come to your home.



CUCC CARES FOR CREATION

Please don't put cardboard boxes in the trash/dumpster. Instead, put them in the office or give them to Rebecca

COMPOSTING AT CUCC - YES, THE CHURCH MAY USE THE COMPOSTING!

Compost generated directly by the church may be added for free, but individuals must sign up in order to be able to add their own personal composting.

For those adding CUCC's compost, the lock code is available in the office. Please see the information sheet in the kitchen and on the composting bins for what is and is not allowed.

Sign up at <https://garna.org/chaffee-green-composting/> for your own personal composting.



Pastor's Week At a Glance:

Sunday — Church Family Day

Monday — Sabbath & Singing

Tuesday — Meetings, Appointments, Worship & Education Prep, TELLS 3:00pm-5:00pm "Drop-In Hours" at the Office

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

DID YOU KNOW?

CUCC HAS A PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE!

Please read below a brief description of our purpose:

This standing committee serves as a communication tool with basically two functions:

1. an advisory group to the pastor, sharing ideas, dreams, hopes, expectations and concerns of the congregation
2. support for the pastor's leadership interpreting roles, functions, and needs of the pastor to the congregation

Constructive and caring communication in an atmosphere of confidentiality and trust is essential to this committee and to the mission of this church in the community and the world. This committee serves as a framework wherein conflict can be dealt with creatively and fairly. Please speak with one of us with your concerns or questions. We welcome your input!

Our committee aids the church in following Paul's instructions: "Help carry one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all,..." (Galatians 6:2,10)

If you wish further explanation and description, please refer to a booklet called "**A Sure Foundation—resources for the relationship between pastors and congregations,**" prepared and published by the United Church of Christ Parish Life and Leadership Ministry Team, which is available in the narthex.

Helen Duncan, Chair
Mark Wolters, Judy Hassell, Ron Erickson
—Moderators and Vice-Moderators are invited to the meetings when fitting, as well.

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 (720) 542-1560
Life Care Center of Westminster, Aspen Hall, Rm. 112
7751 Zenobia Court, Westminster, CO 80030

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

Roger Cason (719) 539-6112 (C)
Columbine Manor
530 W. 16th Street, Salida, CO 81201

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

Betty Gwynn (719) 395-2966
29155 CR 331, Buena Vista, CO 81211

Lew Lowe (717) 490-8288
925 Willow Valley Lakes Drive, Apt. 326
Willow Street, PA 17584

Al & 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

Doris Westerlund (719) 640-1853
High View Hills #242
20150 Highview Ave., Lakeville, MN 55044

Glen & Joan Wilder (719) 395-8722
29531 CR 372A, Buena Vista, CO 81211

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

CUCC Special Dates



BIRTHDAYS

January 2—Kathy Keidel
January 3—Ann Condra
January 3—Bridgett Tucker
January 4—Billie Branch
January 4—Cameron Wolters
January 5—Carl Hansen
January 10—Dorothy Coy
January 13—Nan Bohe
January 16—Vivian York
January 19—Jean Venard
January 27—Tricia Blake
January 27—Elvin Benton
January 28—Marilyn Frykholm
January 29—Jean Ferguson
January 29—Kathi Perry
January 31—Kay Allinger
January 31—Clarke Poos



ANNIVERSARIES

January 7—Frazer & Kaylynne Pomfret
January 16—Matthew & Donna Maloney

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

Del Jones—Healing
Ruby Hamilton—Healing
Mark Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's nephew)—Healing
Sarah Struthers—Healing
Maryanne Wells (Janet Jones' sister-in-law)—Healing
Gary Dennis (friend of Rhonda Funston)—Healing
Norma Hughes (aunt of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing
Brooke Davis (cousin of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing
Kaylynne Pomfret and Blakely-Grace Pomfret—Strength & Healing
Midori Matsuda—Healing & Strength
The Family of Bernie Robinson—Comfort
Mardy Cason (brother of Roger Cason)—Healing
Dwight Griggs—Healing
Brendan Stuart (niece of Molly Stuart)—Healing
Diana Lynn Hilt (Lucille Habeck's daughter)—Healing
Kayleigh & Family (friends of Barb Wilder)—Healing
Jarron Davis (cousin of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing
The Family of Barb Montgomery (Warren's sister-in-law)—Comfort
The Family of Mark Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's nephew)—Comfort
Lori Hagen (friend of Kay Allinger)—Healing
Linette Williams—Healing
Laurie Riggs—Healing
Marcy Adams—Healing
Pam Hughes—Healing
Ali Lufkin—Healing
Nan Bohe—Healing
Roger Cason—Healing
Arlene Waldorf—Healing
Shirl Holloway—Healing



PASTOR'S ARTICLE, page 2

PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY—Congregation's Covenant

*We believe that the ministry and mission of the Church are given to all baptized Christians. We will nurture and join our gifts for ministry with those of the pastor in the Church and in the world. We will work cooperatively and collegially with the pastor. We recognize that our church and our pastor are part of the larger faith community and we will support our pastor in being responsible participants in the wider church in the world.

*We recognize the many and diverse expectations we have of our pastor, and we will offer our support through prayer, encouragement, and partnership in the ministry of this church.

*We recognize our responsibility to provide our pastor with adequate compensation and benefits. We will make these decisions in consultation with our pastor and in light of the compensation guidelines established by RMC.

*We recognize our pastor's need for physical and spiritual renewal, and we will provide adequate time and resources for study, devotion, leisure, vacation, and sabbatical. (<https://www.uccfiles.com/pdf/ASF-EthicalCodes.pdf>)

CUCC's Call Agreement to Rev. Rebecca Kemper Poos, March 2009, may be found here and in the kiosk: http://www.bvcucc.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/CUCC-Call-Agreement-as-of-2019-Pastor-Rebecca-Poos_FINAL-Jan_2009_SigsAdden.pdf

2019 Pastoral Leave Taken per Call Agreement—Pastor Rebecca Kemper Poos

All time away is coordinated with the Moderators and other church leaders/Council throughout the year. Time away is planned and announced well in advance, and Pastor invites Guest Preachers and informs the Worship Team and Music staff and arranges for on-call Pastoral Care.

- 4 weeks Vacation Allowed – 4 days taken of 4 weeks.
- 2 Weeks Study Leave Allowed – 1 Week taken of 2 weeks.
- Compassionate leave up to 5 days per incident for death or sickness of an immediate family member (2 episodes in 2019: Mother's funeral; Son Rocky's surgery & biopsy)
- Sabbatical: 3 months every 5 years of service. (Taken June 10 – Sept 19, 2019)
- Wider Church work = as needed, in consultation with leadership (RMC Annual Meeting 3 days)
- 2 Days Off per Week for Sabbath and personal and family time. (Mondays & Saturdays are the hoped-for Days Off each week. Rarely possible, but trying for in the new year!)

*Weekly Plan

Sunday – Ministry Work Day
Monday – Sabbath/Day Off/Chorale Singing (some work inevitable!)

Tuesday – Ministry Work Day (7:00am – 10:00pm): Office admin and leadership, planning, writing, pastoral visits and calls, meetings, groups, outreach)
DROP-IN Hours 3:00-5:00 pm

Wednesday – Ministry Work Day (7:00am – 10:00pm) (see above)
Thursday – Ministry Work Day (7:00am – 10:00pm) (see above)
Friday – Ministry Work/Writing Day (sermon and worship prep, calls, visits, projects at home office)
Saturday – Day Off/Family Day (when possible, with sermon & worship finalizing)

*Pastoral Care – Available 24/7 for emergencies. Please call, text, email, or Facebook me right away.
*Hospital Visits and Out-of-Town – Make every effort to visit and arrange with another nearby pastor if needed.
*Home visits – Made as often as possible, and upon request, especially.
*How to reach me: RevBecca@icloud.com; Cell phone: 719-252-6890

God has laid a dream on my heart. A vision for Beloved Community. What is *your* vision for CUCC? I'd love to hear your dreams and ideas for your church. What would a vital, growing, supportive, dynamic church look like to you? A place to come and belong that is teeming with inspiration, holy energy, full of healthy relationships and deep generosity?

¹⁵ Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful. ¹⁶ Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. ¹⁷ And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. (Colossians 3:15-17)

Blessings, Pastor Rebecca



view from the Mountain

“SPIRIT HOUSE”



Ever heard of a Spirit House? I don’t mean a real house with real spirits. I mean a little house for weary travelers on the journey of life, just to rest a bit, to lay a heavy head down and close eyes that have seen enough.

I used to have one. It was a gift from two friends who made it about the size of a shoebox, but taller because of a top dome. I kept it by itself on a simple table in my foyer.

It was yellow and pale blue and decorated with seashells. The front door and two side windows were wide open. One could almost feel the gentle breeze entering, soothing tired furrowed brows.

Spirit Houses began in Thailand as part of Buddhism. They are much bigger and I read that today they’re commonly used in their worship.

The guardian of the house is the spirit that watches over and protects the home and all in it. This idea of feeling safe appeals to me very much.

First of all, what does spiritual mean? One definition is “Concerned with or affecting the soul,” and “*spiritus*,” which means breath of God. The definition I like best is “The immaterial part of man.”

I have kept searching to find out why this idea of a spirit house touched me. I found a quote from Nicolas Chemsort, “To enjoy and make others enjoy without doing ill to anyone, this is the foundation of all morality.”

Oh, how I believe this. Every time I looked at my Spirit House it filled me with sweet promise. Surely there will be peace as we all travel this journey.

And life is a journey we all take together. It is my belief that God has promised never to leave us in darkness and loss. I believe it.

I am human and weak, but the years of having a little Spirit House, front door and two side windows wide open and welcoming, reassured me that life really is eternal and there will be safe little houses all across my path and yours.

I know God could never be contained in a shoebox. The Spirit House is an outward symbol for me of a universal love—doors and windows open wide and peace within.

The view from the mountain is wondrous.

~ Jean Brody

CUCC 2020 Slate of Officers and Team Members

Officers:

Moderator: Kathy Roman	2020-2021
Vice Moderator: Mark Wolters	2020-2021
Clerk: Ron Rak	2020-2021
Treasurer: Lloyd Martinez:	2020-2021
Asst. Treasurer: <i>To be appointed</i>	2020-2021
Financial Secretary: Kay Allinger	2020-2021

Worship/Congregational Life Team:

1. Carla Hansford	2019-2021
2. Linda Rak	2019-2021
3. Janet Steiner	2019-2021
4. Vivian York	2020-2022
5. Debby Cason	2020-2022
6. <i>Open</i>	2020-2022

Faith Education Team:

1. Billie Branch	2019-2021
2. Ruby Hamilton	2019-2021
3. Kathy Keidel	2019-2021
4. Donna Maloney	2020-2022
5. Bestsy Neas	2020-2022
6. Ron Erickson	2020-2022

Outreach/Community and World Team:

1. Jean Ferguson	2019-2021
2. Ellen Kely	2019-2021
3. Laurie Stevens	2019-2021
4. Ken Rehborn	2020-2022
5. Helen Duncan	2020-2022
6. <i>Open</i>	2020-2022

Facilities/Caring for Church Home Team:

1. Paul Dorfmeister	2019-2021
2. Darrell Hamilton	2019-2021
3. <i>To be Appointed</i>	2019-2021 (one yr. vacancy)
4. Ron Hassell	2020-2022
5. Ron Rak	2020-2022
6. Bowie Duncan	2020-2022

Finance Budget Team:

1. Kathy Roman	2020-2021
2. Lloyd Martinez	2020-2021
3. Mark Wolters	2020-2021
4. Lesley Fagerberg	2019-2021
5. Doug Seewoester	2019-2021
6. Bill Waldorf	2019-2021

Stewardship/Visioning Team

1. Ann Condra	2019-2021
2. Bob Stocker	2019-2021
3. <i>To be Appointed</i>	2019-2021 (one yr. vacancy)
4. Judy Hassell	2020-2022
5. Bill Waldorf	2020-2022
6. Bowie Duncan	2020-2022



Kudos Kolumn

Kudos to the wonderful Worship Team for the lovely Vigil on December 20th!



OCWM—OUR CHURCH’S WIDER MISSION

Rocky Mountain Conference in Covenant with Congregations

What is it? What does it stand for? What does it do?

"Our Church’s Wider Mission" (OCWM) is, in a nutshell, Conference Support so the Conference can support us! We give to OCWM as one of our 5 for 5 Offerings, but additional support can be made by individuals at any time. Just note OCWM in the Memo line on your check to CUCC if you would like to give above and beyond our local church support.

How does the conference support us?

Rev. Erin Gilmore, Association Conference Minister came and led us on Sept. 29th in our Education Hour, Sermon Dialogue, and Congregational Gathering. That’s “OCWM at work!”

Recently, many conference leaders and board members and legal counsel have come to our assistance in crucial and vital ways with support and guidance through conflicts. We thank God for the Rocky Mountain Conference — always there for us and ministering with and through us!

FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

- The Facilities Team did not meet in December; however, here is the status on current status on projects:
- 1-Windows - All are installed. Janet has obtained quotes for 3 sets of blinds in Fellowship Hall. The committee will meet and make a decision on them after Christmas. WE have the money in the window budget.
 - 2-Ring units (video/audio units for front door security) are installed. Pastor Rebecca has the information and will be activating the monitoring account once she installs the app on the chosen devices.
 - 3-All the batteries in the smoke detectors have been replaced. The plan is to replace all once a year at the fall time change. This should eliminate the frequent chirping from low batteries.
 - 4-Plowing - Mark has arranged for Tom Rollings to plow for special occasions or when Miles is unable to plow.
 - 5-Waste Mgt - This saga should be at an end finally. The short version is that we reluctantly paid the “disconnect fee” after they took off the interest and penalties.
- Respectfully submitted,
Ron Hassell, Chair

Worship Team Notes

We are in the process of compiling our end-of-year report for 2019 and wish everyone a peaceful holiday season.

Cheers,
Ruthann Schoeffield

The Faith Education Team
Faith Education for Everyone

The Team didn't meet in December, but we would like to remind all that children's church continues every Sunday during worship and all are welcome to sign up for a week of teaching our delightful kids!

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER
Sundays, 9:00-9:45, Adult Ed Room, CUCC
All are welcome to join this lively discussion group that looks at lectionary passages and upcoming sermon themes.



Skyler, Gabby and Ryan Tucker made everyone's day one Sunday in December by giving spontaneous hugs during Coffee Hour!



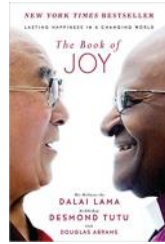
January 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
AE=Adult Ed. Rm. CH=Choir Room D=Drama Room FH=Fellowship Hall K=Kitchen RR=Rainbow Rm. S=Sanctuary #7=Room 7		December 31 NEW YEAR'S EVE OFFICE OPEN 	1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2 ANNUAL REPORTS DUE 1-3pm The Squad-AE 7pm AA-AE	3 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	4 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7
5 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am Communion Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	6 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	7 8:30am TOPS -CH 11:30am-1pm Rep. Women -FH, K 4:30-6:30pm Outreach Team -AE 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm AI-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	8	9 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 6-8pm Facilities Team-#7 6:30-8pm Finance Team- 7pm AA-AE	10 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE 7-9:30pm Community Dance-FH	11 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7 9am-12pm HCFAA Auditions-S
12 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour 11:30am-12:30pm Worship Team-#7 11:30am-1:00pm Faith Education Team-D	13 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	14 8:30am TOPS -CH 10am-12pm Stew/VisTeam -AE 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm AI-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	15 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal -FH 6pm Choir-CH 7pm Council-AE	16 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH 7pm AA-AE	17 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	18 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7
19 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour/ Birthday Celebration 	20 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	21 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 8:30am TOPS -CH 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm AI-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	22 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal -FH 6pm Choir-CH	23 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 1-3pm WMS 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH 7pm AA-AE	24 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	25 9am AA-AE 9am AI-Anon-#7
26 9am Conversations That Matter Discussion Group 10am Worship & Children's Church 11:15 CUCC Annual Meeting	27 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	28 8:30am TOPS -CH 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm AI-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	29 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal -FH 6pm Choir-CH	30 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH 7pm AA-AE	31 8:15am-12pm Strong Women-AE 3:30pm-5:30pm HCFAA Rehearsal-FH	

CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

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 have now begun studying "The Book of Joy: Lasting Happiness in a Changing World" by Archbishop Desmond Tutu and the Dalai Lama.

The sessions last one to one and one-half hours and are open to men of CUCC and the community.

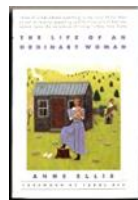
All Men are invited to learn, discuss, and grow!

TELLS
Tuesday Evening Ladies
Literary Society
Tuesdays, 7:00pm
held at members' homes



All women are invited!

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



The group is reading
"The Life of an Ordinary Woman"
by Anne Ellis.

See Pastor Rebecca to
get on the email list.

INTRO TO SQUARE DANCING
6-WEEK MINI-SESSION
Tuesday nights, Jan. 7-Feb. 11, 7:00pm-8:30pm
13205 CR 280, near Nathrop

Singles welcome! No experience needed!
January 7 session FREE!

Call 719-539-7877 or email monarch.mavericks@yahoo.com
for info on carpools and directions to venue.

SQUARE DANCE
Saturday, January 11, 1:30pm-3:00pm
Salida Community Center

No charge—no experience needed—singles welcome!
Two left feet? Bring 'em both—square dancing is a hands thing!

For more info, call 539-7877, text 480-703-9120,
or email to monarch.mavericks@yahoo.com.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

We had a great end-of-the year meeting where we hosted Amanda Pearson from La Puente. The new officers, Merilee Daugherty (President), Rhonda Funston (VP), Cindy Helm (Secretary), and Kay Allinger (Treasurer), were installed by out-going Vice President Ruth Amster. We approved our 2020 budget, which Kay will provide for the annual report.

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Memorial Reception for the Tidde; there were plenty of cookies left for the December 15 Coffee Hour. You have all been so supportive of me during my first year as President - thank you!

Our 2020 theme is 'Nature' and our first meeting will be January 23. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!

~Merilee Daugherty

Outreach/Community & World Team News—January greetings!

*** Thank you for contributing to the United Church of Christ Christmas Fund taken in December.

The Christmas Fund for the Veterans of the Cross and the Emergency Fund is a Special Mission Offering that congregations have been supporting for over 100 years. The offering is administered through the United Church Board for Ministerial Assistance, the charitable arm of the Pension Boards. Funds provide direct financial support to those who serve the church and are facing financial difficulties. Active and retired clergy, lay employees, and their surviving spouses may be eligible for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and/or Christmas "Thank You" Gift Checks.

*** Christmas greetings were sent to Angelo Jesus, our sponsored child in the Philippines.
Thank you for signing the cards!

*** The Backpack program is distributing 55 packs to local children.

*** Don't forget to purchase your coffee at CUCC. Equal Exchange programs help small coffee growers around the world. Our price has been raised slightly, but we think the product is top notch and your money is put to good use.

*** SPECIAL NOTICE: CUCC Socksgiving collected over 300 pairs of clean socks, delivered to the shelter and resource center in Salida. Thank you, thank you!

STEWARDSHIP/VISIONING TEAM NEWS

There is nothing to report this month. See you next month!

Ann Condra, Chair

CUCC Finance and Budget Team

January News

The Budget Team has been working on the Annual Budget, preparing for the upcoming Annual Meeting on January 26.

WINDOWS UPDATE

Our window project is continuing. With holidays, concerts, programs, vacations, health, things may seem at a standstill. In December, Paul Dorfmeister was recognized for his leadership. He received a corny reading, applause, gift cards, and a big gold star!!

The lovely stained glass hangings that were removed to put in the new windows are being rehung. However, they will be displayed in new places. The large round one is in the Fellowship Hall, where anyone using that area will be able to admire it. The two smaller ones will grace the large windows above the entrance in the narthex. Sunlight will fill that area with color! This also allows an uninterrupted view through our new windows.

Sanctuary valances are being made by Delmar Smith. They will have mini-curtains at each end to soften that business office look. Measuring and plans have been done for completion. The plaques are being kept for a special ending. Happy 2020!!



THANKS FROM THE CPC

Congregational UCC ~

Thank you so very much for allowing us to use your beautiful space to practice every week! We would not be able to put on this performance without you! You are so appreciated!

Collegiate Peaks Chorale

editor's note: CPC increased their donation to \$375 to show their appreciation!

THANK YOU FROM NANCY IN THE OFFICE

I am so grateful for all the kind words I receive so often here in the office. You all make working at CUCC a joy. I know I'm far from perfect, but you treat me like I am!

Thank you so very, very much for the Christmas card and gift! I can't thank you enough! The card is cute enough to keep and the contents useful enough to be truly enjoyed.

I've never had a job where I've been so appreciated, and believe me, the appreciation is not wasted!

With sincerest thanks,
Nancy, your Office Communications Administrator

GREETINGS FROM LUCILLE HABECK

Pastor Rebecca & Congregation,

"'Tis the season for sharing good times with family and friends and for making the kind of memories to treasure without end!"

A happy healthy year to all.

Love to you all,
Lucille

BLESSINGS & GIFT FROM ST. ROSE

Dear CUCC,

Please accept this gift (\$100) from our parish for your Backpack Ministry.

God bless you for your continuous support to our community. We wish your congregation the peace of Christ and good health throughout these Advent and Christmas seasons.

Sincerely in Christ,
Rev. Steve Parlet. St. Rose of Lima

TIDD THANKS

Hi Rebecca,
Thank you so much for all you did for us,
Best wishes and happy holidays,
Chuck Tidd

MORE THANKS FROM CHUCK TIDD

Dear Rebecca,
Thank you for a lovely service honoring our parents, Lou & Chuck. It was heartwarming to hear the sentiments of their friends in the Church. I wish you well in your ministry to the community in Buena Vista.
Warm Regards,
Chuck Tidd

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS FROM THE NELSONS

Dear, dear Rev. Rebecca Kemper Poos and your church,
It is a bit late but we have been very sick and are still slow in doing.

A special Hug and good wishes from
Reggie & Judy & family

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



WE ARE
FAMILY

ANNUAL MEETING

CUCC ANNUAL MEETING
SUNDAY, JANUARY 26
11:15am

ANNUAL REPORTS DUE JANUARY 2

Please plan on attending this very important event.

Help make CUCC truly yours!

"CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER" ADULT DISCUSSION GROUP at CUCC! Sundays, 9:00am, AE Room

Discuss faith, life, scripture themes, and upcoming Sunday messages. Talk about things that matter and offer creative input for Sunday worship!

ALL CHILDREN PRESCHOOL - 5TH GRADE ARE INVITED TO CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Come meet the characters in *Deep Blue*, learn new songs and have fun with craft projects!

Come to worship at 10 am, join in the Children's Message in church, and then follow your teacher to the Art Room.

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.
- ♦ 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 M, 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.*



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!

CUCC Council Minutes
December 18, 2019

Present: Kay Allinger, Ann Condra, Merilee Daugherty, Helen Duncan, Marj Erickson, Ron Erickson, Lesley Fagerberg, Barb Groy, Cindy Helm, Rebecca Poos, Betsy Neas, Ron Rak, Kathy Roman, Arlene Waldorf, Bill Waldorf.
Visitors: Jim Amster, Ruth Amster, Kathy Keidel, Rhonda Funston, Judy Hassell.

Welcoming and Opening Prayer: Moderator Marj Erickson read a devotional from 1st Corinthians.

General Business and Reports—7:16pm

Minutes from the November 20 Council Meeting were open for corrections. Hearing none, Merilee moved/Ann seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion passed.

Revised Annual Budget: Bill passed out copies of the Revised 2020 Annual Budget and mentioned the major changes made from the November 20 draft. After fielding a few questions, no changes aside from a typo were noted. It was suggested that Bill make a point at the Congregational Annual Meeting that the 2020 Budget *is less than* the 2019. Bill moved/Kathy seconded to accept the 2020 Budget as presented. Motion passed.

Our Match Challenge: Kay explained that there was a goal of raising \$8,000 for the church budget from the congregation in the recent “Our Match Challenge.” She announced that to date \$5,950 was raised by the leadership in response. Bill mentioned the key purposes of the Match program and announced that a letter prepared by Ann Condra, Chair of the Stewardship/Visioning Team, Cindy Helm, Treasurer, and Bill, Finance Team, congratulating the church response will be sent out to all church members by years’ end. Ron Erickson raised a question of “ownership of the budget,” explaining that those with limited means have a strong desire to contribute, but cannot support repeated budget deficits. Bill responded that typically in a church, 20% of the congregation contributes 80% [thus 80% ownership] of the budget, and that occasionally one or two contributors can graciously make up a deficit; however, he acknowledged that the budget should never rely on “rescue contributions” from a very small number of donors. This is a dangerous economic and social imbalance and the church will eventually die.

Congregational Listening Session

Marj opened the meeting to questions and comments from a number of visiting congregational members. Before starting, she read key points from the Code of Ethics for the Local Church from the Manual on Ministry of the United Church of Christ and Eric’s Law (which were passed out for reference), impressing that the congregation and members have collectively made a covenant with the church and pastor and there is a code of ethics on everyone’s responsibilities.

Council listened to guests who had comments and then continued after that with dialogue between the guests and Council members. The major concerns raised were:

- A need for a mediator from the Rocky Mountain Conference to listen in order to help resolve current conflicts between the pastor and congregation. One person noted that there was a distinct change in the church regarding the relationship between pastor and members after the first sabbatical. This individual also felt that there followed a lack of listening on the part of the leadership to members’ issues. Bill Waldorf suggested that “we don’t need a mediator—which suggests fault and negligence and assigns blame and has the connotation of a judge making a final, binding decision—we need a ‘conflict resolver’.”
- The question was raised “How do we deal with conflict in the church?” We need a way to resolve it before it has time to develop and become bitter. Maybe we need a question and answer period at each Council meeting.
- Others noted increasing loss of spiritual contact and fulfillment in the current church as well as limited biblical references and guidance in sermons; how can the Bible be increasingly used as a reference to guide us today?
- Another felt that there is a pattern to the discontent. “Once there is a disagreement, I don’t have a voice anymore. I don’t feel comfortable attending.”
- Ron Erickson observed that people don’t seem to say what they want! People complain and exclaim *what they don’t want and don’t like*, but never say what they really want. He congratulated Betsy Neas for her small group discussion [on December 3rd] at her home which was to the point on “what do we want, need, hope for, and where do we go from here?”
- Ann Condra repeated the comment about how do we deal with conflict. We need to respond sooner and not allow things to smolder.
- Ron Hassell suggested that we need positive communication. We need to identify the problem and deal with it. Most of the problems we encounter can be resolved quickly if we identify them and get to the point.
- Arlene Waldorf inferred that many of mentioned congregant issues were largely nitpicking. Some of the things can certainly be worked out. Many of the issues suggest that some people want to have more control.

Executive Session

The visitors were excused from the remainder of the Council meeting. Council then brainstormed ideas for moving forward in healing and constructive ways. There was a consensus by all present that guidance from the Rocky Mountain Conference with the whole congregation to work on “Healthy Ministry Relationships” was needed and would be explored early in the new year.

Pastor’s Report: Rebecca shared some observations about relationships in the congregation, past and present. She has been a pastor at this church for 11 years and has noticed a tendency (now and before her time at CUCC) to look to the pastor when conflicts happen, even when the conflicts are between members or groups. She agreed with others’ comments that we need to educate ourselves better for conflict management and seek more open, constructive communication as we work through our differing perspectives and expectations. Rebecca shared a sample of a Behavioral Covenant based on scripture for our discussion and encouraged us to seek to build up one another and our community as we work through differences, rather than tearing down. The role, make-up, and purpose of the Pastoral Relations Committee will also be promoted throughout the congregation.

Rebecca promised to respond to the questions raised about leave time, time worked, and priorities, with information and clarification. The Pastoral Call Agreement and responsibilities will be shared in the January newsletter [see Pastor’s Report], as well as reports about how time is allocated to various pastoral functions. She noted, for example, that she has not taken the two days off each week in the Call Agreement for many years, has taken only four days of her allocated four weeks of vacation for this year, and is putting in the maximum possible time every week to all pastoral duties. She has observed for many years with regards to both communication with the congregation and job expectations that the expectations far exceed what one full-time person can do and that those expectations are many and varied—even contradictory at times. (e.g., “One person cannot be in five places at the same time!”). Her hope is that the congregation will seek to understand the vast scope of the ministry and work in covenant and trust with her going forward and that we will keep working collaboratively in our quarterly gatherings to create and agree on a shared vision and focus, along with unified goals for CUCC, so that all might minister together.

Prayer Concerns and Adjournment. Both Marj and Ron Erickson offered prayers of peace, compassion and encouragement to carry us forward. Meeting was adjourned at 10:29pm.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for January 15, 7:00pm.

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING is scheduled for January 26, 11:30am, after the worship service.

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

