

***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
March, 2020



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

DID YOU KNOW that our word “church” is derived from the Greek (language of the New Testament) word “ekklesia?” Ekklesia translates as a “gathering” or an “assembly” of people, referring back to the early church when first century Christians were often forced to meet or gather in secret, mostly in peoples’ homes, for fear of persecution. Actual church buildings came along much later, of course.

I was glad to be reminded of these facts in my recent reading, because it drives home the point that “church” is about people—about all of us as part of the community of believers, as followers of Christ. We are the Body of Christ; if He is the head (Ephesians 1:22-23) then we become His hands and feet to provide food and drink to the hungry and the thirsty, to visit the sick and imprisoned, to welcome the stranger and clothe the naked. I can think of examples, and I bet you can too, of individuals and groups serving our church community, as well as our broader community, that have done all these things and more as committed individuals. We have joined forces with Habitat for Humanity and Kairos and other local groups, as well as contributed through the Five for Five Outreach offerings. These are just some of our efforts over CUCC's 140 years of working together.

While it is good to glance over our collective shoulders, we are facing a new challenge. We need to be thinking about where we want to be as a church in the future. I can assure you that your concerns are being addressed by the appropriate teams/committees. Help is also being enlisted from the Rocky Mountain Conference to assist with conflict resolution and visioning. We need to be asking ourselves such things as: what is our vision for the future? What can we do to collectively and individually foster healing from within? Can we continue to live in covenant with one another? Can we still come together to enjoy the blessings of being together, praying together, singing together, and yes, eating together?

An old friend who knows more about the Bible than I ever will brought me these words from Paul's letter to the Hebrews:

And let us consider each other carefully for the purpose of sparking love and good deeds.

Don't stop meeting together with other believers which some people have gotten into the habit of doing. Instead, encouraging each other, especially as you see the day drawing near.

Hebrews 10:24-25 *Common English Bible*

May God bless us all on this journey and may all of our efforts please Him.

Kathy Roman, Moderator

Need to get in touch with me?? I welcome your calls to 395-6812 or 395-5301 and emails to kroman@bresnan.net.

PASTOR CHATS—3:00pm-5:00pm Tuesdays

Pastor Rebecca will hold “Drop-In Hours” at the Office every Tuesday, if possible.

Feel free to drop by for a healthy dialogue, 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.

PASTOR’S ARTICLE, March, 2020

From our message from January 26, “Blessed Are You In All You Do.”

BLESSED ARE YOU—CUCC!

*When you work all year long on a Bazaar that blesses yourselves in the doing and fellowship that it brings. But it doesn’t stay here IN the church. The whole community, country, and world are blessed!

*When you reach out in every way to your community—individuals in need, hosting community groups, rehearsals, and educational events of all kinds. When you feed hungry children every single week!

*When yummy meals and soup (even gluten-free and dietarily complex meals!) are taken with love, along with cards and calls and gifts to our folks in need. When you as the “priesthood of all believers” help the pastor make pastoral calls and offer care—embracing the ministry cheerfully that is all of ours to share. Compassion and care of one another, and many in the wider circle of our church family and beyond, is a holy thing.

*Blessed are we when we share music! In worship, in practice, in our lives together. Even when snow threatens and icy, dangerous parking lots glare at us! Choir, MSG, Ensembles, piano, organ—all!

*When you keep faithfully making beautiful music for worship and even writing fun songs for every occasion! When we support and empower music and the arts in our midst.

*Blessed are we when we embrace all ages with love—participating in worship and sharing the faith.

*Blessed are you who plan, coordinate and teach Children’s Church—nurturing and guiding our beloved children in the faith and learning from them as well.

*Blessed is our food! All the food and fellowship ministries of this church family, which are many and take many hands and hours. Blessed are our celebrations! Birthdays and anniversaries and births and celebrations of life—all the times we share life together.

*Blessed are all who contribute to the communications ministry of this church and community, for knowing what’s going on—in our lives and in the life of the church—is truly the lifeblood of our journey together.

*Blessed are you when you live as a congregation in deep gratitude and generosity, not being afraid to talk about money in church, citing Jesus as your example, and knowing where your treasure is—that is surely where your heart beats and thrives.

*When you embrace newcomers from many walks of life, background experiences, and faith traditions, welcoming them into the membership and full participation in the life of the church and its leadership, and when you open your minds and hearts to new ideas, traditions, spiritual explorations, and practices.

*When you find the courage to try new structures, revise the Bylaws, experiment with new ways of governance, when you step up, step in and step forward, saying YES to serving in these new structures and being part of the teams, and serving in a collaborative spirit on those Teams.

*When you travel a lot and have many commitments in many places—you put your faith into action all over the place—but you work on your Teams and Council and in leadership positions in the church wholeheartedly as well! Presence in ministry is not limited geographically!

*As you remember you are not alone—that you are part of a Covenant Community and family, that we are all in this together, with the Rocky Mountain Conference, the Southeastern Association, and the national United Church of Christ. As we give gifts to OCWM, as we receive gifts of support and guidance.

*When you are willing to consider new ways of looking at Being the Church, at new visions and understandings of stewardship, generosity, budgeting, leadership.

*When we have the courage to see beyond ourselves and how our future might be much bigger and more embracing of a bigger purpose than what we’ve imagined so far.

*When we remember, together, who we are and Whose we are—everyday—as a person beloved by God and as a church, called by the Holy Spirit.

*Blessed are we, when we are tempted to think we can do no great things with a small and aging group, we remember the words of M. Theresa: *“We can do no great things; only small things with great love!”*

*When we walk arm in arm through conflict, not getting derailed from who we are. When we seek daily to bear, build up, and belove, to inform and educate, converse and clarify rather than argue and kibbutz.

*When we “clothe ourselves in mercy and kindness, humility, meekness and prayer.” (Col 3)

How blessed are we to have one another—this church family—serving and loving together in Christ’s name, serving not only ourselves, but for the good and uplifting spirit of the whole community and beyond! Blessed are we when at the end of the day we can lie down on our beds knowing we have chosen blessing; knowing deep down that this town, this valley, and this world would not be the same place whatsoever if this church did not exist. For 140 years, and going strong for many, many more! Amen.

Blessings, Rebecca

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.



Kudos Kolumn

To every soul in the CUCC Family—near and far—dedicating their positive energy, resources, and efforts to the building up of the Body in all ways! You rock!

CHURCH SOUND TECH #4 NEEDED!

would you like to drink coffee and eat cookies during the service?

We currently have three sound board operators who take turns running the system one Sunday a month, but need a 4th for that 4th Sunday! You just have to push a few buttons and put batteries in the mics so we can all hear what's going on. Written, illustrated instructions and free lesson are provided. See one of us at a Sunday service.

If we can do it, anyone can!

- Matthew, Jeff, Ron



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 - SIGN UP TODAY!

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 Work 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 Work Day

Friday — Catch-All & Catch-Up Work Day

Saturday — Final Prep for Sunday & Family Day

LA PUENTA HYGIENE BAGS

It’s time to fill 25 hygiene bags! The Women’s Missionary Society will deliver them to La Puerta the first week of April. Place your contributions in the WMS box in the narthex.

Needed: towels, washcloths, soap, socks, shampoo, toothbrushes, toothpaste, razors, lotion, men’s & women’s toiletries, etc.

Talk to a WMS member for more information.

Thank you for your generous support of this worthy cause!

GIVE BACK A BOX

Retailers such as Amazon are teaming up with local charities to use empty shipping boxes and get rid of clutter filling homes. After removing your order from your shipping box, fill it with clothes, etc. that you want to donate, & visit GiveBackBox.com to print a free shipping label. The box can be dropped off with USPS or picked up. You can also print a receipt for tax use.

Our Daily Bread



OUR DAILY BREAD

The spring—March, April, May—daily devotional is in. Please pick one up from the basket in the narthex.

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
c/o Sue Stanek, 15075 Dutchman Ct.
Apple Valley, MN 55124

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

March 6—Barb Groy
March 6—Lucille Habeck
March 6—Ron Rak
March 8—Rick Fagerberg
March 13—Joe Holub
March 15—Tyler Keidel
March 16—Skyler Tucker
March 17—Millie Meardon
March 20—Bob E. Smith
March 20—Arlene Waldorf
March 22—Lyntha Nelson
March 26—Ruthann Schoeffield
March 23—Matthew Maloney
March 27—Barb Wilder

ANNIVERSARIES

March 1—Rick & Lesley Fagerberg
March 8—Mike & Ruthann Schoeffield
March 14—Farrell & Dorothy Coy
March 22—Bill & Arlene Waldorf
March 24—Bill & Elizabeth Shelby
March 27—Del & Janet Jones




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
Sarah Struthers—Healing	Doris Westerlund—Healing
Pam Hughes—Healing	Roger Cason—Healing
Shirl Holloway—Healing	Leonard Nyberg—Healing
Mary Messamer—Healing	Ruth Amster—Healing
Linette Williams—Healing	Marcy Adams—Healing
Dwight Griggs—Healing	Al & Phyllis McCall—Healing
Warren Montgomery—Healing	
Maryanne Wells (Janet Jones' sister-in-law)—Healing	
Norma Hughes (aunt of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing	
Brooke Davis (cousin of Doyle & Leonard Nyberg)—Healing	
Mardy Cason (brother of Roger Cason)—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	
Juanita Womack (friend of Kay Allinger)—Healing	
Wisdom and Transformation for the People of Earth	
Frank Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's nephew)—Healing	
Nancy Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's sister-in-law)—Healing	
The Family of Betty Stevens (Bob Stevens' mother)—Comfort	
Carolyn and Barry Hayes (friends of VirJeanne Williams and Rhonda Funston)—Healing	
The Family of Tim Wasmer (Carolyn & Barry Hayes' son-in-law)—Comfort	
Lohn Owens (VirJeanne Williams' nephew)—Healing	
Judy Edmands (friend of VirJeanne and Rhonda)—Healing	

March 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9am Conversations That Matter 10am Communion Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	2 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 5:30-6:30pm AA-#7	3 4:30pm-6:30pm Outreach Team -AE 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm Al-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	4 5pm Choir/MSG-CH 6pm Lenten Service/Soup Supper at Grace	5 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 6:30-8pm Finance Team- 7pm AA-AE	6 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	7 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7
8 9am Conversations That Matter 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour 11:30am-12:30pm Worship Team-#7 11:30am-1pm Faith Education Team-D	9 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 5:30-6:30pm AA-#7	10 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm Al-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	11 10am-12pm Stew/Vis Team-AE 5pm Choir-CH 6pm Lenten Service/Soup Supper/Heifer Living Gift Market at CUCC	12 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 6-8pm Facilities Team-#7 7pm AA-AE	13 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 7-9:30pm Community Dance-FH	14 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7
15 9am Conversations That Matter 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour	16 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 10am-12pm Bazaar Raffle Quilters-FH 5:30-6:30pm AA-#7	17 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm Al-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	18 5pm Choir-CH 6pm Lenten Service/Soup Supper at Grace 7pm Council-AE	19 9-9:30am Backpacks-FH 7pm AA-AE	20 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	21 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7
22 9am Conversations That Matter 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour/ Birthdays Celebration 	23 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE 5:30-6:30pm AA-#7	24 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm Al-Anon -#7 7pm TELLS	25 5pm Choir-CH 6pm Lenten Service/Soup Supper at CUCC	26 1-3pm WMS 6-9pm Chaffee Green Movie Event-S, FH 7pm AA-AE	27 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE	28 9am AA-AE 9am Al-Anon-#7
29 9am Conversations That Matter 10am Worship & Children's Church 11am Coffee Hour Congregational Listening Event w/ RMC	30 8:15am-12pm Strong Women -AE Congregational Listening Event w/ RMC 5:30-6:30pm AA-#7	31 Congregational Listening Event w/ RMC 6:30-8pm Scouts-FH 6:30pm Al-Anon -#7 7pm Cong. Mtg.	AE=Adult Ed. Rm. CH=Choir Room D=Drama Room FH=Fellowship Hall K=Kitchen S=Sanctuary PO=Pastor's Office			



view from the Mountain

“PATIENCE”



The word “Patient,” according to the dictionary, means “manifesting forbearance under provocation or strain, not hasty or impetuous.”

I would not say my strong suit is forbearance. Admittedly, I am quick to act, a poor waiter, and under strain all my feelings pour out. I am a very poor example of patience. Oh, if I’m talking with or helping someone else, I’m always patient. It’s myself I’m not patient with. When I do something, I demand of myself that I do it right the first time. Waiting for results is really against my nature. How about waiting for an important phone call or visit? It drives me nuts!

When I was ill for five weeks with double pneumonia, it seemed like I’d never feel better, get my strength back, or stop coughing the deepest cough I’ve ever had. One of my care givers who helped me through it kept using that word patience. “It’s going to take time, rest, work, Jean. You have to be patient.” So I looked inside myself and there was very little patience for me to use. I wanted to be well and strong right now. But guess what? I learned to be more patient with my progress. When I went from walking one-half of one lap to sixteen laps, I realized I’d been quite patient with myself. Hallelujah.

While sitting here in front of an open window and mulling, I asked myself, “What is the best example I know of patience?” And here’s what I recalled.

While at the Mayo Clinic one time, Gene and I were walking down this long hallway to visit my cardiologist. About half-way down I noticed an elderly couple who had stopped walking. She was in a wheelchair, he in a chair. The lady was sobbing out loud and he was devoted to finding out what was so wrong all of the sudden. Then I overheard her cry out, “Oh, we have to go home. My hair is a terrible mess and I can’t let the doctor see me like this.” Did the husband laugh? Did he say, “We’ll be late if we go back?” or “Your hair looks just fine?” or even “Doctors don’t care how we look?”

Oh no—that precious elderly man put his face close to hers and, with his fingers, he began wiping her tears away. Then he stroked her thinning white hair back from her face with his hand. He sort of straightened her blouse and he fussed over her as he kissed her pale face. Not one word did the man say. No word was necessary. As he got up and started pushing her again, he said, “You, my love, are beautiful.”

Patience.

I want to jump out of the box now to give you another perfect example of patience. One day, Cheryl, a friend of mine, brought her little granddaughter to visit and help me. This little girl went right to the round cat bed where I kept about a dozen cat toys. She dumped them all out and coaxed P, my cat at the time, to get into the box (that even was unusual). Cheryl and I got to talking and we were paying no attention to them. What happened next I’ll never forget.

Everybody knows that cats are either sound asleep or playing and running around. They are never known for their patience with each other or people. But there, for forty-five full minutes, sat P in that toy box while a little girl decorated every inch of his shining black body and head. I mean, not once did he try to get out or even move. He seemed to understand he must be perfectly still. Never had I ever seen any cat allow such goings-on.

She used all of the feathery and fuzzy cat toys for the decorations, and when she used them all, she took them all off him and started all over again. He watched every move she made and I honestly do believe he understood about patience.

Now I want to go and visit two new residents. When I first started doing this, I mainly welcomed them and then explained the offered activities and times for meals and so forth. Now, however, I know how to really welcome them. Because I remember so well how upset and sad I was to start my new life in assisted living, all I truly wanted and needed was for someone who understood to listen to me and let me cry. Listening takes patience. I do not chime in with my feelings, but rather I might hold her hand or nod my head. Mainly, I listen with my heart.

So, the elderly man and the ten-year-old tuxedo cat both gave their time and their patience to make someone happy. What precious examples for the rest of us.

The view from the mountain is wondrous!

~ Jean Brody

BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR CHARLOTTE SMITH-98 YEARS YOUNG!

The host Bea Harnish describes the fun event as follows: “Lots of gray and white hair, hearing aids, a few walkers and oxygen. One needed a ride home afterwards, but she couldn’t remember where she lives. But problem solved. Someone accidentally bumped our Roomba which woke up and dutifully started wandering around vacuuming. The ladies that volunteered to sit on the floor in the front row took about three minutes to get back up. Never a dull moment. Charlotte is sporting the Wonder Woman tiara which I should have embellished with some sparkle, but there it is.”

Left to right front row: Connie Robb, Rhonda Funston, Susan Helms, Barb Groy, Kathy Roman
Second row: Betty Gwynn, VirJeanne Williams, Roberta Merrill, Marge Dorfmeister, Gloria Close, Bea Harnish, Charlotte Smith, Norma Smith, Vivian York
Third row: Karen Bowers, Judy McKinley

Instead of gifts, \$245 was contributed to the Women’s Missionary Society. Yoo hoo!



Church Family Windows Map to plaque placement

Sanctuary	
Nan & Joe <u>Bohe</u>	CUCC Choir & Musical Family
	Bill & Arlene Waldorf
Steve, Anita Kay & Alicia <u>Allinger</u>	
Wayne & Wilma Williams Kay, <u>Linette</u> & Angela	John & Marge <u>Dorfmeister</u> Paul & Peggy
	Lewis & Jean Lowe
office	
Dennis & Vivian York Lyle & Janet Generously <u>Donated</u>	Dick & Goldie Gilbert CUCC Rev. Dr. Ron Erickson & Rev. Marge Erickson
Pastor's office	
Generously Donated	Fellowship Hall
nursery	Shirley <u>Rawlins</u> & Beth <u>Dwyer</u>
Hugh & Betsy <u>Neas</u>	Women's Missionary Society
Norton & Betty J <u>Gwynn</u>	
Drama room	
Judy <u>Polenek</u> Bob & Norma Smith	Bob & Eleanor Martin Bryce Kelly

Thanks to our wonderful group of volunteer workers!: Paul Dorfmeister, Ron Hassell, Bowie Duncan, Kathy Roman, Mark Wolters, Darell Hamilton, Ron Erickson, Barb Wilder, Karen Bowers, VirJeanne Williams, Rhonda Funston, Karen Funston, Randy Funston, Delmar Smith, Janet Steiner

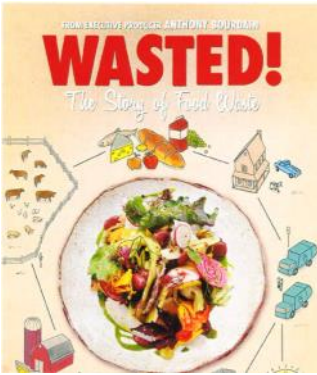
CHAFFEE GREEN MOVIE EVENT “WASTED! The Story of Food Waste” Thursday, March 26 6:00pm, CUCC

Co-Sponsored by Chaffee Green Sustainability Program of GARNA and CUCC Faith Education Team

Suggested contribution \$7.00
Bring your own beverage container.

Julie Mach (Elements Mountain Composting) & Mickey Barry (Angel of Shavano Recycling) will speak briefly first.

Facilitated discussion and idea sharing in small groups after the film.



STEWARDSHIP/VISIONING TEAM NEWS

The Team participated in a two-hour video conference call with Erin Gilmore from the RMC to discuss how the Conference assistance we requested can be facilitated in a way that would be most helpful to us. We concluded that it would be more beneficial if a group of four Conference representatives held 20–30 minute individual listening sessions with as many people as possible, compiled their findings, provided feedback in a meeting of all interested individuals, and worked from there with officers and team members. The Team is contacting each congregant. It's important that the Conference representatives hear as many different views as possible. It is **crucial** that everyone express his/her vision for the next steps in the life of the church. The RMC Listening event will happen March 29-31 at CUCC.

Our officers this year are Bob as chair, Ann vice-chair, and Judy continuing as secretary.

Stewardship/Visioning Team-Bob Stocker, Judy Hassell, Bowie Duncan, Bill Waldorf, Ann Condra

FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

Front Door security: The video security systems are installed and operational.

Hazard Tree Trimming: Still working on options on this project. We will prepare for some action in the spring.

Team: Our team is still only five with room for one more. Consider joining us!

2020 Exterior Staining: It appears it will take over \$1,800 to buy the stain. There will be incidental expenses on top of that for brushes, cleaning, etc.

LED Lighting: Priority for LED upgrades will be the kitchen, the pulpit area, and the fellowship hall; it will be completed in stages as money is available. Depending upon audit findings, we will also consider LED upgrades in the parsonage.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Hassell, Chair

Worship Team Notes

Added to our worship Team were Debby Cason and Vivian York. We still have an opening for anyone who is willing to volunteer. Assignments were made to the different duties of our team. We always need help with the Ushers, Greeters, Fellowship Hour, and Altar Flowers. We do appreciate all the help everyone does for our church.

We discussed the Valentine Potluck and the dedication of the windows. We will continue discussing Easter and the upcoming events. For Good Friday we have been invited to join Grace church at noon for the Stations of the Cross. We encourage everyone to come. We won't be having the Good Friday vigil. We will have the SonRise service and the annual Easter breakfast. Lilies will be ordered.

Next meeting will be Sunday, March 8th at 11:30am.

Submitted by Linda Rak

The Faith Education Team—Faith Education for Everyone

At our February meeting we assigned new opportunities to serve on the team. Kathy Kiedel and Betsy Neas will be co-chairs. Donna Maloney is secretary for the team. We will meet on the second Sunday of the month after church. We'd love to have some new members for the team—think about joining us!

Kathy will be scheduling the leaders for Children's Church. New leaders for that group are always welcome. How about teaching a class with the kids sometime? They're great kids!

The team decided to explore new programs such as a women's Bible Study, a men's Bible Study, and Vacation Bible School with an art theme. If you have any ideas about something you would like to have our church sponsor, let the team know.

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER Sundays, 9:00-9:45, Adult Ed Room

We're are talking about the book, "The Jesus Path." It is an interesting and challenging book. There is always a lively discussion, so come join us!

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE GOOD FRIDAY “STATIONS OF THE CROSS” SERVICE WILL BE HELD AT GRACE CHURCH AT THEIR KIND INVITATION.

CUCC Lent & Easter Season

Lenten Services/Soup Suppers, 6:00pm

Wednesday, March 4, Grace Church

Wednesday, March 11, CUCC w/Living Gift

Market/Heifer International

Wednesday, March 18, Grace Church

Wednesday, March 25, CUCC

Wednesday, April 1, Grace Church

Palm Sunday Service, April 5, 10:00am

Maundy Thursday Service, April 9, 7:00pm

**Good Friday Service, April 10, 12:00pm (noon),
Grace Church, “Stations of the Cross”**

Easter SonRise Service, Sunday, April 12, 7:00am

**Easter Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt,
Sunday, April 12, 8:00am**

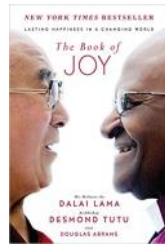
**Easter Celebration Service, Sunday,
April 12, 10:00am**



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.

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 Rock That Is Higher Than I"
by Madeline L'Engle.

See Pastor Rebecca to get on the email list.

MIDLAND HIKER ART SHOW—Invites CUCC Attendees and Artists!

Saturday, April 4, 10:00am-2:00pm

Once again this year, the Midland Hikers group is planning an art show in the CUCC fellowship hall on April 3-4. This informal show is a chance for conversation and fellowship among friends who hike and also make art.

The group welcomes CUCC folks to participate in the show at a table and wall space designated especially for you. If you have always wanted to get your creative work out into the public, this is a friendly, fun way to do it! If you are interested in participating (you will need to be available both days to help with set-up and take-down), contact Deb Hannigan at (719) 339-3205 or by email at debhannigan5@gmail.com. Even if you are not a participant, we hope you will join us to tour the show!

FOOD 4 KIDS

Backpack Program



Food items always in demand:

- *Chef Boyardee, pasta, etc.—ready-to-eat meals are the best!
- *Pudding Cups
- *Fruit cups (individual)
- *Granola or Cereal Bars

Cash donations are always appreciated, too!

COLLEGIATE PEAKS FORUM SERIES

Rev. Dr. Bruce Epperly

"Walk the Earth Lightly: Guideposts for Interspiritual Pilgrims"

Friday, April 17

7:00pm, BV Community Center

In our spiritually pluralistic and evolving world, we need to grow in wisdom and stature. Our faiths are growing as we grow. Dr. Epperly, pastor and teacher, South Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, Centerville, MA, will explore intellectual and spiritual resources for creative transformation in our pluralistic age.

Dr. Epperly will join us to preach and discuss at CUCC on **Sunday, April 19th!**

"Spirituality in the Ordinary Life"

Sunday, April 19, 10:00 am

Preview discussion at Conversations That Matter, 9:00 am, Adult Education Room

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

The WMS Yearbooks are all finished and available from the little basket just inside the kitchen. Our Thursday, March 26 speaker will be Bobby Lewis from the Link School. All women are welcome to join us at 1:00pm here at CUCC.

As of mid-February, we are still looking for more volunteers to fill out our committees:

1-2 for Christian Social Action/Kitchen

1 for Publicity

1 for Material Aid

1 for Courtesy

3 for Nominating

Thank you for considering these fun and important tasks!

~Merilee Daugherty

Outreach/Community & World Team News

March greetings!

Please join us on Wednesday, March 11th, for our second hosted Lenten Soup Supper with Grace Church joining us.

The 6:00pm service will be followed by:

A LIVING GIFT MARKET/HEIFER INTERNATIONAL: help donate animals, bees, and trees to poor communities seeking to better their lives. It's the gift that keeps on giving!!



One Great Hour of Sharing (one of the "Five-for-Five" UCC offerings) will be taken on March 15th and March 22nd.

Don't forget to contribute peanut butter and jelly to the Ark-Valley Christian Mission in the special bin in the narthex.

The Bob Dwyer Children's Fund always needs your change. You can drop it into the glass jar in the entrance hall on Sundays or in the office during the week.

Goat

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

GOAT: \$120; SHARE: \$10



Llama

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

LLAMA: \$150; SHARE: \$20



Tree Seedlings

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

TREES: \$60; SHARE: \$10



Honey Bees

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

BEES: \$30



Water Buffalo

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

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



Cow

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

HEIFER: \$500; SHARE: \$50

Rabbit

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

RABBITS: \$60; SHARE: \$10



Fish

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

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



Chicks and Ducks

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

CHICKS: \$20; DUCKS: \$20



Pig

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

PIG: \$120; SHARE: \$10



Sheep

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

SHEEP: \$120; SHARE: \$10



NEW YEAR, NEW WAYS: THOUGHTS FROM ASSOCIATE CONFERENCE MINISTER REV. ERIN GILLMORE



A couple of years ago we took Abby, our daughter, ice skating at the outdoor ice rink at Centerra. We thought we would be there for a couple of hours. Five hours later we had to convince her it was time to go home. Given the enthusiasm of that day, we decided to sign Abby up for ice skating lessons this year. Turns out there was also an adult class happening at the same time, so I decided to sign up too. Why not? I had taken lessons as a kid, and something in me got excited about being on the ice again. I think it was during the third class when I was trying to turn on an outside edge that my right foot caught the ice and I went down, landing hard right on my knee. After catching my breath, I shook it off and finished the lesson.

Later that night, after sitting through dinner and watching some TV, I stood up to go downstairs and my knee throbbed with pain. The next morning it felt worse. A thought momentarily ran through my head that even though I was having fun with it, perhaps a 46-year old shouldn't try to learn to ice skate. And then I went to Spiritual Direction and another thought came to me. Learning how to do something new is not going to be pain-free. It sounds so obvious and yet how often do I/we avoid learning something new because what I/we really want is to avoid the pain that comes with it. This got me wondering about the church, and about this moment in which we find ourselves.

We are being called to learn new ways of doing and being church. Whether we are a 20-year-old church or a 200-year-old church or a nearly 60-year-old conference, this moment is asking us to try new things. And this, like learning to ice skate, isn't going to be pain free. In fact, as I work with churches these days, a lot of what I am doing is helping communities manage the pain that comes with having to "get on the rink" so to speak and try something that hasn't been tried before. Be it a new way to worship. Or a new ministry with a community partner. Or a conversation about selling the building. Or unpacking privilege. Or examining patterns. Or creating a Conference Wide Committee on Ministry. Trying new things means being willing to risk falling. Maybe even falling hard. Not if, but when that happens, my hope is that we will not say, "maybe this means we are too old to learn something new," and instead catch our breath, help one another get back up, figure out what adjustments can be made, and try again.

We aren't going to learn how to be and do church differently without also navigating some pain along the way. Thankfully we don't have to navigate it alone. May God grant us the courage and strength to be those who are not afraid to become what God longs for us be.



Dear Skyler,

Each year, during Youth Appreciation Week, the Optimist club of Buena Vista presents an award to selected, outstanding students in the Buena Vista area schools.

It is our pleasure to inform you that you have been selected as "AN OUTSTANDING" student of your class for the 2019-2020 school year.

You and your immediate family are invited to an awards breakfast, hosted by the Optimist Club on Thursday, February 6, 2020. The breakfast will be held at the Congregational United Church of Christ located at 217 Crossman at 7:00am.

Congratulations on being selected for this honor. We look forward to meeting you and your family.

Sincerely,
Don Caskey
Youth Appreciation Week Awards Committee Chair

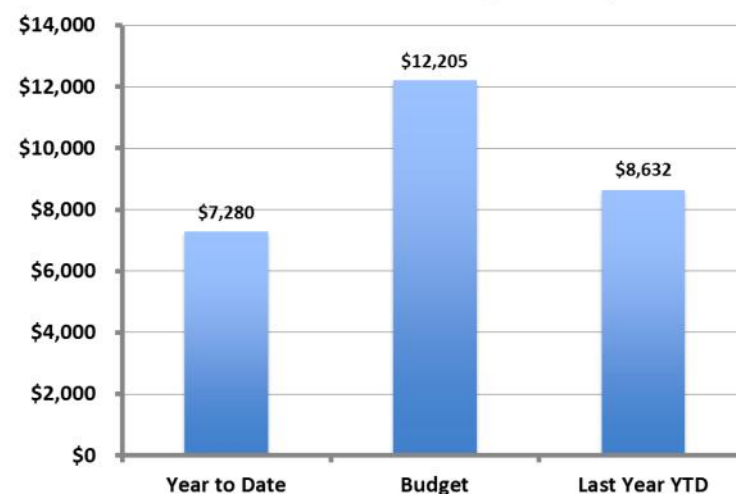


DID YOU KNOW?

Churches carry Family Plan health insurance for Pastors to cover all progeny until age 26. And that's 1 or 99 kids—same price! Only \$74 a month.

From Pastor Rebecca: In order to ensure this very important protection for Rocky and Logan until they are 26, we will add \$75 to our monthly pledge to CUCC to cover that cost.

General Contributions through January, 2020



PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

March Theme:	Scriptures
Sunday, March 1	— Matthew 6:9-13
Sunday, March 8	— John 3:1-17
Sunday, March 15	— John 4:5-42
Sunday, March 22	— John 9:1-41
Sunday, March 29	— John 11:1-45

LISTENING SESSIONS
SAVE THE DATE!
March 29-31!

Stewardship/Visioning Team members will be contacting you to schedule your session.

All-Congregation Meeting
Tuesday, March 31,
7:00pm

DELEGATES SOUGHT

CUCC is seeking delegates to the Rocky Mountain Conference and Southeastern Association to serve in 2020.

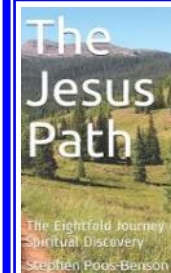
Please see moderator Kathy Roman if you can serve in this vital position.

Thank you!!

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.



"CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER" Sundays, 9:00am, AE Room

The group is currently studying "The Jesus Path: The Eightfold Journey of Spiritual Discovery" by Stephen Poos-Benson.

See Arlene Waldorf if you need a book.

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.*



CUCC Council Minutes—February 19, 2020

Present: Moderator Kathy Roman, Vice Moderator Mark Wolters, Pastor Rebecca Poos; Merilee Daugherty, Paul Dorfmeister, Helen Duncan, Lesley Fagerberg, Cindy Helm, Kathy Keidel, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bob Stocker.
Visitors: Vivian York, Barb Groy.
Welcoming and Opening Prayer (7:20pm): **Moderator Kathy Roman** began the meeting with a prayer for God’s blessings to help and encourage us to carry out the work of the church.
Additions to the Agenda: Merilee requested consideration of Council to officially vote to appoint Cindy Helm as the church Assistant Treasurer. Moderator agreed and added the item to New Business.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Minutes from the January 15 Council Meeting were presented for corrections. Hearing none, Merilee moved/Mark seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion passed.
Clerk’s Report: Ron noted no changes since the January 15th meeting; however, Pastor Rebecca reported that two persons joined the church earlier this very day, Matthew and Donna Maloney, and she commented that six people have now joined the church since the beginning of the year. The Clerk’s record was updated.
Treasurer’s Report: Cindy reported that income and expenses were normal for this time of the year. The Finance and Budget Team will meet March 5 and again March 12 to continue work on the 2020 Church Budget.
Moderator’s Report: Kathy Roman had nothing specific to mention.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Facilities Team Report: Paul Dorfmeister reported on the recent Facilities Team decision and effort to sell the church van and cargo trailer, due to only slight use and budgetary concerns. He received a reasonable package deal offer of \$8,000 for the two from a local rafting company and asked for Council’s direction on the sale. Vivian noted that the van was donated to the church 23 years ago by Pastor Fred Dare’s brother, such that the sale might require personal approval. Helen moved/Lesley seconded to proceed with the sale of the vehicles. Continued discussion raised the question of where to put the proceeds of the sale in the budget. Cindy suggested to deposit the funds into the Reserve Contingency Fund and also to move the \$3,082 balance in the Van Maintenance Fund to the Contingency Fund. Merilee cautioned that the Boy Scout trailer was included in the church vehicle insurance, and that the insurance would need to be cancelled on the sale vehicles but retained for the Scout trailer. Paul also wanted to make it clear that the vehicle contents of value were not included in the sale. Helen amended the motion to include the above discussion comments. Council approved the amended motion.
Paul continued with discussion of the Facilities Team’s second priority of improving energy efficiency of the church and parsonage. Items in the parsonage will include repairing or replacing the hot water/boiler heat system for greater efficiency. The heat in the parsonage, other than hot water, is almost entirely covered by the Pastor buying wood for the woodstove. The hot water heat system is not needed, except minimally, and should not run 24/7. Paul Dorfmeister will take this matter to the Facilities Team. Items in the church include replacing thermally inefficient doors and two small windows on the south side of the Sanctuary. Facilities anticipates using left-over funds from the Family Windows Project for these projects. Further discussion recommended that the last Fire Marshall report be revisited, noting possible safety requirements regarding emergency exits. Paul excused himself from the meeting at 7:55pm to call the buyer to make the sale.

NEW BUSINESS

ByLaws Revision Committee: The Moderator suggested we consider establishing a committee to begin reviewing the church bylaws and modify the bylaws before the end of the year, which is the end of the current trial extension period. In discussion, it was decided to try to have the amended bylaws ready to present at the October – 3rd Quarter – Congregational meeting. Kathy Keidel emphasized that we should be sure to include references to Robert’s Rules of Order in the re-write. There was also discussion of the extent that Robert’s Rules are used in the Team meetings. The consensus was that the Team meetings are generally less formal, especially because there are no quorum rules for the Team meetings and the number of attendees can vary considerably. In order to conduct business, often decisions are made by two or three members, and the rest of the Team is informed soon thereafter by phone or email to confirm.
Conference Delegates: Ron and Linda Rak stated that they have been Alternate Delegates for two years and did not want to monopolize the position. They suggested the congregation be informed of the opening for replacements. It was thought that the Ericksons would continue as Primary Delegates for another year, but that needs to be verified. The first scheduled conference gathering this year is the RMC Annual Meeting on June 4 to 6.
Vacancies on Teams: In polling, there appeared to be one opening on three different Teams, but all teams have at least five members. Possible candidates were suggested for consideration. Merilee asked the status of Judy Phelps as the current pianist. Rebecca replied that she has agreed to play through March, as possible. Janet Steiner is the direct contact for the pianist and will be directed to ask her to possibly commit to a longer period this year. The Finance Team was asked to decide the hiring details for the position at their next meeting.
Appoint Assistant Treasurer: Merilee made a motion/Lesley seconded to appoint Cindy Helm as an interim Assistant Treasurer for only the current term of 2020. It was agreed that the congregation will actively be polled to find a permanent qualified candidate as soon as possible. The motion passed.

TEAM REPORTS AND UPDATES

Stewardship/Visioning Team: Bob Stocker presented a detailed emailed letter from the Conference Minister Erin Gilmore affirming the dates of the Conference Listening and Conflict Resolution Team’s visit as March 29-31. They will spend a minimum of two days at CUCC and present their findings after the process concludes. The Stewardship/Visioning Team will need to set up appointments with members of the congregation. Stewardship/Visioning has established a procedure for transparency and will allow individuals or couples to have private meetings with the listening team. Bob encouraged Council to support what the Team has laid out. Helen asked whether there were provisions for church members not available on those dates. It was suggested that those affected could write a letter with their comments and suggestions.
Finance and Budget Team: Lesley reported on the Team’s Feb 13th meeting. Cindy agreed to continue to act as Treasurer during the current budget transition period (until a 2020 Budget is approved). A number of letters and emails have been received by the Team from congregation members identifying key problem issues with the church budget. Suggestions included ideas on increasing income, encouraging growth by evangelism, reducing expenses, reducing the Pastor’s benefits package, investing reserves at a better return, and cutting parsonage expenses. Kathy Keidel suggested that much more explanation of various items in the budget and Pastor’s package is desirable and needed to facilitate congregational approval. Mark and Lesley agreed and will direct the Finance Team to write detailed descriptions to accompany the revised budget. Finance Team will meet next on March 5 and March 12.
Faith Education: Kathy Keidel reported that activity books and materials including Easter materials were ordered for children’s Sunday school. Even with current light attendance, the Team has a very positive attitude for the year and stands ready for increased attendance.
Worship Team: Linda mentioned that Easter services preparations were well underway, including ordering lilies, considering flowers for the flower cross, palm branches for Palm Sunday, etc.
Outreach Team: Helen announced that the Team has preparations in place for the upcoming Lenten Soup Suppers, and there is good coordination with Grace Church. The Heifer Project Living Gift Market will be a feature of the March 11 Supper, and Helen is having good cooperation setting up the program. Easter SonRise Breakfast is also planned for April 12. The first of the UCC 5-for-5 Special Offering programs is scheduled for March as well, and a newsletter article was submitted introducing it. The Global Ministries outreach supporting student Angelo is continuing well, and we expect written updates from the Philippines soon.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Women’s Missionary Society: Merilee noted that the next meeting is scheduled for February 27, with Judy Pankow making a presentation on her recent trip to Africa. The group meets every month on the 4th Thursday.
PASTOR’S REPORT: Rebecca noted that The Lilly Endowment Program for Congregations has announced a new “Thriving Congregations Initiative,” offering funding opportunities for up to \$1 million for a 5-year period to develop new or strengthen existing programs. There is an April 2020 deadline for submitting an Interest Form and a June 1, 2020 deadline for a complete proposal. All Teams should take these into serious consideration.
In response to current church conflict issues, Rebecca offered a couple of handouts to make available to the teams concerning improving communication among members and reducing the spread of misinformation. She emphasized that we need more direct communication with each other, rather than hearsay and third party pass-through sources. Rebecca also handed out a resource with two sides: “Signs of a Dying Church,” and on the back, “28 Non-Numerical Signs of a Healthy Church.” She encouraged us to listen and watch for signs, behaviors, and attitudes that might lead us down a path we don’t wish to follow—that of a dying church. Instead, we should strive for life-giving signs and characteristics of a growing, vital, and healthy church.
MODERATOR’S NOTE: Just prior to the start of the meeting, Kathy Roman distributed copies of an email she received earlier in the day from Arlene Waldorf, who requested that copies go to Council members. Kathy suggested that we read and think about it and that it is neither a discussion nor an action item.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND ADJOURNMENT. Pastor Rebecca comments. **Meeting was adjourned at 9:55pm.**

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for March 18, 7:00pm. Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

THANK YOU FROM THE
HAMILTONS

To Rebecca,
Thank you for all your prayers, contribution
and love you have given us as a family.

Love,
Darell, Ruby, and Family

THANK YOU FROM CINDY

Thank you so much for the coffee hour and delicious
cake celebrating my retirement from the Treasurer
position. The kind words and thoughtful gifts are very
much appreciated.

Cindy Helm

