

**Congregational
United Church of Christ**

Sunday Schedule

IN-PERSON SERVICES CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
RECORDED SERVICES AVAILABLE AT YOUTUBE.COM,
THEN SEARCH FOR CUCC BUENA VISTA CO

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
May, 2020



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

"This is just intermission..." seen on a movie theatre marquee. The media is full of buzzwords and catchphrases about dealing with the current pandemic of COVID-19. The one I like the most is "we stay apart today so we can be together tomorrow," and then there's "stay apart to stay around." New York Governor Cuomo perhaps said it most succinctly when he said that it's about "we," not "me."

As I've said so many times, my mailbox is so full on a daily basis I must be on the mailing list of every charity that exists. I have become pretty inured to most of their pleas, but the following "Harvest Prayer" sent to me from Soaring Eagle, a public charity benefitting the elders of the Northern Cheyenne tribe of Montana, says a lot to me about how we should be treating all of our neighbors all of the time. It comes from an anonymous 17th century sermon and I share it with you today:

Please be gentle with yourself and others.
We are all children of the Creator,
And none can say why some fields blossom
While others lay brown beneath the harvest sun.
Take hope that your season will come.

Share the joy of those whose season is at hand.
Care for those around you; look past your differences.
Their dreams are no less than yours; their choices in life no more easily made.

And give.
Give in any way you can, give in every way you can.
Give whatever you possess. Give from your heart.
To give is to love; to withhold is to wither.
Care less for the size of your harvest than for how it is shared,
And your life will have meaning
And your heart will have peace.

As we look forward to being together again soon, may God bless us 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.



Homeschooling Day 3:
They all graduated.
#Done

**Does anyone
know how long
toilet paper will
last if you freeze
it?**

PASTOR'S ARTICLE, May, 2020

"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. (Jesus)"

Happy May, Beloved! I am writing this on a cool, and still-kind-of-wintery-day, sitting by the fire. Still in "Isolation Times." Wondering what the scene will be when you read it. Wondering what the world will be like after Nancy "works her magic" and sends out our May newsletter. The world, and especially the country, are in "decisive times" right now. And, sadly, getting even more divisive, as we have yet one more thing to argue about, protest against, and take sides over.

Should we continue to "love one another from home" or "restart the world" and attempt to conquer this plague with sheer defiance? Achh—Jesus must weep, when we can't even agree on how to best love our actual neighbors—never mind the ones down the street or across the world!

For your May reflection, wherever you are, I offer this beautiful Pastoral Letter on worry and trust from friend and colleague, Brother John, pastor at Henderson UCC. (Shared with permission and loving care for CUCC.)

New Life—a few thoughts from my heart.

Are you worried? Jesus' words in Matthew do not mean that if we worry, we are not trusting. It is to mean that we must work on trusting as a vital component of our Spiritual Formation. Of course, we worry especially at this time in our history, about the health of our loved ones and the length of this pandemic and the interrupted stream of income. Of course! So then, what does it mean to trust in the God who gave us life?

Trusting in our God means that God saw this pandemic before the creation of the world. Every prayer we utter for the safety of our families and friends is heard before we even begin. God takes no joy in our suffering or in the finality of death. But if you reflect upon the words of Jesus, "Love one another as I have loved you." then you will see that social distancing, personal protection and self-quarantining is indeed loving others as we love ourselves.

Then consider our medical caregivers, housekeeping teams, kitchen teams, pharmacists, chaplains, police, firefighters and paramedics who are risking their lives each and every day to serve any one of us when called. This, my friends, is God's grace abundant, loving and compassionate. If, tragically, we should lose someone we love, the same God who breathed life into them at birth will caress their precious souls forever. And we shall see them again as promised.

"Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For others run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." (Matthew 6)

You are loved and prayed for. Trust and stay safe. Taking care of yourself takes care of all of us.
~Blessings, Rebecca

PASTOR CHATS—3:00pm-5:00pm Tuesdays

Pastor Rebecca will resume Pastor Chat/Drop-in Hours when services resume.

During this extraordinary time, please reach out to Pastor Rebecca in any "virtual" way possible.
call or text: 719-252-6890
email: revbecca@icloud.com

Stay up-to-date by following CUCC on Facebook: Congregational UCC Buena Vista.

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 Still happening! Sign up TODAY!

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>.



CUCC SERVICES NOW ON YOUTUBE!

Go to **youtube.com** and search for **CUCC Buena Vista CO**. You'll be able to watch all recorded services beginning with Easter, April 12, 2020. To watch them "live," tune in at **9:00am** Sunday mornings.

COFFEE HOUR VIA ZOOM!

Right after the service, come Zoom with us!

Please see *any* weekly eblast for the Zoom sign-in information. It never changes, but always stays the same from week to week—yay!



JIM CLOSE MEMORIAL GARDEN

Yay! It's that time of year again! The CUCC community garden is here for you to plant your wonderful goodies.

Please contact the office for a registration form and Patty Ouellette for all the gardening information, as there are a couple of changes this year.

Patty: 860-463-2181 or patty0409@msn.com

Pastor Rebecca would love to connect with you!



Make an appointment or request a virtual 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's Week At a Glance—during non-pandemic times!:

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

NOTE FROM REV. SUE ARTT Conference Minister, Rocky Mt. Conf.

Dear Rebecca and Congregation—

It was great joy seeing you all joining together on Zoom on [Easter] Sunday. Thanks for welcoming me in! Community means more now than ever before—hang together, even from a Zoom distance.

Much love to you all, until we can be reunited in person again!

Sue 😊

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, Durango Hall, Rm. 101
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)
20155 Hide Out Lane, Nathrop, CO 81236

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

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

ANNIVERSARIES

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



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

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Roger Cason—Healing
Sarah Struthers—Healing
Pam Hughes—Healing
Shirl Holloway—Healing
Marcille Drake—Healing
The Family of Linette Williams—Comfort
Marcy Adams—Healing
Dwight Griggs—Healing
Al & Phyllis McCall—Healing
Nan Bohe—Healing
Peggy Coggins (Marge Dorfmeister's daughter)—Healing
Maryanne Wells (Janet Jones' sister-in-law)—Healing
Norma Hughes (Doyle & Leonard Nyberg's aunt)—Healing
Brooke Davis (Doyle & Leonard Nyberg's cousin)—Healing
Mardy Cason (Roger Cason's brother)—Healing
Brendan Stuart (Molly Stuart's niece)—Healing
Diana Lynn Hilt (Lucille Habeck's daughter)—Healing
Kayleigh & Family (Barb Wilder's friends)—Healing
Jarron Davis (Doyle & Leonard Nyberg's cousin)—Healing
The Family of Frank Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's nephew)—Comfort
Nancy Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's sister-in-law)—Healing
John Adams (Edie Padgett's friend)—Healing
The Family of Scott McCuaig's sister Lynn (Scott and Avis Rutkowski) - Comfort
Sally Corman (Betsy Neas' sister)—Healing
Charlotte Smith—Comfort in the death of her granddaughter
Cody Merrill (Roberta Merrill's son)—Healing
Breana Rivera (Admin. at Ft. Morgan UCC)—Healing from Covid-19
Jean Brody—Healing (exposed to covid-19)
Marcia Jackson (Steve Jackson's mother)—Healing

Bingo Card #4

Call elderly person	Work in your yard	Thank someone who offer service to you	Set up a text group	Work on a puzzle
Send an email joke	Make your donation to the church	Contact your "buddy" every day for 10 days	Watch a Sunday service	Take food to the Mission
Take groceries to someone in need	Play solitaire	Free Joy Space	Wave at a house where you know someone	Recite a poem
Try Zoom	Do the hokey pokey	Order take out from a local restaurant	Think a happy thought	Whistle a little (or big!) tune
Start a new project	Smell five things	Complete my census form	Share a favorite Scripture with someone	Finish an old project

Bingo Card #6

Take a nap	Read John 20:19-31	Clean out your _____ (car? closet? drawer?)	Ask someone for help	List 5 things you love about yourself
Smile at a squirrel	Call someone to check on them	Watch a CUCC service on YouTube	Sing	Join a Zoom meeting
Make a sandwich	Watch a funny TV show	Free Grace Space	Spot 5 different bird species	Eat leftovers
Read a devotional	Do the dishes	Play alphabet scavenger hunt – find an object starting with each letter	Pray for someone you don't like	Let Rebecca or Nancy know if you're playing CUCC bingo
Watch a movie	Count electrical outlets in your home	Contact someone just to say "Thank you."	Fill in the blank: _____ makes my heart happy	Share a happy memory with someone

Bingo Card #5

Play with a new hairstyle	Make somebody smile	Treat yourself or a loved one to....	Draw smiley faces on post-it notes and stick them in fun places	Make a list of 10 blessings
Make shadow puppets	Draw or color a picture	Spot at least one typo in any Bingo card ☺	Call or email the church office just to say "Hello!"	Pray for postal and other delivery workers and truck drivers
Share a favorite memory	Wear a face mask	Free Patience Space	Put on a fun or favorite hat	Make a silly face (make sure someone sees it!)
Find something in the clouds	Bird watch	Count the light switches in your house	Note a sign of spring (or two or...)	List what you love about YOU
Play Bingo ☺	Hide a surprise for a loved one (even yourself)	Pray for scientists working on a cure/vaccine	Read the April newsletter	Pat your head while rubbing your stomach (or at least try!)



"Sermon Under the Mount"
April 2020—at The Reserve
Matthew Maloney—AV tech extraordinaire—
working with Pastor Rebecca for our new
YouTube worship!





view from the Mountain

“PRECIOUS MOMENTS”



Recently I received an email that read, “Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.” I read it and then asked myself if I had moments that took my breath away? Further, how many of these moments had been recently? Bad moments that scare us can take our breath away, but that’s not the question. I’m talking about moments so filled with pure feeling, passion, awe, or reverence that you forget to breathe, moments so precious that time stops.

The first such moment I can recall came when the doctor handed me my firstborn. After eighteen endless hours of hard labor with no anesthesia, my little boy came into the world breach and two months early. Trying to realize that this living, breathing person was the same one who lived inside my body, the very idea took my breath away. I never wanted to spoil the magic of that moment. And lo and behold, when I delivered my three precious girls, the very same feeling came over me. The birth of a baby to me is the miracle of miracles.

Another such moment occurred in the high mountains of France. Gene and I had been away from home for three weeks. It was a dream trip for us, but there was a problem. We had a big yellow tabby cat named Perry Fat Cat who was my constant companion. I was missing him, the feel of him, the sound of him, I literally ached for him.

One misty morning as we were loading our car to leave, the people in the next car were also preparing to leave. The woman was holding a Siamese cat and I could not take my eyes from that beautiful cat contentedly purring in her arms. The woman looked at me and literally, “heard my need” and understood without a word spoken. She simply walked over to me and held out her cat to me. She only spoke French and I only English, but it mattered not. I took her cat into my arms and buried my face in her fur. For a moment the cat extended her claws, but because it was truly a “take my breath away moment,” she retracted her claws and began to purr. It lasted only a few moments, but when I was filled, I simply handed her back to the lady. Still, not one word was exchanged. You know, I still feel breathless when I recall the pure joy, not only holding the French cat, but how two people who didn’t know each other could communicate on such an instinctual and intimate level.

One of my most precious and powerful breathtaking-moments in my life happened in Kentucky. I have written about my best friend Judy. One day on October the 20th, she left this world, and mine changed forever. During the last three or four weeks before she died of breast cancer, there were several of us friends who took turns staying with her because she did not want to be alone. She would go hours without saying a word and we always praised those hours because they meant she was resting from pain. But one day I was standing next to her bed, holding her hand, smoothing back her hair, trying to drink in her essence, and knowing it would soon be over.

Suddenly, she opened her eyes, focused on me, and said, “Jean, sing to me.” Of course I said I would, but what did she want to hear? She closed her weary eyes, and then as she opened them again, she said, “Sing Jesus Loves Me.” I’ve known this song all my life, so I began to sing, “Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so.” Suddenly Judy began to sing with me, and to this day I don’t know where she got the strength to sing on key, but then as we sang other friends sitting in the living room heard us and came into her bedroom. Can you hear it? We stood around her bed holding hands and we all sang Jesus loves me. It may have been the most spiritual precious moment in my life. That simple children’s song raised me right to the floor of God. For a few moments breathing was unnecessary.

I choked as I silently watched Gene, my husband, at his eighty-second birthday party. He got up from his chair and danced with two of his grandchildren, ages one and two and a half. It wasn’t the dance that touched me so much as it was the adoration of those two baby’s faces as they looked up at the face of their grandpa. It made me cry at the beauty of it.

I could go on forever. I have come to realize that my life has been enriched with these kind of breathtaking moments. I see that these moments don’t have to be dramatic, but rather can be of the simplest kind. It’s just for us to recognize them when they happen.

Once, at my beautiful horse farm in Kentucky, we had a number of family, including my brother Jim. It was fall and everybody was out back enjoying the perfect day. All of the sudden, Jim asked each one of us to stop whatever we were doing and realize that we were all inside a most magical day. He said he didn’t know why, but that we should not miss a moment of it. The rest of us stayed very still so that the painfully beautiful moment would pour over us. There was stillness, spiritualness, and one by one, we knew deep inside not to breathe, but to just feel, because there are no words to describe such a feeling.

Please, I beg of you, slow down your life and be ready to recognize these gifted moments, for they are surely right there in your life. Let’s not be so preoccupied and busy and tired to know them when they come to us. Don’t miss your precious moments. The view from the mountain is wondrous!

~ Jean Brody

THANKS FROM MESSAMERS

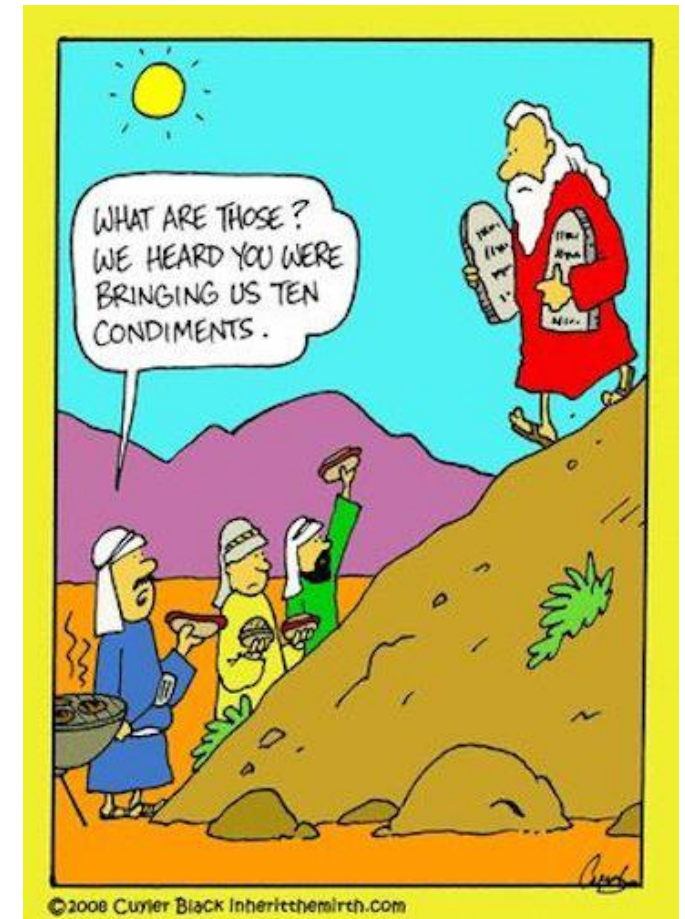
This is one way to say "Thank You" to people who have provided for us in various ways during our recent medical problems and accompanying difficulties. We have both been amazed at all of the friendship shown and food received.

We have always been interested in new tastes and that includes some of the food recently been given. It would be lying to indicate that all of the tastes were familiar and we know that some tastes need to be learned. Yes, new tastes have been learned and all of the food has been good food.

Phone calls and electronic connections have been prevalent from local friends and from places far away.

THANKS TO ALL!

Les and Mary Messamer



STEWARDSHIP/VISIONING TEAM NEWS

Hello Everyone,

This is a kind of check-in message to the BVCUCC family from your Stewardship and Visioning Team chairman.

We, as well as the rest of the world, are faced with a daunting battle that has developed in 2020. I am referring to the covid-19 pandemic that is sweeping the earth with untold illness, death, and economic implosion.

It is truly amazing to see how individuals, groups of people, and governments are working together to weather this unprecedented storm. We can see this happening in Colorado as well as BV and especially our church family.

To those of us who participated in the Palm Sunday Zoom church service, it was a true blessing to be able to check in with one another, pray together as a family, and even to celebrate Holy Communion. (Ellen and I used pita chips and Bota box wine.)

I’ve been overwhelmed the last few weeks at the generosity people have been showing with their time and talents by calling one another and helping pick up groceries and prescriptions, and assisting each other in countless other ways. Kudos and heartfelt thanks to Kathy Keidel, Judy Hassell, Alice Wolters, Rhonda Funston, VirJeanne Williams, Kathi Perry et al for their selfless efforts making face masks for the members of BVUCC and other members of our community.

And don’t forget prayer. Prayers for Covid-19 victims, people who have become unemployed, for medical care professionals and caregivers, first responders, for the world. I pray the leaders around the world are on their knees praying, too.

Pray for our church. While access to the church building and grounds for meetings and providing the many services we offer the congregation and community have had to stop, our fixed operating costs continue.

Please . . . Please . . . continue to support the church as you can. Show your appreciation to God for all his gifts and help to share them monetarily as well as by sharing your time and talents. Remember Time, Talent, Treasure. As a stool, three legs create a stable platform. One or two legs = no stability, hence, no stool. Help our church to maintain our stability.

Bob Stocker, Chairman

Outreach/Community & World Team News—May greetings!

Your Outreach Team would like to remind all members and friends that opportunities for giving are ever-present and we thank you for your continued support.

—Arkansas Valley Christian Mission packages bags three days a week for pick-up. No meals are served at present. Please donate peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce, one-dish canned meals, canned fruit, dropping them off in the appropriate section of the box in the CUCC narthex.

Deliveries are made once a week.

—One Great Hour of Sharing, one of the 5-for-5 offerings of the United Church of Christ, is still in need of your generosity. CUCC has always been most thoughtful, so please send your check to the church office or drop it off, marked OGHS.

—Angelo Abellana, the young person we sponsor in the Philippines, still needs our contributions towards his education. Drop off your change or even a check at the church (marked for Global Ministries).

—Please continue to support your local community by ordering from local restaurants, donating to the Sangre de Cristo utility fund, or the Chaffee County Community Foundation.

Worship Team Notes

I hope everyone is enjoying the YouTube Sunday services and virtual Coffee Hour. For Mother's Day and Father's Day, we would like to have our members email or "snail" mail a picture or your parents to the church so we can do a virtual slide show. When we are able to meet again, we will celebrate Easter and bring flowers to decorate the wire Cross. Stay healthy and soon we will all be together again. We miss seeing all our members!

Submitted by Linda Rak, Chair

The Faith Education Team **Faith Education for Everyone**

We have kept in touch with our Sunday School children, Skyler, Gabby, and Ryan. Alice and Mark delivered activities prior to Easter. Kathy K. put together Easter baskets FULL of Easter activities for each child. Booklets, activity books, plastic eggs with Bible verses, and messages of Palm Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter! Rebecca emailed them a couple of coloring sheets, as well. We miss seeing them and look forward to the day we can re-engage in the classroom!

Everything for VBS is currently on hold until we hear more from the Governor regarding COVID-19 protocols. Kathy Keidel, Alice Wolters, VirJeanne Williams, Rhonda Funston, Judy Hassell, and Kathi Perry have been sewing masks for the congregation and community. We can call this an "extended outreach" from our Faith Ed. Team. Carla Hansford donated fabric and is also making masks with her daughter Sarah in Denver.

The next batch of masks will include a nose clip and non-woven interfacing to provide greater protection, but **no guaranteed protection from the virus**. These will **not** be left at the church. Leave a message for Kathy Keidel at 719-221-3886 if you want to arrange for one.

Let's continue staying safe!
Kathy Keidel and Betsy Neas

CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER **Sundays, 9:00-9:45, Adult Ed Room (when in-person services resume)**

Some members of the Adult Ed. class are gathering with a group from Columbine United Church to study "The Jesus Path" on Zoom. If anyone wants to join us, call Betsy Neas at **719-966-9894**.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE ANNUAL CELEBRATION

The Rocky Mountain Conference Annual Celebration has been postponed to a date later in the summer and be done virtually. The dates and format will be announced to later than May 31.

Bless you in your ministries, and please know you are not alone.
-RMC Board of Directors



Kudos Kolumn

Mark & Alice Wolters & Kathy Keidel for preparing/setting out craft supplies for the Tucker kids for great projects and fun activities.

ALL who have been calling and checking-in on one another, delivering supplies, etc.

Leonard & Nancy and all staff and financial officers working so diligently behind the scenes to keep CUCC running and humming during these unusual times.

ALL those involved in mask-making/distributing, etc.

Matthew Maloney—the techmeister— for teaching people to use Zoom and getting CUCC its very own YouTube channel.

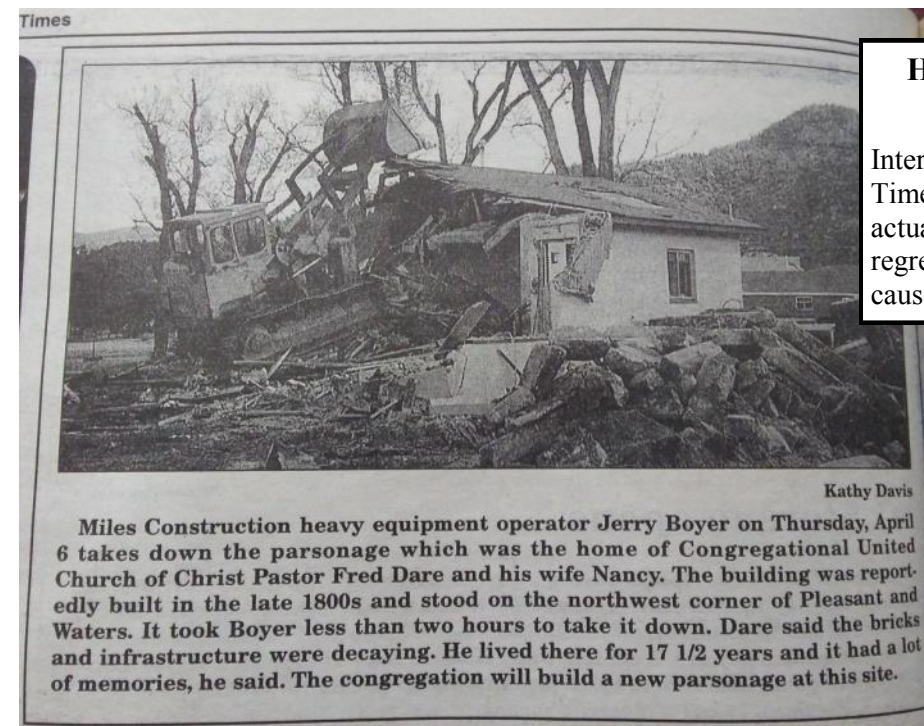
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

Since the WMS was not been able to meet in March or April, I wanted to share the two quotes following our "God is Nature and Nurturer" theme.

March was "Each moment of the year has its own beauty." -Ralph Waldo Emerson.

April was "For the beauty of the earth... we raise our grateful praise." -Folliot Sanford Pierpoint.

~Merilee Daugherty



HISTORY FROM 20 YEARS AGO **via the Chaffee County Times**

Interesting history! Though the Chaffee County Times did report an error—the location is actually Pleasant and Brookdale. The CCT regrets the error and any confusion it may have caused. (We assume!)

A priest, a minister, and a rabbit walked into a blood donation center. The rabbit said, "I think I might be a Type O."

CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Thursday, May 28

1:00pm, CUCC

Program:

Treasured & Protected— School Girl's
Hygiene Kits
Presented by Kathy Ruiter

As of now, the meeting will take place at
CUCC. There will be an announcement if
this changes.

COLLEGIATE PEAKS FORUM SERIES

Wednesday, June 10

7:00pm

Live on Zoom!

MELANIE YAZZIE:

An Overview of Various Contemporary
Indigenous Female Artists

Printmaker, sculptor, painter, and art practices
and printmaking professor Melanie Yazzie fills
her talk with firsthand stories about her
connections with artists and their work and
how these artists are making a difference in
the world.

For information on how to join the Zoom
meeting, please visit
www.collegiatepeaksforum.org and click on
2020-lecture-schedule-2.

FOOD 4 KIDS Backpack Program



Though this program is on hiatus until school
resumes, donations can still be accepted.

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!

TELLS

Tuesday Evening Ladies

Literary Society

Tuesdays, 7:00pm-9:00pm

NOW ON ZOOM!

Contact Rebecca for Zoom information.

All women are welcome!



The group is reading "The Rock That Is
Higher" by Madeline L'Engle, but book
homework is not a requirement!

We share life, faith, family stories, support,
fun and humor—and we'd love to have more
of you join us! This is a PERFECT time to
expand and enlighten our faith and life with
our sisters in Christ!

Contact Pastor Rebecca to get on the email list &
receive Zoom information.

revbecca@icloud.com

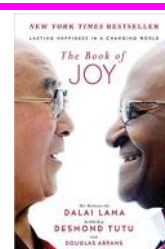


MONDAY MORNING MEN'S GROUP

Mondays at 8:00am

Grace Church Annex

CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER
NOICE



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!

MOTHER'S DAY & FATHER'S DAY PICTURES REQUESTED

Whether meeting virtually or in-person, we will create a slideshow to share in worship of YOUR special moments/
people. Have a family picture that crosses the generations? A special memory of loved ones who have passed? A
picture of you and your great-grandchild? Or you and a grandparent?

Please either email a picture or two of your mother and/or father to Pastor Rebecca at revbecca@icloud.com or
bring in (or mail) photos to the office for scanning. The photos will be returned to you.

Please make sure the first and last names of the persons in the photo is indicated.

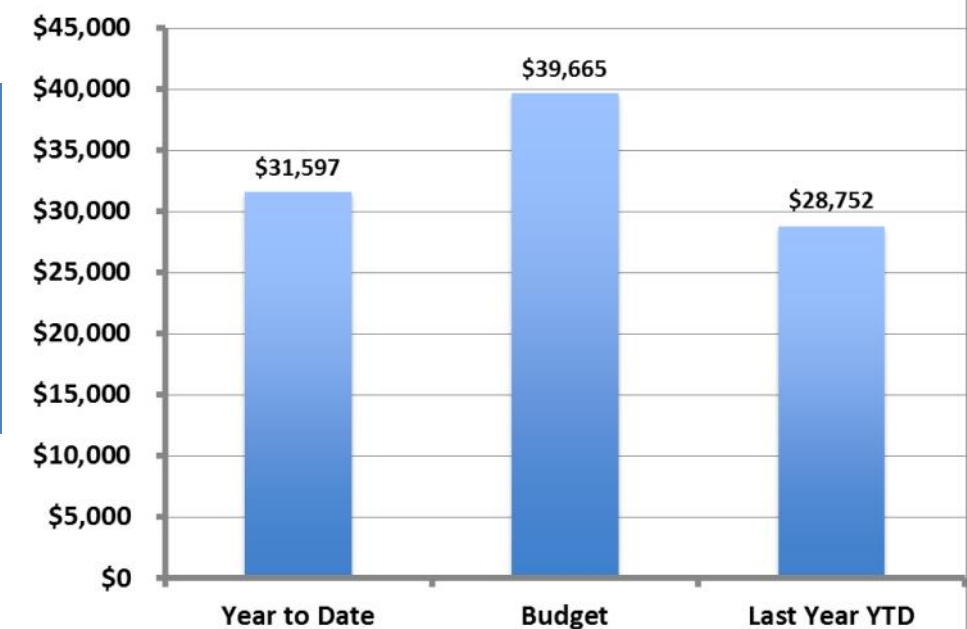
Thank you! This has been a special event in the past and will be so again this year.

DID YOU KNOW? CONTRIBUTIONS ACCEPTED!

You can either mail your contributions to
CUCC at PO Box 610, BV, or drop off at
the church—there is a basket and
envelopes in the church office on the table
or just slip it under the office door.

Thank you so much!!!

General Contributions through March, 2020



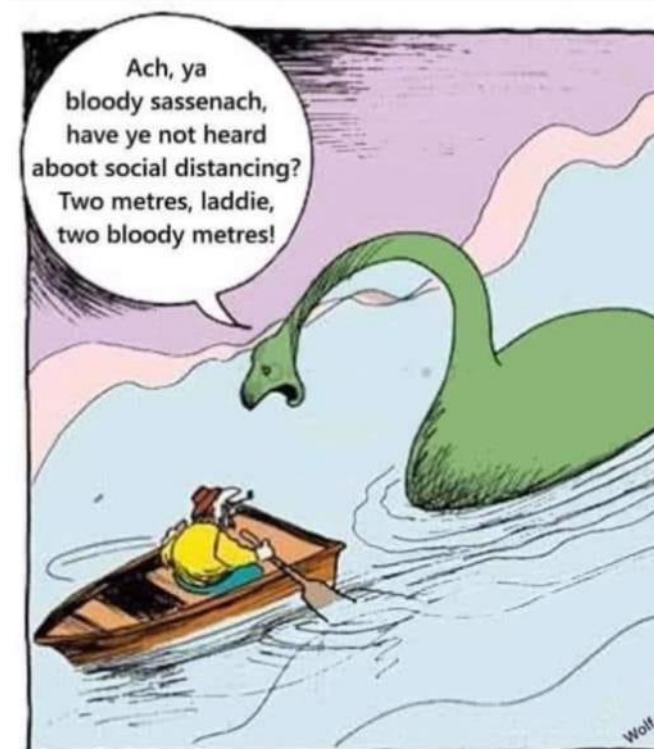
FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

- Sanctuary doors: Still working on getting prices and exact
hardware needed.
- Louvers and boiler room venting: Ron Rak is working on this
project and it's nearly complete.
- Church van and trailer: Sold for a total of \$8000. The money
has been put in the reserve fund.
- 2020 exterior staining: This will be the next project we start.
- LED lighting: Parts have been received and upgrading in
priority areas is proceeding.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Hassell, Chair

Finance and Budget Team May News

The Team has nothing to report this month
except to thank you for your continued financial
support of the church. It is greatly appreciated!



THE LOCH DOWN MONSTER



Frazer and Kaylynne Pomfret and their two girls, Scarlett-Rae and Blakely-Grace, send Easter greetings from England!



UCC FIVE-FOR-FIVE PROGRAMS

One Great Hour of Sharing: This offering, usually taken during the Lenten season, supports the disaster, refugee, and development ministries of the UCC.

Strengthen the Church: This May-June offering supports the expansion of ministry and growth of UCC local congregations. Your support helps the UCC fulfill its commitment to creating a just world for all by investing in new ministries and practices that meet the emerging needs of local communities.

Please mail (PO Box 610) or drop off checks to the church marked OGHs or Strengthen the Church.

Invest in futures



SENIOR GROCERY SHOPPING PROGRAM

Do you need a personal shopper?
Would you like to be a volunteer?

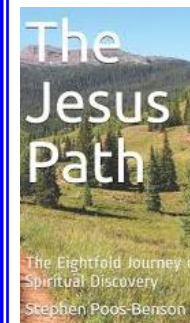
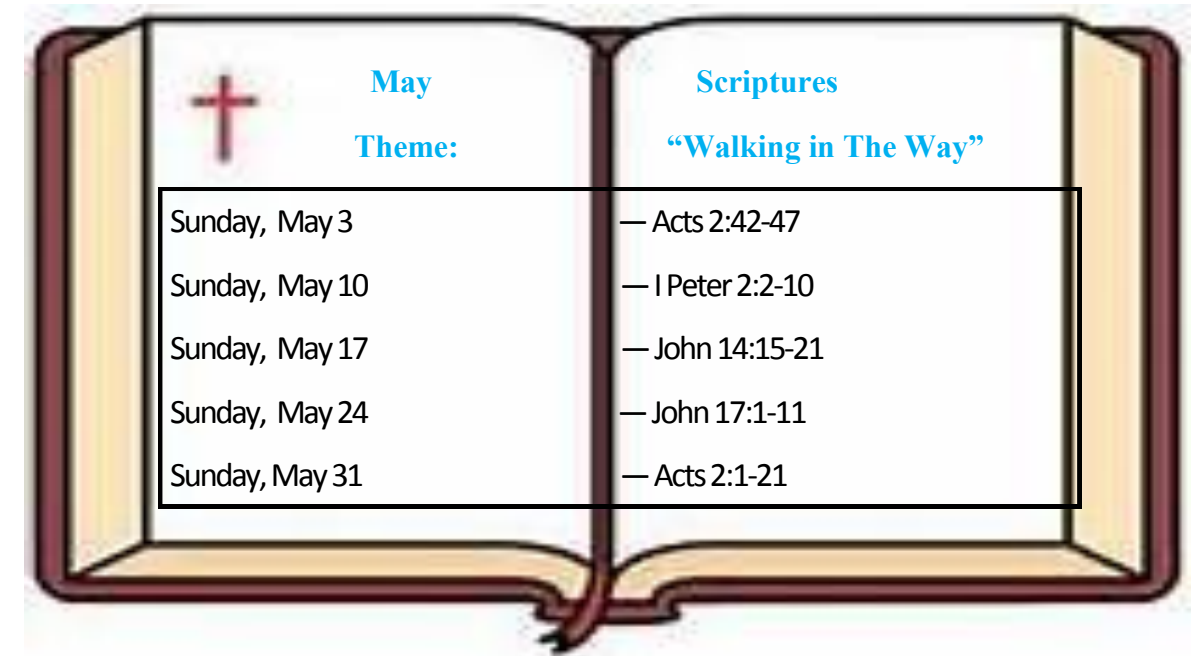
Shopping by volunteers is done in Salida/Poncha on Mondays & Wednesdays and Buena Vista on Tuesdays & Thursdays. Payment will be arranged. Please call Tambra at 314-201-1450 to sign up.

Community donations are accepted to support this effort. Contact www.chaffeecommunity.org or call 719-207-5071 to donate or volunteer.

The **Buena Vista School District** provides student meals Monday—Friday from 11:00am-1:00pm at Avery Parsons Elementary for children 0-18. If you need help with delivery, please call 719-395-7000.

The **Buena Vista Supper Support Program** for evening meals and weekend staples is provided by a collaboration between Cornerstone Church and local restaurants. Please call 719-395-8178 or email to emily@cornerstonechurchbv.com to get involved or request support.

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



"CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER"

NOW ON ZOOM!

Tuesday mornings, 9:30am-10:45am

<https://zoom.us/j/425249659>

Meeting ID: **425 249 659**

Password: **351678**

Will resume in-person when in-person services do.

Columbine United Church (CUC) invites CUCC folks to join their "Faith Formation" group studying "The Jesus Path: The Eightfold Journey of Spiritual Discovery" by Stephen Poos-Benson.

Contact Arlene Waldorf if you need a book, but you don't have to have read the book to participate in the great conversation!

Because it is a bigger group, we remind people to mute their phones and computers unless they are talking, as there will be too much feedback.

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

Will resume when in-person services do.

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.*

CUCC Council Minutes—April 15, 2020

Present: Moderator Kathy Roman, Vice Moderator Mark Wolters, Pastor Rebecca Poos, Kay Allinger, Merilee Daugherty, Helen Duncan, Lesley Fagerberg, Ron Hassell, Kathy Keidel, Betsy Neas, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bob Stocker, Bill Waldorf.
7:16pm Clerk’s Note: Meeting conducted via Zoom internet due to the Colorado Stay-at-Home Order started on March 26th due to the nationwide Corona Virus Pandemic.
Welcoming and Opening Prayer: **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 with objectivity, insight, and wisdom.

GENERAL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Minutes from the February and March Council Meetings were presented for corrections. Hearing none, both minutes were approved as previously published in the monthly church newsletters.
Clerk’s Report: Ron noted no changes since the February meeting report.
Treasurer’s Report: Bill Waldorf noted briefly that contributions were \$8,000 under budget, but expenses were approximately \$5,000 under budget YTD, indicating a net \$3,000 under-budget situation. The church continues to operate using the 2019 Budget, but a 2020 Budget was ready for consideration by the congregation. Discussion and approval of the 2020 Budget will have to wait until a proper congregational meeting can be conducted.
Moderator’s Report: Kathy Roman opened the floor for kudos and thanks for recent activities. She recognized and thanked Betsy Neas for serving as pastoral care coordinator during Rebecca’s absence. In that role she established a “buddy check” system and acted as a clearing house for the needs of congregants. Kathy Keidel was recognized for her dedication to producing “community grade” face masks along with her team of sewers that consisted of VirJeanne Williams, Rhonda Funston, Alice Wolters, Judy Hassell, Kathi Perry, and herself. Rebecca was amazed at the large number of members contributing time and talents to help others with shopping, food and necessities, firewood, etc.

CONTINUING BUSINESS

Financials: Aside from budget concerns, Bill Waldorf emphasized that we need to try to find and approve an Assistant Treasurer to replace current Acting Assistant Cindy Helm. Reports from Cindy were that the transitioning of Treasurer duties to Lloyd Martinez was about 90% complete. Preparing financial reports is the last step and is in progress.
Appoint RMC Delegates and Alternates: Ron and Linda Rak had indicated willingness to continue representing the church for a third year. Helen Duncan offered to be an Alternate. Hearing no other nominees, Helen made a motion/Betsy seconded to appoint Ron and Linda as Delegates. Motion passed.
Kathy Roman noted that due to COVID-19, the RMC Board has chosen to move the Annual Celebration to a date later in the summer to be determined and announced by May 31. It will be held electronically.
Bylaws Revision Committee: Kathy Roman noted that she had talked to Doyle Nyberg, who indicated a willingness to help with the task. Ruthann Schoeffield would also help. Kathy Roman volunteered, as did Merilee Daugherty. Ann Condra was also suggested as a possible participant.

NEW BUSINESS

Paycheck Protection Program (PPP): Bill referred to an email sent out today (April 15) to all Council members, “Review of Covid 19 Financial Assistance” explaining options for churches. (Clerk Note: The article summarized a www.insuranceboard.org webinar discussion of the CARES Act (Corona Virus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act) which includes the PPP). Bill felt that CARES may not apply to our church situation. The Finance Team previously decided to pay our church employees during the mandated closure. Rebecca noted that RMC information suggests that pastors are eligible. Bill noted that since our church didn’t furlough our employees, it may not be ethical to apply for a loan. The intent of the PPP program is to keep workers employed with compensation paid, and we are doing that. Additionally, our “business” is not “interrupted” by the current closure mandates, since we are not required to be closed and we have alternate online communication options. So, ethically, we should not apply since we cannot certify in good faith that we qualify. The pianist, Judy Phelps, and the nursery caregiver were also noted as being paid, but were not providing services. Rebecca suggested that we can find ways to incorporate Judy’s piano accompaniment in the YouTube or Zoom Sunday Services. After discussion, the consensus was that we continue paying employees as we have been. Helen made a motion/Merilee seconded that we continue paying all employees. Motion passed.
Resumption of Services and Activities: Kathy Roman indicated that such a decision [for the church] has pretty much been taken out of our hands by the Conference, Governor Polis, and the Chaffee County Public Health Department. From the recent experience of internet delays during the April 12 online Sunday Service, it was decided that the service will be moved to 9:00am to compensate for the limited bandwith in our valley. Rebecca mentioned that there were more than 150 online views of the Easter Sunday Service. She also added that the church bought a “CCLI Streaming License” for the year, upgrading our current CCLI music copyright license, to enable online worship. Betsy suggested we get some tech-savvy people in the congregation to help the elderly and those not tech-oriented with the online services.
What can we do to help the community? It was noted that the Backpack Program has been discontinued since the schools are closed and state Stay-at-Home orders are in effect. Ken Rehborn has been in regular contact with Chaffee County High School and offered to resume the Backpack Program whenever needed. Since the school district has continued to provide meals, there seems to be no need for us to feed school children. Others encouraged patronizing local restaurants as much as possible. Helen

mentioned that Ark Valley Christian Mission is providing 20 bags of groceries a week, but currently no hot meals; they continue to need donations of cash or food, but can receive food donations only from 11:00am-1:00pm T, W, F on the back deck. Rebecca noted that the church has the mostly unused Pastor’s Discretionary Fund available for community needs, which we should keep in mind. There is also the Chaffee County Community Foundation and the recently organized Supper Support program to which people may contribute to help keep people fed and which also helps support local restaurants.

TEAM REPORTS AND UPDATES

Stewardship/Visioning Team: Bob Stocker reported that the Team has not met since the stay-at-home order. Bob will try to get some online communication going amongst the Team in order to get some ideas and a plan of action to encourage congregational giving.
Finance and Budget Team: Bill anticipates a rapid economic recovery locally when the restrictions are lifted.
Faith Education: Kathy Keidel noted that Vacation Bible School is cancelled for this year. She also mentioned that we’ve been staying in touch with the CUCC kids regularly and providing faith education and activities. Craft supplies were provided by the Wolters for the Tucker kids to make projects early on. Then Kathy Keidel created and delivered Easter baskets to the family on Easter. Pastor Rebecca has been sending several faith-based coloring projects, which the kids love. Regarding Adult Study, Betsy reported that the Sunday session continued in coordination with Columbine United Church using a Zoom Meeting, as they were coincidentally reading the very same book as our Adult Group: The Jesus Path. Rebecca announced that the Tuesday TELLS book group is also continuing using the Zoom Meeting program. In the near future, author and Pastor Bruce Epperly is scheduled to participate in two online presentations: 1) on Friday April 17, “Spirituality in a Time of Pandemic” for CPFS and 2) On Sun-day, April 26, Pastor Epperly will participate in our online worship by doing a dialogue sermon with Pastor Rebecca.
Outreach Team: Helen reported that the last Lenten Soup Supper on March 11 at CUCC was reasonably well-attended, although only one couple from Grace Church was present. The Heifer Program promotion at that event also went very well, with over \$1200 in contributions made. Helen raised concern over the annual UCC 5for5 Programs, which include currently One Great Hour of Sharing, and the May-June Strengthen the Church program. These will be difficult to promote outside of a congregational gathering, especially with limited individual and family resources available during this crisis. Rebecca suggested the best we might do is put memos for them in the May newsletter expressing national and international needs, as well as our own, and high-light them with the UCC logos for those programs.
Worship Team: Linda reported that the Easter Sunday preparations were the last efforts of the Team, but that Easter lilies and palm fronds had been cancelled. The next events to celebrate are traditionally Mother’s and Father’s Days. It was suggested that an online presentation of pictures of our parents would be a nice touch to accentuate those services. Pictures can be emailed or “snail” mailed to the church office for scanning into a video presentation, and this will be noted in the May newsletter.
Rebecca added a thought for the Finance Team that this may be a good opportunity, which may be well received, to increase our giving options. Since we are using more online communications, we should include options for offerings during the online services, such as mentioning the church PO Box number for mailing contributions, and credit card giving. Paypal and Square systems were mentioned for consideration. The RMC has offered guidance and coaching on a number of occasions to CUCC for exploring online giving. Rebecca will continue to share this information with the Finance and Stew/Visioning Teams and encourage CUCC to explore this new opportunity for ways to give at CUCC.
Facilities Team: Ron Hassell noted a few projects that the Team was working on during the church closure which are budgeted. An additional item to address was the speed and noise level of the sanctuary exhaust fan at the back of the sanctuary.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS
Women’s Missionary Society: Merilee announced that the April Salad Luncheon is cancelled. Kay offered that the group’s usual contributions continue to be made to various charitable causes and that some donations were made earlier than usual in anticipation of increased immediate community needs during this crisis.

PASTOR’S REPORT
Rebecca noted that the cost of the Zoom programming for the church was graciously shared in coordination with the Collegiate Peaks Forum Series since both groups will need and benefit from the online options. She is also hoping to attend some upcoming national and Colorado conferences that will now be online which she otherwise would not have the time or funds to attend. Office Communications Administrator Nancy Best is very happy to still be employed and is undertaking extra tasks with her (only slightly!) reduced duties.

PRAYER CONCERNS AND ADJOURMENT
Kay mentioned that her sister Linette has been transferred to hospice care, and will probably not be able to receive chemotherapy treatments due to her weakened condition. Roger Cason is currently in a Colorado Springs rehab care and residing there for a couple of more weeks, but current insurance funding will run out and he will have to be transferred to another facility. Nan Bohe is successfully recovering from pneumonia. Gail Moffatt could use renewed prayers of encouragement for healing.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:20pm.
NEXT COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for May 20, 7:00pm.

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk