

***Congregational  
United Church of Christ***

***Sunday Worship Schedule***

***9:00am Mtn. Time—YouTube***

***CUCC BUENA VISTA CO***

***and***

***10:00am Mtn. Time—Outdoor Worship on the CUCC grounds  
(Bring a mask and lawn chair!)***

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

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  
**September, 2020**



## MODERATOR'S MOMENT

### "Do the Next Right Thing"

While watching the news one evening, a friend called my attention to TV newsman Chris Cuomo's ending monologues during the week in which he was celebrating his 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. His message that particular night was "do the next right thing" - five words which I found quite inspiring at the moment and which I've done some thinking about since. I even googled the phrase and discovered that while maybe not in just those exact words, it is a frequent theme of Alcoholics Anonymous guidebooks, a phrase that has been used by Mother Theresa, Martin Luther King, and Theodore Roosevelt, among others. No doubt it is common among coaches and athletes as well. I also learned that it is the title of a song in the Disney film *Frozen II* and the title of an internet blog and a podcast. Then there was the real estate developer who handed out \$100 dollar bills to people on the street on a daily basis. He did it because he could.

Not many of us are in a position to freely distribute \$100 bills or something equally as flashy or spectacular. In fact, that man and all of us, at some time or another in our lives, have done or said things we have come to regret. Hopefully, we have learned from those experiences, sought and received forgiveness and gone on to do the next right thing. In Jesus's life, He healed a leper and told him to tell no one but to go and show himself to the priest and make an offering (Luke 5:12-14). When He healed a paralytic, He told the man to get up, pick up his bed and go home, which he did, praising God (Luke 5: 24-25). When He raised the daughter of Jairus from the dead, He directed her grateful parents to give her something to eat and to tell no one what had happened (Luke 8:49-56). Two things stand out to me in these stories: Jesus's humility ("tell no one, go home") and the immediate next right thing "go home" in two cases and feed the girl, in the third. It seems that Jesus did not ask these folks for anything else, like dedicating their lives to him in gratitude. He knew that they were human, with inadequacies and imperfections. He told them only the next right thing to do (and perhaps trusted them to keep on doing so?)

We humans, with our own inadequacies and imperfections, cannot let them deter us from doing the next right thing. Not the next big or impressive or attention-getting thing, but what is immediately in front of us. It would seem that there are lots of opportunities in our communal life as a church and in our individual lives to do the next right thing by serving our neighbors, through sharing our resources and/or talents with the Arkansas Valley Christian Mission, the Chaffee County Community Foundation, Habitat for Humanity, Ark Valley Helping Hands, or New Bees, to name a few. Perhaps there's someone you know personally who could use a hot meal and a visit, or maybe in these COVID times, a check-in phone call. Maybe it's us that needs that phone call as well. Doing the next right thing brings blessings to all. Thank God.

It was a joy to see and share worship with those who were able to make it to our first outdoor re-gathering. Hoping to see and share with more of you on Sundays until the weather forces us inside.

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

Kathy Roman

## OUTDOOR ALL-AGES WORSHIP CUCC, Sundays at 10!

**Join us IN PERSON for  
Outdoor, Socially-Distanced Worship!  
on the CUCC grounds**

BRING: Lawn chair—Mask—Umbrella/hat/shade covering—Coffee or beverage of your choice  
Your offering for basket or give online ahead of time—Your Smiling Spirit and Long-distance Hugs!

### PASTOR'S ARTICLE, September, 2020

*Come unto me, all you who are weary and heavily burdened, and I will give you rest.  
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart,  
and you will find rest for your souls. (Matthew 11:28-29)*

Happy September, CUCC. It was so delightful to gather together last week in Outdoor Worship. Please join us every Sunday at 10:00am until the weather cools, OR join us online (9:00am and anytime after) at You Tube Channel: CUCC Buena Vista CO.

Pastor Jane Kramer, at our sister UCC church in Hayden, CO, shared with us her sermon about the difficulties of being a pastor and a congregation in COVID times. She talked about hitting a wall one day that she just couldn't get past, and needed simply to be held in the loving arms of God and her beloved congregation. I share it with you as we all seek to love and care for ourselves.

"I am transparent with you because I feel I am doing you an injustice by pretending that everything is OK. If you thought I was strong and dealing with everything with ease, it might diminish the fact that you are struggling within yourself. With all the challenges this world is facing, we are ALL vulnerable to the stresses and respond in our own ways. It is very clear that the world, even more specifically this community, is feeling the heaviness that surrounds us.

"A wonderful pastor once told me 'you can't take care of others if you don't take care of YOU.' No truer words have ever been spoken. It is more than OK if you need to cry or to talk to someone to get your feelings off your chest. Trust me, it helps. I am here for you anytime you need ears to listen or a shoulder to cry on. Take time for YOU!

"This experience has prompted me to commit to better care of myself and I encourage you to do the same. Here are some ideas for you to prayerfully consider in this 'Womb Time' we are in:

1. Spend more intentional time with God. Find a time that works best for you. Open yourself to receiving the Light and the Word from the Holy One.
2. Acknowledge your feelings and respect them. Know that you are entitled to any emotions that may arise for you. Feel the feels!
3. Try writing down your areas that are causing you stress. Share this list with God. Turn it over to the One who can lift those burdens and make them lighter.
4. Take time for YOU! That time may look different to every single person on every single day. You know what makes your heart happy and will bring you a sense of calmness. Take time to talk to someone that you feel will understand you and will take time to listen. Know that I am here if you feel you would like to talk. (Porch visits with your Pastor! Phone, email, sit on the benches outside the church.)
6. Dwell on the positive. It is SO easy to get stuck on the negative and develop a "woe is me" attitude. Our God can break through the darkness and bring our focus back to what is most important: God's unfailing love for us.
7. Find an activity that you enjoy that will help you focus outside of yourself. Maybe helping others will brighten your day or maybe you need time alone in nature. Whatever it is, take time.

"YOU are a beloved child of God. YOU are enough. YOU are not alone. Receive the hope Christ brings. ALL things are possible through Christ who strengthens us."

Blessings from all of us at CUCC and all around the Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC.  
Pastor Rebecca

## CUCC GOOD-TO-KNOWS

### LISTENING TEAM REPORT

Dear friends and members of Congregational United Church of Christ in Buena Vista,

Thank you for your patience and prayers as we journey with you in this time of intentional listening and discernment.

**We, as your Rocky Mountain Conference** Listening Team, wanted to give you an update of where we are and what we have discerned as next steps.

An image that we keep coming back to in describing what we have heard is that of a tightly entangled knot. If you've ever tried to untangle a knot, you know that sometimes you can pull a thread that only makes the knot tighter. Our prayer is that our work with you can help loosen the knot and ultimately untangle it so that the strings of that knot can be woven into a beautiful tapestry.

As a first step in that process, the listening team met with the Church Council on Wednesday, August 19, to share some of their initial findings and offer some next steps. At the heart of what we shared is the felt need for this congregation to rebuild trust, acknowledge and name unhealthy patterns of behavior, reorient its focus to the mission and ministry of the church, and develop an intentional covenant that all can commit to upholding together.

Recognizing the central role that church leadership plays in any congregation, we recommended to the Council that the listening team facilitate an in-person, socially-distanced, outside retreat to begin to work with the Church Council to build capacity in leadership practices that will help carry forward this process of healing, rebuilding trust, interrupting patterns of behavior, and reorienting to the mission and ministry of CUCC. This retreat will take place Sept 18.

We recognize that even as these next steps may feel slow in coming, everyone can be praying daily for the church, its future, and its lay and pastoral leadership. God is a partner in this endeavor who can do what human effort alone cannot. We have no doubt that the Holy Spirit is working through each and every one of you as we walk through this together.

Continued prayers of gratitude for welcoming us in and allowing us to accompany you in this most Holy of work.

Erin Gilmore

Associate Conference Minister

Rocky Mountain Conference, UCC



### Kudos Kolumn

Thank you to all involved in making the Cookie Connection Cruise By a success!

And thank you to the Strategic Planning Team on getting the outdoor worship rolling and sounding great!

Plus, thank you to all the musicians who add so much to our worship from behind the scenes and in front of the screen—Janet Steiner, Matthew Maloney, Thomas, Jacy & Alexandra Doumas, Rebecca Poos, and Judy Phelps!

### LET'S CONNECT!

Pastor Rebecca is available for Virtual Visits and Porch or Walk & Talk visits, with a mask and social distancing, by invitation.

To set up a time, call or text **719-252-6890** or email to [revbecca@icloud.com](mailto:revbecca@icloud.com).



### ARE YOU MISSING OUT?

If you're not an emailer and want to hear from the church regularly, know that Nancy sends out regular hard copy mailings of inspirational messages and all timely, important news.

To be added to the list, please call her at **719-395-2544**. She's in the office **M, W, F, from 9:00am-2:00pm**.

### RESOURCES ON CUCC WEBSITE

*Looking for resources on race relations and/or COVID-19?*

The CUCC website—[www.bvcucc.org/resources/](http://www.bvcucc.org/resources/)—features a Resources section with information on:

- ~COVID-19—Being the Church in New Times
- ~Talking About Race/Seeing in Color
- ~Chaffee County Community Resources

### PASTORAL CARE TECH SUPPORT!



Need some help connecting with CUCC on YouTube for worship or Zoom meetings?

Pastor Rebecca and others can help! Contact us today to set up an appointment!

Email to [revbecca@icloud.com](mailto:revbecca@icloud.com) or call/text **719-252-6890**.



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) 542-1750  
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 (303) 756-1546 (nursing station)  
Brookshire House, Rm. 12B  
4660 E Asbury Circle, Denver, CO 80222

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

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

Lindsey Fagerberg Close  
1920 Frontage Rd., Apt. 1714  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

CUCC Special Dates



BIRTHDAYS

September 4—Judy Hassell  
September 7—Farrell Coy  
September 13—Fred McMurry  
September 15—Gerry Venard  
September 16—Carla Hansford  
September 17—Norma Smith  
September 17—Struthers Rod  
September 18—Susan Helms  
September 18—Mary Messamer  
September 18—Ryan Tucker  
September 24—Warren Montgomery  
September 25—Linda Swanson  
September 30—Wilma Williams

ANNIVERSARIES

September 4—John & Barb Groy  
September 4—Ric & Char Houseman  
September 7—Rod and Sharie Schofield  
September 20—Millie & Tom Meardon  
September 22—Jim & Ruth Amster



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

Please Remember in Your Prayers

Janet Jones—Healing  
Roger Cason—Healing  
Nan Bohe—Healing  
Sarah Struthers—Healing  
Marcille Drake—Healing  
Pam Hughes—Healing  
Shirl Holloway—Healing  
Dwight Griggs—Healing  
Al & Phyllis McCall—Healing  
Brooke Davis (Doyle & Leonard Nyberg's cousin)—Healing  
Diana Lynn Hilt (Lucille Habeck's daughter)—Healing  
Nancy Russell (Marge Dorfmeister's sister-in-law)—Healing  
Sally Corman (Betsy Neas' sister)—Healing  
The Family of David Sprain (Marge Dorfmeister's nephew)  
—Comfort  
Ed Simons (Rebecca Poos' brother-in-law)—Healing  
Lew Lowe—Healing  
Jim Close (Gloria Close's son)—Healing  
Pat & Jim Driskel (aunt & uncle of Doyle and Leonard Nyberg)  
—Healing  
Pat McCuaig (Scott McCuaig's son)—Healing  
The Family of Marcy Adams—Comfort  
Charlotte Smith—Comfort in the loss of her daughter



CHURCH-COMMUNITY NEWS



CUCC OUTDOOR SERVICE

These photos are from our first outdoor  
service on August 16.

Please join us Sundays at 10:00am!

Invite your friends!



CUCC CIRCLE GROWS WIDER!







## view from the Mountain

### “Reality of Miracles”

Have you ever tried to write or tell a story within a story? Let me tell you, it is tough. However, that is exactly what happened to me once. It was Saturday, my weekly writing day, and I did not have the remotest idea what to write about. Usually, by Thursday, or surely by Friday, I was ready to put pen to paper come Saturday a.m., but not so that day. I wrote weekly for five newspapers, one church bulletin, and for Brookdale, which meant I had to write and dictate by Saturday p.m., so not knowing a column topic was serious business.

In desperation, I pulled from my bookshelf every column I’d ever written since 1990, and as if something focused my eye and guided my hand, I opened to a group of columns labeled “Reality of Miracles.” Oh, good holy grief, I had totally forgotten a two-year series that was a compilation of true stories by either me or others who had submitted true stories to me. Immediately I knew that I would just open to the best miracle to write about, and I did.

Now, I want you to know that I do believe in miracles. I further believe that miracles are God’s acts that cannot be explained in any other way. So, there was the first miracle in this column. There in front of me sat the topic I am most passionate about. I had had no idea what to write about and then there it was in front of me. Now I will tell you a true miracle story.

There was this eight-year-old boy who was attacked by a bull shark as he played in knee-deep water. It happened not far down the beach from our home at the time. It was about dusk. He wasn’t alone. There were other people, other children even, and no one will ever know why this normal little boy down in south Florida visiting his aunt and uncle on vacation was chosen by this seven-foot, two-hundred-and-fifty pound bull shark to be his dinner.

What happened next was hardly believable, even by folks who genuinely respected the fact that when people go into the ocean, they are entering into another being’s territory. We are the interloper, not the shark. Of course, this eight-year-old boy didn’t think like that at all and was simply playing in the surf with everyone else. But, while one moment he was laughing and splashing, the next moment the shark had made his choice. The shark tore his arm completely off at the shoulder, and then for good measure, looped back and bit off a large part of his thigh.

The boy had the strength to get to the beach, but had lost a tremendous amount of blood. The aunt started CPR, because she could find no pulse at all. And the uncle (and this story is really about the uncle), the uncle dove into the water and proceeded to wrestle this huge shark. He knew his nephew’s arm was missing and figured it was probably in the gullet of the shark.

With strength that no man alone should have, the uncle managed to beach the shark, pry his mouth open, see the arm down there, reach inside, and miraculously pull the whole arm out.

Impossible? It was beyond human ability. And if you ask the uncle about how he did it, he would simply say, “I didn’t.”

In an incredibly short time, the boy was whisked away by ambulance, while in another vehicle the wrapped arm was rushed right behind the ambulance.

I know God can give us super-human strength. I’ve heard of it before. Believe me, for a young man to out-do a huge bull shark, reach inside and retrieve his nephew’s arm completely intact and deliver it to the doctor in time to reattach it—well, if that isn’t a miracle, I’ve never heard of one.

The view from the mountain is wondrous!  
~ Jean Brody



### PASTOR PORCH VISITS

Pastor Rebecca would love to visit with you—socially-distanced and wearing a mask. You can talk about anything you wish, but she also is eager to collect your reminiscences concerning CUCC history, in honor of CUCC’s 140th anniversary. Please contact her at **719-252-6890** to set up a time.



### SCAM ALERT!

The following email is an example of a scam email going around that purports to be from one pastor or another (other local churches are having the same issue). This is a scam!!!!

"Hi John,  
I'm so tied up right now. Can you help me purchase an iTunes gift cards 5 pieces - \$100 each at any near by store? I would reimburse you back when am through later today. Thanks for your efforts and I be awaiting to your immediate response.  
Best Regards,  
Rev. Rebecca Kemper."

Ways to recognize a scam:

- Rebecca would never ask anyone to purchase iTunes or Amazon gift cards.
- Rebecca knows her last name is Poos.
- Rebecca writes in fluent English.
- The email address it was sent from doesn't look quite right.
- The subject line doesn't "sound like" Rebecca or the church office.

**Similar scams are also showing up as texts and even being left as phone messages!**  
**If in doubt—contact Rebecca directly.**

### UPDATED ADDRESS/PHONE FOR ROGER CASON

Roger Cason (303) 756-1546 (nursing station—ask for Roger Cason in Summit Wing, Rm. 12B)  
Brookshire House, Rm. 12B  
4660 E Asbury Circle, Denver, CO 80222



Roger on July 23 at a Village Inn



Roger on August 14 at Brookshire House

### LOST & FOUND

Missing something? Maybe it’s in the lost and found bin on the shelf above the coat rack. Speaking of the coat rack, two nice jackets are hanging there. Could one be yours? And on the shelf above them are two water bottles. Is one yours?

## CUCC MEMORIES FROM MARY KELLY

In 1952-1953, the church trustees had worked out finances to build a new church. Jake Foreman donated most of the land. It is the [current] location on Crossman Avenue. As the plan was drawn up, they asked the women of Missionary [Society] what they wanted for a kitchen.

At a meeting at the Harlan Huffs, the building committee suggested a solid unit of a small stove and a sink with a small refrigerator under it. The Missionary women did not generally accept this. So the women sent a committee to ask for a room (enclosed) and this was accepted. After all, most of the men's committee was our own husbands!

So, we had a room, but no cabinets, no plumbing except the pipes, no tiling or paint, and very little money. A kitchen stove was donated (it had a temperamental oven), Louise Steel gave a refrigerator, and the Norton Gwynns gave a double commercial sink or tub (like two wash tubs).

The old Princeton Hotel had been torn down the previous winter (1951) and they had boxed up the dishes, glassware, silverware, and cooking utensils and given them to the Don Smiths at the State Fish Hatchery in Chalk Creek. Vivian Smith immediately donated them to the Missionary. Meanwhile, some tables and wooden chairs were brought in, but we still had no cabinets. But we were in business.

Our first big meal was to serve a group of Congregational conference members at a church supper. The concrete floor was laid out about fifteen feet on the west and the rest was the packed earth floor with studs across for the concrete. The men hurriedly made tables (that is a story in itself). We had no money for table decorations, so we collected a lot of newspapers and with pinking shears made oval place mats. We folded and pressed newspapers to make boat containers and then took the funny papers and wire and made flowers. So each table had a bouquet of flowers. Even with the variety of dishes (some chipped) and several different kinds of silver and glasses, we received many compliments, and some of the Denver women were going to use our ideas.



## ARK VALLEY HELPING HANDS

Do you have even a small amount of time with which to offer a helping hand? Would you mind mowing or weed whacking someone's small yard? Are you a decent weed-puller? How about running an errand or two for someone who can't get out?

Then Ark Valley Helping Hands is the organization for you! There is no minimum required time for volunteers and you only choose to fulfill the requests that you're comfortable with. The larger the volunteers pool, the faster requests can be taken care of and a better place the world is. 😊

And—If you feel you could use a helping hand, AVHH is here for you! Nancy would love to talk with you about ways AVHH volunteers can be of assistance.

Visit [www.arkvalley.helpfulvillage.com](http://www.arkvalley.helpfulvillage.com) or contact Nancy Best (395-9458) for more information and to sign up, either as a volunteer or a member.



## CHURCH-COMMUNITY NEWS



### STAY IN THE LOOP WITH THE RMC

The Rocky Mountain Conference offers information, courses, events, and resources. Sign up for their twice-monthly newsletter at [www.rmucc.org](http://www.rmucc.org) today!

### RMC ANTI-RACISM THINK TANK

**Tuesday, September 15, 3:00pm-4:30pm (online)**

The RMC invites you into a time of intentional conversation and deep listening as we create space for one another to talk together about race. Visit [www.rmucc.org](http://www.rmucc.org) for more information and to register.

### ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE ANNUAL CELEBRATION—WATCH HERE!

Thanks to all the CUCC folks who attended this year—record numbers for us!

If you missed it, all the sessions and outstanding keynotes are available on the RMC YouTube channel: [Rocky Mountain Conference UCC](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).

### THANK YOU FROM LINDA SWANSON

Thank you for the continued bulletins. Often forward them to my brother in Denver.

Love,  
Linda

### UPDATED ADDRESS/PHONE FOR ROGER CASON

Roger Cason (303) 756-1546 (nursing station—ask for Roger Cason in Summit Wing, Rm. 12B)  
Brookshire House, Rm. 12B  
4660 E Asbury Circle, Denver, CO 80222

### GERRY AND JEAN VENARD

Jean & Gerry would *love* to hear from CUCC folks! Please send cards for either or both to Gerry at:

**3377 Mill Vista Rd., Unit 3205  
Highlands Ranch, CO, 80129-2385**

or call Gerry's cell: **719-966-9524**.

### NEWS FROM THE NELSONS

Dear, dear Pastor Rebecca and CUCC,

Thank you from the heart for your dear card. No, I did not have corona virus. Thank you, Jesus. I am back and Reggie and Judy both pray big time for the church, our family and for our nation, for sure.

Yes, we thank you for all the caring words you wrote and still thinking of us. Our Cowboy Church here is safe and we have special prayer meetings on Tuesday evenings and regular church on Sunday. We just sit separate.

We love you dearly, with a big Texas hug!  
Reggie & Judy & family



# CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

## CHRISTIAN MISSION IN NEED OF FOOD

The Arkansas Valley Christian Mission continues to help those in need in our local community. Your donation of peanut butter, jelly, spaghetti sauce in jars, boxed dinners like Hamburger or Tuna Helper and mac and cheese, canned tuna, canned fruit and veggies, boxed potatoes, and other supplies is greatly appreciated!!! You all rock!



## 2020 CENSUS

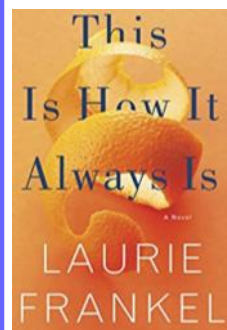
Be a part of history and help shape Chaffee County's future!

Complete the 2020 Census:  
online: [my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)

**EVERYONE  
COUNTS** Census 2020

## TELLS Tuesday Evening Ladies Literary Society Tuesdays, 5:30PM

**NOW OUTSIDE AT  
BETSY NEAS'S HOUSE**  
319 S Pleasant Ave., Buena Vista



### All women are welcome!

The group is reading "This Is How It Always Is" by Laurie Frankel.

We share life, faith, family stories, support, fun and humor—please 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:  
[revbecca@icloud.com](mailto:revbecca@icloud.com)

## WOMEN'S DAY RETREAT! Thursday, Sept. 10, 10:00am-2:00pm Poos' cabin in Fairplay

The TELLs group invites ALL women to a Day Retreat:  
"Labyrinths, Letting Go, & Looking to the Horizon"  
Socially-distanced easy walking, sharing, and carpooling.  
Bring a lunch!  
Talk to Pastor Rebecca for more info.

# CUCC REPORTS

## DID YOUKNOW?

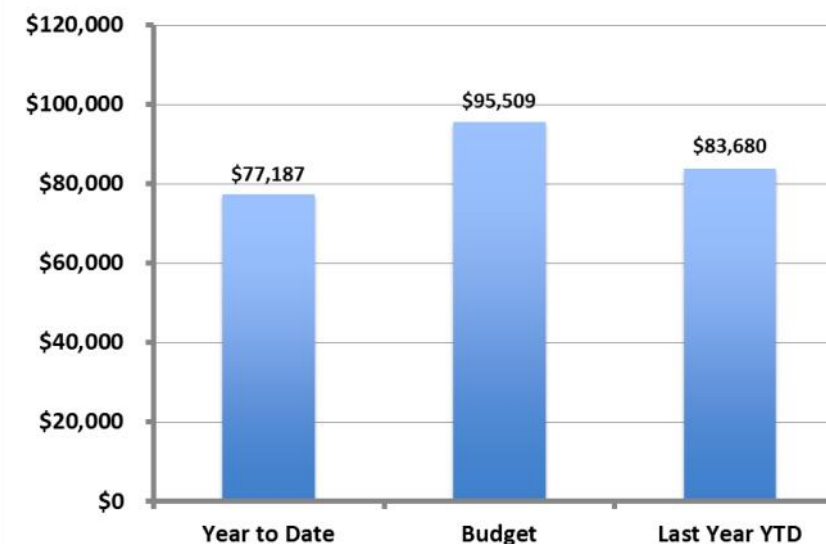
### 6 Ways to Give!

#### Exciting Options Supporting CUCC!

1. MAIL IN your contribution to CUCC, PO Box 610, Buena Vista, CO 81211-0610
2. DROP OFF at the church building during Nancy's working hours: MWF from 9:00-2:00.
3. Donate ONLINE with our new tithe.ly program! It's safe, secure, quick, and easy. You can even set up recurring payments so that you don't have to think about it each month! How nice is that?
4. DONATE through the CUCC website: [bvcucc.org](https://bvcucc.org), click DONATE.
5. WORSHIP with us on our YouTube channel, then click Please Support Our Church for giving options.
6. ACH - set up Automatic Giving at your bank. Never miss a month of ministry!

THANK YOU for all the ways you give of yourselves, your gifts, and your lives to CUCC!

## General Contributions through July, 2020



## Finance and Budget Team September News

The Team continues to meet via Zoom. In spite of COVID and the cessation of many on-site worship services and gatherings, CUCC is only \$4000 down in contributions compared to last year. \$3000 of that is due to much lower donations from outside user groups, since they cannot meet in the building. Expenses are also down substantially so far in 2020.

Additionally, the Team is finalizing a revised Proposed Budget for 2020 to be presented at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, Sept. 27, at 11:00am on the grounds at CUCC. Click [here](#) for the Proposed Budget or pick up a copy from the table in the narthex.

## STEWARDSHIP/VISIONING TEAM NEWS

### LISTENING SESSIONS

From the RMC Listening Team:

Dear friends and members of Congregational United Church of Christ in Buena Vista,

First, we want to thank everyone who shared with us in the past few weeks. We had 37 listening sessions and received 14 letters and emails. We deeply appreciate the willingness, openness, and honesty with which people shared their thoughts and perspectives with us.

Second, we wanted to update you on where we are and what we anticipate moving forward. The Listening Team has had two debriefing sessions together and is currently working on a report that will highlight what we have heard and what we recommend moving forward. As we continue to do this work, we invite all of you to continue to participate in this process in three ways:

**Pray:** Hold this process in your prayers and continue to pray for one another, for your pastor, and for this congregation.

**Praise:** Look for things you appreciate in one another and share them with one another.

**Ponder:** Take this time to ponder what it means to you to be a follower of Jesus and what it means to be church.

We will continue to keep you updated as we carry this process forward.

## COLLEGIATE PEAKS FORUM SERIES presents:

**Ben Ehrenreich  
"The End of Time"**

**Thursday, September 17  
7:00pm (Mtn. Time)  
TBA format/venue**



With the earth rapidly warming, the oceans rising, disasters spreading, and multiple species hurtling towards extinction, it can be hard not to worry that we may be approaching the end of something: of society as we know it and even of time itself. But what would it mean for time to end? What is time anyway? And why do we experience it the way we do? What does it say about us as a society that we have come to understand it as a more or less straight line, infinitely divisible, angled always upwards? Could it be related to the crises that we are facing? Ben Ehrenreich will discuss these questions and his latest book, *Desert Notebooks: A Roadmap for the End of Time*, which "layers climate science, mythologies, nature writing, and personal experiences into a stunning reckoning with our current moment and with the literal and figurative end of time."

Get on the CPFS email List so you never miss a lecture! Send your email address to Butch Butler:  
[treasurer@collegiatepeaksforum.org](mailto:treasurer@collegiatepeaksforum.org). For more information, visit [www.collegiatepeaksforum.org](https://www.collegiatepeaksforum.org).

## WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

Dear Ladies of the Women's Missionary Society, for yet another month we are separated due to this crazy corona virus. As time goes on I find it more and more difficult to be comfortable isolating - I just want to resume my old life! See friends! Go without a face cover! Alas, commonsense prevails and I follow the rules.

I also wanted to let you know that for 2021, Rhonda, Cindy, and I will not serve as officers for WMS. Please give some thought to taking on one of these positions. Our slate of officers needs to be approved in November and installed in December.

Take care of yourselves and continue contacting one another. Conversation refreshes the soul.  
Merilee Daugherty

## CUCC REPORTS

### The Faith Education Team Faith Education for Everyone

The Team invites you to two adult education opportunities at the church:

#### LIVING DURING TROUBLED TIMES

Saturdays, 9:30am, in the front of CUCC "on the green"

facilitated by Molly Stuart and Betsy Neas

How are you living in our troubled world? (Your inner self, family, friends, community, country, world, inner self) Who are you called to be? What is the church called to be during this pandemic, awakening to racial injustices, climate change, etc.? What is YOUR experience? What is OUR experience?

#### CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

Sundays, 9:00am, at the table by the community garden

discussing Faith in Public Life—to that end, CUCC has 25 copies of *A Reflection Guide for Faith Communities* on the table in the narthex. Be sure to get yours! We'll be discussing one chapter per week.

### Worship Team Notes

It was so nice to see everyone on Sunday at the first outside church service. I counted 37 people plus Pastor Rebecca. I know some of our congregation is still hesitant to gather and I understand their concern. Just know, we miss seeing you. We will continue meeting for outside worship until we decide when we will go inside. Please continue to be safe and healthy.

Submitted by Linda Rak, Chair

### FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

The Team continues to work on various repair and maintenance jobs and LED upgrades. The door project is on hold until Paul returns. I believe the doors are ordered, but this is not confirmed.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Hassell, Chair

### Outreach/Community & World Team News September greetings!

Several items to bring to your attention:

- \*\* Please continue to support our schoolboy in the Philippines, Angelo, with your cash donations (that go in the glass jar in the CUCC office or on the narthex table).
- \*\* The much-praised Backpack Program sponsored by the Optimists and CUCC will resume work in September, distributing weekend food to families through the Boys and Girls Club, Chaffee County High School, and Little APES (now called The Grove). Please continue to bring in single-serving items to the box in the church narthex.
- \*\* The Rainy Day Fund/Chaffee Cares is a local source of funding to help those in need. If you know of those who need assistance, please contact Shannon Nelson (719-239-1318), Stephanie Perko (719-568-8522), Cecie Johnson (713-582-2622), or Sharon Smith (720-935-2945) or email [chaffeecares@gmail.com](mailto:chaffeecares@gmail.com).
- \*\* Thank you, thank you for supporting the United Church of Christ "five for five" offerings!

## PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



**Notice of  
CONGREGATIONAL  
MEETING!**  
Sunday, September 27,  
11:00am  
at CUCC after the outdoor  
worship service

**Items for Discussion:**  
- 2020 proposed budget  
- Extending the revised  
Team structure

### CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER

Sundays, 9:00am

at CUCC outdoors by the Community Garden

Please join us to discuss Faith in Public Life! Pick up a *Reflection Guide for Faith Communities* from the table in the narthex. We'll be discussing one section per week.

### ONLINE GIVING APP FOR YOUR PHONE It's so easy to set up!

- Tithe.ly makes it easy to put their CUCC online giving app right on your phone!
- Go to the App store on your phone and download the free app. Setting it up is easy! You'll be glad you did!

### BE IN THE KNOW!

- ♦ Copies of Sunday messages can be found in the file box outside the pastor's office door and on the bench in the narthex.
- ♦ Sunday messages are also posted on the church website at [www.bvcucc.org/home/Sunday-messages](http://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](mailto:office.bvcucc@gmail.com).
- ♦ Nancy is in the front office M, W, F from 9-2.
- ♦ Contact Nancy in the office to get on the birthday/anniversary list. *Please include the year of said birthday/anniversary.*

### LIVING DURING TROUBLED TIMES

now changed to:

LIVING IN THE CLOUD OF UNKNOWNING

note new time: starting Sep. 16

The first and third Wednesday through Nov. 4  
10:00am

outside by the front door of CUCC "on the green"

How are you living in our troubled world? (Your inner self, family, friends, community, country, world) Who are you called to be? What is the church called to be during this pandemic, awakening to racial injustice, climate change, etc.? What is YOUR experience? What is OUR experience?

Facilitators are Molly Stuart and Betsy Neas.

### WORSHIP EVERY SUNDAY & ANYTIME! CUCC SERVICES ON YOUTUBE

- Go to **youtube.com** and search for **CUCC Buena Vista CO.**
- To watch services "live," tune in at **9:00am** Sunday mornings and anytime after.
- We'd love for you to **SUBSCRIBE** to our channel!
  1. Go to CUCC's YouTube channel.
  2. Click on the red SUBSCRIBE button on the right.
  3. Sign in with your google/gmail account (or create a google/gmail account in two easy steps if you don't have one).



## CUCC Council Minutes - August 19, 2020

**7:15 p.m. Meeting called to order. (Clerk's Note: Meeting conducted via Zoom internet due to the Colorado Stay-at-Home/Safer-at-Home Orders started on March 26<sup>th</sup> due to the nationwide Corona Virus Pandemic.)**

**Present:** Moderator Kathy Roman, Vice Moderator Mark Wolters, Pastor Rebecca Poos, Kay Allinger, Merilee Daugherty, Helen Duncan, Judy Hassell, Kathy Keidel, Betsy Neas, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bob Stocker, Bill Waldorf. Special Attendees from the RMC: Association Conference Minister Erin Gilmore, Karen Caton, Sarah Linn, and Mark Long.

**Sign On and Greet, Welcoming and Opening Prayer:** Moderator Kathy Roman began the meeting with a prayer.

### GENERAL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

**Minutes** from the July Council Meeting were presented for corrections. Ron Rak noted that the meeting date as published in the August Newsletter was incorrect and should be changed to July 15.

**Clerk's Report:** Ron noted that there were no changes in the composition of the congregation since the July meeting.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Lloyd Martinez was not present for the meeting. Assistant Treasurer Judy Hassell noted from Lloyd's July 31 Summary Statement that the church was only about \$5,000 behind year-to-date in income over expenses. She has been spending time with Lloyd and Cindy Helm learning the program.

**Moderator's Report:** Kathy Roman began with kudos and thanks for recent activities. Special thanks to Betsy Neas and Shelby Lindsay for helping to set up our first outdoor service and to Shelby and his wife Katie for their beautiful musical contributions. The service drew 37 congregants. Also thanks to Janet Steiner, Ann Condra, and Linda Rak for baking, packaging, and handing out cookies for the Cookie-Cruise-By on August 4<sup>th</sup> which brought out 23 cars and about 40 people, and then home delivered cookies to another 6+ people. \$100 in unsolicited donations was also received.

### CONTINUING BUSINESS

#### Conference Listening Team Report and Discussion

At this point Associate Conference Minister Erin Gilmore and three members of the Listening Team joined the Zoom meeting. In her opening remarks, she compared our situation to trying to unravel a knotted chain and to a mobile that hangs out of balance. She hastened to add that our situation is not unique among churches in the conference and nationwide. She summarized the sessions as having satisfying conversations with respondents talking freely with openness and courage, who had obviously thought at length about their issues, and offered thoughtful, positive, and straight-forward questions and answers. Erin is still working on a written report with recommendations for our church.

**Initial Overview:** Erin emphasized that the process was carefully designed to help determine the congregation's identity, mission, honesty, and emotions in an effort to bring out their pain, fear, regrets, and nostalgia, in order to find out: Where is the heart of the church? Erin summarized that in addition to hearing frustration and pain, they also heard peoples' pride in our church. Many, but not all, of the concerns expressed focused on the pastor and the many expectations involved in the pastoral role. Findings also highlighted the need for clarity in church identity and priorities, the teamwork of church lay leadership with the pastor, and better communication throughout the congregation.

**The Next Step:** Erin and the Listening Team then suggested next steps for meeting with Council further and presenting the findings to the congregation. A Council Retreat is planned for Sept. 17-18, where reflective listening and dialogue methods will be practiced with the Council for use in future Roundtable Discussions of 6-8 congregation members. These groups can be set up on a sign-up basis. It's also very important that everyone who wants to be included is included, so that they know they are heard. The main intent of the discussions will be to hear each other's stories and "name the pain," after which the Council can proceed with a visioning and identity process to explore our purpose as church, and instill faith and hope. Mark Long enforced the need to be positive and not be on the defensive at the discussions. Is our church leading or reacting to issues which get us off of focus? Is the church reacting out of fear? Erin included that the congregation must be held accountable, as well as its pastor and leaders.

**Dealing with Politics in the Church:** Mark Long referred everyone to listen to Rev. Dr. John Dorhauer's session from the recent RMC Annual Meeting on how to deal with politics in the church. All sessions and worship from the meeting, "Leading in Troubled Times" are available on the YouTube Channel: Rocky Mountain Conference UCC.  
[The Conference attendees left the meeting at this point]

#### Resumption of Services and Strategic Planning Team Report

Vice Moderator Mark Wolters reported that the Team will meet and have recommendations for possible indoor services in time for the next Council Meeting in September. Regarding small individual groups, the following was decided:

**Piano Lessons by Judy Phelps:** One-one lessons by Judy at the church, using the piano in the Drama Room, were deemed to be OK and were approved to resume.

**AA Group Meetings:** Currently the group has been meeting successfully outside in the church south parking lot, with 12 to 15 attendees observed. For winter meetings, up to 25 may need to meet. It was suggested that the group be limited to a smaller number with additional meetings scheduled as needed for inside meetings. Mark will advise the group.

**Boy Scouts:** The Boy Scouts have recently requested and received permission to use the Fellowship Hall for a meeting/activity.

**Strong Women Strong Bones Exercise Group:** Betsy Neas suggested the group could re-form into two groups to meet at different times, utilizing the Adult Education Room.

**Issues:** Several issues to deal with concerning inside meetings were mentioned. Recommendations from the RMC will be studied, as well as the State of Colorado and Chaffee County Health Dept. recommendations.

### TEAM REPORTS AND UPDATES

Due to the lateness of the hour and COVID restrictions on in-person meetings, there were few team meetings to report on (some teams had not met). On behalf of the Outreach Team, Helen Duncan raised the question of whether budgeted contributions to OCWM and 5-for-5 programs were being disbursed. She emphasized the importance of these funds to the UCC and RMC especially during this unprecedented pandemic, and the fact that they are budgeted should allow them to be disbursed. Helen will summarize the payments with Asst. Treas. Judy Hassell and the two will communicate with Treasurer Lloyd to schedule the payments.

With respect to the Finance and Budget Team, Kathy Roman asked whether the 2020 Budget was finalized and ready to go. Bill replied that it was close, but that the Finance Team was waiting as long as possible to get accurate detailed data from the current 2020 church income and expenses in order to finalize the numbers. The church is down by about \$4,000 YTD in income, but expenses are also way down. Kathy asked when we could present the 2020 Budget to the congregation. Since a 30-day notice for a congregational meeting is required by our By-Laws, September 27 was suggested. By consensus, this date was then chosen.

### NEW BUSINESS

Congregational Meeting called for Sunday, Sept. 27 at 11:00am following worship. Public notice will be given in email blasts, newsletter, and these minutes. Copies of the amended 2020 Proposed Budget will be made available.

**Musician's Status and Job Description:** Kathy Roman also asked the Finance and Budget Team to make recommendations regarding the musician's job description, since members of the team have knowledge and experience in the personnel area. Musicians can be hired either as independent contractors or as church employees. The UCC has written guidelines covering these scenarios, which will help in deciding these issues.

**Churches and Election Issues:** Rebecca mentioned the upcoming November election and that information and guidance is available for churches' involvement. See the link: POLITICAL CAMPAIGN INTERVENTION for CHURCHES AND CLERGY: [https://rmcucc.org/code-prohibitions-on-political-campaign-interventions-for-churches-and-clergy/?fbclid=IwAR3vb-T2k8WoB4E\\_RVNEOgVhS31AyH9QJWhM4hXgy7StoWyVvJ4Z-JGVSQo](https://rmcucc.org/code-prohibitions-on-political-campaign-interventions-for-churches-and-clergy/?fbclid=IwAR3vb-T2k8WoB4E_RVNEOgVhS31AyH9QJWhM4hXgy7StoWyVvJ4Z-JGVSQo) for detailed information.

### PASTOR'S REPORT

Rebecca reported on the opportunity to attend several virtual preaching conferences, RMC Annual Celebration, clergy gatherings, and trainings for churches and pastors at no cost. She consults often to see what other churches are doing during this double pandemic of COVID and racial unrest. She is also working on assembling a 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration for our church, and asked for pictures, stories, or memories that could be included in a slide show. It was also good to note that the Community Garden on the church grounds was a great success this year, maybe the best ever!

**ADJOURNMENT.** Rebecca closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 10:12pm.

**NEXT COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for September 16, 7:00pm.**

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

## CUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CUCC PICTURES NEEDED

*It's CUCC's 140th Anniversary!*

A slideshow is in the works for our celebration of this remarkable year.

If you have ANY pictures or documents of the history of CUCC, please email them to [revbecca@icloud.com](mailto:revbecca@icloud.com) or drop them at the office for Nancy to scan and return to you.

Thank you so much!



### RIDES/MEALS PROVIDERS WANTED

**Get on the list today!**



Got a little time here and there? Are you willing to provide a ride when a CUCC member needs to get to a doctor's appointment, etc.? When you're cooking, would you mind making some extra to provide to someone who needs a hand with meals?

CUCC is compiling a list of those able to provide meals and/or rides so that when the need arises, we know on whom to call.

Please contact Nancy in the office to get on the list and thank you so much for your valuable neighborliness!

