

**Congregational
United Church of Christ**

Sunday Schedule

WE ARE WORSHIPING ONLINE!

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WATCH ANYTIME!

217 Crossman Ave.; Mailing: PO Box 610
Buena Vista, CO 81211
Office: 719-395-2544
Fax Number: 719-395-3789

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
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News and Views

Congregational United Church of Christ
August, 2020



MODERATOR'S MOMENT

For some time now, I have been contemplating the topic **IT'S HARD TO BE A CHRISTIAN**. No doubt this has been the focus of innumerable sermons and writings in every church in the country at one point or another, including noted Lutheran pastor and theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, as well as Martin Luther King, Jr. So what could I have to say that could compete with these luminaries? Merely that I could remind myself (and others?) to think about how it pertains to our lives in these times?

What I do know is that is that there are people who make it sound easy: "all you have to do is.... " And there are others who make it look easy, indeed, some in our very own church, even some in our very own families. Personally, I trust more in those whose examples I can see in the flesh as opposed to some of those TV preachers who make being a Christian sound like a piece of cake. While it may be for them, it remains a challenge for others.

In the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7 and Luke 6) Jesus spoke frankly and directly about discipleship:

Love your enemies	Do good to those who hate you
Bless those who curse you	Pray for those who mistreat you
Give to everyone who asks of you	Lend, expecting nothing in return
Treat people in the same way that you want them to treat you	

This is not the whole list of Christ's expectations, but enough to remind us that being a Christian demands our all—truly it isn't easy. Every day, we end up making decisions based on our Christianity, those "what would Jesus do" moments, because in those moments we have to choose between our will and what we know to be God's will. In this scenario, we are called upon to deny ourselves. We are called upon to trust God to lead us and guide us, to depend on His power rather than our own. Again, not easy—what about that old saying "God helps those who help themselves" and what about us "do it yourselves?" Who's in control here? It is truly a moment for discernment, to give up control, to trust and have confidence that the Word will lead us to what Jesus would have us do. It applies to how we deal with people, as well as to what we do with the time, talent, and treasure God has bestowed upon us.

What's in it for us? Well, there is that satisfying feeling that you've done something good for someone else. Here's how Paul puts it in his letter to the Colossians: "Whatever you do, do it from the heart, for the Lord.... You know that you will receive an inheritance as a reward." (Colossians 3:23-24, Common English Bible); and from Matthew: "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth...but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." (Matthew 6:19-21 New Rev.Std. Version)

And how to be a Christian in COVID times? All of the above and "Love your neighbor as yourself" by using a mask and observing physical distancing. We are a community; we are obligated to protect and help care for each other.

I miss seeing you all, but be assured that your leadership is working on ways that we might safely gather again in community before too long.

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

Kathy Roman, Moderator

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

PASTOR'S ARTICLE, August, 2020

*For surely I **know** the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)*

Happy August, everyone! Geesh! I can't believe I'm saying that already. This summer has been so very weird. There's just no other way to put it. Sure, we've had nice hot, sunny weather, and thunderstorms—those all feel pretty “normal.” Like summer. But, beyond that, is anything normal? As we seek to make plans for our lives, our future, in our church and our community, it's hard to know what we know and what we don't know. That can be a challenge! I wonder if it can also be a *good* thing, if we take a fresh look at what “knowing” means. God promises to “know” for us. I wonder if we can begin to trust our future to God's hands more fully, if we consider what we don't know and step out in faith.

I came across this vignette on a clergy page the other day from a pastor somewhere in the world. I don't know her, but her story struck a chord, and got me to thinking about how we never know how our actions and gestures might make a difference.

YOU NEVER KNOW (an anonymous story from a pastor)

You never know.....I just got off the phone with a person who is a citizen in our town of 42,000, but not a member of the church I serve.

She had requested that I do the funeral for her son. She said, "You don't know me, but I attended your Blue Christmas service two years ago when my husband died. When I told you that my husband had just died, you hugged me. I never forgot it."

She went on, "Then, last year, my daughter was sick. I was trying to take care of her and the grandchildren. My cousin picked up the children and took the grandchildren to your Vacation Bible School. They loved it. You've taken such good care of my family and you didn't even know it. That's why I asked the funeral director if you could do my son's service."

You never know.....

So, I began to look around—to pay attention—to the chance encounters. And I saw a young family enjoying our swing set at the church the other evening. Another evening, a woman and her dog were sitting at the picnic table at the church. Clarke introduced himself and asked if she needed anything. She said, “No. I just came from Denver and checked into the Super 8, but badly needed some fresh air and to hang outside for awhile with my dog. Thanks for the space!” Soon, Alicia Allinger came by to drop her compost, and stayed and visited with the woman and her dog. The next evening, I was playing Frisbee with our dogs and a family from across the street came over and joined us, and we got acquainted. I invited them to use the playground and basketball court any time, and to come to church. The next day, the young girl was knocking at our door, asking if she could help feed and groom the horses with Clarke!

The next week, I received a Friend Request on Facebook from a name I recognized, and a message:

“Hi! I don't know if you remember me, but you baptized both my girls and me about 10 years ago. I have seen your name tagged in friends' posts recently and just sent you a friend request. Your messages bring me peace and calm, so I'm hoping to see them more often. I hope you're well. Take care!”

It made my day to hear from this woman, and we had several chats back and forth throughout the weekend. I said of course, I remembered her, and invited her to our online worship, as well as to our SDSC Reflection list. She joined up from Arizona and wrote again on Sunday evening:



Thank you! I enjoyed the service and your message. Positivity, kindness, and love. I'll continue to check in on YouTube and I'll look forward to your emails as well. Yes, my family is all healthy and happy. We're so fortunate. Thank you again. You've given me a spiritual boost. Take care and stay safe!

We never know, do we? Let's see how many connections and life-changing encounters we might find and make as we move through the rest of summer and into the fall. God has plans for us and is waiting for us to wake up to them, trust, and follow into a hopeful future!

Blessings, Rebecca

P.S. Rebecca would love to connect with you! Virtually or porch visits, socially-distanced.

719-252-6890 or **revbecca@icloud.com** to set up a time today!

CUCC GOOD-TO-KNOWS



Kudos Kolumn

Many thanks to all those who contributed to, packed, and delivered hygiene bags to La Puente!

Much gratitude to all who made possible and participated in the CUCC/RMC Listening Sessions!

LET'S CONNECT!

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

To set up a time, call or text **719-252-6890** or email to **revbecca@icloud.com**.



PASTORAL CARE TECH SUPPORT!



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

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

Email to **revbecca@icloud.com** or call/text **719-252-6890**.

ROGER CASON ADDRESS

Brookshire House
4660 E Asbury Circle
Denver, CO 80222

MESSAGE FROM ERIN GILMORE AND SUE ARTT, RMC LEADERSHIP

Greetings in the name of Jesus who prayed that we all may be one.

As we continue to watch COVID-19 reach record numbers in the U.S. at 77,000 new cases for a second day in a row—three times what was happening a month ago— 18 states, including Utah, needing to roll back re-openings, and 951 deaths in just one day, your conference ministers cannot endorse in-person gatherings inside church buildings for the foreseeable future. Colorado's state epidemiologist predicts a spike in mid-August running through the fall, which affirms the new mask order that has been placed in Colorado this week. Even Wyoming has seen a number of deaths and a rise in new cases, and in frontier communities there are rarely sufficient health care resources to manage a spike.

As pastors, our hearts yearn with yours in the desire to be together and worship again within our sanctuaries. Yet, without the ability to sing, engage in responsive readings, shake hands, give hugs, and take communion, others have shared that being back in the sanctuary falls short of what we remember church to be, and certainly not worth the risk of an outbreak that could bring calamity to our communities, and moral, emotional, and other liabilities to your congregation.

As the church, we join together in covenant to care for one another, including our pastors and worship leaders. While our conversations with your church leaders consistently affirm that they too would love to be back to the familiar patterns of church that existed before COVID, many of them reveal to us concerns about their own health and the health of their families. It is imperative for us as the Church to stand in faith that God will continue to provide for us in the midst of this uncertain and unpredictable time.

As your conference leaders, we stand united in asking you to remain steadfast in trusting the Holy Spirit, and to continue to look for creative ways to worship and connect spiritually until this scourge of COVID has passed. We also recommend that you continue to follow the advice of your state and county public health officials and the guidelines set by the Rocky Mountain Conference Board of Directors.

We grieve with you the losses that we have all shared. We trust that God is with us and guiding us towards a new day. We remain your committed partners in sharing the good news of God's unconditional love for all creation. And we implore you to stay the course.

Rev. Sue Artt, Conference Minister

Rev. Erin Gilmore, Associate Conference Minister

**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 (719) 581-0243 (C)
Brookshire House
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

August 2—Jim Amster
August 4—Betsy Neas
August 6—Liz Anderson
August 6—Bev Liddle
August 10—Tom Meardon
August 11—Ellen Kely
August 12—Les Messamer
August 14—Linda Carpenter
August 15—Glynette Smith
August 17—Elvin Frantz
August 17—Elizabeth Shelby
August 20—Lew Lowe
August 25—Marge Dorfmeister
August 29—Jenna McMurry Wilton
August 30—Rhonda Funston
August 30—Bill Shelby



ANNIVERSARIES

August 5—Charles & Tricia Blake
August 9—Bart & Loretta Cain
August 15—Butch & Noel Ekin
August 18—Mark & Alice Wolters
August 26—Bowie & Helen Duncan
August 26—Keith & Joan Sovereign

***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

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



CHURCH-COMMUNITY NEWS

CUCC CIRCLE GROWS WIDER!

“For many summers since 2012 I have spent time in BV, and on my frequent walks and bike rides I often admired the raised bed community garden across from the post office. But I was never in town long enough to justify the investment.

“When I returned to BV this June, now with a more permanent home, I made a mental note to check with CUCC about planting some vegetables. Luckily for me, a neighbor knew all the details, including the fact that only one plot was left! So I quickly biked down to the church, made my donation, and checked out my personal growing space. What promise!

“Now that I am watching my squash and tomato plants with great anticipation, I think of all who helped create this special garden: the church who sponsored it, the neighbor and employee [Nancy Best] who told me about that last plot, the volunteer [Patty Ouellette] who advised me on the best varieties to plant, and the dedicated folks who prepped the compost-rich beds and regularly water them [Paul Dorfmeister, Peggy Coggins].

“I am grateful for the dirt, sun, water, fresh veggies—and people—in God's world. Thanks everyone.” ~Betsy Pasley (Buena Vista and Texas)

CUCC CARES FOR CREATION

COMPOSTING AT CUCC—SIGN UP TODAY!

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



***Care of
Creation***



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



CCCF? COMMUNITY FUND?—WHAT'S THAT?

Simple idea. Lasting Impact. CCCF is here for Chaffee County.



The Chaffee County Community Foundation (CCCF) is a Chaffee nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing philanthropic and capacity-building resources in the county. CCCF joins over 1200 other community foundations across the nation to ensure Chaffee residents, nonprofit organizations, businesses, and local governments have the resources, connections, and inspiration they need to thrive.

Two great examples of how CCCF is supporting our communities are ChaffeeGIVES.org and the Emergency Response Fund. Perhaps you've heard of CO Gives Day? Every December, Coloradans give more than \$35,000,000 to over 2500 nonprofits through this giving platform. Yet Chaffee nonprofits have historically not participated or been hard to find on the portal. CCCF has created ChaffeeGIVES.org to elevate the profiles of Chaffee nonprofits. As a result, on CO Gives Day in 2019, more than double the number of organizations from Chaffee County participated, and giving nearly doubled as well, raising \$70,000 for local organizations in a single day.

Established during the Decker fire last year, CCCF's Emergency Response Fund (ERF) was primed and ready to activate when COVID-19 shut down our economy. Acting quickly with local governments, CCCF raised more than \$400,000 for the ERF and built a system to be able to quickly give out cash assistance payments to those who lost their jobs as a result of the pandemic. To date, CCCF has supported more than 290 Chaffee households with over \$250,000 in cash payments. In addition, CCCF has distributed \$70,000+ to 27 Chaffee nonprofits.

One thing to note is that in the past, CCCF has directly benefitted CUCC by donating twice to our Backpack program. This important organization impacts us all in so many ways.

To learn more, visit the website at **www.chaffeecommunity.org**.



view from the Mountain

“COMMUNICATION—LET’S GET IT RIGHT”

I want to talk about communication. Why? It sounds so dry and uninteresting. However, the lack of it in a relationship, in a business, in a sermon, in a family can lead to total misunderstanding and loss of opportunity. The dictionary clearly states that to communicate is to transmit information, thought, or feeling so that it is satisfactorily received and understood.

Where I live in assisted living, communication is vital, yet often overlooked. Let’s get personal here. Older people most often have trouble with change. They like consistency and a regular routine. If routines or schedules change, it throws them off. Even worse, if an activity or an entertainment is omitted or substituted, it can upset them the rest of the day. Here, we print out a weekly activity sheet and give one to every resident to offset this situation. But, even then, speakers cancel, exercise leaders get sick, or it is simply incorrect information printed on the sheet, and, bingo, residents get quite upset at the change. So communication is very important in such a facility.

Native Americans ‘got it.’ This is what they practice and practice religiously. “My Creator, give me the courage to share and the courage to listen.” It is a Native tradition to sit in a circle and talk—to share what is in your heart. The talking circle is also a listening circle. The talking circle allows one person to talk at a time for as long as they need to talk. So much can be gained by listening, too. Is it a coincidence that the Creator gave us one mouth and two ears? The power of the circle allows the heart to be shared with each other, and they believe that what they share also heals each other.

What about in relationships? So often, life fills our time, our thoughts, our daily routines, and we get careless in what we say to our mates or to our children. I can give you an explicit example between a mother and her daughter. The daughter is me and the mother is mine.

She was a good and loving mother and made sure we three kids were listened to and understood; that is, until one Sunday afternoon when I was eleven. My parents were taking a Sunday drive, my two brothers were with friends, and I was taking a shower and then writing a book report. Without a care in the world, I slipped off my clothes, looked down and—oh my god—blood, lots of blood. In a panic, I showered, redressed, and huddled in my bed praying my mother would come home. When they returned I called out to my mom. When she saw my predicament, here is what she did. She shut me in the bathroom and carefully passed the necessary stuff to me with instructions on how to use it all. Shaking, I asked her if I was bleeding to death. She quietly laughed and told me to go to bed, that this meant I was growing up. Now that was communication that totally missed the need of an eleven-year-old naive little girl. Years later, when each of my three girls started growing up, we danced, we celebrated, and we talked intimately about what it really meant.

Looking further at the importance of good communication, let’s look at how it affects business. We owned and operated a bakery and health food store. My husband Gene was a master baker and created the recipes himself. It was vital that the workers listened intently, read instructions, and recognized changes in recipes. An entire line of croissants could be compromised if the baker got careless.

Also, sensitive and knowledgeable time with the very young is so necessary because in their youth they misinterpret so quickly. So many things we might say are frightening to them. Spending time finding good books to read to them and giving them all the time they want to look at the pictures communicates to them that you love them and you want to hold them. They feel safe that way. Then there is romantic communication. How many of us have said the wrong thing during an argument that ended in giving the entirely wrong message? Words hurt and they can’t be taken back.

There are two basic rules when it comes to communication. One I just stated—to remember how powerful the spoken word is. Secondly, we must learn to be really sensitive listeners.

Now, back to the value of communication as we live our life. I don’t believe we are to be alone without a connection to other beings. There have been many studies about what old people need in their life, and the connection with others is right after basic needs. Also having a pet to love and take care of often gives them a sense of purpose. And this last statement brings me to what I feel is the most important line of communication. I have written about the importance of purpose in our life. And feeling we have a purpose for being alive almost always involves other people and making their lives better. We need to know how to communicate so that what we say is really what we mean and feel. We use words so we must remember how important our thoughts are expressed through the best of our words. That is why communication is very important in all of our lives. The view from the mountain is wondrous!

~ Jean Brody



OFFICE NANCY HAS A NEW JOB?

She has another part-time job, that is. Yes, I’m adding a new hat to my head and a line to my resume. My work at CUCC affords me the opportunity to expand my reach and has enlarged my Buena Vista network. It’s a perfect blend with my new position as BV Coordinator (all of northern Chaffee County really, including Nathrop) of Ark Valley Helping Hands (see below). (FYI—I’ll still be driving a school bus, too.)

There are already CUCCers in the program, both as members and volunteers, and I would love to see more of you sign up. Our volunteers consistently say they receive more than they give! There is no minimum time required of you and you get to pick and choose which requests you’d like to fulfill.

Call **719-530-1198**, email to **infor@avhelpinghands.org**, or visit **www.avhelpinghands.org**.

ARK VALLEY HELPING HANDS

Ever wonder what happened to A Little Help? Well, this program that matches volunteers and seniors who would like “a little help” with errands or yard work or having someone to chat with has become Ark Valley Helping Hands (AVHH) and now has a Buena Vista coordinator—Nancy Best. Yes, Office Nancy is pleased to announce that along with continuing her work at CUCC, she will also be the new AVHH presence in the north end of Chaffee County. Sarah Ward, who was profiled in a previous newsletter, continues to be the AVHH coordinator in the south end of the county.

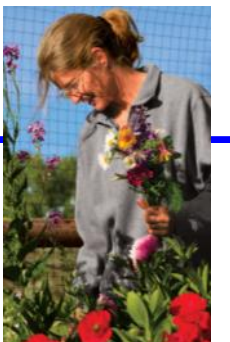
ARK VALLEY HELPING HANDS IS HERE FOR YOU

During this COVID time, AVHH volunteers can do grocery and medication shopping and delivery, care calls, and outside chores. For more information, visit **www.avhelpinghands.org**.

Would you like to be a volunteer with AVHH? There’s no minimum amount of time required. Only volunteer to do what you feel comfortable doing. Please call **719-530-1198** or email to **info@avhelpinghands.org** to sign up today!

Would you like to become a member of AVHH? Please call **719-530-1198** or email to **info@avhelpinghands.org**.

Volunteers of AVHH and anyone else who may have flowers to share, if you are so inclined, please consider cutting a bouquet from your garden and delivering it to a senior neighbor. This small gesture of kindness goes a long way!



NEWS FROM THE ROCKY MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE



Dear friends and colleagues of the RMC,

Since the murder of George Floyd and the protests that have erupted across all 50 states in response to the continued racism and systemic oppression of people of African descent, Indigenous peoples, and people of color, a group from across the conference has been meeting weekly as a think tank to ask the question “What is our role as Conference in the work of dismantling racism in ourselves, our churches, our communities, and our nation?”

While we do not yet have a complete answer to that question, we want to share a bit of our thinking so far, as well as some opportunities for further engagement.

In our conversations, we quickly agreed that dismantling racism is not a simple, quick, or easy commitment. This is complex, life-long work that requires internal and external healing and transformation. We also agreed that this work is multi-layered and multi-faceted. A single approach isn’t sufficient. We recognize that we all come to this work with varying degrees of knowledge, experience, and understanding.

We want to create a platform that invites everyone to begin wherever they are and helps move them towards becoming anti-racist and engaging in anti-racist action. What do we mean when we say anti-racist? As Ibram X. Kendi defines in his book, “How to Become an Anti-racist,” an anti-racist is “One who is supporting an antiracist policy through their actions or expressing an antiracist idea.” This contrasts with a racist: “One who is supporting a racist policy through their actions or inaction or expressing a racist idea.”

We want to become an anti-racist Conference engaged in anti-racist action as an expression of deliberative Christian faith and practice.

We recognize that this conversation may be uncomfortable or awkward, especially for those who do not have a lot of practice talking about race, as well as for those whom we lean on so frequently to educate the rest of us. Yet, as people who seek to follow in the way of Jesus, the call to build beloved community compels us to be intentional and strategic in our work to dismantle racism. We hope you will join us in the conversation and the work. As we build out the larger platform for engagement, we wanted to share an opportunity right now: We believe that dismantling racism requires truth telling and restorative justice. We urge you to spend some time on the <https://truthandconciliation.org/> website and consider taking the pledge for truth and conciliation.

That they all may be one,
Racial Justice Think Tank

— Anthony Scott, Pedro Silva, Tracey Perry, Clare Twomey, Chris Gilmore, Logan Bennett, Thandiwe Dale-Ferguson, Corbin Tobey-Davis, Sue Artt, Kay Grice, and Erin Gilmore

CUCC’S SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP ON YOUTUBE - JOIN US TODAY!

9:00am every Sunday and anytime thereafter

Please join us by going to YouTube channel and searching for CUCC Buena Vista CO.

We’d also love it if you’d SUBSCRIBE to our channel and help promote CUCC to a wider audience!

COFFEE HOUR ON ZOOM

9:30am

After the service, zoom on over to our Zoom meeting to connect with others on a personal basis!

During this time on Zoom you can see and be seen and hear and be heard!

If you haven’t Zoomed with us before, please see the link in the Friday email blast to get connected.

We look forward to fellowshiping with you!

CHURCH-COMMUNITY NEWS

NEWS FROM JUDY & REGGIE NELSON

Dear, dear Pastor Rebecca and all the dear CUCC members,
“You are just too kind and it is so appreciated!”

Yes, I should have written sooner, but I was in the hospital, had to get blood transfusions. I am home now, but very weak, but Reggie & Judy both are still thinking of you. We are praying for healing of our nation and know that God is in charge. We had a special prayer meeting at the Cowboy Church and all of us prayed big time. We will survive and be saved.

God bless you all and we love you still dearly. A hug from us good old folks, :)
Reggie & Judy

Please, let Doyle know we thank him and surround him with our prayers, too.

NEWS FROM JUDI & JO BERAN

Rebecca & Nancy,
Hope that Rebecca’s test results came back the way she would want. [They did! Negative for COVID!] Such trying times.

Every day it looks less likely that we will be coming to BV any time soon. Our granddaughter is getting married in August in a fairly large wedding. Since Jo was so ill last summer, we don’t want to risk his health this summer. We pray we are making the right decision.

Hugs...from here
Judi Beran



Mrs. Jones got a little too used to watching online worship from home.



COLLEGIATE PEAKS FORUM SERIES Presents:

Lloyd Athearn

“Colorado’s 14ers: Balancing Recreational Use and Environmental Protection on America’s Approachable Everests”

Thursday, August 27

7:00pm (Mtn. Time)

Riverside Park Ampitheater, Salida

Colorado’s 14’ers possess rare and fragile alpine tundra ecosystems and unique animals that, while well adapted to the harsh high-altitude environment, are very susceptible to the impact of hikers. For the past 25 years, the Colorado Fourteeners Initiative has been the primary nonprofit partner of the Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management, building summit hiking trails, restoring damaged alpine terrain, and monitoring hiking use levels and trail conditions, as well as educating hikers about safe and responsible recreational use in these fragile areas. Athearn, Executive Director of the Initiative, will speak about the complicated balancing of interests between protecting the natural resources of these peaks and providing recreational opportunities.

Get on the CPFS email List so you never miss a lecture! Send your email address to Butch Butler:
treasurer@collegiatepeaksforum.org

For more information, visit **www.collegiatepeaksforum.org**.

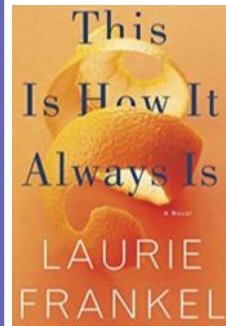
CHURCH-COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

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 "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 & receive Zoom information.
revbecca@icloud.com

CONNECTION COOKIE CRUISE-BY
Tuesday, August 4
4:00pm-6:00pm

Come drive through the CUCC parking lot. Connect with old friends and take home a yummy comforting treat!



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



NAMI SUPPORT GROUPS

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Due to COVID-19, all NAMI Chaffee County support groups continue to be suspended. Please visit www.namicolorado.org and click on "Virtual Support Groups" for a list of virtual NAMI Connection and NAMI Family Support Groups in Colorado.

Another helpful website is www.cmbm.org. The Center for Mind-Body Medicine has some great resources for reducing stress and anxiety. Many of their webinars are free and they offer virtual practice groups.

If you are a member of NAMI, you can join a discussion group on www.nami.org. On the website, click on "Support and Education" and then "Online Discussion Groups." Groups are broken down according to mental health condition and caregiver support.

Not a member? You can sign up to become a member on the same website. Half of your membership fee will go to your local affiliate, NAMI Chaffee County CO, the other half goes to support the national organization and millions of people affected by mental illness.



CUCC REPORTS

DID YOUKNOW?

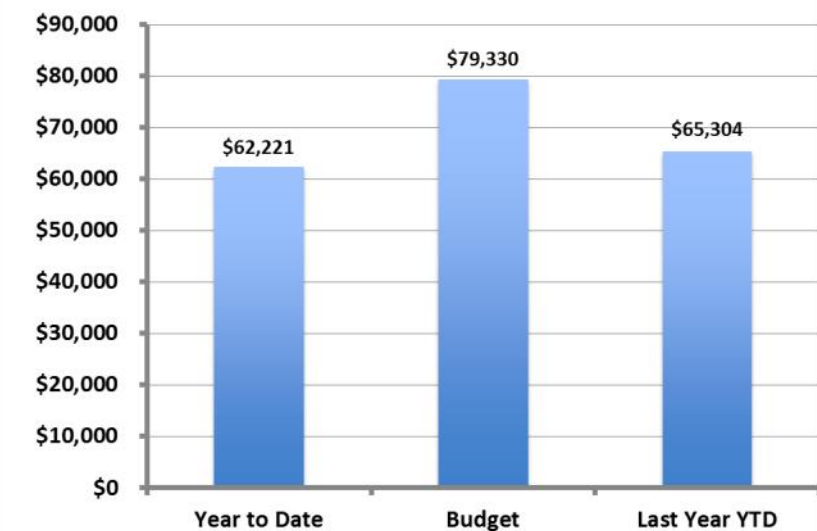
6 Ways to Give!

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, 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 June, 2020



Finance and Budget Team August News

The Team has nothing to report at this time.

STEWARDSHIP/VISIONING TEAM NEWS

I am pleased to announce that the Listening Sessions were completed. Thank you to all that participated in them; your thoughts and input are very valuable. Thank you, especially, to the callers/schedulers who made it possible.

Now we will wait for the listeners to confer and develop a report to be submitted to the Council.

Bob Stocker, Chair

LA PUENTE HYGIENE BAGS

On July 18, 25 hygiene bags, plus three bags of miscellaneous items, were delivered to La Puente. Thank you all who contributed, packed, and delivered!

~Gratefully,
 your WMS



WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY NEWS

Okay, I have had enough of this physical distancing, but can do nothing about it. Remaining healthy physically, emotionally, and mentally is very important. Hopefully you have been socializing with one another by using your phone or email. I understand some are reaching out by sending cards. Never for a moment allow yourself to believe that your Women's Missionary Society and CUCC families have forgotten you or do not think about you! You are all precious and I pray that sooner than later we can be together, safely.

To that end, I have the ability to host a ZOOM meeting and can send in August an invite to those with email. Hopefully, some of you will join in and we can look upon the beauty of one another.

"For now there are faith, hope, and love, but the greatest of these three, the greatest is love."

I Corinthians 13:13

Love to all,
 ~Merilee Daugherty

CUCC REPORTS

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

Our summer program is going well for our three kiddos, Skyler, Gabby, and Ryan. They are enjoying themes and activities with Bible verses, songs, and art. FE will be exploring Adult Ed opportunities and we welcome your input. If you have any suggestions for what you would like to explore in Adult Ed, please offer your suggestions to any member of the Faith Ed. Team: Betsy Neas, Kathy Keidel, Donna Maloney, Billie Branch, and our awesome volunteer, Alice Wolters. We look forward to helping support your opportunities in Faith Education.

Sincerely,
Kathy Keidel and FE Team

Worship Team Notes

The Team has nothing to report at this time. Enjoy your summer!

Submitted by Linda Rak, Chair

FACILITIES TEAM NEWS

The Team has nothing new to report this month. The current projects named in last month's newsletter are still on-going.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Hassell, Chair

Outreach/Community & World Team News ***August greetings!***

We would like to remind all members and friends that opportunities for giving are ever-present and we thank you for your continued support!

--Our Church's Wider Mission, one of the 5-for-5 offerings of the United Church of Christ, is in need of your generosity. Since we are not meeting for Sunday services, envelopes (write OCWM on it) are available at the church office or checks can be dropped off anytime for our treasurer. Please put OCWM in the memo line. Thank you!

--Chaffee County Family and Youth Initiatives/your Outreach Team will be donating \$600 from our "short-term mission" account to support the Mentor Program. Due to the pandemic, regular activities have been suspended, but will resume as soon as it's safe to do so. This is a valuable program and supports many in our community.

--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.

--Arkansas Valley Christian Mission packs grocery 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 or other items by dropping them off at CUCC in the bin provided. We deliver them to the Mission once a week.

--Angelo Abellana, the young boy 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.

PLUG INTO THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



THANK YOU FOR REMEMBERING YOUR CHURCH!

Church is not cancelled!

CUCC continues to operate and support its outreach programs. Please send your essential support to PO Box 610 or drop in to the office anytime. Online giving is an option, too!

You and your contributions are greatly appreciated!

OUTDOOR VESPERS and **CONVERSATIONS THAT MATTER**

— coming soon! Watch your email blasts for more info.

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

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.

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).

COFFEE HOUR VIA ZOOM! **Right after the service, come** **Zoom with us!**

Please see *any* weekly eblast for the Zoom sign-in information. Or ask Nancy or Rebecca!

CUCC Council Minutes - July 15, 2020

7:14pm Clerk's Note: Meeting conducted via Zoom internet due to the Colorado Stay-at-Home/Safer-at-Home Orders started on March 26th 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, Ron Hassell, Kathy Keidel, Betsy Neas, Linda Rak, Ron Rak, Bob Stocker, Bill Waldorf.

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

GENERAL BUSINESS AND REPORTS

Minutes from the June Council Meeting were presented for corrections. Hearing none, the minutes stand approved as previously published in the July church newsletter.

Clerk's Report: Ron noted that there were no changes in the CUCC congregation since the June meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Lloyd Martinez was not present for the meeting. Asst. Treas. Judy Hassell noted that the church income was only down a couple thousand dollars. Bill added that Lloyd is working on getting online for better communication with the Power Church program by the 1st or 2nd week of August. Thus, he will not have the need to use the church computer for Treasurer duties.

Moderator's Report: Kathy Roman opened the floor for kudos and thanks for recent activities, then announced that in light of recent events, such as a strange vehicle entering and making high speed "donuts" in the parking lot and what she considered "loose security" of the building, especially of the office suite, that a security review is being undertaken to evaluate how we can "tighten up" to keep our private property more secure. She went on to thank: 1. Bob Stocker for his long series of calls to church members for the planned Listening Event; 2. Ron Hassell for continued efforts improving electronic security of the church and grounds, since there are not as many members overseeing the church during the closures.

TEAM REPORTS AND UPDATES

Outreach Team: Helen reported that the Team had decided to donate \$600 to the Family Alliance and Mentoring program, but she will research the need in more detail before committing. She appreciated Nancy Best's advertising the Arkansas Valley Christian Mission's needs in the weekly email blast, noting that the needs are increased due to summer "wanderers" coming into town. An August meeting is planned to determine how to increase participation in the "5for5" UCC programs. Rebecca suggested we encourage OCWM contributions since the RMC is contributing a lot of time, energy, and resources to local congregations like ours due to the COVID closures. Kathy Roman also noted that the Arkansas Valley Christian Mission is considering plans to re-open the Food Pantry in coming weeks. Bill noted that the quarterly schedule of budgeted contributions is being missed by the Treasurer and he, Helen, and Judy will help Lloyd make adjustments.

Stewardship/Visioning Team: Bob Stocker said he has gone through the church membership to set up the Listening Sessions with RMC. To date, 39 interviews are scheduled, with 15 on the waiting list. Additionally, eight letters or emails were sent to the RMC team. All allotted slots are taken. Possibly another 10 individuals or families may be scheduled. He felt that everyone who wanted to speak has or will have a chance. He heard that the sessions were meaningful and good, and that everyone felt that they were heard. Rebecca felt that RMC made a monumental effort to make the sessions work.

Finance and Budget Team: Bill re-affirmed that the 2019 Budget is still being successfully used. Current expenditures for 2020 are about \$10,000 less than last year, and contributions are \$3,000 behind to date compared to 2019.

Faith Education: Kathy Keidel and Betsy Neas said that there were two weeks remaining in the Church-in-a-Box program for the children of the church. Betsy wondered if anyone in the congregation feels that we should be starting up Adult Education. Bill and Arlene said we should. Betsy will try to get something in the August newsletter, to get feedback suggestions on what to discuss, and then Faith Ed can meet to finalize the options.

Worship Team: Linda Rak discussed the proposed "pie drive-by" event to increase social contact among church members. A date of July 28 was suggested. Mark responded to comments regarding city/county permitting since food is involved, saying that "we are not selling the pie"; this is no different than a weekly fellowship hour. Kathy Keidel and Judy Hassell felt that the County Health Dept. should be contacted for guidance. Bill offered that the general public is not involved, so we should not be under any jurisdiction by the county. Rebecca countered that we are in a pandemic situation, which raises risk and liability concerns. Betsy noted 38 new COVID cases in the county at the state prison. Helen then suggested a drive-by without food to eliminate the risks. [note: the drive-by has changed to offer cookies, not pie]

On another topic, Bill commented on the Sunday YouTube services, such that he was disappointed in the number of our congregation watching. Why aren't more people tuning in? What can we do? And we also don't have a big group at the following Zoom coffee hour, and it's the same people each week. Rebecca was hoping for more feedback on the services to know what's good, interesting, inspiring, or lacking.

Facilities Team: Ron Hassell reported that improvements were continuing with sufficient help and budget, even though the church was closed. Replacement doors for the south side of the sanctuary have been ordered. LED light replacements are also continuing to reduce energy consumption.

AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Women's Missionary Society: The WMS has not met since the Colorado Stay-at-Home Order and the November Church Bazaar is in doubt.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Rebecca encouraged everyone to keep in touch and read the twice-weekly email blasts. She also noted that the RMC Annual Celebration is upcoming July 20 through August 1 for anyone wishing to listen in. Nancy continues to stay busy with on-going duties (monthly newsletter, email blasts, etc.) and new projects (sorting through old files, setting up CUCC on-line giving, etc.).

A new feature on the church website enables online giving.

Rebecca is taking the time to reach out personally to people in our church's wider circle, in addition to within our congregation, who usually don't have personal contact.

NEW BUSINESS

The only agenda item to be discussed was the July Drive-by with Pie which had been previously discussed under the Worship Team report.

ADJOURNMENT. Rebecca closed the meeting with a prayer. Meeting was adjourned at 9:13pm.

NEXT COUNCIL MEETING is scheduled for August 19th, 7:00pm.

Prepared by Ron Rak, Clerk

CUCC ANNOUNCEMENTS

RESOURCES ON CUCC WEBSITE

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

The CUCC website—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

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 or drop them at the office for Nancy to scan and return to you.

Thank you so much!



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**.